

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.: 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 Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), of Springfield, Missouri. The proposal is for the building of a new electric generating facility project in Clinton County, Missouri. Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Turney Energy Center (TEC) would consist of a single, advanced-class simple-cycle gas turbine generator and associated equipment with a nominal capacity of 421 MW. The Project would 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. A new 2-mile-long, single-circuit, 161kV transmission line will be constructed between the generation site and the proposed new Shoal Creek switch station. Approximately, 2.5 miles of existing distribution electrical line will be reconstructed within existing right-of-way to supply power to the generation site from an existing substation. The project site will include approximately 37 fenced acres at the generation site and 3 fenced acres at the proposed switch station upon completion and is approximately 1.6 miles southwest of Turney, MO.

A new natural gas lateral would be constructed to supply fuel to the project. The new 8-inch lateral, approximately 1,000 feet in length, would extend south from a tap point on 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. A map depicting the proposed project and project location is attached.

Burns and McDonnell, 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. All comments must be provided electronically with no hard copy comments being accepted at this time.

Copies of the environmental assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at the Cameron Public Library, Mid-Continent Public Library - Smithville Branch, and:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/turney-energy-center>

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.

Dated: March 18, 2025

