

**SAN JUAN BASIN ENERGY CONNECT
SCOPING REPORT**

Prepared for

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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On behalf of

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS LIST

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
LPEA	La Plata Electric Association
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
project	San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project
PSA	public service announcement
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SJBEC	San Juan Basin Energy Connect
SUIT	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
SWCA	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Tri-State	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
Western	Western Area Power Administration

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) is proposing a new project that would involve the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line from the Farmington area in northwest New Mexico to Ignacio, Colorado. This line and supporting electrical facilities are needed to provide the power delivery infrastructure for the San Juan Basin that will relieve transmission constraints, serve new loads, and offer economic development through renewable energy opportunities. Tri-State, its member co-op La Plata Electric, and other regional utilities have partnered to propose the San Juan Basin Energy Connect (SJBEC) Project (project).

As a result of the funding request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and right-of-way requests to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) for constructing transmission infrastructure on public and tribal lands, the project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BLM is the lead agency for the NEPA process, which will require evaluation of the potential environmental impacts from the project before deciding to move forward. The BLM will serve as the lead federal agency for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BLM will also serve as the lead federal agency for consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office and the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Other cooperating agencies are the SUIT, the BIA, Western Area Power Administration (Western), and the RUS. Tri-State selected SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to assist the BLM with the environmental compliance steps necessary for the project. All agencies and SWCA were involved in the public scoping process.

The purpose of public scoping is to identify environmental issues to be considered in the NEPA analysis for the project. The scoping process has three parts: coordinating with cooperating agencies, providing information to community members about the proposed project that may directly affect them, and soliciting information about the interests and concerns of the community. Scoping lasted from September 17 to November 9, 2009, for the project.

This scoping report addresses all aspects of the scoping process for the project, including interagency coordination, advertising for public workshops, dates and locations of the workshops, and all comments received as a result of these efforts, either at the workshops or through other mechanisms. Public scoping is a vital part of the NEPA process when developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public scoping addresses proposed activities of the project. This scoping document summarizes the comments received, both verbal and written, during the scoping workshops as well as comments received via email and regular mail to stakeholders during the advertised scoping period. All comments have been given equal consideration regardless of method of transmission.

This report has been prepared pursuant to NEPA, as amended (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.), and in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500–1508).

2.0 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The SJBEC project includes the construction of a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from Farmington, New Mexico, to Ignacio, Colorado (Figure 2.1). This new line is needed to provide the power delivery infrastructure for the San Juan Basin that will relieve transmission constraints, serve new loads, and offer economic development through renewable energy opportunities. The proposed project will be located partially on land managed by the BLM. The federal action for the BLM, BIA, and SUIT is whether to grant Tri-State use of the proposed right-of-way based on the results of the NEPA analysis. The federal action for RUS is whether to grant Tri-State funding for the project. These actions necessitate an analysis under the provisions of NEPA.

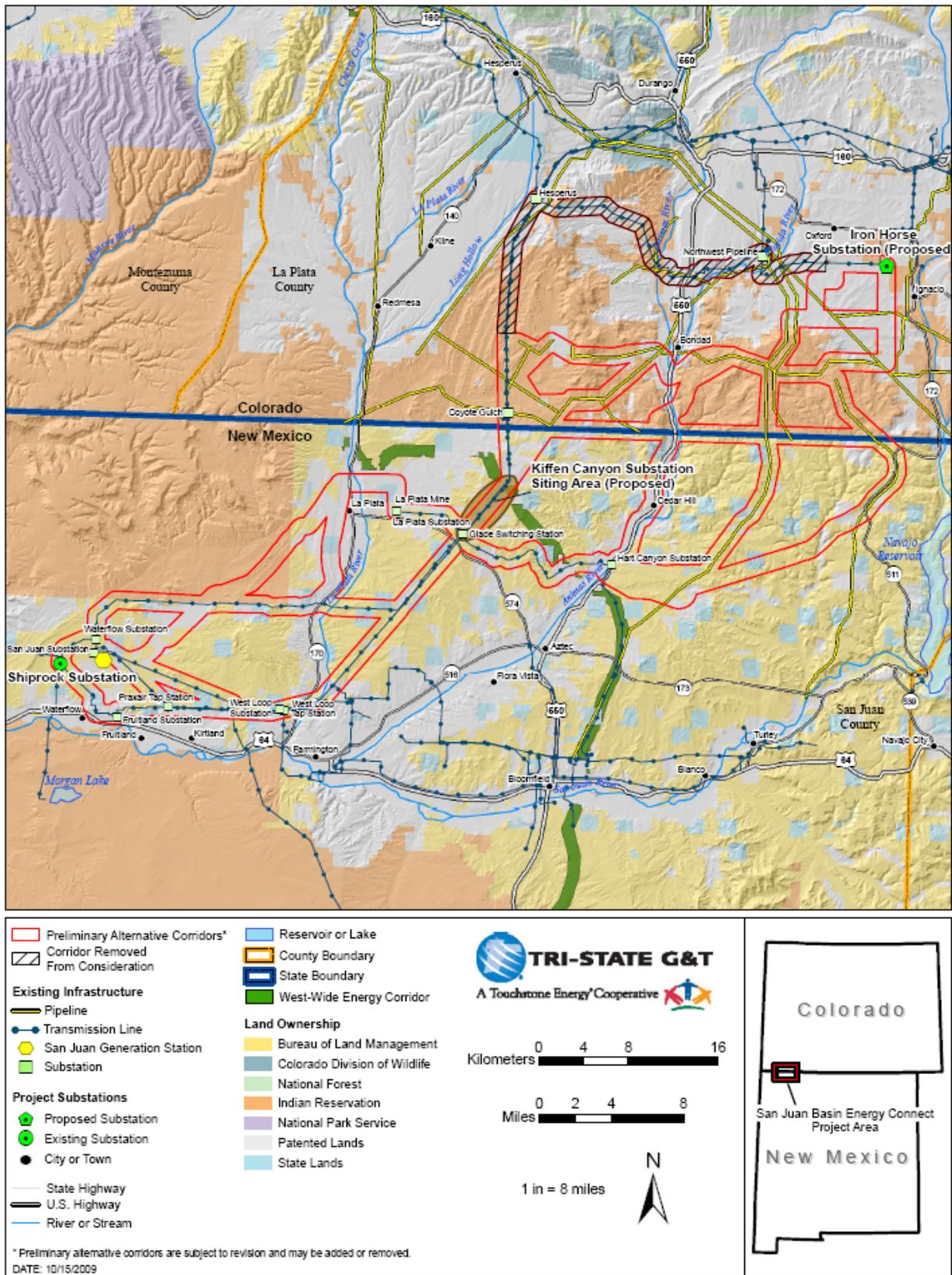


Figure 2.1. SJBEC project area map.

3.0 PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

The BLM, as the lead agency, implemented a comprehensive approach to provide information to the public and solicit their input regarding the project. Prior to initiating the project, Tri-State and the BLM developed a Public Involvement Plan that outlined all components of public interaction for the project. Information was included in direct mailings that were sent to 3,082 people identified as living within 1 mile of the center-line of each corridor and members of the public interested in the project. Two public scoping workshops were held in Farmington, New Mexico and Ignacio, Colorado. In addition to accepting comments at the workshops, the BLM invited interested individuals to submit their comments using the project website, email, the U.S. Postal Service, a dedicated 1-800 hotline, or fax.

3.1 MEDIA NOTICES

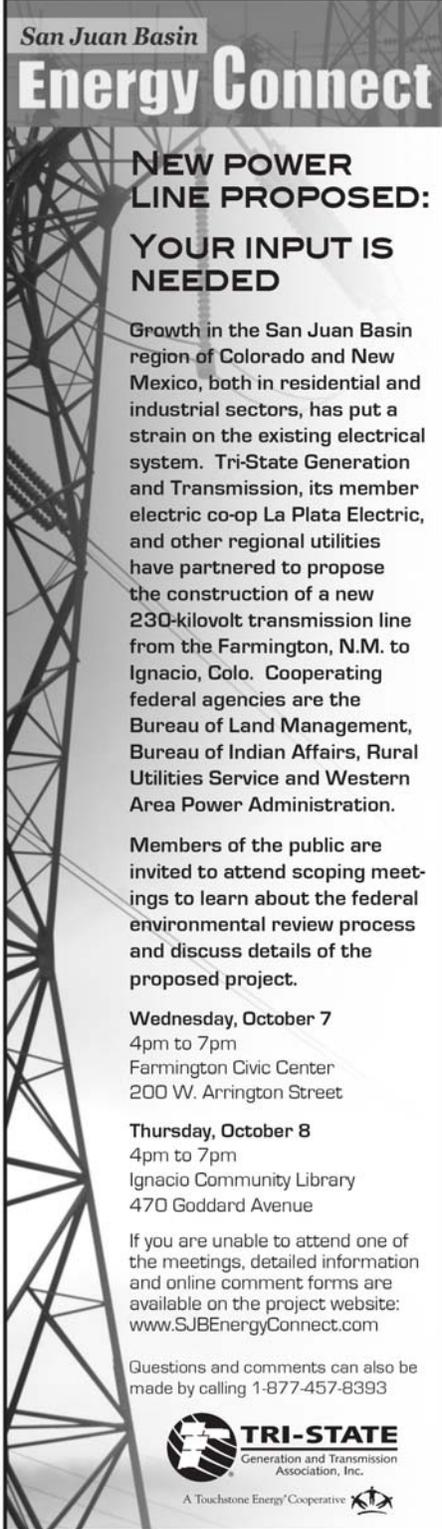
Public notices were provided to the public using multiple news media sources, including radio, newspaper, television, and the internet (Table 3.1). Each public scoping workshop was advertised at least two weeks prior to its scheduled date. Public notices and announcements provided basic project information, explained the purpose of the public workshops, gave the schedule for the public comment (scoping) period, and provided several methods of obtaining additional information. All display ads in local newspapers were identical in content, although the size and shape of the ads varied according to the requirements of each newspaper (Figure 3.1).

Information about the project, the public scoping workshops, project documents, maps, and an online comment form were published on the SJBEC website (www.SJBEnergyConnect.com). An interactive mapping tool was provided on the website to allow members of the public to search and learn about project details in proximity to specific land parcels.

Table 3.1. Advertisements for Public Scoping Workshops

Announcement	Venue	Date(s) Placed
Radio interview	Durango radio stations	September 3, 2009
Newspaper article, "Colo. Utility Proposes New Power Line Through Region"	<i>Farmington Daily Times</i>	September 9, 2009
Newspaper article, "Tri-State Planning Ignacio-Farmington Power Line"	<i>Durango Herald</i>	September 12, 2009
Webpage "Public Workshop Notice"	SJBEC website www.SJBEnergyConnect.com	September 14, 2009
Project electronic newsletter	Emailed 218 people known to be interested	September 17, 2009
Project newsletter (hard copy)	Mailed to 3,082 people	September 18, 2009
Radio public service announcements (PSAs)	Sent PSAs to 20 radio stations serving the project area	September 21, 2009
Television interview with Tri-State representatives	DCAT channel 22	September 22, 2009
Display ad "Public Scoping Notice" (both meetings included)	<i>Farmington Daily Times</i> <i>Durango Herald</i>	September 27, 2009 October 5, 2009
Display ad "Public Scoping Notice"	<i>Pine River Times</i>	October 2, 2009

(both meetings included)		
Newspaper article, "Power Line Project Open for Input"	<i>Farmington Daily Times</i> <i>San Juan Sun</i>	October 8, 2009 October 14, 2009



San Juan Basin
Energy Connect

**NEW POWER LINE PROPOSED:
YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED**

Growth in the San Juan Basin region of Colorado and New Mexico, both in residential and industrial sectors, has put a strain on the existing electrical system. Tri-State Generation and Transmission, its member electric co-op La Plata Electric, and other regional utilities have partnered to propose the construction of a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from the Farmington, N.M. to Ignacio, Colo. Cooperating federal agencies are the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rural Utilities Service and Western Area Power Administration.

Members of the public are invited to attend scoping meetings to learn about the federal environmental review process and discuss details of the proposed project.

Wednesday, October 7
4pm to 7pm
Farmington Civic Center
200 W. Arrington Street

Thursday, October 8
4pm to 7pm
Ignacio Community Library
470 Goddard Avenue

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, detailed information and online comment forms are available on the project website:
www.SJBEnergyConnect.com

Questions and comments can also be made by calling 1-877-457-8393

 **TRI-STATE**
Generation and Transmission
Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Figure 3.1. General format for newspaper advertisements announcing public scoping.

3.2 DIRECT MAILINGS

SWCA, on behalf of the BLM and Tri-State, mailed project newsletters to 3,082 recipients on September 18, 2009. The newsletter contained four articles that provided background information on the project, scoping workshop details, key dates, and information about the siting, environmental, and permitting processes. A copy of the scoping newsletter is included in Appendix A.

3.3 SCOPING WORKSHOPS

Two public scoping workshops (Table 3.2) were conducted as part of the public scoping process. The purpose of these workshops was to provide information to all interested persons about the proposed project, as well as an opportunity to voice concerns or opinions. At each meeting a series of nine (9) stations were used to explain various components of the project:

1. Project Overview
2. Federal Review Process
3. Engineering
4. Route Selection and Siting
5. Natural and Cultural Resource Considerations
6. Land Rights
7. Noise and Modeled Electric Fields
8. Geographic Information System station to print customized maps for members of the public
9. Mapping station to collect public comments directly on printed project maps

Large-scale aerial photos of the project area with potential corridors and road attributes were provided at a mapping station to support community members in commenting on the details of corridor alignments. The public was encouraged to write comments directly on the maps to indicate alternative alignments, new structures, and other issues that could be best captured by reviewing maps and aerial photos. In addition, attendees were provided a complete information packet reiterating, in greater detail, the information shown on the display boards. Representatives from the BLM, cooperating agencies, Tri-State, and SWCA were available to answer questions and participate in the public discussion.

Table 3.2. Information on Public Scoping Meetings

Location	Dates	Outcomes
Farmington Civic Center 200 W Arrington Street Farmington, NM	October 7, 2009 2–4 pm Agency Session 4–7 pm Public Session	49 people signed in
Ignacio Community Library 470 Goddard Avenue Ignacio, CO	October 8, 2009 2–4 pm Agency Session 4–7 pm Public Session	33 people signed in

Comment cards (Appendix B) were distributed during the initial mailing and were also provided at the scoping workshops, both in the information packets provided and on tables next to each display board. Postal and email addresses were provided for the receipt of comments:

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
c/o SWCA Inc.
130 Rock Point Dr. Ste. A
Durango, CO 81301

info@sjbenergyconnect.com

Comment cards, letters, and emails received through November 9, 2009, are summarized in this report. Any comments received after November 9, 2009, were entered into the project's administrative record, reviewed for substantive comments, and included in the NEPA analysis if considered substantive.

4.0 COMMENT SUMMARY

Key issues and concerns expressed during public and agency scoping will affect impact analysis and alternatives development. Issues of primary concern to the public during the scoping period were:

1. Proximity of the transmission line to residences
2. Land use issues
3. Impacts to visual resources
4. Health and safety concerns
5. Impacts related to noise

Hand-in-hand with informing the public is the need to solicit information about the interests and concerns of the communities that would be affected by a proposed project. Comments received during public scoping assist in the identification of environmental issues that may require consideration in the NEPA document. Pursuant to the NEPA process, comments are sorted into general categories that match specific sections in the proposed project’s NEPA document so that each pertinent comment can be addressed.

The majority of letters received from area residents during the public scoping indicated that much thought and consideration went into their comments. Every comment letter received was entered into a database and assigned an identification number based on its sequential entry. Each comment was then reviewed and categorized by issue, such as cultural resources, visual resources, or land use. Table 4.1 provides the comment categories and the number of comments received that fall into each category.

Table 4.1. Comment Categories

Comment Categories	
Agriculture (6)	Land Use (30)
Air Quality (9)	NEPA Process (22)
Alternatives (48)	Noise (4)
Biological Resources (6)	Out of Scope (13)
Cultural Resources (3)	Project Description (6)
Cumulative Impacts (7)	Radio/Television Interference (3)
Economic (25)	Recreation (3)
Environmental Justice (1)	Visual Resources (27)
Health and Safety (18)	Water Resources (1)

A summary of the written comments received and issues identified through November 9, 2009, is included in Table 4.2. Each comment with the associated identification number, comment category, and comment response is in tabular format for organization and cross-referencing purposes. Comments were received via 85 comment cards, 26 map notes, 40 letters, 15 phone calls, 20 emails, and 46 comments from the SJBEC website. Collectively, the different methods yielded 232 separate comments from 91 individuals.

In every scoping process, regardless of the proposed project under review, some comments are “out of scope” for the project, that is, are not directly related to the project and are therefore beyond the concerns that can be addressed. These comments may, for example, concern government or private agencies that are not involved in the proposed project, decisions that are not within the power of project proponents, or recommended activities that are not within the authority of the proponent(s). However, we appreciate every comment received and understand that all comments are important to the sender. Therefore, all written comments are included in Table 4.2, though some are identified as Out of Scope (OOS).

Table 4.2. Public Comments Received during the September 17–November 9, 2009, Scoping Period

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
102-1	Agriculture	Concerned with impacts to agricultural lands.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
121-4	Agriculture	Concerned with impacts to grazing lands.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
108-2	Agriculture	Concerned with impacts to crops and livestock on their property.	Comment noted.	form
42-22	Agriculture	Related to corridor FF, at corner of corridor, agricultural land concerns for irrigation and wildlife.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	maps
63-2	Agriculture	Concerned with agricultural impacts related to transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
25-1	Agriculture	Use existing corridors and avoid agricultural lands, especially irrigated lands.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
68-2	Air Quality	Concerned with significant impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, growth in the oil and gas industries, and impacts to U.S. Forest Service lands.	The BLM plans to consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on this issue. Potential significant impacts to air quality, including from induced growth, will be addressed in the NEPA document.	phone
116-11	Air Quality	If a primary component of the purpose and need for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project is to electrify compression in the southwestern Colorado natural gas field, the BLM must be prepared to inventory, monitor, model and assess existing and proposed air quality impacts from the Proposed Action and Connected Actions under multi-jurisdictional land ownership.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
116-13	Air Quality	The NEPA document for the project must accurately assess project impacts on ozone at the current 75 parts per billion regulatory standard and the expected 2010 reduced standard.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
116-14	Air Quality	Recent September 22, 2009, EPA confirmation is expected to require agencies to be required to look at complete natural gas systems, including all pollution emitting activities; determine whether the pollutant emitting activities that are a part of the system are contiguous or adjacent to and under common control with a natural gas compressor station; and assess the flow of natural gas to determine whether facilities are interrelated.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-16	Air Quality	The BLM should facilitate the evaluation of emissions from existing and reasonably anticipated proposed air emission sources on National Ambient Air Quality Standards, air increment compliance for sulfur dioxide (SO ₂), NO _x , and particulate matter; visibility degradation in Class I and Class II areas; greenhouse gas emission levels; mercury deposition; and nitrogen deposition. This analysis must include all existing power plants, oil and gas wells and associated facilities, and coal mines in the region, as well as all proposed and foreseeable power plants, oil and gas wells and associated facilities, and coal mines in the region.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
89-9	Air Quality	The NEPA document should compare the emissions generated to provide that coal fired power with the emissions that would occur if projected wells and compressors were powered by natural gas, as they are elsewhere in the San Juan Basin.	Potential impacts to air quality will be considered for all alternatives not eliminated from consideration. If the use of natural gas instead of electrification is considered, air quality impacts of that decision will be analyzed.	form
67-3	Air Quality	Air quality in the area is a concern.	Comment noted.	phone
76-7	Air Quality	Will the power generation from the San Juan Power Plant result in increased emissions affecting air quality in San Juan County?	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	website
88-5	Air Quality	Will the power generation from the San Juan Power Plant result in increased emissions affecting air quality in San Juan County?	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	form
54-1	Alternatives	It seems that the route going northeast through what we call Choke Cherry Canyon or the Glade to the Glade Switching Station, would be a little less obtrusive. There are existing transmission lines and why create additional eyesores and disrupt undisturbed land if not necessary.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
29-1	Alternatives	Concerned with location of new lines in relation to La Plata Cliffs.	Comment noted.	phone
51-1	Alternatives	I believe that this power line should take the route that is North of Shiprock. This route will not interfere with so many residential areas and interfere so much with the farmers and ranchers north of Aztec.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
102-2	Alternatives	Suggests using existing rights-of-way.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
116-8	Alternatives	We request that BLM consider utilizing existing transmission corridors to the maximum extent possible in determining the Preferred Alternative for the project.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
120-1	Alternatives	Does not want line placed near her parents' property in Aztec.	Comment noted.	email
62-1	Alternatives	Consider using open fields to the north or south that are not being used for farming or residential uses.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
37-1	Alternatives	Please run your power line across the rural areas. Not up and down highway 550.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
90-1	Alternatives	Prefers westerly corridors for access to the Iron Horse Substation, such as BB-DD-EE-W-M or EE-X-U-R etc.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
90-2	Alternatives	Prefers that any poles in sight be either steel monopole (1st choice) or the wood H frame (2nd); we are opposed to placement of the lattice structure setup in sight.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
38-2	Alternatives	Is the new line likely to run across our property?	Comment noted.	email
38-5	Alternatives	Can they provide us with a hard copy of the Energy Connect overview map and related maps?	Map provided.	email
31-1	Alternatives	Requested project map.	Map provided.	phone
15-1	Alternatives	Check with City of Farmington about another route up Route D paralleling the existing line. City of Farmington is buying easements along existing line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
58-1	Alternatives	Are opposed to running the line though residential areas and along the Animas River corridor.	Comment noted.	form
28-1	Alternatives	Requested project map.	Map provided.	phone
78-1	Alternatives	Highly apposed to a high power line running through the corridor that runs right through the Wolfwood Refuge. Please keep this power line on the north of CR 318.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
40-1	Alternatives	Suggests running the line on the north side of CR 318 to avoid the Wolfwood Refuge.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
121-1	Alternatives	Suggests using existing corridors along Road 1300 and work with Farmington Electric Utility.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
105-1	Alternatives	Suggests siting new line along existing transmission line routes.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
24-1	Alternatives	Concerned with visual resources near Hart Canyon. Prefers corridors D, H, I, Q, JJ, H, W, P, U, X, EE.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
24-2	Alternatives	Suggests burial of power line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
55-1	Alternatives	A 230-kilovolt transmission line should not be installed through or near residential areas.	Comment noted.	form
55-3	Alternatives	Strongly recommends crossing or staying on BLM land.	Comment noted.	form
42-1	Alternatives	Related to corridors C and HH, ~1,000 feet north of existing line from Praixair Tap Station is where the City of Farmington is planning a new transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	maps

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
42-17	Alternatives	Related to corridor W, co-location opportunity noted along western edge of corridor.	Comment noted.	maps
42-19	Alternatives	Related to corridors CC and DD, due to a lot of residences in this area, siting of line north of CR 318 on tribal land would be preferred by landowners.	Comment noted.	maps
14-1	Alternatives	City of Farmington is widening the existing line in ALTD - please contact City and see if you can work together to use the same right-of-way. City has offered to purchase land around the existing line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
59-1	Alternatives	Concerned with running the transmission line in residential areas.	Comment noted.	form
27-2	Alternatives	Would like the EA to include alternatives with buried power lines and utilization of energy sources closer to Ignacio.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	phone
26-1	Alternatives	Requested map of project area. Wanted to know more about the corridor in his area being moved.	Map provided.	phone
53-1	Alternatives	Much less potential for disruptive influences by utilizing the corridor proceeding northeast from the Glade substation (as opposed to more easterly from there).	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
21-1	Alternatives	We would like to see the transmission line placed along the south side of CR 318.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
111-1	Alternatives	San Juan Coal Company is concerned that sufficient consideration may not have been given initially to the mining operations.	Impacts to and from the reclamation area and mining operations of the San Juan Coal Company will be considered in the NEPA document.	letter
82-1	Alternatives	The new lines, if approved, should be built using existing infrastructure (the power lines in the Glade area) or on land that is not near a residential area, such as the proposed corridor further to the west. We strongly oppose the placement of power lines near the residential areas off CR 1191 and CR 1633.	Comment noted.	website
49-1	Alternatives	The most practical, economical and least invasive corridor would be: from Shiprock follow A to UU, then to D to H to I to S; or A to B to E to MM to F to H to I to S. From S, the decision would be up to Tri-State and the residents in that area.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
128-1	Alternatives	Does not want the transmission line placed in residential areas.	Comment noted.	form
50-1	Alternatives	Going up the Glade route will be less intrusive than going through the Hart Canyon area. It will lessen the adverse effects on the residents and landowners as it will interfere with few people's lives and property.	Comment noted.	website

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
119-1	Alternatives	Why were lines S and V dropped from consideration?	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document with alternatives, including rationale for removing alternatives from further consideration.	email
119-2	Alternatives	Suggests using lines A-D-H-I-S-V to avoid fragmenting habitat.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
103-1	Alternatives	Does not wish to have transmission line siting close to her property.	Comment noted.	form
76-1	Alternatives	The proposed routes labeled L, M and N on maps would have significant impacts on residences, recreation, and tourism for our area.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
76-10	Alternatives	Why has alternative V been removed from consideration, as it also follows an existing transmission corridor?	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document with alternatives, including rationale for removing alternatives from further consideration.	website
76-8	Alternatives	Have alternatives been considered for providing electric power for this purpose, such as a smaller generating plant fueled by the available nearby natural gas, having a more localized impact?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
88-6	Alternatives	Have alternatives been considered for providing electric power for this purpose, such as a smaller generating plant fueled by the available nearby natural gas, having a more localized impact?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
88-8	Alternatives	Why has alternative V been removed from consideration, as it also follows an existing transmission corridor?	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document with alternatives, including rationale for removing alternatives from further consideration.	form
87-1	Alternatives	Suggests reconsidering placement the power lines through proposed corridor near Ridge Road neighborhood.	Comment noted.	website
61-3	Alternatives	Have satellite gas driven generating stations been considered, if this project is designed to meet the needs of the compression of the gas industry?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
116-24	Biological Resources	The on-site and off-site impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats must be analyzed in all of the energy corridors and buffer zones.	Potential impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-26	Biological Resources	The BLM needs to consult with the USFWS on this project and prepare a Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation that may result in the need for a Biological Opinion from the USFWS before the project proceeds.	The BLM will comply with the ESA.	letter
83-2	Biological Resources	In regards to the cliff area westerly of Highway 550 and southerly of the Port of Entry: We recall being told in the past that the cliff area has fractures in it due to blasting for the 1963 highway. The cliff area has a variety of wild life with bird nesting areas. Raptors, including eagles, have been spotted soaring along the cliff area.	Potential impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	website
83-3	Biological Resources	In regards to the area east of the cliff area and Highway 550: Flocks of Geese have been observed flying and feeding in fields in this area. Deer birthing areas appear to us to be in the tall sage brush in areas near the Twin Rocks Ditch. In the past a bald eagle and nest have been spotted in Cottonwoods in the area.	Potential impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	website
121-2	Biological Resources	Do not disrupt reclaimed wilderness on BLM lands.	Potential impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	email
42-11	Biological Resources	Related to corridor K, back side of Cedar Hill has raptor concerns.	Potential impacts to vegetation, soils, wildlife, fish, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, migratory birds, and ecologically sensitive habitats will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	maps
116-22	Cultural Resources	We request a complete Class III pedestrian survey of the 1-mile wide corridors in Action Alternatives considered for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project.	Comment noted. The BLM will comply with the NHPA.	letter
116-23	Cultural Resources	In addition, we request BLM initiate Section 106 NHPA consultation requirements including states, all affected tribes and other entities on this specific project.	The BLM will comply with the NHPA, to include consultation under Section 106.	letter
42-5	Cultural Resources	Related to corridors E and LL, north of both on eastern side of what becomes KK - outlier noted on northern edge of corridor. Likely Chacoan outlier.	Comment noted. The BLM will comply with the NHPA.	maps

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-17	Cumulative Impacts	Since the proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project connects to the San Juan Generating Station and is proposed for a primary purpose and need of electrifying natural gas field infrastructure (load growth and projections), the BLM will need to fully evaluate cumulative impacts.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
116-4	Cumulative Impacts	In providing an alternative to natural gas as a source of power for oil and gas development, the NEPA document for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project will need to describe the precise number of wells to be served, the infrastructure needed to facilitate this transition and the direct, indirect cumulative and connected actions to the transmission line.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
116-5	Cumulative Impacts	As a connected action, the NEPA document for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project must include all information about existing natural gas facilities and Reasonable Foreseeable Development for Fluid Minerals on tribal, federal, and state lands potentially served by the project.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	letter
75-4	Cumulative Impacts	Concerned with increasing the probability of other lines being added in the future.	Cumulative impacts, including the indirect impacts from induced growth, will be addressed in the NEPA document, within the bounds of analysis.	website
89-10	Cumulative Impacts	The extent and effects of additional power lines needed to transmit power to the wells should also be addressed.	Cumulative impacts, including the indirect impacts from induced growth, will be addressed in the NEPA document, within the bounds of analysis.	form
89-3	Cumulative Impacts	The NEPA document should indicate how it relates to other transmission planning efforts including the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study as well as planning efforts being conducted by the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority.	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document. Projects planned in the near future will be analyzed in the Cumulative Impacts section.	form
27-3	Cumulative Impacts	Cumulative effects of this line with all of the other proposed lines in the area would be too great.	Comment noted.	phone
91-2	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property value.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
97-1	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-18	Economic	As lead agency for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project NEPA document, the BLM needs to include a socioeconomic study on whether private property values would be diminished or enhanced by siting the transmission line in proximity to, or on, private land.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
116-28	Economic	Please include an analysis of the potential impacts to LPEA as a result of the proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project, including investment responsibilities for the LPEA in the project and financial risks.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
79-3	Economic	Would like to see an economic analysis of the potential effects on property values in our neighborhood if the high voltage power lines are installed.	Potential impacts to the socioeconomics of the project area will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives.	website
11-1	Economic	I'm interested to know how land owners in the vicinity of the route will be compensated for loss in property value?	Comment noted.	email
101-1	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
75-2	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property values and requested economic analysis that addresses potential impacts on property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
22-1	Economic	One of the proposed corridors crosses many residential properties and homes. This should be minimized as homeowners should not be forced to have power lines installed that detract from their current lines of sight and potentially decrease the value of their property.	Comment noted.	website
89-6	Economic	The number of private property owners potentially affected should be presented for each alternative along with a discussion of potential effects on property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
121-3	Economic	Concerned with decreased property value.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
92-2	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property value.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
63-1	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property value.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
98-1	Economic	Concerned with property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
110-1	Economic	Requested more information about the project. Concerned with decrease in property value.	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document. Additional project information is forthcoming.	form

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
80-1	Economic	Request for economic analysis.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
60-2	Economic	Concerned with impact to property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
64-1	Economic	Concerned with impact to property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
52-1	Economic	Suggests running the power line through the Glade not through Aztec. Concerned with decrease in property values due to visual impacts.	Comment noted.	website
18-1	Economic	Place the transmission line where there are no people. Don't devalue our property.	Comment noted.	form
41-2	Economic	Concerned with decrease in property value related to the project.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
76-4	Economic	Effects on property values should be included in the analysis of project impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
76-9	Economic	What are the economic impacts to residents, agriculture, recreation, and tourism for each alternative route proposed?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
88-1	Economic	How many private residences will be impacted by the proposed alternative routes? How many acres of private land will be impacted by each alternative?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
88-7	Economic	What are the economic impacts to residents, agriculture, recreation, and tourism for each alternative route proposed?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
89-7	Environmental Justice	Economic and ethnic profiles should be presented for the populations of affected landowners for each alternative.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
17-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health effects resulting from the power line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
97-2	Health/Safety	Concerned with health and safety issues.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-20	Health/Safety	The BLM also needs to prioritize human public health impacts analysis in the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project NEPA document to determine the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of adding this project to an area believed to have existing adverse public health impacts from energy development. This analysis should include the latest public health data from Center for Disease Control, EPA, Indian Health Services, and state health departments on respiratory diseases (including asthma), cancer rates, heart attacks and strokes. The impact of electro-magnetic fields and their impact on people, wildlife, and domesticated animals should be analyzed as a result of any new transmission lines, substations, and transformers.	Comment will be addressed in NEPA document. Potential impacts to public health and human safety within the project area will be considered and analyzed for the action and no action alternatives. Analysis will include consideration of potential impacts of electromagnetic fields.	letter
101-2	Health/Safety	Concerned with increased traffic associated with access roads and maintenance.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
35-2	Health/Safety	The adverse health effects of strong electromagnetic fields is still uncertain; I am elderly but still healthy, so please route the lines elsewhere.	Comment noted.	website
75-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health, safety, and noise impacts and requests detailed analysis of any potential health and safety and noise impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
43-2	Health/Safety	Concerned with health issues related to transmission line. Have there been any long term studies done regarding the effects of living under a high voltage transmission line?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
109-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health impacts from transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
55-2	Health/Safety	There is strong evidence of health problems for people and animals that live near power lines.	Comment noted.	form
108-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health impacts from transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
92-1	Health/Safety	Concerned about living near power lines and high incidents of cancer.	Comment noted.	form
63-3	Health/Safety	Concerned with health issues related to transmission lines.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
111-2	Health/Safety	Compliance with safety regulations and maintaining a safe work environment while on the mine site will need to be addressed as part of the project design and NEPA review.	Impacts to and from the reclamation area and mining operations of the San Juan Coal Company will be considered in the NEPA document.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
74-3	Health/Safety	Concerned with safety due to oil and gas traffic and equipment. Could conflict with current recreational use of the area.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
16-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health effects resulting from corona produced by the transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
64-2	Health/Safety	Concerned with health and safety issues related to transmission lines.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
41-1	Health/Safety	Concerned with health risks related to the project.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
102-3	Health/Safety	Do you know the damage this much power passing over our homes can do?	Comment noted.	form
23-1	Land Use	Concerned about the impact on Wolfwood Refuge, located south of CR 318. Please keep the project north of CR 318.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
39-1	Land Use	Please understand that building power lines so close to the refuge would disturb the wolves and be detrimental to the sanctuary.	Comment noted.	email
99-1	Land Use	Avoid residential and agricultural areas.	Comment noted.	form
38-1	Land Use	If and how will our land be affected by the pending expansion to the regional San Juan Basin Energy connect transmission line?	Comment noted.	email
38-3	Land Use	If so, can they use the existing easement or do we negotiate a new easement?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
38-4	Land Use	Would any amendment to the easement be handled by Tri-State or Western?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
81-1	Land Use	The power line should be put up on the opposite side of the valley so that the project can continue, but the wolves won't be affected by the noise and electricity.	Comment noted.	website
77-1	Land Use	Requests moving the power line away from the Wolfwood Refuge so it does not disrupt the educational goals and mission of the refuge. Moving it to the north of CR 318.	Comment noted.	website
42-10	Land Use	Related to corridor K, land disputes between CR 2136 and 2105 on Highway 550.	Comment noted.	maps
42-12	Land Use	Related to corridor K, no room along 550 on east side due to lots of houses.	Comment noted.	maps
42-13	Land Use	Related to corridor N, on east side of northern turn where existing scar crosses corridor. Landowners Manley and Good have property concerns.	Comment noted.	maps
42-14	Land Use	Related to corridor Q, north of state line, in center of corridor, land marked as BLM is actually SUIT.	Comment noted. Correction made to map.	maps

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
42-15	Land Use	Related to corridor R, north of state line on corner where R meets Q, land marked as BLM is actually SUIT.	Comment noted. Correction made to map.	maps
42-16	Land Use	Related to corridor U, northern edge of corridor at strong v-curve, gas compressor site just east of the V.	Comment noted.	maps
42-18	Land Use	Related to corridor CC, wolf rescue location directly south of CC at DD. Requests corridor be moved to north of CR 318.	Comment noted.	maps
42-2	Land Use	Related to corridor LL, completed road reclamation project on BLM land in area just north of GG.	Comment noted.	maps
42-20	Land Use	Related to corridor EE, western boundary of corridor at curve noted location of private airstrip.	Comment noted.	maps
42-23	Land Use	Related to corridors CC and AA, tribal land noted in 40-acre section in middle of corridor junction.	Comment noted. Correction made to map.	maps
42-25	Land Use	Related to corridor BB, at DD, 10-acre house site with distribution line 50 feet in front of house already.	Comment noted.	maps
42-26	Land Use	Related to corridor BB and V, at DD tribal housing in SUIT 40-acre block where corridor V comes in.	Comment noted.	maps
42-3	Land Use	Related to corridor E, section south of existing transmission lines in west portion before dogleg is reclaimed with 10 feet of topsoil over 100 feet of coal ash.	Comment noted.	maps
42-4	Land Use	Related to corridors E and HH, patented lands between E and HH note a 100-foot decline for ash fill.	Comment noted.	maps
42-6	Land Use	Related to corridor G, private residence not on map at north end of residential area just south of corridor, west-central portion.	Comment noted. Correction made to map.	maps
57-1	Land Use	The Wolfwood Refuge is a state licensed non-profit rescue for wolves and wolf dogs. Our land use permit is specifically for a rescue. If the corridor in the Wolfwood Refuge is used, keep the power lines north of CR318. This would provide a large enough buffer between the lines and animals.	Comment noted.	email
111-3	Land Use	The issue of subsidence for power line alignments traversing over areas to be longwall mined will need to be addressed as part of the project design and NEPA review.	Impacts to and from the reclamation area and mining operations of the San Juan Coal Company will be considered in the NEPA document.	letter
111-4	Land Use	Lands containing ash may be questionable in terms of providing sufficient support for power line structures. Proposed project alignments on lands containing buried coal combustion byproducts will need to be addressed as part of the project design and NEPA review.	Impacts to and from the reclamation area and mining operations of the San Juan Coal Company will be considered in the NEPA document.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
111-5	Land Use	Power line clearance requirements on the mine site fall under the regulation of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The clearance requirements for MSHA are higher than those required in the National Electrical Safety Code. Power lines traversing the San Juan Coal Company mine site would need to address and comply with MSHA requirements as part of project design and NEPA review.	Impacts to and from the reclamation area and mining operations of the San Juan Coal Company will be considered in the NEPA document.	letter
76-2	Land Use	How many private residences will be impacted by the proposed alternative routes? How many acres of private land will be impacted by each alternative?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
88-9	Land Use	Please identify how much of each proposed route follows existing transmission or pipeline corridors compared to crossing currently undisturbed land.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
61-2	Land Use	Do you plan to use your power of condemnation in these cases?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
68-1	NEPA Process	Colorado Wild believes the project is big enough to have significant impacts, and requests the NEPA analysis to be an EIS instead of an EA.	Comment noted.	phone
116-1	NEPA Process	In identifying the BLM as lead agency for environmental review for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project, it is critical that the BLM formalize cooperating agency status (written Memoranda of Understanding) with Western, BIA, RUS and additional agencies that are legally required to be involved in the analysis and evaluation of the proposed project and alternatives.	Comment noted. There is a Memorandum of Understanding among the BLM, BIA, RUS, SUIT, Western, and Tri-State.	letter
116-15	NEPA Process	We suggest that BLM initiate formal consultation with EPA regions 6, 8, and 9, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and New Mexico Environment Department now.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA and all necessary agencies on this issue.	letter
116-2	NEPA Process	According to Section 7.2 of the BLM National Environmental Policy Handbook H-1790-1, rights-of-ways for major transmission lines normally require preparation of an EIS. The San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project must be considered a significant major federal action due to the length and width of the proposed corridor, the fact that it is interstate, the potentially controversial nature of the project, the potential intensity of impacts and the significance of direct, indirect, cumulative and connected actions.	Comment noted. As described by NEPA, an EA can be prepared to determine if an EIS is necessary or not.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-21	NEPA Process	We request that BLM pursue individual project consultations on the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project with new Mexico Historical Preservation Office and Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for NHPA, and with United States Fish & Wildlife Service for ESA.	The BLM will comply with the NHPA and the ESA.	letter
116-27	NEPA Process	Please identify who is responsible for compiling the Administrative Record for the project and please retain all communications between the third party contractor (SWCA) for the NEPA document, the BLM, all cooperating agencies and all agencies required to consult. Please provide us with a copy of the Communications Protocol that will be utilized for the project, governing BLM oversight of the third party contractor (SWCA) for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project.	As required by the BLM NEPA Handbook 1790-1, an administrative record is being maintained for this project. It is beyond the purview of the commenter to request internal documents at this time.	letter
116-29	NEPA Process	Compliance requirements with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are necessary through USFWS for the Proposed Action, connected actions, and cumulative effects in the NEPA document for the project.	The BLM will comply with the ESA.	letter
38-6	NEPA Process	Who else should we be talking to, to stay fully informed?	Information provided and added to contact list.	email
38-7	NEPA Process	What is Tri-State's relationship with Western Area Power Administration?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	email
89-1	NEPA Process	The detailed description of Purpose and Need for the project in the NEPA document should explain why electrical power is needed for oil and gas development in Colorado.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
89-2	NEPA Process	The NEPA document should clearly indicate how the proposed line will facilitate the transport of renewable energy including the location of the source and target markets.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
89-8	NEPA Process	The reasonable foreseeable development of oil and gas in southern Colorado should be analyzed as a connected action.	The BLM plans to consult with the EPA on this issue.	form
32-1	NEPA Process	Requested to be placed on email list.	Placed on contact list.	phone
43-1	NEPA Process	Will this construction require a new EIS even within an existing corridor?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
33-2	NEPA Process	Requested to be added to contact list.	Placed on contact list.	form
61-1	NEPA Process	Please note: CR 2720 on the project map, dated 10/6/2009, is incorrect.	Maps will be verified prior to publication of the NEPA document.	form
27-1	NEPA Process	Wanted to establish point of contact for San Juan Citizens Alliance.	Comment noted.	phone

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
80-2	NEPA Process	Request for safety, noise, and visual impact study to be conducted.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
80-3	NEPA Process	Request to be placed on mailing list to review draft documents.	Comment noted. Added to mailing list.	website
111-6	NEPA Process	San Juan Coal Company wishes to be considered as a significant stakeholder for purposes of project design and NEPA review.	Comment noted.	letter
45-1	NEPA Process	Requested project information and to be added to contact list.	Information provided and added to contact list.	email
116-9	NEPA Process	We do not believe that there is any route that will be considered that will not have significant impacts.	Comment noted.	letter
79-2	Noise	We also would request a report on potential noise and effects on health.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
74-2	Noise	Concerned with noise impacts and requests noise analysis.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
76-5	Noise	How many residences are likely to be affected by this noise under each alternative?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
88-3	Noise	How many residences are likely to be affected by this noise under each alternative?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
116-25	OOS	The Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department must be consulted on any potential action concerning the Navajo Nation and potential impacts to species listed under the Navajo Endangered Species List.	There are no preliminary corridors crossing Navajo Nation land.	letter
116-6	OOS	Alternatives for the project should include the potential renewable energy projects mentioned by Tri-State as a firm contractual commitment. These renewable energy projects should be local to the Four Corners Region and preclude any Tri-State intention to acquire more coal-fired power to contribute to the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project power load.	Comment noted. Agency NEPA documents are not the appropriate vehicle for contracts with or for private enterprises.	letter
13-1	OOS	Would like to be able to tap into line for residential use.	Comment noted.	form
3-1	OOS	This project is important to provide necessary additional power to support industrial loads (natural gas compression) in southwest Colorado. It additionally will provide important redundancy in transmission to the region.	Comment noted.	email

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
83-1	OOS	Concerning corridor K (with Highway 550) and in regards to land jurisdiction: BLM has not surveyed its 1/16 corners in Section 21 to our knowledge. Figure 3-A (Lands Jurisdiction) of the Macro Corridor Study and the Project Overview Map appear to us to indicate that part of Corridor K is within sections 21 and 22. It is our understanding that BLM surveyed some of its 1/16 corners in Section 22 in a 1998-99 resurvey, but not in Section 21 per plat and field notes. It is our understanding that in 1963 several tracts of HWY Project No. F-032-1(8) from Section 21 to the border area were resurveyed and amended per Court Cause #11229 (District Court in Aztec). The metes and bounds descriptions appear to us to have been set forth hereafter per Cause #11229.	Comment noted. Prior to construction, appropriate and relevant land surveys will be conducted.	website
96-1	OOS	Does not want the project near his home.	Comment noted.	form
30-1	OOS	Interested in conducting archaeological surveys for project.	Comment noted.	phone
66-1	OOS	Leave stuff alone.	Comment noted.	form
40-2	OOS	Why don't you use wind and solar farms?	Comment noted.	form
106-1	OOS	If it is for Colorado residents that's where it should stay. We are not benefitting anything from it.	Comment noted.	form
94-1	OOS	Not interested in this.	Comment noted.	form
95-1	OOS	We do not want to see our neighborhood ruined by this transmission line.	Comment noted.	form
12-1	OOS	Should the project not be built, then all consumers and end users will suffer from a future lack of electricity.	Comment noted.	form
116-3	Project Description	The NEPA document for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project will need to provide firm data that shows a need for increased residential and small business load in the area served by LPEA. Please include end-use data on the LPEA percentage of residential, commercial, and industrial consumers and documents/analysis that show current electricity needs/trends for LPEA.	Comment noted and will be addressed by the Project Description and the Purpose and Need statements.	letter
116-7	Project Description	If upgrades are required into San Juan Generating station for transmission constraints and Tri-State power routing, the NEPA document must include that information and analysis. Please clarify the proposed 140 MW of power load for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project and what specific projects would serve that load.	Comment noted and will be addressed by the Project Description and the Proposed Action.	letter
11-2	Project Description	[Interested in] detail on the proposed route.	Comment noted.	email

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
67-1	Project Description	Requested clarification to the number used for the load profile, capacity of the line, and megawatts out of San Juan Generating Station.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	phone
67-2	Project Description	Does Tri-State own infrastructure in the Farmington area, and if not how do you plan to transport the 40 MW from San Juan Generating Station?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	phone
67-4	Project Description	Who will own Iron Horse Substation?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	phone
17-2	Radio/TV Interference	Would the new power line have any effect on recording CD broadcasts?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
35-1	Radio/TV Interference	Concerned with radio reception.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
104-1	Radio/TV Interference	Concerned with cell phone, cable, and communication interference.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
75-5	Recreation	Concerned with recreational impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
76-6	Recreation	What will be the impact of the large transmission lines on recreational activities?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
88-4	Recreation	What will be the impact of the large transmission lines on recreational activities?	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
86-1	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
91-1	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts from transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
97-3	Visual	Concerned aesthetic impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
116-10	Visual	We suggest that BLM and cooperating agencies avoid the La Plata and Animas river valleys with transmission line alignments. Any proposed corridor route for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project would cross the La Plata and Animas Rivers, which have stringent BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications which BLM must consider accordingly.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	letter
116-12	Visual	The Proposed Action has the potential to contribute to impaired visibility within nearby Class I areas. As a result, the impact of project emission sources, in combination with reasonably foreseeable sources future emission would potentially produce significant cumulative impacts to visibility resources.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	letter

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
116-19	Visual	Visual impacts are a concern.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	letter
79-1	Visual	It would be beneficial to our neighborhood to see simulations to determine what impact the power lines will have on our views of the mountains.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	website
75-3	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
89-4	Visual	VRM analysis for all alternatives should compare visual impacts from key observation points including Highway 550 and the La Plata Highway, and all residential properties that would be impacted by each alternative.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	form
89-5	Visual	The amount of visual impact at each potential crossing of the major highways should be compared in detail for each alternative.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
43-3	Visual	Concerned with aesthetic effect on the existing landscape and views.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	letter
84-1	Visual	The proposed power line corridor in Hart Canyon will destroy our mountain views and negatively impact our property values. We strongly urge you not to consider the Hart Canyon corridor.	Comment noted.	website
33-1	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts if corridor BB and new Iron Horse Substation. Suggests selecting corridor AA.	Comment noted.	form
42-21	Visual	Related to corridors CC and AA, landowners in corridor at corner have full view east-west and have visual impact concerns.	Comment noted.	maps
42-7	Visual	Related to corridors L and K, several residents of area near intersection of L and K are concerned with visual impacts.	Comment noted.	maps
42-8	Visual	Related to corridor L, users of Alien Run recreation area are concerned about visual impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	maps
42-9	Visual	Related to corridor K, residents and public concerned about visual impacts along Highway 550 corridor.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	maps
93-1	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts from transmission line.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
100-1	Visual	Concerned with impacts to visual resources.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
63-4	Visual	Concerned with impacts to visual resources.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form

Comment ID	Comment Category	Comment	Treatment/Response	Form of Comment
98-2	Visual	Concerned with visual impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
73-1	Visual	Concerned for impact to visual resources and property value resulting from visual impacts.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	website
60-1	Visual	Concerned with impacts to visual resources.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	form
49-2	Visual	Concerned with impacts to visual resources and resulting impact to property value.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	website
74-1	Visual	Concerned with property value and impact on visual resources. Requests that visual simulations be conducted to analyze the visual impact from Ridge Road. Requests an economic analysis be conducted to address potential effects on property values.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	website
76-3	Visual	Requests visual simulations of the potential transmission lines be provided such that the impact can be evaluated by the residents.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	website
88-2	Visual	Request for visual simulation of the potential transmission line to evaluate impact to residents in the Hart Canyon neighborhood.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document. Visual simulations from key observation points for the action alternatives will be provided.	form
42-24	Water Resources	Related to corridor BB, wetlands concern west of substation - Simler Ditch concerns.	Comment will be addressed in the NEPA document.	maps

**APPENDIX A
PUBLIC SCOPING NEWSLETTER**



September 2009

Regional utilities ensure reliable electric service in your community

Inside This Issue

About the Project

Siting, NEPA, Permitting

We Want to Hear From You

Public Workshop Details

Public Scoping Workshops

As part of the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project, public workshops will be held to provide details about the project and receive feedback.

- **October 7, 2009**
Farmington Civic Center
(200 W. Arrington St.)
4pm to 7pm
- **October 8, 2009**
Ignacio Community Library
(470 Goddard Ave.)
4pm to 7pm

Interested in learning more?

Visit the project website to read planning documents, view maps, and provide your comments.

www.SJBEnergyConnect.com

Submit your comments online, by mail or via phone:

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
c/o SWCA Inc.
130 Rock Point Dr. Ste. A
Durango, CO 81301

Toll Free: 1-877-457-8393

Increasing residential and industrial electric growth in the San Juan Basin region of Colorado and New Mexico has put a strain on the existing electrical system.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), its member co-op La Plata Electric, and other regional utilities have ensured improvements and additions to the electric system over the years to maintain reliability. While these improvements have helped, there is a tremendous need to import more power into the region to help meet the needs of growing communities.

The proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project would involve the construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line by Tri-State from the Farmington area in New Mexico to Ignacio, Colo. This line is needed to provide the power delivery infrastructure for the San Juan

Basin to relieve transmission constraints, serve new loads and offer economic development through renewable energy opportunities.

As a power provider and transmission line operator, Tri-State is working to define proposed corridors for the new line. Because of the regional significance, Tri-State is working closely with the following groups:

- La Plata Electric Association
- City of Farmington
- Western Area Power Administration
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Rural Utilities Service

Understanding the siting, environmental and permitting process

Siting new transmission lines requires an open and comprehensive process that involves various factors including electric system planning, economics, the environment, public involvement, regulatory issues, land rights, and engineering input. Siting goals include maximizing the use of opportunity areas (existing easements, transportation corridors, rangeland, etc.) and minimizing the use of constraint areas (water bodies, irrigated agricultural lands, conservation areas, etc).

As a result of receiving federal funds from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and constructing transmission infrastructure on public lands, the project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency for the NEPA process, which will require evaluation of the poten-

tial environmental impacts from major actions before deciding to move forward. Other cooperating agencies are the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the RUS.

Tri-State is committed to following this thorough siting and environmental process in order to meet or exceed local, state and federal compliance requirements.

NEPA documents fully disclose potential effects of the proposed action and alternative routes, as well as provide a comprehensive analysis of impacts to the natural environment, cultural resources and local socio-economic conditions.

Information from this process then will be used to seek land use permits from the appropriate federal, state, local county and municipal authorities.

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
c/o SWCA Inc.
130 Rock Point Dr. Ste. A
Durango, CO 81301

San Juan Basin Energy Connect
www.SJBEnergyConnect.com



New power line proposed: Your input is needed

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), its member co-op La Plata Electric, and other regional utilities have partnered to propose the construction of a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from the Farmington area to Ignacio, Colo.

This new line is needed to provide the power delivery infrastructure for the San Juan Basin that will relieve transmission constraints, serve new loads and offer economic development through renewable energy opportunities.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will conduct public scoping meetings in an open house format to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of an environmental review document, an Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments collected will contribute to development of the EA and will be used to refine the proposed transmission line corridors.

Members of the public are invited to attend and learn about the federal environmental review process and discuss details of the proposed project.

Wednesday, October 7 4pm to 7pm
Farmington Civic Center
200 W. Arrington Street

Thursday, October 8 4pm to 7pm
Ignacio Community Library
470 Goddard Avenue

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, detailed information and online comment forms are available on the project website:

www.SJBEnergyConnect.com

* You have received this notice as a key stakeholder in the project or because you own property within or near a proposed corridor.

Public Scoping Meetings highlight process on determining power line routes and encourage feedback

Exhibits at the workshops will include information on siting the line, preliminary corridors, the purpose and need for the project, and environmental studies. Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with staff from the utilities and other industry experts. Input will also be gathered at each exhibit on comment forms.

If you need special accommodations for the public workshops, call Coleman Burnett at (505) 254-1115 by Oct. 2 to make arrangements.

The public scoping period ends Nov. 8, 2009.

Benefits of the Proposed Project:

- Improvement of the power delivery infrastructure to the San Juan Basin
- Increase in the load serving capabilities for residential, small business and industrial electric consumers
- Provide an alternate source of power for oil and gas development
- Relieve transmission constraints for the region
- Provide a pathway for potential renewable energy development

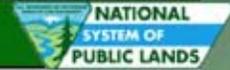
www.SJBEnergyConnect.com

info@sjbenergyconnect.com

1-877-457-8393

**APPENDIX B
PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT CARD**

Public Scoping Comment Form



We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the BLM Federal review process. **The comment period ends November 8, 2009.**

Which meeting did you attend?

- Farmington, NM on October 7th
- Ignacio, CO on October 8th

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Purpose and Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio and Television Interference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual/Aesthetic Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Residences | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation) | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources (Floodplains, River Crossings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Cultural Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Please provide your comments on San Juan Basin Energy Connect below:

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

Please
Use
Correct
Postage

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
c/o SWCA Inc.
130 Rock Point Dr. Ste A
Durango, CO 81301

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
c/o SWCA Inc.
130 Rock Point Dr. Ste A
Durango, CO 81301

FOLD HERE

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments using any of the following options:

- Leave this form at the public workshop
- Mail the form or a letter to the address above
- Submit comments at www.SJBEnergyConnect.com
- Submit comments via email at info@SJBEnergyConnect.com

Please submit your comments by November 8, 2009.

FOLD HERE

Contact Information

Name: _____

Representing (optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

I would like to receive electronic newsletters on the project.

Please fold this form letter style if you choose to mail it without an envelope.
Make sure that your contact information is facing inward when mailing.