MONA TO OQUIRRH TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR PROJECT

January 2011 - Newsletter No. 5

BLM

This is the fifth and final newsletter regarding the Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Approved Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project located in Juab, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Utah counties. The BLM Utah State Director signed the ROD on February 4, 2011, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved Pony Express RMP Amendment effective immediately. This decision concludes the permit application approval efforts on the BLM's behalf. Rocky Mountain Power has also obtained the other federal, state, county, and city approvals required to initiate construction.

RECORD OF DECISION

After extensive environmental analysis, consideration of public comments, and application of pertinent federal laws and policies, it is the decision of the BLM to issue a right-of-way grant to Rocky Mountain Power for the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 35 miles of single-circuit 500 kilovolt (kV) and 0.25 mile of double-circuit 345kV transmission line; one new 500/345/138kV substation, ancillary facilities, and access roads for the construction of the project across public lands administered by the BLM West Desert District; and to amend the Pony Express RMP. The right-of-way grant will authorize the use of public lands for the project for a term of 30 years, which is subject to renewal. The Approved Pony Express RMP Amendment allows for the issuance of a major right-of-way outside of a designated corridor on public lands administered by the BLM Salt Lake Field Office in Salt Lake, Tooele, and Utah counties.

After publication of the Final EIS/Proposed Pony Express RMP Amendment in April 2010, 14 protests on the Proposed Pony Express RMP Amendment were received during the 30-day protest period (initiated April 26, 2010, and completed on May 25th, 2010). Each of the 14 protests were either dismissed or denied by the BLM Director.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS LEADING TO DECISION

- May 15, 2009 - The BLM and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) each published an Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DEIS
- May 15, 2009 to August 12, 2009 - 90-day public comment period and 3 public meetings held
- April 23, 2010 - The BLM published an NOA of the Final EIS/Proposed Pony Express RMP Amendment in the Federal Register
- April 26, 2010 - The EPA published an NOA in the Federal Register
- April 26, 2010 to May 25, 2010 - 30-day protest period
- April 28, 2010 to June 28, 2010 - 60-day Governor's Consistency Review

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Right-of-way Acquisition: Fall 2009 - ongoing
- Construction: March 2011 - June 2013

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Cindy Ledbetter of the BLM Salt Lake Field Office at (801) 977-4300, Clara Stevens of the Fillmore Field Office at (435) 743-3100, email UT_M2O_EIS@blm.gov, or visit the project website http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake/planning/mona_to_oquirrh_transmission.html.

Copies of the ROD/Approved Pony Express RMP Amendment are available for public inspection at the Salt Lake Field Office, BLM, 2370 S. 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT, and the Fillmore Field Office, BLM, 95 East 500 North, Fillmore, UT, or via the project website.

IMPORTANT PROJECT INFORMATION FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

BLM Salt Lake Field Office
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ATTN: Cindy Ledbetter

Important Project Information For Your Community