

**Appendix J Cooperating Agency
– Invitation and Acceptance**



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NM-114438
2800 (93200)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodco Rd.
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm

MAY 05 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7004 2510 0003 4236 7497Bureau of Reclamation
Environmental Division
Attn: Lori Robertson, Division Manager
555 Broadway Blvd. NE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Ms Robertson:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two paralleling high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line, or two parallel lines, would be located on federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A project map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area map are enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. By this letter, the BLM invites the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to participate as a Cooperating Agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project as proposed may impact minimal lands currently under jurisdiction by the BOR along the Rio Grande crossing.

The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

As a cooperating agency, your organization could participate in the scoping process, assist in developing information to be included in the EIS, develop and identify potential mitigation measures, as well as other pertinent information that could be useful in the preparation of the EIS as well as the overall project proposal. Cooperating agencies may negotiate the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources. Alternatively, you may be able to accomplish your objectives by having your staff participate less formally in the process. Either way, gaining your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EIS and subsequent management strategies.

We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-01155.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project at (505) 438-7424.

Sincerely,



William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

2 Enclosures



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NM-114438
2800 (93200)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
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MAY 05 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7004 2510 0003 4236 7480

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division
Attn: Leslie McWhirter, Regulatory Division Manager
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

Dear Ms. McWhirter:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two paralleling high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line, or two parallel lines, would be located on federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A project map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area map are enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. By this letter, the BLM invites the US Army Corps of Engineers to participate as a Cooperating Agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project as proposed crosses the Rio Grande River in New Mexico and San Pedro River in Arizona. Your involvement is essential to help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM administered public lands, as well as potential impacts to wetlands along both river crossings.

The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

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We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-01155.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project at (505) 438-7424.

Sincerely,



William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

2 Enclosures

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109-3435

RECEIVED
A.L.M. MAILROOM

09 JUN -5 AM 10:53

STAFF OFFICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

June 3, 2009

Regulatory Division
NM/TX Branch

SUBJECT: Action Number SPA-2009-00292; SunZia Transmission Line Project

Mr. Adrian Garcia
Bureau of Land Management
c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-1155

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Reference is made to your letter dated May 5, 2009, requesting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) participation as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SunZia's proposed transmission line project in Waters of the United States, across several counties in southern New Mexico and southern Arizona. Waters of the United States which may be affected by the project are varied and include but are not limited to tributaries and adjacent wetlands to the lower Rio Grande, Gila River, and Ninety Six Creek watersheds in New Mexico; and Canada del Ora/Santa Cruz River, San Pedro River, Cienega Creek, and San Simon River watersheds in Arizona. We have assigned Action No. SPA-2009-00292-ABQ to this project.

The proposed project alignment is completely within the Corps' South Pacific Division, and lies within two Districts under that Division: Albuquerque and Los Angeles. In regard to Corps cooperation for the project EIS, the Albuquerque District will act as the lead District for the South Pacific Division with regard to consistency issues as it pertains to this project. The Los Angeles District of the Corps will be included in project communication as it develops, particularly the Arizona segment.

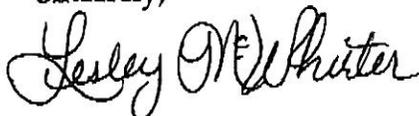
We request that the Corps be included as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. Our participation will satisfy the procedural and statutory requirements of the Corps (33 CFR 325, App. B, Sec. 230.16) and allow our review for adoption of the document in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.3 for a

permit decision under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, the extent of our participation will be limited to providing available information, routine coordination and review. We will attend meetings as scheduling allows, but will not be contributing funds to the EIS preparation other than our participation.

The Corps area of expertise or jurisdiction by law is generally flood control, navigation, hydropower, and Corps regulatory responsibilities. We will provide comments on the draft EIS within our areas of expertise or jurisdiction. As a cooperating agency, we expect to receive invitations to meetings and field reviews, to be consulted on technical studies, to be provided study results and draft documents, and to have our comments appropriately included in the EIS. When design specifics are available, we will review the project for Section 404 permit requirements. The Bureau of Land Management must certify that the project complies with the applicable effluent limitations and with State of New Mexico, State of Arizona, and/or Tribal water quality standards prior to our permit issuance.

Our contact for this project is Mr. Chris Grosso of the Albuquerque Regulatory Office, telephone (505) 342-3374, and e-mail at christopher.m.grosso@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Lesley McWhirter
Chief, NM/TX Branch

Copies furnished via email:

David J. Castanon, USACE Los Angeles District at
David.J.Castanon@usace.army.mil

Sallie McGuire, USACE Los Angeles District, Arizona Office at
Sallie.McGuire@usace.army.mil



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NM-114438
2800 (93200)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Rd.
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm

MAY 05 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7004 2510 0003 4236 4885US Fish & Wildlife Service – Region 2
Ecological Services
Attn: Nancy Gloman, Assistant Regional Director
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Ms. Gloman:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two paralleling high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line, or two parallel lines, would be located on federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A project map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area map are enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. By this letter, the BLM invites you to participate as a Cooperating Agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project as proposed could involve a listed species or their habitat along the project route. Your involvement is essential to help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM-administered public lands and species habitat. At this early stage in the project, no definite route or alternative routes have been defined. Once a refined route and impacted species are identified, we will work closely with your agency through the Section 7 Consultation process as necessary.

The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation.

The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

As a cooperating agency, your organization could participate in the scoping process, assist in developing information to be included in the EIS, develop and identify potential mitigation measures, as well as other pertinent information that could be useful in the preparation of the EIS as well as the overall project proposal. Cooperating agencies may negotiate the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources. Alternatively, you may be able to accomplish your objectives by having your staff participate less formally in the process. Either way, gaining your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EIS and subsequent management strategies.

We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-01155.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project at (505) 438-7424.

Sincerely,



William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

2 Enclosures

NM-114438
2800 (93200)

JUN 08 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7005 1820 0006 5560 1253

White Sands Missile Range
Attn: Brigadier General David L. Mann
Commanding General
Suite 232
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5000

Honorable Brigadier General Mann:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two parallel high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line or two parallel lines would be located on federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A Project Map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area Map is enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. We have also enclosed a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) that was published in the Federal Register on May 29, 2009. The NOI formally announces the initiation of BLM's intent to prepare an EIS and begin a formal 45-day public scoping period on the preparation of the EIS. By this letter, the BLM invites you to participate as a Cooperating Agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law.

As you can see on the attached Project Map, the proposed and alternative routes are only preliminary in nature and do not traverse lands under the jurisdiction of the White Sands Missile Range. The proposed and alternative routes lie west and north of the Whites Sands Missile Range. At this early stage in the project, the proposed and alternative routes are not definite. However, during the EIS scoping and public input process, the possibility does exist that members of the public may request that an alternative route be identified and considered through

the White Sands Missile Range jurisdictional boundaries. Because of this possibility and due to the current project's proposal proximity west and north of the Range, the BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The

Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

As a cooperating agency, your organization could participate in the scoping process, assist in developing information to be included in the EIS, develop and identify potential mitigation measures, as well as other pertinent information that could be useful in the preparation of the EIS as well as the overall project proposal. Cooperating agencies may negotiate the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources. Alternatively, you may be able to accomplish your objectives by having your staff participate less formally in the process. Either way, gaining your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EIS and subsequent management strategies.

We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-01155.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project at (505) 438-7424.

Sincerely,

/s/William Merhege

William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

Enclosures

cc:
NM9320, A. Garcia
NM9320, File



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
100 Headquarters Avenue
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO 88002-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Office of the Commanding General

04 AUG 2009

SUBJECT: Proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, NM-114438, 2800 (93200)

Mr. Adrian Garcia
BLM Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
c/o Cooperating Agency Status for SunZia Transmission Line Project
Post Office Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-01155

Dear Mr. Garcia:

White Sands Missile Range received your letter dated June 8, 2009, offering White Sands Missile Range cooperating agency status on your Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SunZia Transmission Line Project. We appreciate SunZia's Project Manager, Tom Wray's, efforts to keep us informed of this Project's status. White Sands Missile Range would like to participate as a cooperating agency and would like to discuss the extent of our participation.

While recognizing the importance of the project, WSMR has concerns about the impact on our mission posed by some of the alternative routes you have conveyed during our discussions. The alternative route next to the western border of WSMR would adversely affect low flying aircraft in our restricted airspace, high power microwave activities, and numerous national security projects. A line along Highway 380 may be acceptable; however, during construction the crews may be evacuated on a regular basis for various ongoing military missions. For more detailed information, you may want to consult our draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is currently out for review and is located on our web site at www.wsmr.army.mil.

Again, thank you for the invitation to become a cooperating agency and we are looking forward to working with you on this project. My points of contact are Ms. Cathy Giblin, Environmental Engineer, Test Center Operations, telephone: (575) 678-3541, email cathy.giblin@us.army.mil; and Mr. Jose Gallegos, Chief, Environmental Division, telephone: (575) 678-2225, email jose.a.gallegos@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for 

David L. Mann
Brigadier General, US Army
Commanding



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NM-114438
2800 (93200)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Rd.
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm

September 9, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7005 1820 0006 5560 1291Ft. Bliss McGregor Range
Attn: Major General Howard Bromberg
Commanding General, Ft. Bliss
Sheridan Road, Building 2
Ft. Bliss, TX 79166

Honorable General Bromberg:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from Sunzia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two parallel high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line – or two parallel lines – would be located on Federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A Project Map outlining the Preliminary Study Area and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area Map are enclosed for your reference. The Project Map identifies both preliminary proposed and alternative routes.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for Sunzia's proposed transmission line project. We have also enclosed a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) that was published in the Federal Register on May 29, 2009. The NOI formally announced the initiation of BLM's intent to prepare an EIS and begin a formal 45-day comment period which was extended to a total of 90 days. During the formal public scoping period (90 days) for the SunZia Project, BLM received numerous comments regarding the proposed and alternative transmission line routes within the Preliminary Study Area. The results of scoping are used to determine the appropriate study plan for the EIS in order to address the issues and concerns identified by the public and agencies, and to determine the scope of the study that must include an adequate range of alternatives. Alternative routes or sub-route segments may be added, modified, or deleted from further study. In response to scoping comments to date, the BLM is recommending that additional alternative

routes should be considered for detailed analysis and comparison in the EIS process. Additional alternative corridors for further consideration in the New Mexico area could provide alternative connections between the proposed Midpoint Substation site near Deming, and the proposed SunZia-East Substation termination site in Lincoln County.

An area of major concern and with great public opposition is in the vicinity of the San Antonio community, where the proposed route crosses the Rio Grande, north of the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Many comments have included requests to consider alternatives that would avoid the San Antonio/Rio Grande crossing. Also, both the Socorro and Sierra County Board of Supervisors have issued Resolutions requesting that additional alternatives be considered. One alternative route identified for consideration is located along the western boundary and in the northwest corner of the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). That route would require approximately 15 to 20 miles of new right-of-way on military lands.

Public comments have also included requests to consider other alternative routes crossing the Rio Grande in Donna Anna County to the south of Las Cruces through the Anthony Gap, south and east of the WSMR. Potentially, a route in this corridor could be located on BLM, state, and private lands, and also public lands withdrawn for military use by Ft. Bliss on the Dona Ana Range or McGregor Range. The potential use of the one-mile wide utility corridor for a transmission line, located adjacent to NM State Highway 54 and designated in the McGregor Resource Management Plan Amendment, could be permitted with the concurrence of the BLM and Ft. Bliss. This potential alternative route consideration could continue north of the McGregor Range, along the eastern boundary of the WSMR within Otero and Lincoln Counties on either military land or a combination of BLM, state, and private lands, and terminate at the proposed SunZia-East Substation.

Due to the initial opposition and comments received concerning the preliminary proposed and alternative routes, the BLM is seeking to expand the study area and consider alternative routes/corridors, including that route south and east of the WSMR, utilizing the one-mile wide utility corridor through the McGregor Range. With that said, by this letter, the BLM invites you to participate as a Cooperating Agency on the this SunZia Project EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other Federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship in this EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with state, local, tribal and other Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

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Either way, gaining your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EIS and subsequent management strategies.

We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-01155.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project at (505) 438-7424.

Sincerely,



For
William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

Enclosures



IN REPLY REFER TO:
NM-114438
2800 (9320)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Rd.
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.nm.blm.gov



April 29, 2009

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7002 0860 0007 4455 8929

Commissioner Patrick H. Lyons
New Mexico State Land Office
P.O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148

Dear Commissioner Lyons:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two paralleling high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line – or two parallel lines – would be located on Federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A Project Map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area Map are enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. By this letter, the BLM invites you to participate as a cooperating agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other Federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project, as proposed, involves lands administered by the State of New Mexico; your involvement is essential to help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM-administered public lands, including management actions needed to achieve our goal of stewardship of the land.

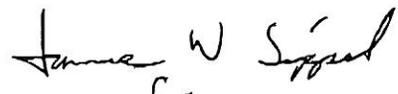
The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation.

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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project, at (505) 438-7424.


for
William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director,
Lands and Resources

2 Enclosures

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PATRICK H. LYONS
COMMISSIONER

State of New Mexico
Commissioner of Public Lands

310 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL
P.O. BOX 1148
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-1148

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Phone (505) 827-5760
Fax (505) 827-5766
www.nmstatelands.org

May 6, 2009

William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87501-0115

Rc: Sun Zia Project

Dear Mr. Merhege,

In response to the letter you sent dated April 29, 2009, the New Mexico State Land Office recognizes that the BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and required for the Sun Zia's proposed transmission line project. This letter is to let you know that the New Mexico State Land Office would like to participate as a cooperating agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project, as proposed, involves lands administered by the State Land Office so it is essential that we be involved and provide any assistance that will have potential impacts on state trust land.

Also, I would like to be notified of any meetings regarding this project so our staff can participate and become familiar with the project.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance here at the State Land Office, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-5866. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Dennis Garcia
Deputy Commissioner

DG/sm

Cc: Jim Jackson, Surface Division Director; Jim Norwick, Field Operations Director; Anna Villa, Right of Way Manager; Mary Dubose, Agricultural Leasing Manager

-State Land Office Beneficiaries -

Carrie Tingley Hospital • Charitable Penal & Reform • Common Schools • Eastern NM University • Rio Grande Improvement • Miners' Hospital of NM • NM Boys School • NM Highlands University • NM Institute of Mining & Technology • New Mexico Military Institute • NM School for the Deaf • NM School for the Visually Handicapped • NM State Hospital • New Mexico State University • Northern NM Community College • Penitentiary of New Mexico • Public Buildings at Capital • State Park Commission • University of New Mexico • UNM Saline Lands • Water Reservoirs • Western New Mexico University

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IN REPLY REFER TO
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2800 (9320)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Rd.
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.nm.blm.gov



April 29, 2009

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7002 0860 0007 4455 8936

Commissioner Mark Winkleman
Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Commissioner Winkleman:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, has received a right-of-way application from SunZia Transmission, LLC, to construct up to two paralleling high-voltage 500 kilovolt power transmission lines across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The proposed transmission line route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico, and would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line – or two parallel lines – would be located on Federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and load centers. A Project Map and the Western Renewable Energy Zones Qualified Resource Area Map are enclosed for your reference.

The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for SunZia's proposed transmission line project. By this letter, the BLM invites you to participate as a cooperating agency on this EIS. The BLM regulations state that only state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and other Federal agencies may serve as cooperating agencies during the EIS process if they can bring their expertise or jurisdiction by law. The project, as proposed, involves lands administered by the State of Arizona; your involvement is essential to help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM-administered public lands, including management actions needed to achieve our goal of stewardship of the land.

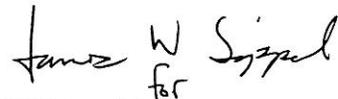
The BLM would like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship on the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the NEPA emphasizes the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation.

The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship.

As a cooperating agency, your organization could participate in the scoping process, assist in developing information to be included in the EIS, develop and identify potential mitigation measures, as well as other pertinent information that could be useful in the preparation of the EIS as well as the overall project proposal. Cooperating agencies may negotiate the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources. Alternatively, you may be able to accomplish your objectives by having your staff participate less formally in the process. Either way, gaining your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EIS and subsequent management strategies.

We are asking that you please respond to this request within the next few weeks so as to ensure that your participation and input into the EIS process, as a cooperating agency, is involved early in the process. Please respond to the BLM by submitting in writing an official letter to the Bureau of Land Management, c/o Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager for the SunZia Project, at (505) 438-7424.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Sizzel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William Merhege
Acting Deputy State Director,
Lands and Resources

2 Enclosures

June 17, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
Adrian Garcia, Project Manger
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Re: Cooperating Agency Status for the SunZia Transmission Line Project

Mr. Adrian Garcia:

Thank you for inviting the Arizona State Land Department to act as a Cooperating Agency in the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the SunZia Transmission Line Project. The Department accepts the invitation and, at the request of Interim Land Commissioner Jamie Hogue, I will serve as the primary point of contact for this project. I can be contacted at 520-209-4263 or tbolton@land.az.gov.

The Department looks forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management, SunZia, and the consultant team on this exciting project.

ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT
Southern Arizona Real Estate Division



Tim Bolton
Principal Planner

Cc: Jamie Hogue, Interim Land Commissioner
Jim Adams, Director of Real Estate