



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
<http://www.id.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
9105 (912)

Dear []:

As part of the Bureau of Land Management's ongoing government-to-government consultation with the [_____], I would like to invite you to become involved in the process of designating energy corridors on Federal lands in the Western U.S.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that the Secretaries of the Interior, Energy and Agriculture undertake efforts to (1) designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal land in the 11 contiguous Western states; (2) perform any environmental reviews that may be required to complete the designation of such corridors; and (3) incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans or equivalent plans.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Energy (DOE) will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to evaluate issues associated with energy corridor designation in the 11 contiguous Western States.

The BLM is a co-lead agency with DOE and the FS is a cooperating agency in preparing the PEIS. The West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS will evaluate issues associated with energy corridor designation and consider the need to amend individual land use plans throughout the Western region. Preparation and implementation of the PEIS will proceed over the next 24 months in a multi-step process that will include publication of the Draft PEIS, the Final PEIS, and Records of Decision (RODs) by the BLM, DOE and the FS.

Gaining your specific knowledge and perspective during development of the PEIS is critical and valuable to the overall success of the PEIS and its implementation. We would like to facilitate discussion and information sharing in a manner that would be useful to you and your Tribe.

A public scoping meeting on the PEIS will be held in Boise on November 1 at the Harrison Plaza Suite Hotel, located at 409 S. Cole. If you or a representative would like to attend, the scoping meeting will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The complete schedule of scoping meetings in western cities follows:

October 25, 2005 – Denver, Colorado
October 26, 2005 - Albuquerque, New Mexico and Salt Lake City, Utah
October 27, 2005 - Cheyenne, Wyoming and Helena, Montana
November 1, 2005 – Boise, Idaho and Sacramento, California
November 2, 2005 – Las Vegas, Nevada and Portland, Oregon
November 3, 2005 – Phoenix, Arizona and Seattle, Washington

The interagency project team has developed a Website specific to this project where users can gain further information: <http://corridoreis.anl.gov> . This Website also includes the means to submit comments electronically and to subscribe to an email list service for updates on the project.

If you are interested in further consultation on this corridor designation, or in becoming a cooperating agency in preparing the PEIS, please let me know so that we may begin our discussions. You may reach me at 208-373-4001.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to our interaction and discussions.

Sincerely,

/signed/

K Lynn Bennett
State Director