

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.

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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.

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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