

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Utilities Service  
Washington, DC 20250-1500**

May 29, 2001

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE "A" (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) MEETING  
#737 (Special)**

**Summary of Decisions**

1. Committee A approved the RUS Form 515 Construction Contract and Supplemental Forms 515a, 515b, 515c, and 515d for forwarding to the Federal Register as a Final Rule.

Several interested parties submitted comments and recommendations in response to the August 25, 2000, Federal Register publication of the Proposed Rule. Several changes have been made in the revised documents in response to these comments and recommendations. The major changes include modification of the:

- 1) BM2A assembly unit and its associated drawing to comply with the 1999 National Electrical Code.
- 2) BM80, 81, and 82 assembly unit drawing to indicate a 12-inch distance for placement of the brackets from the top and bottom of the guard instead of the 1-inch distance.
- 3) NID2 and NID3 assembly unit drawings to show the electric system ground connection originating at the electric meter box instead of the neutral conductor.
- 4) Language in the Notice to Bidders to read "calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays)" instead of "days."
- 5) BM61 assembly unit by eliminating the maximum 3-inch bore diameter. The assembly unit now allows the maximum bore diameter to be specified by the Engineer.
- 6) UD assembly unit by adding an additional suffix to the unit. The new suffix identified by the letter "V" allows for the placement of one or more vacant innerducts in a new or existing conduit and includes rodding and cleaning of the conduit when necessary; and
- 7) "Schedule of Acceptance Tests" table to include check off boxes for measuring fiber optic splice loss at 1310 and 1550 nanometers.

Minor editorial changes were also made to these documents in response to the comments and recommendations received during the Proposed Rule Notice comment period.

2. Committee A approved 7 CFR 1755, Telecommunications Program Specifications as a Direct final rule for removal of specification text from CFR.

This revision changes the manner in which RUS publishes specifications for materials, equipment, and construction for telecommunications systems. RUS will no longer set forth the specifications in full text in the Code of Federal Regulations but will instead list the specifications in 1755. The Chairman noted that for the specifications RUS is adopting the method of notice used for standard contract forms.

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Chairman, Technical Standards  
Committee "A" (Telecommunications)  
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