From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 6:26 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50500

Attachments: ccswcd_lng_memo_02_13_08_WWECD50500.doc

ccswcd_lng_memo_
l2_13_08_WWECD..

Thank you for your comment, Rick Gruen.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50500. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 06:25:16PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50500

First Name: Rick
Last Name: Gruen
Organization: Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District
Address: 421 High Street, Suite 105
City: Oregon City
State: OR
Zip: 97045
Country: USA
Email: rick.gruen@or.nacdnet.net
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record
Attachment: C:\home\rick.gruen\Briefcase\CC SWCD_ADMIN\ccswcd lng memo 02 13 08.doc

Comment Submitted:
Please see attached file

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

February 13, 2008

To: Governor Ted Kulongoski
Mike Carrier, Natural Resource Policy Advisor

Oregon Federal Delegation:
Senator Gordon Smith
Senator Ron Wyden
Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Congresswomen Darlene Hooley

Oregon State Delegation:
Senator Kurt Schrader
Representative Dave Hunt
Representative Linda Flores
Representative Mike Schaufler
Representative Vic Gilliam

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners:
Lynn Peterson, Chair
Martha Schrader
Bill Kennemer

Re: Proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities, pipeline in Clackamas County, the Mid Willamette Valley and Northwest Oregon.

Dear Elected Officials:
This letter is to express the concerns of Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the proposed siting and construction of new LNG terminals and pipelines, along with the inclusion of a 3500 foot "multimodal" energy corridor within the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Clackamas County SWCD is a Special District of the State and is governed by a seven member elected Board of Directors that represents the landowners and citizens of Clackamas County. Many District constituents have expressed to the Board their shock and disbelief over the real and perceived damage and degradation of our natural resources from the proposed installation of LNG facilities along the Columbia River and Oregon coast, along with the extensive pipeline systems, which will cut a horrific and unnatural swath across northwest Oregon and through Clackamas County, including 35 miles through the Mt. Hood National Forest.

The following is a list of relevant agriculture and natural resource concerns for your consideration:

1. Negative Impacts & Concerns Related To Agricultural Producers and Prime Farmland

- Loss of crops from affected fields during and after installation will lead to farmers' inabilities to fulfill long term contracts.
- The destruction of existing and planned USDA-Farm Bill funded conservation projects on agriculture, nursery and forestland are designed to prevent erosion, stabilize hillsides prone to

50500-001

421 High Street, Suite 105, Oregon City, OR 97045
ph: 503.656.3499; fax: 503.650.2367; www.cc-swcd.org

landslides, and reduce solar heating of fish-bearing streams. This proposed project is counter productive to the millions of dollars being invested in resource management.

- Damage to underground drainage, tiling, irrigation, and other necessary agricultural infrastructure will be severe and costly to replace/fix without adequate compensation. Drainage systems are especially difficult to repair correctly due to the precise gradient requirements.
- The proposed installation of the pipeline(s) is in the same soil horizontal zone as agricultural infrastructure such as underground drainage and irrigation systems, preventing future installations.
- The depth of the pipeline(s) would also prevent deep tillage operations in the pipeline easement and the further loss of the structured subsoil zone in the trench area would prevent the harvesting of vegetable and nursery crops during periods of excessive rainfall
- The loss of opportunities to plant desired crops in the future due to restrictions placed by the gas companies.

50500-001 (cont.)

2. Negative Impacts and Concerns Related To Forestry and Fisheries

- Building the pipeline over the coastal range and through the Mt. Hood National Forest will require the stripping of trees and vegetation, along a 120 foot construction easement, leveling roadbeds and digging trenches hundreds of miles long. This soil disturbance can destabilize the rock & soil base making it prone to landslides during high rainfall events that can result in large amounts of sediment which will severely degrading fish bearing streams. Recent landslides in Columbia County have heightened public awareness to the linkage between clear cutting and landslides.
- The proposed pipeline will cross over 35 named streams and major rivers from Bradford to Molalla (i.e. Molalla River, Pudding River); most of the these streams and rivers have sensitive riparian habitat needs in addition to the development of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) to meet Clean Water Act objectives for reducing water quality impairment.
- In addition, the proposed pipeline will cross 14 named streams and rivers in the Mt. Hood National Forest including a "wet" crossing of the designated Wild and Scenic portion of the Clackamas River.

50500-002

3. Other Concerns About the LNG Proposals -

- Agriculture, agriforesty, and nurseries form the backbone of being one of Clackamas County's major traded sectors. Combined, there are over 7,700 farms and private small woodlands, ranking us number one in the State. The production value from these operations is also number one in the State. Siting the pipeline through eminent domain will put the burden of connectivity on the private lands of unwilling landowners. Adding the proposed federal lands siting of a 35-mile-long, 3500-foot-wide, multimodal Energy Corridor within the Mt. Hood National Forest will further erode, not preserve, our natural resource based economy.

50500-003

- Permanent roads and clearing of forested easements will create unsupervised and unsecured access to over 35 miles of sensitive riparian and upland habitats to off-road vehicular use. The LNG pipeline contractors should pay an ongoing fee for maintenance and security expenses incurred by Counties and other agencies in managing these issues.

50500-004

- While the vast majority of citizens appear to be in opposition to the LNG pipeline and terminal project, it is also important to understand that a number of citizens and local governments may be in support of the proposed LNG facilities and it could certainly move forward. We would request and urge you to consider additional language to the draft EIS that should center around meeting some very basic resource management concerns as detailed below:
    1. Producers are concerned about soil and crop limitations resulting from the pipeline. The ability to plant deep rooted crops, and the subsequent need to define "deep rooted", must be understood and agreed to at the onset. Landowners should have the opportunity to negotiate the depth of the buried pipeline, to permit the growth of tree fruits and nuts.

50500-005

421 High Street, Suite 105, Oregon City, OR 97045
ph: 503.656.3499; fax: 503.650.2367; www.cc-swcd.org

2. Small woodlot owners should be compensated for the future-market-value of the timber removed during construction of the pipeline. Counties should be reimbursed for their loss of future revenues from timber harvest and severance taxes on these parcels. 50500-005 (cont.)

3. One of the SWCD's primary goals is to minimize soil erosion within the county. Some of the concerns regarding soil erosion include:
   - How soils are to be managed during excavation and returned to the pipeline trench?
   - How existing water pipes are fixed and inspected during construction?
   - How existing field drains are repaired and inspected during construction?

   Concerns regarding these matters may be alleviated by the advent of third party inspections through the projected construction zone. 50500-006

4. Invasive weeds can be spread by equipment that is not properly cleaned, and non-native weeds are an increasing problem in Clackamas County. Clackamas SWCD believes that a decontamination requirement be made for excavation machinery, and associated equipment from one site to the next. Decontamination is especially critical for equipment that is being relocated from other states. 50500-007

5. When soils are disturbed by excavating and back fill operations, soil structure is permanently degraded; especially in uniform, well graded loam type soils, which are present along the proposed pipeline route. Operating construction equipment during wet weather further reduces soil permeability, thus when combined, all increase the potential for precipitation runoff and subsequent soil erosion. Land areas subject to the type of activities associated with pipeline construction are often visible 10, 50 or even 100 years later. Old roads are an example. Pipeline location, construction right-of-ways and construction schedules should minimize activities that cause negative impacts on the soil structure. 50500-008

6. Stipulate that the mitigation, restoration and weed abatement projects be monitored and maintained for a period of 10 years at the expense of the LNG pipeline contractors 50500-009

Thank you for your time and consideration of the concerns expressed by, and to, the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is the general philosophy of the Clackamas SWCD to not advocate for, or against, public based actions, but to address the local resource concerns and identify solutions as a project moves forward through the proper political and public process. However, the proposed LNG project lacks the proper public involvement process and will degrade the natural resources and local natural resource based economy. Further, the proposed federal action has served to unify the County's urban and rural citizenry and they seek your support and involvement to stop the LNG project from moving forward. 50500-010

Sincerely,

Rick Gruen

Rick Gruen, District Manager
Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District
Submitted on behalf of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

cc: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

421 High Street, Suite 105, Oregon City, OR 97045
ph: 503.656.3499; fax: 503.650.2367; www.cc-swcd.org

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 6:35 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50501

Attachments: Formal__PEIS_Comments_WWECD50501.doc

Formal__PEIS_Com
ıents_WWECD505..

Thank you for your comment, April Johnston.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50501. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 06:34:57PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50501

First Name: April
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Johnston
Organization: American Wildlands
Address: 321 E Main Street
Address 2: Suite 418
City: Bozeman
State: MT
Zip: 59715
Country: USA
Email: ajohnston@wildlands.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: \\Rocky\awl shares\Corridors of Life\Energy Corridors\Formal PEIS Comments.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

American Wildlands
"Science Based Conservation in the Northern Rockies"

LaVerne Kyriss, Department of Energy
West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439
Fax: (866)542-5904

Dear Ms. Kyriss:

American Wildlands would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed energy corridors in the DRAFT West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). For 30 years, American Wildlands has focused on protecting and maintaining important wildlife linkages and habitat connectivity across the large landscapes of the U.S. Northern Rockies for the benefit of native wildlife species such as grizzly bear, wolverine, Canada lynx, elk, moose, and pronghorn.
After reviewing the DRAFT West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) American Wildlands has the following general and specific comments. We are also submitting a map indicating the overlap of the designated energy corridors with some high priority wildlife linkage areas in Montana.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. We support the general concept of designating energy corridors and co-locating utilities for the purposes of concentrating environmental impacts. 50501-001

2. The recommended guidelines and best management practices described as Interagency Operating Conditions are entirely appropriate for inclusion into project-specific plans. However the PEIS contains too many inconsistencies and provides too little information about environmental impacts to allow an applicant's NEPA analysis to integrate easily within this document. 50501-002

3. The PEIS states that industry use of designated corridors is voluntary, with the only incentive to utilize these corridors being an "expedited" application process enabling agencies to tier to the PEIS for environmental consequences. The PEIS 50501-003

P.O. Box 6669 · 321 East Main Street, Suite 418 · BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59771 · TEL 406-586-817 · FAX 406-586-8242
EMAIL info@wildlands.org · www.wildlands.org

repeatedly states that "[t]horough evaluations would be developed in project-specific National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) evaluations prior to approval of applications for development" (Section 3.8.3.2 Wildlife, p.189). This questions the value of incorporating the PEIS in any future documents. Applicants would still need to develop significantly more detail about habitat impacts, local and regional wildlife populations, and cumulative effects than is provided in this document, whether their application requested a right-of-way inside the designated corridor or elsewhere. A generalized scenario of development within a designated corridor could be provided that would support a legitimate NEPA analysis suitable for inclusion within project specific applications. Power lines, pipelines, service roads and other facilities will all disrupt and fragment vegetation communities and wildlife habitat, impacts that could be generally predicted even at the programmatic level. Loss of vegetation, particularly in sagebrush or forest communities, cannot be immediately mitigated to maintain cover values. The physical presence of structures may inhibit wildlife movement through or use of these areas, and when combined with potentially increased human activity over time, may significantly reduce the suitability of adjoining habitat to sustain current or future wildlife uses. This would be particularly relevant along the Interstate 15 corridor in southwestern Montana that already intersects several regionally important wildlife linkages that are crucial to maintaining habitat and population connectivity. The addition of any large scale energy corridors in this area has the high potential to adversely affect wildlife, and create permanent and long-term physical barriers to movement. These impacts could be described and disclosed at a programmatic level.

50501-003 (cont.)

4. The PEIS does not explain how existing utility and transportation Right of Ways (ROWs) are incorporated in the proposed designation. How much overlap can occur for example between new power lines and existing power lines or highways? It appears that the addition of a designated utility corridor on top of existing corridors has the potential to greatly expand the area of disturbance beyond the recommended 3500 feet. Furthermore in many areas in western Montana, there is insufficient physical room to include new facilities in existing corridors without having significant environmental impacts. It is misleading to assert that impacts would be reduced on 57% of the proposed designated corridors in Montana (Table 2.2-3) simply by incorporating existing ROWs where impacts have already occurred.

50501-004

5. A major shortcoming of the PEIS is the exclusion of any discussion of how energy corridor designations would affect non-federal lands. Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines require that any federally-supported action must consider all lands affected by that action in the NEPA analysis regardless of land ownership. It is a disservice to industry and the public to conduct a NEPA analysis of this scale without considering the potential effects of utility construction on other ownerships, particularly private lands, immediately adjoining a federally-designated corridor. This is another consideration that would make project-specific integration within the boundaries of the PEIS unfeasible.

50501-005

6. The PEIS also states that this document would be suitable to amend land use plans to incorporate corridor designation. Many existing federal land use plans for western Montana have undergone intense review and consultation for potential management impacts to Special Status Species including grizzly bear, Canada, lynx, bald eagle, sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, and west slope cutthroat trout. It is unreasonable to portray that the PEIS that gives only cursory information about these wildlife species would effectively amend these existing plans that already include far more detailed analysis of potential development impacts. 50501-006

7. We disagree with the Effects Determination of the PEIS. Although the PEIS is clear that the designation is administrative, and therefore would not have any direct impact on the environment, the designation of the corridors clears the way for streamlined processes to allow energy development within these corridors. While the PEIS claims that it is not setting a precedent for allowing ground-disturbing activities, we find this to be incorrect. The precedent is that the application and permitting process for energy development within these corridors will be more streamlined than energy development outside of these corridors, and the "barriers to infrastructure development", as described in the PEIS, will be lessened or eliminated by energy corridor designation. While the actual acceptance and designation of these energy corridors is administrative, the effect of this designation is increased probability of energy development within these corridors. As stated in the PEIS, the National Marine Fisheries Service also disagreed with the Effects Determination of the PEIS. This is a clear indication that the logic used in the effects determination is flawed and contrived. 50501-007

8. The ecological section comparing the alternatives is inadequate. Several pages were devoted to cultural and geological resources; however, the wildlife amenities of the U.S. Northern Rockies are a strong underpinning of the economy in terms of wildlife-related tourism and hunting. The U.S. Northern Rockies are the last stronghold of grizzly bear in the lower 48 states, and have an abundance of other large, charismatic mega fauna that make it *the* tourist destination for wildlife and wilderness experiences in the lower 48 states. This area is also one of the major migratory flyways for federally protected neotropical songbirds and raptors. We would ask that the PEIS devote appropriate discussion in the comparison of alternatives in relation to the importance of the ecological amenities of the U.S. Northern Rockies. At minimum, this would entail reviewing major guilds of wildlife and associated habitat separately, such as fisheries, terrestrial species, and migratory pathways of birds. These should be reviewed in light of existing protections and designations, such as the "occupied" habitat designations of federally listed species such as Canada lynx and grizzly bear. 50501-008

9. We would ask that the acting agencies that developed this PEIS place equal emphasis on developing streamlined interagency measures for *mitigating* the environmental effects of the implied development of the designated energy corridors. Mitigation of environmental impacts is often not standardized, expensive, and not well coordinated with other similar efforts on a landscape level. Creation of a task force to help site specific projects negotiate the bureaucratic and fiscal barriers for environmental mitigation could go a considerable ways to ameliorating the negative effects of further energy 50501-009

development. The PEIS could designate establishment and funding of an interagency team to identify mitigation measures, which would act as a consulting entity for project applications, identify funding resources, and provide streamlined support for projects to apply for federal funding and state funding.

50501-009 (cont.)

SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON DESIGNATED ENERGY CORRIDOR SECTIONS

Encouraging industry to locate new utilities in a single corridor, particularly with existing rights-of-way, concentrates environmental impacts where disturbances have already occurred, and is preferable over introducing new impacts into relatively undisturbed areas.

In 2007, American Wildlands conducted a comprehensive wildlife linkage analysis that incorporated the data and expert opinion of over 100 state and federal biologists working within the region. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has accepted this data for inclusion and adoption into a state map designating critical habitats and wildlife corridors; simultaneously, this wildlife linkage data has already been accepted by the Western Governor's Association to support development of a map of wildlife corridors as per the Western Governors' Policy Resolution 07-01. The map of these linkage areas superimposed over your designated energy corridors is below. Because we have not completed this assessment for certain portions of Montana, specifically in and around Helena, Montana, we also compared the proposed designated energy corridors with this 2007 wildlife linkage analysis and a corridor-habitat quality model developed by Rick Walker and Lance Craighead. This model used vegetation, road density, and elevation to predict habitat suitability and permeability for grizzly bear, cougar, and elk, and has been the fundamental basis for American Wildlands' work since 1995. A copy of this map is also in this document; the purple and red areas of this map are indicative of core or high quality wildlife habitat. The area affected by Segment 51-204 is circled in black. With this in mind, we offer the following specific comments:

50501-010

10. SEGMENT 50-260. Specifically in southwest Montana and southeast Idaho, designating a corridor along Interstate 15 (Segment 50-203) where numerous utilities, highways, roads and other facilities have already fragmented habitat connectivity is preferable over designating a corridor through the Medicine Lodge Valley/ Big Sheep Basin (Segment 50-260) that is comparatively undisturbed. That proposed corridor segment would traverse significant sage grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, interrupt intact regional wildlife linkages for big game and large carnivores, and introduce adverse impacts that could not be effectively mitigated. **We recommend that Segment 50-260 through the Medicine Lodge valleys in both Montana and Idaho *not* be included as a designated corridor.**

11. SEGMENT 51-204. This segment would traverse across large, intact areas of core forested habitat in the Elkhorn Mountains. In general, the habitat around the periphery of the Elkhorn Mountains is less suitable for animals such as grizzly bear; this block of habitat is important for maintaining a genetic pathway between the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem to the South and the Crown of the Continent ecosystem to the North. **We recommend that Segment 51-204 through the Elkhorn Mountains in Montana *not* be included as a designated corridor.**

Designation of an energy corridor along Highway 287 would cause less habitat fragmentation for forest carnivores such as grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and wolverine, but would affect the visual resources along Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

12. SEGMENT 229-254. This segment, which runs along a major interstate highway (I-90), traverses several wildlife linkage areas. American Wildlands recognizes that, in keeping with concentration of environmental impacts, that this is perhaps the most logical route for this energy corridor. The addition of a 3,500' energy corridor will further disrupt wildlife habitat and decrease the permeability of an area that is already challenging to wildlife. Nonetheless, we would like the PEIS to recognize the contribution that energy corridors would have to the cumulative impacts to an area. As detailed in comment 9, we ask that the acting agencies involved develop an interagency mitigation task force that would provide the same streamlined processes for mitigation as they do for project expediency.

50501-010 (cont.)

Thank you for your time and consideration in these comments. I would be happy to answer any questions regarding these comments.

Best regards,

April E. Johnston
Conservation Director

Attachments:
Fig. 1. Map of energy corridors and wildlife linkage areas within Montana
Fig. 2. Map of modeled core habitat areas and wildlife corridors of Northern Rockies.

P.O. Box 6669· 321 East Main Street, Suite 418 · BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59771· TEL 406-586-817 · FAX 406-586-8242
EMAIL info@wildlands.org · www.wildlands.org

Figure 1. Map of designated energy corridors superimposed over American Wildlands wildlife linkage areas.

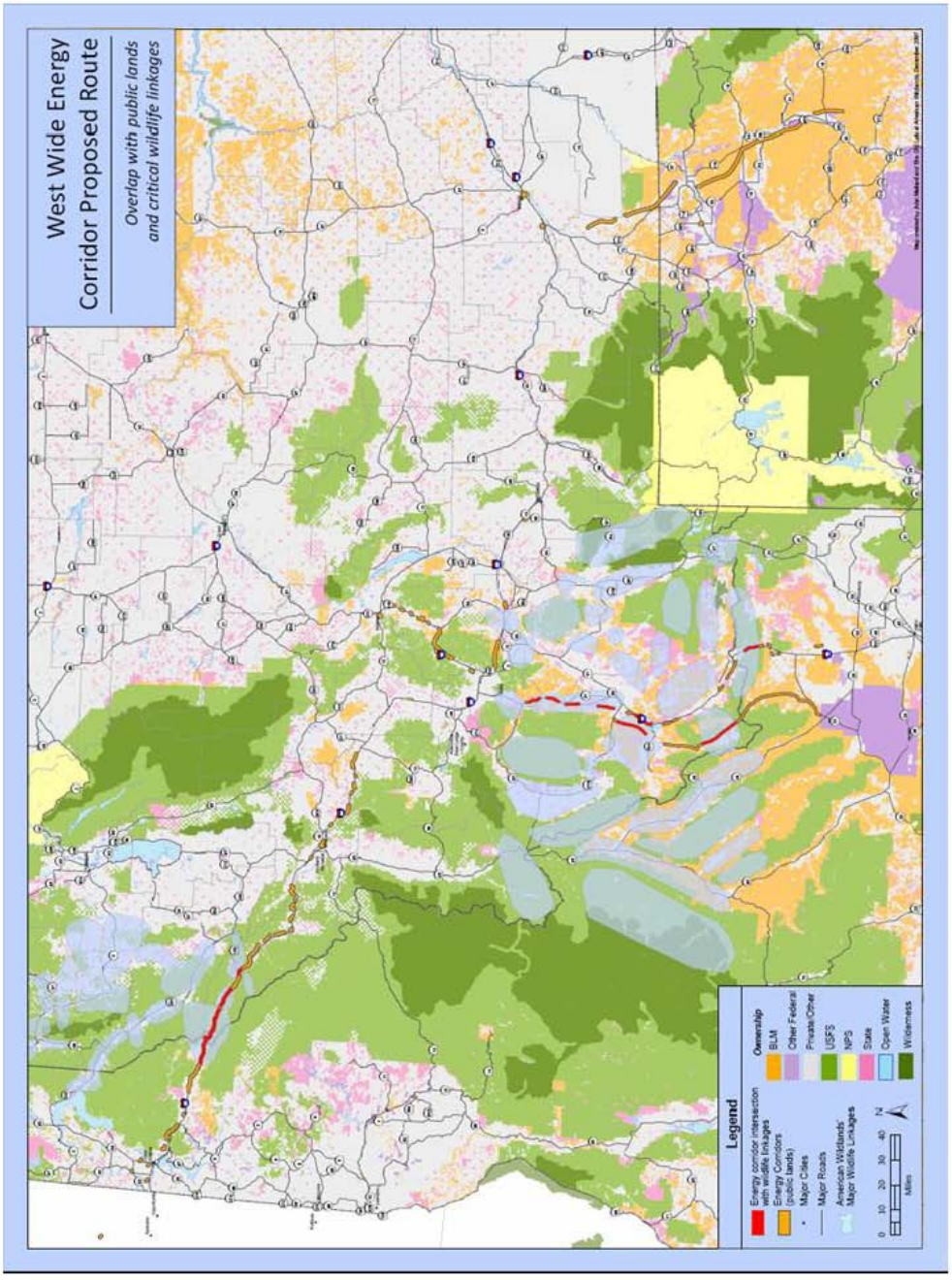
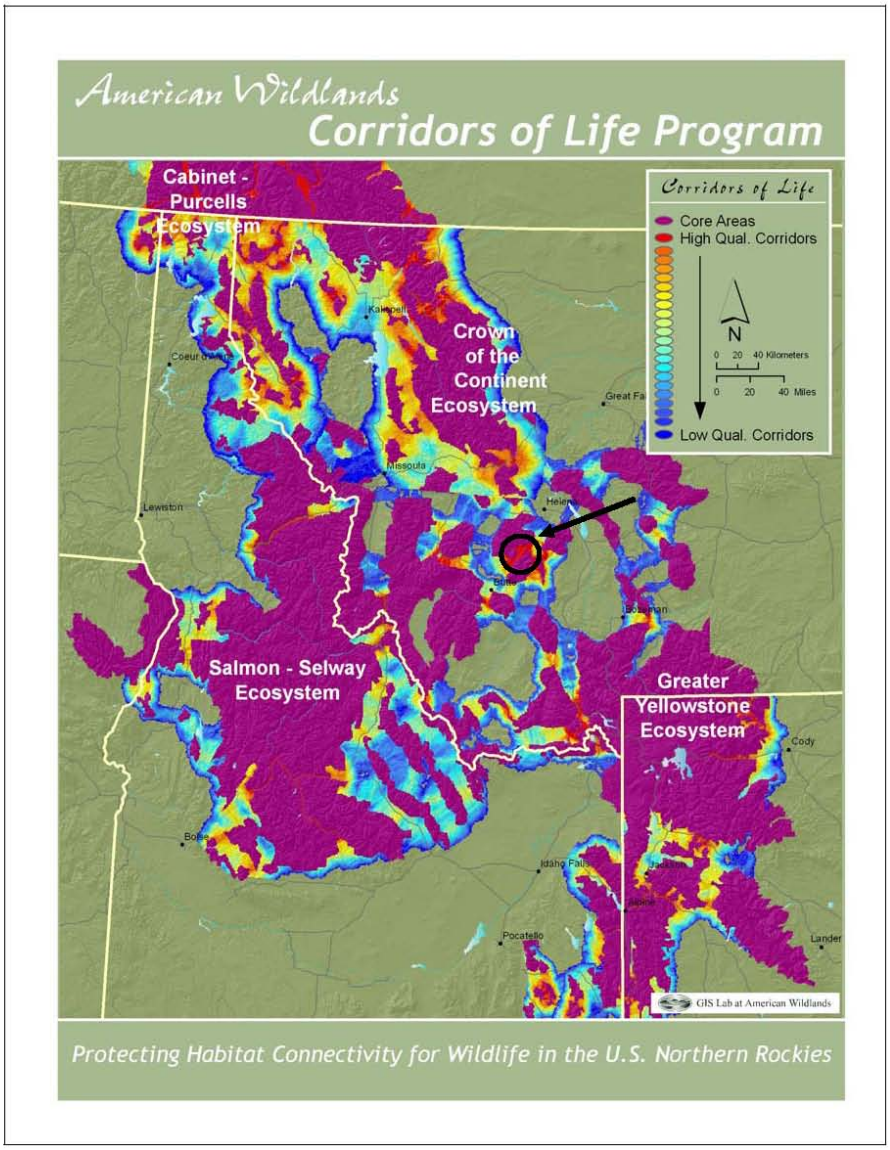


Fig. 2. Map of modeled core habitat areas and wildlife corridors of Northern Rockies.



From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 6:38 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50502

Thank you for your comment, Shelagh Lampshire.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50502. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 06:38:10PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50502

First Name: Shelagh
Last Name: Lampshire
Address:
City:
State: HI
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
Here are my comments regarding the proposed energy corridors through the state of Nevada:

First, the agencies involved need to make this process more transparent to the public - with detailed maps and various alternatives. Without alternatives, we can only comment on what we don't like about the proposed plan. 50502-001

Second, special or sensitive public lands need to be avoided altogether. Specific to our region - the 223-224 and 37-232 lines that are in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and the 232-233 line that impacts the Delamar Mountains and Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Areas. 50502-002

Third, the corridors will fragment the habitat of the threatened desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep. Scientists say that wildlife habitat suffers from roads and powerlines. The wildlife refuge is a wildlife refuge, not a power corridor. 50502-003

Fourth, the cumulative impacts of these energy corridors need to be analyzed for federal, state, private, and tribal lands that will be affected when the corridors are connected. There is no such analysis currently. 50502-004

Lastly, an alternative needs to be developed that links up the corridors to Nevada's high quality geothermal, solar, and wind sources. Public lands should not be supporting new coal plants and last century's energy policy. America needs a forward thinking energy policy that moves the country toward the use of renewable energy sources and away from fossil fuels. 50502-005

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Shelagh Lampshire
Hawaii

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 6:57 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50503

Thank you for your comment, Clarence Martin.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50503. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 06:56:29PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50503

First Name: Clarence
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Martin
Organization: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Address: 300 Mandich Street
City: Bishop
State: CA
Zip: 93514
Country: USA
Email: clarence.martin@ladwp.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
LADWP is concerned that the gaps in the corridor in the Owens Valley (~70 miles) are primarily where the corridor crosses LADWP lands. By considering the areas on public lands only, with out regard to the impacts on adjacent property owners the public is not given the full extent of the potential impacts of the project.

A continuous federal corridor in the Owens Valley could have been established if the allignment had been moved west a short distance. 50503-001

By not considering tis other allignment it has created a situation where a new project will require Rights of Way across LADWP property and if a Right of Way is not granted, it could result in a taking of property through eminent domain.

The document is not consistent: Appendix A, Table A in Volume Two lists the corridor through the Owens Valley as electric only while Appendix F, Table F in Volume Two lists the corridor as multi-modal. 50503-002

The LADWP aquired lands in the eastern sierra for their water resource values. The potential impacts of constructing and maintaing a multi-modal corridor and the impacts this could have on LADWP's watershed should be analyzed. 50503-003

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:00 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50504

Attachments: WRA_DPEIS_comments_FINAL_WWECD50504.pdf

WRA_DPEIS_comm
nts_FINAL_WWECD.

Thank you for your comment, Tom Darin.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50504. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:00:07PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50504

First Name: Tom
Last Name: Darin
Organization: Western Resource Advocates and Other Groups
Address: 2260 Baseline Rd., Suite 200
City: Boulder
State: CO
Zip: 80302
Country: USA
Email: tom@westernresources.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: J:\en\Tom\368 process\draft PEIS\DEIS comments\WRA_DPEIS_comments_FINAL.pdf

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

Group Comments
on the
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of West-Wide Energy Corridors

Submitted on February 14, 2008 to:

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Via First Class Mail and Electronic Mail

Submitted by:

Tom Darin, Energy Transmission Attorney
Western Resource Advocates
2260 Baseline Rd., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 444-1188 ext. 244

Erin Robertson
Senior Staff Biologist
Center for Native Ecosystems
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 303
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 546-0214

Jim O'Donnell
Northern Director
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
108B Civic Plaza Dr.
Taos, NM 87571
(505) 751-7309

Peter M. "Mac" Lacy, Senior Attorney
Oregon Natural Desert Association
917 SW Oak Street, Suite 408
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 525-0193

Bruce Pendery, Staff Attorney/Program Director
Wyoming Outdoor Council
444 East 800 North
Logan, Utah 84321
(435) 752-2111

Nada Culver, Senior Counsel
The Wilderness Society
1660 Wynkoop Street, Suite 850
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 650-5818 Ext. 117

Barbara Dobos, President
Alliance for Historic Wyoming
1036 Monte Vista Drive
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 235-1034

Pat Gallagher, Director of Environmental Law
Sierra Club
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5500

Michael J. Painter, Coordinator
Californians for Western Wilderness
P.O. Box 210474
San Francisco, CA 94121-0474
(415) 752-3911

Roger Clark, Air and Energy Program Dir.
Grand Canyon Trust
2601 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
(928) 774-7488

Kathleen C. Zimmerman
Senior Land Stewardship Policy Specialist
National Wildlife Federation
2260 Baseline Road, Suite 100
Boulder, Colorado 80302
(303) 786-8001

Kevin Lynch, Staff Attorney
Environmental Defense
2334 N. Broadway
Boulder, CO 80304
(303) 440-4901

Mark Pearson, Executive Director
San Juan Citizens Alliance
1022 1/2 Main Avenue
Durango, Colorado 81302
(970) 259-3583

Peggy Utesch, Chair,
Responsible Energy Development Campaign
Western Organization of Resource Councils
1110 Alexander Court
Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-1895

Johanna Wald, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
111 Sutter St., 20th floor,
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 875-6100

I. Introduction and Background

Please accept the following comments of the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Californians for Western Wilderness, Center for Native Ecosystems, Environmental Defense, Grand Canyon Trust, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Oregon Natural Desert Association, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Western Organization of Resource Councils, Western Resource Advocates and the Wyoming Outdoor Council on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement (DPEIS) for the designation of west-wide energy transmission corridors.

A. Organizational Information

Alliance for Historic Wyoming

The Alliance for Historic Wyoming is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a statewide voice for historic preservation in Wyoming. We work to assist citizens concerned about the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Wyoming's irreplaceable historic and cultural resources by becoming more involved with the public processes affecting these resources.

Californians for Western Wilderness

Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild) is an unincorporated citizens organization with 750 members, dedicated to encouraging and facilitating citizen participation in legislative and administrative actions affecting wilderness and other public lands in the West. Our members recreate (quietly) on the public lands of the West, enjoying their scenic beauty, archaeology, wildlife, and other values.

Center for Native Ecosystems

CNE is dedicated to conserving and recovering the native species and ecosystems of our region. We value the clean water, fresh air, healthy communities, sources of food and medicine, and recreational opportunities provided by native biological diversity. We also passionately believe that all species and their natural communities have the right to exist and thrive. We use the best available science to forward our mission through participation in policy, public outreach and organizing, administrative processes, legal action, and education.

Environmental Defense

For a quarter century, the Rocky Mountain Office of Environmental Defense has been dedicated to addressing air quality, public lands, and wildlife across the intermountain West. Encouraging and facilitating the transition to a clean energy economy and protecting the environment of the West plays a central role in those efforts. Protecting public health and the environment from global warming pollution and finding solutions to the global warming crisis is a core organizational mission.

Grand Canyon Trust

For more than two decades, the Grand Canyon Trust has advocated the conservation of natural and cultural resources on the Colorado Plateau. The Trust is a committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is actively promoting efficiency and renewable energy options for rapidly transitioning to a cleaner energy future in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and New Mexico.

National Wildlife Federation

NWF's mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. As an organization, NWF represents the power and commitment of four million members and supporters joined by affiliated wildlife organizations in 47 states and territories. Both NWF and its affiliates have a long history of working to conserve the wildlife and wild places on federal public lands in the West. Many members of NWF and its affiliates use the lands and resources that will be impacted by the energy corridors discussed in this PEIS.

Natural Resources Defense Council

The Natural Resources Defense Council – NRDC – is a national environmental advocacy organization with approximately 1.2 million members and supporters nationwide and offices in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Beijing, China. NRDC's mission is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. For more than three decades, the organization has worked to protect and conserve the nation's federal public lands and their resources from harmful activities, including irresponsible energy development. NRDC also has a long history of advocacy promoting the increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and for years has been engaged in major efforts to develop real solutions to the problem of global warming.

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is a 6,000 member non-profit 501 C3 grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued enjoyment of New Mexico's wildlands and Wilderness areas. The primary goal of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is to ensure the protection and restoration of all remaining wild lands in New Mexico through administrative designations, federal Wilderness designation, and on-going advocacy.

Oregon Natural Desert Association

ONDA is a non-profit public interest organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the public lands of eastern Oregon. ONDA has a long history of interest and involvement in eastern Oregon's public land management. ONDA's mission is to protect, defend, and restore forever the health of Oregon's native deserts. The members and staff of ONDA use and enjoy the public lands, waters, and natural resources within the proposed corridor pathway for recreational, scientific, spiritual, educational, aesthetic, and other purposes. ONDA and its members also participate in information gathering and dissemination, education and public outreach, commenting upon proposed agency actions, and other activities relating to the federal government's management and administration of the public lands of eastern Oregon.

San Juan Citizens Alliance

San Juan Citizens Alliance is a grass roots organization dedicated to social, economic and environmental justice in the San Juan Basin. We organize San Juan Basin residents to protect our water and air, our public lands, our rural character, and our unique quality of life while embracing the diversity or our region's people, economy and ecology. San Juan Citizens Alliance has offices in Durango and Cortez, Colorado, and in Farmington, New Mexico.

Sierra Club

Named "the most influential environmental organization" by an Aspen Institute poll, the Sierra Club gives the public the information and the means to make their voices heard. As the world's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization, the Club's 1.3 million members and supporters in 65 chapters and

over 400 local groups nationwide possess the unique ability to empower people and influence public policy through community activism, public education, lobbying, and litigation.

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society (TWS) has been involved in land management since 1935. With over 300,000 members and supporters nation-wide, TWS represents a diverse range of citizens. Our goal at TWS is to protect public lands as wilderness and to ensure that land management practices are sustainable and based on sound science to ensure that the ecological integrity of the land is maintained.

Western Organization of Resource Councils

WORC is a regional network of seven grassroots community organizations that include 9,500 members and 45 local chapters: Dakota Rural Action (South Dakota), the Dakota Resource Council (North Dakota), the Northern Plains Resource Council (Montana), the Powder River Basin Resource Council (Wyoming), the Idaho Rural Council, Oregon Rural Action, and the Western Colorado Congress. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing training and coordinating issue work. WORC is committed to building sustainable environmental and economic communities that balance economic growth with the health of people and stewardship of their land, water, and air resources.

Western Resource Advocates

Founded in 1989, Western Resources Advocates (WRA) is a non-profit environmental law and policy organization dedicated to restoring and protecting the land, air, water and wildlife resources within the interior Western United States. Specifically, our team of lawyers, scientists and economists works to: 1) promote a clean energy future for the Interior West that reduces pollution and the threat of global warming; 2) restore degraded river systems and to encourage urban water providers to use existing water supplies more efficiently; 3) protect public lands and wildlife throughout the region. WRA is actively engaged in promoting sound electric transmission and energy corridor policies in the western United States to ensure that: (1) power lines and associated rights-of-way/corridors are sited and constructed properly to ensure protection for sensitive land, water and wildlife resources; and (2) new transmission lines are focused on bringing renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal on line so that we may achieve a balanced and sustained energy policy in the region. The designation of energy corridors as proposed in the DPEIS directly and negatively impacts WRA's transmission planning goals and efforts as detailed below.

Wyoming Outdoor Council

The Wyoming Outdoor Council has promoted clean energy solutions in the State of Wyoming for the last forty years. It is involved in all facets of energy development on our public lands. It advocates for the use of clean, renewable forms of energy and increased energy use efficiency, and seeks to minimize the use of coal to meet our electricity needs due to the numerous and severe environmental impacts created by the use of coal for electricity generation. The Wyoming Outdoor Council is a recognized leader in the State of Wyoming in all issues related to energy development, production, transmission, and use.

B. Comprehensive Regional Transmission and Energy Corridor Planning

Planning for energy transmission corridors in the 11 western United States must be done with a regional perspective and comprehensively given that power lines and the corridors in which they are located wrap together the key components of an energy policy. Power lines primarily transport electricity from generation sources to "load" areas or population centers. At these population centers, the emerging energy economy in the West is focused on reducing the need for new bulk power generation by

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aggressively applying principles of efficiency, distributed generation and smart grid technologies. At the other end of the power line is a connecting generation source, and this designation process offers an opportunity to have corridors on federal public lands focus on tying in clean and renewable energy sources to combat air pollution and climate change. Finally, designated corridors containing power lines are "in between" the generation source and population centers, which are often great distances apart. It is essential, therefore, that the corridors are located and developed in a manner that preserves the region's outstanding lands and wildlife resources. The combination of these elements is the big picture that the current study is misses by focusing solely on the corridor locations and virtually nothing else.

C. Energy Corridors and the New Energy Economy

The West is headed in a new direction to an exciting and prosperous new energy economy. Many of our groups are working with renewable energy and efficiency advocates, industry and electric utility leaders, lands and wildlife groups and state and federal agencies to achieve this new energy economy, which is centered on a sustainable and balanced energy policy for the western United States. Our comments seek to engage the lead agencies of the federal government to work together on these goals, particularly as the current corridor process provides an opportunity for this type of collaborative, complementary effort.

Concerns about climate change, air pollution, public health, energy independence, national security and low-cost energy resources are the primary drivers of the new energy economy – and the region is responding. Presently, 8 of the 11 western states studied in the current analysis have renewable portfolio standards that require 15 to 20 to 25% of future energy supplies to come from clean, renewable sources of energy. In 2005, only 1% of the electric power in the Rocky Mountain and southwest states came from these renewable energy sources, while coal and gas supplied 85%. See *Interior West Power Generation by Fuel Choice* (2005), compiled from Energy Information Administration data, attached as Exhibit 1. In addition, many population centers facing high growth rates are starting more and more to look at efficiency and related measures to partially satisfy future energy demands. The best way for the agencies involved in this process to gain widespread public support from diverse stakeholders is to have the energy transmission corridors consider energy efficiency principles, focus on renewable energy resources and protect sensitive public lands and wildlife. Those are the elements of a comprehensive and forward-thinking vision for the West in which energy corridors can play a major role, as well as nicely complementing the growing momentum in the western states that are rapidly progressing to a new and exciting energy economy.

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We understand and appreciate that the lead agencies are designating the west-wide corridors as required by section 368 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Our overarching view of this process and the DPEIS is that the lead agencies are missing out on a historic opportunity. When you consider that the key cabinet level secretaries of Energy, Interior, Agriculture (USFS) and Defense are programmatically looking at the 11 western states in a comprehensive fashion – combined with the fact that the predominant use of the corridors will be for new power lines in the West – this offers a unique and possibly one-time opportunity to utilize this process to move the region towards a forward-thinking energy policy for the 21st century.

II. Designating Smart Corridors and Comprehensive Regional Transmission Planning

Extending over **6,000 miles in length** and encompassing **3 million acres of public lands**, these corridors will have significant lands and wildlife impacts in the region. Protecting these resources is a key focus for our organizations. In addition to protecting these resources, we ask that the agencies take the opportunity in this one, programmatic look at the region to develop alternatives consider the big picture: what would corridors look like in a scenario that assumes high levels of efficiency, distributed power generation like rooftop solar, smart grid technologies and conservation are achieved in the major

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population centers in the West that are driving the need for more generation and thus more power lines? Indeed, the resulting alternative employing this type of analysis might have less overall miles and/or width of designated corridors. Equally important is what would an alternative look like that focused the location of corridors such that they best served, or at least equally served, clean and renewable energy sources? Finally, all of these alternatives must still consider the lands and wildlife impacts associated with the corridors, regardless of the primary focus of connecting generation sources.

In short, the above steps are necessary to ensure that the agencies designate corridors that are smart. A corridor is "smart" when it: (a) addresses corridor need by looking at demand-reducing principles such as efficiency, distributed generation, smart grid technologies, conservation and similar measures; (b) focuses on facilitating the development of clean, renewable energy resources; and (c) ensures long-lasting protection for sensitive public lands and wildlife habitat through avoidance and the adoption of Best Management Practices in locations where corridors will be located. See sections III, IV and V below for additional information on these comprehensive planning steps.

These smart corridor principles are embodied within a platform developed by Western Resource Advocates for comprehensive regional transmission planning. WRA's position paper on this topic is attached as Exhibit 2 and we ask that the agencies employ this methodology and sequential planning steps in order to designate corridors in a comprehensive and sustainable fashion. In addition, Western Resource Advocates has contracted with the engineering firm Utility Systems Efficiencies, Inc., (USE) to examine the methodologies employed in the current PEIS for the corridor designation process.[1] The expert opinion of Ty Larson, the Senior Power Systems Engineer at USE, is attached as Exhibit 3. While Mr. Larson's expert statement focuses a great deal on one of these planning steps – maximizing the transfer capacity of current grid assets before turning to new power lines and/or new corridors in which to house them – he has importantly provided expert testimony regarding the many benefits of planning regionally and comprehensively for new transmission and energy additions to the western power grid.

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Regarding the benefits of comprehensive regional planning, Mr. Larson states:

> **THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS IN COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING TO ASSIST IN ASSESSING ENERGY CORRIDOR NEEDS AND POTENTIAL OPTIMAL PLACEMENT**
>
> In the context of regional planning for the optimum location for energy corridors for the future location of thousands of linear miles of power lines in the Western United States, the following paper outlines a methodology that focuses on: (1) maximizing the use of the existing transmission infrastructure and utilizing the existing transmission/transportation rights-of-way; and (2) determining suitable locations for the construction of new transmission corridors for use in future transmission planning. While employing this methodology is one of several potential approaches to developing solutions for energy needs, the methodology discussed herein contains important steps in comprehensive regional transmission planning that may better inform both the need for and location of

[1] Since 1992 Utility System Efficiencies, Inc. (USE) has been serving a variety of power industry clients and enhancing their internal transmission and system analytical capabilities. USE has worked for all sectors of the electric power industry and has a thorough understanding of the transmission issues and concerns of regulators, independent power producers, investor-owned utilities and publicly owned utilities. USE staff consists exclusively of electrical engineers and utility professionals with extensive experience in power systems analysis and related power industry issues. For more information, see http://www.useconsulting.com/.

> energy corridors for the future location of new or upgraded power lines. This expert opinion focuses on both the need for proposed energy corridors that may contain power lines in the future, as well as the review of a proposed solution. It is not the authors intent to infer that this proposed methodology is the only process or strategy to aid in this type of review, but rather to impart simply a method that could be used to help aid any existing process that may be currently engaged in finding a solution via regional transmission planning and the need for and location of energy transmission corridors.

Exhibit 3 at 1. Applying this methodology to the current process, Mr. Larson states:

> The current west-wide corridor effort seeks to designate energy transmission corridors in 11 western states, including Arizona and New Mexico. My professional opinion is that employing the above analyses including a rigorous examination of system needs and potential engineering solutions would have been helpful in determining the optimum number, potential width and location of transmission corridors for the future location of power lines. In addition to the current status of electrical system components, comprehensive planning for new power line corridors could also incorporate available lands and wildlife constraints and proposals for new generation sources seeking grid interconnection. Indeed, this type of grid interconnection "queue" information that is readily available in the public domain can also shed light if one has a particular focus on adding generation sources of a particular type. This type of planning can be useful into addressing multiple concerns in a comprehensive fashion by incorporating information about generation type (e.g., renewable sources), corridor needs and locations and lands and wildlife concerns.

Exhibit 3 at 7.

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USE also developed detailed maps for Arizona and New Mexico, including a map of a specific area where energy additions are proposed for grid interconnection. These maps incorporate information concerning land use, wilderness and wilderness study areas, citizen-proposed areas for protection, areas of high biological diversity, existing power lines, substations, generation interconnection or "queue" requests and several proposed section 368 corridors. Importantly, Mr. Larson opines that looking at all of this information at once is critical to thorough and comprehensive regional transmission planning. Exhibit 3 at 1, 7-8.

Indeed, the expert opinion from USE is telling in how this type of approach to transmission planning can: (a) offer opportunities to focus corridors on generation types (e.g., renewable sources) (Exhibit 3 at 7); (b) possibly reduce the overall need for new or upgraded transmission by first addressing how future load calculations have accounted for demand reductions through efficiency and the use of distributed sources of power generation (Exhibit 3 at 3); (c) minimize new impacts to the environment through opportunities to upgrade current grid assets to carry more power in already-impacted areas (Exhibit 3 at 3, 6); and (d) in some instances, possibly avoid the need for a corridor altogether and protect sensitive public lands by looking at the full suite of engineering solutions to address need (Exhibit 3 at 8). It is apparent from the DPEIS that the agencies have not employed this comprehensive regional approach to corridor planning. This is a glaring weakness in the designation process, and we respectfully ask that the agencies employ these methodologies, which are well recognized within the regional transmission planning and engineering community, in order to properly address and account for multiple factors that must be considered in order to arrive at the optimum number, overall length and width, and placement of energy transmission corridors.

III. Analyzing the Need for Corridors

The smartest power line is the one we do not need to build. This is the first principle of smart and comprehensive corridor planning. The agencies admit that the average width of the corridors could end up with multiple projects that will have significant cumulative impacts:

> A corridor width of 3,500 feet was selected by the Agencies for the Section 368 energy corridors. . . . This width would provide sufficient room to support multiple energy transport systems. For example, assuming an operational ROW width of 400 feet, about 9 individual 500-kV transmission lines could be supported within a 3,500-footwide corridor. Alternately, as many as 35 liquid petroleum pipelines (each consisting of a 32-inch-diameter pipe and a 100-foot construction ROW) or 29 natural gas pipelines (42-inch-diameter pipe and 120-foot construction ROW) could be supported within a 3,500-foot-wide corridor.

DPEIS at 2-3 – 2-5.

The corridor analysis could be strongly benefited by a need analysis. Indeed, as we will explain, rigorously examining need may result in fewer overall miles of corridors, less overall width, different preferred locations and potentially the elimination of some proposed corridors.

A. NEPA Purpose and Need Requirements

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that the agencies "briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.13. The agencies in the current document unduly limit the analysis of purpose and need to the requirement within the Energy Policy Act of 2005 ("2005 EPAct") that the agencies designate corridors. The agencies frame the purpose and need as an "all or nothing" proposition: if a possible alternative approach like efficiency cannot by itself *fully* address the system congestion and transfer capacity requirements that Congress directed to be addressed, then the agencies need not (or could not) consider these types of alternative approaches. This point is highlighted at pages 2-37 and 2-38 of the DPEIS where the agencies reject *any* analysis of reducing energy demand through energy efficiency and conservation and how that might affect corridor designations because the agencies concluded that this would result in an alternative that did not designate *any* corridors. 50504-003

In this regard, carefully examining the need for the proposed action would not result in the wholesale rejection of all corridor designations as the agencies improperly suggest, but rather, will just affect these designations in two key areas: overall linear miles and average width. The agencies miss the key distinction that the requirements of the 2005 EPAct (address congestion and improve power transfer capacity) can still be met by looking at demand-reducing scenarios – with the likely result that corridors would be affected in their *degree*, but certainly not eliminated in their *entirety*. This "all or nothing" purpose and need approach misses out on a key opportunity to combine both compliance with the 2005 EPAct mandate (i.e., designating corridors) with an important first-order analysis of whether some of the proposed corridors are actually needed. It is also a violation of NEPA. See e.g., Friends of the Southeast's Future v. Morrison, 153 F.3d 1059, 1066 (9th Cir. 1998) ("An agency cannot define a project's purpose so narrowly that it precludes consideration of alternatives and can be accomplished only by the preferred alternative."); Colorado Environmental Coalition v. Dombeck, 185 F.3d 1162, 1174 (10th Cir. 1999); Simmons v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 120 F.3d 664, 666 (7th Cir. 1997) ("One obvious way for an agency to slip past the strictures of NEPA is to contrive a purpose so slender as to define competing 'reasonable alternatives' out of consideration (and even out of existence).").

B. Analyzing Energy Efficiency, Distributed Generation, Demand-Side Management, Smart Grid Technologies and other Energy Demand-Reducing Efforts

When planning for energy transmission corridors that are predominantly intended for new power lines, (DPEIS as ES-2; 1-3 through 1-7), it is important that the agencies understand the well-recognized principle that reducing future energy demands in major population centers can dramatically lessen the overall need (both miles and width) of power line rights-of-way to be eventually housed within designated corridors. In 2006, the Western Governors' Association completed its Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative that included a task force report focused on transmission issues. See www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/cdeac/TransmissionReport-final.pdf (excerpts attached as Exhibit 4). The report contains the astounding finding at page 9: if high, but achievable, levels of efficiency are reached in the region, this could result in eliminating 1,150 miles of a projected need for 4,000 miles – approximately **30%** – of new power lines. Clearly, therefore, the corridor designations can be greatly informed by first addressing demand-reducing principles including efficiency, distributed sources like rooftop solar and other similar energy-saving measures.

In addition, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) has prepared a report entitled "The New Mother Lode" (see www.swenergy.org/nml/New_Mother_Lode-Highlights.pdf), which concludes that the following savings can be realized in 2020 by implementing a high efficiency program in the Southwest:

- 99,039 GW-hrs of energy can be saved,
- Construction of thirty-four 500 MW coal plants can be avoided,
- Households and businesses can save $28 billion in energy expenses, and
- Greenhouse gas and conventional pollutant emissions can be cut.

50504-004

Quite obviously, examining the energy demand reductions to be gained from energy efficiency has immediate implications for the current designation process: if efficiency can wipe out the need for dozens of coal plants, it is not difficult to imagine the resulting decreased need for new power lines and corridors for future rights-of-way.[2]

While efficiency is garnering a lot of the focus in the energy sector, the Western Governors' Association recognizes that demand-side management (DSM) and distributed generation efforts may achieve the same type of result, noting a Department of Energy report with a target of having distributed generation sources like rooftop solar move up to a 20% share of new electrical capacity by 2010.[3] Smart grid technologies such as demand response and advance metering, have been proven effective in reducing energy demand by 4 to 6%, with a direct correlation to fewer power plants needed.[4] Indeed, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has concluded that, "As a substitute for transmission and distribution infrastructure, demand response *can reduce the need for new transmission* or distribution expansion to bring generation to a local area." See FERC, *Assessment of Demand Response and Advanced Metering Staff Report* (Aug. 2006) at x, attached as Exhibit 4.3 (emphasis added). In combination, therefore, efficiency, distributed generation, smart grid technologies such as demand response and other demand-

[2] In his expert opinion, Mr. Larson with U.S.E., Inc. states that, "Reducing load through efficiency gains, as well as the application of distributed power sources, can result in reductions in the amount of generation needed to meet future load growth, which may in turn affect and possibly lessen overall transmission and corridor needs." Exhibit 3 at 3.

[3] WGA Transmission Task Force Report, Exhibit 4 at pp. 10-11.

[4] See Demand Response and Advanced Metering Coalition, *Fact Sheet* (2002), attached as Exhibit 4.1; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, *Demand Response and Advanced Metering Staff Report* (Sept. 2007), attached at Exhibit 4.2.

reducing efforts may result in a significant decrease in generation sources that need transmission, thereby possibly reducing the need for many of the proposed corridors in the DPEIS.

C. Maximize the Existing Grid First

The expert opinion from USE Consulting, Inc., attached as Exhibit 3, focuses on engineering solutions as part of comprehensive regional transmission planning. In simple terms, the more that the existing grid infrastructure can be upgraded, improved upon or otherwise transformed to have more power transfer capacity, this can translate into less of a need for power lines and – importantly for the designation process – corridors and rights-of-way in which to house them. USE's Ty Larson, with 15 years of transmission planning and engineering experience, explains the relationship as follows: "There is a direct correlation between project need – i.e., the need for an upgrade or addition to the electric power infrastructure – and rights-of-way and corridors in which to 'house' a potential project. By first taking a hard look at whether a potential or specific project is needed, this may in turn answer a related question of whether the related ROW/corridor is also needed." Exhibit 3 at 2.

Mr. Larson further explains the possible benefits associated with a rigorous look at project need:

> From an engineering perspective, this paper focuses on opportunities to reduce the overall need for new power lines and thereby corridors and rights-of-way in which to locate them, namely by identifying potential engineering solutions and methodologies to follow in order to optimize components of the existing western power grid and enhance the current electric system's overall power carrying capacity to meet future power transfer needs. Employing these methodologies and applying technological engineering solutions in this fashion is a widely recognized industry practice as one component of transmission planning that in some instances may reduce or eliminate the need for new power lines and the impacts associated with associated rights-of-way and/or corridors.

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Mr. Larson has provided a methodology to follow and a suite of technological solutions to maximize current grid assets before turning to building more power lines and rights-of-way. Mr. Larson restates his overall professional opinion that looking at these engineering solutions "may result in reducing or eliminating the need for new transmission ROW/corridors and their attendant impacts on the natural environment." Exhibit 3 at 3; see also "Experience has shown that typically solution projects are more cost effective and less environmentally invasive on many levels if the project solution employs leveraging or upgrading an existing grid asset." Exhibit 3 at 3. Key technological solutions that are recommended for consideration in addressing need by maximizing current grid assets include: (1) re-rating current grid equipment; (2) re-conductoring an existing circuit with a higher capacity conductor; (3) adding an addition circuit to existing towers; (4) upgrading the voltage of an existing transmission line; and (5) employing new technologies such as high capacity conductors, reactors/capacitors and phase shifters to increase power transfer capacity. Exhibit 3 at 4-7.[5] Importantly, all of these solutions would utilize current infrastructure and existing rights-of-way and this would be "more environmentally friendly than embarking on the construction of a new line." Exhibit 3 at 6.

Finally, Mr. Larson's expert statement demonstrates how employing this methodology and the use of these engineering solutions might provide real, on-the-ground environmental benefits:

[5] The WGA 2006 Transmission Task Force Report also recognized these and other technologies that can "increase the transfer capability of existing lines, enable more power to be delivered in existing rights-of-way, provide greater flexibility to site lines underground and in water, and improve overall power system utilization." See WGA Transmission Task Force Report, Exhibit 4 at 11-14.

> The current corridor designation process could be improved upon by addressing these issues in a comprehensive fashion and employing these engineering-solution methodologies. In the current example, while, proposed corridor 81-213 does coincide with the existing 345 kV for approximately 30 miles west of the Luna substation, about 10 miles east of the Hidalgo substation, however, the power line departs the proposed corridor. From this point on all the way to the Tucson area, proposed corridor 82-213 appears to not follow areas containing existing power line and ROW infrastructure. From the point of departure with the existing 345 kV line, proposed corridor 81-213 appears to also bisect citizen proposed wilderness areas as well as high priority conservation areas identified by The Nature Conservancy. Accordingly, comprehensive transmission planning that combines geographic features with engineering analyses and solutions, may in this one example suggest other alternatives to transfer proposed power additions to the grid system other than any use of a new power line through proposed corridor 81-213. While this analysis is mostly qualitative, the purpose in this instance is not to provide a definitive engineering solution, but rather, to suggest in this example that *employing these comprehensive transmission planning principles might obviate the need for this proposed corridor altogether and keep future impacts in already-impacted areas and outside of potential environmental constraints.*

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Exhibit 3 at 8 (emphasis added).

We highlight that this analysis is for one small portion of the 11-state focus area that is currently being studied. It is important to stress, however, that there is existing data out there from the utilities (queue information, power flow studies of existing grid assets), the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, the Western Governors' Association energy arm (the Western Interstate Electricity Board), renewable energy and efficiency advocacy groups and industries, and lands and wildlife groups from which to gather all this information and place it on a map for comprehensive transmission planning.[6] In this one example, the corridor in the focus area may be rendered unnecessary by analyzing and adopting state-of-the-art engineering solutions. In performing this type of analysis in a supplemental EIS, the agencies might need only designate a fraction of the proposed 6,000 miles of corridors and might also focus their location in different areas based on lands/wildlife data and information about renewable energy locations. In very simple terms, we are asking the lead agencies to conduct analyses similar to the WGA effort in planning for energy transmission corridors across the region – particularly as transmission ties together the fundamental principles of a comprehensive energy policy.

IV. Corridors and Climate Change: Part of the Solution or Part of the Problem?

The second principle behind smart corridors is the extent to which they move the region forward to an energy economy fitting for the 21st century, or whether they continue the same carbon-heavy energy policy of yesterday. As will be discussed, Western Resource Advocates performed an independent

50504-005

[6] Mr. Larson states that the information required to perform these analysis is readily available to the public and the agencies. See Exhibit 3 at 2 (this type of information is "readily available in transmission planning circles"). To illustrate this point, the WGA Transmission Task Force discussed above performed detailed analyses in 2006 for transmission needs through 2015 utilizing this type of information from different public sources available in transmission planning circles within the Western Interconnection. Important here relating to the agencies ability and effort in obtaining this public information is that DOE is involved in or keeps track of these planning processes. See *WGA Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative, Report of the Transmission Task Force* (May 2006) at Appendix A (pp. 53-66), excerpts attached as Exhibit 4.

analysis of how the DPEIS corridors line up against existing and proposed coal plants in the region.[7] The result was revealing (see Group Exhibit 5) – every single proposed coal plant in the western United States directly lines up with the proposed corridors and/or their likely continuation onto non-federal lands. The coal plants that are intended by western utilities to hook up to new or upgraded power lines within these corridors will have demonstrable and negative impacts to air quality (ozone, nitrous oxides, sulfur oxides, mercury, particulate matter and other emissions) as well as to climate change and global warming (CO_2 emissions).

A. Climate Change and Global Warming Overview

Perhaps the single largest oversight within the DPEIS is its failure to consider the role that corridors may have in contributing to global warming by linking up proposed coal plants in the region. Global climate change might result in rising sea levels, effects on wildlife (corals, polar bears), glacier reduction, less snow, more rain and earlier snowmelt runoff. While the there is continued debate about the extent and varying causes of climate change, there is overwhelming consensus in the scientific community that: (a) the earth's climate is changing as a result of human activities; (b) CO_2 is the main greenhouse gas (GHG) linked to climate change; and (c) coal combustion in power plants is a major contributing source of CO_2 emissions. See Western Resource Advocates, *A Balanced Energy Plan for the Interior West* (2004) at pp. 3-4, available at www.westernresourceadvocates.org/energy/bep.php.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988. The IPCC's mission is to comprehensively and objectively assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. See http://www.ipcc.ch/about/about.htm. The IPCC completed its First Assessment Report in 1990, its Second Assessment Report in 1995, and its Third Assessment Report in 2001. Id.

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In 2007, the IPCC released summaries from three main working groups that contributed its Fourth Assessment Report. See http://www.ipcc.ch/about/about.htm. The working group summaries include the following conclusions:

- The global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased from a pre-industrial value of about 280 ppm to 379 ppm in 2005.
- The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide in 2005 exceeds by far the natural range over the last 650,000 years.
- The primary source of the increased atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide since the pre-industrial period results from fossil fuel use.
- The largest growth in global GHG emissions between 1970 and 2004 has come from the energy supply sector (an increase of 145%).
- With current global climate change mitigation policies and related sustainable development practices, global GHG emissions will continue to grow over the next few decades.
- Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.

[7] All the maps referenced herein, including underlying GIS data, are contained on a CD that is included with these comments in order for the agencies to have full access to this information.

- There is greater than a 90% likelihood that most of the observed increases in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century are due to the observed increases in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.
- In the course of the century, water supplies stored in glaciers and snow cover are projected to decline, reducing water availability in regions supplied by meltwater from major mountain ranges, where more than one-sixth of the world population currently lives.
- Warming in the mountains of western North America is projected to cause decreased snowpack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows, thereby exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources.
- Drought-affected areas will likely increase in extent. Heavy precipitation events, which are very likely to increase in frequency, will augment flood risk.
- Disturbances from pests, disease and fire are projected to have increasing impacts on North American forests, with an extended period of high fire risk and large increases in area burned.
- Approximately 20-30% of plant and animal species assessed so far are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average temperatures exceed 1.5-2.5 degrees Celsius.
- For increases in global average temperature exceeding 1.5-2.5 degrees Celsius and in concomitant atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, there are projected to be major changes in ecosystem structure and function, species' ecological interactions, and species' geographic ranges, with predominantly negative consequences for biodiversity, and ecosystem goods and service, e.g., water and food supply.
- Even the most stringent mitigation efforts cannot avoid further impacts of climate change in the next few decades, which makes adaptation essential, particularly in addressing near-term impacts. Unmitigated climate would, in the long term, be likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt.
- There is substantial economic potential for the mitigation of global GHG emissions over the coming decades, that could offset the projected growth of global emissions or reduce emissions below current levels.
- Fuel switching from coal to gas, renewable heat and power (hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and bioenergy), and early applications of carbon capture and storage (e.g., storage of removed carbon dioxide from natural gas) are key mitigation technologies and practices currently commercially available.
- Near-term health co-benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce GHG emissions can be substantial and may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs.
- It is often more cost-effective to invest in end-use energy efficiency improvement than in increasing energy supply to satisfy demand for energy services. Efficiency improvement has a positive effect on energy security, local and regional air pollution abatement and employment.
- Renewable energy generally has a positive effect on energy security, employment and on air quality.

50504-005 (cont.)

Finally, the Department of Interior, a lead agency herein, acknowledges that "[t]here is a consensus in the international community that global climate change is occurring and that it should be addressed in government decisionmaking . . . [thereby requiring the agency to] consider and analyze potential climate change impacts . . . when making major decisions regarding the potential utilization of resources under

the Department's purview."[8] This important topic and the role corridors may play in helping address or worsen climate change needs to be addressed prior to the finalization of the designation process. 50504-005 (cont.)

B. The Proposed Corridors Primarily Benefit New Coal Plants

The coal maps attached as Group Exhibit 5 make it clear that the current suite of corridors proposed for the western United States may greatly serve the interests of the coal industry and utilities seeking this power source to supply customers. Given the above concerns about air quality and climate change, the corridors need to be reexamined for their potential to facilitate cleaner, renewable sources of energy.

A recent report from Western Resource Advocates and Environmental Defense is illuminating about the amount of air pollution and greenhouse gases that are attributable to existing coal-fired power plants in the southwestern region, as well as how new proposals for coal-fired plants will contribute to air pollution and climate change: 50504-006

> In Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, existing coal-fired power plants produced 60 million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in 2004, and 176 million tons of carbon dioxide. The scenic, historic and culturally rich Four Corners area already hosts some of the largest power plants in the West, and is the proposed site of yet more massive coal-fired plants proposed for construction over the coming years. . . . [A]t least 14 new coal-fired power plants, totaling more than 9,000 megawatts (MW) of new capacity, are now in various stages of planning, permitting or construction in the five-state southwestern region. These proposed power plants would collectively emit nearly 70 million tons per year of global warming pollution, more than a 40% increase over the region's current burden from the same sector.

Western Resource Advocates and Environmental Defense, *Climate Alert: Cleaner Energy for the Southwest* (2007) at v, vi, available at www.westernresourceadvocates.org/media/pdf/ClimateAlertReport.pdf

C. Focusing Corridors on Delivering Clean, Renewable Sources of Energy

Attached as Exhibits 6 through 9 are maps that highlight the relationship of the corridors to the best locations for geothermal, wind and solar (concentrating and photovoltaic) resources. Smart lines must connect to and facilitate the development of these resources and move the region to a balanced energy policy and away from carbon-heavy resources. While many of the corridors match up with industry transmission projects that span numerous states and cover thousands of miles, it is also important to consider developing renewable energy sources that are close to load/population centers. See also Exhibit 2 at step 4. Shorter transmission projects may bring renewable sources onto the grid more quickly than large-scale projects, as well as having less environmental impacts including less habitat fragmentation. 50504-007

Focusing energy transmission corridors on renewable energy sources would be consistent with federal and state policy initiatives. Federal agencies have enacted policies and made commitments to encourage the use of public lands to support development and transmission of renewable energy. See, e.g., "BLM Launches Effort to Facilitate Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands, available at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2007/june/NR_0706_1.html ("'The Forest Service looks forward to working in concert with BLM on these geothermal projects,' said Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell. 'Enhancing our nation's energy needs through safe and clean energy is an important focus of

[8] U.S. Dept. of Interior, Director's Order No. 3226 (Jan. 19, 2001), available at http://elips.doi.gov/app_so/act_getfiles.cfm?order_number=3226

the Department of Agriculture and a proper use of our public lands.'"). In June 2005, BLM completed its programmatic EIS for a Wind Energy Development Program in the western U.S., including public lands within Arizona, Nevada and California. See http://windeis.anl.gov/. Indeed, "[i]t is the BLM general policy, consistent with the National Energy Policy of 2001 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to encourage development of wind energy in acceptable areas," Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-216 (http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/wo/fy06/im2006-216.htm). Both the BLM geothermal and wind-focused studies built upon a DOI/DOE 2003 study, "Assessing the Potential for Renewable Energy on Public Lands," that included a key finding that of 20 BLM planning units that had high potential for three or more renewable energy resources, 12 occurred in Arizona, California and Nevada. See http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/energy_report/press_release.htm.

Furthermore, 8 of 11 western states have enacted renewable portfolio standards that require electricity providers to obtain a minimum percentage of their power from renewable energy resources by a certain date:

State	Percentage from renewable sources	Date for achieving
Arizona	15%	2025
California	20%	2010
Colorado	20%	2020
Montana	15%	2015
Nevada	20%	2015
New Mexico	20%	2020
Oregon	25%	2025
Washington	15%	2020

See http://www.eere.energy.gov/states/maps/renewable_portfolio_states.cfm and Exhibit 10 (regional map of state RPS requirements).

One estimate within the transmission planning circles of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council is that it may take up to 33,000 additional MW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2017 just to meet bare minimum RPS requirements in the West. Importantly, the designation of transmission corridors can help the states and federal government achieve these important goals, and we ask the agencies to develop an alternative in a supplemental PEIS with corridors that prioritize renewable energy development.

50504-007 (cont.)

V. Ensuring Long-lasting Protection for Public Lands and Wildlife Resources

This is the third and final principle behind smart corridors. NEPA requires a rigorous analysis of "means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts." 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.16(h); 1502.14(f). Mitigation is defined as:

(a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

(b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

(c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.

(d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

50504-008

(e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

40 C.F.R. §1508.20.

A. Avoidance

While the proposed designations are a vast improvement compared to the draft maps released in 2006, there are still too many important public lands in the region affected by the current proposal. We incorporate the analysis performed by The Wilderness Society as Exhibit 11, which shows the intersections of proposed corridors and important public lands in the region. We also attach, as Group Exhibit 12, The Wilderness Society's maps showing the intersection of proposed corridors and special places in the following Rocky Mountain and Southwest states: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. These maps highlight areas of concern for our organizations, including, but not limited to:

- Roadless areas in Montana
- The Adobe Town Citizen Wilderness Proposal in Wyoming
- Wyoming's Shirley Basin and potential impacts to black-footed ferret reintroduction sites (corridor 78-255)
- Wyoming's treasured Red Desert (corridor 121-221 that appears duplicative of other nearby and more suitable corridors)
- The Curecanti National Recreation Area in Colorado as well as numerous citizen-proposed wilderness areas
- The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, as well as numerous citizen-proposed wilderness areas
- The Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Havasu National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona;
- The Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Arches National Park in Utah
- The Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada
- Numerous Wild & Scenic Rivers in these states[9]

50504-008 (cont.)

In addition, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) identifies Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs), which contain habitat for special status wildlife and sensitive plants. As described by the CNHP (http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/gis.html):

- A PCA represents "CNHP's best estimate of the primary area required to support the long-term survival of targeted species or natural communities."
- PCAs are land units that have been identified as important to the continued existence of ecological processes that support one or a suite of rare or significant features.

[9] See DPEIS at Appendix M, Tables M-1, M-2 and M-3. We suggest that better analysis, enhanced public involvement and more informed decision-making would be achieved by cross-referencing every major river crossing in Table M-3 with the applicable corridor number and approximate location. This would enable the public, lead agencies and policy makers to quickly zoom into an affected river stretch to better understand and comment on impacts.

- A PCA is identified because of the "ability of a conservation area to maintain healthy, viable targets over the long term (100+ years), including ability to respond to natural or human-caused environmental change."

PCAs serve an important role in identifying the need for special management of lands in Colorado to maintain biodiversity. Attached as Exhibit 13 is the Center for Native Ecosystems' analysis of the proximity and intersection of the proposed corridor locations with PCAs, including an overview of the potentially affected areas. The agencies should take this information into account, as well as similar data by The Nature Conservancy and other groups that has led to the identification of high priority conservation and biodiversity areas (see http://azconservation.org/projects/ecoregions/), in order to ensure that corridor designation does not cause irreparable harm to these types landscapes. 50504-008 (cont.)

B. Adopting and Requiring Best Management Practices

1. Analysis of IOPs and Mitigation Measures in the DPEIS

While it is critical that the agencies undertake the best effort to have corridors avoid key lands in the West, as well as contouring them in site-specific locations to avoid "clipping" key public lands, the resulting reality is that thousands of miles of corridors will be designated that probably will contain 10,000 or more miles of power lines and pipelines that are in varying degrees of planning at the present moment. Habitat fragmentation of enormous scope and magnitude is unavoidable in such an undertaking. Consequently, studying, adopting and requiring mitigation measures and Best Management Practices will be critical to lessen impacts on vegetation, soils, wetlands, wildlife and other resources. Indeed, the current process will amend 165 land use plans across the region, and the guidance in the present document must be accurate and represent the state-of-the-art mitigation measures recognized by the scientific community to reduce these impacts. It is also important to develop specific mitigation measures and BMPs that are particular to each phase of future ROW project development. At a minimum, these distinct phases include: (a) planning; (b) construction; (c) ongoing operations and maintenance; (d) initial and long-term reclamation/decommissioning; and (e) mandatory protocols for inspection, enforcement, monitoring and adapting project management to on-the-ground monitoring results.

To help improve guidance for Interagency Operating Procedures, mitigation measures and BMPs, Western Resource Advocates enlisted the services of Bio-Logic, Inc. Jim Ferguson, a Senior Biologist at Bio-Logic, was the primary reviewer of these sections of the DPEIS. Mr. Ferguson has a BS degree in wildlife biology and over 31 years' experience in Utah and western Colorado as a biologist with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. During his career he has completed numerous Environmental Assessments and Biological Assessments and has worked on the biological resource sections of Environmental Impact Statements. Importantly, his Environmental Assessment and Impact Statement work included biological resource issues associated with power generation facilities, natural gas transmission and distribution lines, and electrical transmission and distribution lines, which gives him a great deal of on-the-ground expertise regarding ROW development and energy transmission corridors. 50504-009

Bio-Logic's detailed review of the IOPs and mitigation measures is attached as Exhibit 14. While we ask the agencies for a full assessment of Bio-Logic's findings and recommendations, our organizations highlight here some of the main findings that need to be addressed by the agencies:

(1) The IOPs and mitigating measures could ultimately result in a suite of best management practices for energy corridor development projects. In order to insure that project proponents and federal agencies have a solid foundation for planning future projects, many of the proposed IOPs and mitigation measures need edits or modification. A number of additional IOPs or mitigation

measures are needed to fully protect natural resources. Bio-Logic further recommends that IOPs and mitigation lead to the agencies developing best management practices for energy corridor development.

(2) The IOPs and mitigation measures are sometimes confusing, not located in the appropriate project phase, or are far too general even for a programmatic analysis. Bio-Logic found considerable duplication between resource sections, and between resource sections and the IOPs. For example, the requirements for seeding, a revegetation plan, minimizing access roads, etc., are repeated in slightly different ways in many sections of the document. The mitigation information should be revised accordingly in order to achieve consistency and to make the information easier for the public to understand and comment on, and for agency personnel to implement.

(3) The DPEIS can be greatly improved by adopting and using consistent terminology concerning the distinct phases of project development. For example, the PEIS sometimes uses different terms for the same or similar thing. In the wildlife section on page 3-228, the term "preconstruction" is used rather than the term "planning" used elsewhere in the document. In keeping with past practices, the DPEIS places project development into planning, construction, and operation phases. In actuality, projects could be broken down into more phases as suggested by Western Resource Advocates. If the PEIS included additional project development phases, including long-term monitoring/adaptive management, and decommissioning, it would foster improved communication, planning, and understanding between the public, project proponents, and federal agencies.

(4) The PEIS often confuses mitigation measures between the different phases of project development. For example, there are many instances where IOPs or mitigating measures state that a plan should be developed, resource inventories completed, or something should be designed, yet the PEIS places them under the "construction" or "operation" phases. In nearly every case, activities such as developing plans, designing roads, and completing inventories more properly belong in the "planning" phase, and should occur prior to approval of the project, not during the construction, reclamation or maintenance/monitoring phases of the project. If these items are mentioned in phases other than planning, it should relate to implementation of the appropriate components within the Plan of Development and other plans required for development, mitigation, reclamation, or operation.

50504-009 (cont.)

(5) Once a project has been approved, and initially constructed, it is critical to follow through on monitoring and long-term enforcement of required mitigation. In the wealth of on-the-ground experience gained by Bio-Logic staff (which includes decades of work with BLM, a lead agency in the current process), the company biologists have seen wetland mitigation that was not adequately accomplished, vegetation reclamation that was not successfully completed, project-induced erosion problems that have gone untreated, and weed problems that have not been addressed.

(6) Bio-Logic has found that inadequate project inspection, enforcement, monitoring and proper management adaptation is primarily due to shortages of agency personnel and funding necessary to administer and implement these requirements for rights-of-ways on federal lands. In addition, turnover of personnel in the federal agencies typically results in a loss of institutional knowledge and familiarity with individual projects that affects these important requirements. Bio-Logic suggests that one potential solution is requiring project proponents to hire third-party contractors to complete required monitoring for the agencies. However, unresolved issues would remain

concerning the shortage of agency personnel to supervise the third-party contractors, and to act on all of the findings provided to them.

(7) Regarding monitoring and mitigation requirements, Bio-Logic finds it especially critical that all project proponents understand agency expectations as early as possible in the application process, which makes the IOPs and mitigation developed in the DPEIS process particularly important to long-term management of energy corridor development projects. 50504-009 (cont.)

See Exhibit 14 at 5-7.

2. Special Considerations for the Sage-Grouse

While our groups have concerns about many species in decline in the West, the sage-grouse is near or at the top of our list. This is particularly true in the instant agency proposal, where thousands of miles of future power lines in corridors will produce enhanced prey opportunities for raptors, as well as the 6,000-plus miles of corridors that will unavoidably disturb and affect wildlife habitat.

The Draft PEIS acknowledges broad concerns with the effects of development on sage-grouse, including energy corridors impacts such as "oil and gas wells and their associated infrastructure" and "pipelines." DPEIS at 3-202. Further, like the energy corridors, the majority of sage grouse habitat is on lands managed by the BLM. DPEIS at 3-203. Accordingly, construction, operation and maintenance of energy transport facilities within designated energy corridors are likely to result in a range of damaging effects on sage-grouse. DPEIS at 3-202. The DPEIS cites proposed mitigation measures, including the BLM's National Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy and documents issued by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2004 and 2006. However, the DPEIS does not provide sufficient data on the potential impacts of the proposed energy corridors on sage-grouse. In contrast, The Wilderness Society prepared a sample analysis of the proximity of the energy corridors in Idaho to sage grouse leks/habitat (attached as Exhibit 14.1), which shows the potentially devastating impacts on sage grouse populations. 50504-010

The DPEIS also fails to include the most recent research on sage-grouse and does not include definitive commitments to mitigate impacts. The findings and recommendations of noted experts, including those of Holloran (2005) regarding the impacts of development activities and those of Braun (2006), have yielded more recent guidelines that the agencies should employ instead of the information currently presented. A multi-state effort to coordinate interpretation of recent science related to sage-grouse and oil and gas development, in which the state wildlife agencies from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming participated, led to a summary of current research and findings, set out in a document entitled *Using the Best Available Science to Coordinate Conservation Actions that Benefit Greater Sage-Grouse Across States Affected by Oil and Gas Development in Management Zones I-II (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming*.[10] In addition, *A Blueprint for Sage-grouse Conservation and Recovery*[11] details the habitat requirements for successful and sustaining sage-grouse populations. This document states that "no surface occupancy should be allowed within 5.5 km of all active sage-grouse leks." The summary of best available science prepared by the state wildlife agencies and the proposed management for protection of sage-grouse habitat as outlined in the Blueprint should be taken into consideration for location of energy corridors and mandatory guidelines for development of projects within the corridors.

[10] See http://www.voiceforthewild.org/general/pdfs/BestScience_2008_sagegrouse_energy.pdf

[11] See http://www.sagebrushsea.org/pdf/Braun_Sage_Grouse_BluePrint.pdf

VI. Using Public Lands for the Public Good: Emissions/Performance-Based Corridors

If our public lands are going to be impacted by energy transmission corridors, they should advance the region towards a forward-thinking energy policy. One method to advance this important public policy goal is to have the designated corridors link up wind, solar and geothermal sources instead of new coal plants. We realize, however, that in some instances, this is easier said than done. A perfect example is any corridor going into southern or central Wyoming: it may facilitate a future wind project or a coal plant, or both.

Our solution for this situation is to have the agencies consider an alternative that places emissions or performance-based standards on all or some of the designated corridors. Agencies have the ability to set reasonable conditions of approval for rights-of-way on public lands. Section 505 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act provides that each right-of-way shall contain:

(a) terms and conditions which will . . .
- (ii) minimize damage to scenic and esthetic values and fish and wildlife habitat and otherwise protect the environment;
- (iii) require compliance with *applicable air* and water quality standards established by or pursuant to applicable Federal or State law; and
- (iv) require compliance with State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection, and siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of or for rights-of-way for similar purposes if those standards are more stringent than applicable Federal standards; and

(b) such terms and conditions as the Secretary concerned deems necessary to . . .
- (ii) manage efficiently the lands which are subject to the right-of-way or adjacent thereto and protect the other lawful users of the lands adjacent to or traversed by such right-of-way;
- (iii) protect lives and property;
- (iv) protect the interests of individuals living in the general area traversed by the right-of-way who rely on the fish, wildlife, and other biotic resources of the area for subsistence purposes;
- (v) require location of the right-of-way along a route that will cause least damage to the environment, taking into consideration feasibility and other relevant factors; and
- (vi) otherwise protect the public interest in the lands traversed

43 U.S.C. § 1765 (emphasis added).

50504-011

While this provision applies to rights-of-way, the current programmatic EIS is the time and place to consider alternatives and develop policy guidelines for how these provisions will be carried out when 165 different field offices in the West face a flood of ROW applications in upcoming years. Importantly, there is precedent in the controlling law (FLPMA) that allows for air quality to be a valid consideration in terms of conditioning a ROW permit to protect the public health, air quality and environmental concerns such as global warming. In a supplemental PEIS, the agencies should consider conditioning future right-of-way approvals within corridors such that each new connecting power source does not exceed the CO_2 and other emissions of a combined-cycle natural gas plant (roughly 1,100 lbs. of CO_2 per megawatt-hour of produced energy).[12]

[12] This standard is derived from the 2007 decision of the California Public Utilities Commission setting a green house gas performance standard for new long-term commitments for base-load energy generation serving California consumers. See "PUC Sets GHG Emissions Performance Standard to Help Mitigate Climate Change" attached as Exhibit 15.

In Border Power Plant v. Dept. of Energy, 260 F.Supp.2d 997 (S.D. Cal. 2003), the projects under immediate consideration for approval were federal rights-of-way to build power lines connecting coal power plants in Mexico with the power grid in Southern California. To help ensure that the connecting power plants would have the least impacts on regional air quality, the plaintiffs in Border Power Plant advanced a novel theory: condition the right-of-way permits "on the commitment of the project proponents to implementation of state-of-the-art emissions control systems, mitigation through offsets in existing sources, and the use of dry cooling or parallel dry-wet cooling." Border Power Plant, 260 F.Supp.2d at 1029. The defendant permitting agencies argued that such a condition would frustrate the purpose and need of the proposed action, which only dealt with the construction of power lines in a right-of-way and not the operation of the connecting power plants.

The court agreed with the plaintiffs, and its analysis is worth quoting in full:

> Here, the scope of the action relates only to the transmission lines, but the nature of the action includes the full scope of the analysis, including the effects of the action. The nature of the action therefore includes the importation of power generation in Mexico. Indeed, to leave out the secondary impacts would be at odds with the purpose of the alternatives analysis, which is to provide a way for an agency to calculate and compare the various predicted effects of alternative courses of action. The analysis would be arbitrary in itself if it did not take into account all effects of a proposed action. Accordingly, defendants' arguments that they need not consider alternatives related to the [coal power plant] facilities fails.
>
> Given this nature, the agencies were obligated to set forth in the EA 'the range of alternatives . . . sufficient to permit a reasoned choice.' Although defendants argue that 'international sensitivities' preclude conditioning the permits from being a reasonable and feasible alternative, such a discussion belongs in the EA's alternative analysis rather than a litigation brief.

Border Power Plant, 260 F.Supp.2d at 1030-31 (citations omitted).

Accordingly, there is judicial precedent for the proposition that NEPA approval processes for corridors or rights-of-way that will house power lines, should consider alternatives that place performance-based conditions on the right to use public lands. We ask the agencies to develop this type of permit condition to guide future ROW approvals across the region. Emissions-based corridors (EBCs) will go a long way towards ensuring that America's public lands are being used to support a forward-thinking energy policy and are furthering climate change solutions. Fuel-neutral, EBCs are an appropriate condition for the use of the country's public lands and allow the public assurances that support for a particular corridor will not result in future actions connecting polluting and carbon-heavy power sources to the electric grid.

50504-011 (cont.)

VII. Locating Future Projects Within Designated Corridors

After all the effort to find the best locations for energy corridors, it is frustrating that future right-of-way projects will not be required to be within corridor boundaries. To maximize the full benefit of corridor designations, while still allowing appropriate flexibility, future transmission projects should be required to be within designated corridors "to the maximum extent practicable." Indeed, this is very consistent with Section 503 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act, which provides that: "In order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be required to the extent practical. . . . [I]n determining whether to require that

50504-012

rights-of-way be confined to them, the Secretary concerned shall take into consideration national and state land use policies, environmental quality, economic efficiency, national security, safety, and good engineering and technological practices." 43 U.S.C. § 1763.

In addition, the failure to have this requirement frustrates one purpose and need of the proposal that seeks to harness multiple ROW proposals into discretely defined corridors in order to minimize impacts. The agencies concede this point when stating that the multiple industry pipeline and power line proposals without any corridors in which to locate them (which is analogous to having purely voluntary corridors), "could be widely distributed across federal and nonfederal lands and thus result in a proliferation of energy transport ROWs" similar to the spaghetti map of industry proposals depicted in Figure 2.1-1 (DPEIS at 2-3). 50504-012 (cont.)

VIII. Evaluating More than One Action Alternative

Put simply, the one action alternative in the DEIS is inadequate. NEPA requires federal agencies to "rigorously explore" and "evaluate all reasonable alternatives" when considering a proposal. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(a). The full range of alternatives for a proposed action is the "heart" of an EIS as it offers an opportunity to provide alternatives in comparative form that "sharply define[s] the issues and provide[s] a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. The failure to include a full range of alternatives renders an EIS inadequate under NEPA. See Resources Ltd. v. Robertson, 35 F.3d 1300, 1307 (9th Cir. 1993). In evaluating "environmental consequences," of the different alternatives, an EIS must include discussions of "[e]nergy requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16(e).

In the final or more appropriately a supplement EIS (see Section XII), the agencies need to provide this range of alternatives and clear set of choices for the public and analyzing the following types of alternatives: (a) how reducing demand in population centers by utilizing energy efficiency and the use of local power sources may effect the overall length and width of proposed corridors; (b) focusing corridors that will primarily link clean and renewable sources to the power grid;[13] (c) maximizing the use of the existing power lines and substations through technology upgrades before designating new corridors; and (d) placing emissions limits for future connecting power sources (i.e., wind farms, solar facilities, gas and coal power plants) for some or all of the designated corridors. 50504-013

We note that developing these types of alternative would not require a wholesale rejection of the current proposed locations in all instances. For example, Exhibit 6 depicts proposed major geothermal plants in the region, many of them in Nevada. While some of the plants are close to proposed corridors, many of them receive no help (transmission access-wise) from the designations. In some instances, this can be resolved by a small addition to a proposed corridor – either a semicircle or a spur. In Wyoming, for unknown reasons, the main east-west arterial corridor along Interstate 80 has semi-circle additional corridors near Rock Springs, that effectively extend the corridor reach many miles to the north and south. See Exhibit 16 (DPEIS State Map of Wyoming and corridors 121-221/129-218). If the same principle was employed along corridor 17-35 in Nevada, many of the proposed geothermal plants might be picked up by such an addition. This is one example – these types of renewable-focused corridor alterations might go a long way towards facilitating the eventual development of these resources.

[13] See, e.g., Exhibits 6 through 9, showing the best wind, solar and geothermal sites in the region in relation to the proposed corridors. These maps and the exact locations of industry-backed large-scale renewable energy projects highlight that the PEIS is begging for an alternative that is focused on best facilitating the development and linkage of these important clean and renewable energy sources.

Importantly, the types of alternatives listed above will still satisfy the requirements of the 2005 Energy Policy Act by designating corridors – the alternatives may just yield fewer corridors, less overall linear miles and/or width of corridors and most likely corridors in different locations. In other words, missing in this all-important programmatic document are alternatives that *all still result in designated corridors,* but just look at different ways of getting there. Our groups remain unsatisfied with the agencies' explanation for rejecting an analysis of these types of alternatives. For example, an alternative to maximize existing grid as a means to lessen the number of new corridors was eliminated from further study, despite the acknowledgment that this could be done in discretely defined locations. DPEIS at ES-18; 2-35. Here, the agencies overlook the fact that analyzing and implementing this type of alternative would be consistent with the mandates of Congress, as maximizing current grid assets first would still result in the designation of corridors in other places where this option wasn't practicable to address congestion and increased power transfer needs.

Formulating and analyzing these different alternatives is the best way to satisfy NEPA's requirement that policy makers and the public be presented with clear and contrasting alternatives and their impacts: e.g., corridors that facilitate last century's energy policy in the region that is based on pulverized coal plants versus corridors that better line up with areas or zones rich in clean, renewable energy potential. Indeed, programmatic EISs such as the present one are recognized as the best place to consider differing approaches to addressing a problem that has more than one solution. See Northern Plains Resources Council v. BLM, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 467 at *28 (D. Mont 2005) (noting that programmatic EISs are "precisely the place" for the development and consideration of alternative solutions that still satisfy a project's underlying purpose and need); Pit River Tribe v. BLM, 306 F.Supp.2d 929, 940 (E.D. Cal. 2004), rev'd on other grounds, 469 F.3d 768 (9th Cir. 2006) (broad-scale alternatives such as the consideration of different power generation sources are "more appropriate" in programmatic EISs compared to site-specific studies); see also 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(b)(2) (a project's scope should include alternatives that pursue "other reasonable courses of actions"). 50504-013 (cont.)

The Ninth Circuit's opinion in 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition v. Rumsfeld, 464 F.3d 1083 (9th Cir. 2006) discusses the importance of having the full range alternatives present within programmatic EISs that look at broad-level policy decisions. In 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition, the Army prepared a PEIS that looked at programs to modernize and streamline its forces; the PEIS selected Hawaii as one of the sites for this transformation. Subsequently, the Army undertook a SEIS that looked at the site-specific impacts associated with transforming the 2nd Brigade stationed in Oahu. Neither the PEIS nor the SEIS considered any alternatives to transforming the 2nd Brigade – the Army argued the analysis was premature in the PEIS while also contending when it got around to the site-specific SEIS that the decision had already been made in the PEIS, resulting in no analysis of alternative sites.

The court saw through the NEPA shell game: "The Army can't have it both ways. Either it needed to explain in the PEIS its decision to transform the 2nd Brigade in Hawaii and consider reasonable alternatives in the PEIS or it needed to explain that decision in the SEIS, but the Army cannot simultaneously argue that the decision had been made in the PEIS and that it had not." 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition, 464 F.3d at 1097. The court discussed how the scope of reasonable alternatives is shaped by the purpose and need articulated by the agency – which in this case was achieving force readiness in an efficient manner without compromising readiness and responsiveness. The court found that the two alternatives in the PEIS – transforming the 2nd Brigade in Hawaii and No Action – left out consideration of reasonable alternatives that could also accomplish the stated purpose and need. In finding that this was a NEPA violation and that locating the transformation of the 2nd Brigade outside of Hawaii was a reasonable alternative demanding analysis, the court stated, "[w]hen the proposed action . . . is an integral part of a coordinated plan to deal with a broad problem, the range of alternatives that must be evaluated is broadened." 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition, 464 F.3d at 1098 (citations omitted).

The present PEIS process is headed down the same path as the Army followed in 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition. The agencies only offer one action alternative for the corridor designations; at the same time, the agencies admit that no site-specific analysis or wildlife/cultural surveys have been done in the corridors, as that will come later. DPEIS at ES-8; ES-9; 1-11. However, as an incentive to industry for accelerated approval of projects located within corridors, the agencies inform industry that at the time of right-of-way filing and NEPA site-specific review, there will be "no need to identify and evaluate alternative locations for those portions of project ROWs proposed for a designated corridor." DPEIS at 2-39. With all due respect, this raises the NEPA shell game to an art form: no alternatives at the PEIS stage and no extra-corridor alternatives at the site-specific stage. To make matters worse, if certain basic information was gathered about soils, vegetation, cultural resources and other important attributes in the PEIS, this might better inform the location of corridors; instead, this information will be collected and analyzed at a time and later stage when the agencies are promising industry that other, perhaps better, corridor locations will not be considered.

50504-013 (cont.)

Maximizing the current grid first and factoring in user-end efficiency are two key alternatives missing in the PEIS. Importantly, these alternatives would still designate corridors to ensure reliability, relieve congestion and deliver power – they might just designate fewer of them, or perhaps place them in better-informed locations. And as the 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition and other decisions above highlight, the programmatic level is the best place for these broad types of policy decisions – particularly when no site-specific impact analyses are done in the current document. We caution the agencies here not to fall into the same trap as the Army in 'Ilio'Ulaokalani Coalition – instead, the agencies should analyze these types of alternative but consistent approaches now instead of deciding at the project-level of analysis that these types of options are off the table. This type of shell game will only send the process back for a new and time-consuming EIS. Lastly, an alternative that looked at resulting corridors after aggressively factoring in energy demand lessening actions of efficiency, distributed energy sources and smart grid technologies, *directly* relates to NEPA's requirement that the corridor EIS must analyze energy requirements and "conservation potential" of various alternatives.

IX. A Better Assessment is Needed of Environmental Impacts

NEPA requires agencies to take a pre-decisional "hard look" at the risk, uncertainty, and potential environmental consequences of proposed federal actions. See Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council, 490 U.S. 332, 333 (1989). The overarching theme within the DPEIS is that because the designation of corridors is itself an action that does not create impacts, this justifies any real quantitative assessment of impacts until future projects are constructed. For example, the agencies state that the "designation of such a system [of corridors] would not authorize parties to proceed with any site-specific projects or to carry out any activities in these corridors." DPEIS at 1-2, 1-11. The agencies further state: "as with the designation of corridors, the amendment of land use plans would not authorize parties to proceed with any site-specific projects, or to carry out any activities in the areas with corridors, and accordingly will not result in any on-the-ground impacts that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment." DPEIS at ES-4.[14]

50504-014

[14] The agencies further state that: "A quantifiable and accurate evaluation of impacts at the local scale can be made only in response to an actual proposed energy project, when a proposal for an action with specific environmental consequences exists." (DPEIS at ES-8); "The combined and individual effects of location-specific and project-specific impacts are *not foreseeable* at the Section 368 energy corridor designation stage" to justify no quantitative effort at impact assessment (ES -9).

We acknowledge the agencies' claim that the corridor designation itself does not create impact – i.e., that it is merely a line on a map. But it is an important line, as the agencies repeatedly recognize in the DPEIS. Meaning that there are a host of incentives for the energy industry to locate future projects within corridors and that they represent "a potential for many energy transport projects." DPEIS at ES-20. For example, agencies admit that future applicants could take use of 368 corridors and their "expedited application and permitting process." DPEIS at 2-39. Indeed, the fact that section 368 of the 2005 EPAct *requires* that projects located within designated corridors receive expedited processing and approval, itself suggests more than reasonable likelihood that these corridors will receive a lot of attention . . . and therefore impacts.

Highlighting this point is that the agencies list the following seven benefits of the expedited permitting process that will increase the probability of industry utilizing the corridor for future projects: (1) IOPs to assist in ROW preparation and evaluation; (2) a single point-of-contact for each individual ROW application; (3) tiering NEPA and other analyses to the current PEIS; (4) no need to formulate extra-corridor project alternatives for a project proposed within a corridor; (5) the ability to focus project-specific data collection on project-specific issues; (6) the ability to focus project-specific engineering on corridor-specific issues; (7) early knowledge of IOPs that would be required to allow for better compliance. DPEIS at 2-39. The current process will also amend 165 land use plans in the region and the agencies admit that," amending land use plans at the designation stage, . . . may accelerate the process of subsequently applying for energy project ROWs." DPEIS at ES-4.

In addition, the likelihood of projects within these corridors is almost a known certainty given current on-the-ground information that is readily available to the lead agencies in this case. BLM itself, for example, is working on numerous proposals from industry in the region for right-of-way permits for major power lines, and many of these line up with proposed corridor designations. See "Proposed Electric Transmission Lines on Public Lands," (Oct. 12, 2007). This document, prepared by BLM, is attached as Exhibit 17. Some of the projects include the Navajo Transmission Project, Ely Energy Center (a.k.a. Southwest Intertie Project), Gateway West, Gateway South, Northern Lights Inland Express (MT and WY projects), Mountain States Intertie, TransWest Express, Frontier and High Plains Express. Attached as Group Exhibit 18 are maps that show how almost all of these projects **that are all in some phase of current utility planning** line up directly with proposed corridors. This reality and the many incentives provided to industry to locate within a designated corridor create an opportunity to assess and minimize impacts to wildlife, water, and cultural, scenic and historic values in the present study to better inform the final location of these corridors. Clearly, therefore, the lead agencies should be studying more than just qualitative impacts when proposed projects are already in play in or near corridor locations.

50504-014 (cont.)

Finally, the DPEIS needs to more fully disclose and analyze the impacts associated with the significant expansion of and build-out in areas that already have existing rights-of-way or corridors. In effort to "play down" the significance of this action and the magnitude of potential impacts, the agencies repeatedly cited the statistic found at ES-13 that approximately 61% of the 6,055 linear miles of corridors "follow or incorporate existing transportation of utility ROW." This statistic is a bit misleading. Attached as Group Exhibit 19 are three "photos" taken from the Google Earth software data set provided on the DPEIS website. The first two photos are of corridor 51-204 within a national forest in Montana. The third photo is of 66-212 that clips a portion of Arches National Park in Utah. The pictures tell the real story here. In the case of 51-204, the "existing" ROW is approximately 140 feet wide. When you compare that visually on the second photo with the newly proposed corridor, the latter dwarfs any impacts that exist or could potentially exist within the 140 foot corridor. This is also obvious when comparing a 3,500-foot-wide corridor – that the DPEIS admits at the same page could contain nine 400-foot-wide ROW for transmission lines or 29 pipelines each with a ROW of 120 feet – to a 140-foot ROW. In other words, it is misleading to play down the potential impacts of the newly proposed corridors when they are

25 times the width of existing rights-of-way that they overlap. In the same vein, the third photograph in Group Exhibit 19 shows the 3,500-foot-wide proposed corridor (66-212) that is significantly larger than any of the "existing" transportation ROW depicted in the area.

In the final or supplemental EIS, this information has to be more fairly presented to the public. In the case when extremely wide corridors are proposed within or adjacent to places like Arches National Park and other important public lands in the West, a more complete analysis is deserved on purpose and need and the ability in these instances to move, eliminate or dramatically decrease the width of these corridors to match up more closely with the "on-the-ground" conditions. 50504-014 (cont.)

X. Fully Assessing Cumulative Impacts, Connected Actions and Indirect Effects

The DEIS can be improved by properly analyzing cumulative impacts and connected actions. These corridors are being driven by the electric utility industry and will obviously connect to power plants and other generation sources. NEPA requires the agencies to assess and analyze these types of connected actions – we ask the agencies to study the impacts to air quality and climate change if the corridors are targeted for more coal plants in the region. In addition, the impacts to private, state and tribal lands need to be studied under cumulative impacts. The agencies cannot pretend that a corridor "ending" on a public land boundary and arriving at the doorstep of the Navajo reservation, as one example, will not have a reasonable likelihood of continuation, thereby setting the stage for similar impacts to the contiguous lands and natural resources.

A. Cumulative Impacts

A cumulative impact is the effect of an action on the environment "which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other pas, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7. In addition to all of the power line projects mentioned below in Section X.B., we ask the agencies to consider the following projects/activities and their combined impact on the lands, air, wildlife, soils, vegetation and other resources that will be affected by power line and pipeline construction within these corridors: 50504-015

(a) Pipeline projects in the region. These include but are not limited to the Rockies Express and Bronco Pipeline projects. Summary materials are attached as Exhibits 20 and 21.

(b) The 2005 programmatic study for wind development on public lands in the region. Impacts from both generation and transmission needs will cumulatively affect natural resources.

(c) the current geothermal programmatic EIS that underwent scoping in August 2007. Impacts from both generation and transmission needs will cumulatively affect natural resources.

(d) BLM is embarking on a programmatic EIS for industrial-scale solar facilities. The same issues exist as in examples (b) and (c).

(e) In 2007 BLM released the oil shale programmatic EIS. A map of the best potential oil shale resources is attached as Exhibit 22. The cumulative impacts from this type of development are potentially staggering. First, the oil shale projects would need to connect to major power lines and many sources are assumed to be 150 miles from the nearest grid interconnection. Each interconnection and attendant ROW might disturb 2,700 acres. Oil Shale DPEIS at 4-12. Second, processing required to upgrade oil shale to a marketable product would require an average 55-

mile-long by 50-foot-wide ROW (670 acres of disturbance). Oil Shale DPEIS at 4-12. Third, energy demands for full-scale development will require 1,200 MW of power for each 100,000 bbl of oil shale produced. The DPEIS mentions that oil shale might be a 1,000,000 bb/day industry, requiring 12,000 MW of additional power. That would mean five new 2,400 MW conventional-fired coal plants, with major land use (20,000 acres), water (65,000 acre-feet/year) and air quality impacts. The water needs would be in addition to 100,000 acre-feet per year of water use for commercial development of 1,000,00 bbs/day of oil shale. Oil Shale DPEIS at 4-11 – 4-15. All of these cumulative impacts need to be analyzed in the current corridor study.

(f) The corridor EIS needs to analyze the cumulative land, wildlife and air quality impacts associated with full-field development in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Utah.

(g) The proposed National Interest Electricity Transmission Corridor proposed for 45 million acres in Arizona and California pursuant to section 1221 of the 2005 EPAct. New FERC back-stop permitting authority over power line approvals within this area may lead to thousands of miles of new power lines on state and private lands, and possibly influence siting approvals on public lands within the NIETC boundary. This concurrent corridor designation process could result in significant cumulative impacts in the region.

B. Connected Actions and Indirect Effects

NEPA requires an analysis of connected actions. Connected action are closely related to the primary action and include actions that "[c]annot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously" as well as those that "[a]re interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(1)(ii), (iii). In addition, indirect effects must be analyzed and those include impacts from actions that are caused by the primary project's approval, even though the may occur "later in time" but are still "reasonably foreseeable." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8(b).

50504-015 (cont.)

Importantly, the air quality and other environmental impacts of generation sources such as coal plants that may be facilitated by a project approving a power line right-of-way or corridor on public land **must** be considered as indirect effects that are caused by and reasonably foreseeable from the proposed action. In the Border Power Plant case discussed above that involved rights-of-way for power lines, the permitting agencies argued that the air quality impacts associated with the coal plants did not need to be analyzed under NEPA because "power plant emissions are not effects of the transmission line project." Border Power Plant, 260 F.Supp.2d at1016. The court disagreed and firmly answered in the affirmative the following question: "[W]hether the operation and emissions of those [coal power] plants must be included within the scope of the NEPA review because they are effects of the proposed federal action." See Border Power Plant, 260 F.Supp.2d at 1014-16.

This principle is further supported by the Eighth Circuit's opinion in Mid States Coalition for Progress v. Surface Transportation Bd., 345 F.3d 520 (8th Cir. 2004). The primary action under consideration in Mid States was the decision of the Surface Transportation Board approving new and improved railroad track originating near coal mines in Wyoming's Powder River Basin and extending into South Dakota and Minnesota. The railroad track would allow for the transport of 100 million tons of low-sulfur coal each year, and the plaintiffs were concerned that the availability of low-cost coal would negatively affect air quality as utilities switched away from costlier, but more emission-friendly, natural gas. The defendants, including the DM&E railroad, argued that the effects on air quality from the direct action of building the railroad track were too speculative for NEPA consideration.

The court of appeals disagreed. Citing NEPA's requirements that EISs must consider and analyze "indirect effects," the court held that the pertinent inquiry in this case was whether the indirect effects from increased coal combustion were "reasonably foreseeable": "[A]n environmental effect is 'reasonably foreseeable' if it is 'sufficiently likely to occur that a person of ordinary produce would take it into account in reaching a decision.'" Mid States, 345 F.3d at 549 (citations omitted). The court reasoned that while the extent of the effects were difficult to ascertain, particularly with no DM&E commitments at the time with utilities to carry the coal, the nature of the effect was in fact reasonably foreseeable. Accordingly, the court held that the defendants were required under NEPA to analyze the nature of likely impacts to air quality from the proposed action. Lastly, it is important to note that the court found it significant that the defendants ignored data submitted to the agencies consisting of computer models that utilities use to forecast how future customer loads will be met – which would have aided significantly in trying to quantify the nature of the air quality effects in question. Mid States, 345 F.3d at 550.

Mid States and Border Power Plant are applicable to the instant situation. First, the exact location of the corridors, including center line, width, origination and destination, are known to the lead agencies. Second, it is undisputed in the DPEIS that new power lines will be the major use in the designated corridors. Third, there are known, existing proposals for new coal plants that are directly in line with the corridors. See Group Exhibit 5. Fourth, data about these coal plants, including total megawatts of anticipated production and anticipated levels of air pollutants, are readily available in the public domain. One such example is the proposed Toquop coal plant on the Nevada/Utah border and directly facilitated by corridor 39-113. At 750 MW of expected power, this coal plant is expected to emit 6 million tons of CO_2, 1,200 tons of sulfur dioxide, 1,600 tons of nitrous oxide and 900 tons of particulates each year. See Phoebe Sweet, *We All Need Power, but in Mesquite, Priority is Clean Air*, LAS VEGAS SUN (Feb. 7, 2008), attached as Exhibit 23. Furthermore, Western Resource Advocates compiled a summary chart (Exhibit 24) that shows the clear relationship between the corridors and existing and proposed coal power plant in the region – indeed, tracking down public information about those proposals as provided for in Exhibit 24 yields a great deal of information about planned generation sources for these projects. (Attached as Exhibit 25 is a Western Electricity Coordinating Council conceptual map for these major projects). Importantly, many of these proposed projects intend to carry varying degrees of coal-fired power, and this information too is available to the agencies. To highlight the relationship between the corridors and these major interstate proposals, Western Resource Advocates has developed series of maps, attached Group Exhibit 18, that depict how proposed routes for the TransWest Express, Frontier, High Plains Express, Mountain States Intertie, Southwest Intertie Project, Gateway West, Gateway South and the Navajo Transmission Project all line up with proposed corridors and/or their likely continuation on non-federal lands.[15]

50504-015 (cont.)

Accordingly, the nature and foreseeable nature of the effects are much clearer here than in Mid States. Equally important is that region-wide, the agencies have access to load forecasts and anticipated generation resources to meet future demand in the region over the next two years. Two obvious sources of public information available to the agencies along these lines – the type of information the court in Mid States found to be a significant omission to overlook – are utility resource plans submitted for public utility commission approval at the state level, as well as regional modeling performed by the Western

[15] Back to the purpose and need discussion, it is clear that many of the utilities driving these projects weighed in during scoping in some capacity back in 2005 and 2006. A lot has changed since that time in transmission planning circles within the Western Interconnection. We ask the agencies in a supplemental EIS to bring current its analysis on needed corridors. For example, the original TransWest Express and Frontier proposals have either merged with more current projects or fallen off of the horizon altogether. Consequently, many of the proposed corridors that line up directly with many of the alternative routs for these proposals – see Group Exhibit 18 – may no longer be needed, viable and many have little or no industry interest. This presents a fantastic opportunity to reexamine some of the proposed corridors for possible elimination.

Electricity Coordinating Council. See, e.g., the data available within the Technical Advisory Committee (Load and Resources Group) of the Transmission Expansion Policy Planning Committee at WECC, available at www.wecc.biz/modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index&req=viewsdownload&sid=149. As discussed above, the Western Governors' Association made use of this type of readily available information for its Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative – all we are asking from the lead agencies is a similar effort in the current corridor planning process.

Beyond air quality impacts, these cases and recent precedent require climate change impacts to be addressed from the coal power plants that are intended to hook up to the proposed corridors. NEPA requires governmental agencies to consider impacts on the global environment, as well as local and regional impacts. For example, NEPA Section 102(F) requires that the federal government "recognize the world-wide and long-range character of environmental problems and, where consistent with the foreign policy of the United States, lend support to initiatives, resolutions, and programs designed to maximize international cooperation in anticipating and preventing a decline in the quality of mankind's world environment." This broad language clearly applies to the issues of global climate change. As the Ninth Circuit recently held, federal agencies have an obligation to evaluate "the expected amount of CO_2 emitted" as a result of their activities, and the "incremental impact" that these emissions will have "on climate change or on the environment more generally in light of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions . . . ." Center for Biological Diversity v. Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 26555 at *111 (9th Cir. Nov. 15, 2007).

Beyond failing to consider the impacts of any of these reasonably foreseeable connecting coal plants, the DPEIS also fails to consider the role that advanced coal technologies such as integrated gasification combined-cycle (IGCC) technology may play in the region as applied to new coal plants. Two IGCC power plants are currently in operation in the United States, and others more are in operation worldwide. IGCC gasifies the coal instead of combusting it directly, with an efficient combined cycle power system to generate electricity. Critical is that IGCC technology is able to remove many of the pollutants before it is combusted. 50504-015 (cont.)

> IGCC technologies are more efficient than pulverized coal technologies in that they use less coal to generate each kilo-watt of electricity. The process also produces fewer air emissions and creates less solid waste. IGCC power plants use roughly 50 percent less water than new pulverized coal plants, an advantage in the arid West where water resources are increasingly scarce. Perhaps most importantly, IGCC technology lends itself to the capture and sequestration of CO_2 emissions at much lower cost then pulverized coal plants.

See Western Resource Advocates, *Western Coal at the Crossroads* (2006) at iv, available at www.westernresourceadvocates.org/energy/pdf/coal_at_xroads.pdf.

IGCC technology results in significantly less criteria pollutant emissions and would enhance possibilities to capture and manage CO_2 thus greatly reducing the global warming impacts to the extent that proposed coal plants that are facilitated by the corridor designations employ this technology. Thus, IGCC in combination with efficiency and renewable energy could factor into a balanced regional energy policy for the region. At a bare minimum, the EIS needs to analyze the potential for this technology to be used in the region, including whether corridors may play a role in IGCC demonstration projects with carbon capture and sequestration. A useful alternative or portion of an alternative for corridor location is to what extent corridors might be better located to facilitate potential IGCC coal plants in order that they have the

best opportunity for carbon sequestration and storage, including the best locations for corridors to transport captured CO_2 via pipeline if necessary for sequestration.[16]

C. Non-Federal Lands Impacts and Environmental Justice

NEPA requires that an EIS fully analyze and assess the impacts of "indirect effects." Indirect effects include those "which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects . . . related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8(b).

Exhibit 5 that depicts corridor designations, their likely continuation after they leave public lands and existing/proposed coal plants, tells a compelling story in terms of other lands, including tribal lands, that may be adversely affected by this proposal. As a preliminary note, the depiction of the "likely continuation" of these corridors onto non-federal lands is the same as the agency's recognition of this fact found at page 2-19 of the DPEIS. This "likely continuation" is also supported by an on-the-ground reality: a power line or pipeline connecting points A and B will not suddenly "stop" once it leaves a public land unit and arrives on someone's private land or at tribal lands. Indeed, the incentives that make future rights-of-way likely within the designated public land corridors strongly suggest that the industry proponents will simultaneously be seeking to continue the corridor on these lands. These impacts to immediately adjacent non-federal lands are wholly ignored in the EIS and need a rigorous examination in a supplement PEIS. This includes the numerous instances of tribal lands, e.g. the Navajo and other reservations, which have public land corridors proposed that lead directly into these important lands.[17]

The likely indirect, if future, impacts on tribal lands immediately adjacent to public lands corridors raises the important issue of environmental justice. An important function of Executive Order 12898 (E.O. 12898), embodied within NEPA and implementing regulations, is to address this issue. Native American communities often bear a disproportionate share of industrialization's harmful byproducts, such as resource contamination and resource extraction. These communities often lack the political agency and economic leverage required for effective participation in environmental decision-making processes. Compounding these problems, the persistence of structural prejudice in modern American society often manifests itself in the decision-making processes that affect Native American communities, as a disregard for the concerns of those communities. Seeking to mitigate the federal government's contribution to these disparities, President Clinton in 1994 signed Executive Order 12898: "Federal Actions to Address

50504-015 (cont.)

[16] To the extent coal is considered as a potential energy source to connect to any corridor, our position is that any such facility should capture and sequester its greenhouse gas emissions (CO2) and employ acceptable, responsible practices during the entire life cycle of coal operations, including the activities of mining, burning, water use, combustion and waste ash disposal.

[17] The agencies must consult with, invite, and offer opportunities for federally-recognized Indian Tribes to collaborate and participate in the planning process. This is to satisfy the necessary Government-to-Government consultation with Tribes stipulated under Executive Order 13175. The agencies state that they sought such consultation, in order to "ensure that the designation of energy corridors considers and accounts for the interests of Indian Tribes." DPEIS at pp. 1-21 – 122. However, based on the documentation attached as exhibits to Appendix C, the vast majority of written contact was conducted through form letters. There is little documentation in the DPEIS supporting the contention that the agencies have made significant efforts to engage in robust consultation with Indian Tribes that did not respond to the form letters, or that the consultation letters inviting participation specifically identified cultural or religious properties of significance that would be relevant to the Tribes' participation. Form letters and informal discussion about potential impacts does not rise to the level of meaningful consultation with affected Tribes. Pueblo of Sandia v United States, 50 F.3d 856, 860-862 (10th Cir. 1995).

Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations."[18] These types of impacts need to be acknowledged in the first instance and then analyzed, avoided and mitigated before the current designation process concludes.

50504-015 (cont.)

XI. ESA and NHPA Compliance

A. Endangered Species Act

Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as "a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved." 16 U.S.C. § 1531(b). As the Supreme Court observed, the statute "afford[s] endangered species the highest of priorities."[19] To achieve its objectives, Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to list species that are "threatened" or "endangered," as defined by the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1533; § 1532(6), (20).

Once a species is listed, Section 7 of the ESA mandates that every federal agency "consult" with FWS, as well as with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS – collectively referred to as "FWS" below unless specified) when taking any action that "may affect" listed species." 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2); 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(a).[20] The purpose of the Section 7 consultation process is to insure that no agency actions "jeopardize the continued existence" of a listed species. Id. To facilitate the consultation process, the "action agency" prepares a "biological assessment," which identifies the listed species in the action area and evaluates the proposed action's effect on the species. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(c); 50 C.F.R. §§ 402.02, 402.12.

The agencies did not consult with the FWS or prepare a biological assessment, deciding that the designation of energy corridors will have "no effect" on listed species and critical habitat, because it would be too difficult to assess potential impacts on listed species. DPEIS at 1-14. The agencies' conclusion is contraverted by the Draft PEIS, which identifies hundreds of species in the areas where corridors may be designated, identified the impacts to species from construction and operation of facilities in the corridors, and acknowledges that "[p]ortions of the corridors would likely include areas occupied by listed species or within critical habit." DPEIS at 1-14 and Tables 3.8-5 (identifying listed species), Table 3.8-8 (identifying impacts to wildlife from construction of energy transport facilities), Table 3.8-9 (identifying impacts to wildlife from operation of energy transport facilities) and Table 3.8-10 (identifying impacts to threatened, endangered and other special status species from construction and operation of facilities). Further, the NMFS has disagreed with the agencies' conclusion, sending in formal comments to emphasize that:

50504-016

- Designation "may affect" listed species;
- The DPEIS has not presented any reason to discount likely adverse affects on listed species; and
- Consultation under the ESA is required.

DPEIS at 1-14. The agencies have refused to adhere to the recommendations of the NMFS constituting a refusal to comply with the ESA.

[18] Executive Order 12898: "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations". Exec. Order No. 12,898, 59 Fed. Reg. 7629 (Feb. 16, 1994).

[19] TVA v. Hill, 437 U.S. 153, 194 (1978).

[20] See also Nat'l Wildlife Fed'n v. Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv., 422 F.3d 782, 790 (9th Cir. 2005).

By designating energy corridors without taking steps to consider potential adverse effects to protected species and to incorporate appropriate limitations on potential projects, the agencies are failing to comply with the mandates of the ESA to ensure that its actions are "not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species." 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). In fact, the agencies' designations of energy corridors and the resulting development in those corridors are likely to jeopardize the continued existing of many endangered or threatened species.

50504-016 (cont.)

B. National Historic Preservation Act

A federal "undertaking" triggers the Section 106 process, which requires the lead agency to identify historic properties affected by the action and to develop measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. 16 U.S.C. § 470f; 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4, 800.6. Because the designation of energy corridors is an "undertaking," Section 106 review must occur prior to approving these designations in the record of decision.

The NHPA stipulates that consultation among agency official(s) and other parties with an interest in the effects of the undertaking on historic properties commence at the early stages of project planning, focusing on the opportunity to consider a broad range of alternatives. 36 C.F.R. § 800.1(c). Compliance with Section 106 is applicable "at any stage where the Federal agency has authority . . . to provide meaningful review of . . . historic preservation goals."[21] Therefore, the agencies cannot rely on later review process as a justification for refusing to comply with the NHPA.

The agencies claim that they satisfied Section 106 requirements through an overview of the types of cultural resources that could be found in the areas where corridors are designated and a general data request to agencies with management responsibilities, but note that the data received was not consistent or complete; in fact, one state did not respond at all to the inquires. DPEIS at pp. 3-263, 3-266, Appendix R (Cultural Resources Data Request). Further, State Historic Preservation Officers were not given the opportunity to review changes to corridor locations based on data received. Appendix R, p. R-3.

50504-017

Section 106 regulations require BLM to "make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey." 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(b)(1). As part of this duty, BLM must account for information communicated to it by parties expressing an interest in historic properties affected by the undertaking.[22] While the initial efforts conducted by the agencies are a good first step, further efforts are required prior to the designation of energy corridors, including documentation of the extent of data that needs to be compiled, specific requirements for inventory of proposed locations, and obtaining at least a minimum level of data for each state.

To satisfy the Section 106 compliance requirement, the Responsible Agency Official must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer(s) (SHPO), and appropriate Tribes and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO). The agencies' present designation process has also denied SHPOs and THPOs their required right to consultation. This must be rectified.[23]

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[21] Morris County Trust for Historic Preservation v. Pierce, 714 F.2d 271, 280 (3d Cir. 1983) (emphasis added); Vieux Carre Property Owners v. Brown, 948 F.2d 1436, 1444-45 (5th Cir. 1991).

[22] Pueblo of Sandia v. United States, 50 F.3d 856, 860–61 (10th Cir. 1995).

[23] We also ask the agencies to address the concerns raised by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, attached at Exhibit 26 (noting issues with following the procedures set forth in 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.3 through 800.6).

Section 110 of the NHPA obligates the agencies to identify sites that may be eligible for the National Register. The DPEIS acknowledges this obligation as an ongoing effort of various agencies, but does not include any commitments to further compliance in connection with designation of these energy corridors. DPEIS at 3-261. The agencies should take this opportunity to analyze the information obtained to identify eligible site and to commit to or require commitments to further inventory and submissions of proposals for listing. The agencies should maximize the opportunity to obtain and use information on cultural resources to fulfill their obligations under the NHPA and increase our knowledge and protection of our cultural heritage. 50504-017 (cont.)

XII. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is Required

NEPA requires that agencies shall prepare supplements to draft EISs if "[t]here are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed the proposed action or its impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(c)(1)(ii). In the present case, our groups and the interested public have brought forth information that is both new and significant relevant to the process and to addressing environmental concerns. This information includes:

(a) Methodologies for regional transmission planning that can lessen the need for transmission corridors;

(b) Specific quantitative assessments and data on how applying energy efficiency and similar measures can result in less corridors and tremendous environmental benefits;

(c) Engineering analyses and solutions to maximize current grid assets that have been shown to have significant environmental benefits by lessening the overall need for new corridors;

(d) Public databases utilized by the Western Governors' Association and transmission planning groups within the Western Interconnection that contain valuable data to inform future transmission needs, location and associated corridor needs;

50504-018

(e) New maps showing the relationship of corridors to coal plants and information about how the corridors may directly exacerbate global warming;

(f) New maps that show corridors in relation to geothermal, solar and wind power resources that suggest the need for an alternative focusing on facilitating those important resources;

(g) Numerous reasonable alternatives that need rigorous development and analysis;

(h) Significant impacts to highly-valued public lands including national parks, monuments, roadless areas, proposed wilderness areas and recreation areas;

(i) Improvements to draft Interagency Operating Procedures, mitigation measures and Best Management Practices; and

(j) Other activities and programmatic studies for numerous projects in the region that may have significant cumulative impacts together with the corridor designations.

Each of these categories of new and significant information arguably requires that the current draft PEIS be supplemented; without question, when considered in combination, the agencies must develop these alternatives and study this new information in a supplemental EIS. Indeed, a SEIS that seriously looks at

these issues, develops these alternatives and employs comprehensive regional transmission planning to designate smart corridors will make tremendous strides in gaining public support and enthusiasm for this effort.

50504-018 (cont.)

XIII. Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DPEIS for the designation of west-wide energy transmission corridors. We look forward to working with the agencies to comprehensively plan for transmission corridors in order to designate smart corridors – i.e., corridors that are needed, focused on renewable energy resources and that ensure long-lasting protection for lands and wildlife resources in the western United States.

Sincerely,

Tom Darin, Energy Transmission Attorney
Western Resource Advocates
2260 Baseline Rd., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 444-1188 ext. 244
tom@westernresources.org

On Behalf of All Commenting Organizations

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:01 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50505

Thank you for your comment, Jim Hesterly.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50505. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:01:01PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50505

First Name: Jim
Last Name: Hesterly
Address: 2011 N Raymond Ave
City: Pasadena
State: CA
Zip: 91103
Country: USA
Email: jim@hallmarklighting.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
As owner of Lot 8 in the Lone Cone Ranch subdivision, I would like to ask that the ROW corridor be kept to a minimum width. It would be a shame to ruin this very pristine and beautiful area. 50505-001

Jim and Patti Hesterly

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:06 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50506

Thank you for your comment, .

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50506. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:06:05PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50506

First Name:
Middle Initial:
Last Name:
Address:
City:
State: NV
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record

Comment Submitted:
An alternative needs to be developed that links up the corridors to Nevada's high quality geothermal, solar, and wind sources. Public lands should not be supporting new coal plants and last century's energy policy. America needs a forward thinking energy policy that moves the country toward the use of renewable energy sources and away from fossil fuels. 50506-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:07 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50507

Attachments: westwide_PEIS_comments_WWECD50507.doc

westwide_PEIS_co
ıments_WWECD50.

Thank you for your comment, Kimberley Delfino.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50507. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:06:27PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50507

First Name: Kimberley
Middle Initial: W
Last Name: Delfino
Organization: Defenders of Wildlife
Address: 1303 J Street, Suite 270
City: Sacramento
State: CA
Zip: 95814
Country: USA
Email: kdelfino@defenders.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: F:\USERS\KDELFINO\westwide PEIS comments.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

California Office
1303 J Street, Suite 270 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | tel 916.313.5800 | fax 916.313.5812
www.defenders.org

February 14, 2008

Via Facsimile & E-mail

West-wide Energy Corridor DPEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439
Fax: 1-866-542-5904

Re: Comments on the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife ("Defenders") and our more than half a million members and supporters in the U.S., I am writing to provide comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement ("DPEIS"), Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States (DOE/EIS-0386) (hereinafter referred to as the "West-wide Energy Corridor DPEIS"). This project proposes to designate 6,000 miles of corridors affecting nearly 3 million acres of federal lands. The effect of designation of these routes will result in individual projects that will tier off the DPEIS, an expedited permitting process, and federal land use plan amendments.

Defenders has participated in the West-wide Energy Corridor designation process from the beginning and have previously submitted comments on the scoping notice for this project (November 2005) and on the Preliminary Map of Potential Energy Corridors (July 10, 2006). We ask that the federal parties incorporate these past comments by reference.

Based on a review of the West-wide Energy Corridor DPEIS, Defenders has several serious concerns about the failure to analyze adequately the appropriate level and scope of impacts, the failure to identify and reasonable range of alternatives, the failure to avoid and minimize impacts of species, the failure to better identify best management practices and mitigation for project impacts, and the failure to consult under the federal Endangered Species Act ("ESA").

In light of the deficiencies in this DPEIS, we urge the federal parties to prepare a supplemental programmatic environmental document that adequately identifies, analyzes and mitigates the project impacts. 50507-001

National Headquarters
1130 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331

I. The EIS Must Adequately Analyze and Address Impacts to Species and Habitats.

A. *The need for a landscape level scope of analysis*

We do not believe that this draft EIS has conducted the appropriate level and scope of NEPA analysis. Since this Programmatic EIS involves the placement of energy corridors in 11 Western States, we believe that the document needed to evaluate impacts on a "landscape" basis. However, while the document generally discusses the various types of lands and species impacted, there is no overall "ecosystem" focused analysis on impacts to specific large geographic areas such as river corridors or major wildlife migration routes as should be found in a programmatic document.

Defenders of Wildlife advocates for a "landscape" or "ecosystem" based approach to wildlife protection because we feel a focused analysis of the development impacts to large geographic areas is crucial to the long-term viability of our species of concern, such as the Mohave Ground Squirrel and Desert Tortoise. While we appreciate the fact that the proposed energy corridors avoid the first 'broad stroke' of wildlife concerns such as National Parks (Joshua Tree National Park) and other protected areas (Mojave National Park), these corridors cut dangerously close to protected area borders and threaten the overall migratory ability of wildlife endemic to the region. Moreover, the plan fails to avoid key habitat features such as Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat and Desert Wildlife Management Areas. Yet these are important elements of a biodiversity conservation program because they contain important habitat, provide buffers and links to conservation areas, and are part of the general landscape that affects aspects of ecosystem health, such as water quality and properly functioning ecological processes

Protecting biodiversity in and around developed areas where the energy corridors are proposed in the desert is a difficult task. Disturbed and fragmented habitat blocks remain; there may be less viable natural communities of plants and animals and non-native species may have replaced native species, and populations of animals may be unnaturally low in good habitat due to factors such as disease, as is the case in area just north of Ivanpah. Larger, intact habitats that are connected to one another and to their associated ecological processes are therefore very important to biodiversity. Therefore, Defenders of Wildlife evaluates proposed intrusions into habitat along these lines. 50507-002

Planning for such protection requires a landscape-scale perspective, and this perspective merits an analysis beyond simple protected area avoidance, identifying additional unique habitats within developed areas to conserve, even if they are small, as this contributes to the preservation of whole communities of wildlife and properly functioning ecological processes. If developed and implemented properly, this landscape level approach can prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened, thus avoiding costly recovery efforts. However, when viewed from a landscape scale, the proposed corridors one sees paints a disturbing picture on how wildlife populations and connectivity will be diminished in the southern California Desert. We organize our below comments specifically in relation to habitat features essential to our focal species, addressed around specific and named proposed energy routes.

1. Desert Tortoise

The desert tortoise is a threatened species due largely to habitat destruction, predation, and disease. Despite effort to recover this species, the tortoise continues to decline in the California Desert. Seeing as the proposed routes appear to affect both Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA's)

and desert tortoise critical habitat, Defenders of Wildlife offers the below definitions of these areas to contextualize our concerns.

Desert Wildlife Management Areas: recommended by the 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan within which recovery efforts for the desert tortoise would be concentrated. The Bureau of Land Management has formalized DWMAs through its planning process and now manages them as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. DWMAs can provide sufficient buffering from demographic stochasticity and genetic problems and would be sufficiently large to support recovered populations with a reasonable probability of persistence. (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994). It is important to note that DWMAs were originally intended as are areas where human activities would be restricted. Large-scale developments such as energy corridors inevitably erode the ability of DWMA's to function.

Critical Habitat – Specific, legally defined areas that have been deemed necessary for the conservation of the desert tortoise, that support the primary constituent elements required for desert tortoise survival, and that may require special management considerations or protection.

A. Route 23-25 looks to run through the Fremont-Kramer Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) and Critical Habitat Unit. It is also very close to the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, which lies just northwest of CA City: In 1976, the Desert Tortoise Natural Area (DTNA) was created as a wildlife preserve, primarily for protection of desert tortoise habitat; it included about 26,000 acres including private inholdings. In 1980 the DTNA was designated an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC). An adjacent area in Fremont Valley of 23,000 acres was designated as the West Rand ACEC primarily for protection of desert tortoise habitat. The Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) is 39.5 square miles of prime natural habitat set aside for the desert tortoise, the official California State Reptile. The preserve boasts a rich flora and fauna representative of the intricate Mojave Desert ecosystem. In 1980, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior, recognized the significance of the DTNA by designating it an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" and as a "Research Natural Area". There are many other animals present including the threatened Mohave ground squirrel, desert kit fox, coyote, badger, jackrabbit, desert woodrat, and kangaroo rat.

50507-002 (cont.)

The Fremont-Kramer DWMA is also one of the most threatened DWMA's due to vandalism, raven predation on tortoises, road kills, disease, off-highway vehicle usage, and other human-related impacts (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994). Additionally, there is also a troubled history here; during the 1980's, several areas of 0.5 to a few acres were cleared and/or damaged for oil exploration within the Fremont-Kramer DWMA (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994).

B. Route 30-52 is just south of Joshua Tree National Park and impacts the Chuckwalla DWMA. The Chuckwalla DWMA is very important because it is the only DWMA entirely contained within the Eastern Colorado Desert Tortoise Recovery Unit (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994). The DWMA contains several mountain ranges and valleys, ranging in elevation from 400-4,500 feet. Included is the Chuckwalla Bench, a *bajada* that has in recent past supported the highest known density of desert tortoises. Tortoises here also have been stressed by a shell disease, which caused high mortality from 1982 to 1991 (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1994).

C. Route 27-266 which is just south of Barstow goes through the Ord Rodman DWMA. This area has a long history of domestic grazing by cattle and sheep, as well as some of the same problems as the Fremont-Kramer DWMA, including road kills and disease.

D. Route 27-225: This route cuts across both the Ivanpah DWMA and Critical Habitat Unit. It is an area that houses a tortoise population that has already been studied, due to a proposed solar plant in the area (Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System). Results from environmental surveys calculated a tortoise density of 3.8 per square mile. However, this is an unnaturally low density, as the population was depressed due to disease. In fact, habitat features are still conducive to tortoise populations and the area is therefore important to desert tortoise conservation (Hughston, Debra, Mojave National Preserve Manager, pers. Comm., 2007). 50507-002 (cont.)

Major exploration in the 1970's in the Ivanpah Valley for oil and natural gas has already left a damaging history, leaving behind an uncapped well, unmitigated damage to desert tortoise habitat, and an unauthorized road (Berry, 1984). Tortoises in the area are also facing threats from Off-highway vehicle racing and cattle grazing.

2. Mohave Ground Squirrel

The Mohave ground squirrel is endemic to the West Mojave Desert in California. Confined to the northwestern corner of the Mojave Desert, it is bounded on the south and west by the San Gabriel, Tehachapi, and Sierra Nevada Mountains. On the northeast, it is bounded by Owens Lake and a series of small mountain ranges, including the Coso, Argus, Slate, Quail, Granite, and Avawatz Mountains. On the southeast, the range of the Mohave ground squirrel abuts a portion of the range of the closely related round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudis*). The current geographic range of the Mohave ground squirrel includes about 19,800 km2 (7,640 mi2) in the western portion of the Mojave Desert in California. This is the smallest range among the ground squirrel species found in the United States (Defenders of Wildlife, 2005).

The species is listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. Identified threats to this species include urban and rural development, livestock grazing, OHV use, agricultural practices, military operations, energy production, and transportation infrastructure. Current regulatory mechanisms are vastly inadequate to protect this species. With nearly two-thirds of the range in federal ownership, state listing does not ensure conservation. Recent GIS analysis reveals that only 9% of the suitable habitat within the historic Mohave ground squirrel range exists in a protected state and that over 78% of the habitat within the species' range is either naturally unavailable, severely degraded, or in a threatened land use (Defenders of Wildlife, 2005). 50507-003

A. Route 23-25 cuts through the much of the remaining Mohave Ground Squirrel territory. Throughout the historic range of the Mohave ground squirrel, there are very few areas where thriving populations can be found. P. Leitner's extensive research has identified only four such "core areas" for the species. These are: 1) a small area on the east side of Edwards Air Force Base, 2) the east-central portion of Kern County in and around Freeman Gulch and near the Jawbone-Butterbredt Area of Critical Environmental Concern, 3) the Coso Range within the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and adjacent areas to the northwest, and 4) north of Barstow from Coolgarde Mesa toward Superior Valley on a 3,000 ft. elevation plateau, stretching north across the Goldstone Deep Space Tracking Station onto the Mojave B Range of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Outside of these regions, populations of Mohave ground squirrel north of State

Highway 58 (this highway runs east-west just south of California City) are scattered, fragmented, or unknown.

It is of concern to Defenders of Wildlife not only when a route goes directly through core areas (as appears to be the case for the western section of the core population to the southwest of China Lakes Naval Air Weapons Station), but also when it interrupts the ability of the Mohave Ground Squirrel to migrate between core areas, as appears to be the case with Route 23-25. The persistence of the Mohave ground squirrel is inherently threatened due to its relatively small range.

50507-003 (cont.)

Historical Trends: Leitner has previously discussed the impacts of geothermal energy production, remarking that "it will be very difficult to carry out geothermal exploration and development activities [in the Coso Geothermal Study Area] without causing some adverse impacts [to Mohave Ground Squirrels]." According to Leitner and Leitner (1989), the production of geothermal resources at the Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) resulted in the loss of up to 405 hectares (1,000 acres) of desert scrub habitat. The areas with the highest geothermal development potential also supported populations of Mohave ground squirrel (Leitner 1980).

II. THE DPEIS MUST IDENTIFY MINIMUM MANDATORY MITIGATION PRACTICES AND DEMONSTRATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PRACTICES.

Chapter 3 of the DPEIS includes a long list of best possible mitigation measures that could be used at various stages of site development. While we appreciate this long list of best management practices, broken down by the various stages of site development, it appears that this list is more of a laundry list of possible mitigation measures, but is not mandatory for all projects. Thus, it is unclear what the level of required mitigation may be for these projects. As others pointed out during the scoping comments, we urge the federal agencies to follow the example of the Department of the Interior's wind energy EIS and set forth a list of minimum, mandatory best management practices for all projects.

50507-004

In addition, NEPA requires that mitigation measures must be analyzed for effectiveness. *Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations,* 48 Fed. Reg. 18,026 (March 16, 1981). Here, there has been no effort made to evaluate effectiveness of the identified list of mitigation measures. Therefore, we urge the federal agencies to conduct a more thorough evaluation and discussion of mitigation measures and their effectiveness in mitigating specific impacts.

III. THE WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT CUMULATIVE IMPACT.

The CEQ regulations define "cumulative effect" as:

> the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

50507-005

40 C.F.R. § 1508.7.

The DPEIS' cumulative effects analysis provides only the vaguest of generalities regarding existing actions that already impact the human and natural environment within the 11 states covered by this document. No attempt is made to provide detail on what these actions actually are, or the cumulative effect such activities have on specific natural resources such as imperiled plant and wildlife species.

The need to prepare a comprehensive EIS based on cumulative and regional effects on wildlife has been specifically embraced by the D.C. Circuit. For example, in *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Hodel*, 865 F.2d 288 (D.C. Cir. 1988), conservation organizations alleged that the Department of the Interior failed to adequately consider the cumulative effects of simultaneous offshore oil and gas leasing and development in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans on migratory species including endangered cetaceans, marine mammals, salmon, and marine and coastal birds. The D.C. Circuit agreed with plaintiffs, finding that the EIS "for the most part considers only the impact within each area" of leasing. *Id.* at 298 (emphasis in original). The Court thus held that the analysis did "not address the issue ... which NEPA requires the Secretary to consider: the cumulative impacts of [oil and gas leasing] development in different areas," and that "allowing the Secretary's 'analysis' to pass muster here would eviscerate NEPA." *Id.* at 298-99 (quotations and emphasis in original). 50507-005 (cont.)

Here, the DPEIS must analyze the all other reasonable foreseeable projects, including other transmission line projects, the proposed siting of energy projects, and other related projects, for their effects on the environment.

III. The DPEIS Must Include An Adequate Range of Alternatives and Provide Meaningful Analysis of These Alternatives.

NEPA requires that an EIS contain a discussion of the "alternatives to the proposed action." 42 U.S.C. §§ 4332(C)(iii),(E); *see also Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") NEPA Regulations,* 40 C.F.R. 1508.9(b). This alternatives analysis is "the heart" of the NEPA process, and is intended to provide a "clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." 40 C.F.R. 1502.14; *Citizens for a Better Henderson v. Hodel*, 768 F.2d 1051, 1057 (9th Cir. 1985) (EIS must consider "every" reasonable alternative). An agency's failure to consider a reasonable alternative is thus fatal to its NEPA analysis of a proposed action. *See Idaho Conservation League v. Mumma*, 956 F.2d 1508, 1519-20 (9th Cir. 1992) ("The existence of a viable, but unexamined alternative renders an environmental impact statement inadequate."); *Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's NEPA Regulations*, 48 Fed. Reg. 18,026 (March 16, 1981)("In determining the scope of alternatives to be considered, the emphasis is on what is 'reasonable' rather than on whether the proponent or applicant likes or is itself capable of carrying out the particular alternative. Reasonable alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from a technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply desirable from the standpoint of the applicant."). 50507-006

In order to conduct a meaningful alternatives analysis, however, an agency must first "briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.13. "The stated goal of a project necessarily dictates the range of 'reasonable' alternatives and an agency cannot define its objectives in unreasonably narrow terms." *City of Carmel-by-the-Sea v. DOT*, 95 F.3d 892 (9th Cir. 1996).

Consequently, "[l]ogic and law dictate that every time an agency prepares an environmental impact statement, it must answer three questions in order. First, what is the purpose of the proposed project (major federal action)? Second, given that purpose, what are the reasonable alternatives to the project? And third, to what extent should the agency explore each particular reasonable alternative?" *Id.* at 903.

The DPEIS only considered only a "no action" alternative and the "proposed action" alternative. There was no "environmentally protective alternative" developed or analyzed despite requests by conservation groups do to so. While the DPEIS discusses an effort incorporate some of the suggested improvements to siting such as limiting corridors to areas adjacent to highways, we did not see any effort to include an alternatives that avoids designating corridors in sensitive habitat areas.

50507-006 (cont.)

IV. THE FEDERAL AGENCIES NEED TO ENGAGE IN FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

We are very concerned about the decision by the federal agencies not to engage in consultation under the federal Endangered Species Act for this project. Section 7 of the ESA requires that each federal agency insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by that agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat for any threatened or endangered species. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). In meeting this duty, an agency shall consult with the appropriate Secretary so that the Secretary can determine if the action will jeopardize the species or cause adverse modification or destruction of critical habitat. Id. at § 1536(b)(3). An agency shall review its actions as the earliest possible time to determine if the action may affect a listed species or critical habitat. 50 C.F.R. 402.14.

50507-007

This programmatic EIS will result in the amendment of many federal land management plans and thus may have an effect on listed species and on critical habitat. Indeed, contrary to the conclusion drawn in this DPEIS, the *Wind Energy Programmatic EIS* did undergo consultation to determine whether the proposed action jeopardized the continued existence of threatened and endangered species. Therefore, since the activities proposed in the DPEIS may affect listed species and critical habitat, we strongly urge that the federal agencies engage in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. Please add us to the distribution list for the EIS and all notices associated with this project. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 313-5800.

Sincerely,

Kim Delfino
California Program Director

Mike Skuja, MSc
California Representative

References:

Berry, 1984. The distribution and abundance of desert tortoise from the 1920's to 1960's and a comparison with the Current situation. Chapter 4 in KH Berry's the Status of the Desert Tortoise in the United States.

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Leitner, P., and B.M. Leitner. 1989. First year baseline report: Coso grazing exclosure monitoring study, Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area, Inyo County, California. McClenahan and Hopkins Associates (San Mateo, CA) report, 69 pp. plus appendices

Tracy C.R., R.C. Averill-Murray, W.I. Boarman, D. Delehanty, J.S. Heaton, E.D. McCoy, D.J. Morafka, K.E. Nussear, B.E. Hagerty, and P.A. Medica. 2004. Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment. Report to USFWS.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:11 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50508

Thank you for your comment, Steven Broderick.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50508. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:10:40PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50508

First Name: Steven
Middle Initial: a
Last Name: Broderick
Address: 609 west 100 north
City: Delta
State: UT
Zip: 84624
Country: USA
Email: superpogo@msn.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
I want the corridor to follow the IPP route.Going The other way will mean crossing the river three times potentially causing water pollution and making the water unuseable for farming and the proposed route will be crossing our land which we have spent thousands on improvements and a well to build a house. 50508-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:16 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50509

Attachments: WWEC_Comments_WWECD50509.pdf

WWEC_Comments_
WWECD50509.pdf (..

Thank you for your comment, Christopher Len.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50509. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:15:44PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50509

First Name: Christopher
Middle Initial: L
Last Name: Len
Organization: Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Address: PO Box 102
City: Ashland
State: OR
Zip: 97520
Country: USA
Email: chris@kswild.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: /Users/Ag/Documents/KS Wild/WWEC/WWEC Comments.pdf

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

Christopher Len
Legal Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
PO Box 102
Ashland, OR 97520
P 541-488-5789
F 541-552-1561
chris@kswild.org

February 14, 2008

Delivered electronically and by US Mail

West-Wide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: West Wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Comments

Dear Sir or Madam:

I submit these comments on behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild), a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of the Klamath and Rogue River Valleys. KS Wild has followed the events surrounding the West Wide Energy Corridor since we learned of them. We sent a representative to comment at the one public hearing held in the state of Oregon, we have joined with the Wilderness Society on their comments, and now submit our own formal comments on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Because our mission is tied to the last wild places of the Klamath Region, as your Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) characterizes our home, and because the West Wide Energy Corridor (WWEC) will apparently run directly through the Rogue and Klamath River Valleys, we have a strong and abiding interest in your proposal. As such, we have a strong and abiding disappointment that the action agencies (Agencies) have approached such a large and complicated program so cavalierly, with so little regard to the patent and potential consequences to the Human Environment.

In short, the action agencies have broadly failed the public in their work on the West Wide Energy Corridor. The Agencies had two basic duties that they failed to uphold: First, they should have, but have not, exercised care and thought in designing the project. Second, they should have, but have not, followed the plain and simple terms of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Agencies failures in the first instance are so extreme that they confound their attempts to meet their obligations under the second; the Agencies' failures on the second, however, stand on their own. 50509-001

I) The Action Agencies Failed Their Basic Duty to Generate a Good Plan

Given the significant discretion the Congress has given the Agencies in this matter, it is incumbent on the Agencies to produce a plan that displays sound planning. Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) grants the Agencies broad discretion, noting only that they "…shall consult with each other and shall (1) designate, under their respective authorities, corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on federal land in the eleven contiguous western states." According to the Department of Energy website, among the purposes of the EPAct is to "Help ensure that consumers receive electricity over a dependable, modern infrastructure; Remove outdated obstacles to investment in electricity transmission lines; Make electric reliability standards mandatory instead of optional; and Give Federal officials the authority to site

new power lines in DOE-designated national corridors in certain limited circumstances." The proposal expressed in the PEIS fails to meet these goals. 50509-001 (cont.)

An effective proposal would take pains to ensure the following:

A) **That new corridors are actually needed in the quantity proposed**
The Agencies should have analyzed the potential to meet future energy demands through increased energy efficiency, distributed generation and maximizing the use of the existing power grid through technology upgrades.

B) **That new corridors are actually needed where they are proposed** 50509-002
Because they have only analyzed one alternative, the Agencies have failed the public by not seriously studying where corridors are most needed or by seriously considering alternate routes. The Agencies should continue analyzing impacts to special public lands and moving corridors to avoid them. Agencies should also make this process and information transparent to the public.

C) **That the projects are subjected to best management practices** 50509-003
Agencies should make their Interagency Operating Procedures mandatory.

D) **That the risks to federal and other affected lands are realistically and thoroughly assessed, so that those risks can then be avoided or minimized** 50509-004
Agencies should analyze cumulative impacts to both federal lands and state, private, and tribal lands that will be impacted when the corridors are connected.

E) **That once appropriate locations are identified, projects on federal lands are presumptively limited to those corridors**
Agencies should limit projects on federal lands to corridors. Either the Agencies are developing a unified plan that places corridors where they are most needed, or they should not be undertaking the process. If the former, the Agencies should limit future development to the accepted corridors unless compelling evidence demonstrates a need to develop elsewhere. If the latter, the *ad hoc* pre-EPAct method of corridor planning has not really changed 50509-005

F) **That the plan is truly forward-looking, representing an infrastructure that will function at peak efficiency in the future, not one designed for the energy needs of the past**
The PEIS states "the need for additional electric infrastructure in the West is influenced by several factors, including … (2) new energy policies seeking renewable resources…" The Agencies should take the opportunity to consider the changing patterns of our dependence on fossil fuels, the growing threat of global warming and seriously evaluate alternatives to maximize use of renewable energy. 50509-006

G) **That the corridors avoid areas in pending legislation**
In addition to national parks, monuments, recreation areas, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers and federally protected lands, many otherwise available public lands are eligible for such designations or are currently pending designation. The Agencies should exercise care that their project does not interfere with these processes. 50509-007

The foregoing considerations represent a layperson's first gloss impression of what considerations should go into the WWEC decision-making process. The apparent lack of such planning is therefore troubling, and we request that the Agencies include such planning analysis in future NEPA documents.

II) The West Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Does Not Meet NEPA Requirements

50509-008

The National Environmental Policy Act is a cornerstone of modern environmental law, but when stripped of its verbiage, it is a simple act with two important goals: Inform the public so that it can understand and support

or refute a project; and inform the decision makers so that they can make sound and thoroughly considered decisions. This EIS is inadequate to achieve either goal.

ES.8 indicates that the Agencies don't feel that they are required to perform NEPA analysis at all, but have produced this thousand-page document as a gesture of good will. This misapprehension might explain the inadequacy of this document, but it doesn't excuse it. The Agencies must adhere to federal law all the way, not like some weekend agency, puttering around with environmental law on a lark. If the Agencies conclude there is no significant impact, then they must prepare an Environmental Assessment and make a finding of no significant impact. Instead, the Agencies have produced a document that fails to meet the standards of either an EIS or an EA. It's neither fish nor fowl and is inadequate to meet the Agencies' duties under NEPA. 50509-008 (cont.)

A) The public is inadequately informed

The NEPA exists to allow the public to understand and participate in decisions likely to adversely affect the broad human environment. By any objective measure, the push to educate the public and allow them the opportunity for comment has been completely inadequate.

After the public's impassioned involvement with the pending Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR), Oregon is used to serious and fitfully enthusiastic efforts on behalf of federal agencies to educate, inform and empower the public to comment. For example, in October, I drove fifteen minutes to Medford to attend an all-day session on the science, policy and economics underpinning the Bureau of Land Management's plan to amend the Northwest Forest Plan. Numerous staff members took turns explaining their work and conclusions, and tirelessly fielded questions from an often-hostile crowd. This meeting was only one of many opportunities the public had to learn about the WOPR, and similar forums were held across the state over many months. A high-ranking BLM representative even came to Ashland to participate in a community debate on the WOPR with activists, independent scientists and logging interests. KS Wild is forcefully and repeatedly on the record in opposition to the WOPR, but we have honored, been impressed by and thankful for the BLM's consistent and serious commitment to public participation, education and comment.

In contrast, the Agencies have undertaken only the barest token efforts to involve and educate the public on the West Wide Energy Corridor. One meeting was held in the entire state of Oregon. Oregon is the 9th largest state in the country, and has an area of over 98,000 square miles. The meeting was held in Portland, the largest population center, but in the extreme northwest corner of the state. The most damaging impacts of the WWEC plan will be felt in south, central and eastern Oregon, but the meeting apparently attracted no attendees from those regions other than myself and one representative from another south Oregon environmental group. And no wonder, given the weather and distance these people would have to travel. In order to attend, I drove 5 hours from Ashland in snow and rain. The meeting was held on January 8, before schools were back in session from winter breaks. In consequence, many students who might attend such a meeting were kept away. 50509-009

Many people in Ashland alone would comment on this plan if they were adequately informed and given opportunity. Unfortunately, the people in Ashland (and other towns in the Rogue River Valley) are unaware that a major federal project will pass right through the heart of the valley. It is apparent that the notice and comment efforts for the PEIS are similarly inadequate. Having one meeting on one day in the entire state of Oregon is unacceptable. Having that meeting only in Portland - the one part of the state most likely to be helped and least likely to be harmed by the project - is unacceptable. Having the meeting in the middle of winter, requiring individuals from affected portions of the state to drive through the snow from all corners of the state is unacceptable. To my recollection, the meeting in Portland was tabled after only 50 minutes and about 8 speakers because so few people attended. The Agencies should have held public meetings in Portland, but also in Medford, Pendleton, Bend and Klamath Falls at a minimum.

The insufficiency of the Agencies' public notice efforts is reflected in the fact that only 210 individuals and organizations provided comments during scoping. (ES-16). The fact that "many comments requested specific existing or planned energy transport project ROWs be designates as Section 368 energy corridors" indicates that those responding to the scoping were largely industry interests and not the general public whom NEPA was written in large part to serve. In comparison, when the Western Oregon Plan Revision was announced, the BLM received in the neighborhood of 3,000 scoping comments. Roughly 95% of the scoping comments were opposed to the plan. Oregon is just one of 11 affected states under WWEC, so proper scoping might be expected to return over 30,000 comments. If the public were informed, and not just industry, the Agencies could

expect most of the comments to oppose the project. When the action agencies received a mere 210 scoping comments, they should have realized something was wrong broadened their efforts.

Even in theory, a well drafted PEIS could not replace the outreach role required of the Agencies, but it could at least help. In their PEIS, however, the Agencies do not supply enough information to fairly alert the public to what, exactly, they have proposed. The most obvious and grating failing is that the map does not specify where the corridor will pass with sufficient exactness to reveal the extent and impact of the proposal.

The most frustrating and small-minded of the many Agency mendacities in the PEIS is the decision to draw the corridors only where they cross public lands. Even the most credulous amongst us can see that the Agencies have very clear ideas of where the corridors will pass once they leave those lands, but the public's understanding of the ultimate impacts of the plan is severely hampered by their absence.

The executive summary states as a goal " addressing the heterogeneous mix of private, state and Tribal land ownership in the West…" (ES-3) The PEIS's greatest failing is precisely that it *does not even try* to address the heterogeneous mix of private, state and tribal land ownership in the west. In consequence of the fragmented nature of the PEIS, we have been frustrated in our attempt to make specific comments because we have not been provided with sufficient information to do so.

A proper PEIS would discuss the connected and cumulative impacts of the proposed federal action. What are the cumulative impacts of the proposal? ES-9 states "The combined and individual effects of location-specific and project specific impacts are not foreseeable at the Section 368 energy corridor designation stage. Therefore, the Agencies do not speculate about project- and location-specific impacts in the PEIS."

However, the Agencies *do* speculate, they just don't do any analysis. For example, ES-20 to ES-21 states "Potential direct impacts typical of project construction and operation include the use of geologic and water resources; soil disturbance and erosion; degradation of water resources; localized generation of fugitive dust and air emissions from construction and operational equipment; noise generation; disturbance or loss of paleontological and cultural resources and traditional cultural properties; degradation or loss of fish and wildlife habitat; disturbance of resident and migratory fish and wildlife species, including protected species; degradation or loss of plant communities; increased opportunity for invasive vegetation establishment; alteration of visual resources; land use changes; accidental release of hazardous substances; and increased human health and safety hazards" Listing these impacts and generally discussing the impacts is insufficient. 50509-009 (cont.)

What impact will the project have when added to other proposed energy corridors? What is the impact of the project when considered on a baseline considering the WOPR? WOPR will cut hundreds of thousands of acres of timber across Oregon. The PEIS implies that 66,000 acres of new right-of-way will be set aside for WWEC in Oregon. What cumulative impacts can we expect from two such massive projects?

It is foreseeable that a plan to designate energy corridors across the west would result in the construction of energy corridors across the west. This is especially so given that there's only one alternative presented. There's only one alternative! If the only alternative presents an energy corridor running down the Rogue Valley, how difficult is it to foresee an energy corridor running down the Rogue Valley? If the only alternative draws a line that stops at a private parcel, and resumes on public land on the other side of the parcel, how hard is it to foresee that the corridor will have to cross the private parcel? By this standard, no project, no matter how specific, would contain cumulative effects analysis. If the Agencies willfully refuse to foresee the impacts of their actions, they have not performed genuine analysis. The willful disregard of connected, cumulative and foreseeable actions makes mockery of the entire NEPA process.

B) The process in inadequate to inform the decision maker

The second vital goal of NEPA is to inform decision-making. The processes the act requires will inform the decision makers and allow them to reach the most reasoned and efficient conclusions. To accomplish this goal, the Agencies must actually follow the NEPA processes. NEPA requires a range of alternatives be considered so that the decision makers can consider the various outcomes, advantages and disadvantages and create a final proposal that functions as effectively as possible. This PEIS fails more abjectly at this process than any I have ever seen. There are only two alternatives presented, and one is illegal. 50509-010

The EPAct requires that the Agencies "…shall consult with each other and shall (1) designate, under their respective authorities, corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution

facilities on federal land[1] in the eleven contiguous western states." EPAct § 368. This provision means the no action alternative is illegal. Therefore there is only one alternative. 42 USC § 4332 (c) (iii) requires the Federal Government to "include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official on (iii) alternatives to the proposed action." The PEIS is clearly illegal in that it does not do so.

The only conceivable justification for the Agencies to submit and analyze only one alternative would be if the Congress foreclosed all other alternatives in their statutory imperative. However, the Agencies admit that such is not the case. Executive summary ES-1 states, "Section 368 *does not* require that the Agencies consider or approve specific projects, applications for rights-of-way (ROWs), or other permits within designated energy corridors." (Emphasis in the original). This is a clear admission by the Agencies that they have discretion to draw corridors where they are most needed. Along with this discretion comes the statutory duty under NEPA to propose and analyze a range of alternatives.

What is more, the PEIS reveals that the Agencies briefly considered and rejected ten alternatives during scoping. It is clear that other alternatives were available for consideration. NEPA requires the action agency to consider alternatives in the EIS so that the public is made aware of them and may comment. By deciding during scoping on not only a preferred but a sole alternative, the Agencies have violated NEPA and short-changed the public out of its right to notice and comment on an important federal action sure to adversely affect the human environment. 50509-010 (cont.)

In particular, the alternative to "Upgrad(e) existing energy transport facilities within existing energy corridors and ROWs for greater transport capacity or efficiency, before new federal energy corridors are designated" should have certainly been included and analyzed thoroughly in the PEIS. As should the alternative of "locating designated energy corridors only in areas adjacent to federal highways and major state and municipal roads;" and "environmentally friendly alternatives that called for increasing energy efficiency or conservation by energy users instead of designating corridors."

The PEIS remarks that "these alternatives, which were considered but eliminated from further study, were each examined with regard to how well they would meet the purpose and need of Section 368, how well they would support designation of federal energy corridors, and how they would address the energy transmission issued of the electricity transmission grid in the West." The Agencies might expect the public to thank them for doing our work for us, but these are the exact sorts of decisions that NEPA requires the Agencies to perform with public input. The failure to consider these or other alternatives in the PEIS is a clear and unmistakable violation of federal law.

C) Despite the paucity of analysis, it is clear that the impacts of the proposed corridors are too great.

While the Agencies have not met their statutory burden for analyzing the impacts of their proposal, the information they do provide is sufficient to conclude that the proposal is unacceptable. The ES-17 indicates that the corridor will cross 12 national parks, monuments and recreation areas and 3 national wildlife refuges. These areas have been set aside specifically to promote resource uses other than power generation and energy corridors should cross none of them. At the very least, the Agencies should have considered an alternative that avoided these areas all together.

Apart from the lack of alternatives, the most stunning revelation contained in this PEIS is that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requested consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and was denied. 50509-011

The Endangered Species Act § 7 requires "Each Federal Agency shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency … is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of such species which is determined by the Secretary … to be critical." (16 USC § 1536) NMFS is the federal agency charged with overseeing the continued existence of threatened and endangered anadromous

[1] To reiterate, section 368 requires the Agencies to "designate, under their respective authorities, corridors … *on federal land* in the eleven contiguous western states." Doesn't this mean the corridors have to be on federal land – why draw lines that need to cross private and state lines? Does this fulfill statutory requirement?

fish species. These species are important to the people of Oregon and California for any number of reasons and the Agencies' unwillingness to consult with NMFS is beyond odd, and should be reconsidered.

The ES-7 contends "without knowing the specifics of when and where a project would occur within a corridor, it would be impossible to know what species, if any, would be affected by these future projects." This contention is easily dismissed. If the Agencies performed their statutory duties and consulted with NMFS and the FWS, it is easily foreseeable that such consultation would aid the Agencies in their "drawing lines on a map." If you draw your lines over isolated populations of endangered species, such as exist on the Siskiyou Crest, it is foreseeable that those populations will be disrupted. The ESA Agencies could inform the Action Agencies of ways to avoid or minimize those foreseeable impacts. Indeed, this expertise is exactly the point of Section 7 consultation. That the USFWS would agree that this project has no effect is bizarre; that the action agencies would disregard NMFS' contrary determination is doggedly unlawful. The 331 pages of environmental consequences listed in the PEIS belie the Agencies' contention that there will be no impact from the WWEC project.

The decision to forgo consultation is also contrary to settled case law. In *Pacific Rivers Council v. Thomas,* the 9th circuit has "undeniably interpreted ESA to require consultation on programmatic actions and rules, including consultation at the planning stage, not just the site-specific stage." *Citizens for Better Forestry v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture* 481 F. Supp 2d. 1059 at 1095 (N.D. Cal 2007) referring to *Pacific Rivers Council v. Thomas,* 30 F.3d 1050 at 1056 (9th Cir. 1994). 50509-011 (cont.)

If, as states on ES-8 "the Agencies have concluded that preparing a PEIS at this time to examine region-wide environmental concerns is appropriate, even in the absence of on-the-ground environmental concerns is appropriate," and have charitably agreed to follow NEPA, why has a similar outlook been rejected for the ESA, even after the NMFS requested consultation? NMFS is the government's expert on the continued existence of threatened and endangered pelagic and anadromous fishes. It is surely uncontestable that their expertise on topics relating to their preservation far outstrips that of the Department of Energy or the Bureau of Land Management. The ESA essentially compels consultation if agency action *might* affect listed species. If the federal agency charged the oversight of those species believes consultation is necessary, then the Agencies should consult. By failing to undergo this process and report the findings to the public, the Agencies have violates the ESA and the NEPA.

D) Deferring analysis entirely to specific EISs is inadequate

The Agencies are correct that a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is required for national plans such as this one. In *City of Tenakee Springs v. Clough*, 915 F.2d 1308, 1312 (9th Cir.1990), the 9th Circuit stated that an agency must prepare both a programmatic EIS and a site-specific EIS "[w]here there are large scale plans for regional development."

The Agencies are incorrect, however, in their oft-inferred belief that their PEIS can defer all genuine analysis to project-specific Environmental Impact Statements. In fact, the CEQ regulations require that so-called "connected" or "cumulative" actions be considered in a single EIS. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(1), (a)(2); cf. *City of Tenakee Springs v. Block*, 778 F.2d 1402, 1407 (9th Cir.1985) ("Where there are large-scale plans for regional development, NEPA requires both a programmatic and a site-specific EIS. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.28, 1502.20[.]") (additional citations omitted). At least when the projects in a particular geographical region are foreseeable and similar, NEPA calls for an examination of their impact in a single EIS. In *Churchill County v. Norton*, the 9th Circuit wrote "It is not readily apparent how the Service proposed to get a complete picture of the cumulative environmental impacts without including in its analysis the … actions and activities already underway or anticipated." *Churchill County v. Norton,* 276 F.3d 1060 at 1077 (9th Cir 2001). 50509-012

The application of *Churchill County* to the WWEC PEIS is clear: currently, planning for many energy corridors is proposed (e.g. the liquefied natural gas pipeline proposed to extend from Coos Bay, OR whose pathway is mirrored by the WWEC corridor in southwest Oregon.) and the entire purpose of the WWEC is to facilitate the construction of additional energy infrastructure that the Congress has ordered the Agencies to carefully consider and propose. The Agencies' failure to conduct genuine cumulative impacts analysis in this PEIS is a clear failure of that Congressional imperative and a clear violation of federal environmental law under NEPA. What's more, it flies in the face of common sense: Once these rights of way are drawn, the resources have been irretrievably committed. If there's a thousand mile long corridor, and its only gap is my backyard, I

don't trust the EIS process to adequately protect my backyard. There's too much momentum behind the pipeline at that point. The time to protect my backyard is now, at the programmatic stage, but the Agencies have failed the public on that score. 50509-012 (cont.)

III) The Region

As stated above, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center serves as an advocate for the natural environment in the Klamath and Rogue River watersheds and the Siskiyou Crest. As such, the remainder of these comments will attempt to address the specific concerns the WWEC raises for this region. Unfortunately, the lack of specificity in the PEIS renders impossible any specific comments. We attempt, however, to do our best with the information the Agencies have given.

Across the state of Oregon, the PEIS proposes 591 miles of corridor, comprising 238,200 acres. 163 miles or 27.6% of the proposal will be outside of existing rights-of-way. About 66,000 acres will presumably be affected (27.6% of 238,200 is just under 66,000 acres). In California, the PEIS proposes 814 miles of corridor, comprising 287,657 acres. 113 miles or 13.9% of the project will be outside existing rights-of-way. About 40,000 acres will presumably be affected (13.9% of 287,657 is roughly 40,000 acres). These estimates are only for new rights-of-way on federal lands, and do not include the widening that would likely be required of existing rights of way and does not include the unmarked portions that will cross private, state and tribal lands, that in many areas, including the Klamath-Siskiyou, comprise the larger part of the impacts of the project. Thus, the 106,000 acres of disturbed public lands in Oregon and California is but a small portion of environmental impact that the PEIS simply does not address.

The PEIS has made an analysis of KS Wild's coverage area particularly difficult. Map B4 clearly indicates the corridor will travel roughly southeast from Myrtle Creek toward Central Point OR, but then the line disappears, with small reappearances near Medford OR and the California border. These small dashes indicate that corridor development is intended for somewhere in the Shasta National Forest region, but we are at a complete loss to imagine where or what is proposed.

The project, wherever it might travel, surely will impose severe and poorly considered impacts in the Klamath-Siskiyou Region. The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California is a world-renowned hub of biological diversity. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region are some of the most spectacular in America. Straddling the Oregon-California border, the Klamath-Siskiyou (KS) contains the largest concentration of intact watersheds and roadless wildlands left on the Pacific coast of the U.S. Covering nearly 10 million acres, the KS stretches from the Umpqua in the north to California's wine country in the south, from the Pacific ocean in the west to the Cascade Mountains in the east. Ranging in elevation from sea level to its highest peak, Mt Ashland, at 7,533 feet, the area is rugged and beautiful. Nearly half of the region is public land. 50509-013

The KS region's unusual geology has contributed to its importance as an ecological, social and recreational hotspot. Amongst a tangle of sharp-edged mountains and salmon-strewn rivers, geologists often refer to the ancient KS Mountains as, "The Klamath Knot." For all its great antiquity, the KS has never been subject to volcanism and glaciation like the neighboring Cascade and Sierra Mountains. Rather the KS is a result of rocks under heat and pressure folding through time. An important consequence of this unique geology is a unique ecosystem. To illustrate, the *Kalmiopsis leachiana* is a flower that once grew on an island in the Pacific Ocean, and can now be found growing on top of mountains in southwest Oregon. Further, the region largely remained unglaciated during the last Ice Age, serving as a refuge for plants and animals. Additionally, the area is the confluence of various habitat types, sharing species from the Great Basin, Cascades, Coastal Range, California's Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada. The KS Mountains and valleys offer a complex mosaic of habitats, allowing diverse species to mingle and create unique communities. On the eastside of the region one can fine ancient, gnarled western juniper trees, whereas on the westside one can find soggy coastal redwood rainforests.

The Rogue watershed in the north and the Klamath watershed in the south largely define the region. The rugged Siskiyou Crest Mountain Range, which traverses the state line, separates these two rivers. These river systems support wild populations of salmon and steelhead and are important refugia for salmon populations in

the lower 48. These rivers, and their famous tributaries such as the Illinois and Salmon Rivers, attract people from around the world to enjoy the whitewater, fisheries and gorgeous scenery.

The region has a very diverse mosaic landscape, including mixed evergreen and sub-alpine forests, serpentine vegetation, redwood forest, oak woodlands, savannahs and meadows. The KS supports 36 different species of conifers, more than any other temperate forest in the world. Endemic conifers include the Port-Orford cedar and Brewer's or Weeping spruce. Many conifers live here at the edge of their range, such as Englemann spruce and Alaska yellow cedar. The region is also well-known for its vast array of unusual and endemic flowering plants (endemic means that a species exists in this one locaiton and nowhere else on the planet). An estimated 3,500 vascular plant species can be found here, 280 of which are endemic. Rare plants include the Cobra lily, Mt. Ashland lupine, Henderson's horkelia, lavendar paintbrush, Yreka phlox and Gentner's fritillaria.

The forests are home to abundant wildlife - deer, elk, black bears, mountain lions, spotted owls, and rare amphibians such as the Siskiyou Mountain and Scott Bar salamanders. Many species are dependent on uncut forest, abundant road free wildlands and healthy watersheds for their survival, such as the Pacific fisher and wolverine. Several species have been extirpated from the region, including the grey wolf, grizzly bear, lynx and pronghorn.

Much of the area is protected only by its remoteness and rugged terrain. The Yolla Bolly, Marble Mountain, Trinity Alps, Russian, Siskiyou, Red Butte and Kalmiopsis are protected Wilderness Areas (although some mining and cattle grazing is permitted). High quality habitat connecting these core areas is under ongoing threat from logging, mining, road-building, invasive weeds and cattle grazing. These core areas, and the roadless and old-growth habitat between them, create the largest complex of wildlands on the West Coast of America.

The entire Klamath-Siskiyou eco-region is a critical refuge for wild nature, and has been designated a World Heritage Site, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and an Area of Global Botanical Significance by the World Conservation Union, Klamath-Siskiyou has yet to be protected as a national park by Congress.

Despite incredible biological richness, past clear-cutting has seriously reduced old-growth habitat. Ongoing old-growth logging continues to compromise habitat and connectivity for old-growth dependent species. Despite the value of this area, as enumerated above, the PEIS undertakes no analysis of the combined impact of the project and of continuing timber harvest on the existing ecosystem. It would be my pleasure to explain to the Agencies how we feel about the WWEC's impacts on the KS, but the Agencies have given neither the data necessary to form such comments, nor even a sufficient hint as to their plans so we could generate it on our own. 50509-013 (cont.)

We can guess, however, that the project proposes corridors that may affect the following important resources. Until the Agencies supply us with a legal EIS, we can only innumerate their importance for the Agencies' education.

A) Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is a federally protected area that encompasses approximately 52,940 acres in southwestern Oregon. It was established by President Bill Clinton in 2000.

Native Americans are known from archaeological excavations to have inhabited the region for thousands of years. Nearly 100 dwelling and root-gathering sites belonging to the Modoc, Klamath, and Shasta tribes have been uncovered to date. By the 1880s, they had been completely replaced by white settlers, whose mining cabins still dot the region.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has one of the most diverse ecosystems found in the Cascade Range. 200 species of birds are known to exist in the monument including some threatened and endangered species such as the Great Grey Owl and Peregrine Falcon.

Natural features in the monument include Pilot Rock, which is a volcanic neck or interior of an extinct volcano, similarly formed as Devils Tower in Wyoming, and the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the monument area. There is a fire lookout tower on the top of Soda Mountain built in 1962 to replace the original 1933 structure. Although the top of the mountain is also the site of dozens of television and radio broadcast and relay dishes, the view from the fire lookout of the surrounding mountains is unobstructed. From the lookout, one can see Mount Shasta, Mount Ashland, Mount McLoughlin, and on clear days, the rim of Crater Lake.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument land use plan has been the source of local and national controversy over multi-use planning for wild and roadless areas. The plan currently strives for a balance between managing rare natural habitat, recreational activities, and agricultural activities including cattle grazing and timber.

Given the paucity of analysis in the PEIS, it is unknown what effect the WWEC will have on the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and surrounding areas with similar resource values.

B) Siskiyou Crest

The Siskiyou Crest key area for biodiversity and regional connectivity contains ancient forests, high elevation meadows, spectacular peaks, and outstanding botanical and butterfly diversity. It provides drinking water for many downstream communities, including the city of Ashland. It includes portions of the Rogue, Siskiyou, and Klamath National Forest and Medford District BLM lands, and straddles the Oregon and California state border.

We like to refer to this wildland complex as the "Siskiyou Land Bridge" because of its important connectivity functions. It is not only a biological crossroads through space and time, but is a literal crossroads for wide ranging species. The Siskiyou Land Bridge is a critical node in forest linkage. It provides the only high quality habitat connections between the Marble Mountains to the south, the Kalmiopsis wildland complex to the north and west, and the McDonald Peak Roadless Area and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to the east. With its east to west orientation, it is the bar on an "H" of mountain ranges, connecting the Siskiyous and Cascades.

A primary goal for KS Wild is preservation of the Crest's wilderness qualities through permanent protection. Unprotected wilderness in this area surround the 20,230-acre Red Buttes Wilderness Area and span east toward the Cascade Mountain Range. This critical core habitat is the heart of the Siskiyou Crest, while adjacent roadless corridors are integral to the many species utilizing the area.

Five sizeable Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in the Siskiyou Land Bridge: the 100,000 acre Kangaroo, the 20,000 acre Condrey Mountain, the 12,000 acre McDonald Peak, the 10,000 acre Kinney, and the 8,000 acre Little Grayback. Broadly defined, these road free lands combine to form a 1-million acre web of high quality habitat in this critical wildlife area. 50509-013 (cont.)

The diverse forests of the Siskiyou Crest include ancient groves of mixed conifer that contrast with rugged pine forests typical of the unique geology of the Siskiyou Mountains. Diverse true fir forests are home to many endemic and relict trees. Over 20 conifer species are found on the mountainous slopes of the Siskiyou Crest. There are occurrences of common Cascade species unusual for the Siskiyous, such as Engelmann spruce, Pacific silver fir, Alaska yellow cedar, supalpine fir, and quaking aspen. Klamath-Siskiyou endemic, Weeping or Brewer's spruce, reaches its eastern range limit in the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area. The largest grove in Oregon of Baker cypress, a fire dependent species, is found in the Kangaroo Roadless Area.

In addition to the exceptional tree diversity, numerous rare and unique plant species are associated with the Siskiyou Crest. Applegate gooseberry, a narrow endemic that grows only on the slopes of the Applegate Valley, is one example. Forests to meadows to rocky outcrops in over a dozen recognized special botanical areas provide varied habitats for rare and endemic plant species.

The Siskiyou Crest is a travel conduit for wide-ranging mammals. Wolverine, marten, lynx, fisher, mountain lion, bear, and elk currently inhabit or have been recently sighted in the area. The area also provides home range and connectivity habitat for the gray wolf, grizzly bear and pronghorn sheep, mammals that are currently extirpated from the Klamath-Siskiyous. The Siskiyou Mountain Salamander lives only on the slopes of these mountains. The cool, clear waters flowing from the crest into the Rogue, Klamath, Applegate, and Illinois basins are a refuge for endangered wild salmon.

The Siskiyou Crest already faces a number of threats, whose connected impact should be considered along with the impact of the proposed corridor.

Public lands timber sales threaten the biological integrity of the area. These sales and projects like the WWEC and the proposed Ski Ashland expansion would create wildlife migration barriers, simplify forest structure and exacerbate severe fire risk. Road building to access timber is a past and continuing threat. Interstate 5 is a known barrier to wildlife migration between the Cascades and the Coastal Mountains. Private land logging activities, predominately clear-cutting, on in-holdings owned by industrial timber companies is

common within and adjacent to the Siskiyou Crest. Oregon's forest practices act does not adequately protect the region1s natural wonders.

Cattle graze in virtually the entire area and many meadows are severely overgrazed. Continuance of this activity at the current level will continue to degrade fish habitat, compact soils, alter plant communities, push rare plants to the brink of extinction, despoil clean water and degrade recreational experiences. Cattle trespass has been a serious problem in several areas, such as Bigelow Lakes botanical area, which is frequently invaded by a grazing allotment from the other side of the crest.

Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use is heavy and destructive in some areas, particularly high meadow habitats. Many rare and sensitive plant and wildlife species are affected, and ORV enthusiasts are now pressuring the Forest Service to open more trails to motorized use. One of these, the Boundary Trail, is on the Siskiyou Crest proper in the Kangaroo roadless area.

Finally, the Applegate Dam currently blocks over 30 miles of formerly high quality fish habitat in the upper Applegate drainages.

Given the value of the Siskiyou Crest as an ecological and recreational haven, the Agencies should consider avoiding the area all together. If not, the Agencies owe a much more detailed explanation of the threats posed by their project.

C) Ashland, Ore

Ashland is a cultural hub for all of South Oregon and serves as an important tourist draw throughout the region and beyond. The PEIS indicates that a corridor will stretch south from Medford to points unknown. A serious build-up in energy infrastructure in the narrow valley where Ashland sits could seriously impair Ashland's value to the region and harm its economy.

Ashland is well known for its annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), which brings thousands of visitors to the city every year. The festival has grown from a summer outdoor festival in the 1930s to a season that stretches from February to October, incorporating Shakespeare and non-Shakespearean plays in repertory at three theaters. OSF sells more tickets to more performances of more plays than any other theater in the country. In a typical year, OSF sells more than 350,000 tickets and attracts about 100,000 tourists.

Lithia Park is a 100-acre park extending from the center of town ("The Plaza") up Ashland Creek to the foothills of Mount Ashland. It includes two ponds, a Japanese garden, tennis courts, two public greens, a bandshell (outdoor stage) and miles of hiking trails. The name Lithia comes from the natural mineral water in Ashland, Lithia water. Lithia water is famous for its strong mineral taste and slight effervescence, and unsuspecting tourists frequently taste the Lithia water fountains found on the town plaza. John McLaren, designer of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, designed Lithia Park and included an octagonal gazebo-style bandstand that was used until the bandshell was built in 1949.

Income from tourism comprises a significant portion of Ashland's economy. A large number of hotels, beds and breakfasts and restaurants thrive on revenue generated from visitors (i.e. playgoers) who see plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and to a lesser extent The Oregon Cabaret Theater. The town's five largest employers are (in order) Southern Oregon University, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland Public Schools, Ashland Community Hospital and the City of Ashland.

The WWEC maps seem to indicate that major infrastructure will extend down the Medford/ Phoenix/ Talent/ Ashland corridor. Energy infrastructure of the type envisioned in the PEIS would irredeemably change the character of the region. It may be that such a sacrifice is needed to ensure the future energy security of the country. However, until the Agencies make such a justification and analyze the costs and benefits, they have not seriously undertaken their duties under the NEPA.

50509-013 (cont.)

IV) Conclusion

While we thank the Agencies for the opportunity to comment on this PEIS, we can't help but conclude that a lot of work remains to be done before the Agencies have met their legal obligations. First, the Agencies should revisit their planning process, and ensure that they have honestly attempted to meet the obligations that the Congress set before them in the EPAct. This reevaluation should generate several diverse alternatives that anticipate the range of energy requirements and regimes that may be necessary over the planning horizon. Next, the Agencies should propose and analyze a series of alternatives sufficient to apprise the public and the decision makers of the range of options and their likely costs and benefits. This analysis should include the connected

50509-014

and likely cumulative impacts of each alternative. The Agencies should consult with NMFS and US Fish and Wildlife. This analysis should be forcefully advertised to the nation so that the public is honestly and completely informed, and comments should be actively and energetically pursued. We look forward to commenting in a much more thorough and educated way on this future, legally complaint PEIS. 50509-014 (cont.)

Best Regards,

Chrsitopher Len
Legal Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:37 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50510

Attachments: West-wide_PEIS_comments.2.6.08_WWECD50510.doc

West-wide_PEIS_comments.2.6.08...

Thank you for your comment, Gerald Scheid.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50510. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:36:43PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50510

First Name: Gerald
Middle Initial: H
Last Name: Scheid
Organization: Centennial Valley Association
Address: 616 E. Center St.
City: Dillon
State: MT
Zip: 59725-3110
Country: USA
Email: jhscheid@myrf.net
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Louise\Desktop\Louise's Stuff\CVA 2006 start\CVA Projects\West-wide PEIS comments.2.6.08.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

Centennial Valley Association

616 E. Center St. Dillon, MT 59725-3110

February14, 2008

Comments for the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS

The Centennial Valley Association is taking this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed designation of west-wide energy corridors. Our focus is to preserve traditional ranching as a way of life in the Centennial Valley, and to maintain quality open space, wildlife habitat, water quality, and wildlife migration corridors as they exist today, for future generations.

We support the concept of designating energy corridors and co-locating utilities. Encouraging industry to locate new utilities in a single corridor, particularly with existing rights-of-way, concentrates environmental impacts where disturbances have already occurred. 50510-001

We are specifically interested in the proposed corridor in southwest Montana and southeast Idaho, along I-15 (Segment 50-203). There are already numerous utilities, highways, roads and other facilities that have fragmented wildlife habitat. This corridor is preferable to designating a corridor through the Medicine Lodge Valley/Big Sheep Basin (Segment 50-260) that is comparatively undisturbed. 50510-002

The Medicine Lodge Valley/Big Sheep Basin proposed corridor segment would traverse significant sage grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, and interrupt intact regional wildlife linkage corridors. 50510-003

A major shortcoming of the PEIS is the exclusion of any discussion of how energy corridor designations would affect non-federal lands. CEQ guidelines require that any federally-supported actions must consider all lands affected by that action in the NEPA analysis regardless of land ownership. It is a disservice to industry and the public to conduct NEPA analysis of this scale without considering the potential effects of utility construction on private lands immediately adjoining a federally-designated corridor. This is another consideration that would make project specific tiering to the PEIS unfeasible. 50510-004

The PEIS states that industry use of designated corridors is voluntary, with the only incentive to utilize these corridors being an "expedited" application process enabling agencies to tier to the PEIS for environmental consequences. The PEIS repeatedly states, "evaluations would be developed in project-specific NEPA evaluations prior to approval of applications for development." This need for more detailed information to perform impact analysis questions the validity and value of tiering to the PEIS future documents. 50510-005

A generalized scenario of development within a designated corridor could be provided that would support a legitimate NEPA analysis suitable for tiering. Power lines, pipelines, service roads and other facilities will all disrupt and fragement vegetation communities and wildlife habitat, impacts that could be generally predicted even at the programmatic level. Loss of vegetation, particularly in sagebrush or forest communities, cannot be immediately mitigated to maintain cover values. The physical presence of structures may inhibit wildlife movement through, or use, of these areas, and when combined with potentially increased human activity over time, may significantly reduce the suitability of adjoining habitat to sustain current or future wildlife uses. This is particularly important along the Interstate 15 corridor in southwestern Montana that already intersects several regionally important wildlife corridors that are crucial to maintaining habitat and population connectivity. 50510-007

The addition of any large scale energy corridors in this area could adversely impact wildlife habitat suitability. This could result in the avoidance of habitat on federal lands and the displacement onto adjoining private lands. These impacts should be described and disclosed in the PEIS. 50510-007

The PEIS does not explain how existing utility and transportation ROWs are incorporated in the proposed designation. How much overlap can occur for example between new power lines and existing power lines or highways: It appears that the addition of a designated utility corridor on top of existing corridors has the potential to greatly expand the area of disturbance beyond the recommended 3500 feet. Furthermore, in many areas in western Montana, there is insufficient physical room to include new facilities in existing corridors without having significant environmental impacts. It is incorrect and misleading to state that such impacts would reduced on 50% of the proposed corridor by incorporating existing ROWs. 50510-008

The PEIS also states that this document would be suitable to amend land use plans to incorporate corridor designation. Many existing federal land use plans for western Montana have undergone intense review and consultation for potential management impacts to Special Status Species including grizzly bear, sage grouse, and westslope cutthroat trout. It is unreasonable to consider the PEIS that give only cursory information about these wildlife species would effectively amend these existing plans that include far more detailed analysis of potential development impacts. 50510-009

We feel that there is insufficient detail in the PEIS to allow tiering, and applicants would still need significantly more detail about habitat impacts, local and regional wildlife populations, the impacts to non-federal lands, and cumulative effects than is provided in this document. 50510-010

Sincerely,

Gerald H. Scheid
President

Westwide Energy Corridor PEIS Comments/Centennial Valley Association

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:39 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50511

Attachments: West-Wide_Energy_Corridor_Proposal_-_Letter_to_DPEIS_Site_Planners_WWECD50511.doc

West-Wide_Energy _Corridor_Prop...

Thank you for your comment, Betsy Bradshaw.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50511. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:39:11PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50511

First Name: Betsy
Middle Initial: A
Last Name: Bradshaw
Address: P.O. Box 1197
Address 2: 2480 Colestin Rd.
City: Ashland
State: OR
Zip: 97520
Country: USA
Email: colestincaprines@starband.net
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Main\Documents\CRFD\West-Wide Energy Corridor Proposal - Letter to DPEIS Site Planners.doc

Comment Submitted:
(see attached - two-page Word doc)

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

14 February 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing regarding the proposed energy corridor that runs through #4-247, according to the online DPEIS maps. I am opposed to the proposed siting of an energy corridor in this area, for several reasons: 50511-001

1) This is a largely rural area, not densely populated, but it IS populated. We are a community of about 200 households (the number comes from our local fire district current list of landowners and other residents) and locating an energy corridor that is proposed to be 3,500 feet wide would require the condemnation of many homes, in order to enact the federal law of eminent domain, for the acquisition of the land through which such a power corridor would run. As a matter of basic principle, as well as having a personal vested interest in not losing my own home and farm, I am strongly opposed to a plan that would necessitate such destructive action. 50511-002

2) Supposing it were possible to site the corridor in a way that avoided the destruction of homes and farms here, establishing a power corridor of 3,500 feet in width in this region would also require the destruction of the vast, and greater, portion of acreage in many environmental and natural resource aspects. The impact of locating a power corridor that runs north to south through the Colestin valley would permanently destroy many of the natural geological and biologically sensitive features and resources that the Cascade-Siskiyou area is well-known for, and that those of us who live here greatly value. Not only 50511-003
would the destruction of our valley be devastating to us personally, but it would also significantly lessen the value of our homes and properties, since the rural landscape with its natural features and diverse biology and ecology is intrinsically an important part of why people choose to live here. I am therefore opposed to the proposal because of the negative environmental impact that our valley would sustain, as well. 50511-004

3) Thirdly, it does not appear that those who are involved in the siting of possible energy corridors have closely examined topographic and geological maps in very much detail. If one examines the terrain of the area included in #4-247 more closely, it becomes evident that any installation of a power corridor would have to contend with extremely mountainous, rugged and steep terrain at the higher elevations. The route would have to accommodate transiting the Pacific Crest trail area and the Mt. Ashland area, a virtually impossible feat due to all of the rock bluffs and geological irregularities that occur in this region. Maintaining standard power above-ground, particularly during difficult winters, is already a serious challenge. From a non-detailed map, it may appear to some that a power corridor could be sited along-side the interstate freeway (I-5), yet even the interstate near and at the Siskiyou summit required blasting away huge portions of rock in order to be located there. It is hard to imagine what a 3,500-foot corridor at that elevation would require in terms of blasting, if the corridor were to follow adjacent to or parallel the interstate, or even any part of the mountainous Siskiyou 50511-005

summit region. The impossibility and impracticality of the location of the proposed #4-247 section really needs to be taken into account. While those of us here in our community appreciate that the planners re-located the proposed power corridor out of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument which both border and is a part of our valley, re-locating it west of the Monument would create far more numerous and worse problems. I realize that expedience and logic are a part of siting considerations, and so I would urge the planners of this section to consider re-routing the proposed corridor east of the Monument, which is both less populated, less biologically and environmentally sensitive, and less challenging in terms of geology and terrain.

50511-005 (cont.)

4) Fourthly and lastly, as a long-time participant in our local volunteer fire district that covers the Colestin - Mt. Ashland area, essentially where the #4-247 section of corridor has been proposed to run, I cannot see how our fire district would be able to respond to potentially serious situations involving any possible operations and maintenance problems related to a power corridor within our midst. We have neither the manpower or the equipment resources, and our mutual aid and automatic aid back-up agencies cannot provide rapid response in a timely enough way, due to general geography and their locations, to be able to help prevent a major disaster, if such a potential situation were to arise. We already have enough natural fire hazards in this valley, between lightning, terrain, and limited firefighting resources, without adding others. Again, there are areas to the east of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument where fire incidents would cause less human and natural-resource destruction, where the available firefighting capabilities are more in accord with what is at stake, and where the combination of power corridor elements and what they could negatively affect would have much less overall impact, and would be safer for everyone.

50511-006

It is my hope that those who are involved in the site planning for section #4-247 and its immediate adjacent segments would take these concerns into serious consideration, and that an acceptable, less potentially destructive, safer, and more workable route can be identified.

Thank you for your due consideration to these issues.

Sincerely yours,

Betsy A. Bradshaw

P.O. Box 1197
2480 Colestin Rd.
Ashland, OR. 97520
541-821-8291
colestincaprines@starband.net

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:43 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50512

Thank you for your comment, Patricia Ross.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50512. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 07:42:47PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50512

First Name: Patricia
Middle Initial: H
Last Name: Ross
Address:
City:
State: OR
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
To: Department of Energy.
Re: Western Energy Corridors.

Oregon is home to some of the United States most beautiful and valuable public lands. It ranges from waterfront to coastal mountains to fertile valleys to high alpine forests to desert. It would be a shame to carve these pristine lands up with 3500-foot wide energy corridors so energy companies would not have to go through the process of approval reviews each time speculators propose a pipeline or electric line. 50512-001

One such corridor is particularly disturbing. The one through the Mount Hood Forest. When I read your web page, I understood the policy was to use existing rights of way, road corridors, etc. Why carve a new corridor through this essentially wilderness area when there are other passes through the Cascade Mountains that would serve the same purpose of getting energy transmission lines across the Cascade Mountains.
One such route would be the Santiam pass, Highway 20. One advantage of this route is that there are two proposed energy corridors that merge together on the east side of the Cascades, which could then be continued across the mountains. There is a road existing through this pass that could serve as a way to get to and maintain any energy transmission line so the forest devastation would not have to be so huge. One of these corridors follows Highway 20 so why couldn't it continue across the Cascades. By doing so, it would miss having to cross the Clackamas Wild and Scenic River and the Pacific National Historic Trail three times in Section Map B3. Most of the planned corridors do follow existing roads and rights of way. "Intersection is perpendicular" is not a good justification. 50512-002
And if it costs more to use this path, so be it. Our public lands should not be sold off to the lowest bidder. Many Americans have worked long and hard to preserve them for future generations.

By devoting huge swaths of our public lands to transmission lines and pipelines, the federal proposal would transform these landscapes into industrial areas, destroying important wildlife habitat, recreation, many other pristine and cherished areas and special places like the Mount Hood Forest, a favorite place for Oregonians to be able to get away from the cities and enjoy the wilderness. Yes the Willamette Valley will need energy and renewable energy will likely have to come from eastern Oregon. But, Oregon 50512-003

already has established electrical corridors that can be used and does not need the destructive underground pipelines that these energy corridors will include. Nominate these existing lines and stop the new. 50512-003 (cont.)

This project, just like the other energy projects has had inadequate notification in order for citizens to provide informed and substantial comments. The fact that people only found out about it by accident the day before the Portland hearing and only a couple of people from the whole state of Oregon were able to attend is unacceptable. Why the rush? Only the energy and government people were informed and that is a travesty for the common citizen because they don't have access to the limited distribution energy newsletters and websites. Advertising in local newspapers on the front page should be a requirement at the beginning of any process or project that can result in eminent domain in that county. The Americans that I have talked to are angry that they were essentially excluded from the process until these energy corridors were already nominated and platted. Public input should be before any plans are made. If a friend had not e-mailed me about this project, I would not have known. Word of mouth is not a professional way to disseminate critical information that affects the people and their rights. 50512-004

One concern that has not been addressed is what happens at the end of the corridors. Does the establishment of these corridors automatically extend corridors through private land? Will these landowners have eminent domain forced on them at the end of the corridors? Will energy speculators who propose projects over the wants and needs of the Citizens be given priority treatment because an energy corridor is already established.
As the 2005 energy law mandated energy corridors, (laws can be changed), please ensure that existing corridors are used to the maximum extent possible. Just because an energy speculator has requested a new route through pristine forests in order to minimize cost is not justification to destroy American rights to primitive land. New corridors are not the way to proceed without a needs analysis for that new corridor and supporting evidence that there are no other alternatives. 50512-005

This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) represents a step backwards rather than planning for increased efficiency and sustainable renewables like wind and solar. 50512-006

Patricia H. Ross

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:18 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50513

Attachments: Westwide_Corridor_WWECD50513.doc

Westwide_Corridor
_WWECD50513.d...

Thank you for your comment, Richard Harker.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50513. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 08:17:35PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50513

First Name: Richard
Middle Initial: L
Last Name: Harker
Organization: Resident
Address:
City:
State: UT
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record
Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\Personal\Westwide Corridor.doc

Comment Submitted:
Attached is a letter sent to Gary Walker, Millard County Planner regarding the West-wide Energy Corridor. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project.

Richard Harker

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

Richard L. Harker
P O Box 141
Delta, UT 84624

e-mail: harkers@xmission.com

February 14, 2008

Gary Walker
Millard County Planner
P O Box 854
Delta, UT 84624

RE: West-wide Energy Corridor

Dear Mr. Walker:

As a resident of Millard County, I favor the West-wide Corridor going to the west of the Delta area. I think the environmental, cultural and community impact would be less there. Any leak or rupture in a pipeline carrying petrochemicals could be contained and remediated much easier in the western location.

The proposed route places the area's irrigation water source at risk. Any leak or rupture contaminating the river above Delta would devastate the local economy. It endangers all agricultural production derived from the irrigation system; it endangers any recreation activities that are side-benefit (not to mention a State Park) of that irrigation system; and designated wetlands and waterways including a noted wildlife refuge. Contamination of the Sevier River would be a major devastating impact to the local economy, agricultural and dairy industries and recreation in the Delta area. 50513-001

I believe that we must place our priorities with the safety and livelihood of an entire community over a shorter and potentially dangerous route for energy transmission. The town and area of Delta have no need for two transmission corridors, one on either side of the area. I believe that the B.L.M has designated the town of Delta and the other surrounding residents as expendable. I do favor low impact on the environmental, community and cultural concerns we have in our area, but I also value my land, home and water sources.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Harker
Concerned Resident

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:19 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50514

Thank you for your comment, Reid Bandeen.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50514. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 08:19:03PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50514

First Name: Reid
Middle Initial: F
Last Name: Bandeen
Organization: Las Placitas Association
Address: P.O. Box 888
City: Placitas
State: NM
Zip: 87043
Country: USA
Email: RBandeen@aol.com
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
There is widespread opposition to the proposed energy corridor in the vicinity of Placitas, New Mexico. A petition has been circulated, and to date 236 signatures have been collected in support of the following statement: "We, the undersigned, hereby declare our opposition to the West-wide energy corridor project as proposed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement DOE/EIS-0386, on the grounds that it is unlawful in that it fails to fulfill essential requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, including full disclosure and notice to affected parties." 50514-001

Although we choose not to burden the comment log with pages and pages of signature lines, such documentation is available at the request of the reviewers.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

See WEC_00039

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:31 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50515

Thank you for your comment, Mohammed Beshir.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50515. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 08:30:30PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50515

First Name: Mohammed
Middle Initial: J
Last Name: Beshir
Organization: Los Angeles Departmetn of Water and Power
Address: 111 North Hope Street
Address 2: Room 1250
City: Los Angeles
State: CA
Zip: 90012
Country: USA
Email: mohammed.beshir@ladwp.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Energy concerning the PEIS on November 28, 2005, and to the California Energy Commission on February 16, 2006, and March 9, 2006, concerning several corridors that are required for LADWP's compliance with its renewable energy portfolio standard. The LADWP's renewable energy portfolio standard is a means to provide sustainable energy resources that will reduce greenhouse gases, air pollutant emissions and dependence on fossil fuels for power generation.

The LADWP would like to reaffirm its support for Corridor 264-265 included in the PEIS, which would help facilitate the siting of a proposed transmission line project that would transmit significant renewable wind and solar energy from the Tehachapi area to the Los Angeles area.

LADWP has proposed the Green Path North Project (GPNP) in conjunction with the Imperial Valley Irrigation District, the Southern California Public Power Authority, and Citizens Energy. The proposed transmission project would connect developing renewable energy sources, including geothermal, in the Imperial Valley to the LADWP system at the proposed Hesperia Switching Station, near Hesperia, California.

The GPNP is in the preliminary planning stages, and routing alternatives are currently being identified and analyzed per the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA). It is likely that the preferred alternatives that may emerge from this CEQA/NEPA process would require new corridors through U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands. If that is the outcome of the environmental process, we would ask for your support in designating these preferred corridors as energy corroders at that time.

LADWP believes that these transmission projects are in the best interest of the nation as they would help facilitate timely compliance with new energy policies seeking the

development of renewable energy, system reliability concerns, and alleviating the inadequacies in the electricity transmission system known as "congestion."

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Ms. Lorraine A. Paskett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at (213) 367-8698 or Mr. Mohammed J. Beshir, Manager of Transmission Planning, Engineering, and Contracts at (213) 367 0237.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:41 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50516

Attachments: section_368_WWECD50516.wpd

section_368_WWE
CD50516.wpd (10...

Thank you for your comment, edward hinders.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50516. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 08:40:59PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50516

First Name: edward
Middle Initial: b
Last Name: hinders
Organization: Hinders Dairy Inc.
Address: 29638 Interstate 27
City: Canyon Tx
State: TX
Zip: 79015
Country: USA
Email: ebh@gvtc.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: C:\section 368.wpd

Comment Submitted:
The exhibits and attachments will be sent in by US Mail

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

Comments of Hinders Dairy Inc on the proposed Sec 368 Corridors Before the United States Department of Energy

Hinders Dairy Inc (HDI) is a land owner holding approximately 2100 acres of land in Randal County Texas and is party to a lease option agreement with Higher Power LLC for the development of a wind farm(Palo Duro Wind Farm aka PDWF) consisting of approximately 25 sections and to have a projected output of 400mw. This project is located within the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and approximately 90 miles from the Blackwater DC Bus Tie between Public Service of New Mexico (PNM)and Southwestern Public Service (SPS).

The current SPP market has no room for the the estimated 30,000+MW of wind power available for development in the Texas panhandle north of US Hwy 70. There are additional amounts of wind power in eastern New Mexico that lie in the SPS service area that have no market as well.. As of December 31st 2007 the Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) met the current transfer capacity limitation of 4850MW of wind power. Future additions of wind power will be limited until the Texas Public Utility Commission completes its review of renewable energy and then all appeals are exhausted and construction begins on Phase 1 projects to upgrade the ERCOT system. Current plans do not show any construction into the panhandle of Texas until phase 3 (Panhandle A) and 4 (Panhandle B) begin. The costs and the limited transfer capacity(1800 mw max/$1.5 billion) dictate that less than 5% of the available wind power in the Panhandle will ever make it to market in ERCOT. The cost of adding 800mw of wind in phase 4 will exceed $800 million due to existing transfer capacity constraints beginning at the Graham substation and reaching a choke point at the Parker substation in Fort worth. See tab 1 Texas Markets

50516-001

The alternatives are to move wind power in the Texas Panhandle and eastern New Mexico to the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) or to the Chicago area under a joint proposal by the SPP and American Electric Power Co. AEP. Hollywood and Vine in Los Angles and 200 E Randolph in Chicago are equidistant from Randall County. The western route has the advantage of major markets in Arizona and Nevada that will be short of energy by 2009 (see p.20 of the WECC December 2007 Power Supply Assessment tab 2) PDWF can make energy available to the WECC by on peak 2010 and possibly as early as July 2009. Further development of wind in the eastern New Mexico/Texas panhandle outside the WECC grid service area would most logically be done using a bipole DC tie similar to three 3300mw systems built by ABB in China as part of the Three Gorges Dam project. Rights of Way can follow the existing double trackage of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (Santa Fe) that runs from Clovis New Mexico to Needles California. Using this established corridor and a second probable route from Clovis, New Mexico to Springerville Arizona would not break up any critical habitat that is not already subject to disturbance by either the busiest railroad corridor west of the Mississippi River or existing US Highway 60. These two sets of lines would make 6600mw of wind power to the WECC at points where major load growth and electrical shortages are expected to occur in the next 10 years. See Tab 3 Proposed Corridors. The corridors would run from Clovis to Belen in New Mexico to Springerville in Arizona. The other corridor would run from Belen to Gallup New Mexico to Flagstaff then to Needles in California or Marketplace in Nevada as dictated by the needs of the WECC. The use of two bipole DC circuits limits the severity of an outage to ½ of the circuit capacity in most circumstances.

The resource proposed to be included in the WECC plans is the largest single source of Summer time Class 4 winds in the United States. Christine Archer and Mark Jacobson of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Stanford University have done extensive modeling and research on the available wind power and effects of interconnecting multiple wind farms. The goal is to broaden the power availability by use of non coincident peaks and lows. This paper is published in the November 2007 issue of the Jpurnal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology P 1701 et seq. (Exhibit 6) The conclusion is that the use of 7 diverse wind sites can produce firm power at 12% of name plate using a 79% availability factor which is the lower end of reliability for coal fired generation. Using 87.5% the amount of name plate available is 6%. One interesting note from analysis of the winds in Amarillo and Clayton New Mexico in July/August time periods is that the winds begin to pick up at about 1600 CDT 1500MDT and 1400PDT. They crest between about 1700CDT and 2200CDT which is 1500PDT and 2000PDT . The standard deviation graphs show that Clayton during times of peak load remains on line and generating even at -1 standard deviation. Amarillo has a mean expected wind speed between 8 and 10 m/s with Rayleigh power of 1000watts/m^2 for July and 800 watts/m^2 in August in the time frame that the Pacific time zone is hitting peak load. Amarillo has the second highest mean wind speed at 8.4 m/s with an annual capacity factor of 44%. Clines Corners, New Mexico is 4th and both are class 5 wind areas. Clayton New Mexico is 7.8 m/s second and class 4. These are all far better wind resources than what is being currently used within ERCOT. (See tab 4).

50516-001 (cont.)

Lastly ANL should consider the impact of NERC N-1 Reliability standards in planning corridors. An excellent real world example of these problems currently exists on the El Paso Electric Co (EPE) system. The Eddy Amrad Caliente line nominally supports 925 mw. But due to NERC N-1 considerations, if the Amrad Caliente portion of the line goes out fo service than only 200mw of line capacity is available to serve Alamogordo, Holloman AFB, White Sands Missile Range, Oro Grande and areas along US Hwy 54. The obvious solution is a connection between the Amrad 345kv substation and the Arroyo 345kv substation. See planning studies done in 2004 for expansion of the Eddy DC bus tie with SPS and to engineering studies done to coinnect a 500 mw wind farm in the Otero County area. NERC N-1 standards require the construction of 55 miles of 345kv line which does not really solve the reliability issue. The sound engineering solution is to build through White Sands in a Right of Way suitable to the Department of the Army. This would enable development of the Class 7 wind resource at Guadalupe Pass/Pine Springs area . Wind speed is 11.7 m/s. (SEE TAB 5)

50516-002

Respectfully submitted
Hinders Dairy Inc.
29836 I 27
Canyon Tx. 79015.
By

Edward Hinders
830-438-8675

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:56 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50517

Thank you for your comment, Nathan Small.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50517. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 08:55:40PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50517

First Name: Nathan
Middle Initial: P
Last Name: Small
Organization: Las Cruces City Councillor, District 4
Address: 200 North Church Street
City: Las Cruces
State: NM
Zip: 88001
Country: USA
Email: nsmall@las-cruces.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS.

I am a City Councillor in Las Cruces, NM. Our community has become very involved in land management issues, and residents have expressed strong desires to see the open, natural lands around Las Cruces be protected for future generations.

I write to express two main points regarding the Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. First, that in the southern portion of Dona Ana County the corridor should be moved slightly westward, out of the area that is proposed for protection as a National Conservation Area (NCA). 50517-001

Secondly, there is strong potential for large scale renewable energy projects around the Las Cruces area. Biofuels, solar, and wind energy are available in great quantities. Therefore, I write to strongly encourage the prioritization of renewable energy if, and when, the Corridors are constructed. 50517-002

Please include me, and my city, in future discussions related to the Corridor project. There are many in our community who would strongly support the Corridor's construction, if the Corridors conform to our community's expectations for protected public lands and support for renewable energy. 50517-003

Sincerely yours,

Nathan P. Small

Las Cruces City Councillor, District 4
200 N. Church Street
Las Cruces, NM
88001
nsmall@las-cruces.org
575-640-5457

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 9:36 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50518

Thank you for your comment, Robert Pierce.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50518. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 09:36:02PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50518

First Name: Robert
Middle Initial: S
Last Name: Pierce
Address:
City:
State: MT
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
I whole heartedly support the energy corridor and would elect to have it come through Deer Lodge County. This would mean a great many things for the local community and promote badly needed civic improvements. The increased tax base that would funnel into the general fund would be a great relief for a sluggish local economy. The Corridor would be able to tie into the proposed new subdivision and greatly increase the ability of Northwestern energy to better serve their customers throughout Southwestern Montana. This corridor would be a wonderful asset for the local area. 50518-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:15 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50519

Thank you for your comment, Dan Cecchini.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50519. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:14:35PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50519

First Name: Dan
Last Name: Cecchini
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
I believe all proposed energy corridor routes in the western US must be sensitive to their impact on the sagebrush ecosystems that are home to sage grouse. Fragmenting these ecosystems will negatively impact existing sage grouse populations and put further pressure on the species. This added pressure could lead to the sage grouse being listed as an endangered species. Energy corridors should be routed to use already impacted environments which don't support sage grouse populations, such as along existing highways. 50519-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:15 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50520

Thank you for your comment, Mary McCutchan.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50520. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:15:13PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50520

First Name: Mary
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: McCutchan
Organization: Colorado Mtn Club
Address: P.O. Box 2754
City: Grand Junction
State: CO
Zip: 81502
Country: USA
Email: machiker@earthlink.net
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
The route crossing the San Miguel River is objectionable for several reasons. It is one of the last free-flowing streams in Colorado. Many of these routes are drawn as if a 5th grader took a marker to a blank paper. Topography and important resources are overlooked. In short, scrap the current plan. Even some of the energy companies object to it. (Encana, for one) 50520-001 50520-002

Mary

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:15 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50521

Thank you for your comment, Alan Wright.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50521. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:15:15PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50521

First Name: Alan
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Wright
Organization: Montana Multiple Use Association
Address: PO Box 11
City: Townsend
State: MT
Zip: 59644
Country: USA
Email: mmua@earthlink.net
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
Because of the large size of the PEIS, we would like to first request that there be an extention to the comment period on this very important issue. 50521-001

Citizens in many counties across Montana have not had an opportunity to analyze the proposed action and how it will effect the human environment.

We are concerned that the identification of private property and access to that property will be impacted, and that the PEIS does not fully disclose alternatives.

We understand that most of the corridor is on federal land. The cumulative impacts on our public lands here in Montana must be taken into account. Many citizens of Montana depend on the resources located within the proposed corridors, and the EIS fails to insure that these resources will be available to the people in the future. 50521-002

Will the corridor be closed to all transectional access and if not, has the corridor EIS addressed the future needs of transportation and infrastructure for the comerce of local, state and federal needs.

In the event that the corridor is located in an area that is already restricted to multiple use, will the area be further restrcited, and will all multiple uses of that land be lost? Also, will there be a double standard for the administration of the corridor? 50521-003

Roadless area conservation here in Montana and the other states involved is under litigation, and the outcome of that litigation will have an impact on our resoruces here in Montana. We expect that these lands will be open for multiple use, and the designation of a corridor through these lands is a prime example of cuumulative impacts that we are seeing. We must be insured that there will not be an exception to the multuple use mandates by the 1960 act.

Opening the door now for site specific NEPA analysis is a poor procedure in allowing the 50521-004

public particpation. We find many issues hidden in this PEIS, that will only be referenced in any future NEPA site specific analysis. We must insure that the people of Montana are informed throughout the process, and the PEIS must clearly outline a procedure for doing so. 50521-004 (cont.)

All of our rights here in Montana must be observed in the process of creating any corridors across our public and private land. Due process of law must be followed to the fullest extent possible. 50521-005

Alan E. Wright, President
Montana Multiple Use Association

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:37 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50522

Thank you for your comment, claudia sall.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50522. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:36:24PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50522

First Name: claudia
Last Name: sall
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
I oppose the WWEC corridor programmatic PEIS because it violates state's rights, existing county planning for energy corridors and the California Desert Protection Act. Furthermore I oppose any additions to the WWEC. 50522-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:40 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50523

Thank you for your comment, William Davis Jr..

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50523. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:40:03PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50523

First Name: William
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Davis Jr.
Organization: SEALEVEL-BELOW
Address: 1185 East Lane
City: imperial Beach
State: CA
Zip: 91932-3227
Country: USA
Email: williamedavisjr@gmail.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:
Draft Programatic EIS Corridor 115-238 in south eastern California is below sealevel. Focus map 79, Sunrise Power Link, shows the corridor near Brawley, California at 100 feet below sealevel. Focus map 95, Sunrise Power link, has the corridor near Seeley, California at 36 feet below sealevel. The border of California with Mexico at the town of El Centro, California has 12 miles that are below sealevel. Would it not be better to route the corridor east and north of the Salton Sea where there is high ground ? This portion of the line is 3,500 feet wide and is planned for all the utilities. Earth quakes, global warming, or if Mexico decides to dredge a port at the top of the Sea of Cortez could lead to the area filling with sea water. About 1,600 square miles of southern California are below sea level. 50523-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:54 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50524

Thank you for your comment, .

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50524. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 14, 2008 10:54:02PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50524

First Name:
Middle Initial:
Last Name:
Address:
City:
State: CA
Zip:
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record

Comment Submitted:
I think that Green Path is a small gain for the LA community and a large problem in store for the desert communities. There should be other alternatives considered, and other actions taken. 50524-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.