

36 CFR 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be submitted with or without the name and address within 30 days.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed in May 1999. Following the release of the draft EIS, there will be a public comment period of at least 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes that it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519,553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the EIS. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy

Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. The lead agency is the Forest Service. The Forest Supervisors of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forest are the responsible officials. The responsible officials will document the decision and the reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations 36 CFR Parts 215 or 251.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-1974 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ski Lifts, Inc. Master Plan, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, King and Kittitas Counties, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation Notice.

SUMMARY: On July 16, 1993, a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Ski Lifts, Inc. Master Plan on the lands administered by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest was published in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 38358). This notice is being withdrawn because an updated Notice of Intent that reflects the submitted Master Development Plan proposal, current issues and preliminary alternatives will be published. The 1993 Forest Service Notice of Intent is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this cancellation to Larry Donovan, EIS Team Leader, Supervisor's Office, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 21905 64th Avenue W., Mountlake Terrace, Washington, phone 425-744-3403.

Dated: January 20, 1999.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-2147 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Willamette Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Willamette PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, February 11, 1999. The meeting will be held at the Salem BLM Office; 1717 Fabry Road SE; Salem, Oregon 97306; phone (503) 375-5642. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Introduction and orientation of new members, (2) Wilderness Management, (3) Willamette River Initiative and Corp of Engineer floodplain restoration projects, (4) Recommended topics for joint IAC/PAC meeting, (5) Public Forum.

The Public Forum is expected to occur at approximately 10:30 a.m., and time allotted for individual presentations will be limited 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester; Willamette National Forest, 211 East Seventh Avenue; Eugene, Oregon 97401; (541) 465-6924.

Dated: January 25, 1999.

H. Woody Fine,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-2148 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Northeast Indiana (IN) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces designation of Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (Northeast Indiana), to provide

official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the December 21, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 70386), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Northeast Indiana area to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by January 15, 1999. Northeast Indiana, the only applicant, applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Northeast Indiana area.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Northeast Indiana is able to provide official services in the Northeast Indiana geographic area.

Effective February 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2002, Northeast Indiana is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the December 21, 1998, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Northeast Indiana at 219-639-6390.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 22, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 99-2171 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Hold Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures

(7 CFR part 1794), proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EI) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for its Federal action related to a proposal by Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc., to construct and operate a 250 to 500 megawatt (MW) combined cycle electric generating plant in south Alabama.

MEETING INFORMATION: RUS will conduct a scoping meeting in an open house forum on Monday, February 15, 1999, at the Jackson City Hall, 400 Commerce Street, Jackson, Alabama from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. for the Washington County site. A similar meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 1999, at Alabama Electric Cooperative's Boardroom, Highway 29 North, Andalusia, Alabama, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. for the Covington and Escambia County sites.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468. The E-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc., proposes to construct the plant at one of three potential sites. These sites are the Damascus site in Escambia County, Alabama, along Highway 29 South in Township 2 North, Range 13 East, Section 6, the Lowman site in Washington County, Alabama, just off U.S. Highway 43 in Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Section 24, and at Alabama Electric Cooperative's existing McWilliams Plant located in Covington County, Alabama, along Highway 29 North in Township 5 North, Range 16 East, Section 17.

The project as proposed would consist of a 250 to 500 MW gas-fired combined cycle plant. The plant may be designed to use No. 2 diesel as a backup fuel for periods when natural gas may be in short supply. The plant will require air and water quality permits from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. Plant water will be drawn from and released to the Conecuh River if either the Covington or Escambia County sites are selected, and from the Tombigbee River if the Washington County site is selected. Air impacts are anticipated to be minimal because the plant will utilize clean fuels and will be designed in accordance with Best Available Control Technology. The plant will require a site of 40 acres or more in size. The specific plant layout will be designed to avoid significant impact to threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands or other

areas considered to be environmentally unique or sensitive.

Locating the project at the Damascus site would require construction of a 34-mile, 12-20 inch gas pipeline and 18 miles of double circuit 230 kV transmission line. Locating the project at the Lowman site would require the construction of a 32-mile, 12-20 inch gas pipeline and 1 mile each of double circuit 230 kV transmission line and single circuit 230 kV transmission line. Locating the plant at the McWilliams Plant would require the construction of a 69-mile, 10-12 inch gas pipeline, 1 mile of double circuit 230 kV transmission line and 17 miles of single circuit 230 kV transmission line.

Alternatives considered by RUS and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., to constructing the generation facility proposed include: (a) no action, (b) power purchases, (c) coal fired technology, (d) alternative technology such as solar, wind, and biomass, and (e) non-generation alternatives such as conservation, interruptible loads, and load management.

Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc., has developed a siting study/alternative evaluation which is available for public review at RUS at the address provided in this notice or at Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc., Highway 29 North, Andalusia, Alabama. This document will also be available at the Andalusia Public Library on South Three Notch Street in Andalusia, Alabama, and at the White Smith Memorial Library at 213 College Ave. in Jackson, Alabama.

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

From information provided in the siting study/alternative evaluation, input that may be provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc., will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to RUS for review. If RUS finds the environmental analysis acceptable, it will serve as RUS' environmental assessment of the