

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

Lafayette County: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Development, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Rural Development (RD) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Lafayette County for the construction of a new hospital, an assisted living facility and supporting infrastructure (Project) near Darlington, Wisconsin.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Joseph M. Dorava, State Environmental Coordinator, 5417 Clem's Way, Stevens Point WI 54482, 715-345-7649, joseph.dorava@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at Fehr Graham, Engineering & Environmental 200 Prairie Street, Suite 208, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal is for construction a new hospital, an assisted living facility and supporting infrastructure, near Darlington, Wisconsin. Alternatives considered by RD and Lafayette County include: No action; Renovate the existing hospital and build a new hospital and assisted living facility. The alternatives are discussed in the Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County Environmental Assessment EA. The RD has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper(s): The Republican Journal on August 26th and September 2nd, and on the City web page on August 11th. A copy of the EA was available for public review at USDA RD by contacting Joseph M. Dorava, State Environmental Coordinator, 5417 Clem's Way, Stevens Point WI 54482, 715-345-7649, joseph.dorava@usda.gov. The EA is also available for public review at Fehr Graham, Engineering & Environmental 200 Prairie Street, Suite 208, Rockford, Illinois 61107. The 14-day comment period ended on September 9, 2021. No public comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by Lafayette County, and public comments received, RD has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to farm land, formally classified lands, flood plains, wetlands, cultural resources, biological resources, water resources, water quality, coastal resources, social and environmental justice, transportation, aesthetics, human health and safety

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RD has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RD is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RD federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: September 10, 2021