issued while the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests Plans are still in the revision process. These new regulations will reflect the latest national direction on land management planning and the Forests may consider completing the Plan Revision under the new planning regulations when they are finalized. It is anticipated the new planning regulations will allow such a change. An additional Notice will be issued if the Forests decide to switch to the new, final planning regulations.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

Linda Goodman,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 04–5454 Filed 3–10–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of training conference.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing a forthcoming training conference for Federal Grants and Cooperative and Contribution Agreements. Special emphasis will be placed on clarifying the grants and agreements process with emphasis on the competitive process.

DATES: The training conference date is: April 26–30, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A block of rooms has been reserved under USDA/NRCS at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephone: 1–888–627–7033, on a first come first serve basis. The Marriott New Orleans Hotel (directly across the street), 550 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephone 1–888–364–1200 will become the overflow hotel site. A room rate has been set at $146.00 and all reservations must be guaranteed by April 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The training conference will take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephone: 1–888–627–7033.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions or comments should be directed to Edward Biggers, Jr., Director, Management Services Division, telephone: (202) 720–4102; fax: (202) 720–7149; e-mail: *Edward.biggers@usda.gov* or Rosann Durrah, telephone: (202) 720–4072; fax: (202) 690–0639; e-mail: *Rosann.durrah@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this conference is given under the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 31 U.S.C. 6301–6308. The conference is designed for leaders, administrators, partners, non-government officials, program managers, specialists, management analysts, and others involved with operations, agreements/grants, evaluations, administration, decision process, auditing, program management, budgeting, contracting, and program delivery. Participants will learn: Competing Grants and Agreements, Contribution Agreements, Authorities, Policies, and Earmarks, Roles and Responsibilities, and Cost Analysis and Evaluation of Proposals.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

Helen V. Huntington,

Federal Register Liaison, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 04–5555 Filed 3–10–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.; 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 (FONSI) for a project proposed by Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc., (GVEA) of Fairbanks, Alaska. The project consists of constructing a 138kV transmission line between the GVEA North Pole Power Plant, North Pole, Alaska, and the Carney Substation, which is approximately 22 miles southeast of North Pole.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1571, telephone (202) 720–1414, Fax: (202) 720–0820, e-mail: *nurul.islam@usda.gov.* Information is also available from Mr. Greg Wyman, Manager of Construction Services, GVEA, PO Box 71249, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707–1249, telephone (907) 451–5629. His e-mail address is: *gwyman@gvea.com.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GVEA proposes to construct the North Pole to Carney Substation 138kV Transmission Line Project, which is approximately 22 miles in length. The primary purpose of the facility is to meet the projected future increases in regional power requirements and to improve the quality of service to existing customers. To accommodate the new transmission line, a new substation would be built next to the existing North Pole Power Plant which is located near the Williams Alaska Petroleum Refinery. In addition, GVEA would modify the existing Carney Substation to provide an additional breaker to allow for termination of the transmission line. The modification of the Carney Substation work would take place within the existing substation footprint. The proposed transmission line would be single circuit, with three-phase, constructed to operate at a voltage of 138 kV and supported by wood-pole, H-frame structures that would be approximately 75 ft. in height. The line would be constructed within a right-of-way that would be approximately 100 ft. in width.

Alternatives to the proposed project are discussed in detail in the environmental assessment (EA). They include no action, load management, purchase of power, upgrading of the existing line, construction of a new transmission line, substation locations, etc. Based on the analysis, the construction of a new transmission line, a new substation at the North Pole Power Plant, and modifications to the Carney Substation were found to meet the purpose and need for the project.

GVEA submitted an environmental report (ER) to RUS, which addresses the potential environmental impacts of the project. The ER includes input from federal, state, and local agencies. RUS has reviewed and accepted the ER as RUS' EA for the project in accordance with RUS' Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR 1794.41. The EA was made available to Federal, State, and local government agencies for their review and comments. GVEA published notices of the availability of the EA for public review in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on January 17 and 18, 2004. The EA was also made available for public review at the Noel Wien Public Library, North Pole City Library, and RUS office in Washington, DC. The 30-day comment period on the EA for the project ended on February 20, 2004. The Department of Natural Resources, Office of the Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP); Office of the History and Archaeology; Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and the