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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1730

RIN 0572-AC16

Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP)

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending the requirements established for Emergency Restoration Plans (ERPs), currently mandated for all borrowers, to include a plan to comply with the eligibility requirements to qualify for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program in the event of a declared disaster. This amendment will ensure that RUS borrowers have a plan to maintain their eligibility to receive financial assistance from FEMA in the event they incur eligible costs for disaster related system repair and restoration.

DATES: September 6, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donald Junta, USDA—Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1569, Washington, DC 20250–1569, telephone (202) 720–1900 or e-mail to donald.junta@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Executive Order 12988

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. The Agency has determined that this final rule meets the applicable standards in § 3 of the Executive Order.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

It has been determined that the Regulatory Flexibility Act is not applicable to this rule since the Rural Utilities Service is not required by 5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.* or any other provision of law to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to the subject matter of this rule.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

The information collection burden associated with this rulemaking is approved under OMB control number 0572–0140. This rule contains no additional information collection or recordkeeping requirements under OMB control number 0572–0140 that would require approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

E-Government Act Compliance

The Rural Utilities Service is committed to the E-Government Act, which requires government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Agency 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

The program described by this rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under number 10.850, Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402–9325, telephone number (202) 512–1800 and at <https://www.cfda.gov>.

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may otherwise require consultation with State and local officials, pursuant to USDA's regulation at 7 CFR part 3015.

Unfunded Mandates

This rule contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provisions of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, this rule is not subject to the requirements of §§ 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Executive Order 13132, Federalism

The policies contained in this final rule do not have any substantial direct effect on States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, nor does this final rule impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments. Therefore, consultation with States is not required.

Background

The Agency published a final rule on October 12, 2004, at 69 FR 60541 requiring all borrowers to maintain an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that details how the borrower will restore its system in the event of a system-wide outage resulting from a major natural or manmade disaster or other causes. This ERP requirement was not entirely new to the borrowers, as RUS had recommended similar “plans” in the past. However, the need for an ERP requirement at that time was catalyzed by increased sensitivities relating to homeland security.

The purpose of the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

Recent FEMA audits conducted on applications submitted by RUS borrowers have shown that borrowers have not always followed the policies and procedures set forth by FEMA for disaster related repairs and restoration. FEMA recently created a draft document titled “FEMA Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet 9580.6 (Electric Utility Repair (Public and Private Nonprofit)). This document contains sections on contracting, category of work, conductor replacement, hazard mitigation, and repair of collateral damage that outline

FEMA requirements in these areas. It is financially advantageous for borrowers to qualify and receive disaster assistance funds for eligible work from FEMA in the event of a declared disaster or emergency. When RUS borrowers do not meet FEMA Public Assistance Grant eligibility requirements, they will be ineligible to receive disaster assistance funds.

Accordingly, the Agency published a proposed rule on January 26, 2010, at 75 FR 4006 proposing to amend the ERP regulatory requirements to add that the ERP reflect compliance with all requirements imposed by FEMA for reimbursement of the cost of repairs and restoration of the borrower's electric system incurred as the result of a declared disaster.

Discussion of Comments and Changes

RUS received one submission electronically on this proposed rule by the March 29, 2010, comment deadline. The submission was received from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The submission is summarized below with the Agency's responses as follows:

Issue 1: Commentor proposed modifying the rule as proposed to add a cost/benefit consideration.

Response: The Agency accepts the observation that there are costs to compliance. Money and time spent, delay in service restoration, and the possibility of consumer dissatisfaction in an extended outage are relevant in power restoration decisions and sometimes any additional costs of complying with FEMA's eligibility rules may outweigh the benefits of federal financial assistance for reimbursement and support a decision by a borrower to elect to pursue an alternative to competitively bidding a restoration job as generally required by FEMA. The final rule as published permits the borrower to make such a determination. The rule only requires the borrower develop a plan to comply with the FEMA requirements and be eligible to apply for FEMA assistance.

Issue 2: Commentor proposed a clarifying change that identifies the borrower, rather than the ERP, as the subject that "must comply with" FEMA reimbursement rules.

Response: Agency concurs. This clarification is intended to avoid an interpretation that would require the ERP to contain a mini manual of how to comply with the FEMA rules.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR 1730

Electric power; Loan program—energy; Reporting and recordkeeping requirements; Rural areas.

For reasons discussed in the preamble, the Agency amends 7 CFR, Chapter XVII, part 1730 as follows:

PART 1730—ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1730 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, 1921 *et seq.*, 6941 *et seq.*

■ 2. Amend § 1730.28 as follows:

■ a. Remove the word "and" from the end of paragraph (e)(4);

■ b. Redesignating paragraph (e)(5) as (e)(6); and

■ c. Add paragraph (e)(5) to read as follows:

§ 1730.28 Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP).

* * * * *

(e) * * *

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(5) A section describing a plan to comply with the eligibility requirements to qualify for the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program; and

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Dated: July 22, 2011.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-19661 Filed 8-3-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2010-1095; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-40-AD; Amendment 39-16742; AD 2011-14-07]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney (PW) Models PW4074 and PW4077 Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD requires removing the 15th stage HPC disk within 12,000 cycles since new (CSN) or, for any disks that exceed 12,000 CSN after the effective date of this AD using a drawdown plan that includes a borescope inspection (BSI) or eddy current inspection (ECI) of the rim for cracks. This AD was prompted by multiple shop findings of cracked 15th stage HPC disks. We are issuing this AD

to prevent cracks from propagating into the disk bolt holes, which could result in a failure of the 15th stage HPC disk, uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane.

DATES: This AD is effective September 8, 2011.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of September 8, 2011.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this AD, contact Pratt & Whitney, 400 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06108; telephone (860) 565-7700; fax (860) 565-1605. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Engine & Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (781) 238-7125.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for the Docket Office (phone: 800-647-5527) is Document Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ian Dargin, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803; phone: (781) 238-7178; fax: (781) 238-7199; e-mail: ian.dargin@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to the specified products. That NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on November 2, 2010, (75 FR 67253). That NPRM proposed to require removing the 15th stage HPC disk before 12,000 CSN, or for any disks that exceed 12,000 CSN after the effective date of this AD, using a drawdown plan that includes a BSI or ECI of the rim for cracks.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM or