From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov

To: <u>Corridoreisarchives</u>;

CC:

Subject: Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Comment 80030

Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 4:39:43 PM

Attachments:

Thank you for your comment, Michael Peterson.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is 80030. Please refer to the tracking number in all correspondence relating to this comment.

Comment Date: November 23, 2005 04:39:38PM CDT

Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Scoping Comment: 80030

First Name: Michael Middle Initial: F Last Name: Peterson

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:

The language in section 368, ENERGY RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDORS ON FEDERAL LAND states that the agencies...shall consult [with affected utilities] and shall designate... electricity transmission and distribution facilities on federal land. Much of the focus will be on large high voltage electric transmission lines. However, there must be a process to recognize and facilitate the designation of corridors for transmission and distribution facilities owned by small electric utilities - particularly rural electric cooperatives that serve customers across thousands of miles of power lines on federal lands, i.e. BLM, Forest Service, Park Service and National Monuments. Reliable electric service to some rural areas is threatened because of current delays in existing right-of-way requests across

federal land. Moreover, the cost to the ratepayers to pay for environmental work, in some cases on existing easements, can exceed the cost of the upgrade to the powerline.

Rural Electric Cooperatives must have a voice in the "consultation" process to ensure cost effective and reliable service to rural America.

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