

Conservation Service, (NRCS), 441 S. Salina Street, Fifth Floor, Suite 354, Syracuse, New York, 13202-2450.

A copy of this standard is available from the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: December 7, 2000.

Wayne M. Maresch,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the First Quarter of 2001

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances for insured electric loans for the first quarter of 2001.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the first calendar quarter of 2001.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning January 1, 2001, and ending March 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail P. Salgado, Management Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4024-S, Stop 1560, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1560. Telephone: 202-205-3660. FAX: 202-690-0717. E-mail: GSalgado@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the first calendar quarter of 2001 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall

bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the fourth Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 2001 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based on the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.500 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the first calendar quarter of 2001.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2022	5.500 or later
2021	5.500
2020	5.500
2019	5.500
2018	5.500
2017	5.500
2016	5.500
2015	5.500
2014	5.500
2013	5.500
2012	5.375
2011	5.375
2010	5.250
2009	5.250
2008	5.125
2007	5.125
2006	5.000
2005	4.875
2004	4.750
2003	4.500
2002	4.375

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Christopher A. McLean,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA); Treasury Rate Loan Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announces the availability of \$500 million in direct Treasury rate electric loans for fiscal year (FY) 2001. This document describes the eligibility and submission requirements, the criteria that will be used by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to select applications for funding, and the expectation that the current backlog of qualifying applications for loans from RUS under the Rural Electrification Act will exhaust all of the available funding. In the event this assumption proves to be incorrect, RUS intends to publish another NOFA on or before July 1, 2001, announcing the availability of any remaining direct Treasury rate electric loan funds and how they will be allocated. The intended effect of this NOFA is to enable RUS to approve all direct Treasury rate electric loans for FY 2001 prior to July 1, 2001.

DATES: RUS intends to treat all completed qualifying applications for direct electric loans at the municipal rate as pre-applications for direct electric loans at the Treasury rate. The closing date for receipt of pre-applications that will be considered is October 28, 2000; the date on which the direct Treasury rate electric loan program was established by Pub.L. 106-387.

ADDRESSES: Loan applicants that do not have outstanding loans from RUS should write to the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500. A field or headquarters staff representative may be assigned by RUS to visit the applicant and discuss its financial needs and eligibility. Borrowers that have outstanding loans should contact their assigned RUS general field representative (GFR). Borrowers may consult with RUS field representatives and headquarters staff, as necessary.