

# 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 Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Part 1728

#### Electric Overhead Distribution Lines; Specifications and Drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV Line Construction

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to revise its bulletin of specifications and drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV overhead distribution line construction. RUS proposes to separate the bulletin into 19 sections. Each section would contain an index, construction specifications and a group of similar drawings of construction assemblies which perform a common function. RUS proposes to change the drawing number on each drawing to conform to a new, functional format. RUS also proposes certain additional technical changes to the 154 drawings so that construction assemblies would conform to current RUS construction requirements and specifications which would make the drawings more readable. Where applicable, the drawings would show allowable loading limits and reference to new tables which would show maximum line angles. Existing specifications, such as pole setting depths, would not be modified, however, they would be moved to the section that contains wood poles. RUS proposes to renumber and reformat this bulletin in accordance with its new publications and directives system.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by RUS by October 27, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to Mr. George J. Bagnall, Director, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1569, Washington, DC 20250-1569. RUS requires a signed original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.30(e)). Comments will be available

for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James L. Bohlk, Electrical Engineer, Distribution Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1569, Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone: (202) 720-1967. Fax: (202) 720-7491.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Executive Order 12866

This rule was waived from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review.

##### Executive Order 12372

This proposed rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. A Notice of Final Rule entitled Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts RUS loans and loan guarantees from coverage under this order.

##### Executive Order 12988

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. RUS has determined that this proposed rule meets the applicable standards provided in Sec. 3. of the Executive Order.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that a rule relating to the RUS electric loan program is not a rule as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), and therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this proposed rule.

#### Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

This proposed rule contains no reporting or recordkeeping provisions requiring Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

#### National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that this rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment.

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

This program described by this proposed rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.850, Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

#### Background

Pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to amend 7 CFR Chapter XVII, Part 1728, Electric Standards and Specification for Materials and Construction, by revising RUS Bulletin 50-5 (D-803), Specification and Drawings for 14.4/24.9 kV Line Construction, and renumbering it as RUS Bulletin 1728F-803. RUS maintains a system of bulletins that contains construction standards and specifications for materials and equipment. These standards and specifications apply to system facilities constructed by RUS electric and telecommunications borrowers in accordance with the RUS loan contract, and contain standard construction units, material and equipment units commonly used in RUS electric and telecommunication borrowers' systems.

RUS Bulletin 50-5 provides dimensioned drawings of standard assembly units and specifications for the construction of 24.9/14.4 kV overhead electric distribution lines. RUS proposes to change the bulletin number from RUS Bulletin 50-5 to RUS Bulletin 1728F-803. The change in the bulletin number and reformatting is necessary to conform to RUS' new publications and directives system. This bulletin will be incorporated by reference in 7 CFR part 1728.97. It may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

The major proposed changes are described below.

The proposed bulletin has been separated into 19 different sections or categories. Each section generally contains construction specifications

related to the category, an index of drawings in the section and several similar construction drawings of assemblies which are designed to perform a similar function. The proposed bulletin also contains an overall index and general construction specifications. Also added to the proposed bulletin are additional new tables displaying maximum line angles and soil classifications.

The drawing numbers on all the proposed modified drawings have been slightly changed. The drawing number on each new and modified drawing is in a new, uniform format based on the original RUS numbering scheme and format in which each character in the number has a functional meaning related to the contents of the drawings.

Approximately 63 construction drawings in previous bulletin 50-5 have been deleted in the proposed bulletin. Each drawing was eliminated for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) There is a conflict in the permissible line angles between the primary conductor supports and the neutral conductor supports;

(b) The assembly contains material no longer listed in Information Publication 202-1, "List of Materials Acceptable for Use on Systems of RUS Electrification Borrowers";

(c) The assembly or assemblies have been renumbered and reorganized and included in the proposed bulletin as a new drawing;

(d) The assembly design is no longer acceptable as a RUS construction standard for mechanical strength or clearance reasons;

(e) The drawing is redundant of another similar drawing and thus not needed or useful;

(f) The assembly design is no longer preferred or commonly used; or,

(g) The drawing contains construction instructions or details which are no longer applicable to RUS construction standards.

Corrections or modifications are being proposed to approximately 89 drawings of the bulletin. Each revised drawing contains one or more of the following changes:

(a) Each drawing was given a new, shorter, simpler and more uniform drawing title or name;

(b) The primary system voltage of "24.9/14.4 kV" and the number of primary phases were drawn in a uniform place in the title block on each drawing where this information is relevant;

(c) The number (quantity) of locknuts is shown in the material list of all the drawings that have these items;

(d) The revised drawings specify that crossarms be generally installed one foot, six inches from the top of the pole to utilize the new predrilled hole arrangement in the new RUS standard pole drilling guide;

(e) The new drawings depict the use of three, more modern, 4 1/4 inch primary suspension insulators for primary conductors instead of 2-6 inch insulators as shown on the previous drawings;

(f) New technical information, defined as "design parameters" would be added to the title blocks on most of the drawings. These design parameters include maximum line angles (referenced to the new tables), maximum longitudinal, transverse or unbalanced loads, maximum working load or maximum holding power. This new technical information defines and usually limits the physical applications of the assembly units shown on the drawings; and,

(g) Several of the revised drawings contain new advisory notes, technical information and references to other drawings.

Approximately 87 new drawings are being proposed. Many of these proposed new drawings are of construction assemblies from the previous bulletin that have been modified as appropriate, renumbered and reorganized. Other new drawings were added to exhibit one or more of the following:

(a) The application of post-type insulators;

(b) Construction guides and design details;

(c) New equipment and new design; and

(d) Details of subassembly units.

A few new drawings would be added to replace, with modifications as required, needed drawings or assemblies which were deleted from the previous bulletin for the reasons previously given.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1728

Electric power, Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—energy, Rural areas.

For reasons set out in the preamble, RUS proposes to amend 7 CFR part 1728 as follows:

#### PART 1728—ELECTRIC STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

1. The authority citation for part 1728 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*; 7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*; Pub L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 *et seq.*).

2. Section 1728.97(b) is amended by removing the entry for Bulletin 50-5 and adding to the list of bulletins, in numerical order, the entry for Bulletin 1728F-803, to read as follows:

#### § 1728.97 Incorporation by reference of electric standards and specifications.

(b) *List of Bulletins.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Bulletin 1728F-803, Specifications and Drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV Line Construction ([Month and year of effective date of final rule])

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: August 18, 1997.

**Jill Long Thompson,**

*Under Secretary, Rural Development.*

[FR Doc. 97-22523 Filed 8-25-97; 8:45 am]

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#### FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

##### 12 CFR Part 250

[Miscellaneous Interpretations; Docket R-0977]

#### Applicability of Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act to Transactions Between a Member Bank and its Subsidiaries

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On July 3, 1997 (62 FR 37744, July 15, 1997), the Board requested comment on a proposal to apply sections 23A and 23B to transactions between a member bank and any subsidiary that engages in activities that are impermissible for the bank itself and that Congress has not previously exempted from coverage by section 23A. In response to requests for an extension of the comment period, the Secretary of the Board, acting pursuant to delegated authority, has extended the comment period from September 3, 1997 to October 3, 1997.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before October 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, which refer to Docket No. R-0977, may be mailed to Mr. William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551. Comments address to Mr. Wiles also may be delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. and to the security control room outside of those hours. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible