

taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Michael A. Gillespie,

Snow Survey Supervisor, Acting State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 00-30061 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Funds and Section 521 Rental Assistance for Needs Resulting From Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd, and Irene; Extension of Application Deadline

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of application deadline.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) extends the deadline for submitting applications for section 515 funds and section 521 rental assistance for needs resulting from hurricanes Dennis, Floyd, and Irene announced in a notice of funding availability (NOFA) published August 18, 2000 (65 FR 50497). This action is taken to provide additional information on the source and type of funds that RHS considers leveraged assistance and to give applicants the opportunity to adjust their applications based on this information. Finally, this extension will allow eligible entities additional time to submit applications.

DATES: Accordingly, the deadline for submitting applications under the notice published August 18, 2000 (65 FR 50497), is extended to 5:00 p.m. local time for each Rural Development State office on December 11, 2000. The application deadline is firm as to date and hour. Applicants intending to mail applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX) and postage due applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, applicants may contact Linda Armour, Senior Loan Officer, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing

Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250, telephone (202) 720-1753 (voice) (this is not a toll free number) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD-Federal Information Relay Service).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Discussion of Extension of Application Deadline

RHS published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on August 18, 2000 (65 FR 50497), with an application deadline of October 17, 2000. Upon reviewing applications received, RHS determined that the NOFA was ambiguous regarding the source and type of funds that RHS considers leveraged assistance. From the applications received, RHS determined that applicants interpreted this ambiguity in different ways.

Therefore, to clarify this issue, applicants are hereby advised that leveraged assistance includes loans and grants from other sources, contributions from the applicant above the required contribution indicated by the Sources and Uses Comprehensive Evaluation (available from the Rural Development State Office) and tax abatements or other savings in operating costs provided that, at the end of the abatement period when the benefit is no longer available, the basic rents are comparable to or lower than the basic rents if RHS provided full financing. The required applicant contribution is not considered leveraged assistance.

RHS has also determined that some, but not all, applicants received a copy of the worksheet used by RHS to calculate the point score for leveraged assistance. To ensure that all applicants are treated fairly, applicants who submitted an application under the notice published August 18, 2000 will be provided with a copy of this Notice and the worksheet used by RHS to calculate leveraged assistance. Applicants who wish to adjust their application based on this additional information must re-submit their application by the extension deadline published in this Notice. Finally, this extension will allow eligible entities additional time to submit applications. Such entities may contact the Rural Development State office to obtain a copy of the worksheet used by RHS to calculate leveraged assistance.

Dated: November 17, 2000.

James C. Kearney,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 00-30233 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation; Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), has accepted the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC) as its Environmental Assessment. RUS may provide financial assistance to Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) for the construction of a 153-megawatt (MW) combustion turbine electric generating station in southwest Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468. The E-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AECC subsequent to receipt of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the APSC initiated construction of the project at a 159 acre site east of Fulton, Arkansas. Fulton is located in Hempstead County. The CCN (Order No. 7) for the generating station was issued on November 18, 1999. The CCN (Order No. 3) for the transmission line was issued on May 9, 2000.

The project, when completed, will initially consist of a single 153 MW gas-fired, simple-cycle combustion turbine generating unit. Other on-site facilities include a 90-foot exhaust stack, step-up and auxiliary transformers, motor control centers, bus ductwork, an electric substation, and control, maintenance, and operations buildings. The project also includes 4 miles of 115 kV transmission line that will tie the station to the existing transmission grid. The transmission line will be built to 161 kV specifications in anticipation that additional transmission line capacity may be needed in the future.

The facility is designed to accommodate conversion of the unit to combined cycle operation, but will be initially operated as a simple cycle unit. The site has been sized to accommodate additional simple or combined cycle units. However, the environmental assessment announced herein will cover only the initial 153 MW simple cycle unit and related electric transmission

line. Only those facilities are being considered for RUS financial assistance.

The only alternative to providing financial assistance to AECC for the construction of the subject project being considered by RUS would be to take no action, therefore, not provide financial assistance.

An EIS for the proposed generating station was submitted by AECC to the APSC on July 1, 1999. Information on the proposed transmission line was submitted to the APSC on February 15, 2000. RUS has independently evaluated the information contained in both submittals to the APSC and believes that it accurately assesses the environmental impacts of the project. In accordance with the provisions of §§ 1794.53 and 1794.74 of RUS' Environmental Policies and Procedures, the information referenced above will serve as RUS' environmental assessment for this project.

The environmental assessment can be reviewed at the AECC headquarters located at 8000 Scott Hamilton Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas (501-570-2462). This document will also be available for public inspection at the Hempstead County Library, 500 South Elm Street, Hope, Arkansas (870-777-4564). It can also be reviewed at the headquarters of RUS at the address provided previously.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on its proposed action for at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

RUS will take no final action related to the project until after notification of that action is published in the **Federal Register** and in the same newspapers that this notice is being published.

Dated: November 16, 2000.

Lawrence R. Wolfe,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-30098 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Georgia Transmission Corporation, Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an environmental assessment with respect to the potential

environmental impacts related to the construction of approximately 7 miles of 230 kilovolt transmission line in Cobb County, Georgia. RUS may provide financing assistance to Georgia Transmission Corporation for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-0468. Bob's e-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Susan Ingall of Georgia Transmission Corporation at (770) 270-7425. Susan's e-mail address is susan.ingall@gatrans.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Georgia Transmission Corporation proposes to construct the 230 kilovolt transmission line between the existing South Acworth Substation and the existing Hawkins Store Road Substation. The transmission line will be 7.1 miles long and will be located near Acworth and Kennesaw, Georgia, in northern Cobb County.

The proposed transmission line will require a 25 to 35-foot wide corridor adjacent to existing rights-of-way such as roads and railroads. Where the transmission line will not adjacent to an existing right-of-way a 100-foot wide corridor will be necessary. The transmission line will be suspended via concrete or steel single-pole structures which will support three conductors and an overhead ground wire. The support structures will average 75 to 80 feet in height and will be spaced approximately 500 to 600 feet apart.

Georgia Transmission Corporation prepared an environmental analysis for RUS which describes the project and assesses its environmental impacts. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental analysis and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. This environmental analysis will serve as RUS' environmental assessment of the project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

The environmental assessment can be reviewed at the Georgia Transmission Corporation headquarters located at 2100 East Exchange Place, Tucker, GA. This document will also be available at the Cobb County Law Library, 10 East Park Square, Marietta, Georgia 30090, telephone (770) 528-1884. It can also be reviewed at the headquarters of RUS at the address provided above.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by the 7 CFR Part 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: November 21, 2000.

Lawrence R. Wolfe,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-30097 Filed 11-24-00; 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 prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the RUS' Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment for possibly granting financial assistance to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (Old Dominion) to construct a 510 megawatt, natural gas-fired combustion turbine electric generation plant in Cecil County, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, at (202) 720-0468. Bob's E-mail address is: bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Old Dominion proposes to construct the natural gas-fired electric generation plant in the community of Rock Springs, located in northwestern Cecil County, Maryland. The proposed plant site is at the intersection of Old Mill Road and U.S. Route 222.

The Old Dominion ownership portion of the project will consist of three natural gas-fired combustion turbine generation units with an output of 170 megawatts each. The entire plant layout will be designed and permitted to