

ENERGY GATEWAY SOUTH TRANSMISSION PROJECT

May 2016 – Newsletter 5

This is the fifth in a series of newsletters from the Bureau of Land Management to keep you informed about the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement and Land-Use Plan Amendments.

Final Environmental Impact Statement Available

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming announces the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed Land-Use Plan Amendments (LUPAs) for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project (Project). Issuing the Final EIS and Proposed LUPAs, prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is an opportunity for the public to review the BLM's responses to substantive comments on the Draft EIS and review the revisions to the EIS based on the comments received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS and Proposed LUPAs will be available to the public for a period of 30 days beginning May 13, 2016, with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*, and ending June 13, 2016. While not a formal comment period, the public and agencies can submit comments on the Final EIS. Comments received during the 30-day period will be considered prior to a decision by the federal land-managing agencies (i.e., BLM, U.S. Forest Service [USFS], Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA]). A concurrent Governors' Consistency Review of the proposed federal LUPAs begins May 13 and ends July 11, 2016.



View of Joes Valley, Manti-La Sal National Forest

Following these periods, the BLM, USFS, and BIA will issue separate Records of Decision stating whether or not a right-of-way grant (BLM), special-use authorization (USFS), or encroachment permits and grant of easement (BIA) will be issued.

What is the Project?

The BLM Wyoming is preparing the EIS on a right-of-way application for the transmission line proposed by PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power. The Project is an overhead, 500-kilovolt alternating-current transmission line originating near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, and terminating near Mona in central Utah, a distance of approximately 416 miles.

Through planning studies analyzing the electrical power system, Rocky Mountain Power determined its existing system, last updated about 25 years ago, needs to be upgraded to ensure sufficient capacity and reliable power is available to its customers in the region. When complete, the line would transmit up to 1,500 megawatts of electricity.

What has taken place since the last update?

Adjusted Transmission Line Alignments

In January 2014, the BLM and USFS met with the applicants of the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project (PacifiCorp) and TransWest Express Transmission Project (TransWest Express LLC) to discuss colocating the transmission line alignments. Since the two projects were studying the same or similar corridors, the BLM and USFS requested the two companies to work together to identify transmission line alignments that parallel approximately 250 feet from existing linear facilities and approximately 300 feet from one another. The two companies completed the colocated alignments in Spring 2014.

Based on comments received on the Draft EIS, other localized adjustments to the agency-preferred alternative route were incorporated. The revised alignment along the path of the agency-preferred alternative route was analyzed (displayed on the map) and the results are documented in the Final EIS.





View of Great Divide Basin, Wyoming

government and tribal cultural resources representatives, and in July 2015 the BLM sent a letter to the newly elected Chairperson of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and has provided Project updates to the tribal cultural resources representative. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is the only Indian reservation potentially crossed by the agency-preferred alternative route.

Comments on the Draft EIS

During the 90-day period to review and provide comments on the Draft EIS (February 21 to May 22, 2014), the BLM conducted open house meetings in 12 locations in the Project area; a total of 279 people attended. By the end of the 90-day comment period, the BLM had received a total of 603 comment submittals (that is, letters, emails, comment forms, postcards), of which 427 submittals were a form letter or postcard and 176 were unique comment submittals. In all, the comment submittals yielded 995 substantive comments. The comments and the BLM's responses to the comments are presented in an appendix of the Final EIS.

Biological Assessment

The Biological Assessment was completed and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for review in July 2015. The FWS Biological Opinion was completed in January 2016.

Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement

The final draft of the Programmatic Agreement was completed and is included as an appendix of the Final EIS.

Tribal Consultation

In addition to preparing the Final EIS and efforts in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM continues efforts to engage American Indian tribes through Government-to-Government consultation. A final draft of the Programmatic Agreement was sent to each tribal

Project Schedule

Records of Decision

- BLM Record of Decision Fall 2016
- USFS Record of Decision TBD
- BIA Record of Decision TBD

Construction begins 2018

Project in service 2020-2022

How to access the Final EIS and Proposed LUPAs:

- View and/or download a copy at www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html
- Request a copy on DVD from csmith@epgaz.com
- Review a copy at a BLM or USFS office (see Public Reading Room Locations)

How to comment on the Final EIS and Proposed LUPAs:

- Send written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Energy Gateway South Transmission Project, P.O. Box 21150, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82003
- Email GatewaySouth_WYMail@blm.gov

Comments are due by June 13, 2016

For more information about the Project

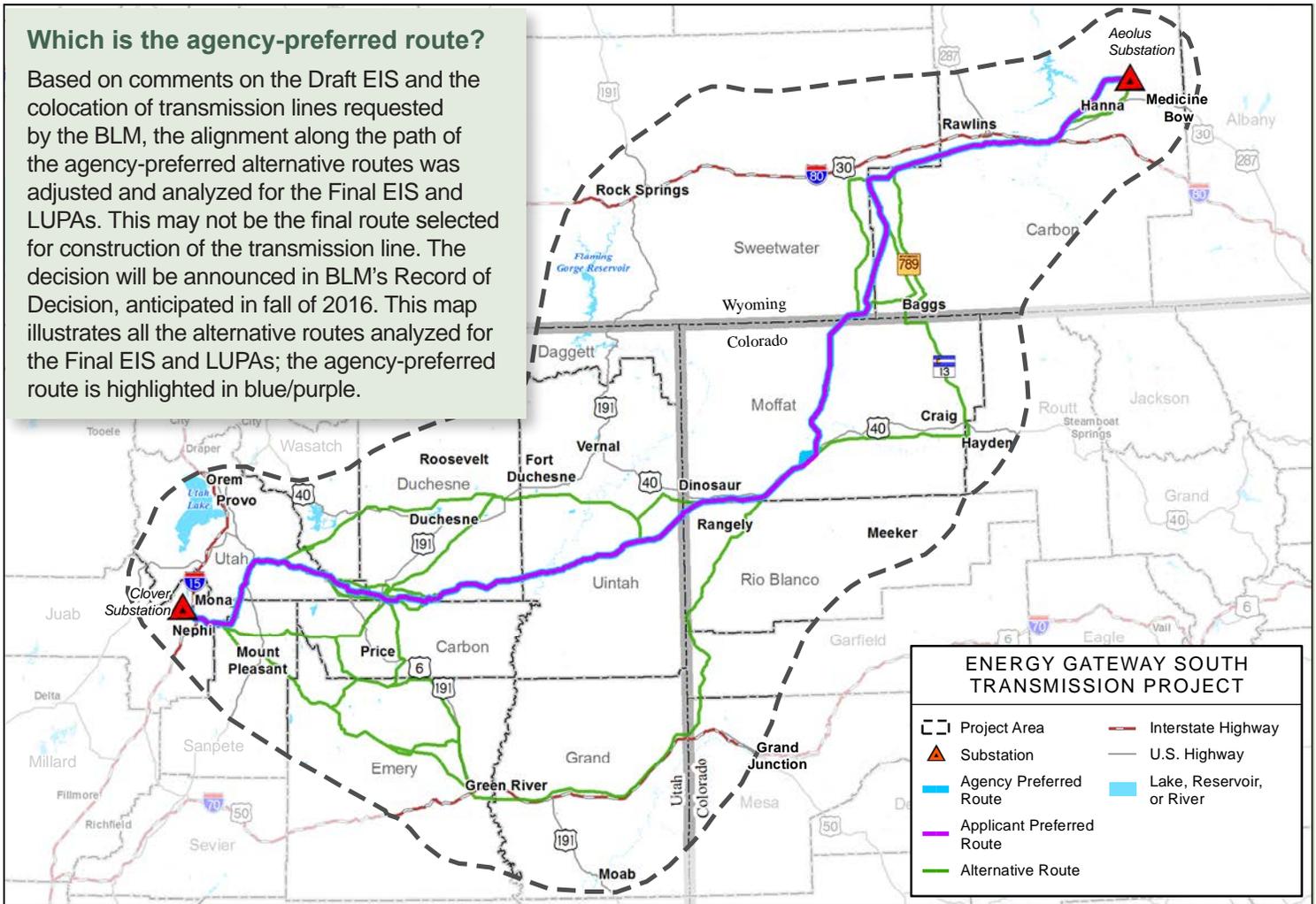
Contact Tamara Gertsch, BLM National Project Manager, at (307) 775-6115 or tgertsch@blm.gov.

Also, visit PacifiCorp's property-search website

at http://gis.paragon-partners.com/FlexMaps/GWS_Website/ to see your property in relation to the locations of the alternative routes.

Which is the agency-preferred route?

Based on comments on the Draft EIS and the collocation of transmission lines requested by the BLM, the alignment along the path of the agency-preferred alternative routes was adjusted and analyzed for the Final EIS and LUPAs. This may not be the final route selected for construction of the transmission line. The decision will be announced in BLM's Record of Decision, anticipated in fall of 2016. This map illustrates all the alternative routes analyzed for the Final EIS and LUPAs; the agency-preferred route is highlighted in blue/purple.



Agencies Participating in the Preparation of the EIS

Lead Agency/Designated Lead State
 Department of the Interior
 • Bureau of Land Management,
 Wyoming State Office

Cooperating Agencies
Federal

- Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service, Intermountain Region
- Department of Defense
 - Army Corps of Engineers
 - Army Environmental Center
 - Navy Region Southwest

Department of the Interior
 • Bureau of Indian Affairs
 • Fish and Wildlife Service
 • National Park Service

Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

States

Wyoming
 Colorado
 Utah

Counties

Carbon County, WY
 Sweetwater County, WY
 Mesa County, CO

Moffat County, CO
 Rio Blanco County, CO
 Carbon County, UT
 Duchesne County, UT
 Emery County, UT
 Grand County, UT
 Juab County, UT
 Sanpete County, UT
 Uintah County, UT
 Wasatch County, UT

Wyoming Conservation Districts

Little Snake River
 Medicine Bow
 Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins
 Sweetwater County





Energy Gateway South Transmission Project
P.O. Box 21150
Cheyenne, WY 82003

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Public Reading Room Locations

Beginning May 13, 2016, the Final EIS and Proposed LUPAs will be available for review between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Wyoming

- BLM Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne
- BLM Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins

Colorado

- BLM Colorado State Office, Lakewood
- BLM Grand Junction Field Office, Grand Junction
- BLM Little Snake Field Office, Craig
- BLM White River Field Office, Meeker

Utah

- BLM Utah State Office, Salt Lake City
- BLM Fillmore Field Office, Fillmore
- BLM Moab Field Office, Moab
- BLM Price Field Office, Price
- BLM Richfield Field Office, Richfield
- BLM Salt Lake Field Office, West Valley City
- BLM Vernal Field Office, Vernal
- Ashley National Forest, Vernal