purposes of the standard were updated to include drainage water as well as irrigation water. This standard applies to lands that have a properly designed and installed irrigation or subsurface drainage system where recoverable irrigation runoff, subsurface drainage outflows, or rainfall runoff are expected under current or planned management practices.

*Irrigation Canal or Lateral (Code 320):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. The Considerations section has a new paragraph that suggests ways the practice can be implemented that enhances the practice for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

*Irrigation Ditch Lining (Code 428):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Updated missing units, tabular values, and reworded the term flexible membrane to geosynthetic to meet current industry standards. Moved items related to energy use from the Criteria section to the Considerations section.

*Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. In addition, a sentence on spoil disposal was added in the Criteria section. The Considerations section was significantly re-written.

*Irrigation Reservoir (Code 436):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Removed energy use bulleted items from the Purpose section. Moved items related to energy use from the Criteria section to the Considerations section. Also moved fencing and critical planting from the Considerations section to the Criteria section.

*Land Clearing (Code 460):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Relatively minor changes have been made to simplify and clarify the definition, purpose and criteria within the standard.

*Obstruction Removal (Code 500):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Changes to Purpose and Conditions where Practice Applies sections were made to help clarify standard usage. Changes were made to help simplify and clarify the Criteria and Consideration section within the standards.

*Surface Roughening (Code 609):* Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Several paragraphs in the Considerations section were deleted and edited for improved clarity. Reference to the Crop Tolerance Table in the National Agronomy Manual was added.

*Waste Treatment (Code 629):* Purpose revised to improve water quality, improve air quality resource concerns, and facilitate waste handling and storage. Conditions where this practice applies is on all land uses where manure and/or agricultural waste is being generated and where soils, geology, and topography are suitable for construction of the waste treatment system. Criteria sections added to address system designs outside the scope of current accepted NRCS conservation practice standards, waste stream pretreatment requirements, byproducts handling and storage, and required technical review of treatment performance.

*Waterspreading (Code 640):* Purpose statements were also reworded to more directly relate to the stated resource concern. In ''Conditions where Practice Applies'' the language was simplified and more clearly explains where practice may be used. References were added.

**Kevin Norton,**

*Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019–23111 Filed 10–22–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–16–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

### Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kv Transmission Line Project

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Code of Federal Regulations related to providing financial assistance to Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) for its share in the construction of a proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middle, Wisconsin (near Madison, Wisconsin). The Project also includes a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant County or Iowa County, Wisconsin. The total length of the 345-kV transmission lines associated with the proposed project will be approximately 100 to 125 miles, depending on the final route. DPC, along with the two other project participant utilities, American Transmission Company LLC, and ITC Midwest LLC (together the Utilities) have identified proposed and alternate segments and locations for transmission lines and associated facilities and for the intermediate substation. DPC is requesting RUS to provide financing for its portion of the proposed project.

**DATES:** Written comments on this Final EIS will be accepted no later than 30 days following the publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of receipt of the Final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the Final EIS may be viewed online at the following website: *https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements/cardinal-%E2%80%93-hickory-creek-transmission-line.*

A hard copy of the Final EIS is available for review at Dairyland Power Cooperative, 3521 East Avenue, South, La Crosse, WI 54602 and at 13 local libraries in the project area and the USFWS McGregor District Office in Prairie du Chien, WI which are listed below.

| Library | Address |
|---|---|
| Allen-Dietzman Public Library | 220 W Barber Avenue, Livingston, WI 53554. |
| Barneveld Public Library | 107 W Orbison Street, Barneveld, WI 53507. |
| Dodgeville Public Library | 139 S Iowa Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533. |
| Dubuque County Library, Asbury Branch | 5290 Grand Meadow Drive, Asbury, IA 52002. |
| Eckstein Memorial Library | 1034 E Dewey Street, Cassville, WI 53806. |
| Guttenberg Public Library | 603 S 2nd Street, Guttenberg, IA 52052. |
| Middleton Public Library | 7425 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562. |

| Library | Address |
|---|---|
| Montfort Public Library | 102 E Park Street, Montfort, WI 53569. |
| Mount Horeb Public Library | 105 Perimeter Road, Mount Horeb, WI 53572. |
| Platteville Public Library | 65 S Elm Street, Platteville, WI 53818. |
| Potosi Branch Library | 103 N Main Street, Potosi, WI 53820. |
| Rosemary Garfoot Public Library | 2107 Julius Street, Cross Plains, WI 53528. |
| Schreiner Memorial Library | 113 W Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813. |
| USFWS McGregor District Office | 470 Cliff Haven Road, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821. |

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To obtain copies of the Final EIS or for further information, contact: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, by phone at (202) 720–1953 or email *Dennis.Rankin@usda.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** RUS is the lead agency for the federal environmental review with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) serving as cooperating agencies, and the National Park Service (NPS) as a participating agency.

The purpose of the proposed project is to: (1) Address reliability issues on the regional bulk transmission system, (2) alleviate congestion that occurs in certain parts of the transmission system and remove constraints that limit the delivery of power, (3) expand the access of the transmission system to additional resources, (4) increase the transfer capability of the electrical system between Iowa and Wisconsin, (5) reduce the losses in transferring power and increase the efficiency of the transmission system, and (6) respond to public policy objectives aimed at enhancing the nation's transmission system and to support the changing generation mix.

The Final EIS addresses the construction and operation of the proposed project, which, in addition to the 345-kV transmission line and associated infrastructure, includes the following facilities:

- At the existing Cardinal Substation in Dane County, Wisconsin: A new 345-kV terminal within the substation;
- At the proposed Hill Valley Substation near the Village of Montfort, Wisconsin: An approximately 22-acre facility with five 345-kV circuit breakers, one 345-kV shunt reactor, one 345-/138-kV autotransformer, three 138-kV circuit breakers, and a 345-kV and 138-kV terminals;
- At the existing Eden Substation near the village of Montfort, Wisconsin: Transmission line protective relaying upgrades to be compatible with new productive relays installed at the new Hill Valley Substation and replacement of conductors and switches to meet the Utilities' operating limits;
- Between the existing Eden Substation and the proposed Hill Valley Substation near the village of Montfort, Wisconsin: A rebuild of the approximately 1 mile Hill Valley to Eden 138-kV transmission line;
- At the existing Wyoming Valley Substation near Wyoming, Wisconsin: Installation of nine 16-foot ground rods to mitigate fault current contributions from the proposed project;
- At either the Lancaster or Hillman substation, depending on the final route, equipment installation to use the optical ground wire that would be part of the C–HC Project;
- Between the existing Cardinal Substation and the proposed Hill Valley Substation: A new 50- to 53-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line;
- Between the proposed Hill Valley Substation and existing Hickory Creek Substation: A new 50- to 70-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line;
- At the Mississippi River in Cassville, Wisconsin: A rebuild and possible relocation of the existing Mississippi River transmission line crossing to accommodate the new 345-kV transmission line and Dairyland's 161-kV transmission line, which would be capable of operating at 345-/345-kV but will initially be operated at 345-/161-kV;
  - depending on the final route and the Mississippi River crossing location:
- A new 161-kV terminal and transmission line protective relaying upgrades within the existing Nelson Dewey Substation in Cassville, Wisconsin;
- a replaced or reinforced structure within the Stoneman Substation in Cassville, Wisconsin;
- Multiple, partial, or complete rebuilds of existing 69-kV, 138-kV, and 161-kV transmission lines in Wisconsin that would be collocated with the new 345-kV line;
- At the existing Turkey River Substation in Clayton County, Iowa: One new 161-/69-kV transformer, three new 161-kV circuit breakers, and four new 69-kV circuit breakers;
- At the completion of the C–HC Project construction and energization at the Turkey River Substation, Dairyland would retire and decommission approximately 2.8 miles of the existing N–9 transmission line (69-kV); and
- At the existing Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa: A new 345-kV terminal within the existing Hickory Creek Substation.

Among the alternatives addressed in the Final EIS is the No Action alternative, under which the proposed project would not be undertaken. Additional alternatives addressed in the Final EIS include six action alternatives connecting the Cardinal Substation in Wisconsin with the Hickory Creek Substation in Iowa. RUS has carefully studied public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of the proposed project.

RUS used input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the Final EIS. RUS has considered all comments received on the Draft EIS and revised the EIS accordingly. Following the 30-day comment period for the Final EIS, RUS will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). A Notice announcing the availability of the ROD will be published in the **Federal Register** and in local newspapers. Additionally, letters and emails will be sent to stakeholders.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulation, ''Protection of Historic Properties'' (36 CFR 800) and as part of its broad environmental review process, RUS must take into account the effect of the proposed project on historic properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), RUS is using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA to meet its responsibilities to solicit and consider the views of the public during Section 106 review. Any party wishing to participate more directly with RUS as a ''consulting

party'' in Section 106 review may submit a written request to the RUS contact provided in this notice.

The proposed project involves unavoidable impacts to wetlands and floodplains; this Notice of Availability also serves as a statement of no practicable alternatives to impacts on wetlands and floodplains, in accordance with Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, respectively (see Final EIS Sections 3.3 and 3.5).

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, State and local environmental laws and regulations, and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1970).

**Christopher A. Mclean,**

*Assistant Administrator, Electric Programs, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019–23049 Filed 10–22–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–15–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

### Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.: Extension of Comment Period for an Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice: Extension of Comment Period for an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a Rural Development agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), has issued a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental Draft EIS) for Central Electric Power Cooperative's (Central Electric) proposed McClellanville Area 115-kV Transmission Project (Project) in South Carolina. In this document, RUS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with an anticipated decision request to approve or deny funding for Central Electric's proposed Project. The Supplement Draft EIS was prepared to address substantial changes to the proposed action and assesses new circumstances and information relevant to potential environmental impacts originally evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). RUS published a Notice of Intent and Availability on August 30, 2019, that provided a 60-day comment period, ending on the date announced in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) EIS receipt notice on October 22, 2019. RUS is extending the public comment period for the Draft EIS by an additional 30 days to November 21, 2019.

**DATES:** With this notice, RUS extends the public comment period to November 21, 2019. Comments submitted to RUS regarding the Supplemental Draft EIS prior to this announcement do not need to be resubmitted as a result of this extension to the comment period. The date(s) and time for a public meeting will be announced in local newspapers and published on the agency's website at: *https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements/mcclellanville-115kv-transmission-line.*

**ADDRESSES:** The Supplemental Draft EIS and associated documents are available at the weblink provided in this Notice (*https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements/mcclellanville-115kv-transmission-line*). RUS will consider all substantive written comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS received or postmarked within the 90-day timeframe or until November 21, 2019. Agencies, interested parties, and the public are invited to submit comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS at any time during the public comment period by either of the following methods:

- *Email:* Please send your comments to *Comments-mcclellanville@louisberger.com.*
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send your comment addressed to Ms. Lauren Rayburn, Environmental Scientist, Rural Utilities Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Suite 2, Asheville, North Carolina 28801.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the proposed Project and the EIS process, please contact Ms. Lauren Rayburn, Environmental Scientist, Rural Utilities Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Suite 2, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 or email to: *lauren.rayburn@usda.gov*. Parties wishing to be placed on the Project mailing list for future information and to receive copies of the Supplemental Draft EIS and the Final EIS when available should also contact Ms. Rayburn.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** RUS is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Central Electric is an electric transmission cooperative that provides transmission service from the bulk transmission system to South Carolina's 20 retail electric cooperatives. Berkeley Electric, a member distribution electric cooperative of Central Electric, was formed in 1940 to bring electric service to rural areas of coastal South Carolina. Berkeley Electric owns and operates more than 5,000 miles of distribution line serving more than 80,000 accounts in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.

*Project Description:* Central Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in the McClellanville area of coastal South Carolina to meet reliability and energy load requirements of its member owner, Berkeley Electric Cooperative. Investigations and analyses conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads and power outages. To resolve these issues, Central Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 115-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure to energize the new McClellanville Substation, located near the McClellanville service area. Berkeley Electric owner-customers that would benefit from the proposed Project include those located in the areas near Rutledge Road, South Santee Road, Wedge Plantation, Germantown, Toby Road, Dupree Road, Lincoln High School, Randall Road, Tibwin Road, St. James-Santee School, Shellmore, Buck Hall, Town of Awendaw, Doar Road, and areas adjacent to U.S. Highway 17 in northern Charleston County.

The Supplemental Draft EIS considers three alternatives, encompassing three potential corridor locations with one corridor including two different alignments. The corridors range in length from 16 to 31 miles and encompasses parts of Berkeley, Georgetown and Charleston counties in South Carolina. The corridor locations propose to cross both public and private lands, including the Francis Marion National Forest, Santee Coastal Reserve, and other private and public lands used for conservation management purposes; all corridors are located entirely within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The Supplemental Draft EIS analyzes the extent of Central's Electric's proposal with regard to the following: Water resources, biological resources, soils and geology, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, recreation and land use, visual resources, socioeconomics,