

public comments, and a field trip to see projects already funded. If the meeting location changes, notice will be posted in local newspapers, including the Dillon Tribune and The Montana Standard.

Dated: August 21, 2006.

Bruce Ramsey,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 06-7148 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Settlement Pursuant to CERCLA; Gibson Mine Site, Gila County, AZ

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of settlement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given of an administrative settlement for recovery of response costs with The Franciscan Friars of California, Inc. (the Settling Party) concerning the Gibson Mine Site, Gila County, Arizona. The settlement requires the Settling Party to pay up to a total of \$11,000 in oversight costs to the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region, pursuant to section 122(h)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h)(1). The settlement includes a covenant not to sue the Settling Party pursuant to sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607(a), with regard to the Site.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the United States will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The United States will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. The United States response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the Globe Ranger District, 7680 South Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ, 85501, and at the offices of the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region, 333 Broadway, SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 25, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the

Globe Ranger District, 7680 South Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ 85501, and at the offices of the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region, 333 Broadway, SW., Albuquerque, NM 87102. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from Anne Fischer, Tonto National Forest at 602-225-5389, or from Thomas R. Fox, USDA Office of the General Counsel at (202) 720-6715. Comments should reference the Gibson Mine Site, Gila County, Arizona, and should be addressed to Thomas R. Fox, USDA Office of the General Counsel, Room 3351 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1412.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical information, contact Maria McGaha, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, 333 Broadway, SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102; phone (505) 842-3837. For legal information, contact Thomas R. Fox, USDA Office of the General Counsel, Room 3351 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1412; phone (202) 720-6715.

August 17, 2006.

Lucia M. Turner,

Deputy Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region.

[FR Doc. 06-7142 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Earth Resources, Inc.; Notice of Intent To Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs. RUS intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Earth Resources Inc. (ERI), with headquarters in Carnesville, Georgia.

The proposal consists of the construction of 20-megawatt power generating station utilizing chicken litter and woody biomass as fuel. The proposed generating station would be located in Franklin County, Georgia. No new transmission lines are proposed in connection with the proposed

generating station. ERI is requesting RUS provide financing for the proposal.

DATES: RUS will conduct one scoping meeting in an open house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties. The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., September 11, 2006, in Carnesville, Georgia at the Franklin County Justice Center, 7085 Highway 145.

A Public Information Document, prepared by ERI, will be presented at the public scoping meeting. The Report will be available for public review at RUS' address provided in this notice, at RUS' Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, and at the following locations:

Franklin County Courthouse, 9592 Lavonia Road, Carnesville, GA 30521. Lavonia Carnegie Library, 28 Hartwell Road, Lavonia, GA.

Royston Public Library, 684 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, Georgia.

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. Mrs. Strength's e-mail address is stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Earth Resources Inc., proposes to construct a 20-megawatt power generating station utilizing chicken litter and woody biomass as fuel. The proposed generating station would be located in Franklin County, Georgia. No new transmission lines are proposed in connection with the proposed generating station. The proposed location is a 139-acre property that is partially cleared in Franklin County near State Route 198 and Interstate 85 (see map). It is anticipated that the facilities would be in service in 2007.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposal.

Representatives from RUS and Earth Resources Inc., will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss RUS' environmental review process, describe the project, the purpose and need for the proposal, and to discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept comments. Comments regarding the proposal may be submitted (orally or in writing) at the public scoping meeting or in writing for receipt no later than October 11, 2006, to RUS at the address provided in this notice.