DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Oglethorpe Power Corporation; Notice of 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 with respect to the construction and operation of a 652-megawatt, natural gas fired combustion turbine electric generation plant in Talbot County, Georgia. Oglethorpe Power Corporation proposes to be the agent to construct and operate the plant. RUS may provide financing for the plant to an entity made up of members of Oglethorpe Power Corporation. The specifics of that entity have yet to be determined.

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: Oglethorpe Power Corporation proposes to construct the plant at a site in Talbot County, Georgia. The site is near the junction of the Muscogee and Harris County lines in southwest Talbot County off Cartledge Road near Highway 80. The proposed site for the project will require approximately 25 acres for the generation facility and supporting structures and 11 acres for the on-site electric transmission lines. Five to six miles of natural gas pipeline requiring a 50-foot wide right-of-way will need to be constructed from the site north to tie the generation facility to Southern Natural Gas mainline. Additional land will be purchased and maintained intact with natural vegetation to provide a buffer zone between the plant and the existing environment.

The proposed plant will be made up of six 108-megawatt (nominal) Siemens V84.2 natural gas fired, simple cycle combustion turbines. The turbines could be retrofitted at a later date so they could be fired by fuel oil. The major generation equipment will consist of the combustion turbines and generators, equipment modules, and step-up transformers. Each combustion turbine package will have an inlet air filter, weather enclosure, 90-foot exhaust stack, fuel system, lubrication and hydraulic systems, control panel, and fire protection system.

Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact are available from RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Greg Jones of Oglethorpe Power Corporation, PO Box 1349, Tucker, Georgia 30085–1349, (800) 241–5374 x7890; greg.jones@opc.com. Copies of the environmental assessment are available for review at Oglethorpe Power Corporation and RUS at the addresses provided herein.

Dated: April 2, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 01–8645 Filed 4–6–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment related to possible financing assistance to Louisa Generation LLC related to construction and operation of a 490-megawatt simple cycle, combustion turbine electric generation plant in Louisa County, Virginia.

Meeting Information: RUS will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Trevilians Elementary School, 2035 Spotswood Trail, Louisa, Virginia. All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, at (202) 720–0468. Mr. Quigel's E-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from David Smith of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative at (804) 968–4045. Mr. Smith's E-mail address is dsmith@odec.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Old Dominion would be the agent to construct and operate the proposed plant. The preferred plant site is located just south of the Louisa/Albemarle County line at the intersection of Klockner Road and a CSX Railroad track. The site is approximately 90 acres. About 30 acres of the site would be developed for the plant. The plant would be made up of one GE Frame 7FA and four 7EA combustion turbines. The nominal maximum output of the plant will be 490 megawatts. The primary fuel will be natural gas. Low sulfur fuel oil will be used as a back-up fuel.

The plant will be a peaking facility. It is anticipated that each of the five turbines would operate for no more than 1,800 hours per year. This would be during periods of high-energy demand in Virginia. The plant would be interconnected to a 230 kV transmission line that crosses the site. Natural gas would be delivered to the site via an existing pipeline located south of the plant site. The natural gas pipeline company is evaluating what upgrades would be necessary to interconnect the plant to the existing pipeline. The maximum water use by the plant is estimated to be 22.6 million gallons per year. A water pipeline would need to be constructed to transport the water to the plant.

Alternatives considered by RUS and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative include: (a) No action, (b) purchased power, (c) load management and conservation, (d) renewable energy, (e) simple cycle combustion turbine, (f) combined cycle, and (g) various site locations.

An alternative evaluation and site selection study for the project was prepared by Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. The alternative evaluation and site selection study are available for public review at RUS in Room 2242, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, and at the headquarters of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Innsbrook Corporate Center, 4201 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, Virginia. This document will also be available at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, 881 Davis Highway, Mineral, Virginia.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives of RUS and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative will be available at the public meeting to discuss RUS' environmental review process, describe the project and alternatives under consideration, discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments. Written comments will be