This final rule is effective September 5, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866
This final rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and therefore has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Executive Order 12988
This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. The Agency has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards provided in section 3 of the Executive Order. In addition, all state and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with this rule will be preempted. No retroactive effect will be given to this rule and, in accordance with section 212(e) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912(e)), administrative appeal procedures must be exhausted before an action against the Department or its agencies may be initiated.

Executive Order 12372
This final rule is not subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review,” as implemented under USDA’s regulations at 2 CFR part 415, subpart C.

Executive Order 13771
The programs affected by this rulemaking are not subject to Executive Order 13771 as they are considered transfer programs and are exempt from the Executive Order.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification
RUS has determined that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). The matter covered by this rulemaking is administrative, concerning the Agency’s process for implementation of the program.

Environmental Impact Statement
This final rule has been examined under Agency environmental regulations at 7 CFR part 1970. The Administrator has determined that this is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

Unfunded Mandates
This final rule contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provisions of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995) for state, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, this rule is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

E-Government Act Compliance
RUS is committed to the E-Government Act, which requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

Executive Order 13132, Federalism
The policies contained in this final rule do not have any substantial direct effect on states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Nor does this final rule impose substantial direct compliance costs on state and local governments. Therefore, consultation with the states is not required.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments
This final rule has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.” Executive Order 13175 requires Federal agencies to consult and coordinate with tribes on a government-to-government basis on policies that have tribal implications, including regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. Rural Development has assessed the impact of this rule on Indian tribes and determined that this rule does not, to our knowledge, have tribal implications that require tribal consultation under E.O. 13175. If a tribe would like to engage in consultation with Rural Development on this rule, please contact Rural Development’s Native American Coordinator at (720) 544–2911 or AIAN@wdc.usda.gov.
Rural Development is a mission area within the USDA comprised of the
Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business/Cooperative
Service. Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity
and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. Rural Development meets
its mission by providing loans, loan guarantees, grants, and technical
assistance through more than 40 programs aimed at creating and
improving housing, businesses, and infrastructure throughout rural America.

In accordance with Executive Order 13777, Enforcing the Regulatory Reform
Agenda, RUS was tasked with identifying duplicative actions that can
be streamlined which could result in time and cost savings. In doing so, RUS
identified certain RUS grant regulations that are needlessly burdensome
and are not aligned with current Department policies. The RUS determined
that these requirements are required by law, Continue to be administratively
necessary, and do not impose any additional requirements. The RUS found
no other means to significantly reduce these requirements that
would not result in increased costs or lost productivity. Therefore, RUS
is determining to streamline which could result in time and cost savings.
Pursuant to section 7(b)(1)(C) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995
(44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The FOA will establish
the program's website.

* * * * *

**List of Subjects**

Agriculture, Community development, Community facilities, Credit, Grant programs—housing and community development, Nonprofit organizations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas, Waste treatment and disposal, Water pollution control, Water resources, Water supply, Watersheds.

7 CFR Part 1783

Business and industry, Community development, Community facilities, Grant programs-housing and community development, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas, Waste treatment and disposal, Water supply, Watersheds.

Accordingly, for reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR parts 1709, 1739, 1776, and 1783 are amended as follows:

**PART 1709—ASSISTANCE TO HIGH COST ENERGY COMMUNITIES**

1. The authority citation for part 1709 continues to read as follows:


**Subpart A—General Requirements**

2. Amend § 1709.3 by adding a definition for “Funding opportunity announcement” in alphabetical order to read as follows:

**§ 1709.3 Definitions.**

* * * * *

Funding opportunity announcement (FOA) means a publicly available
document by which a Federal agency makes known its intentions to award
discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of
competition for funds. FOA announcements may be known as program announcements, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or
other names depending on the agency and type of program. FOA
announcements can be found at www.Grants.gov and on the funding agency’s or
program’s website.

* * * * *

**Subpart B—RUS High Energy Cost Grant Program**

3. Revise § 1709.114 to read as follows:

**§ 1709.114 Application process.**

The RUS will request applications for high energy cost grants on a competitive
basis by posting a FOA on www.Grant.gov. The FOA will establish
the amount of funds available, the application package contents and additional requirements, the availability of application materials, high energy cost community eligibility benchmarks, selection criteria and weights, priority considerations, deadlines and procedures for submitting applications. This information will also be made available in the RUS High Energy Cost Grant program application guide and the RUS High Energy Cost Grant program website.

4. Amend § 1709.121 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 1709.121 Administrator’s review and selection of grant awards.

(d) In the event an insufficient number of eligible applications are received in response to a FOA and selected for funding to exhaust the funds available, the Administrator reserves the discretion to reopen the application period and to accept additional applications for consideration under the terms of the FOA. Another FOA regarding the reopening of an application period will be announced on www.Grants.gov.

PART 1739—BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM

5. The authority citation for part 1739 continues to read as follows:


Subpart A—Community Connect Program

6. Amend § 1739.1 by revising the third sentence of paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1739.1 Purpose.

(a) * * * The Agency will give priority to rural areas that have the greatest need for broadband services, based on the criteria contained herein and in the RUS Community Connect Program application guide and/or the Community Connect Program website and in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) posted on www.Grants.gov.

7. Revise § 1739.2 to read as follows:

§ 1739.2 Funding availability and application dates and submission.

(a) The Agency will post a FOA on www.Grants.gov that will set forth the total amount of funding available; the maximum and minimum funding for each grant; funding priority; the application submission dates; and the appropriate addresses and agency contact information. The FOA will also outline and explain the procedures for submission of applications, including electronic submissions. The Agency may publish more than one FOA should additional funding become available. This information will also be made available in the RUS Community Connect Grant program application guide and on the RUS Community Connect Grant program website.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the Agency may, in response to a surplus of qualified eligible applications which could not be funded from the previous fiscal year, decline to post a FOA for the following fiscal year and fund said applications without further public notice.

8. Amend § 1739.3 by revising the first sentence of the definitions of “Broadband Grant Speed” and “Broadband service” and by adding the definition of “Funding opportunity agreement” in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 1739.3 Definitions.

Broadband Grant Speed means the minimum bandwidth described in the funding opportunity that an applicant must propose to deliver to every customer in the proposed funded service area in order for the Agency to approve a broadband grant.

Broadband service means any terrestrial technology having the capacity to provide transmission facilities that enable subscribers of the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video at the minimum rate of data transmission described in the funding opportunity.

Funding opportunity announcement (FOA) means a publicly available document by which a Federal agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds. FOA announcements may be known as program announcements, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or other names depending on the agency and type of program. FOA announcements can be found at www.Grants.gov in the Search Grants tab and on the funding agency’s or program’s website.

9. Amend § 1739.15 by revising the introductory text to read as follows:

§ 1739.15 Completed application.

Applications should be prepared in conformance with the provisions of this part and all applicable regulations, including 2 CFR part 200, as adopted by USDA through 2 CFR part 400. Applicants must also conform to the requirements of the FOA posted on www.Grants.gov, the RUS Community Connect Grant program application guide, and the Community Connect Grant program website. Applicants should refer to the FOA and the application guide for submission directions. The application guide contains instructions and forms, as well as other important information needed to prepare an application and is updated on an annual basis. Paper copies of the application guide can be requested by contacting the Loan Origination and Approval Division at 202–720–0800. Completed applications must include the following documentation, studies, reports and information, in form and substance satisfactory to the Agency:

10. Amend § 1739.16 by revising paragraph (d)(7) to read as follows:

§ 1739.16 Review of grant applications.

(d) * * *

(7) Any other additional factors that may be outlined in the FOA, the Community Connect Grant program application guide, and the Community Connect Grant program website.

PART 1776—HOUSEHOLD WATER WELL SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM

11. Amend § 1776.3 by adding a definition for “Funding opportunity announcement” in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 1776.3 Definitions.

Funding opportunity announcement (FOA) means a publicly available document by which a Federal agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds. FOA announcements may be known as program announcements, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or other names depending on the agency and type of program. FOA announcements can be found at www.Grants.gov in the Search Grants tab and on the funding agency’s or program’s website.
§ 1776.8 Methods for submitting applications.

(d) The methods of submitting applications may be changed from time to time to reflect changes in addresses and electronic submission procedures. The applicant should refer to the most recent FOA for notice of any such changes. In the event of any discrepancy, the most recent FOA must be followed.

PART 1783—REVOLVING FUNDS FOR FINANCING WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS (REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM)

Subpart A—General

§ 1783.3 What definitions are used in this regulation?

Funding opportunity announcement (FOA) means a publicly available document by which a Federal agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds. FOA announcements may be known as program announcements, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or other names depending on the agency and type of program. FOA announcements can be found at Grants.gov in the Search Grants tab and on the funding agency’s or program’s website.

Subpart B—Revolving Loan Program Grants

§ 1783.6 When will applications for grants be accepted?

A FOA will be posted to www.Grants.gov in fiscal years that funds are available for this program. The FOA will establish the period during which applications for such funds may be submitted for consideration.

§ 1783.8 What are the acceptable methods for submitting applications?

(c) * * * Applicants should refer to the most recent FOA for notice of any such changes. In the event of any discrepancy, the information contained in the FOA must be followed. * * *

Dated: August 27, 2018.

Christopher A. McLean,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–19199 Filed 9–4–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 25

[Docket No. FAA–2015–0309; Special Conditions No. 25–594A–SC]

Special Conditions: The Boeing Company (Boeing) Model 747–8 Airplane, Dynamic Test Requirements for Single-Occupant, Oblique (Side-Facing) Seats, With or Without Airbag Devices or 3-Point Restraints

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Amended final special conditions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: These amended special conditions are issued for the Boeing Model 747–8 airplane. This amendment states that the Boeing Model 747–8 airplane oblique (side-facing) seats may be installed at an angle of 18 to 45 degrees to the airplane centerline and may include a 3-point or airbag restraint system, or both, for occupant restraint and injury protection. Additionally, this amendment changes paragraphs 4 through 8 of the special conditions section. This airplane will have novel or unusual design features when compared to the state of technology envisioned in the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes. These design features are oblique (side-facing) single-occupant seats equipped with or without airbag devices or 3-point restraints.

The applicable airworthiness regulations do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for these design features. These special conditions contain the additional safety standards the Administrator considers necessary to establish a level of safety equivalent to that established by the existing airworthiness standards.

DATES: This action is effective on Boeing on September 5, 2018. Send comments on or before October 22, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by Docket No. FAA–2015–0309 using any of the following methods:

Federal eRegulations Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov/ and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202–493–2251.

Privacy: The FAA will post all comments it receives, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov/, including any personal information the commenter provides. Using the search function of the docket website, anyone can find and read the electronic form of all comments received into any FAA docket, including the name of the individual sending the comment (or signing the comment for an association, business, labor union, etc.). DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement can be found in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–19478).

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at http://www.regulations.gov/ at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington,