

Professional Engineering and RUS Telecom Program

Background

State Laws:

- Regulate the Practice of Engineering
 - Protect Life, Safety and Property
- Require registration of individuals (and often firms) practicing Engineering
- Establish rigorous criteria for registration, including: Minimum education, knowledge & experience
- Require Engineering firms to designate licensed PE as being “in Responsible Charge”

RUS Regulations re Engineers

Reference: 7CFR1753 , RUS Forms 217, 245, 835

- Require conformance to state laws
- Require registration of persons providing engineering services for borrowers
- Provide for RUS certification of engineer on borrowers staff
- Forms 217, 245 and 835 specifically require designation of individual “in Responsible Charge”

Compliance

How can RUS, Borrowers and Engineers verify RUS requirements & State Laws are being met?

- Formal complaints (not efficient)
- Freedom of Information Act (not efficient)
- Active involvement of persons with contract review and/or approval authority
 - Awareness of Requirements
 - On-line verification of Registration
 - Active Involvement with project

On-Line Verification

- Regulatory authority = State Board of Engineers
- All State boards maintain websites with rules and verification tools
- Stakeholders can verify status of engineer's registration with simple web based look-up
- National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) maintains a website with links to all 50 states, Puerto Rico & Guam
http://ncees.org/Licensing_Board.php

Compliance

ACE Recommends that persons with approval authority (RUS, Borrowers):

- Verify that RUS construction and equipment contracts are properly sealed (stamped) by Engineer in Responsible Charge of the work
- Note whether the individual designated as the Engineer in Responsible Charge is actually engaged in the project

Avoid “Plan Stamping” !

ACE Assistance

- Association of Communications Engineers will provide assistance to RUS or any RUS Borrower regarding compliance with Engineering registration, on-line verification and access to State Authorities