

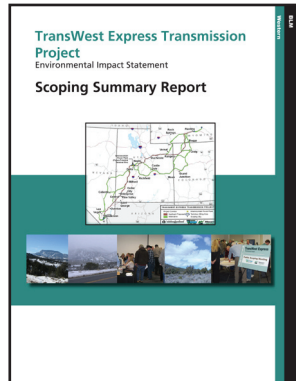
# TRANSWEST EXPRESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

September 2011

This issue of the TransWest Express Transmission Project (TWE Project) newsletter provides an update to project activities and the next steps in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The TWE Project would be an approximately 725-mile-long, 600-kilovolt direct current transmission line from south-central Wyoming to southern Nevada. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Western Area Power Administration (Western) are joint-lead agencies preparing the EIS.

## Public scoping completed

The BLM and Western have completed the scoping process for the TWE Project EIS. The Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2011 notifying the public of the joint-lead agencies' intent to prepare an EIS. BLM and Western hosted 23 public scoping meetings throughout the project area in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada during the 90-day public scoping period. A total of 622 comment submittals containing 2,319 individual comments were received during the scoping period.



Information acquired during the scoping period assists the joint-lead agencies in identifying the potential environmental issues, alternative corridors, and mitigation associated with developing the proposed TWE Project. Scoping comments were compiled and categorized geographically by issue and resource.

After evaluating the comments, several key issues emerged. The following issues are general topics that represent the public's major concerns about developing the TWE Project.

- Concerns about corridor alternatives were related to avoidance of sensitive resources, public health and safety, and impacts to property values.
- Concerns over potential private and public land use conflicts including landowner property, state lands, and federal special designated lands.
- Concerns about impacts to the Greater sage-grouse, desert tortoise, other special status species, bird collisions as well as impacts to big game.
- Public health and safety concerns such as the effects of electromagnetic fields on humans, increased traffic during construction, and co-location near existing gas lines.

The TWE Scoping Summary report provides more detail about the scoping process and the comments received. The document is now available on the BLM

project website at [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/hdd/transwest.htm](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/hdd/transwest.htm) and on Western's project website at [ww2.wapa.gov/sites/western/recovery/Pages/TWE.aspx](http://ww2.wapa.gov/sites/western/recovery/Pages/TWE.aspx). The document also can be viewed at your local library.

Carbon County Library  
215 W. Buffalo Street  
Rawlins, WY 82301

Carbon County Libraries  
105 2nd Street  
Baggs, WY 82321

Rangely Regional Library  
109 E. Main Street  
Rangely, CO 81648

Grand County Library  
257 E. Center  
Moab, UT 84532

Duchesne County Library  
130 S. Center St., Suite A  
Duchesne, UT 84021

Nephi Public Library  
21 E. 100 North Street  
Nephi, UT 84648

Richfield Public Library  
83 E. Center Street  
Richfield, UT 84701

Cedar City Public Library  
303 N. 100 East  
Cedar City, UT 84720

Washington County Library  
50 S. Main  
St. George, UT 84770

Moapa Town Library  
1340 E. Highway 168  
Moapa, NV 89025

Summerlin Library  
1771 Inner Circle Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Moffat County Library  
570 Green Street  
Craig, CO 81625

Rock Springs Library  
400 C Street  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Uintah County Library  
155 E. Main  
Vernal, UT 84078

Mesa County Library  
530 Grand Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Delta City Library  
76 N. 200 West  
Delta, UT 84624

Emery County Library  
145 N. 1st East  
Castle Dale, UT 84513

Washington County Library  
393 S. 200 East  
Enterprise, UT 84725

Milford Public Library  
400 S. 100 West  
Milford, UT 84751

Green Valley Library  
2797 Green Valley Pkwy.  
Henderson, NV 89014

Lincoln County Library  
100 Deport Ave.  
Caliente, NV 89008

## Next steps

### Alternatives for EIS analysis

Based on public comments and consultation with the cooperating agencies, the BLM and Western are refining the alternative corridors to be analyzed in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS must consider a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the applicant's purpose and need. Environmental impacts of constructing, operating, and maintaining the project within the proposed corridor and the alternative corridors will be analyzed, compared, and presented in the Draft EIS.

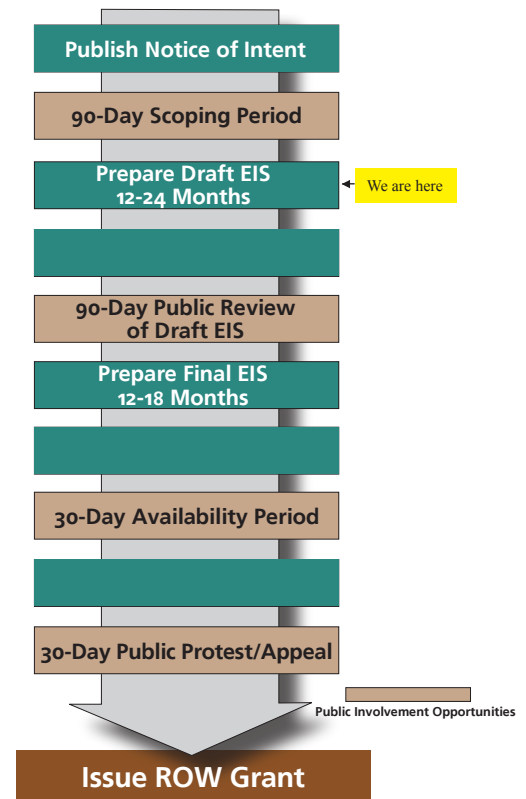
**BLM and Forest Service plan amendments**

The BLM and Western are currently identifying the BLM and Forest Service plan amendments that will be required for the TWE Project. The plan amendment NEPA process will occur concurrently with the Project NEPA process. The plan amendments will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and regulations, policies and guidelines of the agencies requiring the plan amendments. Potential plan amendments will be identified in the Draft EIS, but will not be finalized until the final route has been selected.

**Preparation of the Draft EIS**

BLM and Western are currently collecting data for each resource that could potentially be affected in the project area. This information will be used to prepare the affected environment section of the Draft EIS. In coordination with the cooperating agencies, BLM and Western will assess the impacts that the project could have on each resource and apply measures to mitigate the impacts. The process will be documented and impacts disclosed in the Draft EIS and plan amendments, which will take from 12 to 24 months. The Draft EIS and plan amendments will be published and available for a 90-day public review period. The NEPA process chart to the right shows opportunities to provide comments and to participate in the NEPA process. You are encouraged to participate and comment on the Draft EIS during the 90-day public review period, which will take place approximately 12 to 24 months from now.

**Environmental Impact Statement Process (NEPA Process)**



Bureau of Land Management

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