



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, Colorado 81323



In Reply Refer to:  
COC- 75969  
COS01000

April 23, 2014

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE: May 28, 2014

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office is accepting comments on a proposal to allow La Plata Electric Association to construct and operate an advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) tower and associated equipment on BLM land in Archuleta County. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as a property owner within the project area or you may have an interest in the associated activities.

Subsequent to this external scoping period, BLM would prepare an Environmental Assessment to analyze the proposed action and alternatives to that action:

**What:** Chromo Mountain Communication Site

**Where:** The legal location of the project area is Township 32 North, Range 1 East, Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 5 in Archuleta County, Colorado (please see the attached maps). The project area is located northwest of Chromo on Chromo Mountain. The project area would be accessed from Highway 84 via existing roads including Coyote Park Road, Archuleta County Road 359, and Bull Elk Place. From Bull Elk Place, access would continue along an unnamed gravel road (approximately 967 feet long) to a water storage tank. From the water storage tank, access would continue along a trail (for approximately 224 feet) and then along a dirt surface two-track road (for approximately 729 feet).

**Disturbance:** The project can be broken down into two components, (1) site access and underground electric utility line, and (2) the AMI tower and associated equipment. Disturbance for each component is as follows:

(1) Access and Underground electric utility line: A new underground electric utility line would be installed within and adjacent to the access routes from Bull Elk Place to provide power to the AMI tower location. The access and utility line would be approximately 1,930 feet long located within a 20-foot-wide right-of-way for a total disturbance of 0.9 acre. Of this area, 0.8 acre is existing disturbance (gravel and two-track road) that would be returned to its existing condition after installation of the underground utility line. New surface disturbance resulting from the utility line and access would occur along the trail portion of the access and include approximately 0.1 acre of new disturbance.

(2) AMI tower and associated equipment: Permanent disturbance would include

approximately 317 square feet, consisting of the AMI Tower foundation (footprint of approximately 15.5 feet by 15.5 feet) and a small equipment building placed near the base of the tower (footprint of approximately 11 feet by 7 feet). During construction, a temporary use area would be utilized adjacent to the AMI Site (2,183 square feet). The temporary use area would be reclaimed at the end of construction. The AMI Tower would be approximately 60 feet tall.

**When:** The construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2014 and would be completed by late fall 2014. Construction would take about 45 days.

BLM's purpose and need for this action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA to respond to a request for a Right-of-Way Grant for legal access to increase the efficiency and reliability of the electric distribution system by enabling customers. The AMI system would also allow LPEA greater control on its line reclosers, thereby reducing the potential to ignite a forest fire. In addition, Archuleta County Emergency Services may install an additional antenna on the tower to improve emergency communications in the area.

This letter also requests your comments, if any, on the potential effects to historic properties. This request is made to satisfy consultation requirements with local governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Comments regarding the project should be submitted via email or hard copy by May 28, 2014 to:

BLM Tres Rios Field Office  
Attn: Jennifer Jardine  
15 Burnett Court  
Durango, CO 81301  
or [jjardine@blm.gov](mailto:jjardine@blm.gov)

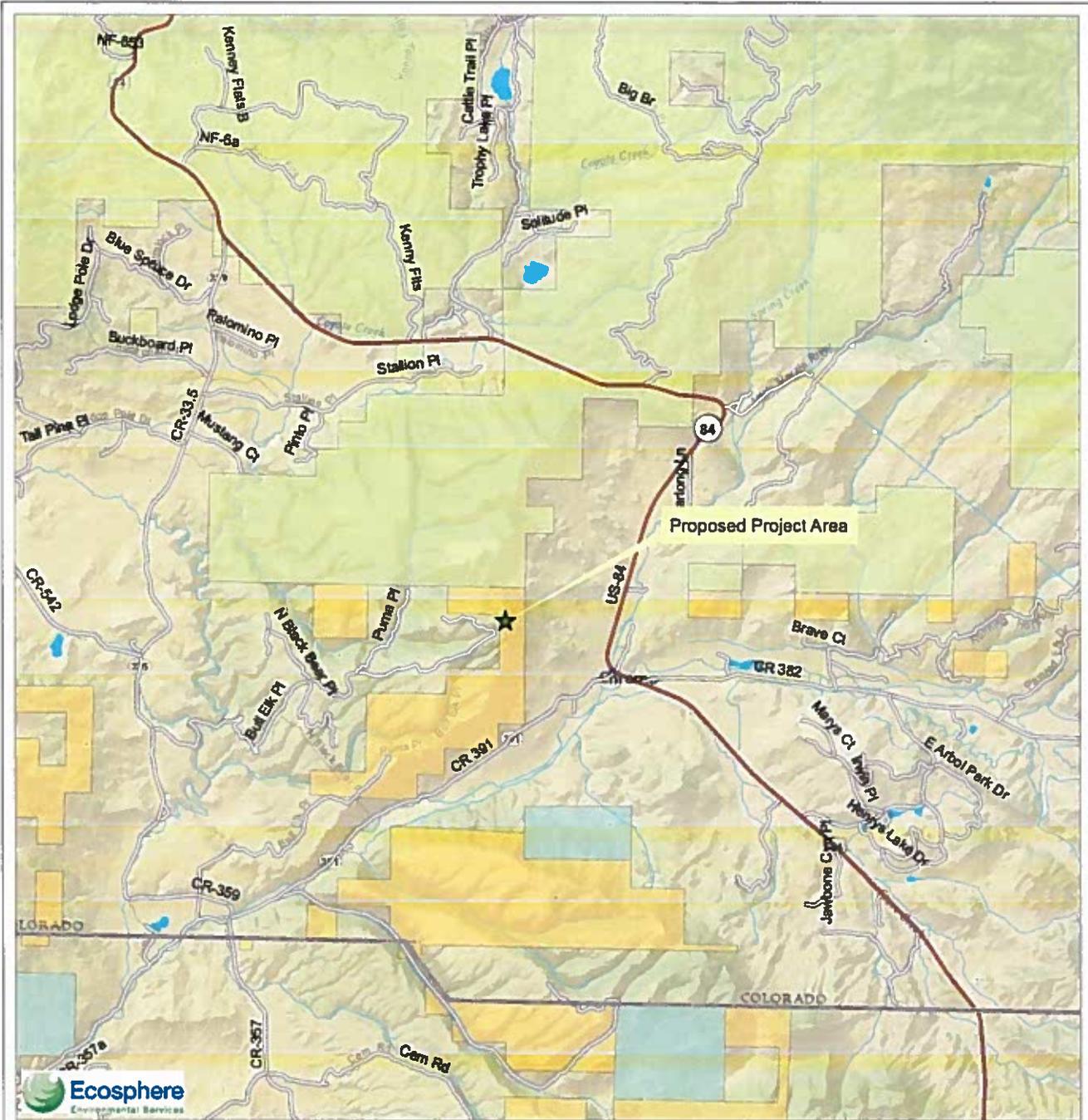
If you have questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please contact Jennifer Jardine, BLM Realty Specialist, at (970) 385-1224. Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure. However, individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Connie Clementson  
Field Manager

Enclosure – maps (2)



**Ecosphere**  
Environmental Services



- Legend**
- ★ Proposed AMI Location
  - State
  - State highway
  - ~ Streets
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Private
  - State
  - US Forest Service



1:75,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

**La Plata Electric Association**  
**Chromo Mountain AMI**

**Vicinity Map**

Archuleta County, CO  
Township 32N, Range 1E, Section 5  
7.5-min USGS Quadrangle: Chromo, CO  
Date: 3/25/2014



- Legend**
- Water Tank
  - Facilities Site
  - Proposed AMI Location
  - BLM
  - Private
- Proposed Access:**
- Existing Gravel Road
  - Trail
  - Existing Two-track Road



Coordinate System NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N



1:2,500

**La Plata Electric Association**  
**Chromo Mountain AMI**  
**Project Area Map**  
 Archuleta County, CO  
 Township 32N, Range 1E, Section 5  
 7.5-min USGS Quadrangle, Chromo, CO  
 Date: 3/25/2014