

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE IMPACT TO AN IMPORTANT LAND RESOURCE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Administration (RDA) and Iowa Department of Economic Development are considering an application for financial assistance for Black Hawk County. The specific elements for this proposed project is rural water distribution. A general location map is shown below.

If implemented, the proposed action may impact directly or indirectly farmland, wetlands, and floodplains as identified by Soil Conservation Service (SCS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife and other governmental agencies, see maps on file at the Black Hawk County Engineer's Office for locations of each resource.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the possible impacts to important land resources and to request comments concerning the impacts of the proposed project on important land resources, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to reduce these impacts. The following are some of the items we will be reviewing.

A variety of alternative distribution systems were investigated, including the do nothing alternative. There is no practicable alternative that will avoid locating all of the proposed system in an important land resource. Therefore, all practicable and enforceable mitigation measures for minimizing or eliminating the direct and indirect impacts on important land resources will be investigated.

Important farmland has been identified by SCS and maps are on file. There is important farmland throughout the entire project area. There is no direct

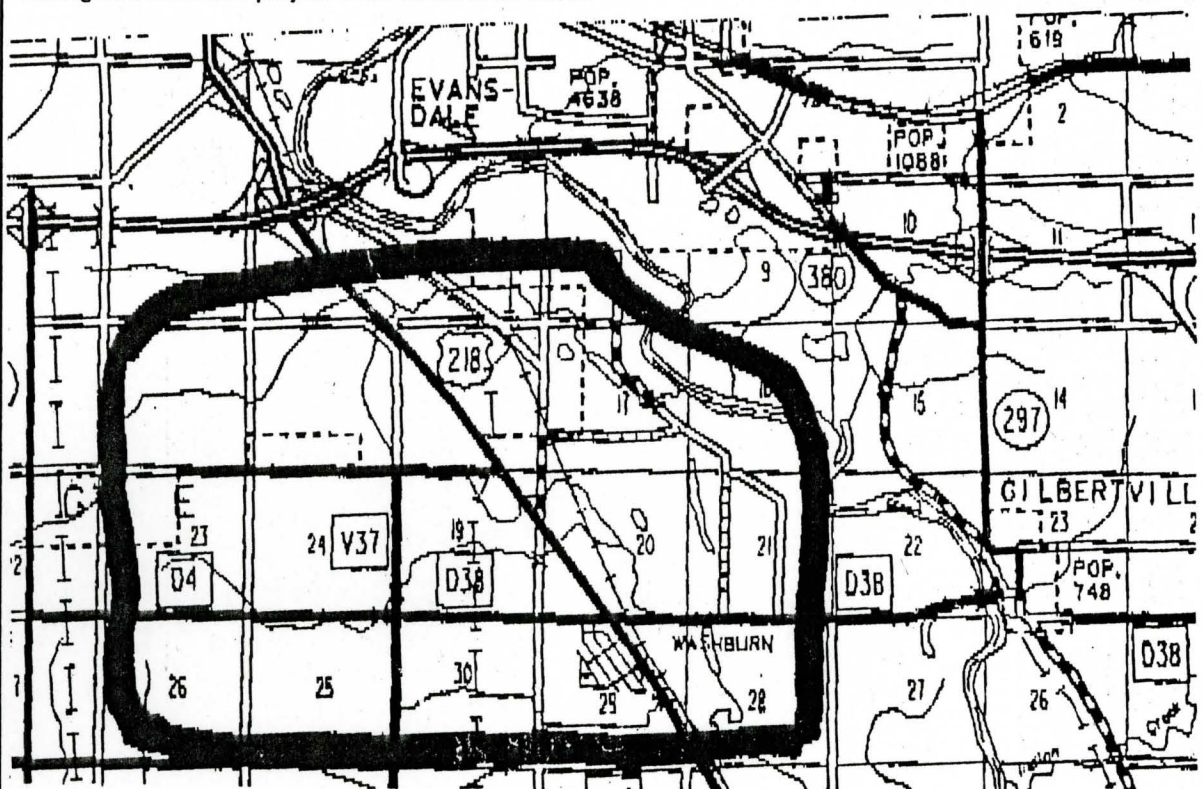
conversion because the land can be farmed after the line is constructed. The indirect conversion is the potential for new construction due to water availability, and can be mitigated by establishing a tap policy that supports farm related uses and restricts other uses on important farmland.

Several floodplain areas have been identified. Executive Order 11988 requires restrictive use of floodplains. A policy will be established to deny water service to any new construction in floodplains identified on the flood plain map.

Potential wetlands have been identified by SCS. Because the definition of a wetland is being discussed and not official set we have identified all potential wetlands by hydric soil classification. Executive Order 11990 restricts conversion to wetlands. A policy will be established to deny water service to any new construction in a wetland. Therefore if a new service is requested on a potential wetland site SCS will be required to determine if the site is a wetland or the new construction converted an existing wetland service shall be denied.

The proposed project preliminary engineering report and environmental maps are available at the Black Hawk County Engineer's Office or FmHA District Office in New Hampton for review and comments.

Any person interested in commenting on the proposed project may do so at the above offices or by mail within 30 days of this publication to the FmHA District 4, P.O. Box 466, 312 Cedar St., Tipton, IA 52772.



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