



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657



MAR 03 2016

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (910)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project (Project). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Supplemental EIS in consultation with cooperating agencies and according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and Department of the Interior regulations implementing (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 [CEQ], Part 46 [BLM]) to analyze the effects of authorizing construction and operation of the Project on public lands.

The Proponents, Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power, submitted applications for right-of-way (ROW) grants to utilize portions of the National System of Public Lands in southern Idaho to construct, operate, and maintain Segments 8 and 9 of the Gateway West Transmission line. The BLM Idaho State Office is the lead BLM office for this project.

The Draft Supplemental EIS analyzes 7 pairs of possible route combinations for Segments 8 and 9. Each segment spans more than 125 miles between substations at Cedar Hill and Midpoint in south-central Idaho and the Hemingway Substation in western Owyhee County, Idaho. These segments are part of a larger project jointly proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to deliver up to 1,500 megawatts from southern Wyoming through southern Idaho to points west.

The Draft Supplemental EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and a range of alternatives along with the land use plan amendments that would be required if a particular alternative were selected and discusses requirements for compensatory mitigation. The BLM has identified two Co-Preferred Alternatives for purposes of public review and comment. Identification of these alternatives does not represent final agency direction, and we encourage comments on the full suite of alternatives.

The Draft Supplemental EIS is not a decision document. Rather, its purpose is to disclose the impacts associated with implementing the Proponents' proposal as associated with granting ROWs to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission transmission facilities across federal lands, in some cases amending underlying land use plans, and to discuss the mitigation measures required under the various action alternatives.

The BLM will host public meetings in Boise, Twin Falls, Kuna, and Murphy, Idaho, to provide an overview of the Project and take comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS and land use plan amendments. Details about the public meetings will be announced by the BLM at least 15 days in advance through newsletters and local and regional media releases, and will be posted on the Project website, <http://on.doi.gov/1sExPBP>.

The comment period for the Proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project Draft Supplemental EIS will close on **June 9, 2016**.

You may submit written comments by hand delivery, U.S. Postal mail, or e-mail at blm_id_gateway_west@blm.gov. You may also submit comments electronically through the Project website, <http://on.doi.gov/1sExPBP>. Please include "Gateway West Transmission Line Project" in the subject line of your e-mail. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above or containing viruses will be rejected. Written comments will also be accepted at the public meetings.

Written comments may be hand delivered to any of the following BLM offices during normal business hours:

Idaho State Office
Boise District Office

Owyhee Field Office
Twin Falls District Office

Comments submitted by U.S. Postal mail can be sent to:

Project Manager
Gateway West Transmission Line Project Supplemental EIS
Bureau of Land Management
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information with your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

To be most helpful, comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS should be as specific as possible, mentioning particular pages, sections, or chapters. All comments will be reviewed; however, only substantive comments will be utilized during the preparation of the Final Supplemental EIS. For a comment to be substantive, it should:

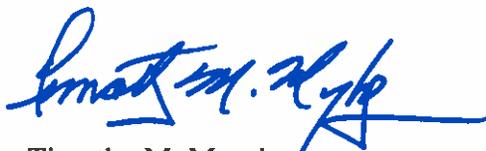
- Provide new information pertaining to the Proposed Action, an alternative, or the analysis;
- Identify a different way to meet the underlying need;

- Point out a specific flaw in the analysis;
- Suggest alternate methodologies that should be used, including reasons why;
- Make factual corrections, or
- Identify a different source of credible research, which, if used in the analysis, could result in different effects.

For additional information, contact Jim Stobaugh, Project Manager, at (775) 861-6478 or jstobaug@blm.gov, or visit the Project website at <http://on.doi.gov/1sExPBP>. The Draft Supplemental EIS is available for review and downloading from the Project website, and copies on compact disc are also available upon request.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this analysis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Murphy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Timothy M. Murphy
State Director

Enclosure