## Rural Development

Shady Hills Energy Center: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Shady Hills Energy Center, LLC (SHEC) to construct the Shady Hills Combined Cycle Facility (Project). The Project will comprise a 573-megawatt (MW) (winter) natural gasfired combined cycle electric generating facility and an associated 230-kV interconnection tieline. SHEC has submitted an application to the RUS for financing for construction of the Project.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** SHEC proposes to construct a combined cycle turbine and associated facilities in Shady Hills, Pasco County, Florida. The SHCCF Project will consist of a single combined cycle combustion turbine system equipped with advanced emission control equipment and will include a new approximately 0.6-mile 230-kV interconnection tie-line and temporary construction parking and laydown area. On-site associated facilities will include a natural gas metering station and short lateral to be constructed, owned, and operated by Florida Gas Transmission, and reclaimed water, sanitary sewer, and potable water conveyance infrastructure.

SHEC prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project. Written questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at:

## RUSPublicComments@usda.gov

RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the first date of publication of this notice with no hard copy comments being accepted at this time. All comments must be provided electronically. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at:

## https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessments

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the project is shown below.

Dated: August 22, 2023

