

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(g) The drawing contains construction instructions or details which are no longer applicable to RUS construction standards.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

from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue, and C Street, N.W. Comments may be inspected in Room MP-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, except as provided in § 261.8 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.8.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gregory Baer, Managing Senior Counsel (202/452-3236), Pamela G. Nardolilli, Senior Attorney (202/452-3289), or Deborah M. Awai, Senior Attorney (202/452-3594), Legal Division or Roger T. Cole, Deputy Associate Director (202/452-2618), Banking Supervision and Regulation or Molly S. Wassom, Assistant Director, Banking Supervision and Regulation (202/452-2305), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. For the hearing impaired *only*, Telecommunications Device of the Deaf (TDD), Diane Jenkins (202/452-3254).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board is extending the comment period on the proposed rule regarding the applicability of sections 23A and 23B to certain subsidiaries published on July 15, 1997 at 62 FR 37744 to give the public additional time to comment on the proposal.

By order of the Secretary of the Board, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 20, 1997.

William W. Wiles,
Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 97-22680 Filed 8-25-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 271

[Docket No. R-0983]

Federal Open Market Committee; Rules Regarding Availability of Information

AGENCY: Federal Open Market Committee, Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Open Market Committee (Committee) hereby proposes to amend its Rules Regarding Availability of Information (Rules) to reflect recent changes in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as a result of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments (EFOIA).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments, which should refer to Docket No. R-0983, may be mailed to Mr. Donald Kohn, Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee, Mail

Stop 55, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551. Comments addressed to Mr. Kohn also may be delivered to the mail room of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. and to the Board's security control room outside of those hours. The mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Comments may be inspected in Room MP-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elaine M. Boutilier, Senior Counsel, (202/452-2418), or Stephen L. Siciliano, Special Assistant to the General Counsel for Administrative Law, (202/452-3920), Legal Division, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. For the hearing impaired *only*, contact Diane Jenkins, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) (202/452-3544), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and Constitution, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year, Congress passed the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, Pub. L. 104-231, which amends the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Among other things, EFOIA requires agencies to promulgate regulations that provide for expedited processing of requests for records. In addition to amendments intended to implement EFOIA, the Committee proposes to update the fee schedule and make other changes intended to streamline and clarify the Rules. The following is a section-by-section discussion of the proposed changes.

Section 271.1—Authority and Purpose

This section has been revised simply to state the statutory authority for promulgation of the Rules and the purpose of the Rules.

Section 271.2—Definitions

The definitions have been alphabetized and now include the definitions relating to the fee schedule that were previously in § 271.8.

Section 271.3—Published Information

No substantive changes are proposed for this section.

Section 271.4—Records Available for Public Inspection and Copying

This is a new section that describes the types of Committee records that are available in the reading room of the Board's Freedom of Information (FOI) Office. Pursuant to EFOIA, it also

describes the Committee records available on the Board's website.

Section 271.5—Records Available to the Public on Request

This is a revision of existing § 271.4, which describes the types of records available upon request, and the procedures for making such a request.

Section 271.6—Processing Request

This is a new section that describes the Committee's procedures in processing requests for information and appeals of denials of such requests. Some of the procedures described in this proposed section were previously set forth in existing § 271.4. This section also contains the proposed procedures for expedited processing of requests, pursuant to EFOIA.

Section 271.7—Exemptions From Disclosure

This section combines the rules currently found in §§ 271.5 and 271.6, regarding deferred release of information and information that is exempt from release under FOIA.

Section 271.8—Subpoenas

There are no substantive changes to this section, except that it is renumbered from § 271.7 to § 271.8.

Section 271.9—Fee schedules; Waiver of Fees

This section is renumbered from § 271.8 to § 271.9. The Committee proposes to move the definitions that are currently included here to § 271.2, which contains the other definitions for this part. The fee schedule provisions have been revised to clarify that the processing time of a FOIA request does not begin in cases where advance payment is required until payment is received; or, where a person has requested a waiver of the fees, until the person agrees to pay the fees if the waiver request is denied. Additionally, the standards under which the Secretary may grant a request for waiver of fees have been modified to reflect the development of case law in this area. The rule provides for administrative appeal of a denial of a waiver request.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

Pursuant to section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Committee certifies that the proposed amendments will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. These amendments simplify some of the procedures regarding release of information and require disclosure of information in certain instances in