



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development – Utilities Programs
Rural Utilities Service**

**McClellanville 115kV Transmission Line Proposal
December 2005 – January 2006 Scoping Period
Summary Report/Environmental Decision**

October 2007

**Prepared by:
USDA Rural Development – Utilities Programs
Mangi Environmental Group, Inc.**

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1.0 Introduction

The Rural Utilities Service, an agency which administers the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development – Utilities Programs (USDA Rural Development), has issued a notice with intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to Central Electric Power Cooperative Inc. (CEPCI) for the proposed construction of a new electric transmission line in Berkeley, Charleston, and/or Georgetown Counties, SC.

CEPCI proposes to construct a new 115 kV electric transmission line within one of several corridors that originate from the following source points: Jamestown (Berkeley County); Charity (Berkeley County); and Winyah (Georgetown County). In addition, CEPCI is also considering the construction of a potential new switching station that would be built near Honey Hill (Berkeley County) or a new switch that would be installed in the Belle Isle area (Georgetown County). The macro-corridors for each of these options would terminate at the proposed McClellanville substation.

Design details of the proposed transmission line would include the use of single pole structures ranging in height from 70 to 150 feet. The line would be approximately 20 miles long and would require a right-of-way of approximately 75 feet in width.

For detailed information relating to the purpose and need for the proposal, as well as alternatives to the proposal, please refer to the Macro-corridor Study (November 2005) and the Alternative Evaluation Study (June 2005) available for public review on the USDA Rural Development website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

This summary report describes the scoping activities conducted to date by USDA Rural Development for the proposal and decisions that have been made concerning the environmental review of this proposal. All activities have been conducted in accordance with 7 CFR 1794, USDA Rural Development – Utilities Program's procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

2.0 Scoping Notification

2.1 Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an environmental assessment (EA) was published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 228: 71462). [See Appendix A]

2.2 Letter to Landowners

By letter dated November 28, 2005, approximately 1,500 landowners with property wholly or partially contained within one of the alternative corridors were notified by mail. Property owners were identified from tax parcel map information. The letter announced the NOI to hold a public scoping meeting and to prepare an EA. The letter provided a brief description of the proposal, the NEPA process, meeting information, details about where to direct questions or submit comments, and details about where to find additional information.

2.3 Letter to Interested Parties

A letter providing the same information as the letter to landowners was addressed to interested parties, including 45 agencies, organizations, and individuals [see Appendix B].

2.4 Public Service Announcement

The public service announcement was sent to the following radio stations on November 29, 2005 [see Appendix C]:

Georgetown Radio

WGTV (AM)

WGTV (FM)

Charleston Radio

WKCL (FM)

WTMA (AM)

WCOO (FM)

WXTC (AM)

WNKT (FM)

WWVZ (FM)

WSCI (FM)

WSSX (FM)

WLTQ (AM)

WSVY (FM)

WSCC (FM)

WMGL (FM)

WALC (FM)

WCSQ (FM)

WPLY (FM)

WAVF (FM)

WRFQ (FM)

WXST (FM)

2.5 Press Release

A press release was sent to the Charleston Post and Courier Georgetown Times newspapers on November 29, 2005 (Appendix D). The announcement was posted in the *Georgetown Times* on November 30 and in the Metro Section of the *Charleston Post & Courier* (page B6) on December 1. A public notice was posted in the Legal Section of the *Charleston Post & Courier* on December 2, 2005.

2.6 Availability of Alternative Evaluation and Macro-corridor Study Reports

The Electric Alternative Evaluation and Macro-corridor Study Reports, prepared by CEPCI and Mangi Environmental Group, Inc. (Mangi), were presented at the public scoping meeting and made available for review by agencies and the public. Copies of both reports were distributed at the meeting and by request of the USDA Rural Development. Copies were made available at five public libraries listed below in the McClellanville area and on the USDA Rural Development website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Berkeley County Library
P.O. Box 1239, 1003 Hwy 52
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Charleston County Library
68 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Georgetown County Library
405 Cleland Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

McClellanville Branch Library
222 Baker Street
McClellanville, SC 29458

Mt. Pleasant Regional Library
1133 Mathis Ferry Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

3.0 Scoping Meetings

3.1 Agency Scoping Meeting

An agency meeting was held on December 14, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the McClellanville Government Services Building located at 405 Pickney Street, McClellanville, SC.

The meeting was facilitated by Stephanie Strength of USDA Rural Development and attended by representatives of the following agencies/organizations:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- CEPCI
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- USDA Rural Development
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Francis Marion National Forest
- Sumter National Forest
- Mangi Environmental

The meeting provided an opportunity for state and federal agencies to receive a brief and to ask questions and comment on the proposal.

3.2 Public Scoping Meeting

An open-house style, public scoping meeting was held on December 14, 2005, from 4:00 until 8:00 PM at the McClellanville Government Services Building located at: 405 Pickney Street, McClellanville, SC.

3.2.1 Meeting Details

The purpose of the meeting was to provide proposal information to the public and to solicit comments that would be used in developing the scope of the proposal's EA. Prior to the meeting, numerous property owners contacted Rural Development, in response to the scoping letter, to determine the location of their property in relation to the proposed macro-corridors.

Between 150-200 people, mostly local residents, attended the public meeting. Two handouts were distributed to attendees. A project description handout [Appendix E] summarized the proposal, showed a map of the study area and alternative macro-corridors, and provided information on submitting comments. A comment sheet [Appendix F] was also distributed. The comment sheet consisted of a 3-fold self-mailer with a brief description of the proposal and space to comment.

Mangi had two table displays [Appendix G], which described features of the study area that would be considered in the EA. Mangi also displayed wall maps of the Charity, Jamestown, and Belle Isle macro-corridors and manned a laptop computer station, showing landowners where their property was located with respect to alternative macro-corridors. CEPCI had a display table [Appendix H] that provided information about its company and the rationale for the proposal.

4.0 Agency Scoping Comments

This section presents a summary of the substantive comments made by the agencies at the agency scoping meeting, in agency comment letters, and during a conference call.

4.1 Agency Scoping Meeting Comments

The following is a summary of the topics discussed at the December 14, 2005, agency scoping meeting:

Corridor Alternatives

- Add an evaluation of a corridor along Highway 17 existing right of way.
- Provide the cost of crossing a line from one side of the highway to another to avoid endangered species habitat and existing structures

Sensitive Species Data

- RCW and Bald Eagle site data has changed since the study was completed
- Discuss implications of new foraging guidelines for the RCW
- Discuss the use of additional sensitive plant data

Navigable Waters

- Discuss permit required to construct lines across navigable waters.
- Discuss how right of way construction and maintenance methods determine wetland impacts

Migratory Bird Impacts

- Discuss the proposal's impact on migratory birds in wetland areas and across the Santee Delta
- A conference call is scheduled to discuss migratory bird concerns

4.2 Agency Scoping Letters

USDA Rural Development received seven agency letters during the scoping process. The 30-day comment period for agency comment letters ended on January 16, 2006. Submitted letters addressed the following topics:

4.2.1 Francis Marion National Forest

A letter from the Francis Marion National Forest was received on August 12, 2005 (see Attachment L). Topics discussed include:

- Request inclusion of FMNF proclamation boundaries since this data encompasses land that may be acquired in future
- Include Cape Romain Wilderness to overall acreage, totaling to 41,812 acres
- Un-exclude Santee Delta WMA from analysis
- Recommend Forest Service Management Area (MA) 29 receive risk rating of -50 or be excluded from analysis
- Recommend exclusion of red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) sites from analysis; assign half-mile foraging circles risk rating of +50 and excluding cluster sites
- Recommend exclusion of bald eagle primary management zones extending 1500 feet from nest trees
- Recommend exclusion of known flatwoods salamander breeding ponds and quarter-mile buffer
- Concerns about impacts to migratory waterfowl; recommend a risk rating of +25 for Santee Delta
- Assign Unique Natural Areas risk rating of +30 or higher
- Modify risk rating for existing rights-of-way (ROW) from -50 to -25

A letter from the Francis Marion National Forest was received on November 25, 2005 (see Attachment M). Topics discussed include:

- Highlighted several technical corrections needed
- Missing information about threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants
- Recommend assigning cultural sites a ranking of +50
- Concerns about impacting wetlands; assign all wetland habitats ranking of +50 and justify all proposed wetland impacts
- Francis Marion National Forest should receive rating of +50 (same as Santee-Delta)
- Remove Migratory Bird Area and Vista designations

4.2.2 South Carolina Archives & History Center

A letter from the South Carolina Archives & History Center, State Historic Preservation Office was received on July 26, 2001 (see Attachment N). Topics discussed include:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process tribal consultation
- Questionnaires sent to 26 federally and non-federally recognized South Carolina Indian tribes and organizations asking about interest in participating in NHPA review process
- Included list of Indian tribes and organizations with interests in South Carolina

- ### 4.3 Agency Conference Call

Participants:

L.L. (Chick) Gaddy (Mangi's ecology consultant)

The purpose of the conference all was to obtain guidance from the USFWS on:

- ## Summary

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5.0 Public Scoping Comments

5.1 Public Comments Received

This section summarizes the comments made by the public during the public open house scoping meeting and in various telephone, e-mail, and letter submissions. A total of 89 responses and 236 comments were collected.

Number of phone calls:	15
Number of emails:	35
Number of letters (mailed & emailed):	25
Number of forms from open house:	14
Total submitted:	89

5.2 Public Comment Summary

Public Comments were organized into 19 categories and summarized in Table 4-1. Following are the essential portions of the public comments assembled in the categories:

Public Comment Summary	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Comments</u>
Aesthetics	14
Alternative Actions	8
Construction	14
Cultural Resources	8
Data, Maps, & Reports	33
Economics	22
NEPA/EA Process	26
Environmental Justice	1
Growth	4
Habitat	10
Health & Safety	8
Meeting Setup	7
Purpose & Need	5
Recreation	4
Route Selection	35
Technology	3
Water Resources	1
Wildlife	20
Other	13
Total Comments	236

5.2.1 Aesthetics

- Ambiance of community harmed by power lines
- Visual demarcation on private property
- Power line visually detracts from pristine natural environment

5.2.2 Alternative Actions

- Request that RUS take “No Action” alternative
- Consider selecting alternative action with least impact on humans and wildlife
- CEPCI purchase power from South Carolina Electric & Gas since substation and line already in place at Honey Hill
- CEPCI purchase power from South Carolina Electric & Gas and construct lines from Mt. Pleasant along Hwy 17
- No new lines; Berkeley Coop upgrade distribution system and improve maintenance in area

5.2.3 Construction

- Construction impacts wildlife
- Property is 100’ wide and ROW is 70’; will all property be taken?
- Perform construction with least ground disturbance possible
- Existing cellular tower might impact transmission line construction

5.2.4 Cultural Resources

- Transmission line diminishes “rural character” of area
- Object to project due to historical value of property
- Much of area property handed down through several generations
- Property used as children’s camp

5.2.5 Data, Maps, & Reports

- Should have received a copy of both reports
- Data and maps at public meeting not self-explanatory
- Experienced difficulty downloading documents from RUS website
- Residential maps understated number of existing homes in area
- Update study to include new developments, populated areas, and conservation easements
- No photos of residents included in environmental photo displays
- GIS maps insufficiently detailed and poorly explained
- Confusion on actual proposed corridor locations
- Project cost information modified when presented to public
- Ensure accuracy of land values used in data
- Siting Analysis evaluation method unclear (i.e. assignment of Impact Ratings)
- Include underlying algorithms and criteria used to process data and create maps
- Utilize plant ecologist familiar with local flora for field surveys
- Macro-Corridor study too broad for meaningful comments
- Request for 3-D images of all proposed corridors
- Request for specific parcel information

- Request onsite field surveys with local botany experts

5.2.6 Economics

- Property values decreased by new line
- Property values estimated by CEPCI inaccurate
- Project contributes more to developers than local citizens
- Construction impedes plans to develop on property
- Resident receives power from another supplier already
- Could CEPCI purchase property and resurvey?
- Request for financial assistance for use of land
- How would landowners be compensated? Who determines the amount?
- How is my property value determined?
- What are benefits of having a line on your property?
- Underground lines have higher initial expense but more cost-effective with decreased storm risk
- Cost of corridors does not include cost of substations
- More cost-effective to widen existing ROW
- Why is so much money being spent per consumer?
- Factor environmental costs into economic cost analysis

5.2.7 NEPA/EA Process

- Include all data in final EA for public examination
- When will a final decision be made on a preferred corridor and route?
- Request for information (i.e. newsletter) regarding project and current status
- Request for information regarding new public input opportunities
- Concern that residents were not notified of public scoping meeting or affected property

5.2.8 Environmental Justice

- Retiring and low-income residents less able to rebuild/move if necessary

5.2.9 Growth

- Growth most likely to occur in southern 20% of project area
- Growth in McClellanville-Awendaw area is slow and constrained by conservation easements

5.2.10 Habitat

- Concern over environmental impacts and fragmentation in National Forest
- Site contains one of few longleaf ecosystems remaining on Atlantic Coastal Plain
- Minimize habitat disturbance: bury cable, remove soil in squares, protect vegetation and natural processes, reduce mechanical and chemical disturbance
- All routes traverse fire-dependent ecosystems and exacerbate problem of prescribed fires
- Study understates value of Pine uplands in FMNF

5.2.11 Health & Safety

- What impacts do power lines have on people?
- Concern over public access to property due to new ROW
- Danger from proximity of hunting in ROW
- Request for more information on EMF impact and health issues
- What is the buffer distance between houses and transmission lines?
- Concern that health and safety of families rated equally with wildlife

5.2.12 Meeting Setup

- Too few representatives present to answer public questions
- Request for extra meetings and formal presentations
- Residents pleased with CD option
- Meeting setup confusing; difficult to comprehend facts

5.2.13 Purpose & Need

- Need is unclear since no water or sewer infrastructure is present
- Need is unclear since growth around McClellanville is slow
- Occasional power outages considered an acceptable “rural” occurrence
- Frequent power outages experienced; transmission line is needed

5.2.14 Recreation

- Near Wambaw Hunting Unit ROW creates open firing lane, puts hunters within range of landowners
- Hunting in ROW presents danger to residents

5.2.15 Corridor/Route Selection

- Why do corridors deviate from the existing [Charity to Winyah 230 kV] transmission line?
- Why do corridors deviate from Highway 17?
- Suggest widening existing ROW instead of new clearing
- Prefer line placement on Forest Service land over private land
- Prefer Bell-Isle Routes; more cost-effective and impacts least Forest Service land
- Prefer Honey Hill substation; minimizes length of line reducing storm damage risk and maintenance needs, avoids historical sites at Jamestown
- Prefer Jamestown to McClellanville #5.5 Route
- Object to Charity Routes
- Object to Bell-Isle to McClellanville Routes
- Object to Hwy 17
- Suggested alternative corridors:
 - Head east across Hwy 45 north of McClellanville, then turn southeast towards McClellanville substation
 - Follow Hwy 17
 - From intersection of Halfway Creek Road and 201 B Round Pond towards Moores Corner; utilizes existing 230 kV line, impacted landowners would receive power

- Line follow Steed Creek Road to Hwy 17 at Bell Creek; plan substation on future Berkeley Electric Cooperative office complex
- From Honey Hill substation travel east down Hwy 45, turn off on Palmer Bridge Road, left on Randall Road and traverse to McClellanville
- Utilize existing Santee Cooper to Nucor Steel route passing through Honey Hill; build Honey Hill substation, downgrade voltage and connect to McClellanville
- Prefer non-residential routes
- Prefer avoidance of Forest Service lands
- Will transmission line pass through neighborhoods?
- Would my house be taken if it is located in a macro-corridor?
- Can center line be adjusted to decrease visibility?
- Consider placing substation in Awendaw?
- Power lines should be set back off highways
- Concern over encroachment on private property

5.2.13 Technology

- Run underground transmission lines along Hwy 17 from Georgetown
- Co-locate transmission lines on existing distribution structures
- How big are the towers?

5.2.14 Water Resources

- Select corridors that minimize disruption to wetlands

5.2.15 Wildlife

- Diverse wildlife and plant species exist on affected properties
- Routes impact rare and engendered flora and fauna
- Overhead crossings threaten migratory birds
- Study did not incorporate available data on wildlife
- *Ambystoma cingulatum* habitat crossed by Charity corridor
- Bald Eagle given greater protection than Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Request for further discussion about migratory bird impact
- GIS modeling and risk analysis exclude rare and endangered plants
- All alternative routes potentially harm threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species (Pondberry, Chaffseed, Spiked Medusa Orchid, Grass-of-Parnassus)
- Control corridor vegetation with natural processes such as fire, not chemical/mechanical means

5.2.16 Other

- Certain corridors subject to potential hurricane damage

6.0 Landowner Follow-Up

This section compiles the information that was provided to landowners about where their property is located with respect to any of the alternative corridors in response to submitted requests and requests made at the public open house meeting.

Landowners given parcel information:

Maps were mailed prior to the Open House:	18
Viewed GIS maps during the Open House:	28
Maps were mailed after the Open House:	11
TOTAL:	57

Requests for copies of Alternatives Analysis and Macrocorridor Study:

Requests from Open House:	36 + 2
Requests during comment period:	4 (at least)
TOTAL:	42

Master mailing list:

TOTAL:	1630 people
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7.0 RUS Environmental Decision(s)

Following the completion of a formal scoping period, USDA Rural Development is required to:

- (1) review and consider the scope of comments and information provided by the public and agencies and
- (2) identify important issues and impact analyses that must be evaluated in an EA or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

If it appears that a proposal may have a significant effect to the human environment, USDA Rural Development can decide at any point to proceed with the preparation of an EIS (§1794.50).

Comments provided during the scoping period revealed that information used as the basis for the siting model was not up-to-date. Information was missing on residential development, known locations of federal- and state-protected species, wildlife management linkage areas, conservation easements, etc. Evaluation of this information revealed that the selection of one or more macro-corridor alternatives could have a significant effect to the human environment. Therefore, USDA Rural Development has decided to prepare an EIS for this proposal and not an EA.

Consideration of new alternatives

Following scoping, additional information was provided about the location of public and private conservation easements, RCW colonies, residential subdivisions, sensitive youth camping areas, etc. This information will be integrated into the transmission line siting model and used during selection of a preferred corridor.

After re-running the siting model, a new macro-corridor alternative, Britton Neck/Winyah, emerged. This alternative involves siting a line through private forestlands from a new switching station (Britton Neck 1 or 2). Its macro-corridor would include crossing the North and South Santee Rivers and being sited in areas east of the Hampton Plantation State Park.

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A USDA Rural Development Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental assessment (Federal Register, 70 [228]: 71462)
- Appendix B Scoping letter to interested parties
- Appendix C Text of public service announcement
- Appendix D Newspaper press releases
- Appendix E Project description handout
- Appendix F Public comment form
- Appendix G Public meeting exhibit: information about topics to be considered in environmental assessment & macro-corridor maps
- Appendix H Public meeting exhibit: CEPCI company information and rationale for proposal

Appendix A

USDA Rural Development Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental assessment (Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 228, 71462)

techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, November 14, 2005.

Joe Reilly,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. E5-6675 Filed 11-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Intent to Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an environmental assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an environmental assessment in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) of South Carolina. The proposal consists of the construction of approximately 20 miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable transmission power to McClellanville, SC. The proposed 115-kilovolt transmission line project would be constructed within one of several alternative corridors under consideration. The alternative transmission line corridors originate at existing power delivery points near Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown County, SC and at a potential new substation that would be built in the vicinity of the town of Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation in McClellanville from which electric power distribution lines would service the community. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest therefore the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) is a cooperating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. CEPCI is requesting RUS to provide financing for the proposed project.

DATES: RUS will conduct a scoping meeting in an open house format from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2005, at the

McClellanville Government Services Building, located at 405 Pinckney Street, McClellanville, SC 29458 Phone: (843) 887-3712. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of an EA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468. Mrs. Strength's e-mail address is stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CEPCI proposes to construct a 115 kilovolt transmission line between a source substation and a proposed substation located in McClellanville.

Single pole structures ranging in height from 80- to 150-feet would support the conductors and would require a right-of-way of 70 feet. One alternative route includes an approximately 2-mile subsurface directionally-drilled section below the Santee River delta. Depending on which route is chosen the approximate length of the transmission line would be from 16 to 26 miles. It is anticipated that this transmission line would be in service in the Spring of 2008.

Alternatives considered by RUS and CEPCI include: (a) No action, (b) alternative transmission improvements, and (c) alternative transmission line corridors. An Electric Alternative Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report, prepared by CEPCI will be presented at the public scoping meeting. The Report is available for public review at the USDA/Rural Development address provided in this notice, at Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., 121 Greystone Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210 and at:

Berkeley County Library, PO Box 1239, 1003 Hwy. 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461, (843) 719-4223, (843) 719-4226 (Fax), Director: Colleen L. Carney, Web Site: <http://www.berkeley.lib.sc.us/>.

Charleston County Library, 68 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401, (843) 805-6801, (843) 727-3741 (Fax), Director: Jan Buvinger, Web Site: <http://www.ccpl.org>.

Georgetown County Library, 405 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440, (843) 546-2521, (843) 527-3251 (Fax), Director: Dwight McInvaill, Web Site: <http://www.gcpl.lib.sc.us/>.

McClellanville Branch Library, 222 Baker St., McClellanville, SC 29458, (843) 889-3300.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from RUS and CEPCI will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss RUS' environmental review process, describe the project, the need for the project, the macro corridors under consideration, and discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days after the public scoping meeting. Written comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided in this notice.

From information provided in the alternative evaluation and site selection study, input that may be provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Central Electric Power Cooperative will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to RUS for review. RUS will use the environmental analysis to determine the significance of the impacts of the project and may adopt it as its environmental assessment of the project. RUS' environmental assessment of the project would be available for review and comment for 30 days.

Should RUS determine, based on the EA of the project, that the project would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact. Public notification of a finding of no significant impact would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers with a circulation in the project area.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality and RUS environmental policies and procedures.

Benjamin Shuman,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs.

[FR Doc. 05-23381 Filed 11-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the

Appendix B

Scoping letter to interested parties



THE MANGI ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INC.
7915 Jones Branch Dr. McLean VA 22102
703 760 4801 Fax 703 760 4899
www.mangi.com



*Viet Nam
Veteran
Owned*

28 Nov 2005

Philip J. Sczerzenie
Director, McClellanville Project
Mangi Environmental Group, Inc.
7915 Jones Branch Road
Suite 2300
McLean, VA 22102

Subject: Notice of Intent to Hold Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

Dear Interested Party:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financing assistance to Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) of South Carolina for the construction of approximately 20 miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable transmission power to Berkeley Electric's delivery point near McClellanville, SC. Mangi Environmental Group, Inc. has been contracted to assist RUS in preparing the EA.

The proposed 115-kilovolt transmission line project would be constructed within one of several alternative transmission line corridors under consideration. The alternative corridors originate at existing power delivery points at Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County, SC and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown, County, SC and at a potential new substation that would be built in the vicinity of the town of Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation near McClellanville, from which electric power distribution lines would service the area. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest therefore the USDA Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the NEPA analysis.

MEETING INFORMATION: RUS will conduct a Scoping Meeting in an open house format from 4:00PM until 8:00PM on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at the McClellanville Government Services Building, located at 405 Pinckney Street, McClellanville, SC 29458 Phone: (843) 887-3712. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and solicit comments. Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from RUS and Central Electric Power Cooperative will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss RUS's environmental review process, describe the project, the need for the project, the macro corridors under consideration, and discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days after the public scoping meeting. Written comments should be sent to RUS at the address below.

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Stop 1571
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Telephone: (202) 720-0468
Mrs. Strength's e-mail address: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Central Electric Power Cooperative Inc. (CEPCI) proposes to construct a 115 kilovolt transmission line between a source substation and a proposed substation located near McClellanville.

Single pole structures ranging in height from 70- to 150-feet would support the conductors and would require a right-of-way of 70 feet. One alternative route includes an approximately 2-mile subsurface directionally-drilled section below the Santee River delta. Depending on which route is chosen the approximate length of the transmission line would be from 16 to 26 miles. It is anticipated that this transmission line would be in service in the Spring of 2008.

The alternatives being considered by RUS and CEPCI include:

1. RUS taking no action to provide financing assistance to CEPCI for this project
2. RUS agreeing to provide financing assistance for alternative power transmission improvements
3. RUS agreeing to provide financing assistance for construction of a transmission line

PLEASE NOTE: No decision has been made yet as to:

- which of the alternatives under consideration will be selected.
- which corridor will be used to construct the transmission line if the alternative to provide financing assistance to CEPCI to construct a line is selected
- exactly where, within any of the relatively wide corridors a narrow right-of-way for the line would be defined by survey on the ground and a transmission line constructed.

No decision will be made until the environmental assessment process is completed and the public has had a full opportunity to participate in the process.

An Electric Alternative Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report, prepared by CEPCI will be presented at the public scoping meeting. The Report is available for public review on RUS' website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, at Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., 121 Greystone Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210, and at the following local libraries:

Berkeley County Library

PO Box 1239
1003 Hwy. 52
Moncks Corner, SC, 29461
(843) 719-4223
(843) 719-4226(Fax)
Director: Colleen L. Carney
Web Site: <http://www.berkeley.lib.sc.us/>

Georgetown County Library

405 Cleland Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 546-2521
(843) 527-3251 (Fax)
Director: Dwight McInvaill
Web Site: <http://www.gcpl.lib.sc.us/>

Charleston County Library

68 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 805-6801
(843) 727-3741 (Fax)
Director: Jan Buvinger
Web Site: <http://www.ccpl.org>

McClellanville Branch Library

222 Baker St.
McClellanville, SC 29458
(843) 889-3300

From information provided in the alternative evaluation and site selection study, input that may be provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Central Electric Power Cooperative will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to RUS for review. RUS will use the environmental analysis to determine the significance of the impacts of the project and may adopt it as its environmental assessment of the project. RUS' environmental assessment of the project would be available for review and comment for 30 days.

Should RUS determine, based on the Environmental Assessment of the project, that the impacts of the construction and operation of the line would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact. Public notification of a finding of no significant impact would be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers with a circulation in the project area.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality and RUS environmental policies and procedures.

Respectfully,

Philip J. Sczerzenie, Ph.D.
Director, McClellanville Project

Appendix C

Text of public service announcement

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financing assistance to Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) of South Carolina for the construction of approximately 20 miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable transmission power to Berkeley Electric's delivery point near McClellanville, SC. The proposed 115-kilovolt transmission line project would be constructed within one of several alternative transmission line corridors which originate at existing power delivery points at Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County, SC and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown, County, SC and at a potential new substation that would be built in the vicinity of the town of Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation near McClellanville, from which electric power distribution lines would service the area. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest therefore the USDA Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the EA.

RUS will conduct a Scoping Meeting in an open house format from 4:00PM until 8:00PM on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at the McClellanville Government Services Building, located at 405 Pinckney Street, McClellanville, SC 29458 Phone: (843) 887-3712. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and solicit comments. Or, you can mail your comments or simply request to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is completed, by contacting Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571; Telephone: (202) 720-0468; Mrs. Strength's e-mail address: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Appendix D

Newspaper press releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financing assistance to Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) of South Carolina for the construction of approximately 20 miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable transmission power to Berkeley Electric's delivery point near McClellanville, SC.

The proposed 115-kilovolt transmission line project would be constructed within one of several alternative transmission line corridors which originate at existing power delivery points at Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County, SC and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown, County, SC and at a potential new substation that would be built in the vicinity of the town of Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation near McClellanville, from which electric power distribution lines would service the area. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest therefore the USDA Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the EA.

RUS will conduct a Scoping Meeting in an open house format from 4:00PM until 8:00PM on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at the McClellanville Government Services Building, located at 405 Pinckney Street, McClellanville, SC 29458 Phone: (843) 887-3712. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and solicit comments.

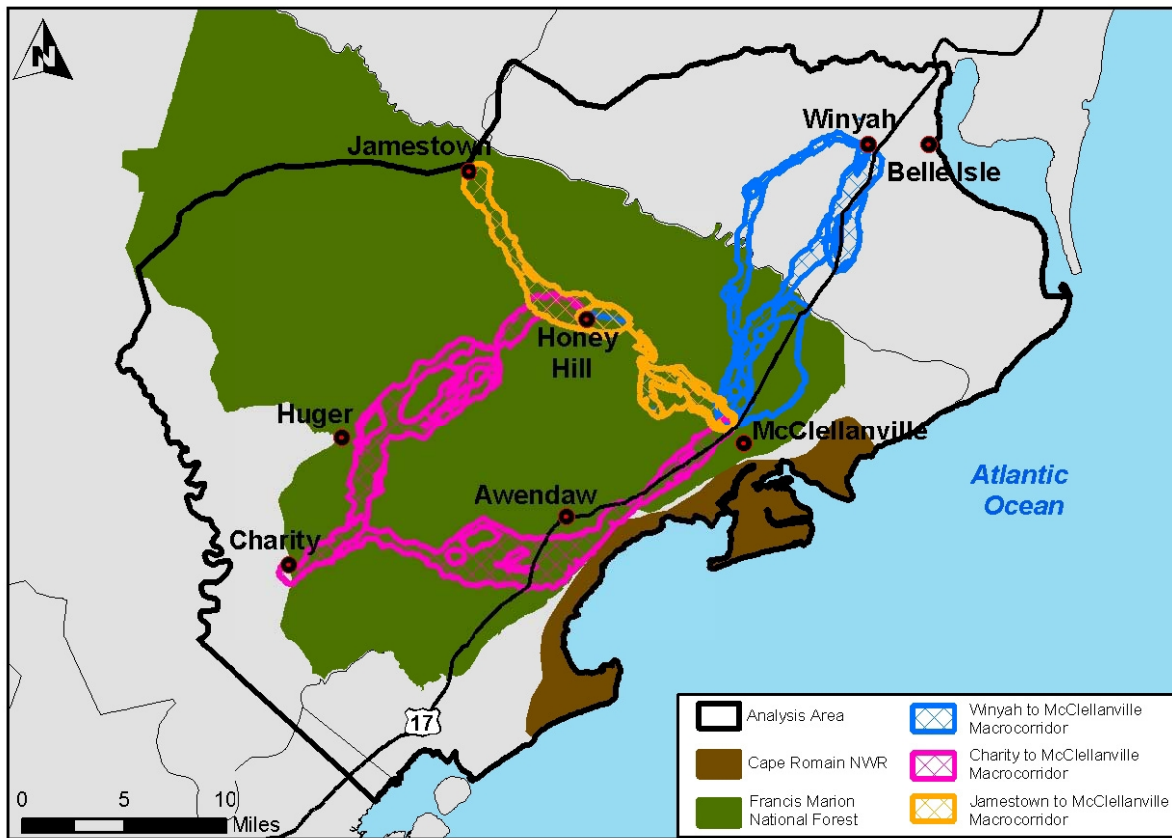
You can mail your comments or simply request to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is completed, by contacting Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571; Telephone: (202) 720-0468; Mrs. Strength's e-mail address: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Appendix E

Project description handout

CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE McClellanville 115kV Transmission Line Project

Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) proposes to construct a 115 kilovolt transmission line within one of several alternative corridors which originate at existing power delivery points at Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County, SC, and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown County, SC, and at a potential new substation that would be built near Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation near McClellanville, from which electric power distribution lines would service the area. Single pole structures ranging in height from 70 to 150 feet would support the conductors and would require a right-of-way of 70 feet. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest.



The deadline for comments regarding the proposed project is **January 16, 2006**. Please contact the following project representatives with questions:

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Stop 1571
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1571
202-720-0468
stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Phil Sczerzenie
Director, McClellanville Project
Mangi Environmental Group, Inc.
7915 Jones Branch Drive,
Suite 2300
McLean, VA 22102
703-760-4801 x224
psczerzenie@mangi.com

For more information, visit the USDA website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

Appendix F

Public comment sheet

USDA Rural Utilities Service

McClellanville, SC

December 14, 2005

Welcome to today's public scoping meeting to discuss possible financing assistance to Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) of South Carolina for the construction of approximately 20 miles of a 115 kilovolt transmission line to provide more reliable transmission power to Berkeley Electric's delivery point near McClellanville. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss RUS's environmental review process and to describe the project, the need for the project, the macro corridors under consideration, and the scope of environmental issues to be considered.

Please use this handout to share your comments. Comments may be given to RUS's representatives today, mailed to the below address, or sent by email to Stephanie Strength at stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov. The deadline for comments is January 16, 2006. Updates on the project, including public notices and updated reports, will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

Leave Space Blank

Return Address:

**Place
Stamp
Here**

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Stop 1571
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1571



McClellanville 115kV Transmission Line Project

Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI) proposes to construct a 115 kilovolt transmission line within one of several alternative corridors which originate at existing power delivery points at Jamestown and Charity, Berkeley County, SC and Winyah and Belle Isle south of the city of Georgetown in Georgetown, County, SC and at a potential new substation that would be built in the vicinity of the town of Honey Hill, Berkeley County, SC. The corridors terminate at the proposed location of a substation near McClellanville, from which electric power distribution lines would service the area. Single pole structures ranging in height from 70 to 150 feet would support the conductors and would require a right-of-way of 70 feet. Portions of the alternative corridors include Federal lands.

The alternatives being considered by RUS and CEPCI include:

1. RUS taking no action to provide financing assistance to CEPCI for this project;
2. RUS agreeing to provide financing assistance for alternative power transmission improvements;
3. RUS agreeing to provide financing assistance for construction of a transmission line.

Your comments:

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Name

Address

Affiliation

Appendix G

Public meeting exhibit: information about topics to be considered in environmental assessment
& macro-corridor maps

CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Macro-Corridor Study

Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Bald Eagle nests are built in tall trees - often live pines or bald cypress trees that are higher than surrounding trees. Nest trees are usually within one mile of a large body of water, along coasts, or on the banks of rivers. A 2004 Francis Marion NF monitoring report indicated bald eagles are increasing in the state; five nests on the forest w/ 5 chicks fledged in 2004. Protection requires avoiding any human disturbance in the vicinity of their nests.



Flatwoods Salamander

The Flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) is critically imperiled in the State of South Carolina and threatened under federal law. The salamander's primary terrestrial habitat is the southern longleaf pine forest. During the fall and winter, it typically travels to breed in isolated, temporary wetlands, such as those found in the lowcountry. The lack of periodic fires has compromised the habitat of the Flatwoods salamander. Although no sightings have occurred in the state in recent years, state and federal officials are hopeful that the salamander continues to live in the Francis Marion National Forest and surrounding areas.



Forested Wetlands

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps were used to identify wetlands areas for the study. The study area has 366,790 acres of wetland, comprising 57 percent of its total area. And nearly half of the wetland area (179,788 acres) is in forested wetlands. Bottomland and swamp hardwoods dominate, with cypress also prominent.



Pondberry

Pondberry is a rare plant that was federally listed as endangered on July 31, 1986. It is a small, deciduous shrub (30-200 cm or 12-80 in tall) that is easily identified by the sassafras-like aroma of freshly crushed leaves. Historically, the plant had a wider distribution, but only 37 populations of the species are currently found within its range. In South Carolina, pondberry grows along the margins of limestone sinks and shallow depressions. The plant also inhabits pinelands and recently burned open areas.



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Macro-Corridor Study

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Once common in the mature pine forests of the southeast, the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) or RCW, is now endangered—an estimated 10 to 14,000 birds now live in about 1 percent of its original range.

The Francis Marion NF has the second highest population of RCW in the world but a major hurricane in 1989 destroyed 87% of cavity trees and 63% of the birds.

Extensive longleaf pine ecosystem restoration efforts have proven successful. Now over 340 family groups live in the forest. Their survival depends on continued protection and restoration of mature pine habitat with aggressive burning to control understory vegetation.



Santee River

The Santee River traverses the northern half of the study area, and has the largest delta on the Atlantic Coast. The Santee Delta includes many acres of wetlands, from forested swamps, to grassy meadows, and tidal marshes. It harbors numerous species of birds, including waterfowl, migratory birds, and some sensitive species (e.g., bald eagles (federally threatened), wood storks (federally endangered), and swallow-tailed kites (State-listed endangered)). Other species include the federally endangered short nosed sturgeon and federally threatened flatwoods salamander.



Wilderness Areas

The Francis Marion National Forest 4 wilderness areas Hellhole Bay, Little Wambaw Swamp, Wambaw Creek and Wambaw Swamp, ranging in size from 1,800 to 5,000 acres, were established in 1980 to protect, manage, and preserve natural conditions, keeping human influence to a minimum. All mechanized and motorized equipment is prohibited, except Wambaw Creek. These areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreational experiences such as canoeing, hunting, and fishing.



Macrocorridor Protection Ratings

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species	
- RCW Colony (200 ft Buffer)	Excluded
- RCW Management Area (200ft- 1/2 mi)	+50
- Bald Eagle Primary Mgmt Area (1500ft)	Excluded
- Flatwoods Salamander (1/4 mile Buffer)	Excluded
- State Listed Species (200 ft Buffer)	+50
Wetlands	
- Forested, Lacustrine, & Estuarine	+50
- Emergent and Riverine	+30
- Scrub shrub	+15

Macrocorridor Protection Ratings

Wilderness	
- Wilderness Areas	Excluded
- Wilderness Linkages (Mgmt Area 29)	Excluded
Conservation Areas	
- Santee-Delta Wildlife Management Area	+50
- Conservation Easements	+50
- Migratory Bird Area – Santee Delta	+25

CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Macro-Corridor Study

Recreation -- Canoe Trails

Wambaw Creek Canoe Trail is a peaceful blackwater creek flowing through majestic cypress-tupelo stands. Species found include prothonotary warblers, swallow-tailed kites and river otters. This freshwater creek is tidal with changes about 3 hours later than Charleston Harbor.

Chicken Creek Canoe Trail takes the paddler down the historic Santee River, through the fast moving confines of Chicken Creek, back onto the Santee and up Wambaw Creek. Well drained oak-hickory hills along Chicken Creek provide opportunities for exploration on foot.



Scenic Values

The Santee Delta and Francis Marion National Forest are noted for their natural beauty. Whether canoeing the blackwaters of the FMNF wilderness areas or enjoying the more expansive views of the Santee Delta, the aesthetic quality of the environment is important to resident and visitor alike. Constructed works of many different types affect these scenic views. For example, with its shoreline and dock on the North Santee River the Hopsewee Plantation affords visitors different views of the Santee River Delta, including the nearby bridge crossing.



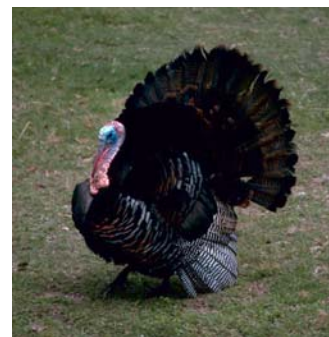
Hopsewee Plantation

Hopsewee Plantation is a National Register-listed historic resource in the study area. Built in the 1730s, Hopsewee Plantation is the birthplace of Thomas Lynch, Jr., the fifty-second signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was owned and operated by the Hume family as a successful rice plantation, which by 1850 housed 178 slaves and produced 360,000 pounds of rice. Today, the house is a private residence with seventy acres of the original land preserved by the owners. With its shoreline and dock on the North Santee River it affords visitors different views of the Santee River Delta, including the nearby bridge crossing.



Recreation -- Hunting

The Francis Marion National Forest in the lowcountry is a mix of swamps, Carolina bays and dry sand forests of longleaf and loblolly pine. The effects of hurricane Hugo on wildlife habitat are still evident providing dense cover for deer and rabbits. Wild turkeys and, in some areas of the Forest, feral hogs provide hunting opportunities. With over 75,000 acres in wetland habitats, the Francis Marion also provides major opportunities to hunt woodcock and waterfowl. Nearby Santee Delta WMA offers excellent waterfowl hunting.



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Macro-Corridor Study

Santee Delta Wildlife Management Area

Santee Delta WMA consists of 1,135 acres of freshwater managed wetlands located between the North and South Santee rivers and divided by Highway 17. To the east of Hwy 17 are typical open coastal impoundments. The WMA on the west side of Hwy 17 is primarily flooded-timber habitat. During the winter of 2004-05 impressive waterfowl concentrations utilized the area, and hunters benefited by averaging 2.27 ducks per/hunter with green-winged teal (34.1%) and mallards (17.0%) the most important species in the bag. The WMA also supports wood ducks, shovelers, and occasional gadwalls, pintails, widgeons and ringneck ducks. (SCDNR)



Structures -- Homes and Businesses

A total of 16,607 homes, businesses and other non-residential structures were located in the macrocorridor analysis study area. Because all structures were protected by a 300-foot buffer, the corridors that were defined did not include areas with high numbers of structures. Less than 8 percent of the total structures remained in the alternative corridors. The 300-foot buffer would also be used in any future ground surveying for the transmission line to avoid affecting any structures.



Protecting Wilderness Areas

The Francis Marion National Forest 4 wilderness areas Hellhole Bay, Little Wambaw Swamp, Wambaw Creek and Wambaw Swamp, were excluded from consideration for routing a transmission line. Forest Service Management Area (MA) 29 provides wilderness linkages between existing Wilderness Areas. The FMNF *Land and Resource Management Plan* emphasizes the minimization of breaks in the forest canopy, road constriction and limits issuance of special use permits. For this reason, MA 29 was also excluded except for existing openings, such as existing roads and ROWs.



Macrocorridor Protection Ratings

Homes, Businesses & Other Structures (within 300 ft Buffer)	+50
Scenic Vistas	
- Cultural Site Foreground (0-300ft)	+50
- Santee Delta Foreground (0-300ft)	+50
- Santee Delta Midground (300ft-1/2 mi)	+30
- Santee Delta Background (Beyond 1/2 mile)	+15
Recreation	
- Recreation Areas and Trails (with 300 ft Buffer)	+50
- Water-based North and South Santee Rivers	+25

Macrocorridor Protection Ratings

Cultural Resources	
- Historic /Archeological Districts	Excluded
- Known Cultural Sites	
* Listed or Eligible for Listing on NRHP	Excluded
* Potentially Eligible for Listing	+25
- Cultural Site Probability	+25

Appendix H

Public meeting exhibit: CEPCI company information and rationale for proposal

Who is Central Electric?

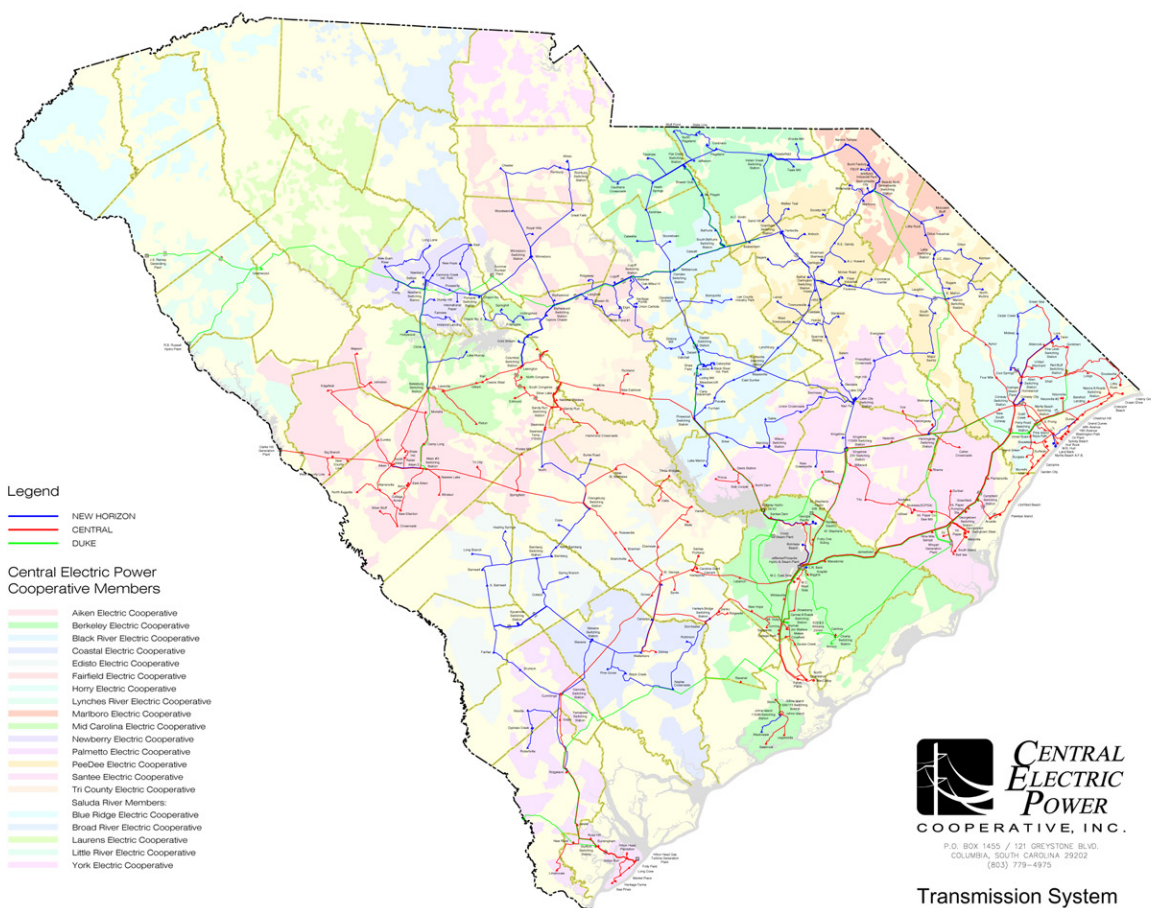
Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., organized in 1948 and based in Columbia, is a not for profit corporation owned by sixteen member electric cooperatives.

Central Electric is a wholesale power supplier of electricity. We provide power to our member distribution cooperatives that, in turn, serve over 450,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.

What does Central Electric do?

Central Electric delivers the total wholesale electric power requirements of its members through the construction of transmission lines, which become part of the combined Santee Cooper/Central system.

This combined system totals more than 4500 miles of transmission lines of which Central Electric has constructed 2500 miles.



**CENTRAL
ELECTRIC
POWER
COOPERATIVE, INC.**
P.O. BOX 1455 / 121 GREYSTONE BLVD.
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202
(803) 779-4975

**Transmission System
and Service Areas**

THIS MAP IS A GENERAL RENDERING OF TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENT AREAS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RELIED UPON AS AN ACTUAL REPRODUCTION OF THE OFFICIAL TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENT MAPS ON FILE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

USDA - RUS

McClellanville Project

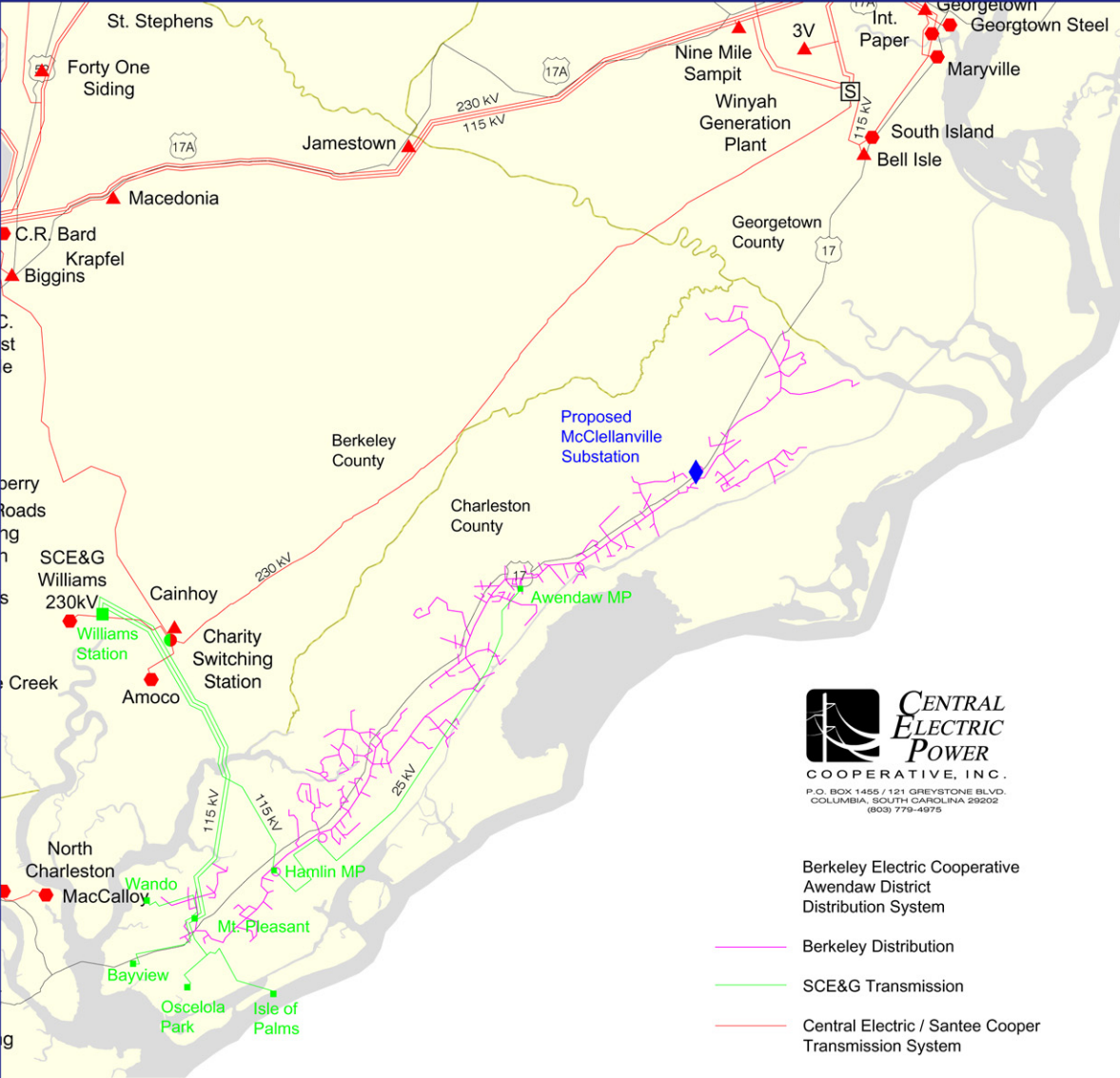
Macrocorridor Study

Need for the Project

The McClellanville community is located in an area that has no existing transmission infrastructure. Berkeley Electric Cooperative, a member of the Central Electric System, serves its members in the area from the Awendaw Metering Point, which is fed by a 25kV line that runs 25 miles from the Hamlin substation. This line has a great deal of exposure due to its length, location and distribution type of construction. Through the years the power supply in the community has experienced numerous times of low voltage and several outages.

Purpose of the Project

Central Electric proposes to improve the reliability and power quality of electric service to Berkeley Electric members in the McClellanville area utilizing the most economical methods with the least impacts possible.



Power Supply Alternatives Evaluated

- 1) Rebuilding the existing distribution system
- 2) Constructing a McClellanville substation supplied with power via a newly constructed transmission line
- 3) Constructing a McClellanville substation with onsite power generation.

Alternatives Evaluation Summary

McClellanville Service Options Executive Summary				
Case #	Project Option	Capital Cost	Present Value Loss Cost	Total Cost
Case #1	Rebuild distribution system, no McClellanville substation	\$400,000	\$163,285,055	\$163,685,055
Case #2 (Route A)	McClellanville through 24 miles of transmission from Jamieson	\$6,700,000	\$103,016,551	\$109,706,551
Case #3 (Route A1)	McClellanville through 24 miles of transmission from 230V 15 kV stepdown station	\$10,400,000	\$102,857,090	\$113,257,090
Case #4 (Route B)	McClellanville through 16 miles of transmission from Belly Isle	\$7,000,000	\$102,910,243	\$109,910,243
Case #5 (Route B2)	McClellanville through 16 miles of transmission from Belly Isle (2 miles underground)	\$16,500,000	\$103,274,413	\$119,774,413
Case #6 (Route C)	McClellanville through 29 miles of transmission from Winyah Generation Station	\$8,590,000	\$103,082,993	\$111,672,993
Case #7	On Site Generation to remove 2 MVA of load from SC&F locally	\$12,100,000	\$162,339,269	\$174,439,269

Conclusion

Based on economic analysis, providing transmission line service to a McClellanville substation is the most cost effective alternative for improving power quality, reliability and service to the McClellanville area.

A Macro Corridor Study is necessary to determine what potential transmission line routing options are available for the McClellanville line, and in general terms, how they might be planned to avoid potential environmental, social, cultural, and economic effects.



Method of Transmission Construction

The typical structure for the proposed transmission line will be a single pole averaging 61 to 75 feet above ground. In some instances taller poles will be necessary to maintain proper clearances over other utility lines and roads. The poles will be either wood, concrete or steel and average spans between structures will be 300 feet.

Where the right of way traverses cross-country a width of 70 feet will be cleared. When it is possible to parallel existing corridors the cleared right of way will be reduced adjacent to the existing one.

