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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) will meet on November 1, 2001, at the Embassy Suites, 319 SW. Pine Street, Portland, Oregon 97204, in the Gevertz Ceremonial Room on the Mezzanine Level. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. The present agenda, which is subject to change, calls for discussion of the following items, among others: Implementation Monitoring; thinning dense, young tree stands in Late-Successional Reserves to achieve ecological objectives; the process for Regional Interagency Executive Committee/Regional Ecosystem Office review of modifications to NFP Standards & Guidelines or Land Allocations; and the 2001 Survey & Manage Annual Species Review. The meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request no less than 2 weeks in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Steve Odell, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone: 503-808-2166).

Dated: October 3, 2001.

Stephen J. Odell,

Designated Federal Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794), has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a wind energy project proposed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) of Bismarck, North Dakota, and East River Electric Power Cooperative (East River) of Madison, South Dakota. The wind facility will be constructed in Brule County, South Dakota and will consist up to three 1.3 MW wind turbine generators. Power produced by the facility will be transmitted via underground line to the existing Hilltop Substation owned by the East River Electric. RUS may provide financial assistance to Basin Electric for this project.

RUS has concluded that the impacts of the proposed project would not be significant and the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

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 Mr. James A. Berg, Water Quality/Waste Management Coordinator, Basin Electric Power

Cooperative, 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, telephone (701) 223-0441. His e-mail address is: jberg@becpc.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS, in accordance with its environmental policies and procedures, required that Basin Electric prepare an Environmental Analysis reflecting the potential impacts of the proposed facilities. The Environmental Analysis, which includes input from federal, state, and local agencies, has been reviewed and accepted as RUS' Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with 7 CFR 1794.41. The proposed project will consist of constructing up to three 1.3 MW wind turbine generators. All three turbines would be located on a 160-acre quarter section of land that has been designated to build the facility. Electric power produced from the turbine will be delivered to the existing Hilltop Substation of East River Electric via 12.47 kV underground feeder. The underground feeder line from the turbine site to the East River Hilltop Substation would be approximately 2.25 miles.

The total amount of farmland that would be converted to non-agricultural use would be about 1.56 acres including access roads. The nearest airport, the Chamberlain Airport, is located approximately five miles south of Site B (preferred site). The Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the proposed facility will not pose any hazards to air navigation. The South Dakota Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Commission, has issued a permit to build three wind turbines. Therefore, the construction of the proposed project is not in conflict with any other intended land uses in the area. There are no floodplains or wetlands in the vicinity of the project location; therefore, no impact is anticipated. The bald eagle, a threatened species, and the whooping crane, an endangered species may inhabit or migrate through the project area. No construction shall occur within 0.25 mile of any known active bald eagle nests. The whooping crane is considered to be primarily a migrant through the area, and is not anticipated to be affected by the proposed project. East River Electric will follow the mitigation measures proposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore,