

§ 1794.2

Service (RUS) for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321-4346); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and certain related Federal environmental laws, statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders (EO) that apply to RUS programs and administrative actions.

(b) The policies and procedures contained in this part are intended to help RUS officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. In assessing the potential environmental impacts of its actions, RUS will consult early with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and other organizations to provide decision-makers with information on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question.

§ 1794.2 Authority.

(a) This part derives its authority from and is intended to be compliant with NEPA, CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, and other RUS regulations.

(b) Where practicable, RUS will use NEPA analysis and documents and review procedures to integrate the requirements of related environmental statutes, regulations, and orders.

(c) This part integrates the requirements of NEPA with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law, or by RUS practice including but not limited to:

(1) Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*);

(2) The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*);

(3) Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*);

(4) E.O. 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (3 CFR, 1971 Comp., p. 154);

(5) E.O. 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality (3 CFR, 1970 Comp., p. 104);

(6) E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117);

(7) E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 121); and

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1-1-01 Edition)

(8) E.O. 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 859).

(d) Applicants are responsible for ensuring that proposed actions are in compliance with all appropriate RUS requirements. Environmental documents submitted by the applicant shall be prepared under the oversight and guidance of RUS. RUS will evaluate and be responsible for the accuracy of all information contained therein.

§ 1794.3 Actions requiring environmental review.

The provisions of this part apply to actions by RUS including the approval of financial assistance pursuant to the Electric, Telecommunications, and Water and Waste Programs, the disposal of property held by RUS pursuant to such programs, and the issuance of new or revised rules, regulations, and bulletins. Approvals provided by RUS pursuant to loan contracts and security instruments, including approvals of lien accommodations, are not actions for the purposes of this part and the provisions of this part shall not apply to the exercise of such approvals.

§ 1794.4 Metric units.

RUS normally will prepare environmental documents using non-metric equivalents with one of the following two options; metric units in parentheses immediately following the non-metric equivalents or a metric conversion table as an appendix. Environmental documents prepared by or for a RUS applicant should follow the same format.

§ 1794.5 Responsible officials.

The Administrator of RUS has the responsibility for Agency compliance with all environmental laws, regulations, and EOs that apply to RUS programs and administrative actions. Responsibility for ensuring environmental compliance for actions taken by RUS has been delegated as follows:

(a) *Electric and telecommunications programs.* The appropriate Assistant Administrator is responsible for ensuring compliance with this part for the respective programs.