

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Development**

Tri-County Hospital, Inc.: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Housing Service, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by TCHC, of Wadena, MN. The proposal is for construction of a new hospital campus. TCHC has submitted an application to USDA-Rural Development for funding of the proposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Tyler Ray, Area Specialist, 7118 Clearwater Rd, Baxter, MN 56425. 218-829-5965 ext. 4. Tyler.ray@usda.gov. The EA is also available for public review at Tri-County Health Care: 415 Jefferson St. N, Wadena, MN 56482.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Tri-County Hospital, Inc. proposes to construct a new hospital/clinic at 63835 US Hwy 20, Wadena, MN 56482. The proposed development would include a medical campus, skilled nursing area, and paved parking/driving surfaces.

West Central Environmental Consultants, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for USDA-Rural Development that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. If implemented, the proposed project will convert wetlands as shown in the map shown below. In accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

USDA-Rural Development has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to USDA-Rural Development at the address provided. USDA-Rural Development will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by USDA-Rural Development 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.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.

Dated: February 27, 2020

