SECTION 368 ENERGY CORRIDORS

Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Amendments

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are Section 368 Energy Corridors?

Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate energy corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal land in the 11 contiguous western states as preferred locations for energy transportation projects. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) prepared the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, and each agency signed a record of decision (ROD) in 2009, amending 92 BLM land use plans and designating approximately 5,000 miles of Section 368 energy corridors on

BLM-administered lands consistent with the requirements of the EPAct. These designated corridors cross BLM-managed public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Why is the BLM undertaking an action to change Section 368 Energy Corridors?

In 2009, the decision was challenged in federal court. As part of a settlement agreement to resolve the challenge, the BLM, together with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Energy, established a regional review of the Section 368 energy corridors. The regional review led the Agencies to evaluate the Section 368 energy corridors using new relevant

information and public input and considering siting principles identified in the settlement agreement. The Section 368 Energy Corridors Regional Review Final Report was published in 2022 and identifies potential revisions, deletions, and additions to the Section 368 energy corridors, providing recommendations for the BLM to consider in future land use planning. The BLM found and reported in the Final Report that portions of these corridors do not meet demand from new energy sources, including wind and solar; that the presence of sensitive resources have inhibited Section 368 energy corridors from being used as intended; and that physical pinch points present limitations on potential future development. The regional review did not change the designation of Section 368 energy corridors.







Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Amendments Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BLM proposing to do? What is the proposed action?

Through this RMPA/EIS planning process, the BLM will evaluate modifying (revising, deleting, or adding to) seven designated Section 368 energy corridors through proposed amendments to 19 BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in seven states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). The proposed amendments could modify existing allocations, designations, objectives, and management direction. This planning effort prioritizes recommendations for corridors where changes to the corridors require multi-state coordination to be implemented efficiently and effectively, rather than considering planning amendments for all of the corridor recommendations identified in the Regional Review Final Report.

Are there any cooperating agencies?

The BLM is the lead agency for the NEPA analysis associated with this planning effort. The BLM has invited other Federal, State and local government agencies, and Tribes to be cooperating agencies. Stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the revision are invited to participate in the scoping process.

How can the public get involved?

The BLM requests the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, issues and planning criteria, potential alternatives, and identification of relevant information by **February 2, 2024**. In addition to four in-person open houses, two virtual public meetings will be held on **January 10 and January 18, 2024**. Sign up is available through the project website.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Web: eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022227/510

This is the preferred method of commenting.

Email: corridors@anl.gov

Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Section 368 Corridors Crystal Hoyt 280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, WY 82901-3447

Use the QR code below to view the project website, sign up for virtual scoping meetings, and comment directly on the Environmental Impact Statement.



For additional background information on Section 368 energy corridors, the Regional Review, access to the West-wide Energy Corridor Mapping Tool, or to subscribe to receive updates and announcements, please visit www.corridoreis.anl.gov.





