

(1) When the OGC advises in writing that the claim is legally without merit, or that evidence necessary to prove the claim in court cannot be produced.

(2) When there is no known security for the debt, the debtor has no other assets from which the debt could be collected, and the debtor:

(i) Is unable to pay any party of the debt and has no reasonable prospect of being able to do so, or

(ii) Is able to pay part or all of the debt but refuses to do so, and an opinion is received from OGC to the effect that the Government cannot enforce collection of a significant amount from assets or income.

(3) When the debtor is deceased (individuals only), disappeared (individuals only), or when it is impossible or impractical to obtain the debtor's signature, and the conditions of § 1956.136(b)(2) of this subpart are met.

§ 1956.137 Adjustment of unpaid principal—Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loans.

This section pertains exclusively to the reduction of unpaid principal on Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loans. (Pub. L. 101-82.)

(a) *Application by borrower.* Upon application by the borrower, the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Administrator may adjust the unpaid principal balance only, on any loan or loans, to the current fair market value of the land purchased with the proceeds of the loans. A separate application will be made for each loan. To be eligible, each application must meet the following conditions:

(1) The current fair market value of the land has declined by at least 25 percent since the land was purchased by the borrower with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 loan funds. Current fair market value shall be determined through an appraisal by an independent qualified fee appraiser, as defined in § 1956.105(j) of this subpart and selected by mutual agreement between the borrower and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354. The borrower will submit its selection of an appraiser, together with the appraiser's qualifications, in writing, to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354

for acceptance or rejection. The cost of the appraisal shall be paid by the borrower.

(2) The land has been held by the borrower for at least 5 years.

(3) The Secretary of Interior or designee finds, and states in writing to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354, that the borrower has insufficient income to both repay the loan or loans and provide normal tribal governmental services.

(b) *Review of application decision.* If an application is rejected, the borrower may request a review of this decision under subpart B of part 1900 of this chapter.

(c) *Future applications.* A borrower that had a loan adjusted under this section shall not submit an application for another adjustment on the same loan for a period of 5 years from the date the last reduction became effective.

(d) *Processing.* All requests for principal adjustment will be forwarded to the National Office with the following information:

(1) Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1. Complete only parts I, II, VI, and VIII. Part VI, Debtors Offer and Certification, will be made in a separate attachment and contain the adjusted unpaid principal amount for which FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 approval is requested. In part VI of the form, type "see attached."

(2) Letter from the Secretary of Interior or Designee. Reference to this letter should be made in part VIII of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1.

(3) For first time requests, the State Director's determination of the appraised value of the land when the loan (or loans) was made and the current fair market value appraisal as determined by an independent qualified fee appraiser.

(4) For subsequent requests, the current and previous fair market value appraisal as determined by an independent qualified fee appraiser.

(5) Draft of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1951-33, "Reamortization Request," if applicable. Upon concurrence by the National Office, the adjusted unpaid

principal and outstanding accrued interest may be reamortized at the original note rate for the balance of the existing term of the note and in accordance with the other applicable provisions of subpart E of part 1951 of this chapter. The approved original of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 will be sent to the Finance Office together with a copy of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1951-33 signed by the State Director.

[54 FR 47510, Nov. 15, 1989, as amended at 58 FR 21346, Apr. 21, 1993]

§ 1956.138 Processing.

(a) *Approval.* When a debt settlement application is approved, the State Director will:

(1) Send the original approved Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 to the Finance Office.

(2) Notify debtors in writing of settlement approval, including the specific amount and terms of the offer that were accepted, for compromise and adjustment offers under §1956.124 and cancellations with application under §1956.130(a) of this subpart.

(3) Not be required to notify debtors of settlement approval when debts are cancelled without application under §1956.130(b) or charged off under §1956.136 of this subpart.

(b) *Requesting additional information.* When rejection appears to be necessary either because of lack of information or because the amount of a compromise or adjustment offer is inadequate, the State Director may request the servicing official to obtain the additional information or make an effort to obtain a more acceptable offer, as the circumstances justify. Notice of rejection of an offer will be withheld in such cases until sufficient time has elapsed to enable the debtor to present further information or a new offer.

(c) *Rejection.* When a debt settlement application is rejected, the State Director will:

(1) Insert the reasons for rejection on the Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1.

(2) Retain the original Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 in the State Office

and return case files and copies of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1956-1 to the servicing official.

(3) Request the Finance Office to return any adjustment or compromise payment held by the Finance Office to the borrower, in care of the servicing official.

(4) Return any adjustment or compromise payment held by the State Office to the borrower, in care of the servicing official.

(5) Notify the debtor in writing of the reasons for the rejection for compromise and adjustment offers under §1956.124 and cancellations with application under §1956.130(a) of this subpart.

(d) *Appeal rights.* In accordance with Subpart B of Part 1900 of this chapter, the debtor will be given the right to appeal the rejection of any debt settlement offer made by the debtor under this subpart.

§ 1956.139 Collections.

(a) When the debtor offers a lump-sum payment in compromise or an initial payment on an adjustment offer, that payment will accompany the settlement application at the time the application is filed with the servicing official.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, debt settlement payments will be deposited and transmitted as required in Subpart B of Part 1951 of this chapter.

(c) Checks or check transmittal letters containing restrictive notations such as "Settlement in full" or "Payment in full," will be forwarded to the State Office where they will be retained until approval or rejection of the offer. The use of restrictive notations will be discouraged to the fullest extent possible.

(d) All payments evidenced by Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 451-2, "Schedule of Remittances," bearing the legend "Compromise Offer—FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354" or "Adjustment Offer—FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354," will be held in the Deposits Fund Account by the Finance Office until notification is received from the