

134c, 134d, 134f, 135, 136, and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(d). Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of August 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-21559 Filed 8-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Foreign Agricultural Service

Solicitation of Proposals

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds for research grants.

SUMMARY: FAS announces the availability of funds in Fiscal Year 1997 to conduct collaborative research of mutual interest to the United States and Egypt. The Research and Scientific Exchanges Division of FAS is administering a Food Crops Collaborative Research Grants Program, which is managed by the Egyptian Agricultural Technology Utilization and Transfer Project. The program is aimed at resolving the major constraints to increasing the productivity of four major food crops: wheat, maize, rice and faba beans. The following are the most important constraints confronting each crop: 1. Wheat—Development of early, high yielding varieties. Problems include yellow stripe rust, heat stress, salinity and drought stress as well as aphids. 2. Maize—Development of earlier, higher yielding hybrids. Problems include stalk borers, late wilt, downy mildew, salinity and drought stress, maize borers and aphids. 3. Rice—Development of early, high yielding varieties. Problems include salinity and drought stress, blast, stem borer, brown spot disease and weeds. 4. Faba beans—Development of early maturing, high yielding varieties. Problems include the parasitic weed *Orbanche*, necrotic virus, chocolate spot, salinity and drought stress.

Note: Proposals related to On-Farm Water Management in areas such as water requirements, water management and irrigation systems for the four crops listed above will also be accepted now.

Collaborative research projects must involve active collaboration between participating Egyptian and American scientists. Proposals are accepted from U.S. university and USDA scientists as well as from non-profit organizations. Trilateral collaboration including the participation of International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) is encouraged as well. The budget limit for

each project is \$300,000 regardless of the number of participating institutions, and the research duration cannot exceed four years. USDA expects to fund 15-20 proposals under this project.

DATES: Proposals must be received at the below-noted address no later than November 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For a complete package of information concerning these research grants, please contact Ms. Nancy J. Croft, Contracting Officer, USDA/FSA/MSD, Stop 0568, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250, (202) 690-1722, FAX: (202) 690-1626.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Food Crops Collaborative Research Grants Program is authorized by Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3291).

Dated: August 9, 1996.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 96-21555 Filed 8-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

Rural Utilities Service

Alabama Electric Cooperative; 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) with respect to its action related to the construction of two, 113 megawatt (MW) combustion turbines and associated facilities by Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC). The FONSI is the conclusion of an Environmental Assessment prepared by RUS. The Environmental Assessment is based on an environmental analysis submitted to RUS by AEC. RUS conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental analysis and concurs with its scope and content.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lawrence R. Wolfe, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, South Agriculture Building, Ag Box 1571, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed new combustion turbines would be installed at AEC's existing McIntosh Power Plant located on the west side of Highway 43 at mile marker 41 in McIntosh, Alabama.

The McIntosh Combustion Turbine Project consists of the installation of two Siemens v84.2 combustion turbine generators to be located adjacent to AEC's existing McIntosh Power Plant Unit 1 (compressed air energy storage generating unit). The new units will be located south of the existing unit 1 in the area formerly reserved for a second compressed air energy storage unit which AEC has determined to not be cost-effective. The proposed two new units will be referred as McIntosh Power Plant Units 2 and 3. Each of the units will have a normal maximum output rating of 109 MWs at 950° Fahrenheit. The units will be capable of burning either natural gas or fuel oil and have a maximum rating of approximately 113 MWs during peak firing mode. As part of the project, a new 1 million gallon fuel oil storage tank and a 1.8 million gallon demineralized water tank will be constructed at the western corners of Unit 1. There will also be modifications to the existing transmission substation on site to link the electric power output of the new units to the existing transmission line. The existing gas transmission system in the area has adequate capacity to serve Units 2 and 3. The existing 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines have adequate capacity to feed the power output of the new units to AEC's transmission grid. A 1.5-mile natural gas pipeline will be constructed within an existing pipeline to intertie with Bay Gas Storage's 20-inch market line.

Alternatives to be considered by RUS and Alabama Electric Cooperative to Alabama Electric Cooperative constructing the generation facility proposed include: (a) no action, (b) purchase of peaking capacity from independent power producers, co-generators, and other electric utilities, and (c) constructing the proposed generation facilities at alternative site locations.

Copies of the environmental assessment and FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Mike Noel, Alabama Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 550, Andalusia, Alabama, telephone (334) 222-2571. Interested parties wishing to comment on the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment should do so within 30 days of the publication of this notice. RUS will take no action that would approve clearing or construction activities related to these new combustion turbine units prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.