

## Rural Utilities Service, USDA

## § 1794.7

*Environmental review.* Any one or all of the levels of environmental analysis described under subpart C of this part.

*Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU).* Level of water or waste service provided to a typical rural residential dwelling.

*Important land resources.* Defined pursuant to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, as important farmland, prime forestland, prime rangeland, wetlands, and floodplains. Copies of this Departmental Regulation are available from USDA, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250.

*Loan design.* Document required by 7 CFR part 1737.

*Multiplexing center.* A field site where a telecommunications provider houses a device that combines individual subscriber circuits onto a single system for economical connection with a switching center. The combiner, or "multiplexer," may be mounted on a pole, on a concrete pad, or in a partial or full enclosure such as a shelter, or small building.

*Natural Resource Management Guide.* Inventory of natural resources, land uses, and environmental factors specified by Federal, State, and local authorities as deserving some degree of protection or special consideration. The guide describes the standards or types of protection that apply.

*Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).* Document required by 7 CFR part 1780 for Water and Waste Programs. A PER is prepared by an applicant's engineering consultant documenting a proposed action's preliminary engineering plan and design and the applicable environmental review activities as required in this part. Upon approval by RUS, the PER, or a portion thereof, shall serve as the RUS environmental document.

*Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA).* Electronic monitoring and control equipment installed at electric substations and switching stations.

*Third party consultant.* A party selected by RUS to prepare the EIS for proposed actions described in §1794.25 where the applicant initiating the proposal agrees to fund preparation of the document in accordance with the provisions of 7 CFR Part 1789, "Use of Con-

sultants Funded by Borrowers" and Section 759A of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)).

[63 FR 68655, Dec. 11, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 45158, Aug. 1, 2003]

### § 1794.7 Guidance.

(a) *Electric and Telecommunications Programs.* For further guidance in the preparation of public notices and environmental documents, RUS has prepared a series of program specific guidance bulletins. RUS Bulletin 1794A-600 provides guidance in preparing the ER for proposed actions classified as categorical exclusions (CEs) (§1794.22(a)); RUS Bulletin 1794A-601 provides guidance in preparing the ER for proposed actions which require EAs (§1794.23(b) and (c)); and RUS Bulletin 1794A-603 provides guidance in conducting scoping for proposed actions classified as requiring an EA with scoping or an EIS. Copies of these bulletins are available upon request by contacting the Rural Utilities Service, Publications Office, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522.

(b) *Water and waste program.* RUS Bulletin 1794A-602 provides guidance in preparing the ER for proposed actions classified as CEs (§1794.22(b)) and EAs (§1794.23(b)). A copy of this bulletin is available upon request by contacting the appropriate State Director. State Directors may provide supplemental guidance to meet state and local laws and regulations and to provide for orderly application procedures and efficient service to applicants. State Directors shall obtain the Administrator's approval for all supplements to RUS Bulletin 1794A-602. Each State Office shall maintain an updated Natural Resource Management Guide and provide applicants with pertinent sections or a copy of the current edition thereof.

[63 FR 68655, Dec. 11, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 45158, Aug. 1, 2003]