

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section describes the consultation and coordination the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA/RD) and AECI have had with government agencies and the public during preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Information is presented concerning the scoping process, additional public involvement, additional agency consultation, as well as planned future agency and public involvement. A list of agencies, organizations, and individuals to whom copies of the Draft EIS were sent is also included.

6.1 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping was the first step in the EIS process and is required by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations⁸⁷. Scoping is a process for determining the range of issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying significant issues associated with the alternatives. The objectives of the scoping process were to notify interested persons, agencies, and other groups about the Proposed Action and the alternatives being considered; solicit comments about environmental issues, alternatives to the Proposed Action, and other items of interest; and consider those comments in the preparation of the EIS.

The scoping process begins with a notice of intent (NOI) to hold public meetings and prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register. The NOI for this project was published on August 10, 2005. It briefly described the project, announced the dates, times and locations of four public scoping meetings, listed the locations where the Site Selection Study and Macro Corridor Study Report could be found, provided contact information for USDA/RD and AECI, and summarized the EIS process. The NOI also indicated the scoping comment period would extend to September 26, 2005. A copy of the NOI is included in *Appendix L, Federal Register Notices*. A second Federal Register notice dated September 30 extended the comment period to October 28, 2005.⁸⁸ It also provided the website address where project documents could be viewed, and an updated repository list. The October 28 notice is also included in *Appendix L, Federal Register Notices*.

⁸⁷ 40CFR1501.7

⁸⁸ Federal Register, September 30, 2005

The four public scoping meetings announced in the Federal Register were conducted in August 2005, one near each of the two primary alternative site locations identified for the new coal-fired power plant and two near the proposed transmission line corridors. In addition to the NOI, the public was notified by a series of advertisements in 26 local newspapers located in the surrounding areas of alternative sites and transmission line macrocorridors (AECI, 2005d).

6.1.1 Agency Scoping

An interagency scoping meeting was held on August 23, 2005. The list of agencies invited to the scoping meeting is included as Figure 6-1.

6.1.2 Summary of Comments by Category

The summary below by resource is taken directly from AECI's scoping document (AECI, 2005d).

Air. A total of 42 comments were received on air issues. Eighteen comments express concern regarding the emissions from the proposed power plant; six comments were related to impacts to health from the emissions. The remaining comments involved concerns about various pollutants (i.e. particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon dioxide (CO₂), emission trading, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), climate change, and ash dust.

Aesthetics. A total of 15 comments were received concerning visual impacts from the transmission lines and facility buildings

Cultural Resources. A total of five comments were received on cultural resources. Comments included questions about historic buildings and bridges and potential archeological and historic sites.

Economics. There were 51 comments related to economics. Employment (12 comments) and land values (12 comments) were the major topics. This included giving local people priority on the jobs created, and the perceived decrease in property values around the power plant. Other comments included impacts to recreation and tourism in the Forbes site area; taxes and revenue benefits to the county; and the increase in population

AECI-AGENCY CONTACT LIST

Title	First name	Last name	Position	Company1	Company2	Address1	Address2	Address3	City, State, Zip		
Col.	Michael A.	Rossi	District Engineer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Kansas City District	601 East 12 th Street			Kansas City	MO	64106
Mr.	Jim	Gulliford	Administrator	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Region 7	901 North 5 th Street			Kansas City	KS	66101
Mr.	Gerald M.	Jones	Assistant Manager	U.S. Department of Energy	Office of Kansas City Site Operations	2000 East 95 th Street		PO Box 410202	Kansas City	MO	64131
Mr.	Charlie	Scott	Field Supervisor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Columbia Ecological Services Field Office	101 Park DeVillie Drive, Suite A			Columbia	MO	65203
Mr.	George	Hendon	Division Manager	Federal Aviation Administration	Airports Division ACE-600	901 Locust			Kansas City	MO	64106
Mr.	Dick	Hainje	Regional Director	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Region VII – Kansas City	2323 Grand Boulevard, Suite 900			Kansas City	MO	64106
Mr.	Randy	Moore	Regional Forester	USDA Forest Service	Eastern Region – R9	626 East Wisconsin Avenue			Milwaukee	WI	53202
Ms.	Macie L.	Houston	Regional Director	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Dev	Kansas City Regional Office	400 State Avenue, Room 200			Kansas City	KS	66101
Mr.	Fred	Ferrell	Director	Missouri Department of Agriculture		1616 Missouri Boulevard		PO Box 630	Jefferson City	MO	65102
Mr.	John	Hoskins	Director	Missouri Department of Conservation	Administrative Office	2901 West Truman Boulevard		PO Box 180, 65102	Jefferson City	MO	65109
Mr.	Gregory A.	Steinhoff	Director	Missouri Department of Economic Dev		301 West High Street		PO Box 1157	Jefferson City	MO	65102
Mr.	Ronald M.	Reynolds	Director	State Emergency Management Agency		2302 Militia Drive		PO Box 116, 65102	Jefferson City	MO	65101
Mr.	Doyle	Childers	Director	Missouri Department of Natural Resources		1101 Riverside Drive		PO Box 176, 65102	Jefferson City	MO	65101
Mr.	Mark	Miles	Director	Missouri Department of Natural Resources	State Historic Preservation Office	1101 Riverside Drive		PO Box 176, 65102	Jefferson City	MO	65101
Mr.	Pete	Rahn	Director	Missouri Department of Transportation	Central Office	105 West Capitol Avenue			Jefferson City	MO	65102
Ms.	Nancy	Thomson	Executive Director	Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Govts		114 West Third Street			Maryville	MO	65102
Mr.	Randy	Railsback	Executive Director	Green Hills Regional Planning Commission		1104 Main Street		PO Box 28	Trenton	MO	65102
Mr.	Larry	Atkins	Presiding Commissioner	Andrew County	County Courthouse	411 Court Street		PO Box 206	Savannah	MO	64485
Mr.	Rodney	Meyer	Presiding Commissioner	Benton County	County Courthouse	316 Van Buren		PO Box 1238	Warsaw	MO	65355
Mr.	Raymond	Hartley	Presiding Commissioner	Caldwell County	County Courthouse	49 East Main		PO Box 67	Kingston	MO	64650
Mr.	Nelson	Heil	Presiding Commissioner	Carroll County	County Courthouse	8 South Main, Suite 6			Carrollton	MO	64633
Mr.	Larry	Peters	Presiding Commissioner	Chariton County	County Courthouse	306 South Cherry			Keytesville	MO	65261
	Carol	McCaslin	Presiding Commissioner	Clay County	Planning and Zoning	234 West Shrader, Suite C			Liberty	MO	64068
Mr.	Mark	Hoover	Presiding Commissioner	Clinton County	County Courthouse	207 North Main		PO Box 245	Plattsburg	MO	64477
Mr.	David	Tolen	Presiding Commissioner	Daviess County	County Courthouse	102 North Main Street			Gallatin	MO	64640
Mr.	David (Dick)	Lippold	Presiding Commissioner	Dekalb County	County Courthouse	109 West Main		PO Box 248	Maysville	MO	64469
Mr.	Ronnie	Mercer	Presiding Commissioner	Gentry County	County Courthouse	200 West Clay Street			Albany	MO	64402
Mr.	Wayne	Voltmer	Presiding Commissioner	Holt County	County Courthouse	102 West Nodaway		PO Box 437	Oregon	MO	64473
Ms.	Katheryn	Shields	County Executive	Jackson County	County Courthouse	303 West Walnut			Independence	MO	64050
Mr.	William	Brenner	Presiding Commissioner	Johnson County	County Courthouse	300 North Holden Street			Warrensburg	MO	64093
Mr.	James	Strodtman	Presiding Commissioner	Lafayette County	County Courthouse	1001 Main Street			Lexington	MO	64067
Mr.	Lester	Keith	Presiding Commissioner	Nodaway County	County Courthouse	305 North Main, Room 105		PO Box 218	Maryville	MO	64468
Mr.	Rusty	Kahrs	Presiding Commissioner	Pettis County	County Courthouse	415 South Ohio			Sedalia	MO	65301
Mr.	Jim	Myles	Presiding Commissioner	Randolph County	County Courthouse	110 South Main Street			Huntsville	MO	65259
Mr.	Jeff	Adam	Presiding Commissioner	Ray County	County Courthouse	100 West Main Street			Richmond	MO	64085
Ms.	Becky	Plattner	Presiding Commissioner	Saline County	County Courthouse	101 East Arrow Street			Marshall	MO	65340
Mr.	Ronald	Bell	Refuge Manager	Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge		Highway 159 South		PO Box 158	Mound City	MO	64470
Mr.	John	Guthrie	Refuge Manager	Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge		16194 Swan Lake Avenue			Summer	MO	64681
Mr.	Bill	Ely	Board of Supervisors	Richardson	County Courthouse	1700 Stone Street			Falls City	NE	68335
Ms.	Leslie	Holloway		Missouri Farm Bureau		701 South Country Club Drive		PO Box 658	Jefferson City	MO	65102
	Interested Party			U.S. Geological Survey	Missouri District Office	USGS Building	1400 Independence Road		Rolla	MO	65401
	Interested Party			U.S. Department of the Interior	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Main Interior Building MS 2340	1849 C Street, NW		Washington	DC	20204
	Interested Party			Natural Resource Conservation Service	Missouri State Office	Parkade Center, Suite 250	601 Business Loop 70 W		Columbia	MO	65203
	Interested Party			Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse	Office of Administration	Truman State Office Building, Rm 840	301 West High Street	PO Box 809	Jefferson City	MO	65102

**Figure 6-1
Agency Scoping Contact List**

during construction, as well as, the decrease once the plant is in commercial operation.

Farmlands. A total of 16 comments were received on farmland. The majority of the comments pertained to the conversion of farmland to industrial uses such as power plants.

Geology. There were five comments received expressing concern about the geology, particularly impacts to soils, erosion, and sinkholes.

Health & Safety. A total of 19 comments were received on health and safety. The majority of the comments pertained to effects of the pollutants from the plant on local and area residents, higher health risks for the public, and amplification of health problems for specific individuals.

Mercury. There were 34 comments received expressing concern about mercury. Sixteen of the comments pertained to emissions and 13 comments were related to health issues. The remaining comments were about waste disposal, fish contamination, and coal cleaning.

Purpose, Need and Alternatives. A total of 28 comments were received on purpose and need for the facility, 12 comments were received pertaining to use of alternative technologies, and eight comments were received concerning the siting analysis.

Recreation. There were 19 comments received expressing concern about potential impacts to recreation. The majority of the comments were from the Forbes site area regarding impacts to the Big Lake State Park and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Transmission. A total of eight comments were received on transmission. The majority of the comments pertained to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs).

Transportation. A total of 18 comments were received on transportation. The majority of the comments pertained to increased traffic in the area around the power plant, especially during flooding that is frequent to the area. Other comments expressed concern over railroad traffic, noise from the railcars, and impacts to local roads.

Waste. There were nine comments regarding waste, five concerned hazardous waste from the landfill.

Water Resources. A total of 70 comments on water issues were received. Almost half (37 comments) of the comments, express concern regarding water supply from groundwater withdrawal and how that withdrawal would impact local wells. Also of major concern is the potential impact from building in a floodplain and on wetlands. The remaining comments concerned contamination, wastewater, hydrology, pollution, storm water, barge traffic, and quality.

Wildlife. A total of 43 comments were received regarding impacts to wildlife. The majority were concerns for wildlife near the Forbes site, specifically wildlife in the parks and wildlife refuges in the area and bald eagles. Another concern was what impact the power plant and transmission lines would have on bird migration.

Other. There were 15 comments received expressing concern about noise pollution from operation of the plant and increased train and automobile traffic. Other comments concerned lighting, land use, odors, and cumulative effects.

6.1.3 Responses to Scoping

Comments received during scoping were summarized and tabulated in AECl's scoping report (AECl, 2005d). For most of the comments, AECl's scoping report indicated they would be addressed in the EIS process (AECl, 2005d). Several comments are not addressed in this EIS because they are unrelated to environmental impacts. Those included concerns about AECl and its dealings with county commissioners, suggestions to conduct a county-wide vote on allowing the power plant, and use of eminent domain to acquire property (AECl, 2005d).

Those comments that AECl's scoping document indicated would be addressed in the EIS process are specifically identified and listed under each affected resource in *Section 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences*, in the subsections titled Identification of Issues. They are then addressed in the impact discussion for each resource. If applicable, actions to prevent or reduce impacts are identified. Specific items of interest can be looked up in the index, *Section 10*.

6.2 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Draft EIS was available for a 45-day public review and comment period, during which time public hearings were held. Comments received on the Draft EIS, and USDA/RD's responses to those comments, are included in Appendix M. This Final EIS has been revised to address comments received on the Draft EIS, as appropriate. The Final EIS will be available for a 30-day review and comment period after which the USDA/RD will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). Notices announcing the availability of the Draft and Final EIS were published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers. Any final action by USDA/RD related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the USDA/RD Environmental Policies and Procedures⁸⁹.

The public and government agencies may submit comments on this Final EIS during the 30-day comment period. Written comments should be addressed to the following:

Stephanie A. Strength USDA, Rural Development
Engineering & Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1570
Telephone: 202-720-0468
Email: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

6.3 ADDITIONAL AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a cooperating agency for this EIS.

The Cultural Resources Assessment for the Norborne Site (AECI, 2006m) was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), who concurred on the recommendation that no sites are eligible for the NRHP. The concurrence letter is included in *Appendix I, State Historic Preservation Officer's Letter of Concurrence*.

⁸⁹ 7 CFR Part 1794

6.4 FUTURE PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

6.4.1 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals to Whom Copies of the Draft and Final EIS Are Sent

Following is the list of agencies to whom the Draft EIS was distributed and the Final EIS will be distributed.

- Andrew County, Missouri
- Benton County, Missouri
- Caldwell County, Missouri
- Carroll County, Missouri
- Chariton County, Missouri
- Clay County, Missouri
- Clinton County, Missouri
- Daviess County, Missouri
- Dekalb County, Missouri
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Gentry County, Missouri
- Green Hills Regional Planning Commission
- Holt County, Missouri
- Jackson County, Missouri
- Johnson County, Missouri
- Lafayette County, Missouri
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Transportation

- Missouri Farm Bureau
- Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse
- Nodaway County, Missouri
- Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments
- Pettis County, Missouri
- Randolph County, Missouri
- Ray County, Missouri
- Richardson County, Nebraska
- Saline County, Missouri
- Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
- State Emergency Management Agency
- Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Interior
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

The following are project repositories that have copies of the Draft EIS and that will receive also receive copies of the Final EIS.

- Boonslick Regional Library, Sedalia, Missouri
- Boonslick Regional Library, Warsaw, Missouri
- Cameron Public Library, Cameron, Missouri
- Carnegie Library, ST. Joseph, Missouri
- Carrollton Public Library, Carrollton, Missouri

- Concordia Library, Concordia, Missouri
- DeKalb County Public Library, Maysville, Missouri
- Dulany Memorial Library, Salisbury, Missouri
- Downtown Library, St. Joseph, Missouri
- East Hills Library, St. Joseph, Missouri
- Hale Library & Museum, Hale, Missouri
- Lexington Library, Lexington, Missouri
- Little Dixie Regional Library, Moberly, Missouri
- Macon Public Library, Macon, Missouri
- Marshall Public Library, Marshall, Missouri
- Maryville Public Library, Maryville, Missouri
- Mid-Continent Public Library, Excelsior Springs, Missouri
- Mid-Continent Public Library, Kearney, Missouri
- Mound City Public Library, Mound City, Missouri
- Norborne Public Library, Norborne, Missouri
- Oregon Public Library, Oregon, Missouri
- Ray County Library, Richmond, Missouri
- Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, St. Joseph, Missouri
- Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, Savannah, Missouri
- Robertson Memorial Library, Higginsville, Missouri
- Sedalia Public Library, Sedalia, Missouri
- Sweet Springs Public Library, Sweet Springs, Missouri
- Washington Park Library, St. Joseph, Missouri