

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

related to

FRONT END FINANCING FOR
COMBUSTION TURBINES PURCHASED BY
GENERATION & TRANSMISSION BORROWERS

and

INTERPRETATION OF 7 CFR § 1794.15

Prepared by:

ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF
RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

January 2001

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On December 11, 2000, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued a programmatic analysis that reconciles RUS procedural requirements for environmental analysis with the emerging needs of a deregulating electric utility industry.

The availability of the programmatic environmental assessment for public review was announced in the Federal Register on December 11, 2000. The document was available for public inspection at the headquarters of RUS and on the RUS website at: www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm. During the 30-day comment period one person requested a copy of the programmatic environmental assessment. The only comments received supported the RUS position.

No potential significant impacts resulting from the implementation of this proposed action have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this finding of no significant impact fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and RUS' Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794) for the proposed action.

RUS has determined that its action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for this action.

Approved by: _____ 01/18/2001

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.

Date

Assistant Administrator-Electric

Electric Program

Rural Utilities Service