



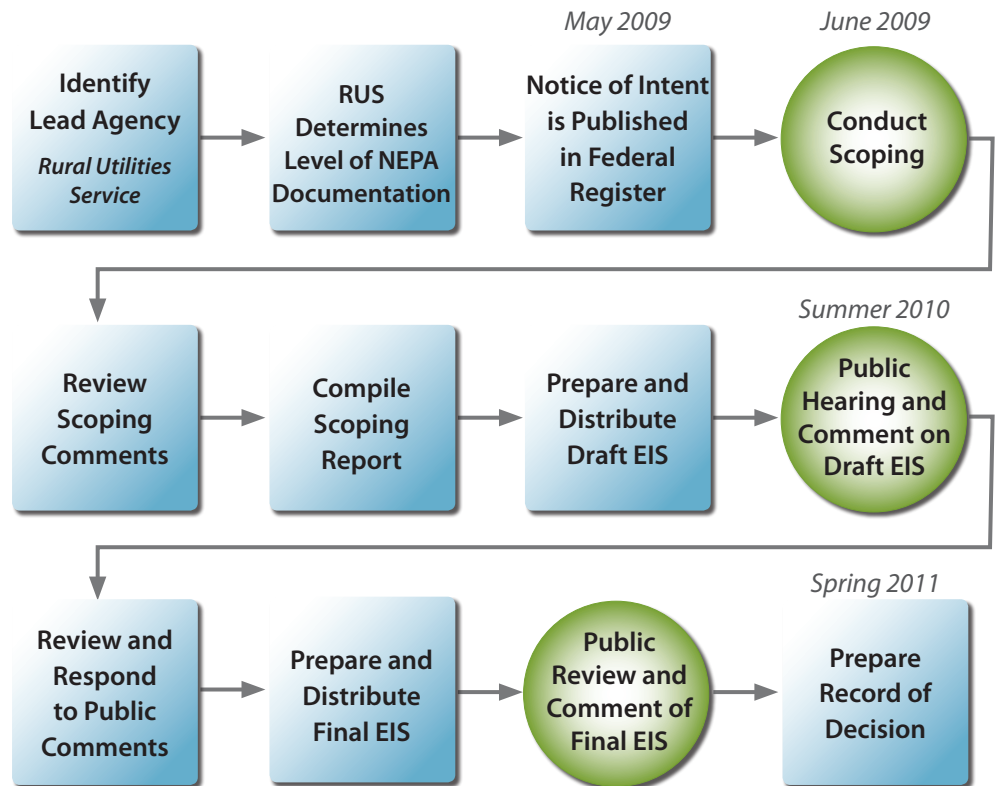
FEDERAL REVIEW PROCESS

Dairyland Power Cooperative has requested financial assistance from Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a federal agency that administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Programs, for its anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS and other federal agencies involved in the NEPA review will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each federal agency will independently develop its own decision document. The EIS preparation process is detailed below.

The NEPA process evaluates the project's potential affects on environmental resources, such as:

- land use
- threatened and endangered species
- wetlands
- cultural and historic properties
- socioeconomics
- scenic areas



The table below shows permit, regulatory compliance or other coordination required by federal agencies.

Agency	Permit, regulatory compliance, or other coordination
RUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study • NEPA Compliance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 10 Permit of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) for crossing the Mississippi River
USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide permit or individual permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977
U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use authorization if right-of-way required on National Wildlife Refuge or Wetland Management District lands (Standard Form 299) and Special Use Permit if crossing National Wildlife Refuge • Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 50 C.F.R. 22 consultation) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668, 50 C.F.R. 22) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 701–712)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 7460–1, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace
National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation: Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968 (if proposal affects federally designated areas)

Public scoping

The RUS NEPA process provides several opportunities for public review and comment (identified in green on the NEPA process graphic). The CapX2020 utilities had several rounds of public information meetings prior to the NEPA scoping meetings; public comments received at those meetings were considered in corridor development and route option identification. Public comments received at scoping meetings will be recorded as part of the project record.

The NEPA scoping process serves multiple goals for the proposed project, including:

- Soliciting public comments
- Discovering alternatives to a proposed action (preferred route)
- Identifying significant impacts
- Eliminating insignificant issues
- Communicating information
- Consulting with agencies and organizations

Track EIS development, download comment forms, and access all public documentation at the RUS Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Please contact **Stephanie Strength** for more information:
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