

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

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regulate, or in any way, approve the electric rates charged by a borrower.

(b) *Rules of construction.* Unless the context shall otherwise indicate, the terms defined in § 1717.352(a) hereof include the plural as well as the singular, and the singular as well as the plural. The words “herein,” and “hereunder”, and words of similar import, refer to this subpart as a whole. “Includes” and “including” are not limiting and “or” is not exclusive.

[55 FR 38653, Sept. 19, 1990, as amended at 59 FR 66440, Dec. 27, 1994]

§ 1717.353 Requirements of RUS documents.

Each borrower shall establish and adjust rates for electric service as set forth in the RUS documents to assure that the borrower will be able to make required payments on secured loans and to otherwise meet the terms of the RUS documents.

§ 1717.354 Pre-emption.

State Regulatory Authority jurisdiction over an RUS borrower’s rates shall be pre-empted by the RE Act and RUS shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the borrower’s rates:

(a) On October 19, 1990, with respect to any borrower by or against whom a case under the Bankruptcy Code of 1978, as amended, was commenced prior to and remains outstanding on October 19, 1990; and

(b) With respect to all other borrowers, upon the filing of a petition by or against the borrower commencing a case under the Bankruptcy Code of 1978, as amended.

§ 1717.355 RUS required rates.

(a) Upon the pre-emption of State Regulatory Authority as provided in this subpart, RUS will exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the rates of the borrower pursuant to the terms of the RUS documents.

(b) So long as the State Regulatory Authority shall be pre-empted hereunder, RUS shall be considered the governmental regulatory body with jurisdiction over rates for all purposes, including for the purposes of the RUS documents and for the purposes of section 1129(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code

of 1978, as amended (11 U.S.C. 1129(a)(6)).

(c) RUS shall, pursuant to the terms of the RUS documents, exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the rates of the borrower until the Administrator shall in writing approve the resumption of jurisdiction by the State Regulatory Authority. The Administrator shall approve resumption only after determining that such jurisdiction shall be exercised in a manner consistent with Federal interests.

§ 1717.356 Additional statutory pre-emption.

This subpart addresses pre-emption of State law and State Regulatory Authority upon the filing of a petition by or against the borrower commencing a case under the Bankruptcy Code of 1978, as amended. Nothing in this subpart waives, limits, or otherwise affects the explicit pre-emption or pre-emption, which is implicit and shall occur pursuant to the RE Act as a matter of law, of State law or action of a State Regulatory Authority where such State law or such action compromises Federal interests, including the ability of any borrower to repay loans made or guaranteed by RUS.

Subparts I–L [Reserved]

Subpart M—Operational Controls

SOURCE: 60 FR 67405, Dec. 29, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1717.600 General.

(a) *General.* The loan contract and mortgage between the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and electric borrowers imposes certain restrictions and controls on the borrowers and gives RUS (and other co-mortgagees in the case of the mortgage) the right to approve or disapprove certain actions contemplated by the borrowers. Certain of these controls and approval rights are referred to informally as “operational controls” because they pertain to decisions or actions with respect to the operation of the borrowers’ electric systems. The approval authority granted to RUS by the loan contract or mortgage regarding each decision or action subject to controls is often stated in

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broad, unlimited terms. This subpart lists the main operational controls affecting borrowers and establishes for each area of control the circumstances under which RUS approval of a decision or action by a borrower is either required or not required. In some cases, only the general principles or general circumstances pertaining to RUS approval or control are presented in this subpart, while the details regarding the circumstances and requirements of RUS approval or control are set forth in other RUS regulations. Since this subpart addresses only the main operational controls, failure to address a control or approval right in this subpart in no way invalidates such controls or rights established by the loan contract, mortgage, other agreements between a borrower and RUS, and RUS regulations.

(b) *Case by case amendments.* Upon written notice to a borrower, RUS may amend or annul the approvals and exceptions to controls set forth in this subpart or other RUS regulations if the borrower is in violation of any provision of its loan documents or any other agreement with RUS, or if RUS determines that loan security and/or repayment is threatened. Such amendment or annulment will apply to decisions and actions of the borrower after said written notice has been provided by RUS.

(c) *Generic notices.* By written notice to all borrowers or a group of borrowers, RUS may grant or waive approval of decisions and actions by the borrowers that are controlled under the loan documents and RUS regulations. RUS may also by written notice withdraw or cut back its grant or waiver of approval of said decisions and actions made by previous written notice, but may not by such notice extend its authority to approve decisions and actions by borrowers beyond the authority granted by the loan documents and RUS regulations.

§ 1717.601 Applicability.

(a) The approvals and exceptions to controls conveyed by this subpart apply only to controls and approval rights normally included in RUS loan documents dated prior to January 29, 1996. They do not apply to special con-

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trols and approval requirements included in loan documents or other agreements executed between a borrower and RUS that relate to individual problems or circumstances specific to an individual borrower.

(b) The approvals and exceptions to controls granted by RUS in this subpart shall not in any way affect the rights of other co-mortgagees under the mortgage or their loan contracts.

§ 1717.602 Definitions.

Terms used in this subpart that are not defined in this section have the meanings set forth in 7 CFR part 1710. In addition, for the purposes of this subpart:

Default means an event of default as defined in the borrower's loan documents or other agreement with RUS, and furthermore includes any event that has occurred and is continuing which, with notice or lapse of time and notice, would become an event of default.

Equity means the borrower's total margins and equities computed pursuant to RUS accounting requirements but excluding any regulatory created assets.

Financed or funded by RUS means financed or funded wholly or in part by a loan made or guaranteed by RUS, including concurrent supplemental loans required by 7 CFR 1710.110, loans to reimburse funds already expended by the borrower, and loans to replace interim financing.

Interchange agreement means a contractual arrangement that can include a variety of services utilities provide each other to increase reliability and efficiency, and to avoid duplicating expenses. Some examples are: transmission service (the use of transmission lines to move power and energy from one area to another); emergency service (an agreement by one utility to furnish another with power and energy to protect it in times of emergency, such as power plant outages); reserve sharing (contributions to a common pool of generating plant reserves so that each individual utility's reserves can be reduced); and economic exchanges (swapping power and energy from different plants to avoid running the most expensive units).