

Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Televisions Demonstration Grants.

OMB Number: 0570-0022.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 1, 2007

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

Abstract: The objective of the RBEG program is to facilitate the development of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. This purpose is achieved through grants made by RBS to public bodies and nonprofit corporations. Television Demonstration grants are available to private nonprofit public television systems to provide information on agriculture and other issues of importance to farmers and the rural residents. The regulation contains various requirements for information from the grantees, and some requirements may cause the grantees to require information from other parties. The information requested is vital for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent program decisions, and effectively monitor the grantees' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. It includes information to determine eligibility; the specific purpose for which grant funds will be used; timeframes; who will be carrying out the grant purposes; project priority; applicant experience; employment improvement; and mitigation of economic distress.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Nonprofit corporations and public bodies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 720.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 8,640.

Estimated Number of Hours Per Response: 2.5.

Estimated Total Hours: 21,600 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will

have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RBS 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 Renita Bolden, 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 request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 26, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E6-16286 Filed 10-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Publication of Depreciation Rates

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereby announces the depreciation rates for telecommunications plant for the period ending December 31, 2005.

DATES: These rates are effective immediately and will remain in effect until rates are available for the period ending December 31, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan P. Claffey, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Development Utilities Programs, STOP 1590—Room 5151, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone: (202) 720-9556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the USDA Rural Development regulation 7 CFR part 1737, Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Telecommunications Loans, section 1737.70(e) explains the depreciation rates that are used by USDA Rural Development in its

feasibility studies. Section 1737.70(e)(2) refers to median depreciation rates published by USDA Rural Development for all borrowers. The following chart provides those rates, compiled by USDA Rural Development, for the reporting period ending December 31, 2005:

MEDIAN DEPRECIATION RATES OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2005

Telecommunications plant category	Depreciation rate
1. Land and Support Assets:	
a. Motor Vehicles	16.00
b. Aircraft	10.00
c. Special purpose vehicles	12.00
d. Garage and other work equipment	10.00
e. Buildings	3.20
f. Furniture and Office equipment	10.00
g. General purpose computers	20.00
2. Central Office Switching:	
a. Digital	8.45
b. Analog & Electro-mechanical	10.00
c. Operator Systems	10.00
3. Central Office Transmission:	
a. Radio Systems	9.24
b. Circuit equipment	10.00
4. Information origination/termination:	
a. Station apparatus	12.00
b. Customer premises wiring	10.00
c. Large private branch exchanges	12.50
d. Public telephone terminal equipment	11.40
e. Other terminal equipment	10.35
5. Cable and wire facilities:	
a. Aerial cable—Poles	6.37
b. Aerial cable—Metal	5.90
c. Aerial cable—Fiber	5.10
d. Underground cable—Metal	5.00
e. Underground cable—Fiber	5.00
f. Buried cable—Metal	5.00
g. Buried cable—Fiber	5.00
h. Conduit systems	3.33
i. Other	8.34

Dated: September 22, 2006.

James M. Andrew,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 06-8323 Filed 10-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P