

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting notice for the Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee under Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–393).

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Meeting notice is hereby given for the Southwest Mississippi Resource Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106–393. Topics to be discussed include: general information, possible Title II projects, and next meeting dates and agendas.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 12, 2007, from 6 p.m. and end at approximately 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Franklin County Library, 106 First Street, Meadville, MS 39653.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Bell Lunsford, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Homochitto National Forest, 1200 Highway 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653 (601–384–5876 ex. 154).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff, Committee members, and elected officials. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. A public input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by July 6, 2007, will have the opportunity to address the committee at that session. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Tim Reed, DFO, Homochitto National Forest, 1200 Highway 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653.

Dated: June 14, 2007.

Timothy O. Reed,

Designated Federal Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Public Review.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development and/or Agency, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) for the construction of two new combustion turbine electric generating units (CTs) at its existing J.K. Smith Electric Generating Station in southern Clark County, Kentucky. The proposed new units would utilize natural gas as a fuel source and would each have a net electrical output of between 82 and 98 megawatts. The proposed new units are needed to provide additional electric generating capacity that would allow EKPC to meet its projected electrical peaking demand in the 2009–2011 period. EKPC is also proposing to construct two new electric switching stations, one at its existing J.K. Smith Generating Station and one in western Garrard County, Kentucky; and a 36 mile, 345 kilovolt electric transmission line that would extend through Clark, Madison, and Garrard Counties, Kentucky, between the proposed new switching stations. The proposed new transmission facilities are needed to provide an outlet for the additional electric power that would be generated at the J.K. Smith Station as a result of the installation of the proposed new CTs. EKPC is requesting USDA Rural Development to provide financial assistance for the proposed project.

DATES: Written comments on this Notice must be received on or before July 26, 2007.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, phone (202) 720–0468 (e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). A copy of the EA may be viewed online at the Agency's Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and at EKPC's headquarters office

located at 4775 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391, or the following:

Julie Maruskin, Director, Clark County Library, 370 South Burns Avenue, Winchester, Kentucky 40391, (859) 744–5661.

Sue Hays, Director, Madison County Library, 507 West Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky 40475, (859) 623–6704.

Joan Tussey, Director, Garrard County Public Library, 101 Lexington Street, Lancaster, Kentucky 40444, (859) 792–3424.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Originally five CT units were considered in the EA. Due to the cancellation of Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation's (Warren) wholesale power contract with EKPC, the need for the additional peaking power has been partially delayed. Three of the originally proposed units have been removed from consideration in the EA, and removed from the current application for RUS financing, as the need for the units is not projected to occur until between 2012 and 2014. Therefore, the federal action limited to this proposal is the two CT Units 9 & 10. The Smith to West Garrard 345 kV transmission line will be combined with the Smith CT Units 9 & 10 in the EA. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide additional electric generating capacity to allow EKPC to meet projected peaking demand in the 2009–2011 period and to construct necessary transmission facilities to allow EKPC to deliver the additional electric power required during that period plus additional planned generation.

The proposed CTs would be either model 7EA or model LMS100, both manufactured by GE Energy. Each 7EA would have a net electrical output of 82.2 MW at 59°F. Each LMS100 would have a net electrical output of 97.8 MW at 30°F. The CTs would be operated on natural gas as a fuel source approximately 2,000 hours per year. Very short electric transmission connections consisting of approximately one span of overhead line would be constructed on-site to connect each of the proposed new CT units to the existing electric switching station servicing existing CT units currently located at the site.

The proposed Smith to West Garrard Electric Transmission Line would be designed for 345 kilovolt (kV) operation and would be approximately 36 miles in length, involving roughly 12 miles of transmission line rebuild, 15 miles of co-location, and nine miles of new build. The new transmission line would