

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

KPP Energy: 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 KPP Energy for the construction of the Clay Center Energy Generation Facility in Clay County, Kansas.

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/clay-center-energy-generation-facility>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of constructing a 18.44-acre solar energy generating facility that would provide 3.0-megawatts (MW) of clean renewable energy to the residents in the Clay Center community. Alternatives considered by RUS and KPP Energy include: No Action; Proposed Action Alternative. The alternatives are discussed in the Clay Center Energy Generation Facility 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): The Clay Center Dispatch, Clay Center, Kansas on December 10, 2024 and December 17, 2024. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s).

Based on its EA, mitigation commitments made by KPP Energy, 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 and visual resources, air quality, socioeconomics and environmental justice, noise, transportation and traffic, human health and safety, or corridors.

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: December 31, 2024