



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240-0036
<http://www.blm.gov>



JAN 06 2012

Mr. William Dunn, Chairman
Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 68
Mammoth, AZ 85618

Mr. Andrew Smallhouse, Chairman
P.O. Box 585
San Manuel, AZ 85631

Subject: Appeal of Decision Concerning Correction of Information Contained in the Scoping Documents for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Dunn and Mr. Smallhouse:

This letter is in response to your September 6, 2011 appeal for correction of information under the Information Quality Act (IQA). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) brought together a team of experts in the Information Quality to consider this appeal. The team consisted of members from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior (DOI), and the BLM Program personnel. The BLM also conferred with DOI's Office of the Solicitor. Your request for correction of information will be addressed in the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental impact statement (EIS) public comment processes pursuant to the DOI Information Quality Guidelines:

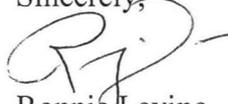
The Department conducts a substantial amount of business through processes which involve a structured opportunity for public review and comment on proposed documents prior to their issuance in final form. These activities include but are not limited to, rulemakings and analyses conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In these instances, requests made under these Information Quality Guidelines for corrections of information in draft documents will be treated as a comment on the draft document and the response will be included in the final document. In the cases where a request pertains to a final document under the timetable for the foundation document (unless it would be more timely and efficient to conduct a separate review and conclusion), the Department's disseminating bureau of office and the NISC will first determine whether the request pertains to an issue discussed in the draft document upon which the requester could have commented. If the bureau or office determines that the requester had the opportunity to comment on the issue at the draft stage

and failed to do so, it may consider the request to have no merit. If information which did not appear in the draft document is the subject of a request for correction, the bureau will consider that request. If the bureau determines that the information does not comply with the guidelines issued by the Department, bureau, office, or OMB, such that the non-compliance with the guidelines presents significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts, the bureau will use existing mechanisms to remedy the situation, such as reproposing a rule or supplementing a NEPA analysis.

The BLM New Mexico State Office has reported that they are aware of your specific concerns and is in direct communication with you to ensure that your concerns are addressed via the ongoing public comment processes. Prior to reaching a final decision on the pending right-of-way application, analysis of this matter will be publicly reviewed via a draft and final EIS.

If you have any further questions regarding the IQA appeal and process, please contact Paulette L. Sanford at psanford@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Levine", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ronnie Levine

Assistant Director, Information Resources Management