

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Housing Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

7 CFR Part 1970

RIN 0572-AC44

Rural Development Environmental Regulation for Rural Infrastructure Projects

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Service, Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD), comprised of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and Rural Utilities Service (RUS), hereafter referred to as the Agency, proposes amending the Agency's Environmental Policies and Procedures regulation to allow the Agency Administrators limited flexibility to obligate federal funds for infrastructure projects prior to completion of the environmental review while ensuring full compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures prior to project construction and disbursement of funding. The proposed change will allow RD to more fully meet the Administration's goals to speed the initiation of infrastructure projects and encourage planned community economic development without additional cost to taxpayers or change to environmental review requirements.

DATE: Electronic and written comments must be received on or before December 24, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments on this rule by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the lower "Search Regulations and Federal Actions" box, select "Rural Utilities Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select RUS-18-AGENCY-0005 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send your comment addressed to Michele Brooks, Rural Development Innovation Center, Regulations Team Lead, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 1522, Room 1562, Washington, DC 20250. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. RUS-18-AGENCY-0005.

Other Information: Additional information about Rural Development and its programs is available on the internet at <https://www.usda.gov/topics/rural>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kellie McGinness Kubena, Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mail Stop 1571, Room 2242, Washington, DC 20250-1571, Phone: 202-720-1649.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the rules section of this issue of the **Federal Register**, Rural Development is concurrently publishing this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a non-controversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. The language in the direct final rule will also serve as the language for this proposed rule. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** provided in the direct final rule for the applicable **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** on this action. If no adverse comments are received in response to the direct final rule, no further action will be taken on this proposed rule and the action will become effective at the time specified in the direct final rule. If the Agency

receives adverse comments, a timely document will be published withdrawing the direct final rule and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this action.

Dated: November 9, 2018.

Anne C. Hazlett,

Assistant to the Secretary, Rural Development.

Bill Northey,

Under Secretary, Farm Production and Conservation.

[FR Doc. 2018-25522 Filed 11-21-18; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Parts 704 and 713

RIN 3133-AE87

Fidelity Bonds

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The NCUA Board (Board) is seeking comment on a proposed rule that would amend its regulations regarding fidelity bonds under Part 704 for corporate credit unions and under Part 713 for natural person credit unions. The proposed rule would accomplish four objectives. First, it would strengthen a board of directors' oversight of a credit union's fidelity bond coverage. Second, it would ensure that there is an adequate period to discover and file fidelity bond claims following a credit union's liquidation. Third, it would codify a 2017 NCUA Office of General Counsel legal opinion that permits a natural person credit union's fidelity bond to include coverage for certain credit union service organizations (CUSOs). Fourth, it would clarify the documents subject to Board approval and require that all bond forms receive Board approval every ten years.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 22, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (Please send comments by one method only):

- *NCUA website:* http://www.ncua.gov/news/proposed_regs/proposed_regs.html. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.