

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

Coggon Solar, LLC: Notice of Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a 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 financing assistance to Coggon Solar, LLC (Coggon Solar) for the construction of the Coggon Solar Project in Linn County, Iowa.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information contact: Elisa Albury, Environmental Protection Specialist, Email: elisa.albury@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/coggon-solar-project-and-coggon-substation-expansion>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of constructing a 100-megawatt (MW) solar development which is expected to operate for approximately 35 years and expanding the CIPCO-owned Coggon Substation to property immediately adjacent to the existing substation. Alternatives considered by RUS and Coggon Solar include: No action and the Proposed Action. The alternatives are discussed in the Coggon Solar Project and Coggon Substation Expansion EA. 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 newspaper: The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Linn County)) on September 22, 2022, September 23, 2022, and September 24, 2022. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notices. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development website as well as the Coggon Public Library 216 E. Main Street in Coggon, Iowa. No public comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by Coggon Solar, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety. The proposed project will have no effects on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no effects to federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority 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. 4321 et seq.), 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 federal action would 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: October 28, 2022