

# Notices

## Federal Register

Vol. 60, No. 110

Thursday, June 8, 1995

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

#### Rural Utilities Service

##### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement To Evaluate Aquifer Appropriations at the Burr Well Field and To Fund the Design and Construction of the Northeast Phase of the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), USDA announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and Agency regulations 7 CFR 1940-G. The primary scope of the EIS is to evaluate water appropriations from a hydrological subunit of the Prairie Coteau Aquifer at the Burr Well Field for the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System (LPRWS) in southwestern Minnesota and its potential affects on surface water bodies and wetlands in the area and to evaluate the environmental impacts of an expansion phase of LPRWS—the Northeast Phase. With this notice, RUS invites any affected Federal, State, and local Agencies and other interested persons to comment on the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the EIS will be accepted 30 days after the public scoping meetings are held.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Mark S. Plank, USDA, Rural Economic and Community Development Services, Rural Utilities Service, Program Support Staff, AG Box 0761, Washington, DC

20250, telephone (202) 720-1640 or Fax (202) 690-4335.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John J. Melbo, USDA, Rural Economic and Community Development Services, 410 AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, telephone (612) 290-3842 or Mark S. Plank, USDA, Rural Economic and Community Development Services, Rural Utilities Service, Program Support Staff, AG Box 0761, Room 6309, Washington, DC 20250-0761, telephone (202) 720-1640.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** From a historic perspective, water in adequate quantity and quality has been difficult to obtain in southwest Minnesota. Periodic drought conditions often deplete already marginal supplies. Shallow farm wells in the area have been affected by drought and pollution from agricultural run-off that has resulted in nitrate and pesticide contamination. Deeper wells in the area are costly to construct and usually yield highly mineralized water with high levels of iron, manganese, and sulfates. In an attempt to resolve water supply difficulties, the LPRWS, headquartered in Lake Benton, Minnesota, was organized as a Minnesota municipality for the sole purpose of delivering and supplying high quality water supplies to rural users and various municipalities. LPRWS is governed by a board of commissioners who are appointed by the District Court. Water supply costs are borne by LPRWS customers and through various federal grants.

LPRWS currently provides water service to 1,700 rural customers and seventeen cities in southwest Minnesota. LPRWS has constructed its water system in various phases and has utilized several well fields to provide water for the different phases. The current phase, in which concerns have been raised, is the *Existing System North/Lyon County Expansion* project. The well field designed to supply water for this phase and future service areas in the Burr Well Field. The Burr Well Field is utilizing a subunit of the Prairie Coteau aquifer. The Prairie Coteau aquifer is collectively defined as numerous lenticular bodies of glacial outwash buried beneath a surficial layer of glacial till and within a thick layer of glacial drift.

RUS, and its predecessor agencies, has provided a series of loans and grants

to fund infrastructure development for the LPRWS. As required by NEPA, RUS has prepared a series of Environmental Assessments (EA) for the various phases. The previous EA conducted for the Existing North/Lyon County Expansion phase was completed in 1992 with an issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on February 17, 1992. During the construction phase of the water treatment plant at the Burr Well Field concerns were raised by local citizens and state regulatory bodies concerning potential impacts to surface water bodies and wetland areas from groundwater appropriations at the Burr Well Field. To respond to these concerns RUS decided to amend the earlier EA and re-examine the issues raised by concerned parties. Upon completion of the EA amendment, RUS concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement was necessary to fully evaluate the technical issues raised by the concerned parties.

The primary unresolved concern includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of water from the Prairie Coteau aquifer at the Burr Well Field site. As mentioned above, the Burr Well Field is utilizing a subunit of the Prairie Coteau aquifer. This subunit appears to be one of the aforementioned lenticular bodies of outwash within a larger deposit of glacial drift and is under artesian conditions within its areal extent and at the well head site. The artesian nature of the outwash body is the source of the concern. It is hypothesized that due to localized artesian conditions, numerous surface water bodies and wetland areas receive, through a hydraulic connection, an undetermined quantity of water as recharge and that the recharge sustains water levels in these areas. Since the Burr Well Field is utilizing this aquifer, it is alleged that sustained appropriation of water at the well head may adversely reduce recharge to area wetlands and lakes, thus altering water budgets for these resources. The EIS will attempt to evaluate these concerns, as well as, evaluate environmental impacts from the construction of the Northeast Phase.

Two public meetings will be held in the project area to receive oral and written comments. One meeting will be held in Minnesota and the other one in South Dakota. Detail about these meetings will be announced later in area newspapers. Oral comments received at

this meeting will be accorded the same weight as written comments. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will participate in the EIS process as a cooperating agency.

After the scoping process and the initial environmental analysis are completed RUS will issue a Draft EIS. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be published in the **Federal Register** and area newspapers, and public comments will again be solicited. Those persons who choose not to comment on the scope of the document at this time but desire a copy of the Draft EIS should send their names and addresses to Mark S. Plank at the address listed above. RUS anticipates releasing a final EIS in about 16–18 months.

Dated: June 1, 1995.

**Adam M. Golodner,**  
Acting Administrator, *Rural Utilities Service*.  
[FR Doc. 95-14003 Filed 6-7-95; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

**Environmental Impact Statement: Water Supply Development for the Catoosa Utility District and Upper Cumberland Plateau Region of East Tennessee**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.  
**ACTION:** Notice of intent clarification.

**SUMMARY:** This notice clarifies the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Notice of Intent (NOI) that was published on February 8, 1995, at 60 FR 7623–7624. In that notice, TVA announced that it and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) would be cooperating in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on a water supply development proposal for the Catoosa Utility District (CUD) and Upper Cumberland Plateau Region of East Tennessee. One clarification is that the NOI issued by TVA was published on behalf of RUS, the lead agency. Also in today's notice, the agencies clarify their roles in the preparation of the EIS and its focus.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Dale V. Wilhelm, NEPA Liaison, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Drive, WT 8B, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, phone (615) 632–7182.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Jack L. Davis, Manager, Water Resource Projects, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, phone (615) 632–7183 or Tom Mayberry, USDA, Rural Economic and Community

Development, 3322 West End Ave., Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203, phone (615) 783–1345.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** RUS has been asked by the CUD to provide financial assistance for a proposed water supply dam and impoundment on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Obed River. The CUD is considering the construction of a 100-acre water supply impoundment, a 1.5 million gallons per day treatment plant, and transmission lines that feed into existing water distribution systems. Subsequent to this request, RUS decided to prepare an EIS on the proposed action. Pursuant to RUS's status as lead agency for this action, RUS requested TVA participate in the preparation of the EIS as a cooperating agency. TVA's status as a cooperating agency is defined by two factors: TVA's regulatory status in reviewing and approving impoundment structures in the Tennessee River and its tributaries under Section 26a of the TVA Act; and TVA's specialized expertise in evaluating community and regional water supply needs, developing appropriate responses to defined needs, and the design and construction of dams and impoundments. RUS, as consistent with its lead agency status, shall supervise the preparation of the EIS.

The primary focus of the EIS will be to analyze design and engineering alternatives for achieving the goal of providing a reliable source of water to people utilizing CUD's services. A secondary focus of the EIS, as required by NEPA, is to consider and evaluate reasonable alternative water supply scenarios which, in this case, includes those supply options from a more regional perspective. The necessity to evaluate a more regional water supply perspective is prompted by numerous communities on the Upper Cumberland Plateau Region of eastern Tennessee who have expressed an interest to RUS for consideration of future financial assistance in developing reliable water sources for their citizens. This EIS will assist RUS in determining the economic feasibilities and environmental impacts of a range of water supply options. Alternatives that may be considered for both the primary and secondary forces of the EIS include: Construction of a water impoundment structure on Clear Creek or other water courses; installation of a water pipeline from Watts Bar, Center Hill, or Dale Hollow Reservoirs; and regional water supply options.

TVA and RUS, also, issued a notice on March 27, 1995, at 60 FR 15810, that announced an extension of the public scoping period until June 5, 1995. The

agencies will continue to accept written comments on the scope of the EIS through that date. In addition, the comments provided at the April 4, 1995, public scoping meeting will continue to be considered.

Dated: June 1, 1995.

**Adam M. Golodner,**  
Acting Administrator *Rural Utilities Service*.  
[FR Doc. 95-14004 Filed 6-7-95; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

**Forms Under Review by Office of Management and Budget**

June 2, 1995.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted to OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) since the last list was published. This list is grouped into new proposals, revisions, extension, or reinstatements. Each entry contains the following information:

(1) Agency proposing the information collection; (2) Title of the information collection; (3) Form number(s), if applicable; (4) Who will be required or asked to report; (5) An estimate of the number of responses; (6) An estimate of the total number of hours needed to provide the information; (7) Name and telephone number of the agency contact person.

Questions about the items in the listing should be directed to the agency person named at the end of each entry. Copies of the proposed forms and supporting documents may be obtained from: Department Clearance Officer, USDA, OIRM, Room 404-W Admin. Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20250, (202) 690-2118.

**Extension**

- Consolidated Farm Service Agency  
7 CFR 1435 Price Support Loan Program for Sugar Beets and Sugarcane  
SU-2, SU-3, SU-4, SU-5, SU-6 and  
CCC-278  
Business or other for-profit; 330  
responses; 841 hours  
Dave Wolf, (202) 720-4704
- Rural Economic & Community Development  
7 CFR 1944-D, Farm Labor Housing and Grant Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations  
Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; State, Local or Tribal Government; 770  
responses; 8,762 hours  
Jack Holston, (202) 720-9736
- Forest Service  
Recreation Fee Permit Envelope  
FS-2300-26, 26A