



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

July 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

TO: Rural Development Utilities Programs Customers

FROM: JAMES M. ANDREW  
Administrator  
Rural Development Utilities Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Andrew".

On September 26, 2006, Public Law 109-282, "the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006," (FFATA) was enacted by Congress. The FFATA requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to maintain a website which the public can access and search certain data about agencies' financial assistance and procurement awards. One of the data elements the FFATA identifies is a unique identifier for award recipients. The identifier that is to be provided by award recipients is the Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. On May 30, 2008, OMB issued OMB Memorandum M-08-19 to Federal agencies authorizing the collection of the DUNS number in applications for all types of financial assistance – other than grants or cooperative agreement, for which that authority was provided previously. OMB Memorandum M-08-19 may be found at OMB's website at the following link:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-19.pdf>.

In order for Rural Development Utilities Programs to comply with the requirements of the FFATA, beginning on the date of this letter, applications submitted for loans and grants must now include the DUNS number in order for the application to be processed. For applications already submitted, you may be contacted by your assigned regional office or your General Field Representative and be asked to provide your DUNS number. If your organization has not previously obtained a DUNS number, you may obtain one from Dun and Bradstreet at <http://www.dnb.com/us/>.

If you have questions regarding this requirement, you may find program contact information at:

Electric programs - <http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/contacts/index.htm>

Telecommunications programs - [http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/staff/index\\_staff.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/staff/index_staff.htm)

Water programs - <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/states/usamap.htm>