

8.0 Site and Plant Design Alternatives

According to FDEP's Application Instruction Guide, Chapter 8.0 of the SCA is optional. When federal approval of a proposed facility is deemed to be a major federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this chapter may be used to present an analysis of alternatives to the project as required by NEPA.

The Project is not anticipated to be a major federal action that requires an environmental impact statement (EIS) under NEPA. SECI does, however, intend to seek financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for the SCCF. Such financial assistance commitment by RUS will require environmental review under NEPA. For this review, SECI will prepare and submit to RUS a separate environmental assessment (EA) for the Project. Therefore, this optional chapter is not being provided as part of the SCA for the SCCF.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that throughout the planning efforts for the SCCF, SECI has analyzed alternatives and selected the site and facility design, layout, systems, and equipment to avoid or minimize environmental impacts due to the construction and operation of the Project. These environmentally protective designs are described in detail in other sections of this SCA.