

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding its approval of front end financing for purchase of combustion turbines by borrowers prior to the completion of a site specific environmental review.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence R. Wolfe, Engineering and Environmental Staff,
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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.

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: _____ 1/24/2001

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.

Date

Assistant Administrator-Electric

Rural Utilities Service