

*Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) and Allotments*

As provided for in Section 3(o) of the Act, the TFP is a plan for the consumption of foods of different types (food groups) that a household might use to provide nutritious meals and snacks for household members. The plan reflects a diet required to feed a family of four persons consisting of a man and woman aged 20 to 50, a child 6 to 8 and a child 9 to 11. The cost of the TFP is adjusted monthly to reflect changes in the costs of the food groups.

The TFP is also the basis for establishing food stamp allotments. "Allotment" is defined in Section 3(a) of the Act as "the total value of coupons a household is authorized to receive during each month." Food stamp allotments are adjusted periodically to reflect the changes in food cost levels indicated in the changing amounts of the TFP. Prior to the amendment of Section 3(o) of the Act by Section 804 of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, allotment amounts were established on each October 1 at 103% of the cost of the TFP in the previous June. Amended Section 3(o)(4) of the Act now provides that the TFP will be adjusted each October 1 to reflect the exact cost, or 100%, of the TFP for the previous June, rounding the results to the nearest lower dollar increment for each household size, except that on October 1, 1996, the TFP was not to have been reduced below the amounts in effect on September 30, 1996.

To obtain the maximum food stamp allotment for each household size for the period October 1, 1999, to September 30, 2000, June 1999 TFP costs for the above described four-person household were divided by four, multiplied by the appropriate household size and economy of scale factor, in accordance with Section 3(o)(1) of the Act, and the final result was rounded down to the nearest dollar. The maximum benefit, or allotment, is paid to households with no net income. For a household with income, the household's allotment is determined by reducing the maximum allotment for the household's size by 30 percent of the individual household's net income in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. 2017(a). The following table shows the current allotments for the 48 States and the District of Columbia.

**MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS**  
[October 1999—September 2000]

Household size	48 States and DC
1 .....	127
2 .....	234
3 .....	335
4 .....	426
5 .....	506
6 .....	607
7 .....	671
8 .....	767
Add on .....	96

Dated: February 16, 2000.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**  
*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Utilities Service**

**Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc;**  
**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 (EA) with respect to the potential environmental impacts related to the construction of a 115/24.9 kV electric distribution substation by Berkeley Electric Cooperative. RUS may provide financing assistance for the project.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Quigel, RUS, 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 Tom Meyers, Vice President of Engineering, at Berkeley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1234, Monks Corner, South Carolina, 29461-1234, telephone (843) 761-8200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project consists of the construction of a 115/24.9 kV electric distribution substation located in Dorchester County, South Carolina, on the southern side of Ridge Road approximately 1000 feet east of the intersection of Parkers Ferry Road

and Ridge Road. The fenced area for the substation will be approximately 7.5 acres. The fence surrounding the substation will be 7 feet high and topped with 3 strands of barbed wire. A short gravel road will be constructed from Ridge Road to the substation site. Approximately 500 feet of overhead 115 kV transmission line will connect the substation to an existing transmission line south of Parkers Ferry Road. Three underground distribution feeder lines will connect the substation to Berkeley Electric Cooperative's electric distribution system.

Berkeley Electric Cooperative submitted to RUS an environmental report which describes the project further and considers its potential environmental impacts. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental report and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No adverse impacts are expected with the construction of the project. RUS has accepted the document as its Environmental Assessment and is making it available for public review.

The EA can be reviewed at Berkeley Electric Cooperative's Headquarters Office at 414 North Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461 and their Johns Island District Office located at 3351 Maybank Highway, Johns Island, South Carolina 29455.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS should receive comments on the EA in writing within 30 days of the publication date of this notice to ensure that the comments are taken into consideration prior to RUS making its environmental determination.

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 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

**Glendon D. Deal,**  
*Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.*  
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