
Notice of Rescheduled Public Meetings for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

A notice of availability, public meetings, and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 notification was published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) on December 7, 2018 (83 FR 63149) for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project (C-HC Project) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). RUS has prepared the Draft EIS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to evaluate potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed C-HC Project, which would extend approximately 125 miles, connecting Dane County, Wisconsin, and Dubuque County, Iowa. The scoping report, Draft EIS, and other documentation can be found on the RUS website:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements>

Public meetings were scheduled for January 2019 and the public review period was to conclude on February 5, 2019. On February 12, 2019 (84 FR 3412) RUS published a notice announcing an extension of the public comment period to April 1, 2019 due to the partial Federal government shutdown. Previously cancelled Draft EIS public comment meetings in January 2019 are rescheduled for six days in March.

RUS is hosting public comment meetings to obtain feedback from the public, as part of the federal environmental review process required by NEPA and NHPA. The dates, times, and locations for the rescheduled meetings are as follows:

March 13 – Dodger Bowl Banquet Hall at 318 King St. in Dodgeville, Wisconsin

March 14 – Deer Valley Lodge at 401 W. Industrial Dr. in Barneveld, Wisconsin

March 15 – Guttenberg Municipal Bldg at 502 S. First St. in Guttenberg, Iowa

March 18 – Cassville Middle School at 715 E. Amelia St. in Cassville, Wisconsin

March 19 – Peosta Community Center at 7896 Burds Rd. in Peosta, Iowa

March 20 – Madison Marriott West at 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr. in Middleton, Wisconsin

All meetings will be held from 5:00 to 7 p.m. Central Time. A court reporter will be available.

The information collected during the Draft EIS public review period will be used to prepare the Final EIS. Public comments become part of the project's official administrative record.

For further information about the Draft EIS, contact:

Dennis Rankin

Lauren Cusick

Rural Utilities Service Co-Project Manager

Rural Utilities Service Co-Project Manager

202-720-1953

202-720-1414

dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

lauren.cusick@wdc.usda.gov

The purpose of the C-HC Project is to improve electric system reliability, increase the transfer capability needed to respond to the nation's changing energy mix, provide economic benefits to utilities and electric consumers, and expand the electric infrastructure to support public policy for greater use of renewable energy. Utilities participating in the C-HC Project are Dairyland Power Cooperative, ITC Midwest LLC and American Transmission Company LLC. Additional information about the project can be found on the Utilities' website:

<http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>