

Appendix K Tribal Consultation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Road
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
2800 (93200)
NM-114438

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Honorable (name of tribal leader):

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, wishes to initiate consultation with the (XXXX name of tribe XXXXX) regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Line Project. SunZia Transmission LLC has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain transmission line facilities across portions of southern New Mexico and Arizona. Counties in Arizona affected by the proposal include Pinal, Pima, Graham, and Cochise. Counties in New Mexico affected by the proposal include Hidalgo, Grant, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra, Socorro, and Lincoln.

The BLM is preparing the EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from SunZia's proposal to construct and operate up to two, paralleling overhead 500 kilovolt transmission lines. The proposed transmission line route would be approximately 460 miles in length and located on Federal lands, State lands, and private lands. The purpose of the proposed project is to transport electricity generated by power generation resources, including primarily renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. The EIS will form the basis for the BLM's decision on the issuance of the requested right-of-way by SunZia. The right-of-way designation will only affect public lands administered by the BLM. Information on the project, including a map and a comment form is enclosed.

This project is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2), BLM will serve as the lead agency for the purposes of Section 106 review. We are inviting you to comment on the proposed action in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act to ensure that any concerns you may have about the proposed project are fully considered.

Cultural resources are among the important environmental resources that will be addressed during the planning and the preparation of the EIS for the proposed project. We want to ensure that any important cultural and natural resources and/or places with traditional cultural significance for your Tribe within the project area are considered and addressed in the NEPA and Section 106 reviews. We hope that you will let us know, in particular, if there are any resources or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to members of your tribe that might be affected by the proposed action. In our capacity to consult in a government-to-government

manner, we are soliciting input from tribes regarding cultural concerns about this project. If there are any traditional cultural or religious leaders you feel we should consult, please provide us with their names, addresses and telephone numbers so that we can contact them directly.

A Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the SunZia project is being developed to facilitate compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. If you would like to be a concurring party to this PA or assist in its development, please let us know. If the project area or scope is beyond areas that concern your tribe and you do not wish to receive further information on the project, please let us know. As this project progresses, unless you inform the BLM that you do not want to be involved or kept informed, we will continue to keep your tribe informed.

In addition to the consultation process, we would also like to invite you to participate as a Cooperating Agency. BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as Cooperating Agencies during the planning process if they can bring special expertise or have jurisdiction by law. Your involvement would help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM public lands, including management actions needed to achieve our goal of stewardship of the land.

The BLM will host nine scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the SunZia Transmission Line Project and to share any comments or concerns. The scoping meetings will be in an open house format to allow the public to visit with BLM and SunZia representatives. The scoping meetings are scheduled from 5:00 – 8:00 pm each evening at the following locations. These scoping meetings are designed to facilitate public participation during the EIS process and tribal officials and members are invited to attend. However, to further facilitate tribal participation and government-to-government consultation responsibilities, arrangements can be made for a presentation to the (XXXX name of tribe XXXX) about the Sun Zia project, or a meeting can be arranged to discuss potential cultural concerns.

<u>Arizona Communities</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Eloy	June 22, 2009	Santa Cruz Valley Union High School Cafeteria, 900 North Main Street
Oracle	June 23, 2009	Oracle Community Center 685 American Avenue
Safford	June 24, 2009	Manor House Convention Center 415 East Highway 70
Willcox	June 29, 2009	Valley Telephone Company Conference Room, 752 East Maley
<u>New Mexico Communities</u>		
Lordsburg	June 30, 2009	Special Events Center 504 2nd Street
Deming	July 1, 2009	Mimbres Valley Special Events Center 2300 East Pine Street
Socorro	July 7, 2009	NM Mining Institute and Technology Fidel Center Atrium, 801 Leroy Place
Carrizozo	July 8, 2009	Carrizozo Municipal Schools 800 D Avenue
Elephant Butte	July 9, 2009	Elephant Butte Inn, 401 Highway 195

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. We look forward to hearing from you and would like to have your representative(s) on our planning team as a Cooperating Agency. If you elect not to become a Cooperating Agency, we would still like meet with you during the planning process to update you on our progress and to ask for your input through consultation.

If you have any questions, require any additional information or to arrange a presentation or a meeting, please contact Jane Childress at the address above, by phone (575) 525-4324 or by email at jane_childress@blm.gov.

William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

Enclosures

TRIBAL LIST FOR SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Benjamin Nuvamsa, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
The Hopi Tribe
1 Main Street
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039
cc. letter with complete package to:
Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Historic Preservation Office
Same address as above

Wendsler Nosie, Sr., Chairman
The San Carlos Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 0
San Carlos, Arizona 85550
cc. letter with complete package to:
Vernelda Grant, Historic Preservation
Same address as above

Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairperson
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, Arizona 85634
cc. letter with complete package to: Peter Steere, Historic Preservation
Same address as above

Ms. Joni M. Ramos, President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
10005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256
cc. letter with complete package to:
Dezbah Hatathli
Same address as above

Mr. William R. Rhodes, Governor
The Gila River Indian Community
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, Arizona 85247
cc. letter with complete package to:
Barnaby Lewis
Same address as above

Terry Enos, Chairman
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 West Peters & Nail Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85239
cc. letter with complete package to:
Nancy Wilson
Same address as above

Ronnie Lupe, Chairman
White Mountain Apache
P.O. Box 700
Whiteriver, Arizona 85941
cc. letter with complete package to:
Mark Altaha
P.O. Box 507
Whiteriver, Arizona 85941

Mr. Ivan Smith, Chairman
Tonto Apache Tribe
Tonto Apache Reservation #30
Payson, AZ 85541

Mr. Thomas Beauty, Chairman
Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 W Datsi
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
cc. letter with complete package to:
Rebecca Smith, Director of Apache Cultural Program
Same address as above

Katherine Marquez, Director
Yavapai Cultural Program
PO Box 1143
Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Mr. Peter Yucupicio, Chairman
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
7474 S. Camino de Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85746
cc. letter with complete package to:
Amalia Reyes, Language & Cultural Preservation Specialist, Education Department
Same address as above

Wallace Coffey, Chairman
Comanche Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, Oklahoma 73502
cc. letter with completed package to:
Mr. Jimmy Arterberry
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Same address as above

Jeff Houser, Chairman
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Route 2, Box 121
Apache, Oklahoma 73006
cc. letter with complete package to:
Michael Darrow, Historic Preservation
Same address as above

Billy Evans Horse, Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015

Wallace Bitsedy, Tribal Administrator
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005

Frank Paiz, Governor
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
119 S. Old Pueblo Road
P.O. Box 17579 Ysleta Station
El Paso, Texas 79917
cc. letter with complete package to:
Rick Quezada, Historic Preservation
same address as above

Carleton Naiche-Palmer, President
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340
cc. letter with complete package to:
Holly Houghten, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
same address as above

Robert Benavides, Governor
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta, New Mexico 87022
cc. letter with complete package to:
Ben Lucero, Historic Preservation
1621 A SR 314
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Joe Shirley, Jr., President
The Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock , AZ 86515
cc. letter with complete package to:
Dr. Alan S. Downer
P.O.Box 4950
Historic Preservation Dept.
Navajo Nation Inn Office Complex
Navajo Blvd., W008-247
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Scott Apachito, President
c/o Denise Ganadonegro, Community Services Coordinator
Alamo Chapter, Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 827
Magdalena, NM 87825

Chandler Sanchez, Governor
Pueblo of Acoma
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034

John Antonio, Sr., Governor
Pueblo of Laguna
P.O. Box 194
Laguna Pueblo, NM 87026

Norman Coeeyate, Governor
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327
cc. letter with complete package to:
Kurt Dongoske, Acting Director
Zuni Heritage and Historic Preservation

PO Box 1149
Zuni Pueblo, NM 87327