



Environmental Assessment
Central Power Electric Cooperative,
Lallie Substation Relocation Project
Benson County, North Dakota
FEMA-DR 1981-ND-28R

July, 2013

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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FEMA

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
BMP	Best Management Practices
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEA	Draft Environmental Assessment
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EA	Environmental Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FINDS	Facility Index System
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GIS	Geographic Information System
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
NDDES	North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
NDDOH	North Dakota Department of Health
NDDOT	North Dakota Department of Transportation
NDGF	North Dakota Game and Fish Department
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROW	Right-of-Way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SHWS	State Hazardous Waste Site
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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This Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the results of a study of the proposed action's potential environmental impacts and has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 1500-1508 [49 CFR 1500-1508]); and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR 10.9).

I. Background and Overview:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Central Power Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cooperative) are working with partners at the local and State levels and with other Federal agencies to coordinate the response to the devastating floods that struck the majority of counties within North Dakota between February 14, 2011 and July 20, 2011.

On May 10, 2011, the President declared a major disaster due to severe flooding in North Dakota and signed disaster declaration (FEMA-1981-DR-ND, as amended), allowing FEMA to provide federal assistance in designated areas of North Dakota. The record floods impacted every river basin in North Dakota and resulted in wide-ranging and devastating impacts to entire communities, including private property and public infrastructure. The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), in their 2011 *Response and Recovery Flood Report* calculated the cost of the disaster to exceed \$1.4 billion.

In addition to the declared flood event, parts of Benson County are subject to the ongoing rise of the water table surrounding Devils Lake. Over the last 18 years, the lake has tripled in surface area and surface elevation has risen over 30 feet, which has caused thousands of acres in the county to remain inundated for long periods of time.

FEMA proposes to administer federal disaster assistance funds for this project per the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act). Specific funding will be provided through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This program provides grants to tribal, state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (<http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>).

Project Overview

The existing Lallie Electric Substation (constructed 1977) is located near the intersection of 38th Street North and County Road 0329 (Lat. 47.96266, Long. -99.211720). The project area is within the boundaries of the Spirit Lake Sioux Reservation in Benson County, North Dakota. This location is at an elevation of 1457 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) and subject to periodic flooding and long-term inundation due to its proximity to Devils Lake. The current wet cycle in the Devils Lake basin has been ongoing for over 30 years. It has substantially increased the surface elevation of the lake, the amount of ground water currently held in nearby sloughs and lakes, and the level of the surrounding water table. Devils Lake is presently at 1454 feet AMSL and is expected to continue to rise until it reaches 1458 feet AMSL.

Continuously saturated soils at the substation have resulted in hydraulic jacking, which has caused the concrete foundations to lift out of the ground and the structure to twist. Due to this movement, switches and circuits have failed and caused outages lasting several hours. The frequency of these outages is unpredictable, but they typically occur more than once a year. The fence surrounding the station is also affected by the hydraulic jacking. Fence posts have lifted out of the ground far enough to allow small animals to access the station with the potential to contact live parts and cause additional outages and damage to the station.

In addition to the electrical and structural concerns associated with the existing location, the roads in the area of the existing substation have significant water on both sides and quality of the roadway will be compromised by the rising water levels, restricting access to the station. Failure to improve the reliability of the station has the potential to affect the Cooperatives ability to provide electric power to the 439 residents who are currently connected to this station. In addition, the Lallie Substation has the capacity and connectivity to backup two adjacent substations, Maddock (1,593 residents) and Fort Totten (1,534 residents).

II. Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to protect existing infrastructure against future damages in order to maintain essential services needed to protect public health and safety and improved property. The Cooperative has identified the need to protect the Lallie Electric Substation and ancillary power-distribution system against periodic flooding and long-term inundation due to rising water levels in the surrounding Devils Lake basin.

III. Project Alternatives:

NEPA requires the investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. Three alternatives are addressed in this Environmental Assessment: 1) The No Action Alternative, where FEMA would not fund the mitigation project; 2) The relocation of the substation (Proposed Action); and 3) rehabilitation of the existing substation. Impacts related to Alternative 1 (no action) and Alternative 3 (Rehabilitation) would be similar in nature.

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Lallie Substation would remain at its existing location. The Cooperative would make basic repairs to the foundation, fencing, switches and circuits, and continue to maintain the system. However, no improvements would be made to mitigate the ongoing damage associated with the saturated soil conditions in the area. Maintenance and repairs will become more frequent and more costly; and the facility will continue to deteriorate and power outages will increase in frequency and duration. In addition, this option does not resolve the problem of the rising water on three sides of the existing substation and does not resolve the potential access problems as the water continues to compromise the roads in the area. These factors would eventually result in reduction of service to those residents dependent on the substation for electricity. There are also concerns related to safety with this alternative, such as animals and children coming in contact with energized elements of the substation, due to the potential for ongoing damage and deferred maintenance of security fencing around the facility.

Alternative 2 – Relocation of the Lallie Electric Substation (Preferred Alternative)

The proposed project will relocate the existing Lallie Electric Substation to a new location 1.3 miles north of its present location to resolve hydraulic jacking issues presently occurring at the existing substation site. The proposed location is approximately 17 feet higher in elevation than the existing location, and is not subject to the periodic flooding and rising water levels that affect the surrounding area. The proposed relocation site provides unimpeded access to transmission facilities, and the existing distribution lines aid in overall project cost reduction. Although new foundation construction will be redesigned in such a way to minimize possible effects of hydraulic jacking, the proposed new location will be sited in a dry area that will minimize the potential for ongoing damage from saturated soils. The proposed relocation site will provide a more stable, dependable and reliable transmission source and reduce the number of power outages that impact every customer connected to this substation. In addition to the electrical and structural concerns addressed by this alternative, the new substation would be located next to US Highway 281, which is maintained by North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). During major snow and ice storms, NDDOT makes every effort to keep this highway open, which is not the case for the rural roads in the area.

It will also be necessary for the Central Power Electric Cooperative to construct .5 miles of 69kV transmission line to serve the relocated substation. This transmission line extension is not a FEMA-funded project, and has been a planned project by the Cooperative for over two years. The relocation of the substation will reduce the length of the existing transmission line by approximately one mile. This is considered to be a connected action under NEPA and will also be addressed in this EA as part of the proposed alternative.

Proposed Project Location:

The proposed site of the new Lallie Substation is located approximately one mile north of the intersection of US Hwy 281, 39th Street NE and 'A' Street N; and immediately west of US Hwy 281 (Latitude 47.981311, Longitude -99.212377). The southeast corner of the proposed Substation (referred to as the point of beginning) will be located approximately 1,200 feet north and 100 feet west of the

southeast corner of Section 15; Township 152N; Range 67W, Benson County, North Dakota; thence north a distance of 350 feet; thence west a distance of 250 feet; thence south a distance of 350 feet; thence east a distance of 250 feet to the point of beginning— occupying an area of about 2 acres (see Appendix A).

The site of the proposed substation and transmission line is located on well-drained, glaciated upland terrain of low rolling hills currently under cultivation. The area is rural with no residential properties within several miles. There are no wetlands or other water bodies on or adjacent to the site that could affect or be affected by the proposed project. The site is not mapped on a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), but is identified as being in a 'low to moderate risk' area.

The route of the proposed electrical transmission line will parallel the west side of U.S. Highway 281 along similar terrain within the existing right-of-way (ROW) to the extent practicable, beginning at the new substation and extending northward for approximately one half mile until intersecting an existing Central Power Electrical Cooperative transmission line (48.988756, -99.212405). The legal location occupies a portion of the southeast side of Section 15, T152N; R67W Benson County, North Dakota. Central Power's typical wooden pole for a TP-69 Structure is a Class 2 - 65 feet high, set to a depth of 8.5 feet – leaving 56.5 feet above ground.

The proposed site and the one-half mile long 69kV transmission line would be located near the center of Benson County, inside the boundary of the Spirit Lake Sioux Reservation. However, the land at the site of the proposed relocation is taxable under the jurisdiction of Benson County. The Spirit Lake Tribe was advised of the proposal to relocate the facility and requested to provide comments. None have been received.

Proposed Project Schedule, Methodology and Cost

In order to facilitate the selection of alternative sites, FEMA and the applicant reviewed available aerial photos and maps, conducted site reconnaissance field surveys, and contacted state and local officials. Factors considered in evaluating alternative sites included: site topography, property owner willingness, past land use, existing plans for development, access to existing utilities, and engineering feasibility. Background research consisted of a review of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wetlands maps, FEMA floodplain maps, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps, and was completed in coordination with relevant Federal and State agencies. The field reconnaissance visit was conducted on May 5, 2013.

The work components and their duration are typical for a project of this nature and are expected to take approximately 18 months and to be completed in late 2014. The new substation and the transmission line would be built concurrently. The existing transmission line and substation would remain in place and in operation until the new facilities are on-line, whereupon they would be removed.

Central Power Electric Cooperative has extensive experience with the design and construction of substations and transmission lines, and this project does not pose any unusual conditions nor are any major delays or roadblocks anticipated. The project would be completed both by experienced contractors and Central Power Line and Substation crews. The entire project will be built using

standard materials, specifications and drawings, and construction methods. The Cooperative's safety policies and Best Management Practices (BMP) will be observed during the process.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$567,276, with a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCA module) of 1.03. Therefore, the benefits to the area residents outweigh the costs.

Alternative 3 – Rehabilitation of the Existing Lallie Electric Substation

This alternative would be to repair and/or reconstruct damaged elements of the existing substation at its current location (Lat. 47.96266, Long. -99.211720). Improved methods of construction would be used to rebuild the facility and alleviate the problems associated with the saturated soil conditions. The foundations, switches circuits would include mitigation measures designed to resist the forces of hydraulic jacking that are causing periodic equipment failures and the resulting power outages. However, this option does not resolve the issues of rising water surrounding the existing substation and potential access problems as the roads in the area continue to be compromised. In addition, the local roads in the vicinity of the existing facility are not considered major rural roadways and the County may defer maintenance, including snow and ice removal to more heavily traveled roads which may limit access to the existing substation. These factors would eventually result in reduction of service to those residents dependent on the substation for electricity. This alternative may be effective in temporarily reducing the equipment failures and power outages, but would not be a permanent solution to the problems described above as the surrounding water table continues to rise.

IV. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section contains the results of the evaluation of the potential impacts to the natural and human environment of the alternatives described above.

The area being considered for the proposed substation and transmission line relocation (Alternative 2) is rural and currently either under cultivation or within pre-disturbed road or utility right-of-way, with the closest residential occupation approximately ½ mile to the SW. The site is not in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) but there are several isolated wetlands in the area. The site is within the Central Migratory Bird Flyway and the endangered whooping crane is known to occur in the area. In addition, there are easement protected wetlands within this region that are managed for waterfowl production.

Analysis determined that impacts related to Alternative 1 (No Action) and Alternative 3 (Rehabilitation) would be similar in nature and only result in temporary, construction-related impacts that would be addressed through the implementation of standard BMP for erosion, sedimentation, air quality and noise control. Both Alternative 1 and Alternative 3 are analyzed and addressed under the 'No Action/Other' heading in the summary matrix (Table 1). Alternative 2 is analyzed and addressed under the 'Proposed Action' heading in Table 1.

The following table summarizes the results of the environmental assessment process related to specific resources. Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are

discussed in the following Additional Impact Analysis. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

Negligible: The resource area would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, and would be addressed through the implementation of standard BMP, as applicable.

Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures, including implementation of standard BMP, would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures to reduce any potential adverse effects would be necessary.

Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected.

Table 1. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix

Affected Environment/ Resource Area	Impacts	Agency Coordination/Permits	Mitigation/BMPs
Geology and Soils	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		Implement standard BMP for erosion control and sedimentation
Air Quality and Noise	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible:	Spirit Lake Tribe EPA and ND Department of Health	Implement standard BMP for air quality and noise
Prime Farmland	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	NRCS Devils Lake Office, Form AD-1006	
Water Resources	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible:	All applicable water quality permits, including CWA Sec. 401 from the US EPA, as delegated to the Tribal EPA.	Comply with applicable permits and implement standard BMP for erosion control and sedimentation
Floodplains	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		
Wetlands	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	USFWS Devils Lake Wetland Management District	Coordinate with USFWS to ensure no impacts to wetland easements
T&E Species	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	USFWS Bismarck ND Field Office, July 2, 2013	If whooping cranes are sighted within one mile of the construction area, work must cease until the birds have left
Migratory Birds	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	USFWS Bismarck ND Field Office, July 2, 2013	Implement “ <i>Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines</i> ” and “ <i>Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines</i> ”

Historic and Cultural Resources	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	ND SHPO and Spirit Lake Tribe THPO, May 12, 2013 and June 13, 2013.	Gravel and other fill material must be obtained from a THPO or SHPO approved source. If unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered, work must cease and appropriate officials notified.
Invasive Species	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		Implement standard BMP for control of invasive species and comply with federal, tribal, state and local requirements
Environmental Justice	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		
Public Health and Safety	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Minor	Spirit Lake Tribe EPA and ND Department of Health	Appropriate safety measures will be implemented during demolition, construction and operation of the facility. Debris and waste, including hazardous materials and will be managed in compliance with applicable federal, tribal, state and local requirements.
Traffic	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible	ND DOT and Benson County Highway Department	Traffic control will be managed in compliance with federal, tribal, state and local requirements.
Climate Change	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		
Cumulative Impacts	No Action/Other: Negligible Proposed: Negligible		

Additional Impact Analysis

Prime and Unique Farmland (FPPA)

The Farmland Protection Policy Act was enacted in 1981 (P.L. 98-98) to minimize the unnecessary conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses as a result of federal actions. A portion of the project area appears to be classified as prime farmland (F101A). Form AD-1006 was sent to NRCS July 10, 2013.

Water Resources (CWA)

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for permitting and enforcement functions dealing with building in U.S. waters under Sec. 404 of the CWA. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or a delegated state or tribal entity, is responsible for permitting and enforcement functions dealing with water quality under Sec. 401 of the CWA. The proposed project does not affect any Waters of the U.S. (including wetlands) and therefore, a Sec. 404 Clean Water Act permit is not required. As a condition of the FEMA grant, the applicant must obtain and comply with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local water quality and storm-water management permits, including the Sec. 401 (CWA) water quality certification and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the US EPA, as delegated to the Spirit Lake Tribal EPA. Standard construction BMP for erosion control and sedimentation must be implemented.

Floodplain Impacts (EO 11988)

The intent of Executive Order (EO) 11988 is to require Federal Agencies to take actions to minimize occupancy of and modifications to floodplains. The proposed site is located outside the 100-year (1% annual chance) floodplain in un-shaded Zone X per the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 38005C0725D

Wetland Impacts (EO 11990)

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction or modification of wetlands, by considering both direct and indirect impacts to wetlands that may result from federally funded actions. There are no wetlands on or adjacent to the site that could affect or be affected by the proposed project per USFWS NWI maps.

However, the USFWS administers Waterfowl Production Areas owned in fee title as well as wetland and grassland easements throughout North Dakota. A review of Service realty records indicates that Service property interests may be affected by the proposed project.

Service wetland easements are located in: T 152N, R 67W, Section 15, SE¼, SE¼, Benson County, North Dakota.

Easement protected wetlands within this area are managed as a waterfowl production area. Wetlands within the easement area are protected from being drained or filled with earth or any other material. Depending on the location of the 100' x 150' graded pad, protected wetlands may be impacted. Central Power Electric Cooperative Inc. must contact Matt Sprenger, Wildlife Refuge Manager, Devils Lake Wetland Management District, PO Box 908, Devils Lake, ND 58301-0908; Phone: (701)662-8611; Email: matt_sprenger@fws.gov, to arrange a site visit to ensure that easement protected wetlands are not impacted by the project.

Threatened and Endangered Species (ESA) and Migratory Birds (MBTA)

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 establishes a federal program to conserve, protect and restore threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. FEMA has determined that relocating the substation will have “no effect” on the piping plover or designated critical habitat due to the nearest habitat being Cranberry Lake approximately 30 miles away. There will be no direct effects of the project on whooping cranes. Indirect effects include construction noise disturbance on migratory species within in the area, thus the project will be conditioned that if whooping cranes are sighted within one mile of the construction area, construction must cease until the birds have migrated. Based on the previous condition, FEMA determined that relocating the substation “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” the whooping crane. USFWS concurred with this determination on July 2, 2013.

Central Power Electric Cooperative will install approximately 0.5 miles of 69 KV transmission line in order to connect the relocated substation to existing power infrastructure. The new transmission line will parallel the west side of US Highway 281. Although not FEMA funded, it is considered to be a connected action under NEPA. FEMA has determined that installing the transmission line will have “no effect” on the piping plover or designated critical habitat due to the nearest habitat being Cranberry Lake approximately 30 miles away. Direct effects on the whooping crane (and other migratory birds) by the transmission line installation will be mitigated through implementation of guidelines documented in the “2006 Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines” publication. Furthermore, to increase power line visibility, the guidelines recommended in the publication “Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1994” must also be implemented. Indirect effects include construction noise disturbance on migratory species within in the area, thus the project will be conditioned that if whooping cranes are sighted within one mile of the construction area, construction must cease until the birds have migrated. Based on the previous conditions, FEMA has determined that installation of the transmission line “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” the whooping crane. USFWS concurred with this determination on July 2, 2013.

Historic and Cultural Resources (NHPA)

Consideration of impacts to cultural resources is mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as implemented by 36 CFR 800. In response to a scoping letter prepared by the applicant on March 8, 2012, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) indicated that if consulted by a federal agency, they would concur with a determination that there would be ‘no historic properties affected’ by the proposed project. Because the proposed site is entirely within the boundaries of the Spirit Lake Sioux Reservation and the tribe has assumed the responsibilities of the SHPO, no further consultation was conducted with ND SHPO. FEMA initiated consultation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in lieu of the SHPO regarding this undertaking.

Three surveys have been previously conducted close to the proposed project site. The first occurred approximately one mile north and was conducted in 2005 and was reported in *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Round Lake and Josephine Substations and Pipelines, Benson County, North Dakota* (ND-SHPO Ms. 009169). No historic or cultural properties were identified. The second survey was conducted by in 2008 a short distance north and west of the report just referenced: *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the North Central Water Consortium REAP Zone 1, Rural Water Supply Project, Benson and Wells Counties, North Dakota* (ND-SHPO Ms. 010759). No historic or cultural properties were identified in the portion of this survey nearest to the proposed project. The third survey was an addendum to the 2008 report cited above and was conducted by in 2010 (ND-SHPO Ms. 011358). No historic or cultural properties were identified in the portion of this survey nearest to the proposed project. The Spirit Lake Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) concurred with FEMA’s determination of ‘no historic properties affected’ for the relocation site on March 3, 2013. *A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory: Proposed Central Power Electrical Cooperative 69 KV Transmission Line, Lallie Township (T152N; R67W; Sec 15), Benson County, North Dakota* was completed for proposed transmission line on May 12, 2013 and no cultural material was identified. Spirit Lake Sioux THPO concurred with the determination of ‘no historic properties affected’ for the transmission line on June 13, 2013.

The determination of ‘no historic properties affected’ for the undertaking included the following project conditions: Gravel and other fill material must be obtained from a THPO or State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)-approved source; and if any unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered during construction, the construction activities shall immediately cease within 100 feet of the materials until their cultural affiliation and ultimate disposition are determined in consultation with FEMA’s Regional Environmental Officer and the Spirit Lake Sioux Reservation THPO.

Environmental Justice (EO) 12898

Executive Order, Environmental Justice, requires each federal agency to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income households in the United States. Both Benson County and the Spirit Lake Sioux Reservation contain minority and low-income populations. However, the proposed project will not have a disproportionately high or adverse impact on these minority or low-income populations.

Public Health and Safety

Public health and safety within the surrounding community depends upon safe, reliable utilities and public services. No existing sites of concern were identified by the EPA Hazardous Materials database search. No environmental conditions of concern observed during field reconnaissance. Appropriate safety measures will be implemented during demolition, construction and operation. All debris and waste material generated during demolition and construction, including hazardous materials will be managed in compliance with applicable federal, tribal, state and local requirements, including those of the Spirit Lake Tribe EPA and the North Dakota Department of Health.

IV. Public Involvement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued initial disaster-wide public notice in the Bismarck Tribune from June 30 until July, 2, 2011 of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by flooding during the declared incident period. This notice applied to the Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206.

A final Public Notice of Availability of the EA for public review and comment was published in the Minot Daily News and the Devils Lake Journal, newspapers of record for the state of North Dakota. The draft EA was available for public review on the Central Power Electrical Cooperative website at <http://www.centralpwr.com/index.htm> and the FEMA online Library at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7898>

A public comment period related to the Proposed Action will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. Interested parties may submit comments or request hard copy of the draft EA and other information by contacting Richard Myers, FEMA Region VIII, by telephone at (303) 235-4926 or by email at richard.myers2@fema.dhs.gov OR Mark Sherman, Central Power Electrical Cooperative, by telephone at (701) 852 4407 or by email at marks@centralpwr.com

If no substantive comments are received by the above deadline, the draft EA will become final and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and be issued by FEMA. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

V. Preparers

This Environmental Assessment was prepared by:

- Steven Hardegen, FEMA Region VIII, Regional Environmental Officer
- Richard Myers, FEMA Region VIII, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
- Charles Bello MA, RPA, FEMA Region VIII, Environmental/Historic Preservation Specialist
- Daniel Jones, FEMA Region VIII, Environmental/Historic Preservation Specialist

Appendix A – Maps & Figures

Figure 1: Aerial photograph showing proximity of project area to Devils Lake

Figure 2: Aerial photograph showing the location of the existing substation, the proposed new location and the proposed transmission line.

Figure 3: Aerial photograph showing the location of the existing substation

Figure 4: Aerial photograph showing the proposed location of the new substation.

Figure 5: Aerial photograph showing the proposed location of the new transmission line.

Figure 6: USGS topographic map showing proposed new construction.

Figure 7: Power pole specifications

Appendix B –Photographs

Photo 1: Photograph of existing sub-station, view west, near the intersection of 38th Street North and County Road 0329, Benson County ND

Photo 2: Photograph of existing transmission line to be removed, view north from existing substation, along County Road 0329

Photo 3: Proposed site of relocated Lallie Substation; view northwest along west side of Highway 281 towards proposed electrical substation

Photo 4: Proposed site of new electrical transmission line that will parallel the west side of U.S. Highway 281; view south towards proposed electrical substation

Appendix C – Correspondence

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