

§ 1721.102

scheduled. However, in cases where the extension is being granted because, at the sole discretion of the Administrator, a severe hardship has been experienced, the Administrator may grant a longer extension provided that the maturity date of any such loan does not extend to a date beyond forty (40) years from the date of the note.

[67 FR 485, Jan. 4, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 37953, June 26, 2003]

§ 1721.102 Definitions.

The definitions contained in 7 CFR 1710.2 are applicable to this subpart unless otherwise stated.

§ 1721.103 Policy.

(a) In reviewing requests for extension of payment of principal and interest, consideration shall be given to the effect of such extensions on the security of the Government's loans, and on the ability of the Borrower to achieve program objectives. It is the policy of RUS to extend the time for payment of principal and interest on the basis of findings that such extension does not impair the security and feasibility of the Government's loans and:

(1) Is essential to the effectiveness of the Borrower's operations in achieving RUS program objectives which include providing reliable, affordable electricity to RE Act beneficiaries;

(2) Is necessary to help a Borrower place its operations on a more stable financial basis and thereby provide assurance of repayment of loans within the time when payments of such loans are due under the terms of the note or notes as extended; or

(3) Is otherwise in the best interest of the Government.

(b) Extensions will be given in the minimum amount to achieve the purpose of the extension.

(c) The maximum interest rate a RUS Borrower can charge on deferments for programs relating to consumer loans, *e.g.*, energy resource conservation (ERC) program, contribution-in-aid of construction (CIAC), etc., will not be more than 300 basis points above the average interest rate on the note(s) being deferred. For example, if the RUS Borrower's average interest rate on the note(s) being deferred is 5

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1-1-11 Edition)

percent, the RUS Borrower can charge a maximum interest rate of 8 percent.

[67 FR 485, Jan. 4, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 37953, June 26, 2003]

§ 1721.104 Eligible purposes.

(a) *Deferments for financial hardship.*

(1) In cases of financial hardship, a Borrower may request that RUS defer principal or interest or both. RUS will consider whether the deferral will help a Borrower place its operations on a more stable financial basis and thereby provide assurance of repayment of loans within the time when payment of such loans are due under the terms of the note or notes as extended.

(2) RUS will determine whether a Borrower qualifies for the deferment on a case-by-case basis, considering such factors as the following:

(i) Substantial unreimbursed or uninsured expenses relating to storm damage;

(ii) Loss of large power load (as defined in §1710.7(c)(6)(ii) of this chapter, Large retail power contracts); or

(iii) Substantial loss of consumers or load due to hostile annexations and condemnations, without adequate compensation.

(b) *Deferments for energy resource conservation (ERC) loans.* (1) A Borrower may request that RUS defer principal payments to make funds available to the Borrower's consumers to conserve energy. Amounts deferred under this program can be used to cover the cost of labor and materials for the following energy conservation measures:

(i) Caulking;

(ii) Weather-stripping;

(iii) Heat pump systems (including water source heat pumps);

(iv) Heat pumps, water heaters, and central heating or central air conditioning system replacements or modifications, which reduce energy consumption;

(v) Ceiling insulation;

(vi) Wall insulation;

(vii) Floor insulation;

(viii) Duct insulation;

(ix) Pipe insulation;

(x) Water heater insulation;

(xi) Storm windows;

(xii) Thermal windows;

(xiii) Storm or thermal doors;

(xiv) Electric system coordinated customer-owned devices that reduce the maximum kilowatt demand on the electric system;

(xv) Clock thermostats; or

(xvi) Attic ventilation fans.

(2) ERC loans will be amortized over not more than 84 months, without penalty for prepayment of principal.

(c) *Deferments for renewable energy projects.* (1) A Borrower may request that RUS defer principal payments to enable the Borrower to finance renewable energy projects. Amounts deferred under this program can be used to cover costs to install all or part of a renewable energy system including, without limitation:

(i) Energy conversion technology;

(ii) Electric power system interfaces;

(iii) Delivery equipment;

(iv) Control equipment; and

(v) Energy consuming devices.

(2) A Borrower may request that RUS defer principal payments for the purpose of enabling the Borrower to provide its consumers with loans to install all or part of customer-owned renewable energy systems up to 5kW.

(3) A renewable energy system is defined in §1710.2 of this chapter.

(4) For the purpose of this subpart, a renewable energy project consists of one or more renewable energy systems.

(d) *Deferments for distributed generation projects.* (1) A Borrower may request that RUS defer principal payments to enable the Borrower to finance distributed generation projects. Amounts deferred under this program can be used to cover costs to install all or part of a distributed generation system that:

(i) The Borrower will own and operate, or

(ii) The consumer owns, provided the system owned by the consumer does not exceed 5KW.

(2) A distributed generation project may include one or more individual systems.

(e) *Deferments for contributions-in-aid of construction.* (1) A Borrower may request RUS to defer principal payments to enable the Borrower to make funds available to new full time residential consumers to assist them in paying their share of the construction costs (contribution-in-aid of construction)

needed to connect them to the Borrower's system.

(2) Amounts available for this purpose will be limited to the amount of the construction costs that are in excess of the average cost per residential consumer incurred by the Borrower to connect new full time residential consumers during the last calendar year for which data are available. The average cost per residential consumer is the total cost incurred by the Borrower and will not be reduced by the amounts received as a contribution-in-aid of construction.

[67 FR 485, Jan. 4, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 37954, June 26, 2003]

§ 1721.105 Application documents.

(a) *Deferments for financial hardship.* A Borrower requesting a section 12 deferment because of financial hardship must submit the following:

(1) A summary of the financial position of the Borrower, based on the latest information available (usually less than 60 days old).

(2) A copy of the board resolution requesting an extension due to financial hardship.

(3) A 10-year financial forecast of revenues and expenses on a cash basis, by year, for the period of the extension and 5 years beyond to establish that the remaining payments can be made as rescheduled.

(4) A listing of notes or portions of notes to be extended, the effective date for the beginning of the extension, and the length of the extension.

(5) A narrative description of the nature and cause of the hardship and the strategy that will be instituted to mitigate or eliminate the effects of the hardship.

(b) *Deferments for energy resource conservation loans.* A Borrower requesting principal deferments for an ERC loan program must submit the following information:

(1) A letter from the Borrower's General Manager requesting an extension of principal payments for the purpose of offering an ERC loan program to its members and describing the details of the program.

(2) A copy of the board resolution establishing the ERC loan program.