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SunZia Southwest TRANSMISSION PROJECT

NEWSLETTER #4



JUNE 2012

BLM Seeking Public Participation

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is soliciting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Amendments (Draft EIS/RMPA) during the 90-day public comment period, which ends August 22, 2012.

The BLM is holding public meetings in 10 locations to provide information and receive public input on the SunZia Southwest Draft EIS/RMPA for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia Project). The meetings will be held in the following communities (all dates are in 2012):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| NEW MEXICO | ARIZONA |
| ▪ Corona – June 26 | ▪ Safford – July 11 |
| ▪ Socorro – June 27 | ▪ Benson – July 12 |
| ▪ Truth or Consequences – June 28 | ▪ Tucson – July 17 |
| ▪ Deming – July 9 | ▪ San Manuel – July 18 |
| ▪ Lordsburg – July 10 | ▪ Eloy – July 19 |

Each meeting will be an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and will also include a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m. Meeting details are provided on the back page of this newsletter.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS/RMPA was published in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on May 25, 2012. The Draft EIS/RMPA evaluates multiple alternative routes, including a No Action alternative, and addresses the Project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. The BLM has identified a preferred alternative based on preliminary review and is seeking comments on all of the alternatives, including the preferred alternative. The alternative routes range from 460 to 530 miles long; the length of the BLM preferred alternative would be approximately 530 miles. It is estimated that approximately 191 miles, or 36 percent of the total right-of-way for the BLM preferred alternative, would be located on federally administered lands. To the extent feasible, the proposed Project would use existing transmission line routes and federally-designated utility corridors.

Project Background

The SunZia Project is a proposed high-capacity electrical transmission project in New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed Project would include the construction and operation of two adjacent 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the proposed SunZia East Substation in Lincoln County, New Mexico, to the permitted Pinal Central Substation in Pinal

County, Arizona. The proposed Project would be located on BLM, state, private, and other lands. One of the proposed 500 kV transmission lines would be constructed and operated as an alternating current (AC) facility, and the other may be either an AC or direct current (DC) facility. The requested right-of-way width would be 400 feet, in order to accommodate a separation of 200 feet between the two lines, but could be up to 1,000 feet in areas where terrain poses engineering or construction constraints.

In addition to the SunZia East Substation, three new substations would be constructed and operated as part of the Project: the proposed Midpoint Substation, near Deming, New Mexico in Luna County; the proposed Lordsburg Substation, near Lordsburg, New Mexico in Hidalgo County; and the proposed Willow-500 kV Substation, near Willcox, Arizona in Graham County.

The Project is intended to deliver electricity, including power generated from renewable energy resources, to the western United States by providing up to 4,500 megawatts of new transmission capacity. The proposed Project would allow for transmission of electrical power to major substation hubs in New Mexico and Arizona. The BLM is considering a right-of-way application submitted by the Project Proponent, SunZia Transmission, LLC, and is preparing an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

The Notice of Intent to prepare the SunZia Project EIS was issued May 29, 2009, followed by public scoping meetings conducted throughout New Mexico and Arizona during the comment periods in 2009 and 2010.

Cooperating agencies include the following:

FEDERAL AGENCIES	STATE AGENCIES
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	New Mexico State Land Office
National Park Service	New Mexico Spaceport Authority
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Arizona State Land Department
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Fort Bliss (U.S. Army)	Arizona Department of Transportation
Fort Huachuca (U.S. Army)	
White Sands Missile Range (U.S. Army)	
Holloman Air Force Base	
U.S. Department of Defense, Siting Clearing House	

For more background information on the SunZia Project and the EIS process, visit the BLM Project website at www.blm.gov/nm/sunzia.

ATTENTION: PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA



Each meeting will be an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and will also include a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m.

June 26, 2012

Corona High School
 250 Franklin Street
 Corona, New Mexico

June 27, 2012

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
 Fidel Center Ballroom
 801 Leroy Place
 Socorro, New Mexico

June 28, 2012

Sierra County Events Center
 2953 S. Broadway St.
 Truth or Consequences,
 New Mexico

July 9, 2012

Mimbres Valley Special Events Center
 2300 E. Pine St.
 Deming, New Mexico

July 10, 2012

Dugan-Tarango Middle School
 1352 Hardin St.
 Lordsburg, New Mexico

July 11, 2012

Safford High School
 1400 W. Bulldog Blvd.
 (14th Ave. & 10th St.)
 Safford, Arizona

July 12, 2012

Benson School
 360 S. Patagonia St.
 Benson, Arizona

July 17, 2012

Palo Verde Magnet School
 1302 S. Avenida Vega
 Tucson, Arizona

July 18, 2012

San Manuel High School
 711 S. McNab Parkway
 San Manuel, Arizona

July 19, 2012

Eloy Junior High School
 404 E. Phoenix Ave.
 Eloy, Arizona

Comment Submittal

Opportunities to submit written public comments are available by:

- Attending a public meeting and registering comments in person (see the public meeting schedule on back cover)
- Emailing comments to: NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov
- Mailing comments to: Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office SunZia Southwest Transmission Project P.O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
- Courier/Hand Delivery: Bureau of Land Management SunZia Southwest Transmission Project 301 Dinosaur Trail Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

Comments should be received by August 22, 2012.

Three Ways to Review the Documents

- Download the Draft EIS/RMPA documents from the BLM Project website www.blm.gov/nm/sunzia
- View hardcopies of the documents at BLM offices, other agency offices, or community libraries.
- Request a DVD or hardcopy of Draft EIS/RMPA documents from the BLM

Project Contact

Adrian Garcia, *Project Manager*
BLM New Mexico State Office
(505) 954-2199
NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov

How to Comment on the Draft EIS/RMPA

The BLM is seeking public comment on the Draft EIS/RMPA for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project.

You may provide comments by mail, email, or hand delivery (see sidebar: Comment Submittal). Please use the comment form, available at public meetings, or download the form from the Project website. Please focus your comments on issues relating primarily to the Draft EIS/RMPA, so that the BLM may provide a timely review and evaluation of comments.

Following the 90-day public comment period, a Final EIS/RMPA will be prepared

based on comments received from the public, agencies, and interested parties. After the publication of this Final EIS/RMPA, the BLM may select one of the alternatives and publish a Record of Decision.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS/RMPA are limited; the complete document is available on the BLM Project website or on DVD.

Project Mailing List

During the course of the SunZia Project, updates on the EIS process will be sent to those on the Project mailing list. To be included in the distribution, please forward your full mailing address to NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov or submit via the Project website at www.blm.gov/nm/sunzia.

Locations of Draft EIS/RMPA for Public Review

BLM Offices

New Mexico State Office
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Socorro Field Office
901 S. Highway 85
Socorro, NM 87801

Roswell Field Office
2909 W. Second Street
Roswell, NM 88201

Rio Puerco Field Office
435 Montaña N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Tucson Field Office
3201 East Universal Way
Tucson, AZ 85756

Safford Field Office
711 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Gila District Office
1763 Paseo San Luis
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Other Agency Offices

New Mexico State Land Office
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87504

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Regulatory Division
4101 Jefferson Plaza, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Ecological Services
500 Gold Avenue S.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Libraries

New Mexico

Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library
(Lordsburg)

Marshall Memorial Library
(Deming)

Socorro Public Library

Thomas Branigan Memorial
Library (Las Cruces)

Truth or Consequences Public
Library

Village of Corona Public
Library

Arizona

Benson Public Library

Bowie Jimmie Libhart Library

Casa Grande Public Library

Coolidge Public Library

Eloy Public Library

Mammoth Public Library

Geasa-Marana Branch Library
(Marana)

Oracle Public Library

Safford City-Graham County
Library

San Manuel Public Library

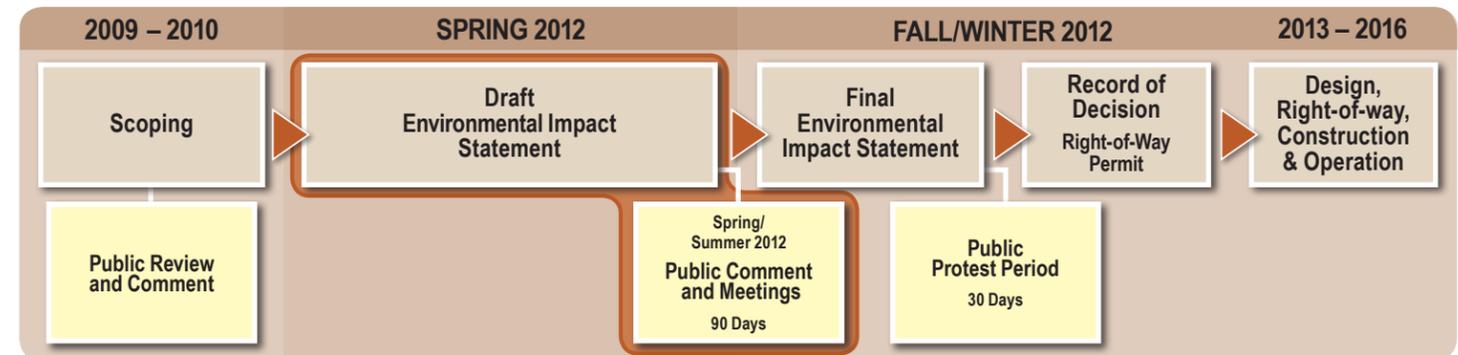
Pima County Public Library
(Tucson)

Elsie S. Hogan Community
Library (Willcox)

SUNZIA PROJECT STUDY AREA



PROJECT TIMELINE



BLM Project Website

Do you want to know more about the SunZia Project EIS? Visit the BLM Project website (www.blm.gov/nm/sunzia) for more information:

- Comment form (download)
- Project newsletters
- Notice of Intent
- SunZia Project overview
- BLM announcements and news releases
- CEQ's *A Citizen's Guide to NEPA*
- Draft EIS/RMPA and Notices of Availability
- Project schedule and maps

