

Southline Transmission Line Project



Draft Environmental Impact Statement & Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment

for the

Southline Transmission Line Project Public Meeting and Hearing

May 8, 2014

BLM New Mexico and Arizona State Offices
Western Area Power Administration

Southline Transmission Line Project



MEETING/HEARING OVERVIEW

- Meeting/Hearing Sign-in and Open House
- Presentation
- Question & Answer
- Formal Hearing Period
- Open House

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WAYS TO PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS

▶ At the Meeting/Hearing

- ▶ Comment card
- ▶ Verbal comments to court reporter

▶ After the Meeting/Hearing

- ▶ Email: BLM_NM_Southline@blm.gov
- ▶ Mail:
 - Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Frances Martinez
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico
88005

▶ Comments that help us!

- ▶ Comments focused on the proposed Project and what is being analyzed
- ▶ Identify your specific concerns
- ▶ Let us know why you are concerned and give us details
- ▶ Tell us what you like and why, and what you don't want to see changed
- ▶ Be as specific as possible

Make sure you submit your comments by the end of the comment period (July 10, 2014)

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OBJECTIVE

The Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**) & the Western Area Power Administration (**Western**) are hosting this meeting/hearing for the Southline Transmission Line Project:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment

The Meeting/Hearing Objective is to:

- Get your feedback on the adequacy of the DEIS released April 11, 2014
- To assist you in this endeavor, we will:
 - Describe the agency roles
 - Describe the proposed project and alternatives
 - Describe environmental impacts
 - Answer questions on the analysis process

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PROJECT TEAM, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Bureau of Land Management (joint lead agency)
- Western Area Power Administration (joint lead agency)
- Cooperating Agencies
- Southline Transmission, LLC
- Contractors

Southline Transmission Line Project



COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense Clearinghouse
- Fort Huachuca
- National Park Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service (Coronado National Forest)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona State Land Department
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- New Mexico State Land Office
- Cochise County, Arizona
- Greenlee County, Arizona
- Graham County, Arizona
- City of Sierra Vista, Arizona

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OVERVIEW OF SCOPING ISSUES

- ▶ *Impacts to sensitive areas:*
 - ▶ Lordsburg Playa
 - ▶ Willcox Playa
 - ▶ Tumamoc Hill
 - ▶ Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing Range
 - ▶ Scenic and historic trails
 - ▶ Cultural resources
 - ▶ Threatened and endangered species
- ▶ *Consolidating linear infrastructure*
 - ▶ Consider existing and proposed transmission and distribution lines

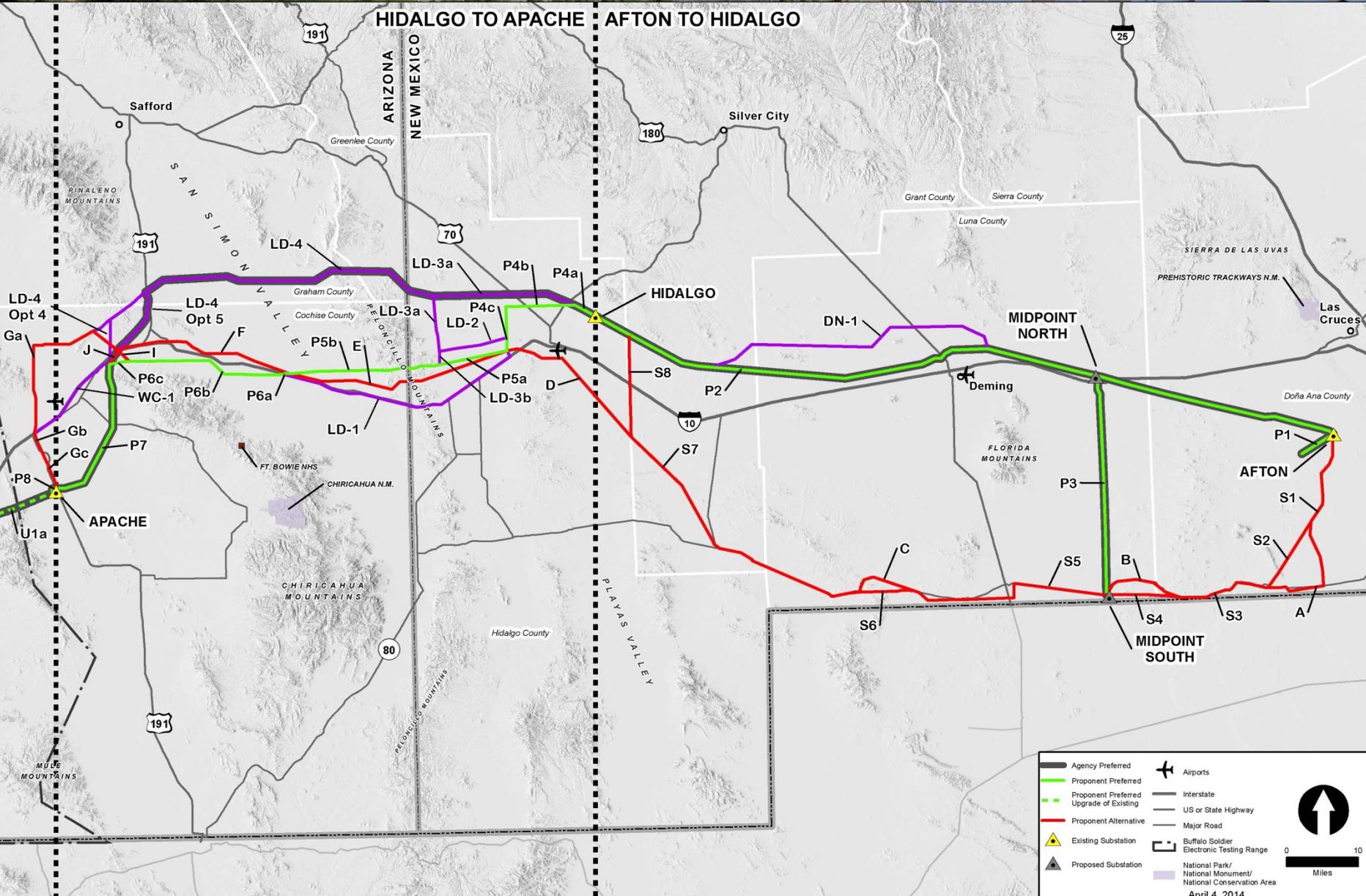
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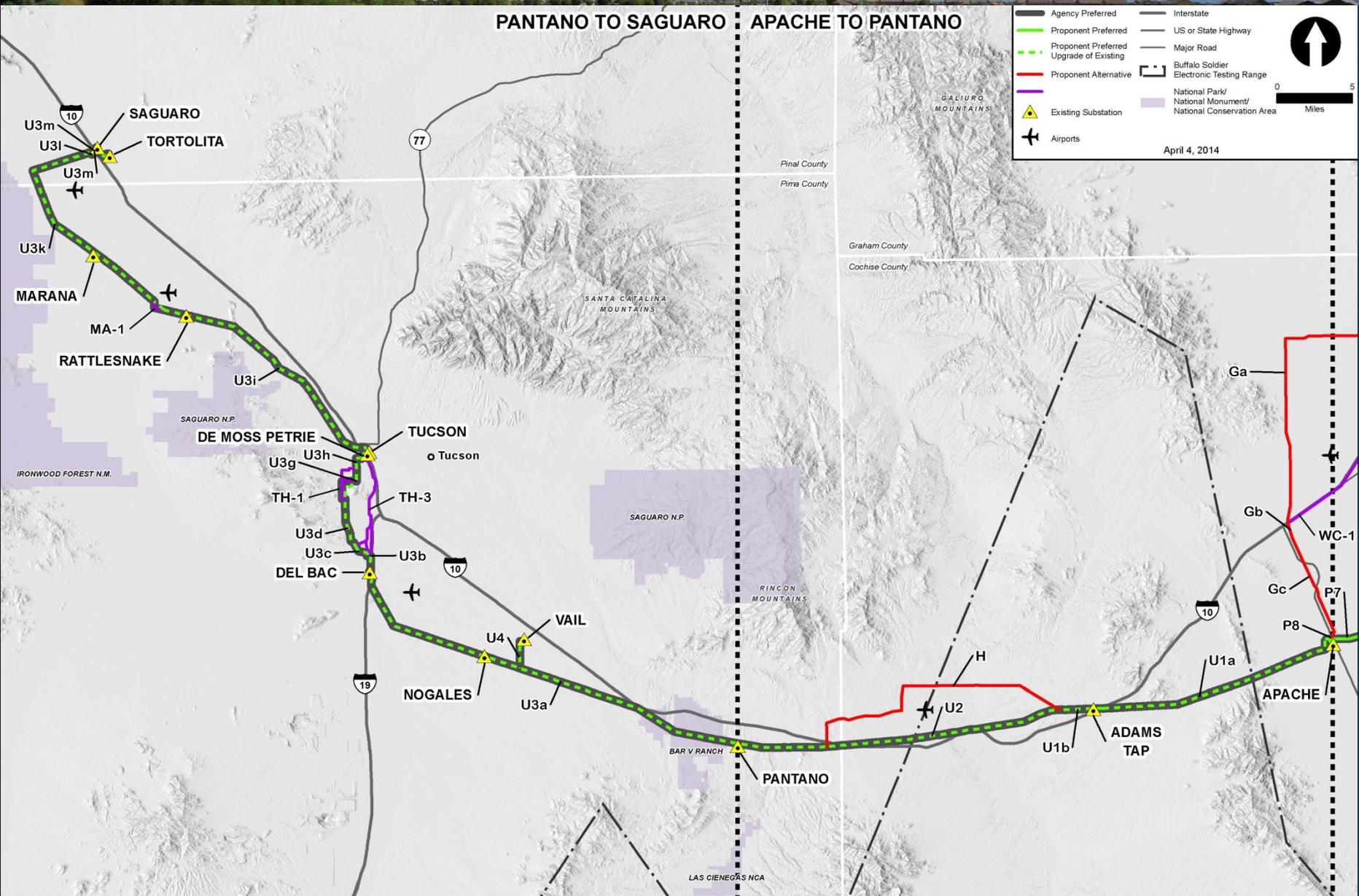
RESOURCES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL IN THE DEIS

- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Noise and Vibration
- ▶ Geology and Minerals
- ▶ Soils
- ▶ Paleontology
- ▶ Water (*Surface, Ground*)
- ▶ Biological Resources (*Wildlife, Vegetation*)
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Visual Resources
- ▶ Scenic and Historic Trails
- ▶ Land Use (*Farmlands, Military*)
- ▶ Special Designations
- ▶ Wilderness Characteristics
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- ▶ Public Health and Safety
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Intentional Acts of Destruction

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PANTANO TO SAGUARO APACHE TO PANTANO

Agency Preferred	Interstate
Proponent Preferred	US or State Highway
Proponent Preferred Upgrade of Existing	Major Road
Proponent Alternative	Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing Range
Existing Substation	National Park/ National Monument/ National Conservation Area
Airports	

0 5 Miles

April 4, 2014

U3m
U3l
U3m
✈

MARANA
MA-1
RATTLESNAKE

DE MOSS PETRIE
U3h
U3g
TH-1
U3d
U3c
DEL BAC
TUCSON
Tucson
TH-3
✈

NOGALES
U4
U3a
VAIL

BAR V RANCH
PANTANO

H
U2
U1b
ADAMS TAP

Ga
Gb
Gc
P7
P8
APACHE
WC-1
✈

IRONWOOD FOREST N.M.

SAGUARO N.P.

SAGUARO N.P.

RINCON MOUNTAINS

GALILEO MOUNTAINS

Pinal County

Pima County

Graham County

Cochise County

LAS CIENEGAS NCA

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WHERE TO FIND THE DRAFT EIS

▶ Website

- ▶ http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/southline_transmission.html

▶ BLM Offices

- ▶ New Mexico
 - New Mexico State Office – Santa Fe
 - Las Cruces District Office – Las Cruces
- ▶ Arizona
 - Arizona State Office - Phoenix
 - Safford Field Office – Safford
 - Tucson Field Office - Tucson

▶ Libraries

- ▶ New Mexico
 - Las Cruces
 - Deming
 - Lordsburg
- ▶ Arizona
 - Willcox
 - Benson
 - Tucson
 - Marana

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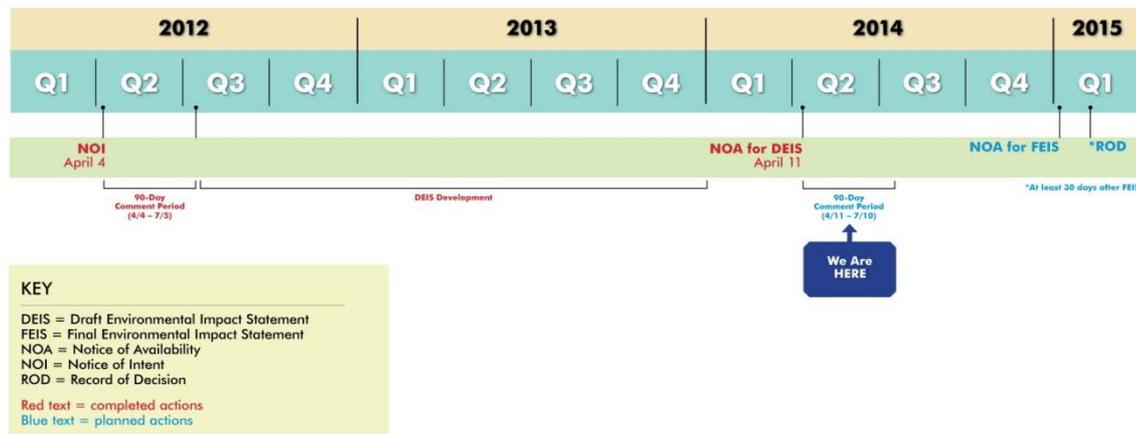
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NEXT STEPS

- ▶ [Comment Period Closing July 10, 2014](#)
- ▶ Consideration of DEIS comments
- ▶ Revise EIS (FEIS)
- ▶ Continuing Tribal, Section 106, and Section 7 consultation
- ▶ Agency Decisions (Q1 2015-TBD)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Timeline



Southline Transmission Line Project



- ▶ **BLM – Mark Mackiewicz**
 - Phone: (435) 636-3616
 - Email: mmackiew@blm.gov
 - Website: <http://www.blm.gov/nm/southline>
- ▶ **Western – Mark Wieringa**
 - Phone: (720) 962-7448
 - Email: Wieringa@WAPA.gov

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PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKER GUIDELINES

- *The public hearings will include a facilitator and a court reporter*
- *The court reporter will record oral comments made during the comment portion of the hearing*
- *The public hearing ensures that your comments are heard and recorded*
- *Speakers will be asked to sign up before the hearing begins, and a time limit will be set for each speaker based on the number of requests to speak*
- *If the allotted speaker time is not sufficient to share your comments, you may submit them in writing tonight or after the meeting/hearing*

If you are from a group or agency, you may wish to designate a speaker

*Anyone may also submit written comments to be considered for the Final EIS until **July 10, 2014***

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