

USDA-Rural Development

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Preliminary Engineering Reports



Objectives

- Inform participants of USDA standards and steps for preparing a PER
- Encourage participants to be proactive and involved in the preparation of the PER
- Inform participants of USDA Guidelines for preparing the PER





- RUS applications for financing must be accompanied by a Preliminary Engineering Report **and must be completed and sealed by a professional engineer**.
- RUS applications are considered complete once the Environmental Report and P.E.R. have been concurred upon by the agency.

Project order - reviewing and concurrence of PER

1. The applicants consulting engineer will prepare and submit a completed PER to the North Carolina USDA representing loan official in accordance with the **RUS 1780 Bulletin**.
2. The USDA State Office (N.C.) Rural Development Engineer's will complete a detailed review of the proposed PER.
3. The USDA National Office (Washington, DC) will complete a detailed review of the proposed project PER following N.C. acceptance of the Report.

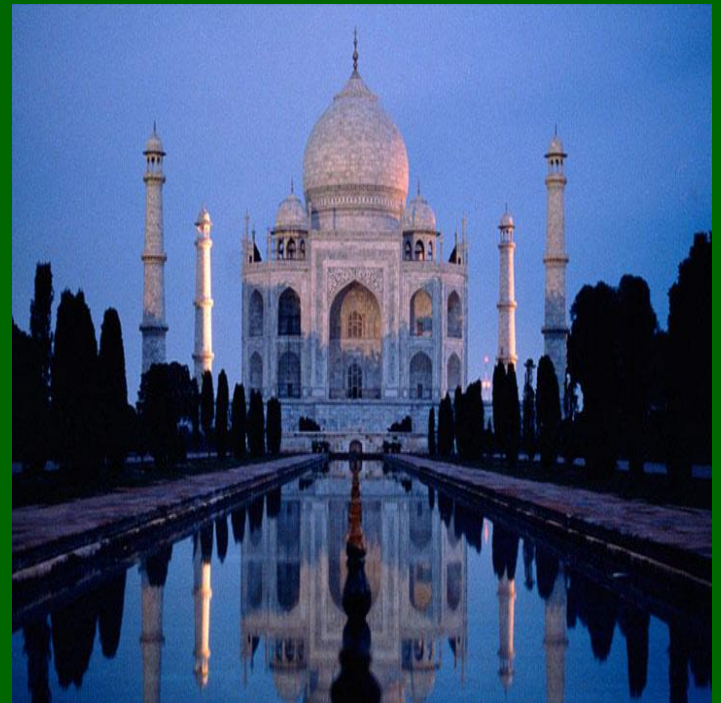
- Information provided in the PER will be used to process the funding request, therefore completeness and accuracy are essential for timely processing of the application.
- Rural Utilities Service (RUS) projects must be modest in design, size and cost and be constructed and operated in an environmentally responsible manner.



What is Modest?

- Webster defines Modest as; sufficient in size or amount.

- The Taj Mahal is not modest in design !!



- How does the USDA determine a project to be modest?



Projects are determined modest by the development of the Preliminary Engineering Report and in accordance with ***NC DENR design standards*** and the ***RUS 1780 Bulletins***.

? What are we looking for in a Preliminary Engineering Report ?



- Both USDA State Office (NC) and National Office (DC) engineers will complete reviews of the PER's to assure that the proposed projects are modest in design, cost, size, and have addressed all concerns listed in the **RUS 1780 Bulletins**.
- – PER's are a means of securely distributing federal funds for public projects.

Guidelines for Preparing the PER-RUS 1780 Bulletin

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1. GENERAL

2. PROJECT PLANNING AREA

3. EXISTING FACILITIES

4. NEED FOR PROJECT

5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6. SELECTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE

7. PROPOSED PROJECT (RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE)

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INDEX:

Application Document

Project Planning Maps

Water Facility and System modeling charts

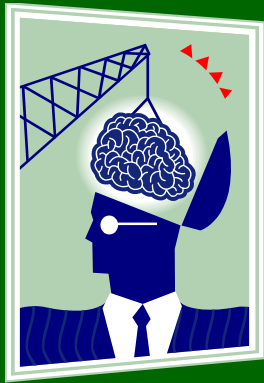


Common PER deficiencies

Lack of supporting data:

- **Number of existing residential & commercial users**
- **Current & proposed rate schedules**
- **Short Lived Assets**
- **Daily system usage / treatment / demand**
- **Maps of service area**
- **Alternatives analysis – (This justifies the proposed project)**
- **Water Purchase or Sale contract agreements**
- **System Upgrades (Year & What component upgrades)**
- **S.O.C. Documentation**
- **Over sizing of projects – (Modest Design)**





Conclusion

- P.E.R. must be developed in accordance with *RUS 1780 Bulletin by a professional engineer*
- Exercise a proactive local government, collect system data and statistics relative to daily operation, further assisting the consulting engineer develop a more efficient project.

Questions

