



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
2800 (L0310)

AUG 1 2013

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to participate in a public process to gather input regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a right-of-way application for a proposed new 115/345-kV Transmission Line in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The proposed EA will analyze the potential effects from the construction and operation of the transmission line and the associated infrastructure. The BLM has determined that preparation of an EA is necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations in 40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508.

The BLM received a revised right-of-way application from El Paso Electric Company (EPE) on March 26, 2013 to construct, operate, and maintain a new 14.3-mile long, 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would extend from a new autotransformer (Afton Substation) just north of the Afton Generating Station and end at EPE's existing Las Cruces Airport Substation (Airport Substation) located just south of I-10 (see Figure 1-1). The proposed circuit will have a capacity to transmit 140 megawatts (MW) at normal operation and 200 MW under emergency conditions. The transmission line would be located on Federal (about 12.75 miles of the total length), State trust (about 1.5 miles), and private lands (0.06 miles), paralleling existing utility lines and following parcel section lines as much as practicable to avoid dividing properties. If granted, the permit would include permanent access with rights to clear, grade, and maintain an access road. Use of the right-of-way would be year-round, and include maintenance, replacement of equipment, and operation.

This project is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2), the BLM will serve as the "Lead Agency" for the purposes of the Section 106 review.

Public participation and scoping is now underway for this project. We are inviting you to comment on the proposed project in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and NEPA. Your input is important to us, and we would like to hear about your issues and concerns.

You may submit comments at any time during the preparation of the EA; however, if you would like to have your comments considered for inclusion in the Draft EA, they must be submitted by September 5, 2013. There are several ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- File your comments electronically by sending them to: [BLM NM LCDO Comments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov). Please include “Afton Transmission Line EA Comments” in the subject line of your email.
- Mail your comments to: “Afton Transmission Line EA Project”, BLM Las Cruces District Office, ATTN: Kendrah Penn, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
- Submit your comments on the enclosed postage paid Comment Form

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions about this Project, please contact Kendrah Penn, Project Lead, at (575) 525-4382. We appreciate your participation in this proposed Project.

Sincerely,



David L. Wallace
Assistant District Manager
Division of Multi-Resources

2 Enclosures

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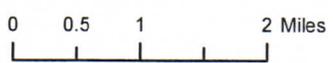
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Legend

- NMNM 129489 OWNERSHIP
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ Townships
- ▭ Sections
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Private
- ▭ State



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