

Attachment 3G(1)

Explanatory Note for USDA Rural Development (RD) Report November 2, 2009

USDA RD is comprised of three federal agencies: (1) Rural Housing Service; (2) Rural Business-Cooperative Service; and (3) Rural Utilities Service. This note and the spreadsheet report on the status and progress of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for these three agencies on all projects and activities funded under Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) through September 30, 2009.

The spreadsheet lists the five Rural Development program areas that received funding under the ARRA. Each of these areas has a unique Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol. In this report we are providing the total obligations that will result in outlays (immediately or in the future), and the actual amount appropriated in ARRA for each program (adjusted to reflect up to a three percent reduction for administrative expenses, as allowed by ARRA). This data correlates with the Funds Available data on recovery.gov and is in alignment with ARRA.

For the Rural Housing Program, we grouped all Single Family Housing direct and guaranteed loans and reported them on the same line because these loans are for similar activities that are categorically excluded under NEPA. We listed the NEPA review date as the last date on which any reviews were made for that group.

Likewise, for the Rural Community Facilities Program, Rural Business Program, and the Rural Water & Waste Disposal Program, we grouped similar activities which comply with NEPA in the same way. Under each of these programs, we reported two groups: categorical exclusions and environmental assessments. We listed the NEPA review date as the last date on which obligations were made for the respective group. An environmental impact statement was not required in any of these programs receiving ARRA funding.

Rural Development did not obligate any ARRA funds for Telecommunications Loans and Grants in the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, Broadband Program as of September 30, 2009.

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