

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

Today's Power, Inc. (TPI): Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service (RUS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

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 TPI for the construction of the People's Electric Solar Facility in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Everett Bole, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service via email Everett.Bole@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessments>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of the construction of a 39.76-acre, 6.97-Megawatt solar electric array located on land previously cleared and developed for agricultural use.

Alternatives considered by RUS and TPI include: No action and Action Alternative as well as other technology and siting alternatives. The alternatives are discussed in the People's Electric Solar Facility 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: The Ada News newspaper on March 11, 2023 and March 18, 2023. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s). The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development website, as well as TPI's offices. No comments were received during the comment period.

Based on its EA, commitments made by TPI, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, 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. The proposed project would 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. 4321 et seq.), 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 federal action would 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: March 27, 2023