BLM

San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

LEAD AGENCY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (DOI)
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

COOPERATING AGENCIES

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

NAVAJO NATION

LA PLATA COUNTY

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE (SUIT)

NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE (RUS)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
San Juan Energy Connect Project

LEAD AGENCY: US Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), Western Area Power Administration (Western), Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT), the New Mexico State Land Office, LaPlata County, and the Navajo Nation

LOCATION: Near Shiprock, New Mexico to Ignacio, Colorado

TYPE OF ACTION: Proposed 230 kV transmission line and supporting facilities originating near the existing Shiprock Substation in New Mexico, and terminating at an expanded Iron Horse Substation in Ignacio, Colorado.

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ABSTRACT: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. (Tri-State) filed a preliminary application for a right-of-way grant with the BLM Farmington Field Office (FFO) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 230 kilovolt (kV) overhead electric transmission line, access roads, two new substations, and expansion of an existing substation. The proposed 65-mile transmission line would run from near Shiprock, New Mexico to Ignacio, Colorado and much of the new transmission line would be located adjacent to existing transmission lines. It would deliver electricity generated at existing facilities to improve reliability of the transmission system and meet increasing demand in the San Juan Basin.

The BLM prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), BLM guidance (H-1790-1), and other applicable regulations and guidance.

Comments on this Draft EIS will be accepted for 45 calendar days following the date the US Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

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Acronyms and Key Terms

AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AUMs	animal unit months
BBER	Bureau of Business and Economic Research
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BLS	United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
CCR	Code of Colorado Regulations
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality's
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CPCN	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
CPW	Colorado Parks & Wildlife
CRS	Colorado Revised Statute
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
dBA Leq [1 hour]	one-hour average noise level
dBA Lmax	maximum dBA level
DM	Department Manual
DOE	US Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic fields
EO	Executive Order
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
EPMs	environmental protection measures
EPS	Economic and Planning Systems, Inc.
ESA	Endangered Species Act
et seq.	and the following
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFO	Farmington Field Office
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FINDS	Facility Index System
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FR	Federal Register
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kV	kilovolt
kV/m	kilovolts per meter
Leq	A-weighted average noise level measured in decibels
LPEA	La Plata Electric Association
LTANKS	Leaking Storage Tank
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mG	milligauss
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
mph	miles per hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NMDOT	New Mexico Department of Transportation
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMGFD	New Mexico Game and Fish Department
NMSA	New Mexico Statues Annotated

NOx	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	US Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSR	New Source Review
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety
OSTA	Old Spanish Trail Association
PILT	Payments in Lieu of taxes
PL	Public Law
PM_{10}	particulate matter between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter
PNM	Public Service Company of New Mexico's
POD	Plan of Development
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RCRA-CESQG	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act-Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators
RIMS II	regional economic multiplier
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCT	simple cycle combustion turbines
SHPOs	state historic preservation officers
SJBEC Project	San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project
SMPA	San Miguel Power Association
SOx	sulfur oxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure
SUIT	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TES	threatened, endangered, and sensitive
Tri-State	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc.
US	United States
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	US Bureau of Reclamation
USC	United States Code
USDA NRCS	US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tanks
V	groundborne vibration velocity
V/m	volts per meter
VdB	vibration decibels
VOC	volatile organic compounds
VRI	visual resource inventory
VRM	visual resource management
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
Western	Western Area Power Administration