

BLM Information Quality Act Request
Norman M. Meader
November 15, 2012 Follow-up to August 20, 2012 Request

c.i. *Statement seeking correction of information not complying with guidelines:*

The BLM omitted the Southwestern Power Group's own need for proposing SunZia from both from its publicity materials for the project and the SunZia Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM has not informed the public of these reasons in any of its materials for the project, as required. I request a public acknowledgment by the BLM of this purpose. It may be too late now to avoid litigation by doing this, however.

c.ii. *Name and contact information:*

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c.iii. *A description of information that does not comply with guidelines:*

The BLM has not acknowledged and stated what the SunZia Project proponent's motives and need are for proposing SunZia. The BLM has instead portrayed SunZia as a nearly pure renewable energy project, something the BLM continues to do. While the federal government believes that SunZia will provide for development of renewable energy and wants to encourage this and while the project may help with this, the BLM has not honored the SouthWestern Power Group's own need and purpose for this project. This purpose has not been communicated to the public, merely an idealized purpose proposed by the federal government.

The SouthWestern Power Group (SWPG) proposed SunZia specifically to provide another market avenue for its proposed and permitted Bowie, Arizona, 1000-MW natural gas-fired power plant. Permitted in 2002, this project has not been built because of restricted markets and limited transmission capacity. When the Southwest Area Transmission Planning Group (SWAT) proposed routes from central New Mexico to Arizona to deliver wind-generated electricity to more westerly states, SWPG noticed that one of the routes passed through its power plant, and SWPG took advantage of this to serve its own interests. SWPG fully vetted its plan to serve the Bowie plant with SunZia before SWAT, openly stating its intentions. SWAT approved of this purpose, noting that additional capacity could be used for renewable energy development. Although the project was later lengthened and expanded, the Bowie power plant has remained a central feature of SunZia, and the only planned substation connection in Arizona is for this power plant.

c.iv. *Statement of how complainant is affected by challenged information:*

The public has been misled about how this project will be used. This misportrayal has generated support and a justification for the project based upon a highly idealized purpose without an acknowledgment of the project proponent's own need and desire. The federal government has championed this purpose – development of renewable energy – without honoring the project proponent's own reasons for proposing the project. The project proponent has deliberately hidden its motives from the federal government and the public, leading them to support and evaluate the project for entirely other reasons. The BLM has consequently not fully and honestly portrayed the project in public materials or in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This has most importantly misled public officials, legislators, and Obama administration policy makers to support the project and advocate for its construction without understanding how it may actually be used.