

(A) Prepare and assemble the documents listed in the table in this section, Documents Required to Close Out Central Office Equipment Contracts.

(B) Notify the GFR that the project is ready for final RUS inspection.

(iii) Make the documents listed in the table available for GFR review on the date of final inspection.

(iv) Distribute the documents as indicated in the table. The documents listed for RUS shall be retained by the borrower for inspection by RUS for at least two years from the date of the engineer's contract closeout certificate.

(2) The documents required and the procedure to be used for equipment purchased and/or installations made using the method of minor construction are set forth in subpart I.

(g) Once RUS approval has been obtained for any required amendments, the borrower shall obtain certifications from the engineer that the project and all required documentation are satisfactory and complete. The requirements for the final contract certification are contained in §1753.18.

(h) Once these certifications have been received, final payment shall be made according to the payment terms of the contract. Copies of the certifications shall be submitted with the FRS, requesting the remaining funds on the contract.

[54 FR 39267, Sept. 25, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39397, Sept. 27, 1990, and amended at 59 FR 31126, June 17, 1994; 59 FR 43717, Aug. 25, 1994; 62 FR 32477, June 16, 1997; 64 FR 16608, Apr. 6, 1999]

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Subpart F—Outside Plant Major Construction by Contract

SOURCE: 54 FR 39267, Sept. 25, 1989, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 55 FR 39397, Sept. 27, 1990.

§ 1753.46 General.

(a) This subpart implements and explains the provisions of the loan documents setting forth the requirements and procedures to be followed by borrowers when outside plant major construction by contract is financed by loan funds. Terms used in this subpart

are defined in §1753.2 and RUS Contract Form 515.

(b) The contract method for major construction is described in §1753.5(b).

(c) The two contract forms which may be used for major outside plant construction are Form 515 and Form 773. Limitations on the applicability of these forms shall be as follows:

(1) Form 515 shall be used for major outside plant construction projects which will be competitively bid. The contract contains plans and specifications and has no dollar limitation. See §§1753.47, 1753.48 and 1753.49.

(2) Contract Form 515, which is for \$250,000 or less, may, at the borrower's option, be negotiated. See §1753.48(b).

(3) RUS Form 773 may be used for minor outside plant projects which are not competitively bid because they cannot be designed and staked at the time of contract execution. Projects of this nature include routine line extensions and placement of subscriber drops. See subpart I of this part.

[54 FR 39267, Sept. 25, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39397, Sept. 27, 1990, and amended at 59 FR 43717, Aug. 25, 1994; 64 FR 16608, Apr. 6, 1999]

§ 1753.47 Plans and specifications (P&S).

(a) *General.* (1) Prior to the preparation of P&S for the construction project:

(i) A review shall be made of the outside plant requirements, and the Loan Design (LD) shall be revised to reflect any needed changes (See §1753.3).

(ii) Deviations from the approved LD (7 CFR part 1737) must be approved by RUS (See §1753.3).

(2) The standard RUS specifications required for construction of outside plant facilities are:

(i) RUS Form 515a (Bulletin 345–150)—Specifications and Drawings for Construction of Direct Buried Plant.

(ii) RUS Form 515c (Bulletin 345–151)—Specifications and Drawings for Conduit and Manhole Construction.

(iii) RUS Form 515d (Bulletin 345–152)—Specifications and Drawings for Underground Cable Installation.

(iv) RUS Form 515f (Bulletin 345–153)—Specifications and Drawings for Construction of Pole Lines and Aerial Cables.

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(v) RUS Form 515g (Bulletin 345–154)—Specifications and Drawings for Service Entrance and Station Protector Installation.

(b) *Preparation of plans and specifications.* Each set of plans and specifications shall include:

(1) RUS Contract Form 515, “Telephone System Construction Contract (Labor and Materials).”

(2) The specifications described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section as specified by the borrower in the RUS Contract Form 515.

(3) Description of special assembly units and guide drawings, if any.

(4) Key, detail, and cable layout maps.

(5) RUS Contract Form 787, “Supplement A to Construction Contract, RUS Contract Form 515,” when the borrower proposes to provide any materials to the contractor. The borrower shall not order materials for a contractor without RUS approval. In such cases the borrower must attach Form 787 and a “List of Owner’s Materials on Hand” and/or a “List of Materials Ordered by Owner but Not Delivered” to contract Form 515 (See §1753.48(f) of this part). Any materials furnished under Supplement A shall be listed in RUS Bulletin 344–2 unless special RUS approval has been received by the borrower to use unlisted materials.

(c) *Submission of plans and specifications to RUS.* (1) If the project does not exceed \$500,000 or 25% of the loan, whichever is less, the borrower shall furnish GFR one set of P&S. The borrower may then proceed with procurement in accordance with §1753.48.

(2) If the project exceeds \$500,000 or 25% of the loan, whichever is less, RUS approval of P&S is required. Two sets of P&S shall be furnished to GFR. RUS will return one set to the borrower upon notice of approval. The borrower may then proceed with procurement in accordance with §1753.48.

[54 FR 39267, Sept. 25, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39397, Sept. 27, 1990, 55 FR 53488, Dec. 31, 1990; 64 FR 16609, Apr. 6, 1999]

§ 1753.48 Procurement procedures.

(a) *Sealed competitive bidding*—(1) *Qualifying bidders.* (i) The borrower is responsible for selecting qualified contractors to bid on the project. See

§1753.8(a)(3). Questions relating to bidders’ qualifications shall be resolved prior to the pre-bid conference.

(ii) RUS Form 274 or its equivalent, supplemented by RUS Form 276, shall be used for the submission of bidders’ qualifications for all types of construction and for the required information on the bidder and subcontractors.

(2) *Invitations to bid*— The borrower shall solicit bids as set forth in §1753.8(a)(2). Invitations shall be sent to at least 6 prospective bidders.

(3) *Pre-bid conference.* (i) Representatives of the borrower and its engineer shall be present at the pre-bid conference at the time and place designated in the Notice to Bidders. The borrower shall invite the GFR to attend the pre-bid conference.

(ii) The purpose of the pre-bid conference is to acquaint the bidders with the scope and special considerations of the project and to clarify any concerns the bidders may have.

(iii) No proposals shall be considered from bidders that do not attend the pre-bid conference unless the bidder has been notified by the engineer that such bidder’s attendance has been waived. Attendance can be waived if, in the judgment of the engineer, the bidder would gain no additional understanding of the construction project by attending the pre-bid conference.

(iv) The borrower shall obtain from the engineer the minutes of the pre-bid conference and shall distribute them to all potential bidders.

(v) When fewer than three bidders have been qualified to submit bids, RUS written approval must be obtained to proceed with requesting bids.

(4) *Bid openings.* (i) Bid openings and award of the contract shall be conducted in accordance with §§1753.5(b)(1) and 1753.8(a).

(ii) If §1753.8 requires RUS approval of award of the bid, the borrower shall submit to RUS two copies of the assembly unit sections of the apparent lowest responsive bid accepted by the borrower.

(b) *Negotiated procurement.* (1) Competitive bids are not required for outside plant construction that is estimated to cost \$250,000, or less, inclusive of labor and materials.