

the Forest is in the process of developing alternative land management scenarios that could change the desired future conditions and management direction for the Forest. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be published in the near future that will disclose the consequences of the different land management direction scenarios considered in detail. As a result of the Forest Plan revision effort, the Forest has new and additional information beyond that used to develop the existing Forest Plans. This information will be used where appropriate in the analysis of this project to disclose the effects of the proposed activities and any alternatives developed in detail.

The decisions associated with the analysis of this project will be consistent with the existing Forest Plan, unless amended, for the Chequamegon. Under regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.1), the Forest Service can take actions while work on a Forest Plan is in progress because a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement—the existing Forest Plan Final EIS—already covers the actions. The relationship of the project to the proposed Forest Plan revision will be considered as appropriate as part of this planning effort.

Estimated Dates for Filing—The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in January, 2002. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. Comments received on the draft EIS will be used in preparation of a final EIS, expected in May 2002. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued at that time along with the publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS and ROD in the **Federal Register**.

The Reviewer's Obligation to Comment—The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 513 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS state but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986), and *Wisconsin*

Heritages Ubc, v. Harris. 490 F Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis., 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the 45-day comment period of the draft EIS in order that substantive comments and objections are available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: April 18, 2001.

Lynn Roberts,

Forest Supervisor, Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Oglethorpe Power Corporation; Notice of 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 with respect to the construction and operation of a 520-megawatt, natural gas fired, combined cycle electric generation plant in Heard County, Georgia. Oglethorpe Power Corporation proposes to be the agent to construct and operate the plant. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) may provide financing for the plant to an entity made up of members of Oglethorpe Power Corporation. The specifics of that entity have yet to be determined.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468, e-mail at bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Oglethorpe Power Corporation proposes to construct the proposed facility at the Hal B. Wansley Plant site in northeast Heard County approximately six miles southeast of Ropville, Georgia. The

Wansley Plant is owned by Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, the Municipal Electricity Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton. Currently in operation at the site are two 865-megawatt, coal fired, electric generation units and a 49-megawatt, oil fired, combustion turbine. Oglethorpe Power Corporation's proposed plant is one of four blocks of additional electric generation facilities planned for construction at the site. Each block of additional generation is proposed to consist of two combustion turbines, two heat recovery steam generators, and one steam turbine. The total build-out of the four blocks would total approximately 2,280 megawatts.

The proposed project will be composed of two, nominal 167 megawatt Siemens V84.3A2 combustion turbines, each connected to a heat recovery steam generator which will power a nominal 187 megawatt Siemens steam turbine, for a total of 520 megawatts. It is the goal of Oglethorpe Power Corporation to have the plant in operation by the spring of 2003.

Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact are available from RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Greg Jones of Oglethorpe Power Corporation, P.O. Box 1349, Tucker, Georgia 30085-1349, (800) 241-5374 x7890; greg.jones@opc.com. Copies of the environmental assessment are available for review at Oglethorpe Power Corporation and RUS at the addresses provided herein.

Dated: April 18, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

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ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, DC on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 7-10, 2001, at the times and location noted below.

DATES: The schedule of events is as follows: