

TransWest Express Transmission Project Newsletter

July 2013

Issue 4

Western

BLM

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Western Area Power Administration (Western) issued the TransWest Express Transmission Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and draft Land Use Plan (LUP) Amendments. The Draft EIS analyzes the consequences of granting a right-of-way (ROW) to TransWest Express, LLC, for constructing and operating an approximately 725-mile long high voltage (HV), direct current (DC) transmission system.

How to Access the Draft EIS

- View and download a copy at BLM's project website:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html>

- Review a copy at a public library or public reading room, BLM or U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Offices along the project area
- Attend a public meeting (see calendar inside)

Agency Preferred Alternative

As part of the Draft EIS, and in coordination with USFS, state, local and other federal governments and agencies, the BLM has identified an agency preferred alternative for the project. The agency preferred alternative was identified using criteria linked to Council on Environmental Quality criteria for determining significant impacts. The map on page 4 illustrates the agency preferred alternative, routes currently proposed by TransWest Express, and the other alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.

The preferred alternative presented in the Draft EIS is not the BLM final decision. Public comment on the Draft EIS will be considered and the agency preferred

alternative may change before publication of the Final EIS, based on public comment, changes by the project proponents, or additional feedback from cooperating agencies.



Land Use Plan Conformance

BLM is managing proposed amendments to its land use plans concurrently with the Project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Proposed amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) or USFS Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) would be needed when: 1) expanding an existing utility corridor; 2) creating a new utility corridor; or 3) creating a one-time exception through a ROW exclusion area.

Depending on the route alternative, potential plan amendments include the following:

- In Wyoming: A plan amendment affecting the BLM Rawlins RMP
- In Colorado: Plan amendments affecting the BLM Little Snake FO and White River RMPs
- In Utah: Plan amendments affecting the Vernal, Price, and Salt Lake FO RMPs, and the USFS Fishlake National Forest LRMP
- In Nevada: Plan amendments affecting the BLM Caliente FO and BLM Las Vegas FO RMPs



Other federal agency management plans also could be amended depending upon the specifics of the route that is selected in the Record of Decision (ROD). Plan amendments will not be finalized until the final route has been selected.

NEPA Timeline and Opportunities for Public Input

The NEPA process chart to the right shows opportunities to provide comments and to participate in the NEPA process. The publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register marks the beginning of a 90-day comment period, which ends September 30, 2013.

About the Proposed Project

The TransWest Express Transmission Project would provide transmission infrastructure and capacity to deliver approximately 3,000 megawatts (MW) of electric power from renewable and other energy resources in south-central Wyoming to a substation hub in southern Nevada. The proposed Project would consist of an approximately 725-mile-long, 600-kilovolt (kV), DC transmission line, a northern terminal located near Sinclair, Wyoming, and a southern terminal approximately 25 miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada. A ground electrode system (required for transmission line emergency shutdown) would be installed within 100 miles of each terminal.

The BLM and Western are joint-lead agencies preparing the EIS. The proposed transmission line (and alternatives) would cross Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, and encompass lands owned or administered by the BLM, USFS, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, various state agencies, Native American tribes, municipalities, and private parties. The BLM and Western have included the government entities as cooperating agencies in this EIS process.

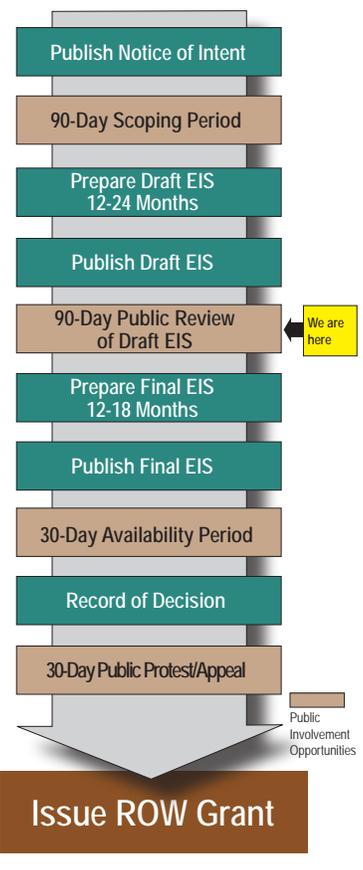
How to provide comments on the Draft EIS:

- Mail comment form or letters to TransWest Express Project, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 20678, Cheyenne, WY 82003; or
- Email to: TransWest_WYMail@blm.gov; or
- Through comment forms or letters, or oral testimony provided at a public meeting/hearing (see schedule on page 3).

Public comments, including names and addresses of respondents will be available for review and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. All comment submissions must include the commenter's name and street address. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in

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

Environmental Impact Statement Process (NEPA Process)



All public comments are due by September 30, 2013.

The BLM and Western will host a series of 13 public meetings/hearings throughout the project area to provide information on the project and the Draft EIS. Each meeting will contain informational displays about the EIS process and schedule, project locational maps, impacts to resources, potential land use plan amendments, and will provide a station for people to provide written and oral comments on the Draft EIS. Attendees will have the opportunity to have their verbal comments transcribed by a court reporter for the public record.



Hints for More Effective Public Commenting

- Comments should be structured so that they alert the agencies to a reviewer’s position and contentions.
- The most helpful comments are those that identify:
 - 1) an error in analysis that may affect the outcome;
 - 2) new information that would change analysis and conclusions;
 - 3) something that should be clarified; or
 - 4) a substantially different alternative that meets the purpose and need statement and has not been considered.
- Comments are most effective when they are as specific as possible; contain references to page numbers and sections of the document where applicable; and are backed with explanations, facts, and references, as appropriate.

Join Us

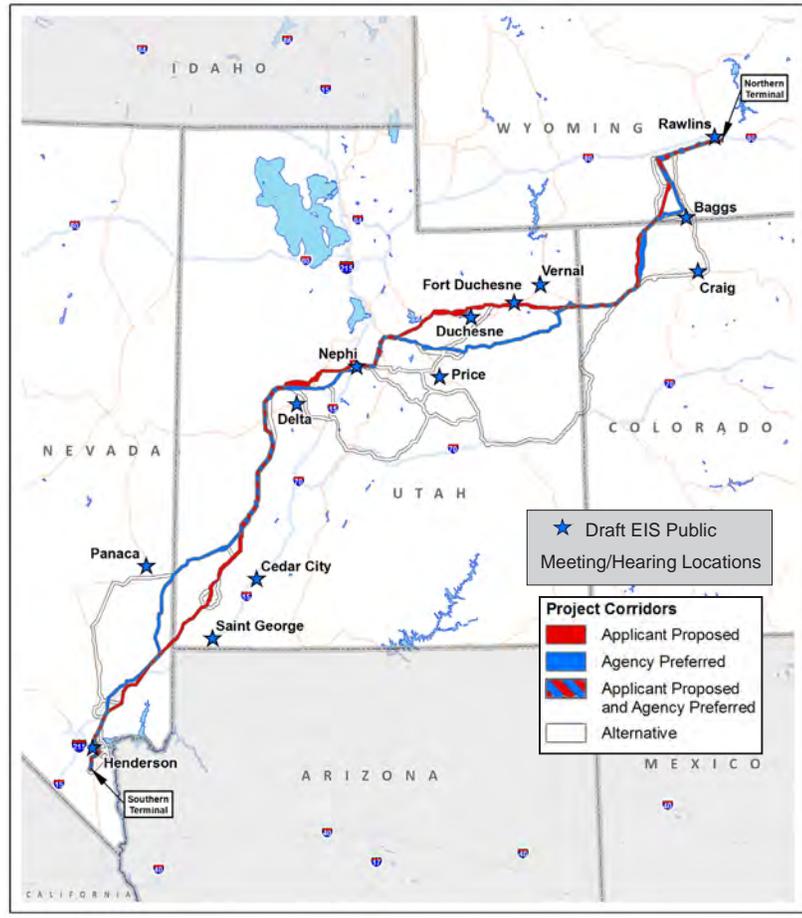
Calendar of Draft EIS Public Meetings/Hearings

The meetings will be held from **4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the following dates in August and September 2013:**

DATE	CITY	ADDRESS
Wed, Aug 14	Rawlins, WY	Jeffrey Center • 315 West Pine St.
Thurs, Aug 15	Baggs, WY	Valley Community Center • 255 West Osborne
Fri, Aug 16	Craig, CO	Colorado NW Community College • 2801 West 9th St.
Tues, Aug 20	Nephi, UT	Juab County Courthouse, Cultural Hall • 160 North Main
Wed, Aug 21	Delta, UT	Millard School District Office • 285 East 450 North
Mon, Aug 26	Ft. Duchesne, UT	Tribal Auditorium • 1400 South 7002 East
Tues, Aug 27	Vernal, UT	Western Park Convention Center • 302 East 200 South
Wed, Aug 28	Duchesne, UT	Duchesne High School • 155 West Main St.
Thurs, Aug 29	Price, UT	Carbon County Event Center • 310 S. Fairgrounds Rd.
Tues, Sept 3	Henderson, NV	Heritage Park Senior Facility • 300 S. Racetrack Rd.
Wed, Sept 4	Panaca, NV	Neldon C. Matthews Auditorium • 1028 Edwards St.
Thurs, Sept 5	Cedar City, UT	Cedar City Middle School • 2215 Royal Hunte Dr.
Fri, Sept 6	St. George, UT	Dixie State University, Zion Room • 225 South 700 East

In this issue:

Information about the release of the Draft EIS, the agency preferred alternative, and opportunities for public input, including public meetings/hearings.



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