



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument  
669 South Highway 89 A  
Kanab, UT 84741  
<http://www.ut.blm.gov/monument>

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2850 (UT030)

October 14, 2015

Your reference: DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0039-EA

To All Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is soliciting input on a proposed Garkane Energy Cooperative (Garkane) project within the GSENM, and on lands administered by the Kanab Field Office, and the Arizona Strip Field Office in southern Utah, and northern Arizona (Figures 1 and 2). The proposal includes construction of approximately 33 miles of a new H-pole style 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to replace existing single pole 69kV transmission lines between the Buckskin, Kanab, and Fredonia substations. Garkane has submitted an application to amend existing right-of-way authorizations to enable construction, operations, and maintenance of the transmission lines. The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze potential impacts of the proposed project on the natural and human environment.

As the designated electrical energy provider in the region, Garkane is required by the Arizona Corporation Commission Utilities Division and Utah Public Service Commission to provide electrical power that meets established regulatory voltage, quality, and safety standards. The existing 69kV transmission line is the sole source of electricity for Kanab, the Long Valley communities, East Zion, and northern Arizona, including Fredonia, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Results from a study completed in 2010 concluded that the capacity of the existing transmission line will exceed the Western Electricity Coordination Council safe operation criteria in the next five to seven years. The purpose of the project is to meet the current electrical needs and provide capacity for the projected demand of the region. The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the amended right-of-way authorizations.

Garkane Energy proposes to construct a 138 kV transmission line to satisfy regional electrical capacity requirements. The expanded 125-foot-wide right-of-way is needed to allow the existing 69kV transmission line to remain energized and meet adequate clearance requirements while the higher capacity 138kV transmission line is constructed. The new 138 kV transmission line would parallel the

existing 69 kV transmission line operating along the same route authorized under UTU-36238 and AZA-35283. The new 125-foot right-of-way would be offset approximately 75 feet to the south of the existing transmission line. The expanded right-of-way would include up to four temporary staging areas along with construction, conductor pulling and tensioning sites, and equipment turning areas. The new line would be constructed using H-frame poles consisting of non-specular materials and steel-reinforced conductors. (Figure 3. Concept H-Frame Structure Diagram (not to scale)) Insulators made of porcelain, glass, or polymer would be used to suspend the conductors from each structure.

Existing roads would be used to gain access to the right-of-way. Primary access roads would not require improvements. Existing two track roads used to construct and maintain the existing line would be used to travel the right-of-way and access project locations. The existing roads may require maintenance during project operations, such as grading and widening, especially where crossing steep slopes, broken terrain, and drainages.

During construction of the new line, the existing transmission line would remain operational. After the new line is constructed and operational, Garkane would remove the existing 69 kV line and rehabilitate the right-of-way area.

If you are interested in providing us with information, potential issues, or alternatives, please write to Amber Hughes, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, P.O. Box 225 Escalante, UT 84726 on or before November 14, 2015. This project and supporting documents is available on the intranet from the BLM's national register for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do) Comments may also be submitted by email at [blm\\_ut\\_gs\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_gs_comments@blm.gov) (please include "Garkane Buckskin to Kanab/Fredonia EA" in the subject line). You may also fax your comments to 435-826-5650. Those who submit comments will be added to the project mailing list.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment- including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can 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 or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Staszak  
Monument Manager

Enclosures

Figure 1. State Location map

Figure 2. Project Location Map

Figure 3. Concept H-Frame Structure Diagram (not to scale)