

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment - Bluestem Energy Solutions, LLC (Madison Solar Project)

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 Bluestem Energy Solutions, LLC (Bluestem), of Omaha, Nebraska. The proposal is for the construction of a solar facility in Madison County, Nebraska. Bluestem has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bluestem proposes to construct a 2.00 megawatt (MW) alternating current, 2.88 MW direct current solar array located just north of the City of Madison, Nebraska. The solar array would occupy approximately 15 acres of the northwest portion of a 68-acre parcel (parcel number 590137032; legal property description - PT E1/2 SE1/4 LESS HWY 29-22-1) located southeast of North Main Street and west of United States Highway 81 (US-81).

Olsson, an environmental consultant retained by Bluestem, 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: RUS.IRA.comments@usda.gov

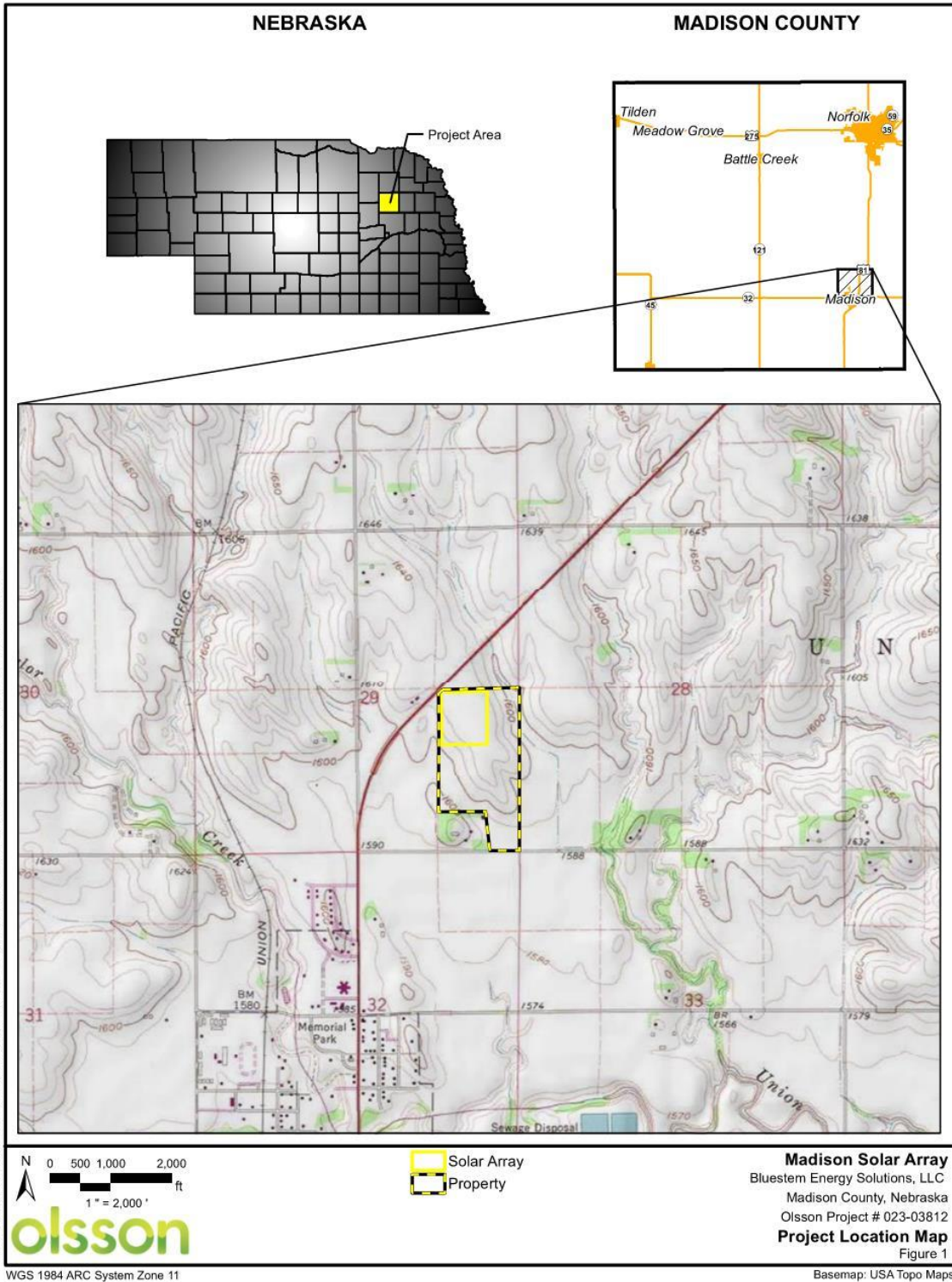
RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the first date of publication of this notice. All comments must be provided electronically with no hard copy comments being accepted at this time.

Copies of the environmental assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessments/>.

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: August 2, 2024



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