

NATIONAL RURAL UTILITIES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORP /DC/  
 Form 424B3  
 February 19, 2013

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities Offered | Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee(1)(2) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.000% Corporates® Due February 15, 2020  | \$956,000                        | \$130.40                         |

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933.

(2) The amount in this column has been transmitted to the SEC in connection with the securities offered by means of this pricing supplement.

Filed Under Rule 424(b)(3), Registration Statement No. 333-177949 Pricing Supplement Number 279 Dated February 19, 2013 (To: Prospectus Dated November 14, 2011 and Prospectus Supplement Dated November 17, 2011)

| CUSIP     | Number | Principal Amount | Selling Price | Gross Concession | Net Proceeds | Coupon Type | Coupon Rate | Coupon Frequency | Maturity Date | 1st Coupon Date | 1st Coupon Amount |
|-----------|--------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 63743FQR0 |        | \$956,000        | 100.000%      | 1.450%           | \$942,138.00 | Fixed       | 2.000%      | MONTHLY          | 02/15/2020    | 03/15/2013      | \$1.28            |

Redemption Information: Non-Callable

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp  
 Offering Dates: Monday, February 11, 2013 through Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
 Trade Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 @ 12:00 PM ET  
 Settlement Date: Friday, February 22, 2013  
 Minimum Denomination/Increments: \$1,000.00/\$1,000.00  
 Initial trades settle flat and clear SDFS: DTC Book Entry only  
 DTC number: 0235 via RBC Dain Rauscher Inc.  
 Agents: Citigroup, Comerica Securities, J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc., Morgan Stanley, UBS Investment Bank, Wells Fargo  
 If the maturity date or an interest payment date for any note is not a Business Day (as term is defined in Prospectus), principal, premium, if any, and interest

for that note is paid on the next Business Day, and no interest will accrue from, and after, the maturity date or interest payment date.

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