



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Taos Field Office
226 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, New Mexico 87571
www.blm.gov/nm

In Reply Refer To:

NM-114507
2800 (LLNMF02000)

October 6, 2016

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

VERDE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Taos Field Office, is seeking your comments and input for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Verde Transmission Line Project, a 33-mile overhead 345-kilovolt transmission line that would interconnect the existing Public Service Company of New Mexico's Ojo substation in southern Rio Arriba County to the existing Norton substation in Santa Fe County. The project is intended to complete an important loop in the Northern New Mexico transmission system and provide additional transmission capacity. The project as proposed would traverse lands administered by the BLM, as well as tribal lands within three separate Pueblos (Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, and Pojoaque). A map of the preliminary proposed project location is attached to this letter.

The BLM is preparing the EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project. The BLM is the lead Federal agency in preparing the EIS. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Mexico State Land Office, Santa Fe County, and Rio Arriba County, as well as other potential government agencies and tribes, will participate as cooperators in the EIS process.

The BLM will host two public scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for you to learn about the project proposal and to provide input. You may share comments and concerns, submit information, and identify issues and alternatives to be considered for the project at the meetings. You may also give feedback by email per the 'How to Comment' instructions below. The BLM asks that your comments are received by December 5, 2016.

The scoping meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in an open house format, with a brief project presentation scheduled at 6:30 p.m. The scoping meetings are scheduled at the following locations:

Meeting Date	Time	Location	Venue/Address
Monday October 24, 2016	6:00-8:30 p.m.	Espanola, New Mexico	Northern New Mexico College 921 Paseo de Oate Espanola, NM Administration Building, Lower Level Rooms AD 101-102 (Enter at Student Success Center entrance on south side of Administration Building).
Tuesday October 25, 2016	6:00-8:30 p.m.	Santa Fe, New Mexico	Santa Fe Courtyard Marriot 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM Atrium and Banquet Room

How To Comment

- At the meeting:
 - Fill out and submit a comment card
 - Provide oral comments to a court reporter
- Email or mail:
 - Email: BLM_NM_Verde@blm.gov
 - Mail: Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
Verde Transmission Project
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

To be added to or removed from the BLM's project mailing list, or if you have questions concerning the project or the EIS process, please contact BLM Project Manager Adrian Garcia at (505) 954-2199 or via email: blm_nm_verde@blm.gov. For additional project information, visit the BLM project website at <http://www.blm.gov/nm/verde>.

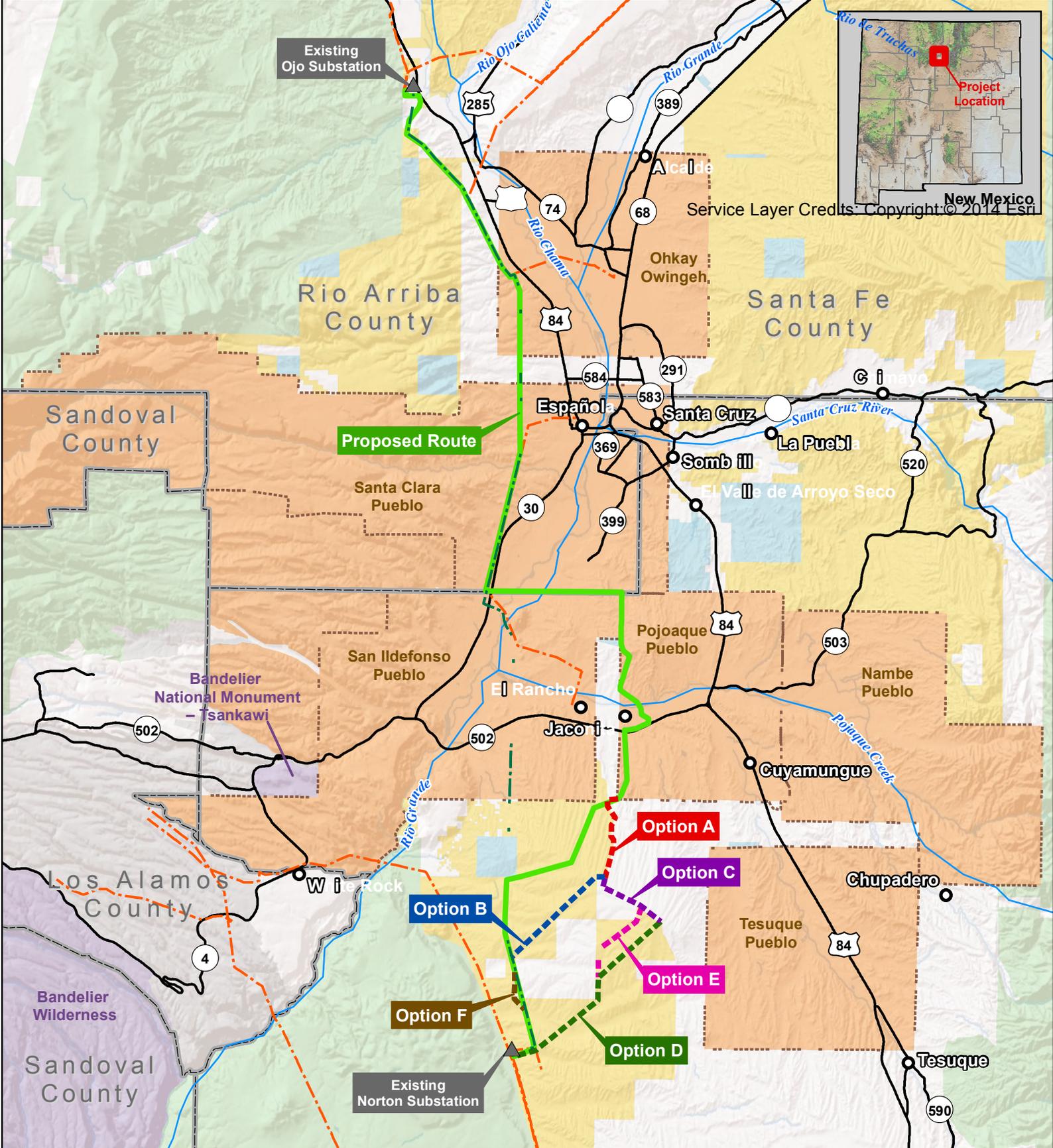
Sincerely,



Sarah Schlanger
Taos Field Manager

Enclosure

1. Preliminary Project Map



Verde Transmission Line EIS Project

0 4 Miles
0 8 Kilometers
Data Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online, Shaded Relief, accessed October 2016
Map Created: 10/5/2016
Map Updated: 10/5/2016

1:200,000

- Proposed Project**
- Proposed Route
- Preliminary Route Options**
- Route Option A
 - Route Option B
 - Route Option C
 - Route Option D
 - Route Option E
 - Route Option F

- General Reference**
- City/Town
 - Existing Substation
 - 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Other Transmission Line
 - Roadway
 - Drainage
 - County Boundary
 - Pueblo Boundary

- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Dept. of Energy
 - Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - Private
 - State
 - Tribal

