

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative: 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 Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, of Anadarko, Oklahoma. The proposal is for the building of a combustion turbine project in Caddo County, Oklahoma. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative 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 Project will install new turbines at the existing Anadarko Power Plant in Anadarko, with approximately 28.5 acres of land disturbance. It includes construction of a new 0.94-mile single-circuit 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line within the plant boundaries to connect the turbines to the existing 69 kV substation located there.

The Project will consist of two simple-cycle combustion turbines (SCCTs) that will be designed to burn natural gas exclusively as the primary fuel, with total net output of 98.4 megawatts (MW). An evaporative cooling or wet compression system will be used to increase the efficiency of the combustion turbines. Water injection will be used to reduce the formation of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions and an oxidation catalyst system will be used to reduce carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from the combustion turbines.

Fuel for the SCCTs will be provided by the existing natural gas infrastructure at the Anadarko Power Plant. No new off-site natural gas pipelines will be constructed as part of the Project, and an adequate supply of natural gas is currently available at the plant as the proposed new SCCT units will replace three less efficient existing gas-fired boilers that are slated for permanent retirement.

Sargent & Lundy, 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.

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.

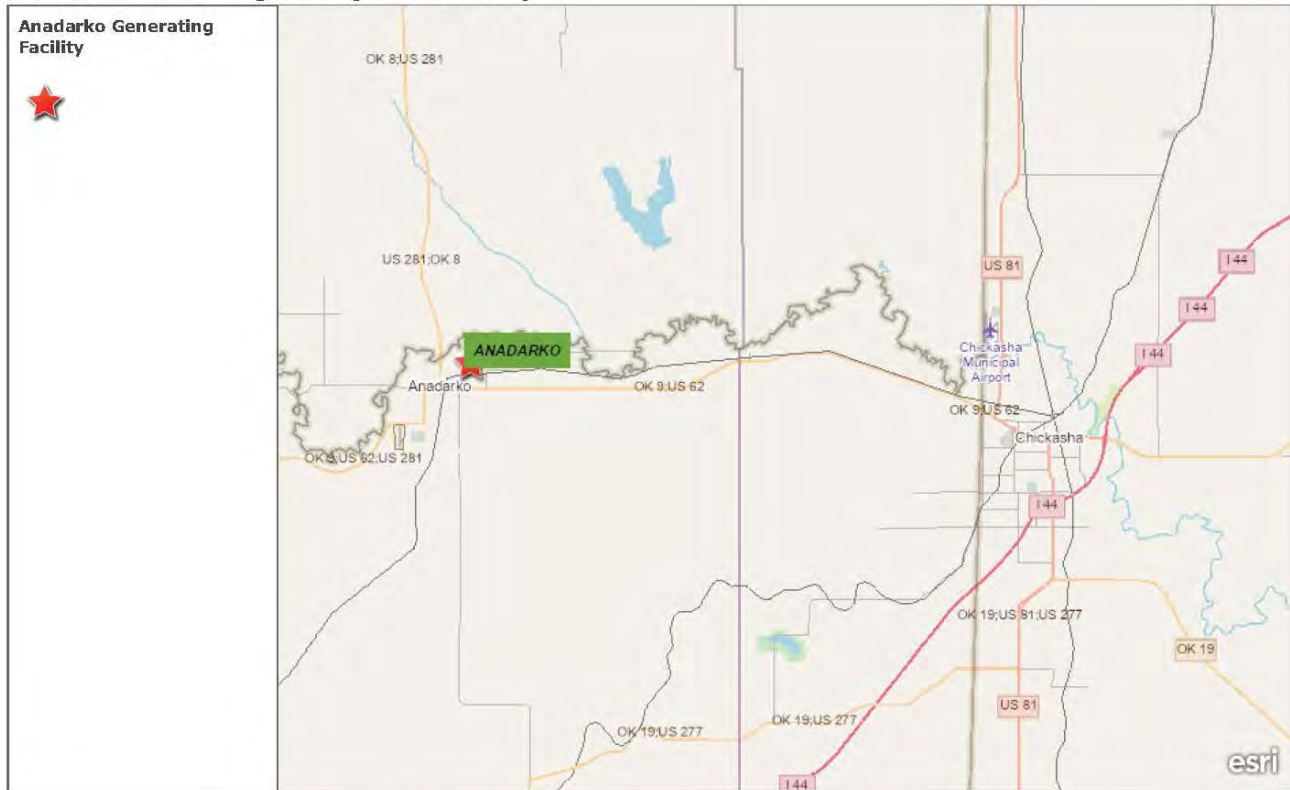
Copies of the environmental assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at the Anadarko Public Library and: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/anadarko-power-plant-combustion-turbine>

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: April 4, 2024

Anadarko Generating Facility Location Map



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri