



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Country District  
Cedar City Field Office  
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive  
Cedar City, UT 84721

[http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar\\_city.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html)



May 18, 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DES 11-22

DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2009-0048-EIS

UTU 83067

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 – 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (Project). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the Draft EIS in consultation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), including Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of NEPA outlined in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and U.S. Forest Service NEPA procedures codified at CFR 220; U.S. Department of Interior guidance at 43 CFR Part 46; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, implementing regulations, the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) and the BLM land use planning handbook (H-1601-1); and other applicable laws and directives.

This Draft EIS has been prepared to analyze and disclose the impacts of granting a right-of-way across federal land to PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power, the Proponent) for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining the single-circuit, alternating-current, 345kV transmission line. The transmission line would be located between the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County, Utah, and the Red Butte Substation near the community of Central in Washington County, Utah; a distance of approximately 160 miles. The Project also includes expansion of the existing Sigurd Substation on private land to accommodate new substation equipment to interconnect the proposed transmission line with the existing system.

Approximately 123 miles, or 77 percent, of the transmission line route would be located on lands administered by three BLM field offices (the Cedar City, Fillmore, and Richfield field offices) and two national forests (the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests). For this reason, the Proponent applied to the BLM and U.S. Forest Service for a right-of-way across federal land. If the Proposed Action is approved, the BLM would issue a right-of-way grant and the U.S. Forest Service would issue a special use permit for constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line and associated facilities.

The Draft EIS is not a decision document. Rather, its purpose is to inform the public and interested parties of impacts associated with implementing the Proponent's proposal as associated with granting a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line and associated facilities across federal lands. This Draft EIS also provides information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decision-making process for other permits required for implementation of the Project.

The BLM will host public open house meetings in St. George, Milford, Enterprise, and Richfield, Utah, to provide an overview of the Project and take public comments on the proposed Project and the Draft EIS. The public meetings will be announced by the BLM at least 15 days in advance through public notices, local media news release, and mailings.

The 45-day comment period begins with the publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register*. The comment period will close at the end of the 45-day period, the date of which will be posted on the website shown below. The purpose of the comment period is to ensure the Final EIS includes an appropriate range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action, and the analysis of effects is complete and appropriately presents and interprets the available published information. Comments may be submitted electronically at [utsrbproj@blm.gov](mailto:utsrbproj@blm.gov) and postal mail copies should be sent to:

BLM Cedar City Field Office  
Attention: Tamara Gertsch  
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive  
Cedar City, Utah 84721  
(435) 586-2401

Hand delivery of written comments to the same address may occur between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Envelopes and the subject line of emails should be identified as "Sigurd to Red Butte Transmission Project Draft EIS."

Comments received during the 45-day period following publication of the NOA will be considered prior to a decision on the Proposed Action. Only parties who offer comments during this period will have the right to appeal the decision.

Comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if the comments refer to chapters, pages, and line numbers of the Draft EIS. Comments may address the adequacy of specific analyses in the Draft EIS and the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document (refer to Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1503.3).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the BLM Cedar City, Richfield and Fillmore Field Offices, as well as the Dixie and Fishlake National Forest Offices. Electronic copies of the Draft EIS on CD are available for public distribution. The Draft EIS is also available for review and downloading from the BLM website at:

[http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar\\_city/planning/sigurd\\_red\\_butte.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html)

If you have any questions regarding the NEPA process used to prepare the Draft EIS or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact Tamara Gertsch, BLM National Project Manager, at (307) 775-6115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd S. Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd S. Christensen  
District Manager