

Chapter 5 – Public Coordination

5 Public Coordination

Chapter 5 provides an overview of public involvement activities and government coordination and consultation that has occurred as part of this EIS process.

5.1 Public Involvement and NEPA Scoping

The SJBEC Project was initiated in 2008 when Tri-State submitted an application for right-of-way to the BLM. The BLM has engaged the public throughout the life of the SJBEC Project to solicit input on the EIS and the alternatives that would be considered.

5.1.1 EA Scoping

When the SJBEC Project began, the BLM initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the appropriate level of documentation to comply with NEPA. Public scoping for the SJBEC Project EA occurred from September 17 through November 9, 2009. Scoping meetings were held with the public and local, state, and federal agencies on October 7 and 8, 2009, in Farmington, New Mexico, and Ignacio, Colorado. The meetings were used to gather input on issues for consideration in the SJBEC Project EA. In addition to information regarding the federal environmental process, general project information and information on preliminary transmission corridors were also available for review and comment at the scoping meetings.

2009 EA Scoping Report

The 2009 EA Scoping Report is incorporated by reference and is located at:

http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/san_juan_basin_energy.html

A total of 82 individuals signed in as attendees to the EA scoping meetings. Comments were received from 91 individuals. Issues of primary concern identified by the public during the scoping period were:

- Proximity of the transmission line to residences
- Land use issues
- Impacts to visual resources
- Health and safety concerns
- Impacts related to noise

Public input received during the scoping period suggested that an EIS-level analysis would be more appropriate than the proposed EA. As a result, the BLM decided in December 2009 to prepare an EIS instead of an EA.

5.1.2 Alternatives Development Process

After the scoping meetings in October 2009, numerous meetings were held with various agencies and stakeholders to develop specific transmission line route segments. In addition, three route refinement workshops were conducted to discuss preliminary routes with the public, agencies, and the oil and gas industry on September 21 and 22, 2010, in Farmington and Aztec, New Mexico, and Ignacio, Colorado. A total of 129 individuals signed in as attendees to the three route refinement workshops.

Common themes among comments received from the public and agency representatives included concerns with:

- Visual impacts
- Property value loss
- Electric and magnetic fields
- Proximity to residences
- Impacts from noise
- Impacts to wildlife

5.1.3 EIS Scoping

The EIS scoping process began when the BLM published the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on January 25, 2011,¹ and continued to April 1, 2011. Three public scoping meetings and one agency scoping meeting were held on March 16 and 17, 2011, in Farmington and Aztec, New Mexico, and Ignacio, Colorado, to solicit comments on the scope of the EIS. People were informed of the meetings through newspaper advertisements; legal notices; public service announcements; mailed invitations to landowners, stakeholders, agencies, and tribes; email notices; and a dedicated project website.

A total of 140 individuals signed in as attendees to the three public scoping meetings. A total of 71 individuals, agencies, and non-governmental organizations submitted comments on the SJBEC Project. Comments were received regarding a wide variety of issues, but largely fell into the following categories:

- Land use
- Effects on resources and resource use
- Public health and safety
- Socioeconomics and environmental justice
- Alternatives
- Mitigation measures

A summary of the key issues identified as part of EIS scoping are discussed in Section 1.9, Issues Raised During Scoping.

2011 EIS Scoping Report

The 2011 EIS Scoping Report is incorporated by reference and is located at:

http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/san_juan_basin_energy.html

¹ Federal Register 2011

5.2 Cooperation, Consultation, and Coordination

The BLM invited 21 tribes, federal, state, and local agencies to participate in the preparation of the EIS as cooperating agencies. The seven entities listed below accepted the invitation and are working with the BLM as cooperating agencies:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- La Plata County
- Navajo Nation
- New Mexico State Land Office
- Rural Utilities Service
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)
- Western Area Power Administration (Western)

Each entity signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM indicating its commitment to participating as a cooperating agency. The Memorandum of Understanding also outlines specific milestones where the BLM will formally engage cooperating agencies.

Interactions with the cooperating agencies have included periodic meetings and briefings; reviews of preliminary, internal drafts of the EIS; and input on specific issues such as alternatives development, the project study area, and EIS methodologies. In addition, many of the cooperating agencies provided GIS data and background information used to prepare this EIS.

The BLM has also coordinated with other federal agencies throughout the preparation of this EIS. These agencies include:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Resource Conservation Service

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the BLM is coordinating with and soliciting input from the Colorado and New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officers.

As required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM is working with the USFWS to ensure that the Proposed Action would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed threatened or endangered species. These consultations are ongoing and will result in a biological assessment and biological opinion for the SJBEC Project.

5.3 Government-to-Government Consultation

The BLM works with Native American tribes on a government-to-government basis. As a matter of practice, the BLM coordinates with all tribal governments, associated native communities, native organizations, and tribal individuals whose interests might be directly affected by activities on public lands. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consult with Native American tribes for undertakings on tribal lands and for undertakings that may affect historic properties of significance to the tribes. As part of the ongoing consultation process for the SJBEC Project, the BLM provides opportunities for tribes to receive information, provide comments, and consult on the project.

In accordance with Executive Order 13175, the BLM initiated the Section 106 process and government-to-government consultation as part of the EA in November 2009. The BLM reinitiated consultation with the tribes in March 2011, after the Notice of Intent for the EIS was published. The BLM sent the following 24 tribes scoping notifications and invitations to consult on the SJBEC Project:

- Cochiti Pueblo
- Hopi Tribe
- Isleta Pueblo
- Jemez Pueblo
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kewa Pueblo
- Laguna Pueblo
- Nambe Pueblo
- Navajo Nation
- Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo
- Pojoaque Pueblo
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of Taos
- San Felipe Pueblo
- San Ildefonso Pueblo
- Sandia Pueblo
- Santa Ana Pueblo
- Santa Clara Pueblo
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)
- Tesuque Pueblo
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Zia Pueblo
- Zuni Pueblo

In August 2012, the BLM sent letters to the Colorado and New Mexico State Historic Preservation Offices, tribes, and other interested parties to receive input on the proposed area of potential effects for the undertaking, traditional cultural properties, and the Old Spanish Trail.

In addition to these formal communications, BLM managers and staff have participated in in-person meetings with the BIA, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, SUIT, and Zia Pueblo. Government-to-government consultation for the SJBEC Project is ongoing via phone calls, emails, and mail correspondence. The BLM will continue to consult with interested tribes and will continue to keep tribal entities informed throughout the NEPA and Section 106 processes.

5.4 List of Preparers

The team involved with preparing this EIS is listed below.

List of Preparers – Agencies and Tribes

Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
LEAD AGENCY		
Amanda Nisula	BLM	Planning & Environmental Specialist
Barney Wegener	BLM	Natural Resource Specialist
Bill Liess	BLM	Surface Compliance Division
Bill Papich	BLM	Public Relations
Chris O'Melia	FWS	Conservation Planning
Darlene Horsey	BLM	Realty Specialist
Gary Torres	BLM	Field Office Manager
Janelle Alleman	BLM	Recreation/VRM
Jeff Tafoya	BLM	Rangeland Management Specialist
Jim Copeland	BLM	Archaeologist
John Hansen	BLM	Wildlife Specialist
John Kendall	BLM	T&E and Wildlife Specialist
Marcy Romero	BLM	Project Manager
Maureen Joe	BLM	Assistant Field Manager
Patrick Parks	BLM	GIS
Sarah Scott	BLM	Riparian Division
Scott Hall	BLM	Lands Team Lead
Shannon Hoefeler	BLM	Solid Minerals Division
Sherrie Landon	BLM	Paleontologist
Thetis Gamberg	FWS	Liaison, BLM Pilot Project
COOPERATING AGENCIES AND TRIBES		
Courtney Roseberry and Leslie Jakoby	LaPlata County	Cooperating Agency
Jim Hartman	Western	Cooperating Agency
John Tasheck	NM State Land Office	Cooperating Agency
John Waconda	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Cooperating Agency
Stephanie Strength	Rural Utilities Service	Cooperating Agency
Steve Whiteman	Southern Ute	Tribe and Cooperating Agency
Tony Joe	Navajo Nation	Tribe and Cooperating Agency
Adam Okun Parametrix	Cultural Resources	MA Anthropology
Amy Cordle EMPSi	Air Quality, Climate Change, and Greenhouse Gases	BS Civil Engineering Certificate, Engineer-in-Training

List of Preparers – Consultants

Name and Affiliation	Responsibility	Education
COOPERATING AGENCIES AND TRIBES (Continued)		
Andrew Gentile <i>EMPSi</i>	Noise and Vibration	MS Environmental Management BS Biochemistry Certificate, ASTM (All Appropriate Inquiry and Consequences on the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Process)
Angie Adams <i>EMPSi</i>	Land and Realty	BA Biology Minor in English Certificate, Technical Writing and Editing
Barbara Everett <i>Kleinfelder</i>	Hazardous Materials	MS Geology – Water Resources BS Geological Sciences
Becky Mellinger <i>Parametrix</i>	Editor	MS Geosciences BA Geology
Chad Ricklefs <i>EMPSi</i>	Physical Resources Lead	MURP Environmental Planning BA Political Science and Environmental Conservation Certificate, American Institute of Certified Planners; ePlanning 2.0
David Batts <i>EMPSi</i>	EIS Development Lead	MS Natural Resource Planning BS International Development Certificate, Wetland Delineation Certificate; National Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professional; Proper Ecological Functioning Condition Assessment Technique
Derek Holmgren <i>EMPSi</i>	Visual Resources	MS Environmental Science MPA Environmental Policy and Natural Resources Management BS Environmental Science BA International Studies Minor in Spanish
Devin Kennemore <i>Parametrix</i>	Vegetation, Water Resources and Wetlands	MS Biology BS Biology
Drew Vankat <i>EMPSi</i>	Recreation	MS Environmental Policy and Planning BPh Urban and Environmental Planning
Eileen Shannon <i>Kleinfelder</i>	Hazardous Materials, Geology and Geologic Hazards	BA Geology
Emily Gibson <i>Kleinfelder</i>	Geology and Geologic Hazards, Soils	MS Geotechnical Engineering BS Civil Engineering
Holly Prohaska <i>EMPSi</i>	Grazing and Livestock	MS Environmental Management BA Marine Science/Biology
Jenna Jonker <i>EMPSi</i>	GIS	BA Geography Minor, Geology Certificate, eGIS; ePlanning; Adobe Acrobat Accessibility and 508 Compliance
Jennifer Thies <i>EMPSi</i>	Farmlands	MS Resource Management BS Conservation and Resource Studies

List of Preparers – Consultants

Name and Affiliation	Responsibility	Education
COOPERATING AGENCIES AND TRIBES (Continued)		
Jennifer Whitaker <i>EMPSi</i>	Recreation	MS Project Management BS Public Affairs, Concentration Natural Resource Management Certificate, ePlanning 2.0; Recreation Planning
Jill Czarnecki <i>Parametrix</i>	EIS coordinator and author	BS Geology Certificate, Technical Writing and Editing
Jordan Tucker <i>EMPSi</i>	Farmlands	BS Environmental Sciences Minor in Geology AAS Certificate, ESRI Online Training
Karin Hagan <i>Kleinfelder</i>	GIS Mapping	MS Geographical Information Systems MS Geology BS Geology
Kate Krebs <i>EMPSi</i>	Special Designation Lands	BA Environmental Studies and Spanish Minor in Political Science Certificate, ePlanning 2.0; BLM VRM training
Katie Patterson <i>EMPSi</i>	Cumulative Effects	JD Environmental Law BA Environmental Policy Certificate, licensed to practice law in Colorado
Keith Julian <i>Kleinfelder</i>	Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	PhD Environmental Geography BA Regional Economics
Matt Sauter <i>Environmental Planning Group</i>	Paleontology	MS Paleontology BA Geology
Mike Pasenko <i>Environmental Planning Group</i>	Paleontology	MS Paleontology BA Anthropology
Nick Parker <i>P3 Planning</i>	Field Co-Lead, QA/QC	MA Archaeology BA Geography
Peter Gower <i>EMPSi</i>	Noise and Vibration	MS Land Use Planning BS Geography BA Political Science Minor, Environmental Studies Certificate, AICP; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Green Associate; Professional Certificate in Green Building and Sustainable Development
Phillip Rust <i>Kleinfelder</i>	Geology and Geological Hazards	MS Hydrogeology BS Forest Management BS Geology
Robert Pearson <i>CH2MHill</i>	Electric and Magnetic Fields	PhD, MS Satellite Remote Sensing Professional Engineer Geophysical Engineering Registered Professional Engineer
Sheila Rygwelski <i>CH2MHill</i>	Electric and Magnetic Fields	BS Environmental Engineering Registered Professional Engineer

List of Preparers – Consultants

Name and Affiliation	Responsibility	Education
COOPERATING AGENCIES AND TRIBES (Continued)		
Stephanie Miller <i>Parametrix</i>	Project Manager	BA Biology
Steve Albert <i>Parametrix</i>	Fish and Wildlife	MS Wildlife Ecology BA English BA Spanish
William Penner <i>P3 Planning</i>	GIS Lead, Field Co-Lead, Roads and Traffic	BA English and Anthropology
Zoe Ghali <i>EMPSi</i>	Socioeconomics, and Environmental Justice	MS Environmental Physiology Interdisciplinary Certificate in Environmental Policy BS Biology Certificate, ePlanning 2.0

5.5 EIS Distribution List

The EIS Distribution List is itemized below.

EIS Distribution List

Elected Officials	
New Mexico	Colorado
Governor Susana Martinez	Governor John Hickenlooper
US Representative Ben R. Lujan	US Representative Scott Tipton
US Senator Martin Heinrich	US Senator Michael Bennet
US Senator Tom Udall	US Senator Mark Udall
State Representative Paul Bandy	State Representative Mike McLachlan
State Representative Sharon Clahchischilliage	State Senator Ellen Roberts
State Representative Thomas Taylor	
State Representative James Strickler	La Plata County
State Senator Steven Neville	Gwen Lachelt, County Commissioner
State Senator John Pinto	Robert Anthony Leib, Jr., County Commissioner
State Senator William Sharer	Julie Westendorff, County Commissioner
San Juan County	City of Durango
Kim Carpenter, County Executive Officer	Ron LeBlanc, City Manager
GloJean Todacheene, Commissioner, District 1	Dick White, Mayor
Margaret McDaniel, Commissioner, District 2	Sweetie Marbury, Mayor Pro-Tem
Scott Eckstein, Commissioner, District 3	Dean Brookie, Council Member
Jack Fortner, Commissioner, District 4	Christina Rinderle, Council Member
Keith Johns, Commissioner, District 5	Keith Brant, Council Member

EIS Distribution List

Elected Officials (Continued)	
City of Farmington	Town of Ignacio
Robert Mayes, City Manager	Michael Lee, Town Manager
Dan Darnell, City Council District 1	Stella Cox, Board of Trustees
Mary Fischer, City Council District 2	Thomas Atencio, Board of Trustees
Gayla McCulloch, City Council District 3	Lawrence Bartley, Board of Trustees
Jason Sandel, City Council District 4	Alison DeKay, Board of Trustees
	Ray Larsen, Board of Trustees
	Linda Moore, Board of Trustees
City of Aztec	
Joshua Ray, City Manager	
Roberta S. Clover, District 1	
Sally Burbridge (Mayor), District 2	
Sherri Sipe, District 3	
Eugene L. Current, District 4	
Jim Crowley (Mayor Pro-Tem), District 5	
Federal Agencies	
Bureau of Land Management, Washington D.C.	United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service
Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office	United States Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
United States Army Corps of Engineers	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Western Area Power Administration
State Agencies	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	New Mexico State Land Office, Commissioner of Public Lands
Colorado Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Officer	New Mexico Energy, Mineral & Natural Resources
Colorado Department of Transportation	New Mexico Environment Department
New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, State Historic Preservation Officer	New Mexico Highway & Transportation Department
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	
Local Agencies	
La Plata County	City of Aztec
San Juan County	City of Ignacio
City of Farmington	City of Durango
Tribes	
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office Director	Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Ute Agency Superintendent	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, Director	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Navajo Nation, President Ben Shelly	

EIS Distribution List

Organizations (Libraries)	
Aztec Public Library	Farmington Public Library
Durango Public Library	Ignacio Community Library
Other Organizations	
CH2MHill	Old Spanish Trail Association
Colorado Wild	P3planning
Dine Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment	Parametrix
EMPSi	San Juan Citizen's Alliance
Kleinfelder	Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter
Natural Resources Defense Council	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
New Mexico Wildlife Federation	WildEarth Guardians

EIS Distribution List

Landowners	
Albert Lee Bell	Joan M. McCarthy
Alton K. Brown Living Trust	Joe P. Trujillo
Andrew Ortiz	John and Faye Waller Estate
Ashcroft Investments	John Austin Decker
Beemer Peterson Trust	John L. Gardner
Bob M. & Gwyneth H Browning Trust	Kennon Allen Decker
BP America Production Co.	La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
Brice F. Jr. & Phyllis J. Lee	Leroy Frame
Bryan Doherty	Loraine B. Simpson Trust & Farrell Family Trust
Carol P. Whitlock	Louie Heick Jr. Estate & Winifred Heick
Caroll V. Fisk Trust & Elizabeth L. Fisk Trust	Louis W. Rhodes
Cash for Contracts	Luis A. Salazar & Miriam Seda
Christopher E. & Francie M. Lee	Maddox Properties LLC
Clement Koogler	Marian Nobles
Corp. of the Presiding Bishop LDS & Patron De La Plata, LLC & Jerry C. Tankersley	Mark J. Huff
Crandall J. Bates	Mark Webber
Dannie W. & Martha D. Johnson	Melannie E. & Monty C. Cundiff
Danny R. Jaques	Montoya Sheep and Cattle Co
Dennis Egan Decker	Nickles Brothers Inc.
Derril Gliem	Norman J. Rathmell
Donald C. Adams Trust	Old and Bold LLC
Donald E. & Nancy G. Adams	Pascetti Investments LLC
Dugan Production	R. McGee Ranches LTD (Dwight McGee)
Elliott A. Riggs	Robert F. & Susan R. Hutchings
Erick Daniel Ericson Trust & Cetha Ericson Trust	Robert Stanley Ramey
Estate of Cordy M. Jaques	Roger Baer Trust
Estate of LL Stallings & Frances Mahoney Trust	Ronald M. Miller
Farmer Family Trust Dated	Sam Arn
George A. Jackson, Jr.	San Juan Coal
GFD Ignacio LLC	Shirley May Holmberg
Glen A. Leyshon	Stan Maynes
Glennette Gliem	Steven R. & Susan L. Banwart
Gordon N. Crane Jr. & Diane Crane	Sunbelt Mining Company Inc.
Helen M. O'Rourke	Tochee Traders (Skip & Beverly McGee)
J. Paul & Debra A. Brown	Tommy Bolack Revocable Trust
J. Paul Brown	Virginia P. Samuel
Jack William Fassett Qualified Domestic Trust	Wagon Rod Ranch LLC
James F. & Sandi C. Piper Trust	Willo Jean Brown
Jaye Elmer Decker	Worthington Betty Trustee
Jerald T. Marcotte	
Jerome F. Scezney	