

local newspapers, including the Daily Interlake based in Kalispell, Montana.

Dated: May 23, 2006.

John Carlson,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-4912 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: "Above Ground, Multi-Outlet Pipeline (Code 431)," "Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441)," "Pond Sealing or Lining—Flexible Membrane (Code 521A)," "Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land (Code 543)," "Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Code 544)," and "Watering Facility (Code 614)." NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guides (eFOTG). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Effective Dates: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication. Final versions of these new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period, following consideration of all comments. Comments should be submitted to Daniel Meyer, National Agricultural Engineer, at Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, or via e-mail at Daniel.Meyer@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of these standards can be downloaded or printed from the

following Web site: [ftp://ftp-*fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/federal-register/*](ftp://ftp-<i>fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/federal-register/). Single copies of these standards are also available from NRCS' National Headquarters. Submit individual inquiries in writing to Daniel Meyer, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, or electronically at Daniel.Meyer@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 30 days, NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of changes will be made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 17, 2006.

Bruce I. Knight,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment for public review.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service, an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs (USDA Rural Development) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) for the construction of approximately 19 miles of double circuit 345/138 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and two 345 kV electric transmission substations. The proposed transmission line and substation projects would be located in Clark County, Kentucky. EKPC is requesting USDA Rural Development to provide financial assistance for the proposed project.

DATES: Written comments on this Notice must be received on or before June 29, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The Environmental Assessment will be available for public review at the Agency's address provided in this notice, at the Agency's Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, at EKPC's headquarters office located at 4775 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391; and at the Clark County Library, 370 South Burns Avenue, Winchester, KY 40391.

Written comments should be sent to: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, Telephone: (202) 720-0468. Ms. Strength's e-mail address is stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project area is located in northeastern, central, and southeastern Clark County, Kentucky. The proposed route for the new electric transmission line extends westerly on new and existing electric utility line rights-of-way (ROWs) from a proposed new substation site located at EKPC's existing J.K. Smith Electric Generating Station, east of the unincorporated community of Bloomingdale in southeastern Clark County. Just east of Muddy Creek Road the proposed route turns northerly following new and mostly existing utility line ROWs to a proposed new substation site located in northeastern Clark County near the Bourbon County/Clark County/Montgomery County Line, and north of Donaldson Road. The electrical conductors for the proposed new transmission line would be supported by Corten steel, two and three pole structures with an average height of 100 feet aboveground. The proposed new line would require a right-of-way (ROW) width of 150 feet. Construction of a portion of the new line would involve rebuilding 16.56 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line on an existing 100-foot wide ROW. The existing line would be dismantled and replaced by the proposed new transmission line. An additional 50 feet in width would be added to the existing ROW to accommodate the proposed new line.