

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978).

Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be

aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits: Permits required for implementation may include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Responsible Official

Thomas Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Thomas Puchlerz,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-30076 Filed 11-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

Determination of the 1999 Fiscal Year Interest Rates on Rural Telephone Bank Loans

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of 1999 fiscal year interest rates determination.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 7 CFR 1610.10, the Rural Telephone Bank (Bank) fiscal year 1999 cost of money rates have been established as follows: 6.01% and 5.54% for advances from the liquidating account and financing account, respectively (fiscal year is the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30).

Except for loans approved from October 1, 1987, through December 21, 1987, where borrowers elected to remain at interest rates set at loan approval, all loan advances made during fiscal year 1999 under Bank loans approved in fiscal years 1988 through 1991 shall bear interest at the rate of 6.01% (the liquidating account rate). All loan advances made during fiscal year 1999 under Bank loans approved during or after fiscal year 1992 shall bear interest at the rate of 5.54% (the financing account rate).

The calculation of the Bank's cost of money rates for fiscal year 1999 for the liquidating account and the financing account are provided in Tables 1 and 2. Since the calculated rates are greater than the minimum rate (5.00%) allowed under 7 U.S.C. § 948(b)(3)(A), the cost of money rates for the liquidating account and financing account are set at 6.01% and 5.54%, respectively. The methodology required to calculate the cost of money rates is established in 7 CFR 1610.10(c).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan P. Claffey, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1590, South Building, Washington, DC 20250, telephone number (202) 720-9556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 ("Credit Reform") (2 U.S.C. § 661a, *et seq.*) implemented a system to reform the budgetary accounting and management of Federal credit programs. Bank loans approved on or after October 1, 1991, are accounted for in a different manner than Bank loans approved prior to fiscal year 1992. As a result, the Bank must calculate two cost of money rates: (1) The cost of money rate for advances made from the liquidating account (advances made during fiscal year 1999 on loans approved prior to fiscal year 1992) and (2) the cost of money rate for advances made during fiscal year 1999 on loans approved on or after October 1, 1991 (otherwise referred to as loans from the financing account).

The cost of money rate methodology is the same for both accounts. It develops a weighted average rate for the

Bank's cost of money considering total fiscal year loan advances; the excess of fiscal year loan advances over amounts received in the fiscal year from the issuance of Class A, B, and C stocks, debentures and other obligations; and the costs to the Bank of obtaining funds from these sources.

During fiscal year 1999, the Bank was authorized to pay the following dividends: the dividend on Class A stock was 2.00% as established in amended section 406(c) of the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act); no dividends were payable on Class B stock as specified in 7 CFR 1610.10(c); and the dividend on Class C stock was established by the Bank at 5.50%.

Sources and Costs of Funds— Liquidating Account

In accordance with Section 406(a) of the RE Act, the Bank did not issue Class A stock in fiscal year 1999. Advances for the purchase of Class B stock and cash purchases for Class B stock were \$843,911. Rescissions of loan funds advanced for Class B stock amounted to \$316,910. Thus, the amount received by the Bank from the issuance of Class B stock, per 7 CFR 1610.10(c), was \$527,001 (\$843,911–\$316,910). The amount received by the Bank in fiscal

year 1999 from the issuance of Class C stock was \$18,309.

The Bank did not issue debentures or any other obligations related to the liquidating account in fiscal year 1999. Consequently, no cost was incurred related to the issuance of debentures subject to 7 U.S.C. § 948(b)(3)(D).

The excess of fiscal year 1999 loan advances from the liquidating account over amounts received from issuance of stocks, debentures, and other obligations amounted to \$17,251,208. The cost associated with this excess is the historical cost of money rate as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 948(b)(3)(D)(v). The calculation of the Bank's historical cost of money rate for advances from the liquidating account is also provided in Table 1. The methodology required to perform this calculation is described in 7 CFR 1610.10(c). The cost for money rates for fiscal years 1974 through 1987 are defined in section 408(b) of the RE Act, as amended by Pub. L. 100–203, and are listed in 7 CFR 1610.10(c) and Table 1 herein.

Sources and Costs of Funds—Financing Account

In accordance with Section 406(a) of the RE Act, the Bank did not issue Class A stock in fiscal year 1999. Advances

for the purchase of Class B stock and cash purchases for Class B stock were \$1,822,270. Since there were no rescissions of loan funds advanced for Class B stock, the amount received by the Bank from the issuance of Class B stock, per 7 CFR 1610.10(c), was \$1,822,270. The Bank did not receive any amounts in fiscal year 1999 from the issuance of Class C stock.

During fiscal year 1999, issuance of debentures or any other obligations related to the financing account were \$36,336,255 at an interest rate of 5.81%.

The excess of fiscal year 1999 loan advances from the financing account over amounts received from issuance of stocks, debentures, and other obligations amounted to \$527,207. The cost associated with this excess is the historical cost of money rate as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 948(b)(3)(D)(v). The calculation of the Bank's historical cost of money rate for advances from the financing account is also provided in Table 2. The methodology required to perform this calculation is described in 7 CFR 1610.10(c).

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Christopher A. McLean,
Acting Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

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TABLE 1**Rural Telephone Bank Cost of Money Rate - Liquidating Account:**

FY 1999 Source of Bank Funds	(a) Amount	(b) Cost	(c) (a) x (b)	(c) / Advances
Issuance of Class A Stock	\$ -	2.00%	\$ -	0.0000%
Issuance of Class B Stock	\$ 527,001	0.00%	\$ -	0.0000%
Issuance of Class C Stock	\$ 18,309	5.50%	\$ 1,007	0.0057%
Issuance of Debentures and Other Obligations	\$ -		\$ -	0.0000%
Excess of Total Advances Over Issuances	\$ 17,251,208	6.19%	\$ 1,067,850	6.0003%
Total FY 1999 Advances	\$ 17,796,518	CALCULATED COST OF MONEY RATE =		6.01%
MINIMUM RATE ALLOWABLE =				5.00%

Rural Telephone Bank Historical Cost of Money Rate - Liquidating Account:

Fiscal Year	(a) Cost of Money	(b) Advances	(c) (a) X (b)	(c) / Total Advances
FY 1974	5.01%	\$ 111,022,574	\$ 5,562,231	0.235%
FY 1975	5.85%	\$ 130,663,197	\$ 7,643,797	0.323%
FY 1976	5.33%	\$ 99,915,066	\$ 5,325,473	0.225%
FY 1977	5.00%	\$ 80,907,425	\$ 4,045,371	0.171%
FY 1978	5.87%	\$ 142,297,190	\$ 8,352,845	0.353%
FY 1979	5.93%	\$ 130,540,067	\$ 7,741,026	0.327%
FY 1980	8.10%	\$ 199,944,235	\$ 16,195,483	0.684%
FY 1981	9.46%	\$ 148,599,372	\$ 14,057,501	0.594%
FY 1982	8.39%	\$ 112,232,127	\$ 9,416,275	0.398%
FY 1983	6.99%	\$ 93,402,836	\$ 6,528,858	0.276%
FY 1984	6.55%	\$ 90,450,549	\$ 5,924,511	0.250%
FY 1985	5.00%	\$ 72,583,394	\$ 3,629,170	0.153%
FY 1986	5.00%	\$ 71,582,383	\$ 3,579,119	0.151%
FY 1987	5.00%	\$ 51,974,938	\$ 2,598,747	0.110%
FY 1988	5.00%	\$ 119,488,367	\$ 5,974,418	0.252%
FY 1989	5.00%	\$ 97,046,947	\$ 4,852,347	0.205%
FY 1990	5.00%	\$ 107,694,991	\$ 5,384,750	0.227%
FY 1991	5.43%	\$ 163,143,075	\$ 8,858,669	0.374%
FY 1992	6.14%	\$ 84,940,822	\$ 5,215,366	0.220%
FY 1993	6.05%	\$ 84,605,366	\$ 5,118,625	0.216%
FY 1994	6.15%	\$ 54,530,897	\$ 3,353,650	0.142%
FY 1995	6.04%	\$ 35,967,133	\$ 2,172,415	0.092%
FY 1996	6.05%	\$ 30,965,187	\$ 1,873,394	0.079%
FY 1997	5.98%	\$ 32,602,587	\$ 1,949,635	0.082%
FY 1998	5.96%	\$ 20,673,798	\$ 1,232,158	0.052%
TOTAL ADVANCES		\$ 2,367,774,523	COST OF MONEY	6.19%

TABLE 2**Rural Telephone Bank Cost of Money Rate - Financing Account:**

FY 1999 Source of Bank Funds	(a) Amount	(b) Cost	(c) (a) x (b)	(c) / Advances
Issuance of Class A Stock	\$ -	2.00%	\$ -	0.0000%
Issuance of Class B Stock	\$ 1,822,270	0.00%	\$ -	0.0000%
Issuance of Class C Stock	\$ -	5.50%	\$ -	0.0000%
Issuance of Debentures and Other Obligations	\$ 36,336,255	5.81%	\$ 2,111,136	5.4571%
Excess of Total Advances Over Issuances	\$ 527,207	6.41%	\$ 33,794	0.0874%
Total FY 1999 Advances	\$ 38,685,732	CALCULATED COST OF MONEY RATE =		5.54%
MINIMUM RATE ALLOWABLE =				5.00%

Rural Telephone Bank Historical Cost of Money Rate - Financing Account:

Fiscal Year	(a) Cost of Money	(b) Advances	(c) (a) X (b)	(c) / Total Advances
FY 1992	7.38%	\$ 4,056,250	\$ 299,351	0.127%
FY 1993	6.35%	\$ 23,839,200	\$ 1,513,789	0.643%
FY 1994	6.40%	\$ 56,838,902	\$ 3,637,690	1.546%
FY 1995	6.88%	\$ 37,161,517	\$ 2,556,712	1.087%
FY 1996	6.42%	\$ 44,536,621	\$ 2,859,251	1.215%
FY 1997	6.54%	\$ 34,368,726	\$ 2,247,715	0.955%
FY 1998	5.71%	\$ 34,446,458	\$ 1,966,893	0.836%
TOTAL ADVANCES		\$ 235,247,674	COST OF MONEY	6.41%

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Deschutes Provincial Interagency
Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory
Committee**

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on December 9, 1999 at the Jefferson County Firehall located at the corner of Adam and "J" Street off of Highway 97 in Madras, Oregon. A business meeting will begin at 9:30 am and finish at 4:30 pm. Agenda items include a Survey and Manage Species Update, a Response to a Northwest Plan Interpretation, Subcommittee Updates, ICBEMP Comment Process, Year 2000 Program of Work, and a Public Forum from 4:00 pm till 4:30 pm. All Deschutes Province

Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mollie Chaudet, Province Liaison,
USDA, Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District,
1230 N.E. 3rd., Bend, OR 97701, Phone
(541) 383-4769.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Sally Collins,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-29965 Filed 11-17-99; 8:45 am]

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Executive Service Performance
Appraisal System:

Alan P. Balutis

Mary L. Casey

Judith J. Gordon

Peter L. McClintock

Denise Yaag,Executive Secretary, Performance Review
Board, Office of Inspector General.

[FR Doc. 99-30162 Filed 11-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D. 111299A]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
Council; Public Meetings**

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Office of Inspector General;
Performance Review Board:
Membership**

The following individuals are eligible
to serve on the Performance Review
Board (PRB) in accordance with the
Office of Inspector General's Senior