

**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 of the Agency's use of supervised bank accounts (SBA).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 10, 2007, to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet Stouder, Deputy Director, Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management Division, RHS, STOP 0782, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0782. Telephone: (202) 720-9728.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1902-A, Supervised Bank Accounts.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0158.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* January 31, 2008.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* The Agency extends financial assistance to applicants that do not qualify for loans under commercial rates and terms.

The Agency use SBAs as a mechanism to (1) ensure correct disbursement and expenditure of all funds designated for a project; (2) help a borrower properly manage its financial affairs; (3) ensure that the Government's security is protected adequately from fraud, waste and abuse.

SBAs are mandatory for Multi-Family Housing (MFH) reserve accounts. The MFH funds must be kept in the SBA for the full term of a loan. Any funds withdrawn for disbursement for an authorized purpose require a countersignature from an Agency official.

This regulation prescribes the policies and responsibilities for the use of SBAs. In carrying out the mission as a supervised credit Agency, this regulation authorizes the use of supervised accounts for the disbursement of funds. The use may be necessitated to disburse Government funds consistent with the various stages

of any development (construction) work actually achieved. On limited occasions, a supervised account is used to provide temporary credit counseling and oversight of those being assisted who demonstrate an inability to handle their financial affairs responsibly. Another use is for depositing MFH reserve account funds in a manner requiring Agency co-signature for withdrawals. MFH reserve account funds are held in a reserve account for the future capital improvement needs for apartment properties. Supervised accounts are established to ensure Government security is adequately protected against fraud, waste and abuse.

The legislative authority for requiring the use of supervised accounts is contained section 510 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1480). These provisions authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make such rules and regulations as deemed necessary to carry out the responsibilities and duties the Government is charged with administering.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average .79 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Small businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 3.5.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 70,100.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 55,708.

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 the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's 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 Cheryl Thompson, 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 OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 27, 2007.

**Russell T. Davis,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Foreign-Trade Zones Board**

[Docket 48-2007]

**Foreign-Trade Zone 219 – Yuma, Arizona, Application for Subzone, Johnson Controls Battery Group, Inc., (Lead-Acid Batteries), Yuma, Arizona**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Yuma County Airport Authority, grantee of FTZ 219, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the manufacture of lead-acid batteries at the facility of Johnson Controls Battery Group, Inc. (JCBGI), located in Yuma, Arizona. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on September 28, 2007.

The JCBGI facility (120 employees, 15 acres, 4-5 million battery/year capacity) is located at 3470 South Arizona Avenue, in Yuma, Arizona. The facility will be used to form, fill and distribute batteries (duty-free) using imported unformed batteries (duty-free).

The application indicates that FTZ designation would allow JCBGI to utilize certain CBP procedures resulting in increased efficiencies for its logistics operations, and would also have state/local tax-related benefits. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures would help improve the plant's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is December 10, 2007. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the