



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

NOV 15 2011

Mr. Mark Stallons
President and CEO
Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P. O. Box 400
Owenton, Kentucky 40359-0400

Dear Mr. Stallons:

The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has reviewed the Environmental Report (ER) covering the facilities recommended in Owen Electric Cooperative's (Owen Electric) 2012-2013 Construction Work Plan (CWP). In accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures, as amended, all projects proposed in the CWP appear to meet the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion (§1794.21[b],[7],[9],[14],[15] and §1794.22[a][1][i],[5]). Except for project codes 332 and 610, no additional environmental information needs to be submitted for review, provided there are no extraordinary circumstances, and the projects do not change from what has been described in the CWP/ER.

Project code 332 involves the construction of getaways from the proposed MBUSA Substation and requires the preparation of a site-specific ER. The ER must be reviewed and approved by RUS prior to construction of the project. Connected projects (any associated substations, transmission lines, and distribution exit feeders serving the same purpose/need for a given project) must be discussed in the same ER.

Project code 610 covers anticipated road moves. If any RUS funds will be used, an environmental project description (see RUS Bulletin 1794A-600 for guidance) and an aerial or USGS topographic map, which highlights the new route of the line, must be submitted for environmental review and approval prior to the construction of these projects.

Your CWP was approved by Mike Norman on November 2, 2011, contingent on approval of the ER. Except for project codes 332 and 610, Owen Electric now has environmental clearance for all projects in the CWP and is responsible for acquiring the necessary permits for construction and operation of the proposed projects. If any line conversion projects are sited through easements on public forest lands, additional state and federal permits/reviews may be required for these projects.

1400 Independence Ave. S.W. · Washington DC 20250-0700
Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."
To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (Voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The environmental staff would like to thank for you for submitting the CWP environmental worksheet with your 2012-2013 CWP, as it helps to expedite the environmental review process. Submittal of this form does not negate the need to prepare an ER for the CWP. Projects not requiring agency contacts must at a minimum include an environmental project description (see RUS Bulletin 1794A-600 for guidance). In addition, when completing the CWP environmental worksheet for code 300 projects, **a separate field/line item must be completed for each code 300 project.**

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in helping us fulfill our environmental review requirements. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 720-1994 or Ms. Lauren McGee, Environmental Scientist, at (202) 720-1482 or lauren.mcgee@wdc.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



CHARLES M. PHILPOTT
Chief, Engineering Branch
Northern Regional Division
USDA Rural Utilities Service