

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Stag Moose Solar, LLC: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Stag Moose Solar, LLC for the construction of the Bjorn Solar Project in Barron County, Wisconsin.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: RUS.EHPD.IRA@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/bjorn-solar>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of constructing a 25-acre solar photovoltaic facility in the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 34 North, Range 12 West, Town of Barron. Alternatives considered by RUS and Stag Moose Solar, LLC include: No Action; Proposed Action. The alternatives are discussed in the Bjorn Solar Project EA. 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(s): Barron News Shield (Barron, WI) on September 18 and 25, 2024. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s).

Based on its EA, mitigation commitments made by Stag Moose and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project will have no significant effect to land use, important farmland, formally classified lands, floodplains, wetlands, water resources, coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources and historic properties, aesthetics, air quality, socioeconomics and environmental justice, noise, transportation, human health and safety, or corridors.

Stag Moose Solar, LLC, an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the

proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

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. The proposed project will not disproportionately affect minority and/or low- income populations.

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. §§ 4231–4347), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), 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: October 11, 2024.