

**Register** on May 18, 2020 (85 FR 29790–29838, Docket No. APHIS–2018–0034)<sup>1</sup> that revised the regulations in part 340 and the merging of activities that are currently being reported under OMB control number 0579–0471 (Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms). Activities being discontinued or grandfathered include requests (petitions) for determination of non-regulated status, field test reporting, and training program documentation. After OMB approves this combined information collection (OMB control number 0579–0085), APHIS will retire OMB control number 0579–0471.

We are asking OMB to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8.9 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State, Local, and Tribal government agricultural representatives and applicants from agricultural companies.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 301.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 30.8.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 9,283.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 82,589 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request

for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of January 2023.

**Anthony Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023–00284 Filed 1–9–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket #: RUS–22–ELECTRIC–0055]

#### Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision for Badger State Solar, LLC, Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Record of Decision.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the Department of Agriculture (USDA), has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to meet its responsibilities in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, RUS Environmental Policies and Procedure, and other applicable environmental requirements related to providing financial assistance for Badger State Solar's, LLC proposed Alternating Current solar project (Project) in Wisconsin. The Administrator of RUS has signed the ROD, which was effective upon signing. This ROD concludes RUS environmental review process in accordance with NEPA and RUS, Environmental Policies and Procedures. The ultimate decision as to loan approval depends on the conclusion of the environmental review process plus financial and engineering analyses. Issuance of the ROD will allow these reviews to proceed. The ROD is not a decision on the Badger State Solar's loan application and is not an approval of the expenditure of federal funds.

**DATES:** The Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service signed the Record of Decision on December 22, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** To request copies of the ROD, contact Peter Steinour at [BadgerStateSolarEIS@usda.gov](mailto:BadgerStateSolarEIS@usda.gov). The ROD is also available at RUS website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/impact-statements>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact Peter

Steinour, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mail Stop 1570, Washington, DC 20250, by phone at 202–961–6140, or email at [BadgerStateSolarEIS@usda.gov](mailto:BadgerStateSolarEIS@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**1. Purpose and Need:** Badger State Solar has indicated that it intends to request Federal financing from the USDA RUS for development of the Project. While RUS is authorized under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (REA) to finance electric generation infrastructure in rural areas, it is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), not RUS, who is responsible for electric grid planning. Supporting renewable energy projects meets both RUS's goal to support infrastructure development in rural communities and USDA's support of the June 2013 Climate Action Plan, which encourages voluntary actions to increase energy independence.

**2. Project Description:** Badger State Solar proposes to construct, install, operate, and maintain a 149-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) Alternating Current solar energy generating facility on a site in the Townships of Jefferson and Oakland, in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The total estimated Project cost would be approximately \$225,000,000. Project construction is anticipated to begin in November 2022. Construction would be complete, and the Project would be expected to come online by Fall 2023.

The Jefferson County site initially included three proposed development areas: The Primary Solar Array Area, Alternate Solar Array Area, and Optional Solar Array Area. As the solar facility design progressed, Badger State Solar determined that the approximately 1,200-acre Primary Area would be suitable to host the proposed 149 MW solar power facility without requiring development of the Alternate and Optional Areas. The Primary Area became the Proposed Action which is the focus of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Proposed Action would take place on approximately 1,200 acres located on the north and south sides of US Highway 18 (US 18), approximately 2 miles west of the City of Jefferson and west of State Highway 89. Site land cover is predominantly agricultural crops and pasture, with some forest and wetland.

Construction involves the installation on leased lands of 487,848 single-axis tracking PV panels. The PV panels would be mounted on a steel racking frame. Supporting facilities include an electrical substation. The lease

<sup>1</sup> To view the final rule, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter APHIS–2018–0034 in the Search field.

agreement allows for an operating period of 40 years. A power purchase agreement has been executed with Dairyland Power Cooperative for the entire output of the Proposed Action. The Project site is near the point of interconnection to the grid at the American Transmission Company (ATC) Jefferson substation near the intersection of State Trunk Highway 89 and US 18.

Construction equipment would include graders, bulldozers, excavators, forklifts, trailers, plows, trenchers, pile drivers, and directional boring rigs. Vehicles for transporting construction materials and components primarily would be legal load over-the-road flatbed and box trucks. Transport would use existing regional roads, bridges, and intersections. Laydown areas would be established within the Project site. Internal site access roads would be required. Fencing would be placed around contiguous blocks of solar arrays.

Potential locations for development of the solar facility in Wisconsin were evaluated in an initial preliminary site review to identify locations where electric transmission infrastructure would be sufficient to connect a solar project to the power grid. The Site Selection Study consisted of three phases of evaluation which began with 18 potential sites and ended with the identification of the Project site in Jefferson County as the most feasible for consideration. The potential impacts of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action, construction of the Badger State Solar project in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, are analyzed in chapter 3 of the Final EIS.

In the EIS, the effects of the proposal are compared to the existing conditions in the affected area of the proposal. Public health and safety, environmental impacts, socio-economic, and engineering aspects of the proposal are also considered in the Final EIS.

The proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Wisconsin Historical Society-Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and the State of Wisconsin Division of Safety and Buildings. Badger State Solar has submitted applications to the PSCW for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; and either has or will submit applications for permits to the WDNR for an Isolated Wetlands Permit and Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System/Stormwater Runoff Permit (NR216); WisDOT for a utility

permit, driveway/access permit, and oversize/overweight permit; and the State of Wisconsin Division of Safety and Buildings for a Building permit. Badger State Solar may also submit applications for permits as needed to Jefferson County Highway Department (oversize-overweight, utility, county highway entrance), Jefferson County Land Conservation Department (stormwater management), Jefferson County (construction permit, utilities, sanitary permits), Jefferson County Farm District Drainage No. 16 (drainage alteration permit), City of Jefferson (driveway, sign, and building permits) and Town of Oakland (driveway permits). These state and local agency permits would authorize Badger State Solar to construct the proposed project under Wisconsin rules and regulations.

While RUS is authorized under the REA to make loans to finance electric generation infrastructure in rural areas, it is the MISO, not RUS, who is responsible for electric grid planning. Supporting renewable energy projects meets both RUS's goal to support infrastructure development in rural communities and USDA's support of the June 2013 Climate Action Plan. Along with other technical and financial considerations, completing the environmental review process is one of RUS's requirements in processing Badger State Solar's application. RUS is the lead Federal agency for environmental review of the proposed project.

RUS prepared a Final EIS and published a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on August 26, 2022 (87 FR 52502), to analyze the impacts of its respective Federal actions and the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1970). Two comments were received on the Final EIS; one from the Environmental Protection Agency which indicated that their previous comments on the Draft EIS had been addressed in the Final EIS and one from the United States Army Corps of Engineers offering no comment on the Final EIS. No additional revisions to the Final EIS were necessary upon receipt of these comments.

RUS determined that its action regarding the proposed Project is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulation, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR part 800) and as part of its broad environmental review

process, RUS must take into account the effect of the proposed project on historic properties.

Of the identified archaeological resources within the Area of Potential Effect, none are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, as a result of the archaeological and architecture/history investigations conducted for the Proposed Action, two of the resources within the Area of Potential Effects were recommended for avoidance or further investigations: a historic cemetery and the William Eustis House. Project activities would avoid the historic cemetery boundaries by a minimum of 10 feet. With regard to the NRHP-eligible William Eustis House, a No Adverse Effect finding was recommended based on the following factors: lack of any potential for physical destruction, damage or alterations to the property; an absence of proposed activities which could alter the architectural character of the Eustis House; and presence of intervening visual intrusions (dense vegetation, trees and barns) between the house and the proposed solar arrays. There would be no adverse effect to NRHP-eligible historical structures. Based on these results, a finding of No Adverse Effect in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b) is appropriate for the Proposed Action. RUS submitted this finding in a letter to the Federally recognized tribes and the SHPO in November 2021 and January 2022, respectively. On January 27, 2022, the SHPO concurred the Proposed Action would have no adverse effects to historic properties.

The proposed overhead transmission crossing of U.S. 18 was added to the Proposed Action in February 2022. RUS recommended the finding of No Adverse Effect was still appropriate for the Proposed Action. RUS submitted this finding in a letter to the Federally recognized tribes and the SHPO in March 2022. These letters are on file at RUS. On March 30, 2022, the SHPO concurred the Proposed Action would have no adverse effects to historic properties.

RUS consulted with the following Federally recognized Native American tribes:

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
- Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
- Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin

- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Osage Nation
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska did not provide objections to the project; however, they requested to be notified of any inadvertent discoveries. A Post-Review Discovery Plan was prepared and in the event of an inadvertent discovery, these Tribes will be contacted. The other Indian tribes consulted did not provide comments.

Based on consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed Project and comments received throughout the agency and public review process, RUS has determined that Proposed Action Alternative as described above best meets the purpose and need for the proposed Project. RUS finds that the evaluation of reasonable alternatives is consistent with NEPA and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures. Details regarding RUS regulatory decision and compliance with applicable regulations are included in the ROD.

**Andrew Berke,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2023-00299 Filed 1-9-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Agenda and Notice of Public Meetings of the South Dakota Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that the South Dakota State Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene business meetings on the following Mondays at 12:30 p.m. Central Time: February 13, March 13, and April 10, 2023. The purpose of the business meetings is to discuss testimony heard related to the Committee's topic on voting rights and voter access.

**DATES:** Mondays at 12:30 p.m. CT: February 13, March 13, and April 10, 2023.

*Recurring Zoom Link (video and audio): <https://tinyurl.com/3stmv9et>; password, if needed: USCCR-SD.*

*If Joining Briefing by Phone Only, Dial: 1-551-285-1373; Meeting ID: 160 729 5158#.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mallory Trachtenberg at [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meetings are available to the public through the web links above. If joining only via phone, callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with conference details found through registering at the web link above. To request other accommodations, please email [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting for which accommodations are requested.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of each meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following each meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Mallory Trachtenberg at [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (202) 809-9618. Records and documents discussed during meetings will be available for public viewing as they become available at [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov). Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's website, [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov), or to contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above phone number or email address.

#### Agenda

*Mondays at 12:30 p.m. CT: February 13, March 13, April 10, 2023*

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Announcements
- III. Discussion: Indigent Legal Services Report
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

Dated: January 4, 2023.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2023-00230 Filed 1-9-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Notice of Public Meeting of the New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of virtual business meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the New York Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a virtual business meeting via Zoom on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, for the purpose of discussing and voting on potential panelists for the next virtual public briefing on the New York child welfare system.

**DATES:** The meeting will take place on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/a44w8sjc>.*

*Telephone (Audio Only): Dial (833) 435-1820 USA Toll-Free; Webinar ID: 160 070 6362#.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mallory Trachtenberg, DFO, at [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov) or (202) 809-9618.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Committee meetings are available to the public through the conference link above. Any interested member of the public may listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Individuals who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 and providing the Service with the conference details found through registering at the web link above. To request additional accommodations, please email Sarah Villanueva at [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov) at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be emailed to [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may