

§ 1780.49

in accordance with § 1780.41, except that the announcement procedure referred to in RUS Staff Instruction 1780-2 is not applicable. Regional commission grants will be disbursed from the Finance Office in the same manner as RUS funds.

[62 FR 33478, June 19, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 29946, June 4, 1999]

§ 1780.49 Rural or Native Alaskan villages.

(a) *General.* (1) This section contains regulations for providing grants to remedy the dire sanitation conditions in rural Alaskan villages using funds specifically made available for this purpose.

(2) Unless specifically modified by this section, grants will be made, processed, and serviced in accordance with this subpart.

(b) *Definitions*—(1) *Dire sanitation condition.* For the purpose of this section a dire sanitation condition exists where:

(i) Recurring instances of a waterborne communicable disease have been documented; or

(ii) No community-wide water and sewer system exists and individual residents must haul water to or human waste from their homes and/or use pit privies.

(2) *Rural or Native Alaskan village.* A rural or Native Alaskan community which meets the definition of a village under State statutes and does not have a population in excess of 10,000 inhabitants, according to the latest decennial Census of the United States.

(c) *Eligibility.* (1) The applicant must be a rural or Native Alaskan village.

(2) The median household income of the village cannot exceed 110 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan household income.

(3) A dire sanitation condition must exist in the village.

(4) The applicant must obtain 25 percent of project development costs from State or local contributions. The local contribution can be from loan funds authorized under this part.

(d) *Grant amount.* Grants will be made for up to 75 percent of the project development costs.

(e) *Use of funds.* Grant funds can be used to pay reasonable costs associated with providing potable water or waste

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1-1-05 Edition)

disposal services to residents of rural or Native Alaskan villages.

(f) *Construction.* (1) If the State of Alaska is contributing to the project costs, the project does not have to meet the construction requirements of this subpart.

(2) If a loan is made in accordance with this part for part of the local contribution, all of the requirements of this part apply.

[62 FR 33478, June 19, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 29946, June 4, 1999]

§§ 1780.50-1780.52 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Planning, Designing, Bidding, Contracting, Constructing and Inspections

§ 1780.53 General.

This subpart is specifically designed for use by owners including the professional or technical consultants or agents who provide assistance and services such as engineering, environmental, inspection, financial, legal or other services related to planning, designing, bidding, contracting, and constructing water and waste disposal facilities. These procedures do not relieve the owner of the contractual obligations that arise from the procurement of these services. For this subpart, an owner is defined as an applicant, borrower, or grantee.

§ 1780.54 Technical services.

Owners are responsible for providing the engineering, architect and environmental services necessary for planning, designing, bidding, contracting, inspecting, and constructing their facilities. Services may be provided by the owner's "in house" engineer or architect or through contract, subject to Agency concurrence. Engineers and architects must be licensed in the State where the facility is to be constructed.

§ 1780.55 Preliminary engineering reports and Environmental Reports.

Preliminary engineering reports (PERs) must conform to customary professional standards. PER guidelines for water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm sewer are available from the Agency. Environmental Reports must

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1780.57

meet the policies and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and RUS procedures. Guidelines for preparing Environmental Reports are available in RUS Bulletin 1794A-602.

[64 FR 29946, June 4, 1999]

§ 1780.56 [Reserved]

§ 1780.57 Design policies.

Facilities financed by the Agency will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices, and must meet the requirements of Federal, State and local agencies.

(a) *Environmental review.* Facilities financed by the Agency must undergo an environmental impact analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and RUS procedures. Facility planning and design must not only be responsive to the owner's needs but must consider the environmental consequences of the proposed project. Facility design shall incorporate and integrate, where practicable, mitigation measures that avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. Environmental reviews serve as a means of assessing environmental impacts of project proposals, rather than justifying decisions already made. Applicants may not take any action on a project proposal that will have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable project alternatives being reviewed prior to the completion of the Agency's environmental review.

(b) *Architectural barriers.* All facilities intended for or accessible to the public or in which physically handicapped persons may be employed must be developed in compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 *et seq.*) as implemented by 41 CFR 101-19.6, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C 1474 *et seq.*) as implemented by 7 CFR parts 15 and 15b, and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*).

(c) *Energy/environment.* Facility design should consider cost effective energy-efficient and environmentally-sound products and services.

(d) *Fire protection.* Water facilities should have sufficient capacity to pro-

vide reasonable fire protection to the extent practicable.

(e) *Growth capacity.* Facilities should have sufficient capacity to provide for reasonable growth to the extent practicable.

(f) *Water conservation.* Owners are encouraged, when economically feasible, to incorporate water conservation practices into a facility's design. For existing water systems, evidence must be provided showing that the distribution system water losses do not exceed reasonable levels.

(g) *Conformity with State drinking water standards.* No funds shall be made available under this part for a water system unless the Agency determines that the water system will make significant progress toward meeting the standards established under title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the 'Safe Drinking Water Act') (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*).

(h) *Conformity with Federal and State water pollution control standards.* No funds shall be made available under this part for a water treatment discharge or waste disposal system unless the Agency determines that the effluent from the system conforms with applicable Federal and State water pollution control standards.

(i) *Combined sewers.* New combined sanitary and storm water sewer facilities will not be financed by the Agency. Extensions to existing combined systems can only be financed when separate systems are impractical.

(j) *Dam safety.* Projects involving any artificial barrier which impounds or diverts water, or the rehabilitation or improvement of such a barrier, must comply with the provisions for dam safety as set forth in the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety (Government Printing Office stock No. 041-001-00187-5, Superintendent of Documents, Attn: New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954) as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology.

(k) *Pipe.* All pipe used shall meet current American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) or American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards.

(l) *Water system testing.* For new water systems or extensions to existing water