

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) the proposal is for construction of a 17.8-acre, administration complex. BREA has submitted an application to the RUS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Russell Japuntich, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1548, email Russell.Japuntich@USDA.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BREA proposes to construct a 17.8-acre administration complex on a tract of land located near the city of West Richland, Washington in Benton County, near the intersection of Keene Road and W Van Giesen Street. BREA has 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 assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impact 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 the notice.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documentation will be available for public review at:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/benton-headquarters>

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.

Date of Publication: August 15, 2024

