

Dated: February 20, 2001.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, Indianapolis, Indiana.

[FR Doc. 01-6290 Filed 3-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Indiana for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Indiana to issue a revised conservation practice standard in section IV of the FOTG. The revised standard is Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643). This practice may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land and/or wetlands.

DATES: Comments will be received until on or before April 13, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Jane E. Hardisty, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278. Copies of this standard will be made available upon written request. You may submit your electronic requests and comments to darrell.brown@in.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane E. Hardisty, 317-290-3200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that after enactment of the law, revisions made to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland 2 provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Indiana will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Indiana regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: February 20, 2001.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Communities' Access to Local Television; Request for Information

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for public comment and notice of public discussion meetings.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) seeks written comments and will host informal meetings with interested parties on implementing the provisions of Public Law 106-553, "Launching Our Communities' Access to Local Television Act of 2000" (the Act). The Act provides for a guaranteed loan program intended to facilitate access, on a technologically neutral basis, to signals of local television stations for households located in nonserved areas and underserved areas.

Among other matters, the Act requires the Administrator, RUS, to prescribe regulations to implement the Act and to issue and otherwise administer loan guarantees approved by a board of Federal officials. In order to afford the public the maximum opportunity to contribute to the development of this new program and to enable the Agency to consider as many options as possible, RUS is requesting comments to assist in the drafting of the proposed rule.

DATES: Interested parties must submit written comments on or before April 13, 2001. RUS encourages interested parties to make arrangements for informal meetings with RUS staff on or before April 13, 2001. By further notice in the **Federal Register**, RUS may terminate, limit, or otherwise modify the process of obtaining information from interested parties.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Av., SW., stop 1590, room 4056-S, Washington, DC 20250-1560. RUS requires, in hard copy, a signed original and 3 copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.4). Comments will be available for public inspection during normal business hours (7 CFR part 1).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: To arrange an informal meeting, contact Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator,

Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., stop 1590, room 4056-S, Washington, DC 20250-1560. Phone: 202-720-9554. Fax: 202-720-0810. E-mail:

bpurcell@rus.usda.gov. All meetings will be arranged in a manner and at such times as are convenient to RUS. A meeting may include several interested parties.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 21, 2000, the President signed the "Launching Our Communities' Access to Local Television Act of 2000," Pub. L. 106-553 (the "Act"). The Act provides for the establishment of the Local Television Loan Guarantee Board (the "Board"), which consists of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Treasury, Commerce, and the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or their designees. The Board may approve loan guarantees up to 80% of not in excess of \$1.25 billion of loans, to facilitate access, on a technologically neutral basis, to signals of local television stations for households located in nonserved areas and underserved areas. The Act provides that, among other matters, the Administrator of RUS shall prescribe regulations to implement the Act and shall issue and otherwise administer loan guarantees approved by the Board. Congress has not yet provided appropriations for these guarantees, but may do so in the near future. The Act contains several specialized technical and business provisions and may be found in its entirety on the RUS website (www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus).

In light of its statutory role in implementing and administering the Act's loan guarantee program, RUS is currently analyzing the provisions of the Act, identifying issues potentially affecting the implementation of the program, and considering how the program can be effectively implemented. RUS is interested in receiving information regarding all aspects, including any financial and technological implications, of the program as well as analyses of any provisions of the Act that may present issues or practical problems in implementing the program. RUS invites interested parties including, but not limited to, financial and lending institutions, equipment providers, facility and other TV broadcast providers, cable and satellite providers, trade associations, consumer groups,

and individuals to comment on a series of questions and provide RUS, in writing and in informal meetings, any information or analyses they believe to be relevant to the implementation of the loan guarantee program.

Questions for Public Comment

Interested parties are requested to submit comments and are encouraged to participate in informal meetings regarding the implementation of a guaranteed loan program to provide the highest quality access to signals of local television stations to the largest number of rural households located in nonserved and underserved areas in the most economical and expedient manner. The questions below should serve as a guide and are not intended to limit comments or discussions regarding the guaranteed loan program.

1. Identify the technologies capable of providing high quality access to local television and the advantages and disadvantages of each (i.e. the financial, operational, and technological risks and rewards). For any wireless technology, what is the availability and estimated cost of sufficient spectrum?

2. What technology or combination of technologies would be the most cost effective method of delivering local TV signals to the largest number of nonserved and underserved rural residences not located in the top 40 designated market areas (as that term is defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code)?

3. What is an acceptable minimum quality of service? If a system can be expanded to deliver high quality (HDTV or near HDTV) service, what criteria should be used to evaluate the system?

4. Identify the revenues and expenses associated with providing local broadcast signals. Discuss industry practices for setting fees for transmitting local signals.

5. What additional factors should be considered to accomplish the goals of the Act?

6. What, if any, effect will "must carry" have on the possible technologies being considered?

Dated: February 7, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 01-6248 Filed 3-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

2002 Census of Governments Local Government Directory Survey; Proposed Information Collection

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 14, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Robert McArthur, Chief, Program Evaluation Branch, Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-6800 (301 457-1582).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request approval of the 2002 Census of Governments Local Government Directory Survey data collection forms: Form G-26 (County Governments), Form G-28 (Municipal and Township Governments), Form G-29 (Special District Governments), Form G-30 (Special District Governments), Form G-32 (Public School Systems), and Form G-33 (Public School Systems). These forms will be used for the following purposes: (1) To produce the official count of state and local government units in the United States; (2) to obtain descriptive information on the basic characteristics of governments; (3) to identify and delete inactive units; (4) to identify file duplicates and units that were dependent on other governments; and (5) to update and verify the mailing addresses of governments.

The 2002 Census of Governments Local Government Directory Survey consists of three basic content areas:

government organization, government finance, and government employment. For government organization we will ask for authorizing legislation, incorporation date, fiscal year ending date, area served, services provided, web address, and corrections to the name and address of the government. In addition we will ask if special districts have taxing powers, if general purpose governments and special districts own and operate the services they are responsible for providing, if school districts operate schools, and if the government conducts e-government transactions. For government finance we will ask for total revenue, total expenditure, and total debt. For government employment we will ask for full-time employees, part-time employees, and annual payroll.

II. Method of Collection

Each of the 89,000 county governments, consolidated city-county governments, independent cities, towns, townships, special district governments, and public school systems designated for the census will be sent an appropriate form. Respondents will be asked to verify or correct the name and mailing address of the government, answer the questions on the form, and return the form.

The feasibility of electronic data collection will be explored.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: G-26, G-28, G-29, G-30, G-32, and G-33.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: County governments, consolidated city-county governments, independent cities, towns, townships, special district governments, and public school systems.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 89,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 22,250.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$356,000.00.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 United States Code, Section 161.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c)