

Stakeholder Announcement

On December 19th, 2011, the USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will host a webinar for tribal leaders, tribal professionals and stakeholders on the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Proposed Rule and the next steps toward implementation. The Proposed Rule is designed to provide increased access to affordable loans and grants to facilitate the construction, acquisition, or improvement of infrastructure projects in Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA).

The Webinar will focus on what SUTA is and its impact on Rural Development (RUS) programs. The Webinar will close with a question and answer session. RUS staff and Rural Development's Native American Coordinator will host and facilitate the webinar. RUS also extended the deadline for comments on the SUTA Proposed Rule until January 17, 2012 to allow webinar participants to formulate and submit formal comments. You can find the comment period extension notice at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-09/pdf/2011-31575.pdf>.

On October 14, 2011, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued a proposed rule to provide loans and grants to facilitate the construction, acquisition, or improvement of infrastructure projects in Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA). The Intent is to implement Section 906 F of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 960f) by providing the process by which eligible applicants may apply for funding by the agency. Comments must be submitted on or before January 17, 2012.

To find out more about how to participate, please contact Kathie Klass via phone or email at: 202-720-2284 or kathie.klass@wdc.usda.gov

For more information on the SUTA proposed rule:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/STELPRD4013141.html>

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