

**New York***Survey Area***New York:**

Bronx  
Kings  
Nassau  
New York  
Queens  
Suffolk  
Westchester

**New Jersey:**

Bergen  
Essex  
Hudson  
Middlesex  
Morris  
Passaic  
Somerset  
Union

*Area of Application. Survey Area Plus***New York:**

Putnam  
Richmond  
Rockland

**New Jersey:**

Monmouth  
Sussex

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 97-33581 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT****5 CFR Part 532**

RIN 3206-A111

**Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment  
of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage  
Schedule for Printing Positions**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel  
Management.

**ACTION:** Interim rule with request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel  
Management (OPM) is issuing an  
interim rule to abolish the Federal Wage  
System (FWS) special wage schedule for  
printing positions in the Kansas City,  
Missouri, wage area. Printing and  
lithographic employees in Kansas City  
will now be paid rates from the regular  
Kansas City wage schedule.

**DATES:** This interim rule becomes  
effective on January 4, 1998. Comments  
must be received by January 23, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments  
to Donald J. Winstead, Assistant  
Director for Compensation  
Administration, Workforce  
Compensation and Performance Service,  
Office of Personnel Management, Room  
7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington,  
DC 20415, or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send  
an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
Department of Defense recommended to  
OPM that the Kansas City, MO, special  
wage schedule for printing positions be  
abolished and that the regular Kansas  
City wage schedule apply to printing  
employees in the Kansas City wage area.  
This recommendation was based on the  
fact that the number of employees paid  
from the special schedule has declined  
in recent years from a total of about 70  
employees in 1985 to a current total of  
about 30 employees. With the reduced  
number of employees, it has become  
increasingly difficult to comply with the  
requirement that workers paid from the  
special printing schedule participate in  
the local wage survey process. A full-  
scale special wage survey in the Kansas  
City wage area would require the  
substantial work effort of contacting  
about 70 printing establishments spread  
over 8 counties and would require the  
participation of about 10 percent of the  
employees who are paid from the  
special printing schedule.

Upon abolishment of the Kansas City  
special printing schedule, the printing  
and lithographic employees will be  
converted to the regular schedule for the  
Kansas City wage area on a grade-for-  
grade basis. An employee's new rate of  
pay will be set at the rate for the step  
of the applicable grade of the regular  
schedule that equals the employee's  
existing scheduled rate of pay. When  
the existing rate falls between two steps,  
an employee's new rate will be set at the  
rate for the higher of those two steps.  
Pay retention provisions will apply for  
the few employees not receiving  
increases upon conversion. This  
conversion does not constitute an  
equivalent increase for within-grade  
increase purposes.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory  
Committee, the statutory national-level  
labor-management committee  
responsible for advising OPM on  
matters concerning the pay of FWS  
employees, has reviewed and concurred  
by consensus with this change.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), I  
find that good cause exists for waiving  
the general notice of proposed  
rulemaking. Also, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.  
553(d)(3), I find that good cause exists  
for making this rule effective in less  
than 30 days. The notice is being  
waived and the regulation is being made  
effective in less than 30 days because a  
new regular wage schedule will go into  
effect in the Kansas City wage area on  
January 4, 1998, and employees  
currently paid from the special printing  
schedule for the wage area would have  
received a wage adjustment on that date  
had the Department of Defense been

able to conduct a special wage survey in  
the wage area in 1997.

**Regulatory Flexibility Act**

I certify that these regulations will not  
have a significant economic impact on  
a substantial number of small entities  
because they affect only Federal  
agencies and employees.

**List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532**

Administrative practice and  
procedure, Freedom of information,  
Government employees, Reporting and  
recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**

*Director.*

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR  
part 532 as follows:

**PART 532—PREVAILING RATE  
SYSTEMS**

1. The authority citation for part 532  
continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707  
also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

**§ 532.279 [Amended]**

2. In § 532.279, paragraph (j)(3) is  
removed, and paragraph (j)(4) is  
redesignated as paragraph (j)(3).

[FR Doc. 97-33583 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Housing Service****Rural Business-Cooperative Service****Rural Utilities Service****Farm Service Agency****7 CFR Part 2003****Functional Organization of the Rural  
Development Mission Area**

**AGENCIES:** Rural Housing Service; Rural  
Business-Cooperative Service; Rural  
Utilities Service; Farm Service Agency;  
USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The issuing agencies amend  
their regulations to reflect the  
reorganization of the Department of  
Agriculture. The intended effect of this  
action is to provide efficient utilization  
of Department personnel resources. This  
publication provides the function  
statements for organizational units  
within the Rural Development mission  
area, the Rural Housing Service, Rural  
Business-Cooperative Service, and the  
Rural Utilities Service.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 24, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy J. Ryan, Assistant Administrator for Human Resources, Rural Development, STOP 0730, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0730; Telephone: (202) 690-9860.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Classification**

This action is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12866 since it involves only internal Agency management and has no impact on borrowers or other members of the public. This action is not published for proposed rulemaking because it involves only internal Agency management and publication for comment is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest.

**Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Pub. L. 104-4, establishes requirements for Federal agencies to assess the effects of their regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector. Under section 202 of the UMRA, the agencies generally must prepare a written statement, including a cost-benefit analysis, for proposed and final rules with "Federal mandates" that may result in expenditures to State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or to the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year. When such a statement is needed for a rule, section 205 of the UMRA generally requires the agencies to identify and consider a reasonable number of regulatory alternatives and adopt the least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule.

This rule contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provisions of Title II of the UMRA) for State, local, and tribal governments, or the private sector. Thus, the rule is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of the UMRA.

**Intergovernmental Consultation**

These programs and activities are not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

**Environmental Impact Statement**

This final action has been reviewed in accordance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G, "Environmental Program." Rural Development has determined that this final action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly

affecting the quality of human environment, and, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. 91-190, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**Background**

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) was abolished by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (1994 Act). The Office of the Assistant Administrator, Farmer Programs, and all its subordinate organizational units have been transferred to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The remainder of the FmHA organizational units have been transferred in accordance with the 1994 Act to one of the following newly created agencies which make up the Rural Development mission area (Rural Development): the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. The Rural Utilities Service also includes the organizational units of the former Rural Electrification Administration.

This rule adopts the organizational structure put into place following enactment of the 1994 Act on October 13, 1994. The rule only covers the Rural Development agencies. The functions and responsibilities delegated by the Under Secretary, Rural Development, to the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service, are published in 7 CFR part 2, subpart G, §§ 2.47 through 2.49.

**List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 2003**

Organizations and functions (government agencies).

Therefore, chapter XVIII, title 7, Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

**PART 2003—ORGANIZATION**

1. The authority citation for part 2003 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, 7 U.S.C. 1989, 7 U.S.C. 6941 *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. 1480, *et seq.*

2. Subpart A of part 2003 is revised to read as follows:

**Subpart A—Functional Organization of the Rural Development Mission Area**

Sec.

- 2003.1 Definitions.
- 2003.2 General.
- 2003.3 [Reserved]
- 2003.4 [Reserved]
- 2003.5 Headquarters organization.
- 2003.6 Office of the Under Secretary.
- 2003.7–2003.9 [Reserved]
- 2003.10 Rural Development State Offices.
- 2003.11–2003.13 [Reserved]

- 2003.14 Field Offices.
- 2003.15–2003.16 [Reserved]
- 2003.17 Availability of information.
- 2003.18 Functional organization of RHS.
- 2003.19–2003.21 [Reserved]
- 2003.22 Functional organization of RUS.
- 2003.23–2003.25 [Reserved]
- 2003.26 Functional organization of the RBS.
- 2003.27–2003.50 [Reserved]

**§ 2003.1 Definitions.**

*EEO*—the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C.

§ 2000e *et seq.*

*O&M*—Operations and Management.

*P&P*—Policy and Planning.

*RBS*—Rural Business-Cooperative Development Service, USDA, or any successor agency.

*RHS*—Rural Housing Service, USDA, or any successor agency.

*RTB*—Rural Telephone Bank authorized by 7 U.S.C. 944.

*Rural Development*—Rural Development mission area of USDA.

*RUS*—Rural Utilities Service, USDA, or any successor agency.

*Secretary*—the Secretary of USDA.

*USDA*—the United States Department of Agriculture.

**§ 2003.2 General.**

The Rural Development mission area of the Department of Agriculture was established as a result of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Title II of Pub.L. 103-354. Rural Development's basic organization consists of Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and 47 State Offices. Headquarters maintains overall planning, coordination, and control of Rural Development agency programs. Administrators head RHS, RBS, and RUS under the direction of the Under Secretary for Rural Development. State Directors head the State Offices and are directly responsible to the Under Secretary for the execution of all Rural Development agency programs within the boundaries of their states.

**§ 2003.3–2003.4 [Reserved]**

**§ 2003.5 Headquarters organization.**

(a) The Rural Development Headquarters is comprised of:

- (1) The Office of the Under Secretary;
- (2) Two Deputy Under Secretaries;
- and,
- (3) Three Administrators and their staffs.

(b) The Rural Development Headquarters is located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. 20250-0700

**§ 2003.6 Office of the Under Secretary.**

In accordance with 7 CFR § 2.17 the Secretary has delegated to the Under Secretary, Rural Development, authority

to manage and administer programs and support functions of the Rural Development mission area.

(a) *Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for P&P.* This office is headed by the Deputy Under Secretary for P&P. The Under Secretary, Rural Development, has delegated to the Deputy Under Secretary for P&P, responsibility for formulation and development of short-and long-range rural development policies of the Department in accordance with 7 CFR § 2.45. The Deputy Under Secretary for P&P reports directly to the Under Secretary, Rural Development, and provides guidance and supervision for research, policy analysis and development, strategic planning, partnerships and special initiatives. For budget and accounting purposes, all of the staff offices under the Deputy Under Secretary for P&P are housed in RBS.

(1) The Budget Analysis Division assesses potential impacts of alternative policies on the mission area's programs and operations and develops recommendations for change. The units are headed by the Chief Budget Officer, who individually serves as the top policy advisor to the Under Secretary and Deputy Under Secretary on all matters relating to mission area budget policy.

(2) The Research, Analysis and Information Division analyzes information on rural conditions and the strategies and techniques for promoting rural development. The division performs, or arranges to have conducted, short-term and major research studies needed to formulate policy.

(3) The Reinvention and Capacity Building Division coordinates the mission area's strategic planning initiatives, both at the National level and in the State Offices. The division assists the Rural Development agencies in their implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and special initiatives of the Administration, USDA, and the Office of the Under Secretary.

(4) The Rural Initiatives and Partnership Division manages the mission area's involvement and coordination with other Federal and state departments and agencies to assess rural issues and develop model partnerships and initiatives to achieve shared rural development goals. The division is responsible for managing the National Rural Development Partnership and providing support and oversight of 37 State Rural Development Councils.

(b) *Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M.* In accordance with

7 CFR 2.45, the Under Secretary, Rural Development, has delegated to the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M responsibility for providing leadership in planning, developing, and administering overall administrative management program policies and operational activities of the Rural Development mission area. The Deputy Under Secretary for O&M reports directly to the Under Secretary, Rural Development.

(1) *Office of the Deputy Administrator for O&M.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator for O&M, this office reports directly to the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M, and is responsible for directing and coordinating the consolidated administrative and financial management functions for Rural Development. This office provides overall guidance and supervision for budget and financial management, human resources management and personnel services, administrative and procurement services, information resources management and automated data systems. For budget and accounting purposes, all of the staff offices under the Deputy Administrator for O&M are housed in RHS.

(i) *Office of the Controller.* Headed by the Chief Financial Officer, this office supports the Deputy Administrator for O&M in executing Rural Development requirements related to compliance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and provides leadership, coordination, and oversight of all financial management matters and financial execution of the budget for the Rural Development agencies. This office also has full responsibility for Rural Development agencies' accounting, financial, reporting, and internal controls. The office provides direct oversight to the Headquarters Budget Division, Financial Management Division, and the Office of the Assistant Controller, located in St. Louis, Missouri.

(ii) *Office of Assistant Administrator for Procurement and Administrative Services.* Headed by the Assistant Administrator for Procurement and Administrative Services, this office is responsible to the Deputy Administrator for O&M for overseeing the Procurement Management Division, the Property and Supply Management Division, and the Support Services Division:

(A) The Procurement Management Division is responsible for developing, implementing, and interpreting procurement and contracting policies for the Rural Development mission area. Major functions include planning outreach efforts and goals for small and disadvantaged businesses, providing

staff assistance reviews in State and Local Offices, administering the Contracting Officer Professionalism Warrant program for Rural Development agencies, and coordinating the development of Rural Development's acquisition plans.

(B) The Property and Supply Management Division is responsible for developing office space acquisition and utilization policies, providing training to field office leasing officers, administering the Leasing Officer Warrant program, assuring accessibility compliance in Rural Development's work sites, administering Rural Development's Physical Security program, and establishing and providing oversight to the worksite Energy Conservation program. This office operates a nationwide supply warehousing and distribution program, and oversees a nationwide Personal Property Management and Utilization Program, manages the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Excess Personal Property Program for field level activities, and provides direct support services to Rural Development's St. Louis facilities.

(C) The Support Services Division has responsibility for designing, developing, administering, and controlling Rural Development's directives management and issuance system, coordinating Rural Development's Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Program submissions to USDA and OMB, serving as **Federal Register** liaison, and analyzing and coordinating regulatory work plans for the Under Secretary. This office submits Paperwork Reduction Act public burden clearances to OMB, administers all printing programs, manages Rural Development travel policies and programs, and manages Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act and Tort Claims programs.

(iii) *Office of Information Resources Management (IRM).* Headed by the Chief Information Officer, this office is responsible to the Deputy Administrator for O&M for developing Rural Development's IRM policies, regulations, standards and guidelines. This office provides overall leadership and direction to activities assigned to the following four major divisions:

(A) The Customer Services Division is responsible for direct customer and technical support (hardware and software).

(B) The Management Services Division coordinates all IRM acquisition, budget, and policy and planning activities in support of Rural Development automation.

(C) The Information Technology Division provides support technical

services in the areas of data administration, system integrity management, research and development, and telecommunications.

(D) The Systems Services Division is responsible for planning, directing, and controlling activities related to Rural Development's Automated Information Systems.

(iv) *Office of the Assistant Administrator for Human Resources.* Headed by the Assistant Administrator for Human Resources, this office is responsible to the Deputy Administrator for O&M for the overall development, implementation, and management, of personnel and human resources support services for Rural Development. The office provides direction to the Headquarters Personnel Services, Human Resources Training and Mission Area Personnel Services Division, and Labor Relations Staff offices. The office is also responsible for the establishment of recruitment, retention, and development policies and programs supporting workforce diversity and affirmative action.

(2) *Office of Civil Rights Staff.* Headed by a staff director, this staff has primary responsibility for providing leadership and administration of the Civil Rights Program for the Rural Development mission area. The staff conducts on-site reviews of borrowers and beneficiaries of Federal financial assistance to ensure compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and prepares compliance reports. The staff conducts and evaluates Title VII compliance visits to insure that EEO programs are adequately implemented. In addition, the office develops, monitors, and evaluates Affirmative Employment programs for minorities, women and persons with disabilities, and coordinates and conducts community outreach activities at historically black colleges and universities. It also has oversight of special emphasis programs such as the Federal Women's Program, Hispanic Emphasis Program, and Black Emphasis Program. The staff director reports directly to the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M.

(3) *Office of Communications.* Headed by a director who reports directly to the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M, this office has primary responsibility for tracking legislation and development and institution of policies to provide public communication and information services related to the Rural Development. The office maintains a constituent data base and conducts

minority outreach efforts and administers a public information and media center responsible for media inquiries, news releases, program announcements, media advisories, and information retrieval. This office also serves as a liaison with Office of Congressional Relations (OCR), Office of the General Counsel (OGC), and other Departmental units involved in Congressional relations and public information. This office drafts testimony, prepares witnesses, and provides staff for hearings and markups. In addition, the office briefs Congressional members and staff on the Rural Development matters, coordinates Rural Development's legislative activities with other USDA agencies and OMB and develops and implements legislative strategy. The staff also coordinates development and production of brochures, press releases, and other public information materials.

#### §§ 2003.7—2003.9 [Reserved]

#### § 2003.10 Rural Development State Offices.

(a) Headed by State Directors, State Offices report directly to the Under Secretary, Rural Development, and are responsible to the three Rural Development agency Administrators for carrying out agency program operations at the State level, ensuring adherence to program plans approved for the State by the Under Secretary, and rendering staff advisory and manpower support to Area and Local offices. The Rural Development State Directors, for budget and accounting purposes, are housed in the RHS agency.

(b) Program Directors within the State Office provide oversight and leadership on major program functions. Major program functions include: Single Family and Multi-Family Housing loans and grants, Community Facility, Water and Waste Disposal, Business and Cooperative, and the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) programs.

(c) The USDA Rural Development State Office locations are as follows:

State	Location
Alabama .....	Montgomery, AL
Alaska .....	Palmer, AK
Arizona .....	Phoenix, AZ
Arkansas .....	Little Rock, AR
California .....	Woodland, CA
Colorado .....	Lakewood, CO
Delaware .....	Camden, DE
Florida .....	Gainesville, FL
Georgia .....	Athens, GA
Hawaii .....	Hilo, HI
Idaho .....	Boise, ID
Illinois .....	Champaign, IL
Indiana .....	Indianapolis, IN

State	Location
Iowa .....	Des Moines, IA
Kansas .....	Topeka, KS
Kentucky .....	Lexington, KY
Louisiana .....	Alexandria, LA
Maine .....	Bangor, ME
Massachusetts .....	Amherst, MA
Michigan .....	East Lansing, MI
Minnesota .....	St. Paul, MN
Mississippi .....	Jackson, MS
Missouri .....	Columbia, MO
Montana .....	Bozeman, MT
Nebraska .....	Lincoln, NE
Nevada .....	Carson City, NV
New Jersey .....	Mt. Holly, NJ
New Mexico .....	Albuquerque, NM
New York .....	Syracuse, NY
North Carolina .....	Raleigh, NC
North Dakota .....	Bismarck, ND
Ohio .....	Columbus, OH
Oklahoma .....	Stillwater, OK
Oregon .....	Portland, OR
Pennsylvania .....	Harrisburg, PA
Puerto Rico .....	Hato Rey, PR
South Carolina .....	Columbia, SC
South Dakota .....	Huron, SD
Tennessee .....	Nashville, TN
Texas .....	Austin, TX
Vermont .....	Montpelier, VT
Virginia .....	Richmond, VA
Washington .....	Olympia, WA
West Virginia .....	Charleston, WV
Wisconsin .....	Stevens Point, WI
Wyoming .....	Casper, WY

#### §§ 2003.11—2003.13 [Reserved]

#### § 2003.14 Field Offices.

Rural Development field offices report to their respective State Director and State Office Program Directors. State Directors may organizationally structure their offices based on the program workloads within their respective State. Field offices generally are patterned in a three or two tier program delivery structure. In a three tier system, Local offices report to an Area office, that reports to the State Office. In a two tier system, a "Local" or "Area" office reports to the State Office. Locations and telephone numbers of Area and Local Offices may be obtained from the appropriate Rural Development State Office.

#### §§ 2003.15—2003.16 [Reserved]

#### § 2003.17 Availability of information.

Information concerning Rural Development programs and agencies may be obtained from the Office of Communications, Rural Development, U. S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0705, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0705.

#### § 2003.18 Functional organization of RHS.

(a) *General.* The Secretary established RHS pursuant to § 233 of the Department of Agriculture

Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6943).

(b) *Office of the Administrator.* According to 7 CFR 2.49, the Administrator has responsibility for implementing programs aimed at delivering loans and grant assistance to rural Americans and their communities in obtaining adequate and affordable housing and community facilities, in accordance with Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*) and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*).

(1) *Legislative Affairs Staff.* The duties and responsibilities of this staff have now been aligned under the Office of Communication, headed by a director who reports directly to the Under Secretary for O&M. The Office of Communication is responsible for providing and carrying out legislative, public communication, and information services for the Rural Development mission area.

(2) *Office of Program Support Staff.* The Program Support Staff is headed by a staff director who is responsible to the Administrator for monitoring managerial and technical effectiveness of RHS programs. The staff coordinates review and analysis of legislation, Executive Orders, OMB circulars, and Department regulations for their impact on Agency programs. The staff develops, implements, and reports on architectural and environmental policies, in cooperation with the Department. Staff responsibilities also include managing RHS's Hazardous Waste Management Fund, coordinating the Debarment and Suspension process for RHS, tracking the use of Program Loan Cost Expense funds, and maintaining the RHS Internet "Home Page."

(3) *Office of Deputy Administrator, Single Family Housing.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Single Family Housing, this office is responsible to the Administrator for the development and implementation of RHS's Single Family Housing programs, which extend supervised housing credit to rural people of limited resources, for adequate, modest, decent, safe, and sanitary homes. The office is responsible for administering and managing sections 502 and 504 Rural Housing direct and guaranteed loan and grant programs, Rural Housing and Self-Help Site loans, the Self-Help Technical Assistance grant program, Housing Application Packaging and Technical and Supervisory Assistance grants, and Home Improvement and Repaid loans and grants. The office directs the following three divisions: Single Family Housing Processing Division, Single

Family Housing Servicing and Property Management Division, and Single Family Housing Centralized Servicing Center in St. Louis, Mo.

(i) *Office of Single Family Housing Processing Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for development and nationwide implementation of policies on processing Single Family Housing direct and guaranteed program loans. In addition, the division provides direction on the following: the Rural Housing Targeted Area Set-Aside program, debarments, payment assistance, title clearance and loan closing, site/subdivision development, Deferred Mortgage Payment Program; construction defects, credit reports, appraisals, Manufactured Housing, coordinated assessment reviews, Home Buyer's Counseling/Education Program, and allocation of loan and grant program funds.

(ii) *Office of Single Family Housing Servicing and Property Management Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for the development and implementation of nationwide policies for servicing RHS's multi-billion dollar portfolio of Single Family Housing loans, and managing and selling Single Family Housing inventory properties. The division also conducts state program evaluations, identifies program weaknesses, makes recommendations for improvements, and identifies corrective actions.

(iii) *Office of Single Family Housing Centralized Servicing Center (CSC)—St. Louis, Missouri.* Headed by a director, CSC is responsible for centrally servicing RHS's multi-billion dollar portfolio of Single Family Housing loans. CSC provides interest credit or payment assistance renewals, performs escrow activities for real estate taxes and property hazard insurance, oversees collection of loan payments, and grants interest credit, payment assistance, and moratoria.

(4) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Multi-Family Housing Division.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Multi-Family Housing, this office is responsible for the development and nationwide implementation of RHS's Multi-Family Housing programs, which extend supervised housing credit to rural residents an opportunity to have decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing. The following programs are administered and managed by this office: Section 515 Rural Rental Housing, Rural Cooperative and Congregate Housing Programs, Section 521 Rental Assistance, Farm Labor Housing loan and grant programs, Housing Preservation Grants, rural

housing vouchers, and Housing Application Packaging Grants. This office directs the following two divisions:

(i) *Multi-Family Housing Processing Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for the development and nationwide implementation of policies on processing Multi-Family Housing program loans. The division manages the following program areas: elderly and family rental housing, Farm Labor Housing loans and grants, outreach contacts, congregate facilities, Housing Preservation Grants, cooperative housing, rural housing vouchers, appraisals, Congregate Housing Services Grants, Rental Assistance, Housing Application Packaging Grants, targeted area and nonprofit set asides, Multi-Family Housing suspensions and debarments, title clearance and loan closing, allocation and monitoring of loan and grant funds, adverse decisions and appeals, commercial credit reports, individual credit reports, and, site development.

(ii) *Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for the development and institution of policies on the management and servicing of the nationwide Multi-Family Housing programs. The Division implements current and long range plans for servicing Rural Rental Housing loans, Labor Housing loans and grants, and Rental Assistance or similar tenant subsidies.

(5) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Community Programs.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Community Programs, this office is responsible for overseeing the administration and management of Community Facilities loans and grants to hospitals and nursing homes, police and fire stations, libraries, schools, adult and child care centers, etc. The office monitors and evaluates the administration of loan and grant programs on a nationwide basis and provides guidance and direction for community programs through two divisions, Community Programs Loan Processing Division and Servicing and Special Authorities Division.

(i) *Community Programs Loan Processing Division.* Headed by a director, this division is responsible for the overall administration, policy development, fund distribution, and processing of Community Facilities loans and other loan and grant programs assigned to the Division.

(ii) *Servicing and Special Authorities Division.* Headed by a division director,

this division is responsible for the overall administration, policy development, and servicing of the Community Facilities loan and grant programs. The division conducts program evaluations, identifies program weaknesses, makes recommendations for improvements, and identifies corrective actions. The division also administers and services Nonprofit National Corporation loans and grants.

**§§ 2003.19—2003.21 [Reserved]**

**§ 2003.22 Functional organization of RUS.**

(a) *General.* The Secretary established RUS pursuant to § 232 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6942).

(b) *Office of the Administrator.* According to 7 CFR 2.47, the Administrator has responsibility for managing and administering the programs and support functions of RUS to provide financial and technical support for rural infrastructure to include electrification, clean drinking water, telecommunications, and water disposal systems, pursuant to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*), and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*). The office develops and implements strategic plans concerning the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended. The Administrator serves as Governor of the Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) with a 13-member board of directors, and exercises and performs all functions, powers, and duties of the RTB in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 944.

(1) *Borrower and Program Support Services.* Borrower and Program Support Services consist of the three following staffs which are responsible to the Administrator for planning and carrying out a variety of program and administrative services in support of all RUS programs, and providing expert advice and coordination for the Administrator:

(i) *Administrative Liaison Staff.* Headed by a staff director, this staff advises the Administrator on management issues and policies relating to human resources, EEO, labor-management partnership, administrative services, travel management, automated information systems, and administrative budgeting and funds control.

(ii) *Program Accounting Services Division.* Headed by a division director, this division develops and evaluates the accounting systems and procedures of Electric, Telecommunications, and Water and Wastewater borrowers;

assures that accounting policies, systems, and procedures meet regulatory, Departmental, General Accounting Office, OMB, and Treasury Department requirements; examines borrowers' records and operations, and reviews expenditures of loans and other funds; develops audit requirements; and approves Certified Public Accountants to perform audits of borrowers.

(iii) *Program and Financial Services Staff.* Headed by a staff director, this staff evaluates the financial conditions of troubled borrowers, negotiates settlements of delinquent loans, and makes recommendations to program Assistant Administrators on ways to improve the financial health of borrowers.

(2) *Office of Assistant Administrator—Electric Program.* Headed by the Assistant Administrator—Electric Program, this office is responsible to the Administrator for directing and coordinating the Rural Electrification program of RUS nationwide. This office develops, maintains, and implements regulations and program procedures on processing and approving loans and loan-related activities for rural electric borrowers. The office directs the following three divisions:

(i) *Electric Regional Divisions.* Headed by division directors, these two divisions are responsible for administering the Rural Electrification program in specific geographic areas and serving as the single point of contact for all distribution borrowers. The divisions provide guidance to borrowers on RUS loan policies and procedures, maintain oversight of borrower rate actions, and make recommendations to the Administrator on borrower applications for RUS financing. The divisions also assure that power plant, distribution, and transmission systems and facilities are designed and constructed in accordance with the terms of the loan and proper engineering practices and specifications.

(ii) *Power Supply Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for administering the Rural Electrification program responsibilities with regard to power supply borrowers nationwide and serves as primary point of contact between RUS and all such borrowers. The division develops and maintains a loan processing program for Rural Electrification Act purposes, and develops and administers engineering and construction policies related to planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance for power supply borrowers.

(iii) *Electric Staff Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is

responsible for engineering activities related to the design, construction, and technical operations and maintenance of power plants; distribution of power; and transmission systems and facilities, including load management and communications. The division develops criteria and techniques for evaluating the financing and performance of electric borrowers and forecasting borrowers' future power needs; and maintains financial expertise on the distribution and power supply loan program, and retail and wholesale rates.

(3) *Office of Assistant Administrator—Telecommunications Program.* Headed by the Assistant Administrator—Telecommunications Program, this office is responsible to the Administrator for directing and coordinating the National Rural Telecommunications, Distance Learning, and Telemedicine programs of RUS. The Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, serves as Assistant Governor of the RTB and is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the RTB. The office develops, maintains, and implements regulations and program procedures on the processing and approval of grants, loans, and loan-related activities for all rural telecommunications borrowers and grant recipients. The office directs the following three divisions:

(i) *Telecommunications Standards Division.* Headed by a division director, this division is responsible for engineering staff activities related to the design, construction, and technical operation and maintenance of rural telecommunications systems and facilities. The office develops engineering practices, policies, and technical data related to borrowers' telecommunications systems; and evaluates the application of new communications network technology, including distance learning and telemedicine, to rural telecommunications systems.

(ii) *Advanced Telecommunications Services Staff.* Headed by a staff director, this staff primarily serves the Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program in the role of the Assistant Governor of the RTB. The office performs analyses and makes recommendations to the AAT on issues raised by the RTB Governor, Board of Directors, or RTB borrowers. This staff maintains official records for the RTB Board and prepares minutes of RTB Board meetings. The staff director serves as the Assistant Secretary to the RTB. The staff performs the calculations necessary to determine the cost of money rate to RTB borrowers and recommends and develops program-

wide procedures for loan and grant programs. The office is responsible for the Telecommunications Program's home page on the Internet.

(iii) *Telecommunications Area Offices*. Headed by area directors, these four offices are responsible for administering the Telecommunications, Distance Learning, and Telemedicine programs for specific geographic areas, and serving as the single point of contact for all program applicants and borrowers within their respective areas. The offices provide guidance to applicants and borrowers on RUS and RTB loan policies and procedures, and make recommendations to the Administrator on applications for loans, guarantees, and grants. The offices assure that borrower systems and facilities are designed and constructed in accordance with the terms of the loan, acceptable engineering practices and specifications, and acceptable loan security standards.

(4) *Office of the Assistant Administrator—Water and Environmental Programs*. Headed by the Assistant Administrator, Water and Environmental Programs, this office is responsible to the Administrator for directing and coordinating a nationwide Water and Waste Disposal Program for RUS as authorized under Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1926). The office oversees administration of RUS policies on making and servicing loans and grants for water and waste facilities in rural America, and the development of engineering policies, and practices related to the construction and operation of community water and waste disposal systems. This office is responsible for development and coordination of environmental programs with regard to the Water and Waste Disposal Program and directs the following two divisions:

(i) *Water Programs Division*. Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for administering the Water and Waste Disposal loan and grant making and servicing and special authorities activities nationwide. This office also makes allocation of loan and grant funds to field offices and manages National Office reserves.

(ii) *Engineering and Environmental Staff*. Headed by a staff director, this staff is responsible for engineering activities at all stages of program implementation, including: review of preliminary engineering plans and specifications, procurement practices, contract awards, construction monitoring, and system operation and maintenance. The staff also develops

Agency engineering practices, policies, and technical data related to the construction and operation of community water and waste disposal systems. The staff is responsible for coordinating environmental policy and providing technical support in areas such as: hazardous waste, debarment and suspension, flood insurance, drug free workplace requirements, and computer program software.

#### §§ 2003.23—2003.25 [Reserved]

#### § 2003.26 Functional organization of RBS.

(a) *General*. The Secretary established RBS pursuant to § 234 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6944).

(b) *Office of the Administrator*. According to 7 CFR 2.48, the Administrator is responsible for managing and administering the programs and support functions of RBS to provide assistance to disadvantaged communities through grants and loans and technical assistance to businesses and communities for rural citizens and cooperatives, pursuant to the following authorities: the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 940c and 950aa *et seq.*), the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*), the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 451–457), the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), and the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1932). These grants, loans, and technical assistance improve community welfare by enhancing organizational and management skills, developing effective economic strategies, and expanding markets for a wide range of rural products and services.

(1) *Resources Coordination Staff*. Headed by the staff director, this staff is responsible to the Administrator for preparing legislative initiatives and modifications for program enhancement. The staff monitors legislative and regulatory proposals that potentially impact RBS functions. The staff serves as liaison on budgetary and financial management matters between RBS staff and the Office of the Controller, and assists the Administrator in presenting and supporting RBS's budget and program plans. The staff also advises the Administrator and RBS officials on management issues and policies related to: human resources, labor relations, civil rights, EEO, space, equipment, travel, Senior Executive Service and Schedule C activities, contracting, automated information systems, and accounting. The staff provides analysis and recommendations

on the effectiveness of administrative and management activities, and performs liaison functions between RBS and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for O&M on a wide variety of administrative functions.

(2) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Business Programs*. Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Business Programs, this office is responsible to the Administrator for overseeing and coordinating the Business and Industry Guaranteed and Direct Loan programs, Intermediary Relending Program loans, Rural Business Enterprise grants, Rural Business Opportunity grants, Rural Economic Development loan and grant programs, and the Rural Venture Capital Demonstration Program. The office participates in policy planning, and program development and evaluation. It also directs the following three divisions:

(i) *Processing Division*. Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for developing and maintaining loan processing regulations, and directs the processing and approval of guaranteed and direct business and industry loans, and the Rural Venture Capital Demonstration Program. It provides technical assistance to field employees and borrowers on loan processing and develops approval criteria and performance standards for loans. The division recommends plans, programs, and activities related to business loan programs and provides environmental guidance and support.

(ii) *Servicing Division*. Headed by the division director, this office is responsible for developing and maintaining servicing regulations. It directs and provides technical assistance to field employees and borrowers on servicing business loans and grants. The division reviews large, complex, or potentially controversial loan and grant dockets related to loan servicing and recommends servicing plans, programs, and activities related to business loan and grant programs.

(iii) *Specialty Lenders Division*. Headed by the division director, this office is responsible for directing and developing and maintaining regulations concerning the processing and approval of Intermediary Relending loans, Rural Business Enterprise grants, Rural Business Opportunity grants, and Rural Economic Development loan and grant programs. The division provides technical assistance to field employees and borrowers on loan and grant processing and other activities. It also develops approval criteria and performance standards and recommends



plans, programs, and activities related to business loan and grant programs.

(3) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Services Programs.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Services Programs, this office is responsible to the Administrator for providing service to cooperative associations by administering a program of research and analysis of economic, social, legal, financial, and other related issues concerning cooperatives. The office administers programs to assist cooperatives in the organization and management of their associations and a program for economic research and analysis of the marketing aspects of cooperatives. The division administers and monitors activities of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center and the Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural Areas Program, and the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program. The office directs the following three divisions:

(i) *Cooperative Marketing Division.* Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for participating in the formulation of National policies and procedures on cooperative marketing. The division conducts research and analysis and gives technical assistance to farmer cooperatives on cooperative marketing of certain crops, livestock, aquaculture, forestry, poultry, semen, milk, and dairy products to improve their market performance and economic position.

(ii) *Cooperative Development Division.* Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for participating in the formulation of National policies and procedures on cooperative development. The office conducts evaluations and analysis of proposed new cooperatives to develop plans for implementing feasible operations, and advises and assists rural resident groups and developing cooperatives in implementing sound business plans for new cooperatives. It provides research, analysis, and technical assistance to rural residents on cooperative development initiatives and strategies to improve economic conditions through cooperative efforts.

(iii) *Cooperative Resource Management Division.* Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for participating in the formulating of National policies and procedures on cooperative resource management. The division conducts research and analysis and gives technical assistance to cooperatives on their overall structure, strategic management and planning, financial issues, and operational characteristics to

improve their use of resources, financial policies, and ability to adapt to market conditions. The division conducts research and analysis of policy, taxation, Federal laws, State statutes, and common laws that apply to cooperative incorporation, structure, and operation to assist cooperatives in meeting legal requirements.

(4) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Community Development.* Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Community Development, this office is responsible to the Under Secretary, Rural Development, for coordinating and overseeing all functions in the Community Outreach and Empowerment Program areas. The office assists in providing leadership and coordination to National and local rural economic and community development efforts. For appropriation and accounting purposes, this office is located under RBS. The office directs the following two divisions:

(i) *Empowerment Program Division.* Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for formulating policies and developing plans, standards, procedures, and schedules for accomplishing RBS activities related to "community empowerment programs", including EZ/EC, AmeriCorps, and other initiatives. The office develops informational materials and provides technical advice and services to support States on community empowerment programs. It also generates information about rural conditions and strategies and techniques for promoting rural economic development for community empowerment programs.

(ii) *Community Outreach Division.* Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for designing and overseeing overall systems and developing resources to support State and community level implementation activities for RBS programs. The office designs program delivery systems and tools, removes impediments to effective community-level action, supports field offices with specialized skills, and establishes partnerships with National organizations with grass-roots membership to assure that programs and initiatives are designed and implemented in a way that empowers communities. It develops methods for working with rural business intermediaries to assist them in providing technical assistance to new, small business, and provides Internet-based services to 1890 Land-grant universities, EZ/EC, and AmeriCorps volunteers, linking RBS information

support to communities with high levels of need.

(5) *Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation.* Headed by a director, this Corporation is responsible for providing and monitoring financial assistance for the development and commercialization of new nonfood and nonfeed products from agricultural and forestry commodities in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 5901 *et seq.* The Corporation acts as a catalyst in forming private and public partnerships and promotes new uses of agricultural materials. It expands market opportunities for U.S. farmers through development of value-added industrial products and promotes environmentally friendly products. For budget and accounting purposes, this office is assigned to RBS. The director of the Corporation is responsible to the Office of the Secretary.

#### §§ 2003.27—2003.50 [Reserved]

Dated: November 26, 1997.

**Jill Long Thompson,**

*Under Secretary, Rural Development.*

[FR Doc. 97-33588 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-U

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-22]

#### Establishment of a Class D Airspace; Hickory, NC

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment establishes Class D airspace area at Hickory, NC. A non-federal control tower has opened at Hickory Regional Airport, Hickory, NC. Class D surface area airspace is required when the control tower is open to accommodate current Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAP) and for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at the airport.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 0901 UTC, February 26, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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