

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 7, 1994, the Forest Service published in the **Federal Register**, a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS to develop a management plan for the FC-RONRW. On January 23, 1998, the Environmental Protection Agency published a notice of availability of the draft EIS and informed the public of a 90-day review period. The review period was later extended to February 1, 1999. During the public review, 1643 comments were received on the draft.

Review of the comments received has led the Forest Service to supplement the range of alternatives, add new information and revise the management direction described in the draft EIS. The Forest Service has decided to respond to noxious weed concerns by moving forward with a separate final analysis for site specific noxious weed control. The supplemental draft EIS will analyze six new alternatives along with new information identified from public comments. The supplemental analysis will continue to be responsive to the issues identified in the draft EIS including: the acceptable level of commercial aircraft use and degree of maintenance on specific landing strips; Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) settings; determining acceptable campsite locations and conditions; and determining capacities for both river and land recreation.

The supplemental draft EIS will describe and analyze six new alternatives: two alternatives emphasize current level of use; two alternatives emphasize opportunities for noncommercial float boat use; one alternative emphasizes wilderness preservation and one alternative emphasizes private jet boat use.

The selected alternatives will result in amendments of the land use plans for the administrative units in the Forest Service within the FC-RONRW Wilderness.

**George Matejko,**

*Lead Forest Supervisor FC-RONRW, Salmon-Challis National Forest.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Committee of Scientists Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the Committee of Scientists is scheduled for June 12, 1999, in Denver, Colorado. The purpose

of the meeting is for the Department and the Forest Service to brief the committee on aspects of draft planning regulations and for the committee to compare the general themes and approaches in the draft regulations with the themes and approaches set out in the committee's March 15, 1999, report. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** A meeting is scheduled for June 12, 1999, in Denver, Colorado.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Denver International Airport, 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, telephone: 202-205-1523.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee of Scientists was chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691; August 15, 1997).

Dated: May 24, 1999.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Acting Deputy Chief, NFS.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water; Existing System North/Lyon County Phase and Northeast Phase Expansion Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water Existing System North/Lyon County Phase and Northeast Phase Expansion Project. The Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ), Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1794). RUS invites comments on the FEIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted on or before June 28, 1999.

#### ADDRESSES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

To send comments or for more information, contact: Mark S. Plank, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1649, fax (202) 720-0820, or e-mail: mplank@rus.usda.gov.

A copy of the FEIS or an Executive Summary can be obtained over the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/envIRON.htm>. The files are in a portable document format (pdf); in order to review or print the document, users need to obtain a free copy of Acrobat Reader. The Acrobat Reader can be obtained from <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Copies of the FEIS will be available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations:

USDA Service Center, Rural Development, 1424 E. College Drive, Suite 500, Marshall, MN 56258, (507) 532-3234, Ext. 203. Limited copies of the Draft EIS will be available for distribution at this address.

USDA Rural Development State Office, 410 AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (612) 602-7800. Limited copies will be available for distribution at this address.

USDA, Rural Development, 810 10th Ave. SE, Suite 2, Watertown, SD 57201-5256, (605) 886-8202. Limited copies will be available for distribution at this address.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water, East Highway 14, P.O. Box 188, Lake Benton, MN 56149, (507) 368-4248. Limited copies will be available for distribution at this address.

Marshall Public Library, 301 W. Lyon, Marshall, MN 56258, (507) 537-7003  
Ivanhoe Public Library, P.O. Box 54, Ivanhoe, MN 56142, (507) 694-1555  
Canby Public Library, 110 Oscar Ave., N, Canby, MN 56220, (507) 223-5738  
Deuel County Extension Service, 419 3rd Ave. S, P.O. Box 350, Clear Lake, SD 57226, (605) 874-2681

Lincoln County Extension Service, 402 N. Harold, Ivanhoe, MN 56142, (507) 694-1470

Lyon County Extension Service, 1400 E. Lyon St., Marshall, MN 56258, (507) 537-6702

Yellow Medicine County Extension Service, 1000 10th Ave, Clarkfield, MN 56223

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the

potential environmental effects of a project proposal located in southwestern Minnesota. The proposal to which RUS is responding involves providing financial assistance for the development and expansion of a public rural water system. The applicant for this proposal is a public body named Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW). LPRW's main office is located in Lake Benton, Minnesota. Specific project activities are and have included the development of groundwater sources and production well fields and the construction of water treatment facilities and water distribution networks. The counties in Minnesota affected by this proposal include Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, and Lyon Counties and Deuel County in South Dakota.

This document is a final EIS (FEIS) prepared subsequent to the preparation of a draft EIS (DEIS). On February 23, 1998, the RUS announced the availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 8901) for the previously constructed LPRW, Existing System North/Lyon County Phase project and the Northeast Expansion Phase project proposal. In addition to the **Federal Register**, public notices were published in the following newspapers: *Ivanhoe Times*, *Marshall Independent*, *Canby News*, and the *Lincoln County Valley Journal* in Minnesota; and the *Gary International*, *Clear Lake Courier*, and *Brookings Register* in South Dakota. The DEIS was also made available for public review at a number of locations throughout the area in both Minnesota and South Dakota and was available

over the Internet at RUS's website (<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>). Subsequent to a 60-day public review period, RUS sponsored a public meeting to solicit additional comments from the public. The meeting was held on July 30, 1998, in Canby, Minnesota. The public meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 3461) on June 24, 1998, and in the above newspapers.

In total RUS received comments from 26 Federal and State agencies, Congressional representatives, public bodies, individuals, and environmental interest and industry groups. The number of comments totaled 79 pages. The following table outlines the commenters, commenter affiliation, and the number of pages of comments received:

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commenter	Affiliation	Number of pages
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources .....	State Environmental Regulatory Agency ...	17
South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources .....	State Environmental Regulatory Agency ...	4
Minnesota Historical Society .....	State Agency .....	1
Subtotal State Agencies .....	3 .....	22
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 .....	Federal Environmental Regulatory Agency .....	3
U.S. Department of the Interior .....	Federal Natural Resource Mgmt. Agency .....	7
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District .....	U.S. Army .....	2
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District .....	U.S. Army .....	1
Subtotal Federal Agencies .....	4 .....	13
East Dakota Water Development District (2 letters) .....	Public Body .....	9
Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water .....	Public Body .....	7
City of Minneota, Minnesota .....	Public Body .....	1
City of Hazel Run, Minnesota .....	Public Body .....	2
Marshall Municipal Utilities (2 letters) .....	Public Body .....	3
Minnesota Southwest Regional Development Commission .....	Public Body .....	3
Subtotal Public Bodies .....	6 .....	25
U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone, D-MN .....	U.S. Congress .....	1
U.S. Congressman David Minge, D-MN .....	U.S. Congress .....	1
State Senator Bernie Hunhoff .....	South Dakota State Legislature .....	1
Subtotal Congressional .....	2 .....	2
Natural Audubon Society .....	Environmental Interest Group .....	2
Marshall Industries .....	Industry Interest Group .....	1
Subtotal Environmental and Industry Interest Groups .....	2 .....	3
Minnesota Corn Processor .....	Industry .....	1
Industry .....	1 .....	1
Private Citizens .....	8 .....	13

RUS has determined that the comments, while extensive on a few issues, do not warrant a revision to the DEIS. In accordance with CEQ's procedures, 40 CFR § 1503.4, *Response to Comments*, where substantive comments were determined to merit individual responses, RUS responded directly to the commenter. All other comments were considered as appropriate in the preparation of the FEIS. Copies of all comments received

as part of the DEIS's public comment period and submitted at the July 30, 1998 public meeting are included in Appendix A of the FEIS.

In general, the substantive comments received on the DEIS fell into six general areas. The six areas include the following:

1. Projected Water Needs.
2. LPRW Relationship with and Eligibility of the City of Marshall, Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU)

and Minnesota Corn Processor (MCP) for RUS Programs.

3. Contingency Plan.
4. Water Budget for Lake Cochrane.
5. Supplemental Well Field and Exploration Efforts.
6. Speculative Nature of Conclusions.

**Preferred Alternative and Conclusions**

After carefully considering all of the comments received from the public and Federal and State environmental

regulatory agencies, RUS continues to support the preferred alternative as outlined in the DEIS with slight modifications. The preferred alternative is as follows:

1. Finance the Northeast Phase Expansion.
2. Continue to maintain the Burr Well Field as a primary water source. To minimize reductions in the potentiometric surface, RUS supports limiting pumping rates from wells developed in the Burr Unit of the Prairie Coteau aquifer to 400–525 gpm with a corresponding annual appropriation rate.
3. At some future date, supplement existing wells at the Burr Well Field with a new well field in an area south-southeast or north-northeast of the current Burr Well Field or where sufficient aquifer materials can be found. This new well field could utilize both the Burr Unit and Altamont aquifers in a configuration similar to that at the Burr Well Field or any other configuration determined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) as appropriate. Raw water from this well field could be transported to the Burr Water Treatment Plant for treatment and distribution to LPRW customers.
4. RUS recommends that the MDNR consider integrating the proposed Water Resource Management Plan into the Burr Well Field's Water Appropriation Permit.

#### Mitigation Measures

In order to avoid or minimize any significant adverse environmental impacts to the surface water resources that are hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit, RUS believes that it is necessary to formalize and establish a comprehensive methodology to monitor on-going groundwater appropriations and effects to surface water resources. In addition, it would be appropriate to enable all concerned parties to provide input into evaluating these activities. Therefore, to accomplish these goals RUS will establish as a mitigation measure and as a condition of financing the Northeast Phase Expansion a requirement that LPRW prepare a Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP).

The WRMP should formalize all procedures, protocols, and methodologies to monitor in a comprehensive fashion groundwater appropriations at the Burr Well Field and effects to the surface water resources hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit. The following components should be included in the WRMP:

1. Contingency Plan—the plan should document impact thresholds established

by MDNR and outline what procedures LPRW will take in the event water appropriations from the Burr Unit are restricted.

2. Well Field Operation and Management Plan—this plan should be designed to minimize reductions in the potentiometric surface in the Burr Unit.

3. Supplemental Well Field Exploration Plan.

4. Monitoring Plan—formalize monitoring well locations; establish standard methodologies or procedures for data collection, documentation, and information sharing.

While RUS recommends that the MDNR consider integrating the WRMP into the Burr Well Field's Water Appropriation Permit, it cannot require that it do so. RUS will evaluate the technical sufficiency of the WRMP through consultations with hydrogeologists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 8. The mechanism for this consultation will be provided for through RUS' cooperating agency agreement with USEPA, Region 8. RUS will condition its concurrence with the WRMP and the release of funds for the Northeast Phase Expansion area subject to consultations with the MDNR and the USEPA and LPRW being able to obtain the appropriate Water Appropriation Permit(s) from the MDNR.

In the DEIS, RUS proposed that LPRW formalize an agreement with South Dakota to establish monitoring procedures and protocols to evaluate the effects of groundwater appropriations from the Burr Unit on surface water resources in South Dakota. The purpose of this agreement was to formalize monitoring input to the WRMP from South Dakota officials. RUS has decided to remove this requirement for the following reasons:

1. Governors from both South Dakota and Minnesota have already formally pledged in writing to cooperate on evaluating the effects of groundwater appropriations to the surface water resources hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit.

2. RUS believes that the MDNR has the appropriate statutory and regulatory procedures in place to allow for South Dakota's input into their Water Appropriation Permitting process.

3. All regulatory issues, concerns, or conditions related to MDNR's Water Appropriation Permit at the Burr Well Field from South Dakota should be directed at MDNR not LPRW.

Provided all of the above conditions are met, RUS is prepared to approve LPRW's application for the Northeast Phase Expansion proposal. In addition, RUS is willing to consider in

accordance with RUS regulations and subject to the availability of funding development costs for a supplemental well field.

While RUS supports the development of a supplemental well field, based on monitoring compiled to date it does not appear that surface water resources around the Burr Well Field are being significantly impacted at this time. However, until more definitive conclusions can be drawn from longer term monitoring data, exploration and possible development of the supplemental well field should continue. It does not appear however, that an immediate sense of urgency is justified, rather supplemental well field development should be a long-term goal with exploration being the short-term goal.

Dated: May 20, 1999.

**John P. Romano,**

*Deputy Administrator, Water and Environmental Program.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

**AGENCY:** NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of first request for panel review.

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**SUMMARY:** On May 7, 1999, Greening Donald Co. Ltd. filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty investigation made by the International Trade Administration, in the antidumping investigation respecting Stainless Steel Round Wire from Canada. This determination was published in the **Federal Register**, 64 FR 17324 on April 9, 1999. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA–CDA–99–1904–04 to this request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caratina L. Alston, Acting United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482–5438.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade