

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

Coggon Solar, LLC: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

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 being proposed by Coggon Solar, LLC (Coggon Solar) of Boise, Idaho. The proposal is for construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) solar development located approximately 2.8 miles west of the town of Coggon, Linn County, Iowa. The project footprint will be less than 640 acres. The proposal also includes expanding the existing Coggon Substation, owned by the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), located immediately northeast of the solar array and south of County Road W63. Coggon Solar has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal. A general location map of the proposed project is included with this Notice of Availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elisa Albury, Environmental Protection Specialist, Water and Environmental Programs, RUS USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, SW. Mail Stop 1570, Washington DC 20250, Email: elisa.albury@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Coggon Solar proposes to construct a 100-megawatt (MW) solar development which is expected to operate for approximately 35 years from the commercial operation date at which time it is anticipated the project will be decommissioned. The project will include solar arrays installed within the boundary of the property. Other facilities proposed as part of the project will include meteorological towers and weather data collectors; distribution power for construction and operations control systems; and communications cables or lines. The project location was selected due to its proximity to CIPCO's 161-kilovolt (kV) Coggon Substation. CIPCO is proposing to expand the Coggon Substation to property immediately adjacent to the existing substation. The substation expansion would be a connected action associated with development of the overall project, and is, therefore, included in the EA.

If implemented, the proposed project will convert up to 640 acres of Important Farmland within the project limits. In accordance with USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

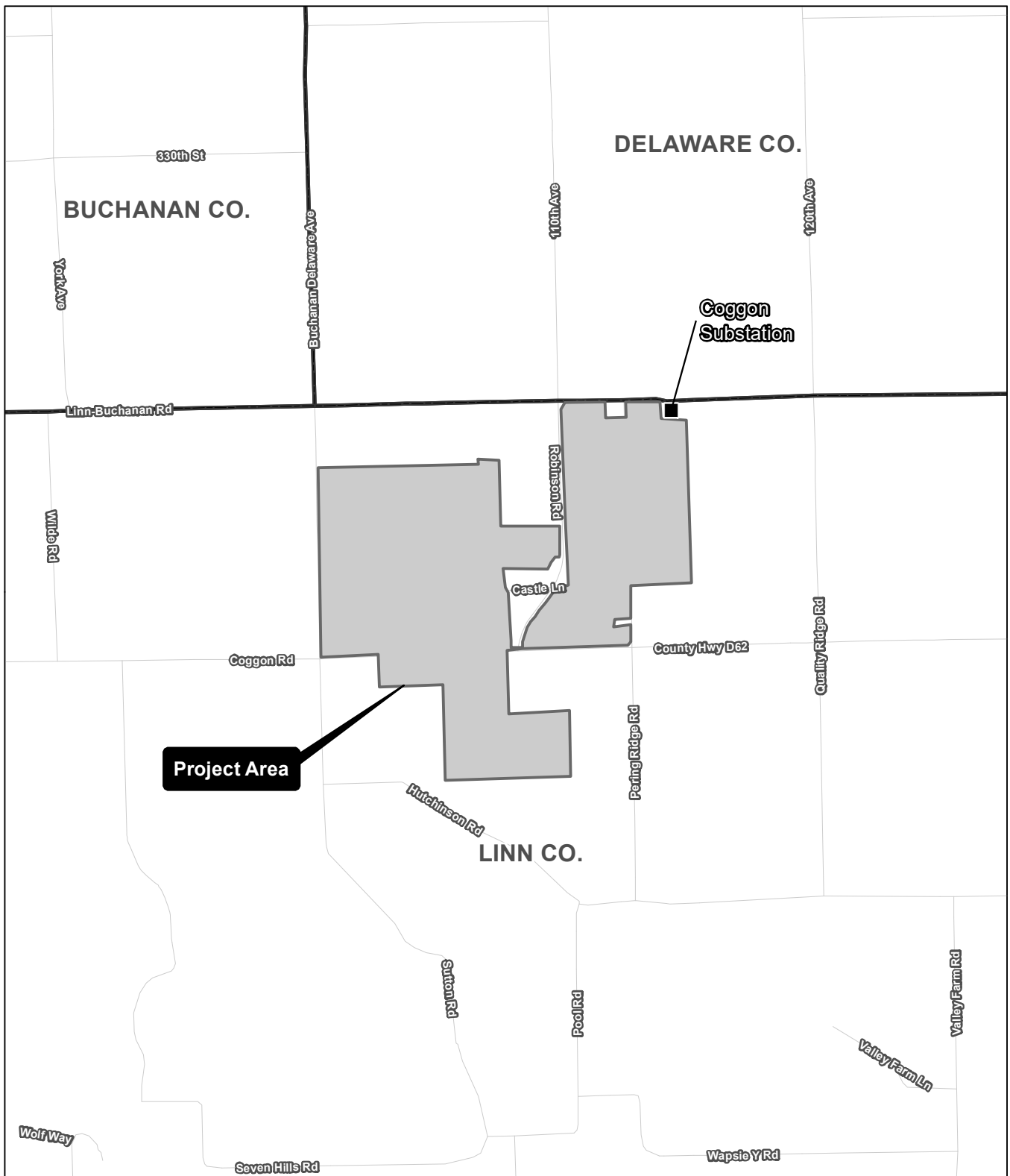
Stantec Consulting Services Inc. prepared an EA for RUS that describes the project, assesses the environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the EA and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

The EA is available for review on RUS's website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/environmentalstudy/coggon-solar-project-and-coggon-substation-expansion>. A physical copy of the EA is available for review at the Coggon Public Library 216 E. Main Street in Coggon, Iowa.

Written questions and comments should be sent to RUS via the email address above. RUS will accept questions and comments on the EA for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Due to COVID-19, no hard copy comments will be accepted. All comments must be provided electronically.

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.

Dated: September 22, 2022



Coggon Solar Project and Coggon Substation Expansion Project Location, Linn County, Iowa



0 1,500 3,000 Feet