

Accordingly, a finding shall be made on whether loan funds will be used to finance buildings, machinery, fixtures or furnishings located in an identified special flood hazard area. If loan funds are to be used in such a special flood hazard area, a provision will be included in the loan contract restricting the release of funds until all the requirements of the Flood Insurance Act have been satisfied.

(6) All environmental requirements must be met (see 7 CFR part 1794).

(b) [Reserved]

[54 FR 13356, Apr. 3, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39396, Sept. 27, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 26600, June 10, 1991]

§ 1737.91 Approval.

(a) A loan is approved when the Administrator, or whoever is delegated authority, signs the administrative findings and the letter to the borrower announcing the loan.

(b) If the loan is not approved, RUS shall notify the borrower, in writing, of the reasons.

§ 1737.92 Loan documents.

Following approval of the loan, RUS shall forward the necessary loan documents to the borrower for execution, delivery, recording, and filing, as directed by RUS. See 7 CFR part 1758 for details (or RUS Bulletins 320-4, 320-22, 321-2, 322-2, 323-1, or 326-1).

§§ 1737.93-1737.99 [Reserved]

Subpart K—Release of Funds Procedure

§ 1737.100 Prerequisites to the release and advance of funds.

(a) Standard prerequisites to the advance of funds, generally applied to all loans, are set forth in Article II of the form of loan contract attached as appendix A to 7 CFR part 1758. Additional prerequisites may be added on a case by case basis to the loan contract.

(b) Before any loan funds can be advanced, RUS must approve a release of funds.

(c) RUS approves the release of funds only after it determines that all prerequisites to the advance of loan funds have been met or funds should be ad-

vanced even though certain loan contract prerequisites remain unsatisfied.

(d) Following release approval, loan funds and related nonloan funds may be advanced in accordance with 7 CFR part 1744.

(e) The borrower may be required to discharge indebtedness and/or to close acquisitions before advances are made for construction purposes. In such cases, the borrower shall submit evidence that these actions have been completed. If the evidence is satisfactory to RUS, RUS shall allow the remaining loan funds to be advanced in accordance with 7 CFR part 1744.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0572-0085)

§ 1737.101 Amounts spent for preloan activities.

If the borrower desires to credit amounts spent for preloan activities against any equity or general funds required by the loan contract, it shall submit an itemized statement of such expenditures to the Area Office. These expenditures will be accounted for on RUS Form 503, "Release of Telephone Loan Funds," if RUS determines that the amounts spent are reasonable based on normal industry practice and that the procedures set forth in 7 CFR part 1737, subpart D, have been complied with. Statements of preloan expenditures will be verified as to accuracy by loan fund audits.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0572-0085)

§§ 1737.102-1737.109 [Reserved]

PART 1738—RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES

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SOURCE: 68 FR 4867, Jan. 30, 2003, unless otherwise noted

Subpart A—General

§ 1738.1 General statement.

(a) This part sets forth the general policies, types of loans and loan guarantees, and program requirements under the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program to provide funds for the costs of the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible rural communities.

(b) Additional information regarding the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program can be found in RUS Bulletin 1738–1, “Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Application Guide” and RUS Bulletin 1738–2, “Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Advance and Construction Procedures Guide”.

(c) When reference is made in this part to existing RUS regulations, an applicant or borrower under this part will follow the requirements applicable to an RUS telecommunications borrower.

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§ 1738.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Acquisition means the purchase of operating broadband facilities or another broadband system whether by acquiring broadband facilities or equipment, or majority stock interest of one or more organizations.

Administrator means the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, or his or her designee.

Affiliate means an organization that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the applicant.

Applicant means an eligible entity requesting approval of a loan or loan guarantee under this part.

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

Broadband pilot program means that program implemented through Notices of Funds Availability, published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at 65 FR 75920 and at 67 FR 3140.

Broadband service means any technology identified by the Administrator as having the capacity to transmit data to enable a subscriber to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video. To qualify as broadband, the project must offer data transmission services, and may provide voice, graphics, video, and other services. At the beginning of each fiscal year, RUS will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER defining the minimum rate-of-data transmission criteria to qualify as broadband service during that fiscal year’s funding period.

Composite economic life means the weighted (by dollar amount of each class of facility in the loan) average economic life of all classes of facilities in the loan.

Economic life means the estimated useful service life of an asset as determined by RUS.

Eligible rural community means any incorporated or unincorporated place in the United States, its territories and insular possessions (including any area within the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) that: