

102705 scoping evening.txt

1

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FEDERAL ENERGY CORRIDOR DESIGNATION

Thursday, 7:08 p.m.
October 27, 2005
Little America Inn

□

2

1
2

P R O C E E D I N G S
(Public scoping meeting proceedings)

3
4 MR. RABINOFF: Good evening, ladies and
5 gentlemen. My name is Alan Rabinoff. I'm the deputy state
6 director for minerals and land with the Bureau of Land
7 Management here in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Thanks for coming to
8 this public scoping meeting about energy corridor
9 designation on federal lands administered by the Bureau of
10 Land Management and the Forest Service.

11 The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the
12 secretaries of energy, agriculture and the interior to
13 designate corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines, as
14 well as electricity transmission and distribution
15 facilities on federal land in 11 contiguous western states.

16 The act further directs the secretaries to
17 incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant
18 agency land use plans and resource management plans or
19 equivalent plans and perform any environmental review that
20 may be required to complete the designation of these
21 corridors. For that purpose, the Department of Energy,
22 Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are
23 preparing the West Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic
24 Environmental Impact Statement.

25 Currently right-of-way applications are

3

1 considered on a case-by-case basis and often without the
2 benefit of prior analysis or designation of corridors that
3 cross jurisdictional boundaries. The west wide Energy
4 Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement will
5 evaluate the programmatic issues and associated impacts
6 with energy corridor designation, as well as the amendment
7 of individual land use plans on BLM and Forest Service

8 administered lands in the west, excluding Alaska.

9 Designation of energy corridors, excuse me,
10 through land use plan amendments on Forest Service and BLM
11 lands will facilitate processing of energy-related
12 rights-of-way, applications and associated site-specific
13 analyses.

14 Argonne National Laboratories assisting the
15 Department of Energy, BLM and the Forest Service in
16 preparation of this Programmatic Environmental Impact
17 Statement. Representatives from all three agencies and
18 Argonne are at this meeting this evening to receive your
19 comments.

20 We appreciate your interest in the project. We
21 value your comments and we look forward to your continued
22 involvement as we proceed in our analysis.

23 I'd like to now introduce our panel members. On
24 my far right is Jerry Pell. Jerry is project manager for
25 the office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

4

1 within the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.
2 And to his left, and our moderator tonight, will be
3 Bob Cunningham -- Cunningham, I'm sorry, who is the
4 assistant director for lands and realty for the U.S. Forest
5 Service, also in Washington, D.C. And I will be joining
6 the panel as well.

7 Bob, would you like to step up here now?

8 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. RABINOFF: Thank you.

10 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Alan.

11 And thank you folks that are here this evening.

12 I'd like to take just a few minutes and talk a little bit
13 in a little more detail about the undertaking of preparing
14 the programmatic impact statement.

15 First off, a little discussion here, what is an
16 energy corridor? This is easy to say and then we start to
17 think about it, the law requires the agencies to identify a
18 corridor by the centerline, known widths -- established
19 widths and identification of compatible uses. For the
20 purposes of preparing the West Wide Energy Corridor Impact
21 Statement, an energy corridor is defined as a parcel of
22 land, obviously off linear in character that has been
23 identified through the land use planning process as being a
24 preferred location for existing -- and this is very key --
25 and future utility rights-of-way, and that is suitable to

5

1 accommodate one or more rights-of-way which are similar,
2 identical or compatible. Energy corridors may accommodate
3 multiple pipelines, such as for oil, gas or hydrogen,
4 electricity transmission lines and related infrastructure,
5 such as access and maintenance roads, compressors, pumping
6 stations and other structures.

7 It's worthwhile to talk a little bit and think
8 of, well, what are the benefits of designating these
9 corridors among federal agencies and within federal land
10 and western states? Certainly streamlining and expediting
11 the processing of energy-related permits and projects,
12 providing applicants for individual rights-of-ways within
13 designated corridors with a clear set of actions required
14 by each of the agencies to implement projects in designated
15 corridors. In other words, it's an opportunity for
16 administrators and the BLM and the Forest Service to have a

17 clear set of direction and understanding about what a
18 corridor is and the procedures they go through to
19 administer those corridors, reducing duplicative assessment
20 of generic environmental impacts by focusing further impact
21 assessment on site specific, on-the-ground environmental
22 studies to determine route suitability and appropriate
23 mitigation.

24 That means that as proposals to either remove a
25 facility, add on to a facility, create a new facility

6

1 within these corridors, the environmental analyses and
2 associated work regarding cultural resources and dangerous
3 species can be conducted in a very site specific and
4 focused manner, eliminating the need to do over and over
5 again broad-scale landscape-type studies that will be
6 addressed in a programmatic statement.

7 Ensuring needed interagency coordination is part
8 of the application process. This is an opportunity for us
9 and the Forest Service and BLM and other federal agencies
10 involved to make sure application and review process
11 procedures are very similar and things are not duplicated.
12 And as you might have seen in the past, sometimes
13 interpretation of federal statute is somewhat different
14 from one agency to another. This is a real opportunity for
15 us to smooth that out and really reduce what you might say
16 disparate of processes and procedures.

17 The last point is really the one I think we'll
18 need to give a great deal of thought to and consideration
19 in this programmatic statement, but it's really to
20 encourage new and innovative technologies to increase

21 corridor capacity. And I would further that it -- that
22 same search for new technologies and methods would also go
23 to appropriate mitigating measures of environmental affects
24 of corridor designations and uses, so I think it's a real
25 opportunity to bring some focus and energy to bear on a lot

7

1 of these questions.

2 Now, the procedures this evening, the way we have
3 done it in the previous scoping meetings, folks have
4 indicated on a card if they wanted to address the group,
5 offer some comments for the record. And we've got a court
6 reporter here that's keeping track of these comments. As I
7 understand thus far this evening, no one has stepped
8 forward indicating they wanted to make a presentation.
9 That doesn't mean you can't. We have the opportunity now
10 to do so.

11 And I thought maybe if I said something
12 outrageous, someone would possibly come up and rebut it,
13 but hopefully that won't take place, but it is an
14 opportunity right now to come forward and offer some
15 comments. These will be recorded here and added to those
16 that are received by the website, and I think they're on
17 the back, the four ways to comment. We can receive
18 comments over the web -- through the website, here at this
19 meeting, written comments can be offered by mail.

20 I would add if you are planning on mailing any
21 comments to the Department of Energy in Washington, since
22 the anthrax tragedy that happened there, all surface mail
23 going to federal agencies is screened for anthrax and other
24 things, and that screening process, as you would guess,
25 takes a little time, and also is damaging often to disks,

1 tapes, and other things.

2 So if you want to send some paper kinds of things
3 to the Department of Energy, Federal Express or couriers is
4 a preferable way to go for you. Surely if it's just paper,
5 it can be faxed electronically to the office and it will
6 get there in good shape. The reason for the recording is
7 so that the groups of people that will be looking at all
8 the comments we receive around the country have an
9 opportunity to get the information as factually correct as
10 possible, and so we're not attempting to stifle comments
11 here with speakers and recordings and things, so I would
12 encourage you to offer some comments.

13 Is there anyone that would like to make a comment
14 at this time, offer up any critique they may have? Now,
15 what we have done in our previous meetings is -- after we
16 had finished with folks making presentations and regarded
17 comments, is stopping the recording and kind of taking a
18 break, and during that time we're milling about and
19 answering questions.

20 Now, I would ask the agency people, if they're in
21 the audience here, to stand up as representatives of the
22 United States government and here to help you. These folks
23 are knowledgeable in Forest Service and BLM and are here
24 and done quite a bit of work bringing a lot of material
25 together for us. Thank you very much. But they're

1 available here to talk with, and if you've got some
2 questions, to be able have those answered.

3 Okay. Does anybody -- would like to make a
4 comment at this time? If not, I propose that we kind of
5 just take about a 15-minute break and come back here at
6 7:30 and then spend the next 15 minutes or so. And we're
7 all available here, the panel, as well as the agency
8 people, to answer any questions and any discussions you may
9 have.

10 Okay. Thank you.

11 (Public scoping meeting proceedings
12 recessed 7:18 p.m. to 7:33 p.m.)

13 MR. CUNNINGHAM: It's 7:30 and we said we
14 would offer the opportunity at this time to -- if anyone
15 wanted to make a comment for the record, now's the time to
16 do it.

17 Okay. I think it's reasonable to conclude if
18 that's satisfactory with the folks that are here, that
19 we're probably finished with the formal part of the scoping
20 session here this evening. We will remain here in case
21 someone shows up a little bit later, would like to offer
22 comments to the record. So we'll go ahead and close this
23 down, at least for a half hour, and check again and see if
24 anyone has come and would like to offer some comments.

25 We will stay here and as we were doing before,

10

1 offer any comments or answer any questions that you may
2 have. Okay.

3 (Public scoping meeting proceedings
4 recessed 7:35 p.m. to 8:01 p.m.)

5 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Just for the record, no
6 one wanted to make any statements, so we close the session
7 here at 9 -- 8:00, excuse me. Is that satisfactory with

8 you all, participants?

9 (Public scoping meeting proceedings
10 concluded 8:02 p.m., October 27, 2005.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

□

11

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, KATHY J. MULLIVAN, a Registered Professional
4 Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine
5 shorthand the foregoing proceedings contained herein
6 constituting a full, true and correct transcript.

7 Dated this ____ day of _____, 200_.

8

9

10

11

KATHY J. MULLIVAN
Registered Professional Reporter

102705 scoping evening.txt

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25