incomes, with a priority at initial occupancy for low income families.

(4) The lowest overall proportional effective subsidy cost to the Government.

(5) Preference will be given to family proposals with large bedroom mixes (3/4/5 bedrooms).

(6) Those proposals to be developed in a colonia, tribal land, or EZ/EC community, or in a place identified in the state Consolidated Plan or state needs assessment as a high need community for multifamily housing will receive preference.

VI. Review Criteria

RHS will review each request for participation under the demonstration program to determine if the lender and the proposal meet all the requirements of this notice and the lender demonstrates the ability to underwrite, originate, process, close, service, manage, and dispose of multifamily loans in a prudent manner. Applications will be reviewed to determine financial feasibility, compliance with cost limitations, and market need of the proposal. RHS will review each application for compliance with subsidy layering requirements, which stipulates that the government will provide no more than the minimum amount of assistance necessary to make the complex financially feasible pursuant to 7 CFR 1944.213(a)(2), see **Federal Register** Volume 62, Number 88, pages 25061–25071 published May 7, 1997.

RHS also reserves the right to negotiate with potential lenders over the scope of the proposal to ensure the best interests of the Government and objectives of the demonstration program are achieved.

It is the policy of RHS to consider environmental quality as equal with economic, social, and other relevant factors in program development and decision making. Proposals which have the potential for adverse impact to protected resources (wetlands, floodplains, and important farmland, for example) will receive low priority, since the brief period of time allocated for obligation of funds may be insufficient for RHS to satisfactorily complete the environmental review process if the proposal has adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, it is important that lenders and applicants submit proposals which minimize the potential to adversely impact the environment.

Since RHS will complete the appropriate environmental review at the field level, the appropriate field office will need certain information from the lender or applicant in order to complete the environmental review. Lenders or applicants who plan to file an application should request the application package at the earliest date possible for directions on how to contact the applicable field office.

VII. Other Matters

(a) *Environmental Finding.* A Finding of No Significant Impact with respect to the environment has been made in accordance with RHS regulations at 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G.

(b) *Civil Rights Impact Analysis.* It is the policy within the Rural Development mission area to ensure that the consequences of any proposed project approval do not negatively or disproportionately affect program beneficiaries by virtue of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or familial status. To ensure that any proposal under this demonstration program complies with these objectives, the RHS approval official will complete Form RD 2006–38, ''Civil Rights Impact Analysis Certification.''

(c) *Executive Order 12612, Federalism.* The policies and procedures contained in this Notice will not have substantial direct effects on States or their political subdivisions, or the relationship between the Federal Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. As a result, the Notice is not subject to review under the Order.

(d) *Paperwork Reduction Act.* The information collection requirements within this notice are covered under OMB Nos. 0575–0042, 0575–0047, 0575–100, 0575–0024, 0570–0014, and 0575–0137.

Dated: June 25, 1997.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 97–17269 Filed 7–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XV–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Georgia Transmission Corp.; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request by Georgia Transmission Corporation for approval to construct the proposed 115/25 kV St. George Substation and 115 kV St. George Transmission Line. The FONSI is based on a borrower's environmental report (BER) submitted to RUS by Georgia Transmission Corporation. RUS conducted an independent evaluation of the report and concurs with its scope and content. In accordance with RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR 1794.61, RUS has adopted the BER as its environmental assessment for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250–1571, telephone (202) 720–0468, E-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The substation and transmission line are proposed to be located in Charlton County, Georgia. The transmission line will interconnect with Georgia Power Company's existing 115 kV Kettle Creek to Folkston Transmission Line at a point northwest of the town of Homeland, traverse south past the west side of Folkston, and terminate east of St. George just south of Highway 94 and west of the St. Mary River at the site of the proposed St. George Substation. Approximately 1.7 acres of land will be disturbed to accommodate placement of the St. George Substation. The length of the transmission line is approximately 27.5 miles. The width of the proposed transmission line right-of-way will be 75 feet for most of the route with the right-of-way being expanded to 100 feet in wetland areas where maintenance access will need to be increased so that adverse impacts to wetland areas can be avoided.

RUS considered the alternatives of no action, constructing a 230/25 kV substation at the proposed St. George Substation site and the construction of 65 miles of 230 kV transmission line from Waycross to the proposed substation site. Under the no action alternative, RUS would not approve construction of the substation and transmission line. Since RUS believes that Georgia Transmission Corporation has a need to upgrade its transmission facilities to relieve overloading on two of Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation's existing circuits in the area and to allow Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation to serve a new wood chip mill near St. George, the no action alternative is not considered acceptable. Construction of the proposed 115/25 kV substation and 115 kV transmission line is preferred to

the alternative of constructing a 230/25 kV substation and a 230 kV transmission line which would be over twice a long. This is due primarily to additional project cost and the greater amount of environmental impact that would likely result from a longer transmission line. Three substation sites and three transmission line routes were considered. The preferred substation site will require the least amount of vegetation clearing and least impact to land use. The preferred transmission line route is longer than the two alternative routes considered; however, it is preferred because it avoids impacts to the more densely developed areas around the cities of Folkston and St. George and it would affect fewer residential properties and historic resources known to occur in the project area.

Copies of the BER and FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Clayton M. Doherty, Construction and Project Management Department, Georgia Transmission Corporation, P.O. Box 2088, 2100 East Exchange Place, Tucker, Georgia 30085–2088, telephone (770) 270–7719, E-mail clay.doherty@gatrans.com.

Dated June 30, 1997.

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 97–17465 Filed 7–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062597A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 1997, at 10 a.m., and on Thursday, July 10, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Colonial Hilton, 427 Walnut Street (Route 128 South), Wakefield, MA; telephone (617) 245-9300. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (617) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (617) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

July 9, 1997

Following introductions, the Scallop Committee's Plan Development Team will provide a report on the effectiveness of the Council's sea scallop management program, including management recommendations. The Interspecies Committee will review its efforts to develop protocols for reopening areas closed to fishing activities. The Responsible Fishing Committee will report on its continuing discussion of a fishermen's Code of Conduct and also issues related to bycatch in Council-managed fisheries. During the afternoon session, the Atlantic Sea Herring Committee will discuss and ask for Council approval of a public information/scoping document that will identify major issues to be considered during the fishery management plan development. There will be an update on progress to finalize (monkfish) Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management (FMP). Before adjourning for the day, there will be reports from the Council Chairman; Executive Director; Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator); Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons; and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Regional Administrator will consult the Council regarding a proposal from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to conduct an experimental small-mesh trawl fishery for whiting from September 1 through December 31, 1997. There will be a discussion and opportunity for public comment. This proposal builds on last fall's successful experimental fishery in Cape Cod Bay where the DMF-developed ''raised footrope'' trawl effectively captured whiting with minimal by-catch. DMF has requested the time and area of the experimental fishery be expanded to enable vessels to fish in additional specified areas off Massachusetts in Massachusetts Bay, Cape Cod Bay, and waters east of Cape Cod that have historically produced profitable catches of whiting. The experiment is intended to demonstrate the efficacy of the raised-footrope trawl in reducing the bycatch of non-target species, particularly in reducing the bycatch of regulated multispecies to below 5 percent, and to evaluate the gear over a wider area than in last year's experiment.

July 10, 1997

NMFS will hold a Stock Assessment Public Review Workshop immediately after the Council reconvenes on Thursday. It will present an advisory on the stock status of Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank cod, Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank and Southern New England yellowtail flounder. Following the workshop a groundfish subcommittee will report on its progress to develop area closures as an alternative to the cod trip limit in the Multispecies Plan. During the remainder of the Groundfish Committee's report, there will be further discussion of a framework adjustment to the FMP which would modify the Gulf of Maine cod trip limit to account for overages. Specific measures would a) require vessels fishing under the trip limit to call a (cod hailing) telephone number upon off-loading and at least once every 14 days; and b) allow vessels exceeding the trip limit to resume fishing only when the days-at-sea for that trip equate to their cod landings. NMFS will provide information on trip limit enforcement efforts. The Council also plans to develop comments on a proposed experimental longline fishery for halibut in the northern Gulf of Maine. The afternoon session will include reports from the Aquaculture, Gear Conflict, and Lobster Committees. The Aquaculture Committee will provide an update on the development of a Council aquaculture policy. The Gear Conflict Committee will discuss progress to date on the resolution of the northern Georges Bank conflict between otter trawl gear and lobster traps. The Lobster Committee will present its recommendations on management measures proposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council will adjourn the meeting after the conclusion of any other outstanding business.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*