

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Development

#### **Western Farmers Electric Cooperative:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Western Farmers Electric Cooperative for the construction of the Anadarko Power Plant Combustion Turbine project in Caddo County, Oklahoma.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Environmental and Historic Preservation Division, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/anadarko-power-plant-combustion-turbine>. Questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at [RUSPublicComments@usda.gov](mailto:RUSPublicComments@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed project consists of installing new turbines at the existing Anadarko Power Plant in Anadarko, with approximately 28.5 acres of land disturbance. It includes construction of a new 0.94-mile single-circuit 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line within the plant boundaries to connect the turbines to the existing 69 kV substation located there. The Project will consist of two simple-cycle combustion turbines (SCCTs) that will be designed to burn natural gas exclusively as the primary fuel, with total net output of 98.4 megawatts (MW). An evaporative cooling or wet compression system will be used to increase the efficiency of the combustion turbines. Water injection will be used to reduce the formation of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions and an oxidation catalyst system will be used to reduce carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from the combustion turbines.

Fuel for the SCCTs will be provided by the existing natural gas infrastructure at the Anadarko Power Plant. No new off-site natural gas pipelines will be constructed as part of the Project, and an adequate supply of natural gas is currently available at the plant as the proposed new SCCT units will replace three less efficient existing gas-fired boilers that are slated for permanent retirement. Alternatives considered by RUS and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative include: No action; alternate technologies, alternate sites. The alternatives are discussed in the Anadarko Power Plant Combustion Turbine EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Anadarko Daily News on April 4, 6, & 9, 2024. A comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development website and Anadarko Public Library, as well the Western Farmers Electric

Cooperative office. No comments were received during the public comment period.

Based on its EA and mitigation commitments made by Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project will have no significant impact to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project will not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 4231–4347), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's potential federal action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: April 29, 2024 (May 1, 2024)