

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Alternus Energy Americas Inc. (Walking Horse LLC): Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

Agency: Rural Utilities Service, 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 Walking Horse LLC for the construction of the Walking Horse Solar Project in Loudon, Tennessee.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of EA and FONSI, or 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. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/solar-farm-project-walking-horse-site> Questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at RUSPublicComments@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed solar development site consists of a portion of a parcel identified by the Loudon County Tax Assessor as parcel 040 164.00 for a total site area of approximately 42.7 acres. The proposed project consists of the development of a solar farm. The plans for the proposed facility include the installation of photovoltaic arrays inverters, battery storage, an access road, and fencing around the site to make the facility operational. The facility will provide a renewable energy source for Loudon County and the surrounding counties. The approximate center for the proposed solar farm is located at approximate latitude 35°43'31.073" N and longitude 84°21'39.64" W using WGS84 datum. The location of the site is illustrated on a map located below. Alternatives considered by RUS and Walking Horse LLC include: No action; alternate sites. 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 newspapers(s): News-Herald on February 28, and March 6, 2024. 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 office and website as well as Alternus Energy Americas Inc.'s (Walking Horse LLC) offices. No comments were received.

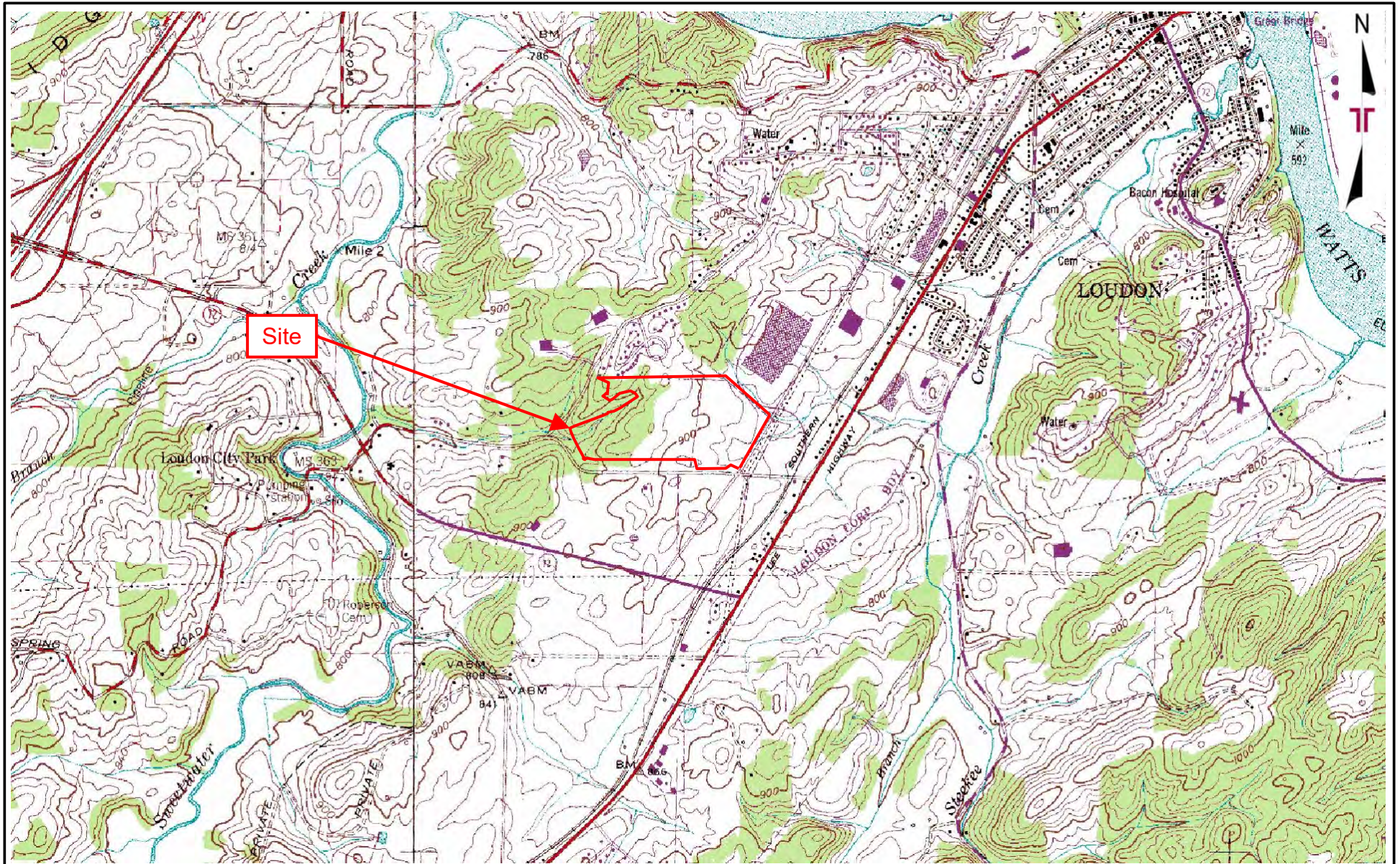
Based on its EA, commitment made by Walking Horse LLC, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impacts to water quality, wetland, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

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 adversely 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. §§ 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: Date as Published



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP IMAGE COURTESY OF THE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
QUADRANGLES INCLUDE: PHILADELPHIA, TN
(1/1/1984)

DIAGRAM IS FOR GENERAL LOCATION
ONLY, AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR
CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

Project Manager:
AMH
Drawn by:
RAM
Checked by:
AMH
Approved by:
DEW

Project No.
E2227159
Scale:
1"=2,000'
File Name:
N:\Projects\2022
Date:
January 2023



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Topographic Map

Alternus Energy America's Inc. - Solar Farm Project
Walking Horse
Roberson Spring Road and Maremont Parkway
Loudon, Loudon County, TN

Exhibit

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