

teed under section 306 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 [7 U.S.C. 936] to be used for refinancing debt pursuant to section 306C of such Act [7 U.S.C. 936c] (including any associated prepayment penalties and prepayment or refinance premium), notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c)(4) of section 306C of such Act.

“(b) The Secretary of Agriculture may not provide an authorization under subsection (a) to a borrower unless the Secretary determines that the refinancing involved will benefit the ratepayers of the borrower.

“(c) The Federal Financing Bank shall make a new loan to each borrower refinancing a loan pursuant to this section and section 306 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 [7 U.S.C. 936], for the purpose of providing funds for the refinancing, which loan shall be obligated from amounts made available for rural electrification loans, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall guarantee the new loan pursuant to section 306 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

“(d) For the cost of refinancing a loan pursuant to this section for any borrower identified by the Federal Financing Bank as having opted since origination of the loan to pay an interest rate premium for the eligibility to prepay at par, including a borrower paying an interest rate premium in the near-term for the right to prepay at par starting in 2020, \$13,800,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds shall also be available for refinancing a loan pursuant to any extension or expansion of this pilot program that is enacted subsequent to this Act [div. A of Pub. L. 115-31, enacted May 5, 2017] for those same borrowers.

“(e) The authority for the pilot program provided by this section shall remain in effect through September 30, 2019.”

§ 936d. Eligibility of distribution borrowers for loans, loan guarantees, and lien accommodations

For the purpose of determining the eligibility of a distribution borrower not in default on the repayment of a loan made or guaranteed under this chapter for a loan, loan guarantee, or lien accommodation under this subchapter, a default by a borrower from which the distribution borrower purchases wholesale power shall not—

- (1) be considered a default by the distribution borrower;
- (2) reduce the eligibility of the distribution borrower for assistance under this chapter; or
- (3) be the cause, directly or indirectly, of imposing any requirement or restriction on the borrower as a condition of the assistance, except such requirements or restrictions as are necessary to implement a debt restructuring agreed on by the power supply borrower and the Government.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title III, §306D, as added Pub. L. 103-129, §2(c)(7), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1364.)

§ 936e. Administrative prohibitions applicable to certain electric borrowers

(a) In general

For the purpose of relieving borrowers of unnecessary and burdensome requirements, the Secretary, guided by the practices of private lenders with respect to similar credit risks, shall issue regulations, applicable to any electric borrower under this chapter whose net worth exceeds 110 percent of the outstanding principal balance on all loans made or guaranteed to the borrower by the Secretary, to mini-

mize those approval rights, requirements, restrictions, and prohibitions that the Secretary otherwise may establish with respect to the operations of such a borrower.

(b) Subordination or sharing of liens

At the request of a private lender providing financing to such a borrower for a capital investment, the Secretary shall, expeditiously, either offer to share the government's lien on the borrower's system or offer to subordinate the government's lien on that property financed by the private lender.

(c) Issuance of regulations

In issuing regulations implementing this section, the Secretary may establish requirements, guided by the practices of private lenders, to ensure that the security for any loan made or guaranteed under this chapter is reasonably adequate.

(d) Authority of Secretary

Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Secretary to establish terms and conditions with respect to the use by borrowers of the proceeds of loans made or guaranteed under this chapter or to take any other action specifically authorized by law.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title III, §306E, as added Pub. L. 103-129, §2(c)(7), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1365; amended Pub. L. 103-201, §1, Dec. 17, 1993, 107 Stat. 2342; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(8), (13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in heading of subsec. (d) and wherever appearing in text.

1993—Pub. L. 103-201 inserted “certain” before “electric” in section catchline and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Administrator may not require prior approval of, impose any requirement, restriction, or prohibition with respect to the operations of, or deny or delay the granting of a lien accommodation to, any electric borrower under this chapter whose net worth exceeds 110 percent of the outstanding principal balance on all loans made or guaranteed to the borrower by the Administrator.”

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 103-201, §2, Dec. 17, 1993, 107 Stat. 2342, provided that: “The Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration shall issue interim final regulations implementing this Act [amending this section] not later than 180 days after enactment [Dec. 17, 1993]. If the regulations are not issued within such period of time, the Administrator may not, until the Administrator issues such regulations, require prior approval of, establish any requirement, restriction, or prohibition, with respect to the operations of any electric borrower under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 [7 U.S.C. 90 et seq.] whose net worth exceeds 110 percent of the outstanding principal balance on all loans made or guaranteed to the borrower by the Administrator.”

§ 936f. Substantially underserved trust areas

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Eligible program

The term “eligible program” means a program administered by the Rural Utilities Service and authorized in—