

Public Notice

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Lock 11 Hydro Partners, LLC : Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for public review

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and RUS’s Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) in relation to possible financial assistance for a proposed project by Lock 11 Hydro Partners, LLC. The proposal is for the construction of the College Hill (Lock and Dam 11) Hydroelectric Project (Project) in Estill County, Kentucky. Lock 11 Hydro Partners, LLC have applied to RUS to secure a direct loan to install turbines in the Kentucky River at Lock 11 to generate hydropower (see Figure 1).

The proposed Project would provide hydroelectric generation to meet part of the region’s power requirements, resource diversity, and capacity needs. The proposed Project would have an installed capacity of 3.01 megawatts (MW) and generate approximately 13,556 MWh per year. The Project would provide low-cost power that could displace generation from non-renewable sources. Power produced will be put into a Clark Energy Rural Electric Cooperative distribution line, wheeled over to the East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) Union City substation, and then be put into the EKPC system.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions and comments should be emailed to the Environmental and Historic Preservation Division, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service at: [RUSPublicComments@usda.gov](mailto:RUSPublicComments@usda.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Project would be located at Lock and Dam Number 11 at river mile 201.0 on the Kentucky River. Lock and Dam Number 11 is owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and operated by the Kentucky River Authority for water supply (see Figure 2). The existing 208-foot-long fixed crest concrete dam has a 148-foot-long by 52-foot-wide lock chamber. The lock chamber of the structure is abandoned, and a concrete bulkhead has been placed in the lock chamber, below the upper miter gates, to prevent failure and loss of pool.

Lock 11 Hydro Partners would remove the concrete bulkhead and construct a 28.4-foot by 52-foot by 49.5-foot steel and reinforced concrete powerhouse in the abandoned lock chamber. Four 642-kW Voith 14.9 and two 222-kW Voith 8.95 StreamDiver turbine-generators would be installed into the lock chamber. These submersible units directly couple permanent magnet generators with turbines, eliminating the need for a gearbox and associated oil lubrication. A prefabricated-steel and reinforced 42-foot by 20-foot by 28-foot concrete control building would be installed atop a concrete foundation at the edge of the existing concrete esplanade and would be connected to the powerhouse via an underground cable trench. The control building would house the switchgear, controls, transformers, and the main circuit breaker for the plant. The control building would also serve as the interconnection point to the existing 12.47-kV, three-phase overhead distribution line.

ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an EA for Lock 11 Hydro Partners that describes the proposed Project, assesses the proposed Project’s environmental impacts, and summarizes applicable mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the EA and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed Project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of Project construction or operation.

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. All comments must be provided electronically with no hard copy comments being accepted at this time.

Copies of the EA and supporting documentation will be available for public review on RUS’s website at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/college-hill-lock-and-dam-11-hydroelectric-project>

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.

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King Features  
Puzzles  
Answers on  
Page B7

MAGIC MAZE ● SHIP’S —

G	O	L	J	G	D	A	X	V	S	P	N	K	I	F
C	A	X	V	S	Q	O	L	J	H	E	C	A	X	F
V	T	R	P	N	L	J	H	Y	E	L	L	A	G	F
D	B	Y	X	V	T	R	N	T	S	T	O	R	E	S
P	O	M	K	Y	I	G	I	D	E	S	E	P	R	S
D	B	Z	O	X	N	U	A	W	R	L	L	E	B	A
U	T	B	R	G	C	A	T	E	D	A	C	N	Q	P
O	N	L	J	S	R	I	P	N	G	I	W	T	F	M
D	C	A	I	Y	X	A	A	M	F	W	A	E	V	O
T	S	B	R	P	P	H	C	F	O	O	O	R	T	C
R	E	P	O	O	C	N	O	L	B	C	K	J	I	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: NAVIGATION INSTRUMENT

Bell	Captain	Company	Papers
Biscuit	Cargo	Cooper	Steward
Boat	Carpenter	Galley	Stores
Boy	Chandler	Officers	

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Weekly SUDOKU

	3	6	4	1	7		5	2
5	4		2	9	8	3		
	8	2					4	7
		8						5
	1	5			2			3
	7			3	5	6		8
					3		6	9
8	5	9	6		1			
						7		1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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FIGURE 2  
Site Location Map

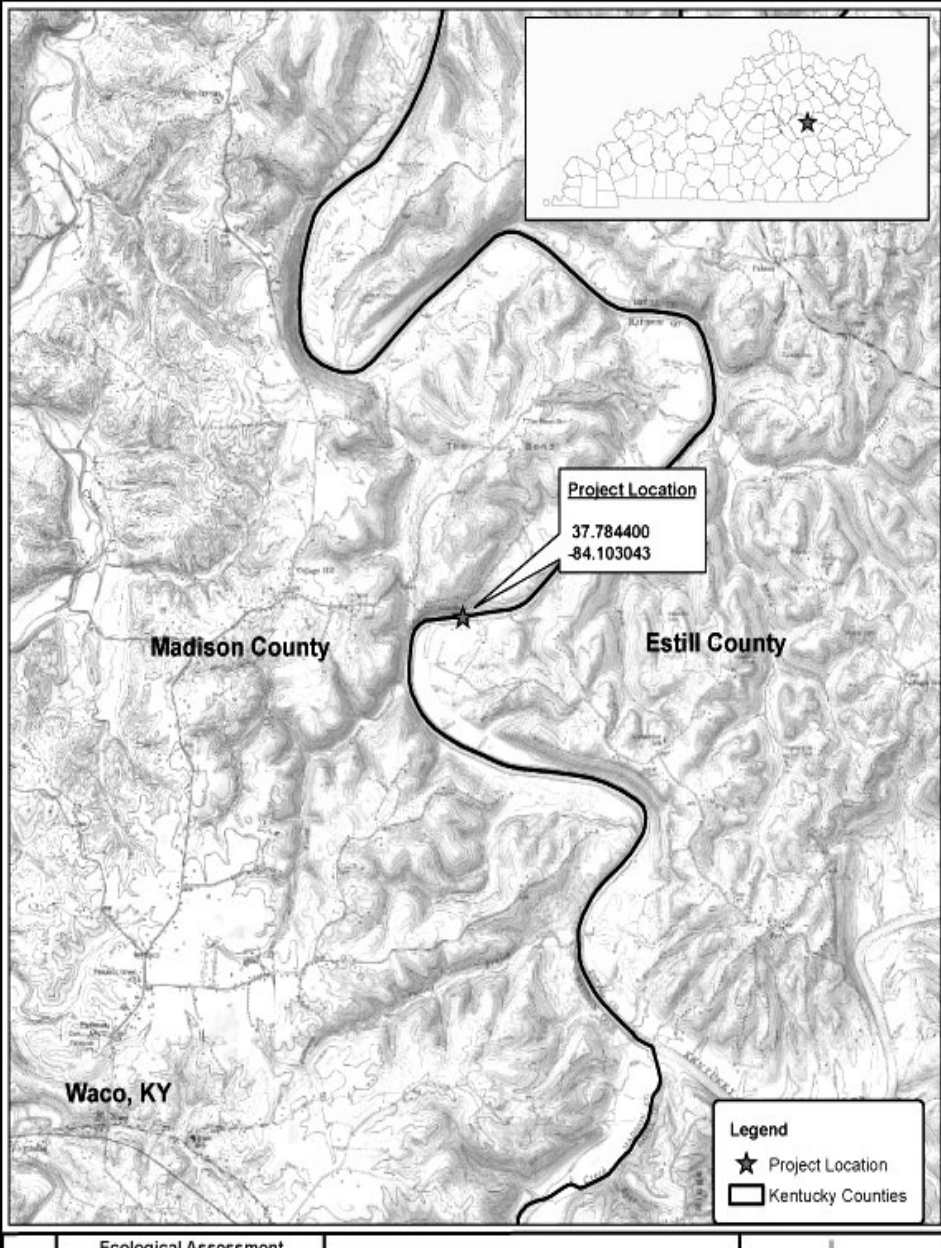


FIGURE 1  
Project Location Map