

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Development

#### **Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact – Turney Energy Center

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. for construction of the Turney Energy Center project in Clinton County, Missouri.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI, contact: [RUSPublicComments@usda.gov](mailto:RUSPublicComments@usda.gov). EA and FONSI are also available for public review at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/turney-energy-center>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action (proposed project) consists of building the Turney Energy Center, a new natural gas-fired simple-cycle electric generating facility. The Project consists of a single advanced class simple-cycle gas turbine generator and associated equipment with a nominal capacity of 421 Megawatts. The project will burn natural gas with the capability to use fuel oil as a backup and employ selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology to control emissions of nitrogen oxides. Upon completion, the Project site will include approximately 37 fenced acres at the generation site and 3 fenced acres at the switch station and is located approximately 1.6 miles southwest of Turney, MO. The project includes a new 2-mile-long single-circuit, 161 kilovolt transmission line between the generation site and the proposed new Shoal Creek switch station. Approximately 2.6 miles of existing distribution line will be reconstructed within existing right of way to supply power to the generation site from an existing substation. A new natural gas lateral will be constructed to supply fuel to the project. The new 8-inch lateral will be approximately 1,000 feet in length and will extend from a tap point the existing Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC natural gas pipeline located within the Project boundary. The Project will also require a new 6-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) water line, approximately 1.5 miles in length. The water pipeline would tap into an existing water tower, with a portion of the line being upgraded and a portion being constructed. Alternatives considered by RUS and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. include: No action; alternate generation technologies, alternative sites. The alternatives are discussed in the Turney Energy Center EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Clinton County Leader on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development website, Cameron Public Library, and the Mid-Continent Public Library – Smithville Branch. No comments were received during the 14-day public comment period.

Based on its EA and mitigation commitments made by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., and no public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project will have no significant impact to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, air, aesthetics, noise, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect

federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's potential federal action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: April 23, 2025