

Mayes, Murray, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Seminole, Sequoyah, Stephens, Tillman, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington, Washita, Woods, and Woodward Counties.

2. Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons, including Detroit, Keokuk, Michigan, Champaign, Eastern Iowa, and Enid, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

DESIGNATION TERMS

Detroit, Keokuk, Michigan.	05/01/2001 to 03/31/2004.
Champaign, Eastern Iowa, Champaign.	06/01/2001 to 03/31/2004.

3. Request for Comments

GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the Detroit, Keokuk, Michigan, Champaign, Eastern Iowa, and Enid official agencies. Commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the official agencies named, including information on the timeliness, cost, quality, and scope of services provided. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address.

Applications, comments, and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: August 21, 2000.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Dairyland Power Cooperative, 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 publishing an environmental assessment (EA) for a project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) of La Crosse, Wisconsin. The project consists of constructing a natural gas-fired simple cycle, combustion turbine power generation facility in Wheaton Township in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Total electrical output from the facility is expected to range from 71 megawatts (MW) to 98 MW depending upon operating conditions. RUS proposes to provide financial assistance to DPC for this project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1414; e-mail: nislam@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from George L. Johnston, Senior Environmental Biologist, DPC, 3200 East Avenue South, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, telephone (608) 787-1322, FAX: (608) 787-1241. His e-mail address is: glj@dairynet.com. RUS seeks written comments on the DPC proposal. Written comments should be submitted to RUS within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DPC proposes to construct the facility at a site in Wheaton Township in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. The preferred site is located adjacent to their Elk Mound Substation, which is located north of Highway 29. The primary purpose of the facility is to meet DPC peak electrical load during hot summer weather. Under those conditions the facility's expected output is about 71 MW of power. The proposed project will consist of two simple cycle combustion turbines. Each turbine will have a maximum rating of 35.5 Mw. The generation unit consists of turbines similar to those found in commercial airline engines. The primary fuel will be natural gas and distillate oil will serve as the back up fuel for the plant. A 2.2 miles long new high-pressure gas line from the proposed generating station north to an existing gas line will provide gas supply. The total water usage will be approximately 3 million gallons per year. The generating power station will require approximately 5 acres of land. The substation facilities will also require some upgrading.

The EA is available for public review at the RUS or the headquarters of DPC

at the addresses provided in this notice and at the following locations:

- Chippewa Falls Public Library, 105 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

- I. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided in this notice. RUS will accept questions and comments on the EA for 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: August 28, 2000.

Lawrence R. Wolfe,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-22394 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.; 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 the potential environmental impacts related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State), of Westminster, Colorado, is proposing to construct the project. The transmission line will extend from Walsenburg, Colorado, to an area near Gladstone, New Mexico. RUS will provide financing assistance for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis E. Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: drankin@rus.usda.gov; or Karl Myers, Tri-State, P.O. Box 33695, Denver, Colorado 80233, telephone: (303) 452-6111 or e-mail: kmyers@tristategt.org.