

either individually or in the aggregate, so state;

(g) *Depreciation rates.* For electric borrowers, comment when the depreciation rates used in computing monthly accruals are not in compliance with RUS requirements (See RUS Bulletin 183-1, Depreciation Rates and Procedures), which require the use of depreciation rates that are within the ranges established by RUS for each primary plant account, or with the requirements of the State regulatory body having jurisdiction over the borrower's depreciation rates; and

(h) *Deferred debits and deferred credits.* For electric borrowers, provide a detailed analysis of the totals reported as deferred debits and deferred credits, including, but not limited to, margin stabilization plans, revenue deferral plans, and expense deferrals. The CPA must state whether RUS has approved, in writing, each regulatory asset and liability.

(i) *Investments.* For electric and telecommunications borrowers, provide a detailed schedule of all investments in subsidiary and affiliated companies accounted for on either the cost or equity basis. This requirement includes investments in corporations, limited liability corporations and partnerships, joint ventures, etc. For all investments list the name of the entity, ownership percentage, and the principal business in which the entity is engaged. For investments recorded on the cost basis include the original investment, advances, dividends declared or paid in the current and prior years and the net investment. For investments recorded on the equity basis include the ownership percentage, original investment, advances, and current and prior years' earnings and losses, including accumulated losses in excess of the original investment.

[56 FR 63360, Dec. 3, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 659, Jan. 6, 1994; 61 FR 108, Jan. 3, 1996. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 38723, July 17, 1998; 63 FR 40169, July 28, 1998; 66 FR 27830, May 21, 2001]

§§ 1773.34–1773.37 [Reserved]

Subpart E—RUS Required Audit Procedures and Documentation

§ 1773.38 Scope of engagement.

(a) RUS requires that the audit procedures set forth in §§1773.39 through 1773.45 be performed annually by the CPA during the audit of the RUS borrowers' financial statements, which audit procedures may be in addition to the conduct of a GAGAS audit.

(b) The CPA must exercise professional judgment in determining whether any auditing procedures in addition to those mandated by GAGAS or this part should be performed in order to afford a reasonable basis for rendering the auditor's report, report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting, and management letter.

[56 FR 63360, Dec. 3, 1991, as amended at 66 FR 27835, May 21, 2001]

§ 1773.39 Utility plant and accumulated depreciation.

(a) *General.* The audit of these accounts must include tests of additions, replacements, retirements, and changes. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(1) Examined direct labor and material transactions to determine whether the borrower's accounting records reflect a complete accumulation of costs;

(2) Examined indirect costs and overhead charges to determine if they conform to the Uniform System of Accounts;

(3) Reviewed the costs of completed construction and retirement projects to determine if they were cleared promptly from the work in progress accounts to the classified plant in service accounts and the related depreciation reserves;

(4) Examined direct purchases of special equipment and general plant;

(5) Determined the degree of accuracy and control of costing retirements, including tests of salvage and removal costs;

(6) Reviewed the borrower's work order procedures; and

(7) Reviewed depreciation rates for adequate support, compared them to RUS guidelines, and determined if they are in compliance.

(b) *Construction work in progress.* (1) The workpapers must include a summary of open work orders reconciled to the general ledger. The CPA must note on the summary any unusual or non-typical projects.

(2) Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of work orders must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(i) Reviewed equipment purchases charged to work orders, including payments and receiving reports;

(ii) Reviewed contracts showing the scope of the work, the nature of the contract, the contract amount, and scheduled payments and reviewed supporting documents to determine that all services contracted for were in fact rendered;

(iii) Reviewed time cards and pay rates for several employees who allocate their time to work orders;

(iv) Reviewed the nature of material and supplies issued to the project, traced amounts and quantities to supporting documents, and reviewed the reasonableness of clearing rates for assignment of stores expense to the work order;

(v) Reviewed the accuracy of the computation of overheads applied to the work order; and

(vi) Reviewed other costs charged to the work order for support and propriety.

(3) Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of completed contracts must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(i) Scheduled payments to contractors and traced to verify payments and supporting invoices;

(ii) Traced contract costs to final closeout documents, to the general

ledger, and to the continuing property records; and

(iii) Verified the costs of owner furnished materials, if applicable.

(4) The CPA must review the borrower's procedures for unitization and classification of work order and contract costs. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(i) Reviewed the tabulation of record units for construction from the work order staking sheets to the tabulation of record units, to the unitization sheets, and to the continuing property records;

(ii) Reviewed the procedures for unitizing and distributing costs of completed construction to the plant accounts;

(iii) Verified that standard costs were being used;

(iv) Evaluated the basis for development of standard costs; and

(v) Determined that costs of completed construction were cleared promptly from work in progress accounts.

(c) *Continuing property records.* Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(1) Determined whether the subsidiary plant records agree with the controlling general ledger plant accounts;

(2) Noted differences in the workpapers; and

(3) Commented, in the management letter, on any discrepancies.

(d) *Retirement work-in-progress.* Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(1) Determined that plant retirements are currently and systematically recorded and priced on the basis of the continuing property records, and determined that costs of removal have been properly accounted for;

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(2) Explained the method used in computing the cost of units of plant retired if continuing property records have not been established and determined whether costs appeared reasonable; and

(3) Determined the manner in which net losses due to retirements were accounted for and traced clearing entries to the depreciation reserve, the plant accounts, and the continuing property records.

(e) *Provision for accumulated depreciation.* The CPA's workpapers must include an analysis of transactions. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she:

(1) Verified the depreciation accruals for the period, including the depreciation base;

(2) Reviewed the basis of the depreciation rates, any change in rates and the reason therefor, and, if appropriate, determined whether the rates are in compliance with RUS requirements or with the requirements of the state regulatory body having jurisdiction over the borrower's depreciation rates;

(3) Reviewed salvage and removal costs; and

(4) Searched for unrecorded retirements.

(f) *Other reserves.* The CPA's workpapers must include an account analysis for all other material plant reserves, such as the reserve for the amortization of plant acquisition adjustments. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that appropriate tests of transactions were performed.

(g) *Narrative.* The CPA must prepare and include in the workpapers a comprehensive narrative on the scope of work performed, observations made, and conclusions reached. Specific matters covered in this narrative must include:

(1) The nature of construction and other additions;

(2) The control over, and the accuracy of pricing retirements;

(3) The accuracy of distributing costs to classified utility plant accounts;

(4) An evaluation of the method of:

(i) Capitalizing the direct loadings on labor and material costs;

(ii) Distributing transportation costs and other expense clearing accounts; and

(iii) Capitalizing overhead costs;

(5) The tests of depreciation;

(6) A review of agreements such as those relating to acquisitions, property sales, and leases which affect the plant accounts; and

(7) Notations, if applicable, of RUS approval of property sales and the propriety of the disposition of the proceeds.

§ 1773.40 Regulatory assets.

The CPA's workpapers must document whether all regulatory assets comply with the requirements of SFAS No. 71. For electric borrowers only, the CPA's workpapers must document whether all regulatory assets have received RUS approval.

[59 FR 660, Jan. 6, 1994]

§ 1773.41 Extraordinary retirement losses.

The CPA's workpapers must contain an analysis of retirement losses, including any required approval by a regulatory commission with jurisdiction in the matter, or RUS, in the absence of commission jurisdiction.

§ 1773.42 Clearing accounts.

The CPA's workpapers must contain an analysis of all clearing accounts. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions should be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that transactions were reviewed for proper allocation between expense and capital accounts.

§ 1773.43 Capital and equity accounts.

(a) *Capital stock.* For privately owned companies, the workpapers must include analyses of all stock transactions during the audit period. Based upon the CPA's determination of materiality, an appropriate sample of transactions must be selected for testing. The CPA's workpapers must document that he/she: