

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the Maine State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) located at <http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/draftStandards.html> for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It is the intention of NRCS in Maine to issue revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. The revised standard is: 370 Atmospheric Resource Quality Management.

**DATES:** Comments will be received on or before May 6, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to Christopher R. Jones, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3; Bangor, Maine 04401. Copies of the standard will be made available upon written request.

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

Dated: March 16, 2004.

**Christopher R. Jones,**  
State Resource Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-7680 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the

Section 502 Rural Housing Demonstration Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 7, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gloria L. Denson, Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0783, South Building, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone 202-720-1474. (This is not a toll free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Section 502 Rural Housing Demonstration Program.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0114.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* October 31, 2004.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* Under section 506 (b), RHS may provide loans for innovative housing units and systems which do not meet existing published standards, rules, regulations or policies. The intended effect is to increase the availability of affordable rural housing for low-income families through innovative designs and systems.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 80 hours to complete the application, Proposal Content and Criteria, including additional material, specifications and blueprints.

*Respondents:* Business or other for profit.

*Estimate Number of Respondents:* 25.

*Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 2,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0042.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0742, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 19, 2004.

**Arthur A. Garcia,**

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-7698 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Farm Service Agency Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCIES:** Rural Housing Service (RHS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agencies intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the programs for Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement."

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 7, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gale Richardson, Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mail STOP 0783, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone 202-720-1459. (This is not a toll free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement."

*OMB Number:* 0575-0088.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* October 31, 2004.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection

*Abstract:* The Agencies are requesting an extension of the OMB clearance for Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement." The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), as amended, required the disclosure of real estate settlement costs to home buyers and sellers. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was instructed by the RESPA to develop a standard form for the

statement of settlement costs to be used for all federally related transactions. Form RD 1940-59 is similar to the HUD-1 Settlement Statement used by HUD, the Veterans Administration, and the private mortgage industry, with some minor adaptations acceptable under RESPA.

Form RD 1940-59 is completed by Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of RHS loans and credit sales used to purchase or refinance Section 502 Housing, Rural Rental Housing and Farm Labor Housing. The same parties performing the closing of FSA Farm Ownership loans and credit sales also complete the form. The information is collected to provide the buyer and seller with a statement detailing the actual costs of the settlement services involved in the Agencies financed real estate transactions.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .50 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of the Agencies loans and credit sales.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 14,909.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 14,909.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 7,455 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Givelekin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0039.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Tracy Givelekin, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural

Development, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 3, 2004.

**Arthur A. Garcia,**  
*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

Dated: February 29, 2004.

**James Little,**  
*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*  
[FR Doc. 04-7700 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; Comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Fire and Rescue Loans.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 7, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Derek L. Jones, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787. Telephone (202) 720-1504.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Fire and Rescue Loans.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0120.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 2004.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Fire and Rescue Loan program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of community facilities for public use in rural areas and is covered by 7 CFR 1942-C. The primary regulation for administering the Community Facilities program is 7 CFR 1942-A (OMB Number 0575-0015) that outlines eligibility, project feasibility, security, and monitoring requirements.

The Community Facilities fire and rescue program has been in existence for many years. This program has financed a wide range of fire and rescue projects varying in size and complexity from construction of a fire station with fire fighting and rescue equipment to financing a 911 emergency system. These facilities are designed to provide fire protection and emergency rescue services to rural communities.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, and consultants. This information will be used to determine applicant/borrower eligibility, project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determination of eligibility, improper use of funds, and/or unsound loans.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.15 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions, State, local, or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,544.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.33.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 8,232 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, (202) 692-0042.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Housing Service (RHS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the