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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS–21–ELECTRIC–0022]

Information Collection Activities: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Comment Request; Settlement of Debt Owed by Electric Borrowers

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection and invites comments on this information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 7, 2022 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://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–21–ELECTRIC–0022 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using [Regulations.gov](https://www.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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MaryPat Daskal, Chief, Branch 1, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulations Management Division, United States Department of

Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 720–7853. Email MaryPat.Daskla@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies the following information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB as extension to an existing collection with Agency adjustment.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1717, Subpart Y, Settlement of Debt Owed by Electric Borrowers.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0116.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2022.

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

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1,000 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions and other businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric systems to provide and improve electric service in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). This information collection requirement stems from passage of Public Law 104–127, on April 4, 1996, which amended section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*) to extend to RUS the Secretary of Agriculture’s authority to settle debts with respect to loans made or guaranteed by RUS. Only those electric borrowers that are unable to fully repay their debts to the Government and who apply to RUS for relief will be affected by this information collection. The collection will require only that information which is essential for determining: The need

for debt settlement; the amount of relief that is needed; the amount of debt that can be repaid; the scheduling of debt repayment; and the range of opportunities for enhancing the amount of debt that can be recovered. The information to be collected will be similar to that which any prudent lender would require to determine whether debt settlement is required and the amount of relief that is needed. Since the need for relief is expected to vary substantially from case to case, so will the required information collection.

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the 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 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 respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimble Brown, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720–6780. Email: Kimble.Brown@usda.gov.

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.

Christopher McLean,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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