

**§ 1710.208 RUS criteria for approval of all load forecasts by power supply borrowers and by distribution borrowers required to maintain an approved load forecast on an ongoing basis.**

All load forecasts submitted by power supply borrowers and by distribution borrowers required to maintain an approved load forecast must satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The borrower objectively analyzed all known relevant factors that influence the consumption of electricity and the known number of customers served at the time the study was developed;

(b) The borrower considered and identified all loads on its system of RE Act beneficiaries and non-RE Act beneficiaries;

(c) The borrower developed an adequate supporting database and analyzed a reasonable range of relevant assumptions and alternative futures;

(d) The borrower adopted methods and procedures in general use by the electric utility industry to develop its load forecast;

(e) The borrower used valid and verifiable analytical techniques and models;

(f) The borrower provided RUS with adequate documentation and assistance to allow for a thorough and independent review; and

(g) In the case of a power supply borrower required to maintain an approved load forecast on an ongoing basis, the borrower adequately coordinated the preparation of the load forecast work plan and load forecast with its member systems.

**§ 1710.209 Approval requirements for load forecast work plans.**

(a) In addition to the approved load forecast required under §§ 1710.202 and 1710.203, any power supply borrower with a total utility plant of \$500 million or more and any distribution borrower with a total utility plant of \$500 million or more must maintain an approved load forecast work plan. RUS borrowers that are members of a power supply borrower with a total utility plant of \$500 million or more must cooperate in the preparation of and sub-

mittal of the load forecast work plan of their power supply borrower.

(b) An approved load forecast work plan establishes the process for the preparation and maintenance of a comprehensive database for the development of the borrower's load forecast, and load forecast updates. The approved load forecast work plan is intended to develop and maintain a process that will result in load forecasts that will meet the borrowers' own needs and the requirements of this subpart. An approved work plan represents a commitment by a power supply borrower and its members, or by a large unaffiliated distribution borrower, that all parties concerned will prepare their load forecasts in a timely manner pursuant to the approved load forecast work plan and they will modify the approved load forecast work plan as needed with RUS approval to address changing circumstances or enhance the usefulness of the approved load forecast work plan.

(c) An approved load forecast work plan for a power supply borrower and its members must cover all member systems, including those that are not borrowers. However, only members that are borrowers, including the power supply borrower, are required to follow the approved load forecast work plan in preparing their respective load forecasts. Each borrower is individually responsible for forecasting all its RE Act beneficiary and non-RE Act beneficiary loads.

(d) An approved load forecast work plan must outline the coordination and preparation requirements for both the power supply borrower and its members.

(e) An approved load forecast work plan must cover a period of 2 or 3 years depending on the applicable compliance filing schedule elected under § 1710.204.

(f) An approved load forecast work plan must describe the borrower's process and methods to be used in producing the load forecast and maintaining current load forecasts on an ongoing basis.

(g) Approved load forecast work plans for borrowers with residential demand of 50 percent or more of total kWh

**§ 1710.210**

**7 CFR Ch. XVII (1–1–03 Edition)**

must provide for a residential consumer survey at least every 5 years to obtain data on appliance and equipment saturation and electricity demand. Any such borrower that is experiencing or anticipates changes in usage patterns shall consider surveys on a more frequent schedule. Power supply borrowers shall coordinate such surveys with their members. Residential consumer surveys may be based on the aggregation of member-based samples or on a system-wide sample, provided that the latter provides for relevant regional breakdowns as appropriate.

(h) Approved load forecast work plans must provide for RUS review of the load forecasts as the load forecast is being developed.

(i) A power supply borrower's work plan must have the concurrence of the majority of the members that are borrowers.

(j) The borrower's board of directors must approve the load forecast work plan.

(k) A borrower may amend its approved load forecast work plan subject to RUS approval. If RUS concludes that the existing approved load forecast work plan will not result in a satisfactory load forecast, RUS may require a new or revised load forecast work plan.

**§ 1710.210 Waiver of requirements or approval criteria.**

For good cause shown by the borrower, the Administrator may waive any of the requirements applicable to borrowers in this subpart if the Administrator determines that waiving the requirement will not significantly affect accomplishment of RUS' objectives and if the requirement imposes a substantial burden on the borrower. The borrower's general manager must request the waiver in writing.

**§§ 1710.211–1710.249 [Reserved]**

**Subpart F—Construction Work Plans and Related Studies**

**§ 1710.250 General.**

(a) An ongoing, integrated planning system is needed by borrowers to determine their short-term and long-term

needs for plant additions, improvements, replacements, and retirements. The primary components of the system consist of long-range engineering plans, construction work plans (CWPs), CWP amendments, and special engineering and cost studies. Long range engineering plans identify plant investments required over a period of 10 years or more. CWPs specify and document plant requirements for the short-term, usually 2 to 3 years, and special engineering and cost studies are used to support CWPs and to identify and document requirements for specific items or purposes, such as load management equipment, System Control and Data Acquisition equipment, sectionalizing investments, and additions of generation capacity and associated transmission plant.

(b) Generally, all borrowers are required to maintain up-to-date long range engineering plans approved by their boards of directors. Current CWPs approved by the borrower's board must also be developed and maintained for distribution and transmission facilities and for improvements and replacements of generation facilities. All such distribution, transmission or generation facilities must be included in the respective CWPs regardless of the source of financing.

(c) A long range engineering plan specifies and supports the major system additions, improvements, replacements, and retirements needed for an orderly transition from the existing system to the system required 10 or more years in the future. The planned future system should be based on the most technically and economically sound means of serving the borrower's long-range loads in a reliable and environmentally acceptable manner, and it should ensure that planned facilities will not become obsolete prematurely.

(d) A CWP shall include investment cost estimates and supporting engineering and cost studies to demonstrate the need for each proposed facility or activity and the reasonableness of the investment projections and the engineering assumptions used in sizing the facilities. The CWP must be consistent with the borrower's long