PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

APPLICANT: LOWER NOWOOD IMPROVEMENT & SERVICE DISTRICT [LNI&SD]

AGENCY: USDA-Rural Development–Rural Utility Services [USDA-RD-RUS]

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the USDA-RD-RUS, 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 Lower Nowood Improvement and Service District [LNI&SD], of Washakie County, Wyoming. The proposal is for construction of a drinking water well, a storage tank, and the associated transmission line along Lower Nowood Road. LNI&SD has submitted an application to USDA-RD-RUS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Urbanec, Engineer-ASEC, USDA-RD-RUS, 100 East B Street, Room 1005, Casper, Wyoming, 82602; (307) 233-6722; ryan.urbanec@wy.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lower Nowood District proposes to construct a public water system drinking water well, a storage tank, and a drinking water system transmission line along (approx.) 15 miles of Lower Nowood Road between the Town of Ten Sleep and the Big Horn-Washakie County Line.

Sage Civil Engineering and Surveying prepared an environmental assessment for USDA-RD-RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. USDA-RD-RUS 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-RD-RUS at the address provided. USDA-RD-RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for **14-days** from the date of publication of this notice.

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.

October 11, 2016