

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 10, 2003 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by April 8, 2003 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sierra County, CA, Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sierra County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on April 2, 2003, near Bassetts, east of Sierra City on Hwy 49, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to implementing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Payments to States) and the expenditure of Title II funds benefiting National Forest System lands on the Humboldt-Toiyabe, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests in Sierra County.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2, 2003 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the High Country Inn, near Bassetts, east of Sierra City on Hwy 49, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Westling, Committee Coordinator,

USDA, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St, Nevada City, CA 95959, (530) 478-6205, e-mail: awestling@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Welcome and announcements; (2) Status of previously approved projects; and (3) Review of and decisions on new projects proposals for current year. The meeting is open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment at the meeting.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

Steven T. Eubanks,

Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Lawrence County Generation Project; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) for a project proposed by Hoosier Energy Electric Cooperative, Inc., (Hoosier) located in Bloomington, Indiana, and Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., (Wabash) located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The project consists of constructing a 258 megawatt (MW) net, natural gas fired simple-cycle combustion turbine, electrical generating facility. The Lawrence County Generation Project (LCGP) is proposed to be located in Lawrence County, Indiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1414; e-mail: nislam@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Ms. Shiela M. Wheeler, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., 9400 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114, telephone: (816) 822-3250, Fax: (816) 822-3515, e-mail: swheele@burnsmcd.com. All written comments regarding this project should be sent to Mr. Nurul Islam within 30 days of the publication of this notice at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The joint project proposed by Hoosier and

Wabash will consist of six (6) simple-cycle electric combustion turbines. The primary purpose of the LCGP is to meet the increasing power consumption requirements in their respective territories. Hoosier will own four (4) of the proposed turbines and Wabash will own the remaining two (2). The proposed combustion turbines will receive water from a well field that will be drilled near the project site. The project will utilize the existing gas pipeline and electric transmission line located near the proposed site for operating the facility. The LCGP will be fired on natural gas, #2 diesel fuel may be used as backup fuel. Hoosier and Wabash propose to construct the LCGP in Lawrence County, Indiana. The site is located in a rural portion of Lawrence County, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Bedford, Indiana. The site consists of about 49 acres of pastureland; approximately 25 acres of this site will be dedicated to the turbine generating units and associated facilities.

Alternatives to the proposed project, including the purchase of power, alternative methods of power generation, and alternative site locations, etc., were evaluated by Hoosier and Wabash. RUS, in accordance with its environmental policies and procedures, required that Hoosier and Wabash prepare an environmental report reflecting the potential impacts of the proposed project. The environmental report, which includes input from Federal, State, and local agencies, has been reviewed and accepted as RUS' environmental assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with RUS' Environmental Policies and Procures, § 1794.41. The EA is available for public review at RUS, at the address provided in this notice, or the headquarters of Hoosier and Wabash, and also at the following public libraries:

Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., 7398 N. State Road 37, Bloomington, Indiana 47402. Tel: (812) 876-0374.

Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., 722 North High School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214. Tel: (317) 581-2842.

Bedford Public Library, 1323 K Street, Bedford, Indiana 47421. Tel: (812) 275-4471.

Mitchell Community Public Library, 804 Man Street, Mitchell, Indiana 47446. Tel: (812) 849-2412.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided in this notice. RUS will accept questions and comments on the EA for 30 days