

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent (75 FR 71414–71415, November 23, 2010) to prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposal to authorize several (Phase 1) projects included in the Taos Ski Valley (TSV) 2010 Master Development Plan (MDP). All proposed projects would be within the existing special use permit (SUP) area.

A corrected notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 2011 (76 FR 60451) modifying the proposed action to relocate the snow tubing area and add the relocation of an existing footbridge across the Rio Hondo.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice of availability (NOA) for the draft EIS in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 2012 (77 FR 2060).

**Revised Dates:** The final environmental impact statement (final EIS) and record of decision (ROD) are expected in July 2012.

**Change in Responsible Official:** In addition, this notice changes the official responsible for the EIS and subsequent record of decision to Acting Forest Supervisor Diana Trujillo, Carson National Forest.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Carson National Forest, Taos Ski Valley MDP—Phase 1 Projects, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571. Comments may also be sent via email to [comments-southwestern-carson@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-carson@fs.fed.us) or facsimile to (575) 758–6213.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Additional information related to the proposed project can be obtained from the Forest's Web page at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/>. The Forest Service contact is Audrey Kuykendall, who can be reached at 575–758–6200.

Dated: June 13, 2012.

**Diana M. Trujillo,**

*Acting Carson National Forest Supervisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–11–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this

notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection for the Floriculture Survey. Revision to burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 20, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535–0093, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov). Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* (202) 720–6396.

- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph T. Reilly, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720–4333.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title:* Floriculture Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535–0093.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* October 31, 2012.

*Type of Request:* Intent to Seek Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection for 3 years.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The Floriculture Survey is currently conducted in 15 States and obtains basic agricultural statistics on production and value of floriculture products. The target population for this survey is all operations with production and sales of at least \$10,000 of floriculture products. New floriculture operations that are discovered during the 2012 Census of Agriculture will be added to the list of potential respondents. The retail and wholesale quantity and value of sales are collected for fresh cut flowers, potted flowering plants, foliage plants, annual bedding/garden plants, herbaceous perennials, cut cultivated florist greens, propagative floriculture

material, and unfinished plants. Additional detail on area in production, operation value of sales, and agricultural workers is included. Content changes are minimal year to year, but always managed to avoid significant changes to the length and burden associated with each questionnaire. These statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help administer programs and by growers and marketers in making production and marketing decisions.

*Authority:* These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320. NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance, “Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA),” 72 CFR 33362, June 15, 2007.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average between 10 and 60 minutes per respondent. Operations with less than \$100,000 in sales of floriculture products respond to a reduced number of questions related to operation characteristics while operations with sales greater than \$100,000 complete the entire questionnaire.

*Respondents:* Farms and businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 9,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 4,500 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, at [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov) or at (202) 690–2388.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological, or other forms of information technology collection techniques.

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, May 22, 2012.

**Joseph T. Reilly,**

*Associate Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2012-14958 Filed 6-19-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-20-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### South Mississippi Electric Cooperative: Plant Ratcliff, Kemper County Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle (IGCC) Project

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA), a rural electric generation and transmission cooperative, has approached the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS, the Agency) for financial assistance through which SMEPA would acquire a 17.5% undivided ownership interest in Plant Ratcliff, an Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle (IGCC) Project currently under construction in Kemper County, Mississippi (hereinafter "the Project") and owned by Mississippi Power Company (MPCo). In accordance with RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR 1794, RUS has discretion in determining whether a proposal is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, when potential borrowers will have only partial ownership of a project for which they are requesting financing (7 CFR 1794.20, Control). Though acknowledging that RUS financing will provide SMEPA with significantly limited control of the Project, RUS considers the Project subject to NEPA and to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 800. This notice documents the efforts undertaken by RUS to ensure compliance with NEPA, NHPA, and all other applicable environmental laws and regulations through the adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared for the Project by the United States Department

of Energy (DOE) in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**DATES:** Written comments on the Adoption will be accepted for 30 days following the publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Adoption in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A link to FEIS will be posted on the RUS Web site, <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-eis4.htm>. To obtain additional information or provide comments, please contact: Emily Orler, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 or email: [emily.orerl@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:emily.orerl@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Project will produce 582 megawatts (MW) of power through the use of clean coal IGCC technology. Lignite mined locally by North American Coal Corporation (NACC) will be converted into a synthesis gas (syngas) that will drive two gas combustion turbines. Heat recovery steam generators will convert excess heat from primary combustion to drive a steam turbine that will produce additional electrical power. The Project will demonstrate greater efficiencies and reduced carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), mercury, and particulate emissions as compared to conventional lignite-fired electrical power plants. In addition to the IGCC facility and the mining operation, the Project requires the construction and/or upgrading of a natural gas supply pipeline, a reclaimed water supply pipeline, a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline, and electrical transmission infrastructure including power lines and substations.

Southern Company, in cooperation with two of its subsidiaries, Southern Company Services and Mississippi Power Company (MPCo), has received cost-shared financing for the Project from the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Clean Coal Power Initiative. DOE conducted its NEPA review by preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which resulted in the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) announcing the agency's decision to finance the Project in March 2010. MPCo received Air and Water Pollution Control permits from the state of Mississippi in March of 2010, and the Mississippi Public Service Commission issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in

May 2010.<sup>1</sup> DOE's Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) was issued in September 2010 and construction began in December of that year.

#### SMEPA Involvement and Request for Financing

SMEPA is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit rural electric generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale electric service to its eleven (11) member distribution cooperatives in 56 counties of Mississippi. SMEPA's mission is to provide affordable and reliable power to its members. MPCo, a private utility that sells power to SMEPA to serve approximately a third of SMEPA members' power demands, approached SMEPA in 2009 with the opportunity to participate in the Project. Based on its need to diversify generation resources in the region, SMEPA elected to support the Project and executed a Letter of Intent to evaluate potential joint ownership. SMEPA has evaluated their participation in the Project based on forecasted power demand, an evaluation of alternatives, and consideration of the Project's overall economic feasibility. In 2010, SMEPA prepared a Generation Construction Work Plan (GCWP), which evaluated SMEPA's construction needs to meet their projected power demand based on feasibility, environmental acceptability, and affordability. The GCWP reviewed previous Power Requirements Studies (PRS) and a long-range Power Supply Option Study (PSOS), which evaluated SMEPA's existing generation resources and the projected demand growth, and established that SMEPA would be capacity deficient by 2015. SMEPA subsequently released a Request for Power Supply Proposal to identify potential resources to meet this demand. Taking into account demand growth, carbon emissions, construction costs, and gas price forecasts, the submissions were analyzed in comparison to self-build options (SMEPA-constructed generation facilities) and participation in the Project. SMEPA also accounted for potential financial implications of their participation in the Project for their members. Given that the Project will proceed regardless of SMEPA's participation, SMEPA's membership will be affected by Project-associated rate increases associated with the construction and operation of the Project due to preexisting and immutable contractual agreements with

<sup>1</sup> The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity has since been appealed, reversed by the Mississippi Supreme Court and remanded to the Mississippi PSC for further proceedings in March of 2012. The Certificate was reissued by the Mississippi PSC on April 24, 2012.