

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment – Village of Pioneer, Pioneer 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 Village of Pioneer, Ohio. The proposal is for the construction of a solar facility in Williams County, Ohio. The Village of Pioneer has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Village of Pioneer proposes to 1) obtain materials and labor required to construct and commission a grid-connected solar photovoltaic system with 10,000 photovoltaic (PV) modules delivering 6,150 kW DC and 49 inverters providing 4,900 kW AC to meet federal and state renewable energy goals and the Kexon Substation; 2) expand capacity to serve rural agricultural interests outside the immediate municipal boundary of the Village; and 3) provide municipal costumers with locally produce renewable energy to meet growing energy demand, resiliency needs, and clean energy goals.

Power Systems Engineering Inc, an environmental consultant retained by the Village of Pioneer, 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 19, 2024