

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1717.652

(b) The borrower is current on all payments due on all notes secured under the mortgage;

(c) The borrower is not otherwise in default under its loan documents; and

(d) After giving effect to the distribution, the borrower's current and accrued assets will be not less than its current and accrued liabilities.

Subpart N—Investments, Loans, and Guarantees by Electric Borrowers

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 901-950b; Pub.L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 *et seq.*); Title I, Subtitle D, Pub.L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330.

SOURCE: 60 FR 48877, Sept. 21, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1717.650 Purpose.

This subpart sets forth general regulations for implementing and interpreting provisions of the RUS mortgage and loan contract regarding investments, loans, and guarantees made by electric borrowers, as well as the provisions of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, including section 312 (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act), permitting, in certain circumstances, that electric borrowers under the RE Act may, without restriction or prior approval of the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), invest their own funds and make loans or guarantees.

§ 1717.651 General.

(a) *Policy.* RUS electric borrowers are encouraged to utilize their own funds to participate in the economic development of rural areas, provided that such activity does not in any way put government funds at risk or impair a borrower's ability to repay its indebtedness to RUS and other lenders. In considering whether to make loans, investments, or guarantees, borrowers are expected to act in accordance with prudent business practices and in conformity with the laws of the jurisdictions in which they serve. RUS assumes that borrowers will use the latitude afforded them by section 312 of the RE Act primarily to make needed investments in rural community infrastructure projects (such as water and

waste systems, garbage collection services, etc.) and in job creation activities (such as providing technical, financial, and managerial assistance) and other activities to promote business development and economic diversification in rural communities. Nonetheless, RUS believes that borrowers should continue to give primary consideration to safety and liquidity in the management of their funds.

(b) *Applicability of this subpart.* This subpart applies to all distribution and power supply borrowers regardless of when their loan contract or mortgage was executed.

§ 1717.652 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

Borrower means any organization that has an outstanding loan made or guaranteed by RUS for rural electrification.

Cash-construction fund-trustee account means the account described in the Uniform System of Accounts as one to which funds are deposited for financing the construction or purchase of electric facilities.

Distribution borrower means a Distribution Borrower as defined in 7 CFR 1710.2.

Electric system means all of the borrower's interests in all electric production, transmission, distribution, conservation, load management, general plant and other related facilities, equipment or property and in any mine, well, pipeline, plant, structure or other facility for the development, production, manufacture, storage, fabrication or processing of fossil, nuclear, or other fuel or in any facility or rights with respect to the supply of water, in each case for use, in whole or in major part, in any of the borrower's generating plants, including any interest or participation of the borrower in any such facilities or any rights to the output or capacity thereof, together with all lands, easements, rights-of-way, other works, property, structures, contract rights and other tangible and intangible assets of the borrower in each case used or useful in such electric system.

Equity means the Margins and Equities of the borrower as defined in the