§ 1794.3 Actions requiring environmental review.

The provisions of this part apply to actions by RUS including the approval of financial assistance pursuant to the Electric, Telecommunications, and Water and Waste Programs, the disposal of property held by RUS pursuant to such programs, and the issuance of new or revised rules, regulations, and bulletins. Approvals provided by RUS pursuant to loan contracts and security instruments, including approvals of lien accommodations, are not actions for the purposes of this part and the provisions of this part shall not apply to the exercise of such approvals.

§ 1794.4 Metric units.

RUS normally will prepare environmental documents using non-metric equivalents with one of the following two options; metric units in parentheses immediately following the non-metric equivalents or a metric conversion table as an appendix. Environmental documents prepared by or for a RUS applicant should follow the same format.

§ 1794.5 Responsible officials.

The Administrator of RUS has the responsibility for Agency compliance with all environmental laws, regulations, and EOs that apply to RUS programs and administrative actions. Responsibility for ensuring environmental compliance for actions taken by RUS has been delegated as follows:

(a) Electric and telecommunications programs. The appropriate Assistant Administrator is responsible for ensuring compliance with this part for the respective programs.

(b) Water and waste program. The Assistant Administrator for this program is responsible for ensuring compliance with this part at the national level. The State Director is the responsible official for ensuring compliance with this part for actions taken at the State Office level.

§ 1794.6 Definitions.

The following definitions, as well as the definitions contained in 40 CFR part 1508 of the CEQ regulations, apply to the implementation of this part:

Applicant. The organization applying for financial assistance or other approval from either the Electric or Telecommunications programs or the organization applying for a loan or grant from the Water and Waste program.


Distributed Generation. The generation of electricity by a sufficiently small electric generating system as to allow interconnection of the system near the point of service at distribution voltages or customer voltages. A distributed generating system may be fueled by any source, including but not limited to renewable energy sources.

Emergency situation. A natural disaster or system failure that may involve an immediate or imminent threat to public health, safety, or the human environment.

Environmental Report (ER). The environmental documentation normally submitted by applicants for proposed actions subject to compliance with §§1794.22 through 1794.24. An ER for the