90 Day Notice of Intent for Periodic Review of Eligible Rural Areas in Tennessee:

USDA Rural Development is conducting a review of all areas under its jurisdiction to identify areas that no longer qualify as rural for housing programs. The last rural area reviews were performed in 2012-2013 using the 2010 census data. This review, which is done every five years, will utilize the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Based on the 2015 ACS data and rural area guidance located in Handbook HB-1-3550, Chapter 5, the rural eligibility designation is under review for the following several areas that contain densely populated urban and suburban communities. As such, urban areas and communities contiguous to or associated with the urban areas in these counties are non-rural and currently ineligible for USDA housing assistance. The 2017-2018 periodic review will examine Rural Development's current boundaries to ensure there is a delineation between eligible rural areas from the contiguous densely populated urban areas in the following counties:

Carter	Davidson	Blount	Shelby	Williamson	Maury
(Elizabethton)	(Nashville)	(Maryville)	(Memphis)	(Spring Hill)	(Spring Hill)
				(Franklin)	
Washington	Wilson	Hamblen	Sullivan	Montgomery	Hamilton
(Johnson City)	(Mt. Juliet)	(Morristown)	(Kingsport)	(Clarksville)	(Chattanooga)
(Jonesborough)					
Bedford	Bradley	Madison	Sumner	Knox	
(Shelbyville)	(Cleveland)	(Jackson)	(Gallatin)	(Knoxville)	

The attached document identifies all locations in Tennessee, based on a thorough review of the Census Data and ACS data, that have been identified as no longer meeting the rural in character definition – based primarily on recent city annexation and/or population density exceeding the published thresholds - and thus subject to losing the rural designation effective June 4, 2018. USDA Rural Development welcomes feedback from the community, partners, and interested parties regarding these proposed rural designation changes. The written comment period is open from December 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018. Please email all comments to the attention of Jennifer Walker, SFH Housing Technician, at Jennifer.walker@tn.usda.gov

A conference call to consider comments with stakeholders and the public will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 10:00AM. Interested parties may call 888-844-9904 and use the passcode 8651249#.































