

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Types and Quantities of Agricultural Committee Available for Donation Overseas Under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as Amended, for the Period October 1, 1999 Through December 31, 2000

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On October 8, 1999 the President, Commodity Credit Corporation, determined that not more than 3.0 million metric tons of surplus wheat and wheat products (grain equivalent) and 100,000 metric tons of surplus barley that may be acquired by CCC would be available for donation overseas under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, October 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Merle Brown, Director, CCC Program Support Division, FAS USDA, (202) 720-3573.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Great River Energy; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold scoping meeting and prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental

Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794) proposes to hold a scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for its Federal action related to a project proposed by Great River Energy (GRE) of Elk River, Minnesota. The project consists of constructing a natural gas-fired simple cycle, combustion turbine power generation facility in Pleasant Valley Township in Mower County, Minnesota. Total electrical output from the facility is expected to range from 434 megawatts (MW) to 526 MW depending upon operating conditions. **MEETING INFORMATION:** RUS will conduct a scoping meeting in open house forum on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, at the Sargeant Community Center, Chestnut Avenue, Sargeant, Minnesota, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1784, FAX: (202) 720-0820, e-mail: nislam@rus.usda.gov; or Tim Seck, Environmental Project Leader, GRE, 17845 East Highway 10, P.O. Box 800, Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800, telephone (612) 241-2278, FAX: (612) 241-6078, e-mail: tseck@greenergy.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GRE proposes to construct the facility in Pleasant Valley Township in Mower County, Minnesota. The primary purpose of the facility is to meet GRE peak electrical load during hot summer weather. Under those conditions the facility's expected output is about 434 MW of power. The proposed project will consist of three simple cycle combustion turbines. Two of the turbines will have a maximum rating of 195.5 MW, with a summertime rating of 155 MW. The third unit will have a maximum rating of 135 MW with a summertime rating of 124 MW. The primary fuel will be natural gas and distillate oil will serve as the back-up fuel. The plant will require approximately 18 acres of land. The following additional facilities will also be constructed. A 161/345 kV substation will be constructed at the plant site. A

short transmission line tap (500 feet) will be needed to connect to an existing Byron-Adams 345-kV transmission line. A new 69/161 kV transmission line, between 5 and 7 miles long, will be built from the plant to the Sargeant Substation. A new 161 kV line, approximately 17 miles long, will be constructed from the Sargeant Substation to the Austin North Substation in Austin. Where feasible the new 161 kV line will follow an existing 69 kV transmission line corridor. A total of about three-mile long new high-pressure gas line from the proposed generating station north to an existing gas line will provide gas supply. The total water usage will be approximately 1.8 million gallons per year.

Alternatives to be considered by RUS and GRE include no action, purchased power, upgrade of existing resources, new transmission facilities, alternative sites, alternative routes, fossil fuel technologies, customer-owned generation, energy conservation, renewable resources, and emerging technologies.

GRE has prepared an Alternative Evaluation and Site Selection Study for the project. The Alternative Evaluation and Site Selection Study is available for public review at the RUS or GRE at the addresses provided in this notice or at the following locations:

Austin Public Library, 323 4th Avenue, NE, Austin, Minnesota, (507) 433-2391

Brownsdale Public Library, Brownsdale Community Building, Brownsdale, Minnesota 55918, (507) 567-9951

Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd Street, SE, Rochester, Minnesota 55904, (507) 285-8022

Sargeant Community Center, Chestnut Avenue, Sargeant, Minnesota 55973, (507) 584-6885

Federal, state and local agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from RUS and GRE will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss RUS's environmental review process, the proposed project and the alternatives being considered, scope of the environmental issues to be considered, and answer questions. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the scoping meeting. Written comments regarding the proposed project will also be accepted for at least