

January 5, 2017
Letters to the editor
Santa Fe New Mexican

Verde comments

The Bureau of Land Management appreciates *The New Mexican* reminding people of their initial opportunity to provide input about the proposed Verde Transmission Line project (“Comment on Verde before it’s too late,” Our View, Jan. 2). We’d like, however, to elaborate on the headline that stated, “... before it’s too late.” Let us explain.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires the Bureau of Land Management to involve the public in its environmental review process and to disclose the potential impacts of projects such as the Verde Transmission Line before project decisions are made. We are now in the first phase of the National Environmental Policy Act process, that of public scoping. Although Thursday, Jan. 5, is the end of the scoping period for the proposed project, there will be additional opportunities for the public to provide input as we proceed with our analysis.

The Bureau of Land Management has not and will not reach a final decision on issuing a right-of-way for the transmission line until we have thoroughly evaluated and analyzed the proposal and developed a range of reasonable alternatives, including a no-action alternative. We look forward to continued public input and participation as we proceed through the process.

Sarah Schlanger
Bureau of Land Management
Taos