

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Development

**Central Electric Power Cooperative:** 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), 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 Central Electric Power Cooperative (CEPC), of Osage and Maries Counties, Missouri. The proposal is for the rebuilding of the 161KV transmission lines between the Chamois, Rich Fountain, Vienna and Maries Substations. CEPC has submitted an application to the RUS for funding of the proposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terry Czerwien, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1548, email [terry.czerwien@usda.gov](mailto:terry.czerwien@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CEPC proposes rebuilding the transmission line on the existing right-of-way (ROW), with the lengths as follows. Chamois to Rich Fountain transmission line is 16.44 miles. Rich Fountain to Vienna transmission line is 20.62 miles. Vienna to Maries transmission line is 11.69 miles. CEPC is proposing to replace the existing wood structures with new H-frame wood structures that would be approximately 52 to 88 feet tall with a span between structures of approximately 700 to 800 feet.

CEPC 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 the email address provided above. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the first date of publication of this notice. Due to COVID-19, no hard copy comments will be accepted. 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/assessment/chamois-maries-transmission-line>

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 proposal is shown below.

