

October 23, 2017

Thomas Dickson
Acting Director
Program Development and Regulatory Analysis
Rural Utilities Service, USDA
1400 Independence Ave, SW Mailstop 1522
Washington, DC 20250-1522

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 21st, 2017, on Rural Utilities Service notice and request for comments (OMB Number: 0572-0032)

Dear Mr. Dickson:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of information by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) used to derive the Electric Loan Application and Related Reporting Burdens. These surveys are our main data sources of key components for BEA's economic statistics.

Data collected on the RUS forms are critical to BEA's national income and product accounts, annual input-output accounts, gross domestic product by industry accounts, and State and local area personal income estimates. Specifically, these data are used to prepare estimates of compensation of employees, business income, net interest, depreciation, capital stock, and gross output. Items used by BEA are listed in the attachment below.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to these forms. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov. If you should need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT
Items from Rural Utilities Service Form Used by BEA

Operating Report - Financial; Section A. Statement of Operations		
Item #	Name	Use
4	Total Operating Revenues & Patronage Capital	Used to derive business income
27	Total Cost of Electric Service	
22	Interest on Long-Term Debt	Used to derive net interest
23	Interest Charged to Construction - Credit	
24	Other Interest Expense	
Operating Report (Hydro Plant, Steam Plant, etc.); Section B. Labor Report		
Item #	Name	Use
1	Number of Employees - Full Time	Used to derive employment data
2	Number of Employees - Part Time	
7	Total Plant Payroll	Used to derive payroll data