

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Development

**Carroll Electric Cooperative Corporation:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Carroll Electric Cooperative Corporation (CECC), of Carroll and Madison counties, Arkansas. The proposal is for the building of a 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Dry Creek Switching Station and the Smyrna Transmission-Distribution Substation. CECC has submitted an application to the RUS for funding of the proposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Environmental and Historic Preservation Division, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570. Questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at [RUSPublicComments@usda.gov](mailto:RUSPublicComments@usda.gov) or left at (202) 720-1970.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Dry Creek to Smyrna transmission line is 31.4 miles in length and will utilize H-frame steel structures. CECC will utilize a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) and temporary construction access roads to construct the transmission line, along with additional ROW to install guy wires. Construction of the transmission line is proposed to commence in winter 2023 and be completed in fall 2024.

Merjent, Inc., 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.

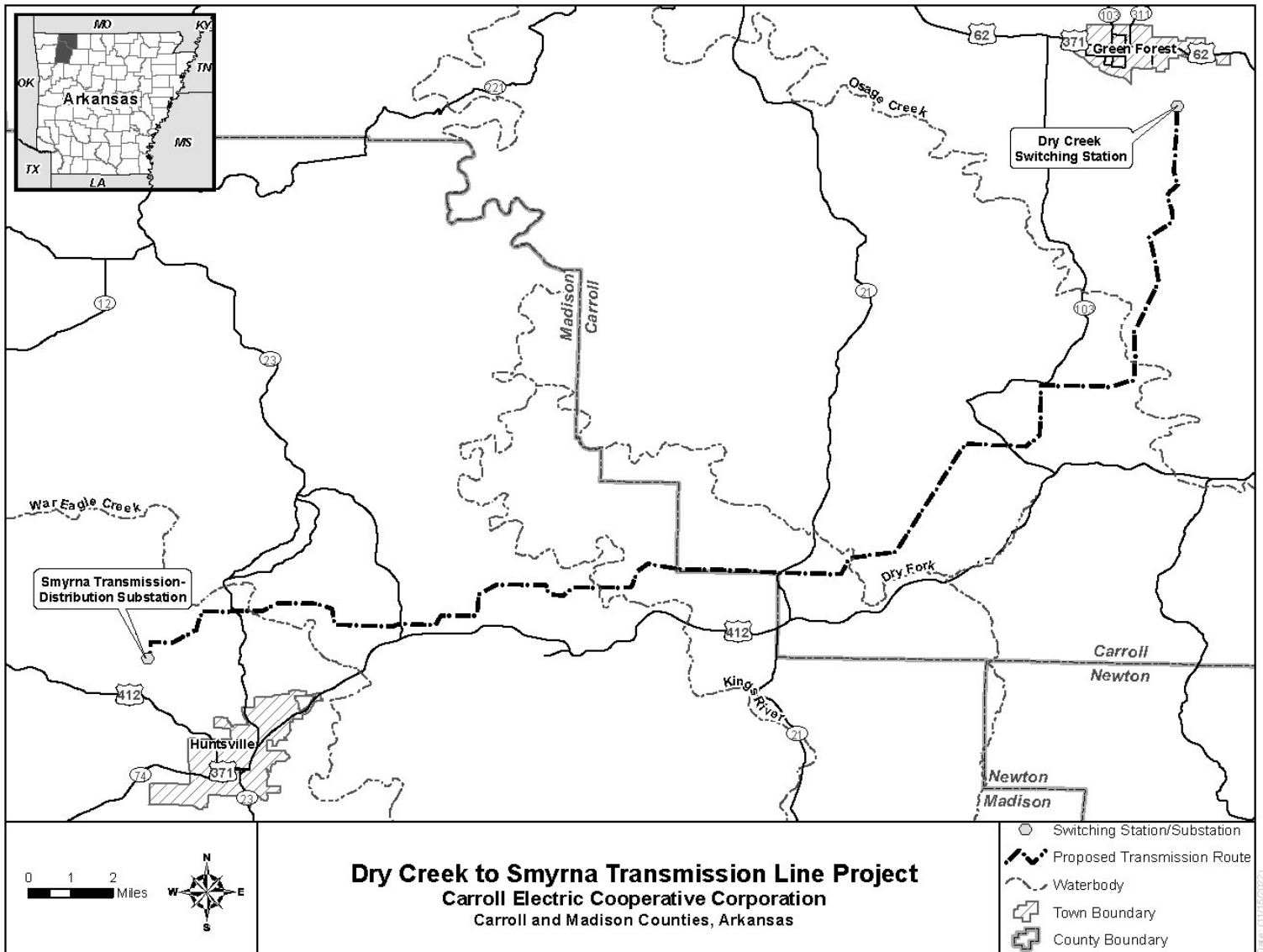
Written questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at the email address provided above. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the first date of publication of this notice. Due to COVID-19, no hard copy comments will be accepted. All comments must be provided electronically. Phone messages will be recorded and should be used only if there is no convenient access to email.

Copies of the environmental assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/dry-creek-smyrna-transmission-line>

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

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.

Dated: January 26, 2023



DATE: 01/26/2023