

***Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV
Transmission Line Project
Environmental Impact Statement***

Scoping Report

Prepared for:

Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office



Prepared by:



May 2010

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATV	All-terrain vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRTG	Cultural Resources Task Group
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic fields
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
kV	kilovolt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
PLPCO	Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SITLA	School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
TV	Television
UDWR	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFS	United States Forest Service

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts resulting from granting a right-of-way for construction, operation, and maintenance of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line across federal land.

As required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, BLM, the lead federal agency, identified and invited several agencies to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS. In coordination with the cooperating agencies, the BLM conducted scoping early in the preparation of the EIS to encourage public participation and solicit public input on the scope and significance of the issues associated with the proposed action (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1501.7). Comments received during scoping help determine the issues to be considered during the analyses and will be addressed in the Draft EIS.

This Scoping Report documents the scoping process and outreach efforts and provides a description of the scoping activities, a summary of the comments received during scoping, the issues derived from the comments, suggested route adjustments, and a summary of the future steps in the planning process. Comments will be addressed in the Draft EIS rather than in this summary. The document has been prepared for the public, decision-makers, and the EIS team members to easily see the common themes in scoping comments and issues. While writing the Draft EIS, the individual comments will be evaluated more in depth. Additionally, the comment-tracking database will include a brief description of how each comment was handled during development of the Draft EIS.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In December 2008, PacifiCorp (Applicant, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) applied to the BLM for a right-of-way grant across federal lands for construction, operation, and maintenance of a single-circuit, alternating current, 345kV transmission line from the Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County, Utah, to the Red Butte Substation near the town of Central in Washington County, Utah. Figure 1 presents the project area.

As a regulated utility, Rocky Mountain Power is responsible for providing its customers with adequate and reliable transmission capacity to meet short- and long-term load growth via connection to generation resources and through access to energy markets.

The full-rated capacity of the southwestern Utah electrical system, including the existing 345kV transmission line (Sigurd to Red Butte No. 1), is expected to be exceeded by 2014. At that time, load growth in southwestern Utah will surpass the capability of the existing transmission system and new facilities must be constructed to provide reliable capacity for load service. Rocky Mountain Power proposes to augment the existing transmission system's capacity to meet the projected load demand of southwest Utah. In addition, under its Open Access Transmission Tariff, Rocky Mountain Power has transmission service contract obligations for firm transmission service into and out of southwestern Utah. Rocky Mountain Power needs additional transfer capacity between Sigurd and Red Butte to meet its contracted transmission obligations by 2014. Rocky Mountain Power proposes to meet this need by increasing the rated capacity of the

southwestern Utah system to accommodate the need for regional power transfers as well as local load (i.e., electrical demand within Rocky Mountain Power's service territory). The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a transmission facility that enables Rocky Mountain Power to meet the forecasted electrical demands of customers by 2014.

This project would cross federal lands administered by BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and State of Utah, as well as privately owned lands in portions of Millard, Sevier, Beaver, Iron, and Washington counties. The project also would cross privately owned lands around the communities of Sigurd, Richfield, Joseph, Elsinore, Glenwood, Annabella, Monroe, Junction, Kingston, Circleville, Milford, Beaver, Newcastle, Minersville, Paragonah, Parowan, Enoch, Enterprise, Pinto, Central, and Pine Valley.

The predominant type of transmission line structure used would be steel H-frame and lattice structures. The height of the structures and the span between structures would depend on terrain, engineering factors, and other considerations. Generally, the structure heights would range from 80 to 140 feet, spans between structures would range from 800 to 1,200 feet, right-of-way width would be 150 feet, and access roads would be a minimum of 14 feet wide. Other structure types could be used in specific locations.

PROJECT AREA

Legend

PROJECT FEATURES

-  Alternatives to be Considered
-  Alternative Route Recommended for Elimination by Applicant
(Note: BLM is considering this route for further analysis)
-  Existing Substation
-  Link Node
-  Link Number
-  Project Area
-  Study Corridor

JURISDICTIONS

-  Indian Reservation
-  USDA Forest Service
-  USDI Bureau of Land Management
-  USDI National Park Service
-  State of Utah
-  State Park
-  Private Land
-  Lake
-  County Boundary

EXISTING FACILITIES

-  500kV +/-D irect Current Transmission Line
-  500kV Transmission Line
-  345kV Transmission Line
-  230 to 287kV Transmission Line
-  115kV to 161kV Transmission Line
-  Pipeline

OTHER EXISTING LINEAR FACILITIES

-  Interstate & US Highway
-  State Highway
-  Railroad

Data Sources

Transportation: Streetmap 50K to 250K, 2008
 Land Jurisdiction: BLM State Office Arizona, Nevada, Utah 2008
 POWERmap, powermap.platts.com
 ©2007 Platts, A Division of The McGraw-Hill Companies

NOTE: Substation locations are schematic and do not necessarily represent precise locations.

The alternative routes shown on this map are preliminary and may be revised and/or refined throughout the development of the project.



Date Last Revised: December 15, 2009

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

SIGURD TO RED BUTTE No. 2 345kV TRANSMISSION LINE



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2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

This section provides a description of the scoping process, the means by which the public and agencies were notified and given opportunities to comment on the project, and a brief summary of the scoping meetings. The scoping comment period began January 5, 2010, and ended March 5, 2010.

The purpose of scoping is to conduct a process early in the preparation of the EIS for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of project facilities. It is an open process intended to incorporate the views and concerns of federal, state, and local agencies as well as the public regarding the scope of issues to be analyzed in the EIS. Other objectives of scoping include:

- Inviting agencies, in addition to the lead agency, to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS;
- Consulting with Native American tribes;
- Determining the range of alternatives to be evaluated;
- Identifying and evaluating significant issues;
- Allocating EIS assignments among agencies;
- Identifying other environmental review and consultation requirements; and
- Developing the environmental analysis process to address scoping issues.

2.1 AGENCY SCOPING PREPARATION

Following PacifiCorp's application submittal for right-of-way across federal lands in December 2008 and after the lead agency determination had been made, the BLM held agency scoping meetings in February 2009 to discuss the project description and Applicant's purpose and need, BLM and USFS organization for preparation of the EIS, and potential resource conflicts. The BLM then developed an interagency interdisciplinary team for the project. The agency interdisciplinary team first met on June 4, 2009 to discuss the project, agency roles and responsibilities, and preparation of the EIS, including the EIS schedule. Subsequently, the BLM organized the plan and schedule for initiating and conducting the NEPA process, including scoping; determined agency issues associated with the project; identified the federal, state, and local agencies to invite as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS; and initiated coordination efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and potentially interested American Indian tribes.

2.2 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

2.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

As part of scoping, the BLM identified and invited federal, state, and local agencies that may have an interest in the EIS to participate in the preparation of the EIS as cooperating agencies. A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local government agency or American Indian tribe that has either jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding environmental impacts of a proposal or a reasonable alternative for a federal action affecting the quality of the human

environment. The benefits of cooperating agency participation in the analyses for, and preparation of the EIS include (1) disclosure of relevant information early in the analytical process; (2) application of available technical expertise and staff support; (3) avoidance of duplication of other federal, state, local, and tribal procedures; and (4) establishment of a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues.

In late July and early August 2009, the BLM sent formal letters inviting 21 agencies to participate as cooperating agencies (a sample letter invitation is included in Appendix A). As of the date of this report, the BLM received 15 positive responses from the agencies invited.

The following agencies were invited to participate as cooperating agencies:

- Federal Agencies
 - USFS
 - Dixie National Forest
 - Fishlake National Forest
 - Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- State Agencies
 - Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO)
 - School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
 - Utah Department of Natural Resources
 - Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
- Local Agencies
 - Counties: Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Washington, and Iron
 - Cities: Aurora, Beaver, Elsinore, Enterprise, Joseph, Milford, Minersville, Richfield, St. George

In addition, after the initial invitation had been sent, it appeared that Garfield and Piute counties could be crossed by the proposed transmission line. In mid December 2009, these two counties were invited to participate in the process as cooperating agencies.

As of the date of this report, the 15 agencies that responded positively to the BLM's invitation include the following:

- Federal Agencies
 - USFS
 - Dixie National Forest
 - Fishlake National Forest
 - USACE
- State Agencies
 - PLPCO (representing SITLA, Utah State Parks [Fremont Indian State Park])
 - SITLA
 - UDWR
 - SHPO
- Local Agencies
 - Counties: Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Washington, and Iron
 - Cities: Enterprise and St. George

The initial cooperating agencies' meeting was held on October 14, 2009, to discuss the need for, and the description of the project, scoping, EIS and project schedule, future coordination, agency actions and decisions, alternatives to be considered, and issues to be addressed in the EIS. A second call with the cooperating agencies was conducted on January 27, 2010. Conference calls are conducted twice each month to discuss the status of the project and EIS. Future meetings of the Agency Interdisciplinary Team, including the cooperating agencies, will be conducted at key milestones of the NEPA process (e.g., the review of scoping results, discuss methodology for analyses, discuss results of impact assessment).

2.2.2 Government-to-Government Consultation

The United States has a unique legal relationship with Native American tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, Executive Orders, federal statutes, federal policy, and tribal requirements, which establish the interaction that must take place between federal and tribal governments. The most important basis for this relationship is the trust responsibility of the United States to protect tribal sovereignty, self-determination, reservation lands, tribal assets and resources, and treaty and other federally recognized and reserved rights. Federal agencies work with tribes, government to government, to address issues concerning tribal self-government, tribal trust resources, and tribal treaty and other rights. Government-to-government consultation is the process of seeking, discussing, and considering views on environmental and cultural resource management issues.

In BLM's capacity to consult in a government-to-government manner, in October 2009, the BLM Cedar City Field Office sent a letter and project area map to 14 tribes (Appendix A) to solicit input from the tribes regarding cultural resource concerns (which also is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act). The project alternative routes do not cross Indian Reservation lands; however, these 14 tribes may have interest in significant cultural resources in the project area. The 14 tribes contacted include the Paiute Tribe, Ute Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, White Mesa Ute Tribe, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Navajo Utah Commission, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Northwest Band of Shoshone, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe (letter returned undeliverable on January 10, 2010), and Goshute-Ibapah Tribe.

In addition, BLM initiated consultation meetings with the tribes in October 2009, meeting with the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Paiute Tribe, Northwest Band of Shoshone, and Goshute-Ibapah Tribe. None of these tribes expressed specific concerns or objections to the project. All requested to be kept informed of project developments and updated on the EIS process. BLM will continue meeting with each tribe in spring/summer 2010.

2.2.3 Formal Consultation

The BLM and cooperating agencies are required to prepare EISs in coordination with any studies or analyses required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] Sec 661 et seq. [16 U.S.C. 661]), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec 1531 et seq. [16 U.S.C. 1531]), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. Sec 470 et seq. [16 U.S.C. 470]).

2.2.3.1 Biological Resources

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, formal consultation is required when the action agency (or agencies) determines the proposed action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat. The results of the consultation process determine whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species or destroy, or adversely modify critical habitat. The process begins with the BLM's written request and a submittal of a biological assessment, and concludes with the issuance of a biological opinion from the FWS, which may include an incidental take statement or a letter of concurrence from FWS (if FWS agrees that the proposed action would have no effect or would not adversely affect a threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat). In September 2009, the BLM sent letters requesting lists of any federally listed, sensitive, endangered, and/or threatened species that may occur in the project area (a copy of the letter and list of recipients are included in Appendix A).

To ensure coordination among the agencies (lead agency, cooperating agencies, and FWS), a Biological Resources Task Group was formed and meets once each month to discuss the status of the studies and issues associated with biological resources.

2.2.3.2 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the BLM and cooperating federal agencies to consider the effects of the agency's undertaking on properties listed in, or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (which can include a diversity of archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural resources). Regulations for Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800) implement Section 106 and define a process for federal agencies to use in consulting SHPOs and other interested parties as they assess the effects of their undertakings. Pursuant to those regulations, the BLM will initiate Section 106 consultation with the Utah SHPO in spring 2010. Also, as described in Section 2.2.2 Government-to-Government Consultation, the BLM sent a formal letter to 14 tribes to solicit input from the tribes regarding cultural resource concerns about this project. A copy of the letter and list of recipients is included in Appendix A.

The BLM formed a Cultural Resources Task Group (CRTG), with representatives of the lead and cooperating agencies and other involved federal and state agencies, to coordinate compliance with Section 106, and other law, regulation, ordinance, and code protecting cultural resources. The CRTG meets once each month to discuss the status of the studies and issues associated with cultural resources. The CRTG reviewed the cultural resources study plan and the members are coordinating in the preparation of a Programmatic Agreement for management of cultural resources.

2.3 SCOPING APPROACH

Although the BLM encourages commenting on the project throughout the preparation of the EIS, the range of issues summarized in this report is based on the comments received during agency

and public scoping process. The activities listed below helped identify the issues and concerns related to the project that will be addressed in the analyses and in the EIS.

- BLM and interagency meetings;
- A newsletter distributed to entities on the project mailing list, which included federal, state, and local agencies, special interest groups, and individuals on mailing lists maintained by the BLM Cedar City Field Office, St. George Field Office, Kanab Field Office, Fillmore Field Office, Richfield Field Office, and the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests;
- Telephone voice message information line (801) 349-2893 and 888-666-6470;
- Project website: (http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html/) with a link to submit comments via email (utsrbproj@blm.gov);
- Posting on the BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (<https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>); and
- Scoping open-house meetings in February 2010.

2.3.1 Notification

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* by the BLM on January 5, 2010, announcing (1) the preparation of an EIS for the proposed project, and (2) the opportunity for input through scoping. The publication of the NOI on January 5, 2010, initiated the formal scoping period, which ended on March 5, 2010—a period of 60 days.

The first in a series of newsletters was mailed by the BLM on January 27, 2010, to approximately 1,400 individuals, agencies, and interested organizations on the project mailing list. In addition, the Applicant prepared a list of the landowners within a 2-mile-wide corridor along the alternative routes (1 mile on either side of the reference centerline and approximately 3,900 landowners), sent a letter introducing the project and encouraged the landowners to participate in the federal scoping process. Advertisements and legal notices were placed in local newspapers, including the *Beaver Press*, *Iron County Today* (advertisement only), *Millard County Chronicle Progress*, *Richfield Reaper*, and *St. George Spectrum* (Table 1). Also, project information was posted on the project website. A copy of the NOI, newsletter, advertisement, and legal notice are provided in Appendix B. In addition, a notice was posted on the Environmental Notification Bulletin Board.

TABLE 1 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND LEGAL NOTICES		
Newspaper	Advertisement Publication Dates	Legal Notice Publication Dates
<i>St. George Spectrum</i>	January 27, 2010 February 10, 2010	January 9, 2010
<i>Beaver Press</i>	January 28, 2010	January 13, 2010
<i>Millard County Chronicle Progress</i>	January 27, 2010	January 13, 2010
<i>Richfield Reaper</i>	January 27, 2010	January 13, 2010
<i>Iron County Today</i>	January 28, 2010	N/A

NOTE: N/A = Not applicable.

2.3.2 Scoping Meetings

BLM hosted four scoping meetings in February 2010 with an attendance totaling 77 people (Table 2). The meetings were an opportunity for the BLM to inform those in attendance about the proposed project and EIS, and gather input on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS, the project, and potential issues. An open house format was used for the meetings, and information was presented on the project need, description, and planning and permitting process. Representatives of the BLM, USFS, and the BLM's third-party contractor, EPG, were in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Representatives of Rocky Mountain Power also attended the meetings to provide technical information about the project purpose and need and project description. Comment forms were distributed to the meeting attendees to facilitate soliciting comments on the project.

TABLE 2 SCOPING MEETING DATES, LOCATIONS, AND ATTENDANCE		
Date	Location	Attendance
February 16, 2010	St. George	16
February 17, 2010	Enterprise	23
February 17, 2010	Milford	17
February 18, 2010	Richfield	21
Total		77

Copies of the scoping meeting materials are provided in Appendix C, including registration sheets and an example comment form.

3.0 COMMENT ANALYSIS

This section provides an explanation of how comments were collected, how comments were analyzed, how comments will be addressed in the EIS, a summary of the comments, and a list of the issues derived from the comments. Comments, and the issues derived from the comments, are not addressed in this report; they will be addressed in the EIS.

3.1 COLLECTION OF COMMENTS

Although the BLM will continue to accept comments throughout the NEPA process, all comments documented in this Scoping Report were received or postmarked by March 5, 2010, which marked the end of the 60-day scoping period. While the BLM requested comments be postmarked by March 5, 2010, to be of most value at this early stage in the EIS, comments received by April 7, 2010, are also included in this report. The comments received help determine the scope of issues to address in the analyses and in the EIS. Comments received later than April 7, 2010, will be reviewed to determine whether new issues are raised that need to be addressed in the EIS.

Written comments were accepted at the scoping meetings, via electronic mail (email), and via U.S. mail at the BLM Cedar City Field Office. The BLM received 122 written submittals resulting in 429 comments including:

- 20 letters—2 from federal agencies, 5 from local agencies, 3 from special interest groups, and 10 letters from individuals
- 70 comment forms
- and 32 emails

The letters from the Environmental Protection Agency and a letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are provided in Appendix D. The individuals who submitted comments and a summary of the individuals' comments are provided in a list in Appendix E. After all comments were received, reviewed, and documented, individual comments were entered into a database to assist with the analytical review. The database was established to help track comments throughout the life of the NEPA process.

3.2 COMMENT ANALYSIS

In order to identify the issues that need to be addressed in the EIS, the comments received from the public and agencies were reviewed by analysts from EPG. The analysts were instructed to identify comments that could be defined as the following categories:

- Project purpose and need
- Alternative routes – these comments suggest preferences for alternative routes or adjustments to routes
- Effects analysis – includes comments about the project's potential effects on natural resources, human resources (including effects on existing social and economic

conditions in the project area), and cultural resources that people feel should be disclosed in the EIS. Topic categories include the following:

- Air quality noise
- Water resources
- Geology soils, paleontology
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Wildland fire ecology and management
- Cultural resources
- Visual resources
- Land use and recreation resources
- Social and economic conditions
- Health and safety
- Electronic device reception interference

3.2.1 Processing Comments

All comments received were saved electronically, either directly from a written submittal sent electronically or scanned from a paper copy. When entered into the database, each comment submittal received a number, unique to the entire submittal and the comment(s) contained in the submittal. Information about the submittal was captured, when available (name, affiliation, address, type of submittal [e.g., letter, email], and stage of the project). The electronic files of the submittals were then included in the comment database attached to the name of the author.

Each submittal was reviewed to identify relevant comments. Each comment was copied verbatim into a text box, analyzed, and assigned one of the categories in Section 3.2. Once all comments had been analyzed and assigned a category, the comments were sorted by category. All of the like comments in each category were reviewed and summarized to facilitate identification of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Each comment is linked to the original submittal and author, and easily referenced if needed.

Requests for data were noted during comment analysis, but are not included as scoping comments in this report.

3.3 HOW THE COMMENTS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIS

The EIS team will use the comments in development of the EIS. Individual comment may be reviewed in more depth if needed to understand the concern. As described previously, the comments fall into three categories as they relate to the EIS: purpose and need for project, alternatives, and effects analysis.

Comments regarding the project and alternatives will be considered by the BLM and cooperating agencies in refining the project description and alternatives that will serve as the basis for impact assessment. NEPA requires a rigorous analysis of alternatives prior to selecting a preferred course of action. Some alternatives suggested through scoping may not be environmentally or economically viable, or otherwise feasible, in meeting the purpose and need

for the project, and will not be studied in detail. Others that may be considered viable, including an alternative of taking no action, will be analyzed in the EIS. Chapter 2 of the EIS will present a summary of this evaluation process, and will describe which of the alternatives were considered but not carried forward.

NEPA requires analysis of the impacts of a project on the “human environment.” These impacts include effects on both natural resources and human resources. Discussion with affected agencies and public, such as those resulting from this scoping effort, help define and evaluate the effects of the different alternatives on the human environment. Comments related to environmental impacts will be considered by the BLM in developing the scope of EIS technical studies and will include comments regarding data gathering methods and sources as well as impact assessment methodologies. Chapter 3 of the EIS (Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences) will describe how these issues were incorporated and addressed in the studies.

Some suggestions may be considered outside the scope of the EIS if they relate to facilities not included in this project or if they cannot be reasonably addressed in the scope of this process.

3.4 COMMENT ANALYSIS RESULTS

Comments received during scoping are summarized in the following subsections along with a sample of representative quotations.

3.4.1 Purpose and Need for Project

Citizens requested that the EIS address the purpose of the transmission line, including transport (or wheeling) of power from renewable energy sources on the new transmission line.

Representative Comments:

“Please analyze how the new transmission line could assist or help facilitate clean alternative energy sources like wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.”

3.4.2 Alternatives

Many comments expressed route preferences, including preference links 270, 285, and 440, and suggestions for adjustments to routes. General comments that the transmission lines should be located in less populated areas also were received.

Representative Comments:

“I favor route 270 with the new line running parallel to the existing 345kV transmission line from my farm in Central to the Newcastle area for three reasons:

- It will be far shorter with much less cost for construction and maintenance

- It will have far less environmental impact and be visually less objectionable
- The resultant consumer cost will be significantly less in both the short-run and the long-run.”

“Following the existing right-of-way appears to be the most logical and effective way to bring the needed power to southwestern Utah and increase reliability.”

“The best route is 440; it appears to be the shortest distance on an already established route, therefore being more cost effective. Also, it is on land that has already been disturbed, therefore keeping the rest of the proposed transmission line routes on undisturbed wilderness.”

“Stay out of Pinto Canyon.”

“We fully understand that the residents of Central had no control over the decision to run the power lines through Central. Therefore, we strongly recommend that #285 be the route for these lines – taking them as far west and away from the community as possible.”

“The best placement for this line would be over in the Milford area where there is less population and there would be less impact to the people in that area.”

3.4.3 Effects Analysis

3.4.3.1 Water Resources

Citizens expressed concern for potential impacts on the residential drinking water and irrigation water sources. Some residents raised concerns that geotechnical drilling and construction activities would disrupt or impact their water supply or water quality.

Representative Comments:

“We are concerned about any drilling or other disturbance that may disrupt the source of the water to either of the springs and about the pipeline from Mud Springs to the ranch.”

“Link 270 crosses directly across and over the top of the aquifer. This aquifer is the main water supply for the Central Community Special Service District, and any resultant effect upon that point would jeopardize, compromise, and even possibly pollute the sole supply for this community with devastating consequences.”

3.4.3.2 Vegetation

Commenters raised concern that project construction activities (e.g., spread of seed by vehicles and increased erosion) would contribute to the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.

The Environmental Protection Agency requested that a vegetation management plan be developed and analyzed in the EIS.

Representative Comments:

“Construction activities permanently scar the ground surface and even if restored pose an increased risk for erosion and the introduction and propagation of non-native and noxious vegetation species on the disturbed sensitive mountain soils.”

“Please analyze how to avoid or minimize the colonization or spread of harmful invasive plants (esp. cheatgrass) and noxious weeds.”

3.4.3.3 Wildlife

Potential impacts on wildlife and their habitats were a common concern expressed during the scoping period. For example, citizens expressed concern for displacement of big game and impacts on big game winter range and fawning activities. In addition, comments were received that raised concern about the impact of the project on various wildlife species, including raptors, prairie dogs, sage grouse, and burrowing owls.

Representative Comments:

“The Pinto Creek riparian corridor is home to a variety of birds of prey. Raptors are subject to electrocution in take-offs and landings from perches provided by the power line structures.”

“The lands and habitat, particularly through the Cedar City through Enterprise section, are of critical importance in the fawning activities of those local deer herds.”

“Whatever routing does occur with this project must be fully examined for its immediate and long-term effect on this very important part of Southern Utah’s wildlife population.”

“Please analyze how to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on Utah prairie dogs, burrowing owls, deer winter range, and other wildlife species.”

3.4.3.4 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

Increased risk of potential fires caused by the presence of power lines (e.g., risk of arcing of electricity from tower to grounds, fires induced by off-highway vehicles during unauthorized use of new access roads, smoke ionization) was a major concern expressed by citizens. Commenters noted that the community of Central, Utah, is an “at-risk” community for wildland fires and asked that this aspect be considered in route selection. Concern that remoteness of many areas along the alternative routes could limit fire prevention and management activities also was voiced.

Representative Comments:

“Use of the access roads for maintenance and other authorized activities and unauthorized use will increase the potential for wildfire by creating human access to areas otherwise not accessible.”

“I have major concerns with smoke ionization with that high of voltages and crossing high forest areas. Because of the ‘Iron Axis’, lightning strikes are frequent in this area.”

“Frequent summer fires do and will continue to occur in this Pine Valley area and the risk of arcing of electricity from tower to ground.”

“Central is an ‘at-risk’ community, and there are many fire-related aspects in the scope of the total project which have extreme importance in the final result.”

“There could be a limitation on wildfire suppression services access in the event of fires, plus it could raise the risk factor by increased lightning strikes in what is a commonly affected area.”

3.4.3.5 Cultural Resources

Several comments provided information about historical resources in the project area, such as the portions of the Old Spanish Trail, sites of Fremont Indian ancient mine workings, and other sites. Comments also raised concern about impacts on cultural and historical resources, such as Cove Fort Historic Site, during construction and maintenance of the transmission line and associated facilities.

Representative Comments:

“The Pinto Creek riparian corridor has historical significance. It is located along the Old Spanish Trail. The major surviving historical landmarks within this corridor include the Pinto Cemetery, historical residences in the Pinto town site area, the monument commemorating the location of the Pinto church/schoolhouse, the Newcastle Cemetery, transbasin diversion works, and Old Irontown”.

“In this area (Minersville) are historical charcoal kilns used for old smelting purposes.”

“It has come to our attention that Rocky Mountain Power has applied for an easement near the I-15/1-70 merge south of Cove Fort. It is our concern that this may very well impact a known ancient site that is in that area. We have been studying the area and found that it had once been inhabited with not only local Indians but Spanish Explorers as well.”

3.4.3.6 Visual Resources

Citizens expressed concerns regarding impacts on visual resources from personal property (e.g., Gray's Ranch) and recreation sites. Other comments requested that options for minimizing visual impacts be analyzed in the EIS.

Representative Comments:

"Please analyze how to minimize visual impacts, like using non-reflective materials."

"Gray's Ranch is a beautiful, natural, and pristine piece of property. You can see the top of Pine Valley Mountains with nothing but views of nature, unmarred by electrical lines and other utilities."

3.4.3.7 Land Use and Recreation Resources

Citizens very strongly opposed to using the Pinto Creek area for the transmission line corridor because of impacts on recreational resources (mountain biking, hiking, camping, use of all-terrain vehicles [ATV] etc.). Also addressed during scoping were potential impacts on upcoming projects and developments on private property (additional renewable energy projects, future homes, etc.). Commenters requested that methods for controlling property damage, such as vandalism, poaching, etc., associated with unauthorized use of new access roads be addressed in the EIS.

Representative Comments:

"The area of Pinto creek is highly utilized by recreationalists during all seasons of the year for camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and other recreational activities."

"I have applied for building permits to install three wind turbines and solar panels. The transmission line is going over part of my lot where I plan to install my towers."

"There is a lot of mountain bike activity west of I-70 between Elsinore and north of Richfield. Please minimize impacts to bike trails."

"We own 40 acres close to the proposed route for the power lines. The proposed route will run close to or through our property. We are planning on building our family home on our property this year."

"The flood control area and the hills, mountains south of Minersville is an established recreation area for 4-wheel driving in pick-up trucks, deer hunters, and ATV riding. Recently ATV riding has become popular as residents of Minersville can ride their ATV's directly from town (convenience) without trailering their vehicles."

“We are concerned that one of the proposed routes of a 150-foot easement may go through our recreation/agricultural property in Mud Flat. The land is currently leased to an oil company. We are concerned that if this route is chosen that the property will be subject to condemnation.”

“I have leased BLM property south and west of Newcastle in section 20 that already has three power lines and two gas lines. The property I have leased has a geothermal anomaly under it. Any more power lines would make it very difficult (or impossible) to develop, not to mention magnifying the costs.”

“Enel Cove Fort, LLC (Enel) is currently moving forward with the development of a geothermal power plant near the site of the former Bonnet Geothermal Power Plant. There is an existing 138kV transmission line running from the Bonnet Geothermal Power Plant site to an existing aerial disconnect at “Link 068.” While a new substation is likely required, we intend to utilize the existing transmission line between the 138kV line and the plant site. With this in mind, it is important to the Enel project that the proposed 345kV transmission line remains positioned, as shown on your maps, to the west of the existing 138kV transmission line.”

“I am currently doing a wind study for future wind turbines on a portion of the land. Any future 150 foot right-of-way could greatly reduce the resources available for placement of turbines.” (Link 64).

“There could be a potential for increase in unauthorized ATV use.”

“Please address how right-of-way access routes could be hidden, gated, or otherwise blocked to preclude unauthorized public access that could contribute to harmful illegal route proliferation, poaching, littering, vandalism, etc.”

“Rocky Mountain Power is taking a gamble with vandalism and possible chance of damage to their equipment. Every year when hunting season comes around, my property always gets vandalized.”

3.4.3.8 Social and Economic Conditions

Impacts on personal property values and private businesses were a concern among citizens with homes and businesses in potential transmission line corridor. The potential for impacts on levels of tourism to affect local economies also was expressed as a concern.

Representative Comments:

“Location of the transmission line along this route (Pinto Creek riparian corridor) will discourage visitors who travel hundreds of miles to experience these resources. They will not return, thus reducing the positive economic impact derived by local communities as a result of their visits.”

“We currently own and operate a sand gravel company in that area (east side of I-70, south of Elsinore). Not only will this decision greatly impact our business, but will affect farm ground and homes located in this area as well. “

“My clients’ property located within unit 180 has been damaged excessively, over and over again. Severance damages, overall diminution in value, and the environmental impacts on these landowners do not go unnoticed. One power line is consequential, but four power lines are over-burdensome and actionable.”

“With the potential 150-foot easement and 16-foot ingress & egress, it will go exactly over our now developed area leaving us with no other place to relocate and render the remaining property useless and valueless.”

“Most people here in Central and Dixie Deer Estates are retirees with their life savings invested in their houses. Any visible lines and towers would be devastating to property value.”

3.4.3.9 Health and Safety

Concern about possible health effects on residents, livestock, and domestic animals caused by electromagnetic fields (EMF) or radio waves was raised, such as increased risk of other diseases, health issues, or interference with pacemaker devices.

Representative Comments:

“Location of the power line adjacent to private lands exposes the owners and livestock to the EMF associated with the transmission of electrical energy.”

“I am concerned about high voltage power lines being located on my property or even near my home as I use a pacemaker and cannot be associated with any kind of electromagnetic field.”

“I have read where these high intensity lines do radiate radio waves that may cause cancer in some folks.”

“I am worried about the EMF affecting the health of my cattle, horses, and my family due to the lines running through or near us.”

“[I am] very concerned with “spark-gap” transmissions and EMF.”

“It is well documented that power lines are a health hazard. Although denied by power companies, cancer and other disease clusters are well documented.”

“There are sometimes very low flying military aircraft. They come straight down the valley. Power lines will pose a danger to these aircraft.”

3.4.3.10 Electronic Device Reception Interference

Transmission line operation interfering with cellular phone, Internet, radio, and television (TV) reception was a concern expressed by many citizens, especially those citizens living in the more remote areas of the project area (e.g., Minersville).

Representative Comments:

“The proposed route by Minersville would interfere with radio reception from Cedar City radio stations. Power lines interfere with radio signals; the proposed transmission line would make a difficult situation impossible.”

“A cell tower company has already done a site evaluation and concluded that my western ridge would be prime for complete coverage. Any electromagnetic interference would negatively impact reception.”

“I tried two different cell phone companies before I found one that will work well in Richfield and my home. How will this line affect our cell phones?”

“The communications here (Minersville) has always been spotty for radio, cell, and TV. I am afraid this could really negatively affect our current situation.”

3.5 ISSUES DERIVED FROM SCOPING COMMENTS

Issues and concerns identified during agency and public scoping are summarized below and will be addressed in the EIS.

- **Project Purpose and Need**
 - Transport of power from renewable energy sources on the transmission line
- **Alternative Routes**
 - Use of designated West-wide Energy Corridors and other designated utility corridors during project siting
- **Air Quality**
 - Control of fugitive dust generated by construction activities
- **Noise**
 - Potential impacts of noise from construction activities on wildlife

▪ **Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources**

- Soil disturbance and erosion on steep slopes
- Areas of unstable soils and fault lines
- Impacts on paleontological resources

▪ **Water Resources**

- Impacts on surface water quality and groundwater quantity and quality from construction activities
- Impacts on community water supplies

▪ **Wildlife and Vegetation**

- Impacts on fish and wildlife species and habitats, including:
 - Utah prairie dog colonies
 - Sage grouse areas and high priority habitats
 - Burrowing owl
 - Deer (winter range)
 - Habitat potentially occupied by raptors
- Timing limitations for a variety of wildlife species and habitats (e.g., critical seasonal ranges, crucial habitats, parturition areas, migration corridors, etc.)
- Impacts on riparian areas and wetlands and sensitive plant populations and potential habitats
- Potential spread of noxious weeds and invasive species due to project construction activities

▪ **Wildland Fire Ecology and Management**

- Risk of potential fires caused by construction activities and/or presence of power lines
- Limited ability to manage fire in remote areas

▪ **Cultural Resources**

- Impacts on archaeological and historic sites, cultural resources dependent upon visual settings (e.g., national historic trails), and traditional cultural properties
- Impacts on the Old Spanish Trail, Fremont Indian ancient mine workings, and Cove Fort Historic Site

▪ **Visual Resources**

- Impacts on BLM-administered lands where visual resource management classifications have not been assigned and where background data are not available
- Potential impacts on the historic setting of sensitive cultural areas
- Impacts on sensitive viewing areas around Pine Valley

▪ **Land Use and Recreation Resources**

- Effects on management prescriptions for various designated recreation areas and management areas such as inventoried roadless areas, wilderness study areas, state parks, and wilderness characteristic lands that occur within the project area
- Impacts on private land uses, and impacts from construction on permitted grazing operations on BLM-administered lands
- Specific county planning and zoning restrictions that may affect project siting
- Impacts on recreation areas
- Impact of poaching and vandalism due to unauthorized public access
- Conflicts with current land use
- Conflicts with planned future development
- Conflicts with unauthorized ATV use along construction access roads
- Concerns with low-flying military aircraft

▪ **Social and Economic Conditions**

- Indirect and qualitative impacts on local tourism in affected areas
- Employment availability for local workforce
- Rates and ratepayers
- Environmental justice
- Effects of the project on property values
- Impacts on businesses

▪ **Health and Safety**

- Effects of EMF on humans and animals (including the use of a pacemaker)

- Concerns with “spark-gap” transmissions

- **Electronic Device Reception Interference**
 - Cellular phone reception concerns in Minersville and Richfield
 - Concerns with transmission lines effecting communication resources (radio and TV)

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4.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Considering public and agency comments, the BLM and cooperating agencies will refine the alternatives to be studied in detail in the EIS. Once the alternatives have been refined, the studies and level of detail to be addressed (reflecting the issues identified during scoping) will be determined. Data and information will be compiled from existing sources. Then, impacts that could result from implementing any of the alternatives will be analyzed and measures to mitigate those impacts will be identified. The findings will be documented in a Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be made available for public and agency review, which is anticipated to be in the first quarter of 2011. Public comments will be accepted during the public review and comment period, which is a minimum of 45 days, during which public meetings or hearings will be held to receive comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIS. The BLM, in coordination with the cooperating agencies, will review the comments and prepare responses to each of the substantive comments. The Draft EIS may or may not be modified based on public comments. In any event, all comments and responses will be incorporated into the Final EIS.

The Final EIS will be made available to the public and agencies for a period of 30 days, likely the fourth quarter of 2011. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced in the *Federal Register* and advertised in local and regional media. Following the 30-day period, the BLM will issue a Record of Decision and right-of-way grant, likely in the first quarter of 2012.

The NEPA planning approach is displayed in Figure 2.

The BLM will continue to consider public comments throughout the EIS process. Newsletters will be sent to those on the mailing list to announce the availability of the Draft EIS and the Final EIS. Information about the progress of the EIS will be available on the project website (http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html/), which is periodically updated.

NEPA Planning Approach

Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 - 345kV Transmission Project EIS

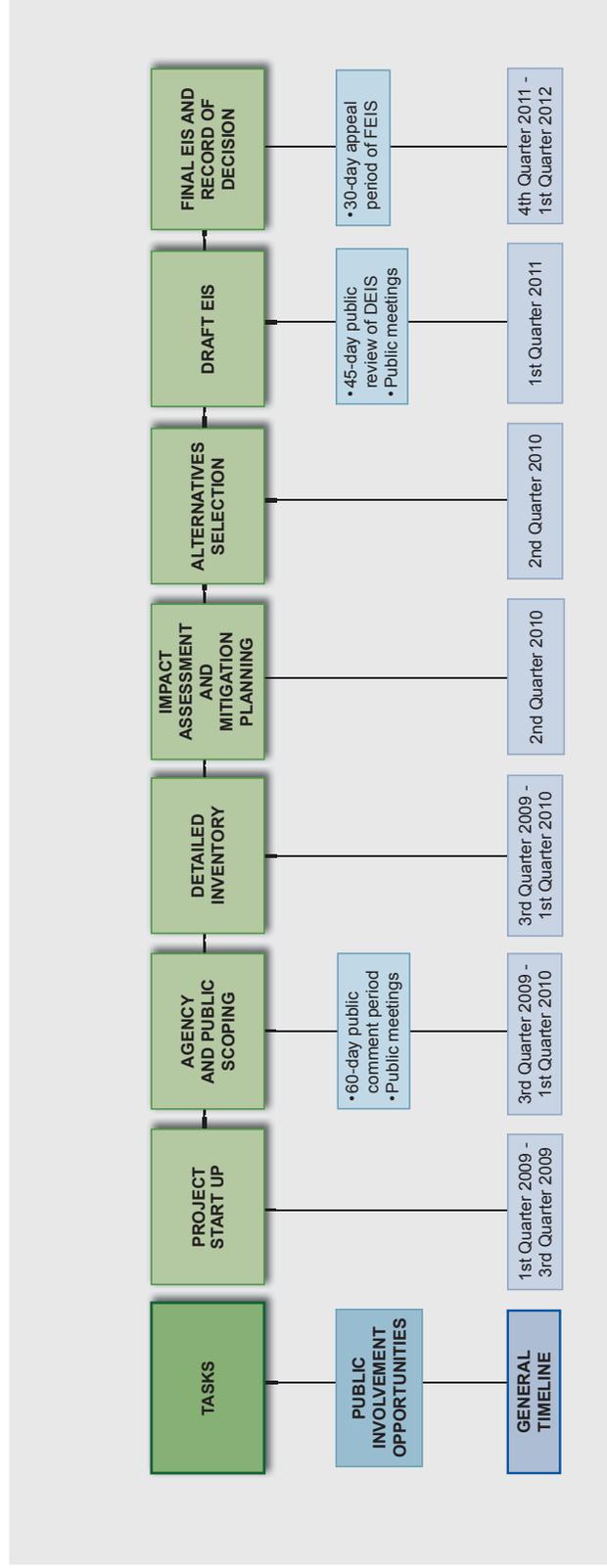


Figure 2

APPENDIX A – LETTERS TO AGENCIES AND TRIBES

- Sample Invitation Letter to Cooperating Agencies
- Sample Letter to Tribes
- Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Country District Office

176 East DL Sargent Drive

Cedar City, UT 84721

Telephone (435) 586-2401

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html

In Reply Refer To:

UTU-83067

2800

UTC000

July 28, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER 7006 2150 0003 6615 6244
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

FILE COPY

John Harja
Utah Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
5100 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear John Harja,

On December 29, 2008 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a right-of-way application from Rocky Mountain Power Company (RMP) for a 345kV transmission line (Sigurd-Red Butte Transmission Line No. 2). The project would begin at the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield, Utah and terminate at the existing Red Butte Substation near the Town of Central, Utah a distance of approximately 160 miles. Multiple project routes are currently being considered (see enclosed map). These routes would cross Federal, State and privately owned lands.

I have determined an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BLM will function as the lead agency to oversee preparation of the EIS. I have selected Environmental Planning Group (EPG) as the contractor to prepare the EIS under my direction.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations at 40 CFR 1501.6 specify that any State, Tribe or local agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise may, by agreement, be a cooperating agency. NEPA and CEQ regulations also encourage agency cooperation to eliminate duplication with NEPA and comparable State and local requirements (see enclosed Cooperating Agency Guide).

Therefore, I invite you to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS.

Cooperating agency status neither enlarges nor diminishes the decision-making authority of any agency involved. It also does not require the BLM to provide financial assistance to a cooperating agency. The description and duties of a cooperating agency are found at 40 CFR 1501.6. In general, a cooperating agency will:

- A. Participate in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time.
- B. Participate in the scoping process.
- C. Assume, on request of the lead agency, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses including portions of the EIS for areas which you have legal jurisdiction or special expertise.
- D. Make staff support available, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the latter's interdisciplinary capability.
- E. Normally use your own funds.

In addition, a cooperating agency will be expected to make every effort to complete required deliverables and meet the timeframes in the NEPA schedule (see enclosed draft schedule). Your organization would also be expected to actively participate in regular coordination conference calls and meetings with the BLM, cooperating agencies, EPG and RMP during public scoping and preparation of the EIS. Your organization may also be asked to provide information directly to EPG for the EIS.

Lead and cooperating agency roles and responsibilities will be documented in a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is under development. An EIS preparation plan is also under development. The preparation plan will specify the scope and content of the EIS and will be an appendix to the MOU.

If you choose to accept my invitation, please respond in writing to the address above within 15 working days of your receipt of this letter and provide a point of contact that we can coordinate with.

If you choose to decline my invitation, I ask that you also respond in writing to the address above within 15 working days of your receipt of this letter. The CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1501.6(c) states you may decline by responding, "other program commitments preclude any involvement or the degree of involvement requested in the action that is the subject of the EIS."

In the event you decline cooperating agency status I encourage you to remain involved in the NEPA process. Your organization is on our project mailing list and will be notified of project-related public meetings and the availability of documents for review and comment.

If I do not hear from you within the time specified I will assume you have declined my invitation and we will initiate public scoping meetings. If you have any questions, please contact my Project Manager, Lucas Lucero at (702) 515-5059 or Lucas_Lucero@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd S. Christensen
Color Country District Manager

Enclosures:
Preliminary Project Map
Preliminary Project Description
Draft NEPA Schedule
Cooperating Agency Guidebook

Letters sent:

Dixie National Forest
Fishlake National Forest
Utah Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
Utah Department of Wildlife Resources Southern Region
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Beaver County Commission
Millard County Board of Commissioners
Iron County Commission
Sevier County Commission
Washington County Commission
City of St. George
City of Milford
City of Richfield
City of Enterprise
City of Beaver
City of Joseph
City of Elsinore
City of Aurora
City of Minersville
Cove Fort Historic Site

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Color Country District Office
Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701
Telephone (435) 896-1500
www.ut.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
(UT02300
UTU-83067
8100)

December 17, 2009

Goshute Indian Tribe
(Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservations)
Rupert Steele, Chairman
PO Box 6104
Ibapah, UT 84034-6036

Dear Mr. Steele,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Color Country District Office, wishes to continue consultation with the Goshute Indian Tribe regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV Transmission Line Project. PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain transmission line facilities across portions of Utah.

The BLM is preparing the EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to construct and operate an approximately 160-mile-long 345kV single-circuit transmission line that will begin at the Sigurd Substation in Sevier County, located approximately 6 miles northeast of the town of Richfield, Utah, and will terminate at the Red Butte Substation, located west of State Route 18 and the town of Central in Washington County, Utah.

Rocky Mountain Power's stated purpose of the proposed project is to develop a transmission facility that enables it to meet the forecasted electrical demands of customers by 2014. Southwestern Utah is one of fastest growing areas within the state. The development of a new transmission line is required to provide the additional capacity necessary to serve the growing demand for electricity in this area and improve the reliability and operational flexibility of the overall electricity system. The EIS will form the basis for the BLM's decision on the issuance of the requested right-of-way by Rocky Mountain Power. Information on the project, including a map and a comment form is enclosed.

The proposed project will be located on Federal, State, and private lands. At this time there are approximately 400 miles of alternative routes. Towers will be between 80 and 140 feet tall and the span between each tower will be from 800 to 1,200 feet. The right-of-way is expected to be 150 feet wide.

This project is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2), BLM will serve as the lead agency for the purposes of Section 106 review. We are inviting you to comment on the proposed action in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act to ensure that any concerns you may have about the proposed project are fully considered.

Cultural resources are among the important environmental resources that will be addressed during the planning and the preparation of the EIS for the proposed project. We want to ensure that any important cultural and natural resources and/or places with traditional cultural significance for your Tribe within the project area are considered and addressed in the NEPA and Section 106 reviews. In our capacity to consult in a government-to-government manner, we are soliciting input from tribes regarding cultural concerns about this project. We hope that you will let us know, in particular, if there are any resources or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to members of your tribe that might be affected by the proposed action.

If there are any traditional cultural or religious leaders you feel we should consult, please provide us with their names, addresses and telephone numbers so that we can contact them directly.

Your involvement would help us consider the proposed action and its effects on BLM public lands, including management actions needed to achieve our goal of stewardship of the land. As this project progresses, unless you inform the BLM that you do not want to be involved or kept informed, we will continue to keep your tribe informed.

The BLM will host scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV Transmission Line Project and to share any comments or concerns. The scoping meetings will be in an open house format to allow the public to visit with BLM and Rocky Mountain Power representatives. These scoping meetings are designed to facilitate public participation during the EIS process and tribal officials and members will be invited to attend. However, to further facilitate tribal participation and government-to-government consultation responsibilities, arrangements can be made for a presentation to the Goshute Indian Tribe about the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 project, or a meeting can be arranged to discuss potential cultural concerns.

Should you have any questions, require additional information or like to arrange a presentation or a meeting, please contact either Tamara Gertsch, Project Manager, or Craig Harmon, Cultural Resource Lead, at the address above, by phone at (307) 775-6115 or (435) 896-1519 or by email at Tamara_Gertsch@blm.gov or Craig_Harmon@blm.gov. Your time and consideration are greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Field Office Manager

Enclosure
map

Charmon:cbh:12/17/09

Letters sent:

Paiute Tribe

Ute Tribe

Hopi Tribe

Navajo Nation

Southern Ute Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

White Mesa Ute Tribe

Kaibab Paiute Tribe

Navajo Utah Commission

Moapa Band of Paiutes

Northwest Band of Shoshone

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Goshute-Ibapah Tribe

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe (letter returned on January 10, 2010)

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Country District Office

176 East DL Sargent Drive

Cedar City, UT 84721

Telephone (435) 586-2401

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html



In Reply Refer To:
UTC000
UTU-83067

September 22, 2009

Mr. Larry Crist
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Utah Field Office
2369 West Orton Circle
West Valley City, Utah 84119

Dear Mr. Crist:

The BLM–Cedar City Field Office has received a right-of-way application from PacifiCorp for the proposed Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Line Project. This project involves the construction of a new 345kV transmission line and expansion of the existing Sigurd and Red Butte substations. I have included a map (Attachment 1) illustrating the alternative transmission line routes currently being considered for the project as well as the locations of the Sigurd and Red Butte substations. The project is located in portions of five counties, including Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Iron, and Washington. Public scoping meetings are planned for early November. If any new routes are identified during our scoping period we will provide you a revised map as soon as possible.

The BLM–Cedar City Field Office has been designated Lead Agency for the NEPA process, and the project proponent will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. The purpose of this correspondence is to initiate informal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

We have obtained species lists dated March 2009 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service web site for Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Iron, and Washington counties (Attachment 2). Four fish species (bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, and razorback sucker) are listed in Sevier County because of the potential for water depletions from any portion of the occupied drainage basin to adversely affect critical habitat. Since this project does not involve water depletions, we do not anticipate the need to address these species.

We would very much appreciate your comments on this list within 15 calendar days of your receipt of this letter. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact Christine Pontarolo, Wildlife Biologist, at (435)865-3035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd S. Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "C".

Todd S. Christensen
District Manager
Color Country District Office

Attachments:

1. **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345 kV Transmission Line**
2. **Federally Listed Species in Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Iron, and Washington counties**

Attachment 1. Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345 kV Transmission Line

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Legend

PROJECT FEATURES

-  Study Corridor (2-mile-wide corridor)
-  Alternatives to be Considered
-  Existing Substation
-  Link Node
-  Link Number

JURISDICTIONS

-  Indian Reservation
-  USDA Forest Service
-  USDI Bureau of Land Management
-  USDI National Park Service
-  State of Utah
-  State Park
-  Private Land
-  Lake
-  BLM District/Field Office Boundary
-  County Boundary

EXISTING FACILITIES

-  500kV +/- Direct Current Transmission Line
-  500kV Transmission Line
-  345kV Transmission Line
-  230 to 287kV Transmission Line
-  115kV to 161kV Transmission Line
-  Pipeline

OTHER EXISTING LINEAR FACILITIES

-  Interstate & US Highway
-  State Highway
-  Railroad

Data Sources

Transportation: Streetmap 50K to 250K, 2008
 Land Jurisdiction: BLM State Office Arizona, Nevada, Utah 2008
 POWERmap, powermap.platts.com
 ©2007 Platts, A Division of The McGraw-Hill Companies

NOTE: Substation locations are schematic and do not necessarily represent precise locations.

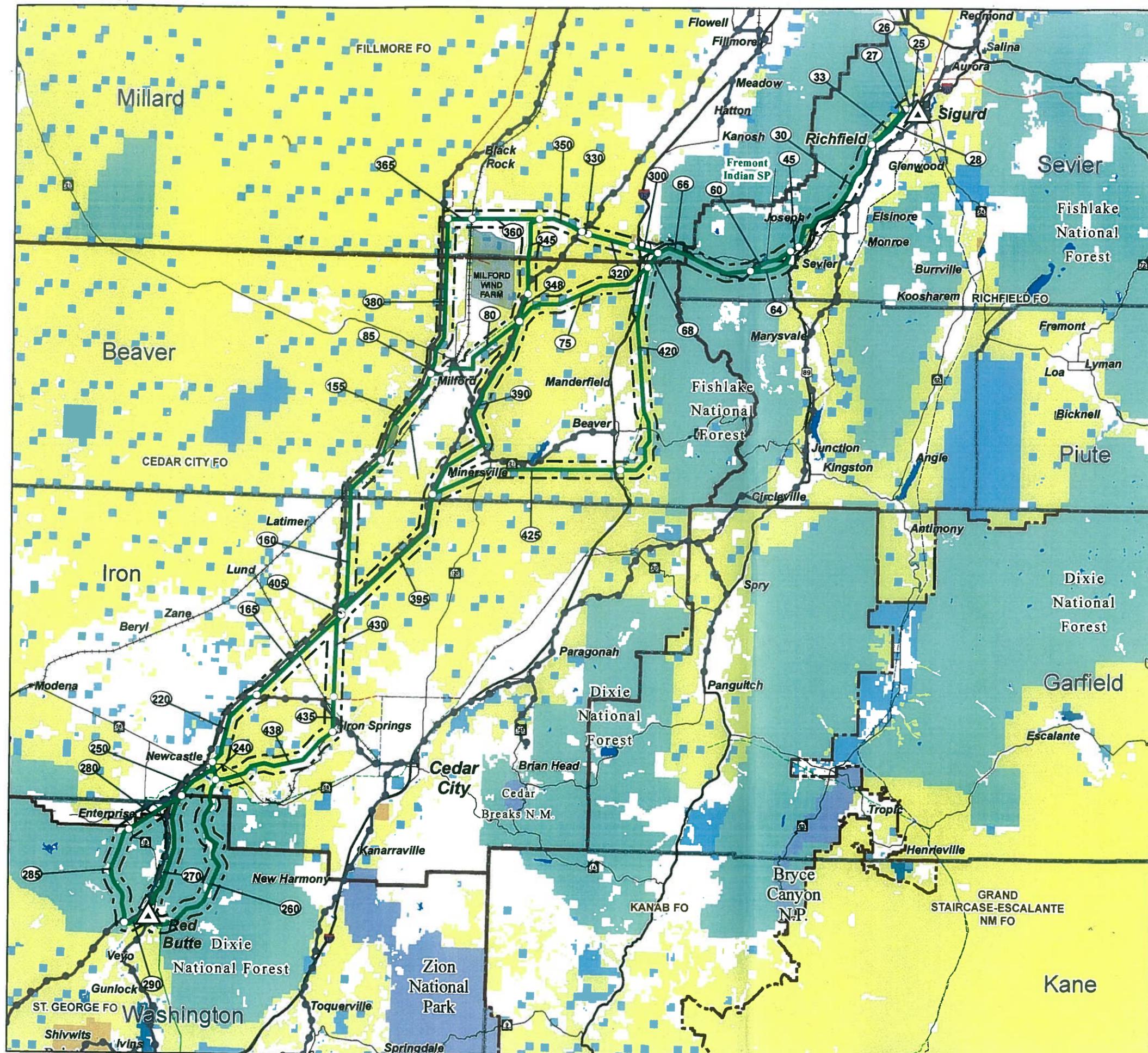
The alternative routes shown on this map are preliminary and may be revised and/or refined throughout the development of the project.



Date Last Revised August 31, 2009

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

SIGURD TO RED BUTTE No. 2
345kV TRANSMISSION LINE



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Attachment 2.**Federally Listed Species in Sevier, Millard, Beaver, Iron, and Washington counties**

Species	Scientific Name	Status	Counties
Bonytail	<i>Gila elegans</i>	Endangered	Sevier
California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Experimental	Beaver, Iron, Millard, Sevier
Colorado Pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Endangered	Sevier
Desert Tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Threatened	Washington
Dwarf Bear-poppy	<i>Arctomecon humilis</i>	Endangered	Washington
Gierisch mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea gierischi</i>	Candidate	Washington
Holmgren Milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus holmgreniorum</i>	Endangered	Washington
Humpback Chub	<i>Gila cypha</i>	Endangered	Sevier
Last Chance Townsendia	<i>Townsendia aprica</i>	Threatened	Sevier
Mexican Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Threatened	Iron, Washington
Razorback Sucker	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Endangered	Sevier
Shivwitz Milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus ampullarioides</i>	Endangered	Washington
Siler Pincushion Cactus	<i>Pediocactus sileri</i>	Threatened	Washington
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Endangered	Iron, Washington
Utah Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys parvidens</i>	Threatened	Beaver, Iron, Millard, Sevier
Virgin River Chub	<i>Gila robusta seminuda</i>	Endangered	Washington
Woundfin	<i>Plagopterus argentissimus</i>	Endangered	Washington
Wright Fishhook Cactus	<i>Sclerocactus wrightiae</i>	Endangered	Sevier
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Candidate	Beaver, Iron, Millard, Sevier, Washington

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APPENDIX B – NOTIFICATIONS

This section of the report includes the notifications of the project and the scoping meetings, including:

- Notice of Intent, January 5, 2010
- Environmental Notification Bulletin Board
- Newsletter No. 1, February 2010
- Newspaper Advertisement (see Table 1 for newspapers and publication dates)
- Legal Notice (see Table 1 for newspapers and publication dates)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[LLUTC00000.L51010000.ER0000.
LVRWJ09J4050; UTU-83067]
Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement for
the Sigurd-Red Butte Transmission
Line Project (Project) in Utah**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cedar City Field Office, Cedar City, Utah, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a right-of-way (ROW) application for the Sigurd-Red Butte 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until February 19, 2010. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning.html. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Sigurd-Red Butte 345 Transmission Line Project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning.html.

- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84721, Attention: Lucas Lucero.

- *E-mail:* utsrbproj@blm.gov. Documents pertinent to the right-of-way (ROW) application for the transmission line project may be examined at:

- U.S. Forest Service, Dixie Office, 1789 North Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84721.

- U.S. Forest Service, Fishlake Office, 115 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701.

- BLM, Cedar City Field Office, 176 D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84721.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Lucas Lucero, BLM Project Manager; telephone (702) 515-5059; e-mail *Lucas_Lucero@blm.gov*; address BLM, Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84721.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power Company, has filed a ROW application seeking authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 345 kV single-circuit overhead electric transmission line on Federal lands. The project would provide an additional 600 megawatts of reliable electrical capacity by 2014 to respond to anticipated load growth in Southwestern Utah. The proposed project begins at the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield, Utah, and terminates at the existing Red Butte Substation near the town of Central, Utah. The project area spans approximately 160 miles. Rocky Mountain Power Company has identified multiple alternative routes between the two substations.

Alternative routes identified so far would affect Federal, State, and private lands. The requested ROW width on Federal lands is 150 feet. Rocky Mountain Power Company proposes to predominantly use steel H-frame towers approximately 80 to 130 feet in height with average spans between towers of 1,000 to 1,200 feet. Permanent access roads approximately 14 feet wide would be needed. Temporary work space would be needed during construction for material storage, conductor tensioning sites, and to accommodate vehicles and equipment. Alternative routes currently identified would use portions of utility corridors on Federal lands and parallel portions of existing overhead and underground utilities and roadways.

The BLM is the designated lead Federal agency for preparation of the EIS. Other agencies with legal jurisdiction or special expertise have been invited to participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS. Currently, the U.S. Forest

Service (Dixie and Fishlake National Forests), State of Utah, Millard County, Sevier County, Beaver County, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, City of St. George, and City of Enterprise have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: public health and safety, noise, visual intrusions, migratory bird habitat, crucial deer and elk habitat, Utah Prairie Dog habitat, socioeconomic impacts, cultural and historic sites, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and nearby inventoried roadless areas on National Forests.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or 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 ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

[FR Doc. E9-31239 Filed 1-4-10; 8:45 am]

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Search BLM Sites

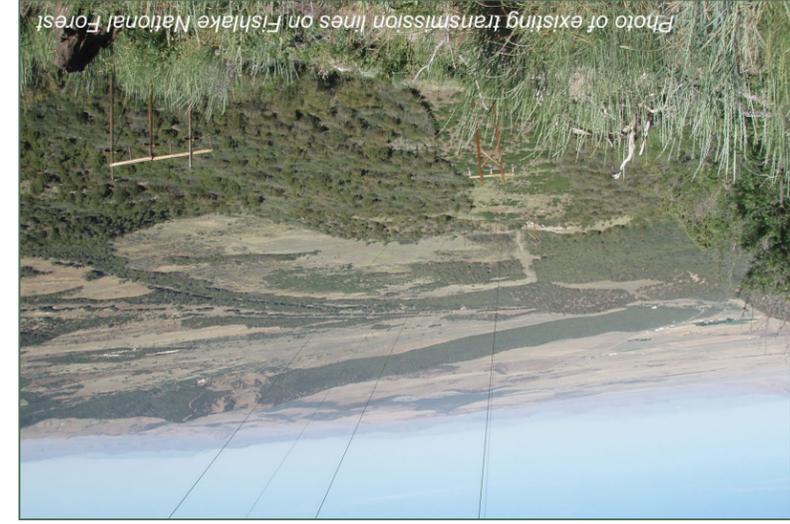
Main Menu

- ENBB Application
 - Search
 - Search by Date
 - Show Last Week
 - Show Last 2 Weeks
 - Show All Entries
 - Admin Login
- BLM Sites

Environmental Notification Bulletin Board

NEPA #	F/S #	Project Name	Field Office	Contact	Last Updated	Created
C010-2009-0048	UTU-83067	PacifiCorp: Sigurd to Red Butted 345 KV Transmission Line	Cedar City Field Office	Tamara Gertsch(National BLM Project Manager)	01/20/2010	03/10/2009
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2009-0074-EA	UTU-83067-01	Rocky Mountain Power: Geotechnical Investigations for the Sigurd to Red Buttes 345 KV Transmission Project	Cedar City Field Office	Lucas Lucero	10/02/2009	10/02/2009

SIGURD TO RED BUTTE NO. 2 345KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT EIS



WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

Southwestern Utah is one of the fastest-growing areas in Utah. Development of a new transmission line would provide additional capacity to help meet growing regional demand for electricity and improve the reliability and operational flexibility of the overall electricity delivery system.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a federal law that serves as the nation's basic charter for environmental protection. For major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the natural, human and cultural environment, NEPA requires an EIS be prepared. An EIS provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and a range of reasonable alternatives. To comprehensively address the effects of all actions associated with this project, the results documented in the geotechnical investigations EA will be incorporated into the EIS. Through the NEPA process, the public has the opportunity to learn about an agency's proposed action and to provide information and comments to the agency.

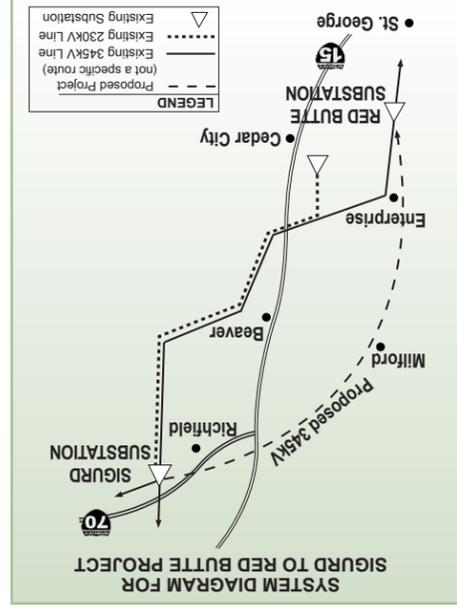


INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on PacifiCorp's (Rocky Mountain Power) Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345 kilovolt(kV) Transmission Line Project right-of-way application. The scoping meetings will also address the BLM's preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for geotechnical investigations associated with this project.

The proposed project would establish a new, single-circuit 345kV transmission line from the Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County to the Red Butte Substation near the town of Central in Washington County. The project's associated geotechnical investigations would be required to provide information needed to design the transmission line structural foundations.

This project may affect the areas around the communities of Sigurd, Richfield, Joseph, Elsinore, Glenwood, Annabella, Monroe, Junction, Kingston, Circleville, Milford, Beaver, Newcastle, Minersville, Paragona, Parowan, Enoch, Enterprise, Pinto, Central, and Pine Valley. This is the first in a series of newsletters to inform the public about the EIS and EA for the project.



BLM Cedar City Field Office
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84721
ATTN: Rob Wilson

Place
Stamp
Here

ATTENTION: PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA

Richfield - February 18, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sevier Valley Center Snow College Richfield Campus 800 West 200 South Richfield, UT	Enterprise - February 17, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Enterprise High School 565 South 200 East Enterprise, UT	Milford - February 17, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Oak Tree Inn 777 West Highway 21 Milford, UT	St. George - February 16, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Best Western Abbey Inn 1129 South Bluff St. St. George, UT
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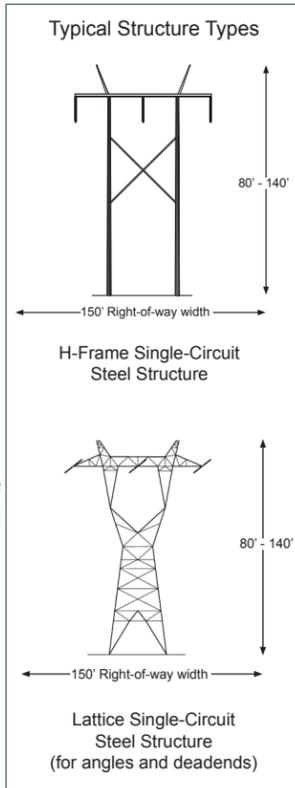
BLM Cedar City Field Office
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84721
ATTN: Rob Wilson

WHAT WOULD THE TRANSMISSION LINE LOOK LIKE?

The type of transmission line structure used depends on engineering design and constraints posed by land uses. The diagram to the right illustrates typical designs for the steel, single-circuit structures that would be used on this project. Depending on terrain, engineering factors, and other considerations, other structure designs could be used in specific locations.

Generally, the transmission line would consist of the following elements:

- Structure heights from 80 to 140 feet
- Spans between structures from 800 to 1,200 feet
- Right-of-way width of 150 feet
- Construction and maintenance access roads typically 14 feet wide



PROJECT TIMELINE

The anticipated timeline for the project is:

- Public scoping: 1st quarter 2010
- Draft EIS available: 1st quarter 2011
- Final EIS and Record of Decision: 3rd and 4th quarters 2011
- Right-of-way acquisition: 4th quarter 2010-2012
- Construction: 1st quarter 2012-2014

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE EIS PROCESS?

The BLM, in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies, has developed a proactive public involvement program that will be integrated with the EIS process.

The first opportunity for public participation is during scoping. Scoping is the process by which the BLM solicits input on the issues and concerns that will be addressed and analyzed in the EIS. Scoping is open to the public and occurs early in the EIS process. Scoping for this project began with publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2010. The BLM will host four open houses from 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m on the dates and at the locations provided.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

- St. George - February 16, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Best Western Abbey Inn
1129 South Bluff St.
St. George, UT
- Milford - February 17, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Oak Tree Inn
777 West Highway 21
Milford, UT
- Enterprise - February 17, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Enterprise High School
565 South 200 East
Enterprise, UT
- Richfield - February 18, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Sevier Valley Center
Snow Valley College
Richfield Campus
800 West 200 South
Richfield, UT

Your input and comments are valuable and important to the project. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these open house meetings.

In addition to providing opportunities for the public to be involved, the open houses will feature displays explaining the purpose and need, project description, process of preparing the EIS, and associated schedule and maps showing the project area and environmental issues identified to date. Representatives from the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Rocky Mountain Power will be available to discuss the project with you. Your comments are welcome any time throughout the process. However, your comments will be most helpful to us at this early stage when we are determining which issues to address in the EIS.



PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 160-mile-long high-voltage transmission line, access roads, and related facilities. The environmental issues already identified for analysis include potential impacts to:

- Protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of plants or animals or their critical habitats
- Land use, including agricultural operations, recreation, and transportation
- Floodplains and wetlands
- Cultural or historic resources and Native American concerns
- Human health and safety
- Air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water)
- Visual resources

The BLM invites you to suggest specific issues and concerns within these general categories, or to suggest other issues that should be evaluated in the EIS.

Comments may be submitted to the BLM by:

- Filling out a comment form available at the open houses

- E-mailing comments to utsrbproj@blm.gov
- Mailing comments to:
Cedar City Field Office, BLM
Attn: Rob Wilson
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84721
- Calling the project comment line at 888-666-6470 or 801-349-2893

The public scoping period runs from January 5 through March 5, 2010.

As the project progresses, the BLM will continue to inform interested parties via the following methods:

- Periodic newsletters providing updates on the project
- Periodic announcements to regional and local newspapers and radio and television stations
- Open house meetings at key milestones during the EIS process

Also, information about the project can be found on the BLM's website at:

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html/

Detach here

SIGN UP TO REMAIN ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST AND/OR RECEIVE THE DRAFT EIS

Once the Draft EIS is completed in the 1st quarter 2011, the document will be available at the BLM Office and on CD-ROM. Also, a copy of the document will be posted on the project website listed above.

To receive a copy of the Draft EIS, please check this box: Send me an electronic copy on CD-ROM

*To remain on the mailing list, please check this box: I wish to remain on the mailing list

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please print information clearly)

Name: _____

Representing Agency or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

***Please note that if you do not check this box and complete and return this form, you will be automatically removed from the mailing list.**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please join us for Public Scoping Meetings to discuss new transmission lines.

The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Rocky Mountain Power's right-of-way application for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV Transmission Line Project. The proposed project would establish a new, single-circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line from the Sigurd Substation near Richfield, in Sevier County to the Red Butte Substation located in the town of Central, Utah in Washington County. Four public scoping meetings will be held to provide information and solicit public comments on the proposed project and resource issues.

Please join us at any of the following Public Scoping Meetings from 6-8 p.m. MST to discuss the proposed project:

February 16, 2010

Best Western Abbey Inn
1129 South Bluff Street
St. George, UT

February 17, 2010

Oak Tree Inn
777 West Hwy 21
Milford, UT

February 17, 2010

Enterprise High School
565 South 200 East
Enterprise, UT

February 18, 2010

Sevier Valley Center
Snow College Richfield Campus
800 West 200 South
Richfield, UT

To submit a question or comment, please email utsrbproj@blm.gov. To be added to the project mailing list, contact Rob Wilson at Rob_Wilson@blm.gov. For more information, please visit www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html.

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APPENDIX C –SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS

- Sign-in sheets, including meeting attendees
- Sample Display Boards
- Sample comment form

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Public Open House
Milford
Sign-in Sheet

Name	Organization	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone Number
DAVE MORRISON	Kiewit	180 Guest St.	Boston, MA 02135	847-264-0908
Marilyn Lurth	Citizen	P.O. Box 355	Minersville VT 84752	435-386-2554
Maryanne Thompson	BRAVE	PO Box 318	FRANK VT. 84713	435-691-2772
Colleen Long	"	Box 1120	" " "	
Amy Barker	USES BEAVER RD	PO Box E	Beaver, VT 84713	



Public Open House
Milford
Sign-in Sheet

Name	Organization	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone Number
JEAN GREGG	KENNETT	140 GUEST ST	BOSTON, MA 02133	617 254 1015
Jim Bowden	Landowner	3531 Winding Creek CV	Riverton, UT 84065	801-446-5486
Richard Henry	LANDOWNER HENRY'S EARTH MOVING INC	340 E 3500S MINERSVILLE PO #100	MINERSVILLE UT 84752	559-7980
Don Wilder	Beaver Co	PO Box 61	Milford UT 84751	387-8805
Sally Rose	Landowner	PO Box 391	Milford, UT 84751	387-5515
Bryon Shumard	Milford City	Box 42	Milford, UT 84751	387-2570
Scott Albrecht	Beaver County	Box 789	Beaver, UT 84713	438-6490
JAMES TOMMAY	MINERSVILLE	Box 185	MINERSVILLE, UT 84752	691-2696
Rob Adams	Beaver County	Box 511	Beaver, UT 84713	421-9022
Joan Davis	Milford	Box 474	Milford Utah 84751	387-2954
Anthony Thompson	landowner			
Jim Korman	landowner			
Edward Dotson	MAYOR MINERSVILLE	PO Box 731	MINERSVILLE UT 84752	386-2442



Public Open House
Richfield
Sign-in Sheet

Name	Organization	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone Number
Colin Wigley	State h	303 W. Seven Hy	Benham W. 84766	527-4406
Marie Sullivan		470 So. State St	Orange, W. 84739	507-3753
DAREN DETERS	ENER	1755 E. PLUMBS LANE SUITE 155	RENO, NV 89502	329-0700
John Allen	ENER	1755 E. PLUMBS LANE #155	RENO, NV 89502	329-0700
Aaron Cripp		P.O. BOX 207	Annabella UT 84711	
ED PONS	OWNER	P.O. BOX 721	RICHFIELD, UT 84701	633-0131
Malcolm Nash	Sewer County	250 N. Main	Richfield UT 84701	435 893-0154
Darwin BRADY		277 W. 300N Richfield		896-6122
BRUCE PARKER	PDS	3007 E. CEUISE WY SW.	SW.	277-4435
Bob HANAUER	STATE PARKS			
Corinne Chase Lundowner		530 E 1580 N	Richfield, UT	435-896-5398
Carroll Dwyer			Richfield	435-896-6312
Colleen Dayland			"	"
DARYL FRANK				



Public Open House
St. George
Sign-in Sheet

Name	Organization	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone Number
MIKE ARANT	GARLAND ENERGY	1802 SOUTH HWY 89A	KANAB, UT, 84741	435-644- 5222
But Burgess		St. George, ut		
Tamara Gertsch	"	BLM - wy state office	Cheyenne WY	307- 775-6115
Aaron Gibson	Rocky Mountain Power	American Fork Service Center	American Fork, UT	801 376-5244
SUSAN GRAY		233 E. 200 S.	Central, UT 84702	574-2782
Robert Gray		233 E 200 S	CENTRAL UT	" "
Rick Hanson	St. George Energy Services	175 E 200 N	St. George	435- 627-4818
Kenny Hafen	Self	115 South Main	Keys 84782	574-2768
Victoria E. Hoare	Self	539 East Mule Deer Road	Central, Utah 84722	574-2900
MIKE EMPLOY	CONGRESSMAN MATHESON	321 N. Mall Dr E101B	ST. GEORGE UT 84790	627-0880
Craig Sullivan	Self	353 S. Highway 18	Central 84722	
TODD CHRISTENSEN	BLM	176 D. Seward Dr	Cedar City, UT	865-3022
Karen Clement	US Army Corps of Engineering	321 N Mall Dr L-101	St George, UT	786-1961
Ross Charette	Retired ST GEORGE ENERGY SERVICES	3402 Snow Canyon Dr Tukwila Utah	2 King, WY	676 5045
PHILIP SOLOMON	ENERGY SERVICES	175 E 200 S	ST. GEORGE	435 627-4800

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

SAFETY POLICY: Rocky Mountain Power's safety policy is designed to maintain the safety and welfare of residents potentially impacted by construction and meets or exceeds federal, state, and local requirements (including traffic ordinances, National Electric Safety Code standards, etc.). The safety program will also include education for all construction contractors regarding safety procedures.

TASKS:

- Landowner notification and aerial and ground surveys
- Obtain right-of-entry
- Stake out structure sites and reference points
- Geotechnical testing
 - crews in utility vehicles using drill rigs and other techniques
 - where possible, sample sites will be located to minimize disturbance
- Construct access roads
- Clearing and site work
- Construct new transmission line
 - install foundations
 - install poles
 - string conductors (lines)
- Restoration and cleanup

CONSTRUCTION START-UP: 1st Quarter 2012

IN-SERVICE DATE: 2014

PROPONENT'S PROJECT NEED

- Increased electrical demand
- Additional lines are needed to increase capacity for growing customer needs
- A new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line is needed
- New line will provide improved reliability and operational flexibility in conjunction with future energy resources

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 345kV single-circuit transmission line from Sigurd substation to Red Butte substation
- Typically 4-5 structures per mile (spans of approximately 800-1,200 feet between structures)
- Right-of-way width typically 150 feet
- Predominately self-supporting steel H-frame structures, typically 80-140 feet in height
- Structures typically self-weathering steel or dull galvanized finish
- Structure foundations - typically two in-ground concrete foundations
- Non-specular conductors (to minimize reflection and visibility)
- Minimum clearance between conductors and the ground is 30 feet to meet National Electric Safety Code (NESC) standards

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a federal law that requires federal agencies to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that may significantly affect the quality of the natural, human, and cultural environment.

An EIS provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives.

NEPA Process

Scoping:

- Identify range of alternatives and key issues
- **Public comment period** (January 5 to March 5, 2010)
- Public scoping meetings (February 16-18, 2010)

Draft EIS:

- Documents the affected environment and the potential impacts of the proposed action and the range of alternatives
- **45-day public review and comment period**
- Federal hearings/meetings

Final EIS/Record of Decision:

- Addresses public concerns and comments on Draft EIS
- Identifies the agency's preferred alternative
- **30-day public review and comment period**



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- **Climate and Air Quality**
- **Earth and Water Resources**
 - Geology
 - Water Resources
 - Soil Resources
- **Biological Resources**
 - Vegetation
 - Wild Horse and Burros
 - Wildlife
 - Special-Status Species
- **Wildland Fire Ecology and Management**
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Archaeological
 - Native American Concerns
 - Historic
- **Paleontological Resources**
- **Visual Resources**
- **Land Use and Recreation Resources**
- **Wilderness Characteristics**
- **Special Designations**
- **Social and Economic Conditions**
- **Human Health and Safety**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Agency Management Plan Compliance**



GEOTECHNICAL SURVEYS

Purpose: Identify soil types and geological conditions needed to define foundation requirements and design.

Description

- Typical boring depth will be 40-50 feet below ground surface
- 8-inch diameter hole, with split spoon sampling every 2-1/2 feet for top 10 feet, then at 5-foot intervals or change in lithology
- Borehole sites would typically occur at angles, deadends, possible tension structure locations, and every 3 miles of straight line sections

Support Equipment

- Four-wheel-drive vehicle
- Air-compressor
- Water truck
- Four-wheel-drive vehicle for field geologist
- On-call contract dozer with winch system

Ground Disturbance and Mitigation

- Approximately 50 x 50-foot (maximum 100 x 100-foot) disturbance area for drilling operation plus 12-foot-wide access route to borehole site from existing road
- Geotextile separator fabric, geonets, and/or gravel pads as needed in wet conditions to minimize ground disturbance; protective features to be removed and ground restored to agency requirements
- Existing roads and trails used to the extent possible to mitigate ground disturbance
- Drilling primarily during dry season
- Boring sites and access routes to be staked and flagged to minimize damage outside of designated areas

GEOTECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

Truck-Mounted Rig

- Used on relatively flat areas
- Will be used for majority of boreholes
- Rubber-tired vehicle



Tracked Rig

- Used in areas up to 20% grade
- Will be used for most boreholes that are inaccessible by truck-mounted rigs



All-Terrain Vehicle Rig (ATV)

- Used in areas up to 20% grade
- Minimal ground disturbance
- Proposed for boreholes where truck-mounted and tracked rigs cannot travel due to ground disturbance restrictions



Platform Rig

- Delivered in pieces by helicopter and assembled on-site
- Used in areas where vehicle-mounted drilling rigs cannot travel



COOPERATING AGENCIES

Multiple agencies have been invited and will participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS. Cooperating agencies currently include:

Federal

- U.S. Forest Service
 - Dixie National Forest
 - Fishlake National Forest

State

- State of Utah – Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Local

- Beaver County
- Iron County
- Millard County
- Sevier County
- Washington County
- City of Enterprise
- City of St. George



WELCOME

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is hosting this public scoping meeting for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV Transmission Line Project EIS and the Geotechnical Investigations EA.

The BLM requests your input on the proposed project as part of the public scoping process.

Thank you for participating.



PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS

The public comment period for this process is January 5 to March 5, 2010

You can provide comments in the following ways:

- Complete a paper comment form and drop it in the comment box
- Email comments to utsrbproj@blm.gov
- Call and leave comments on the public telephone comment line at **888-666-6470** or **801-349-2893**

- Mail comments to the BLM:

Cedar City Field Office

Attn: Rob Wilson

176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.

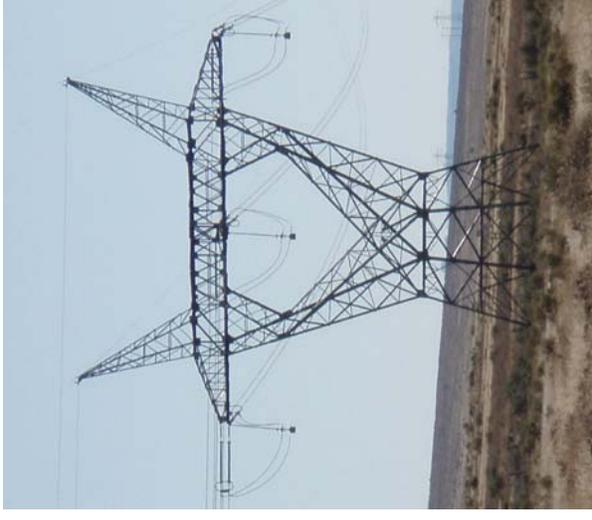
Cedar City, UT 84721



EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL 345kV STRUCTURE TYPES



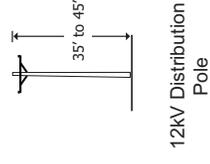
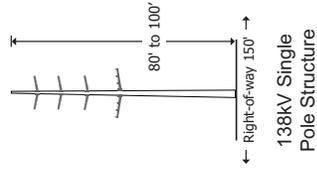
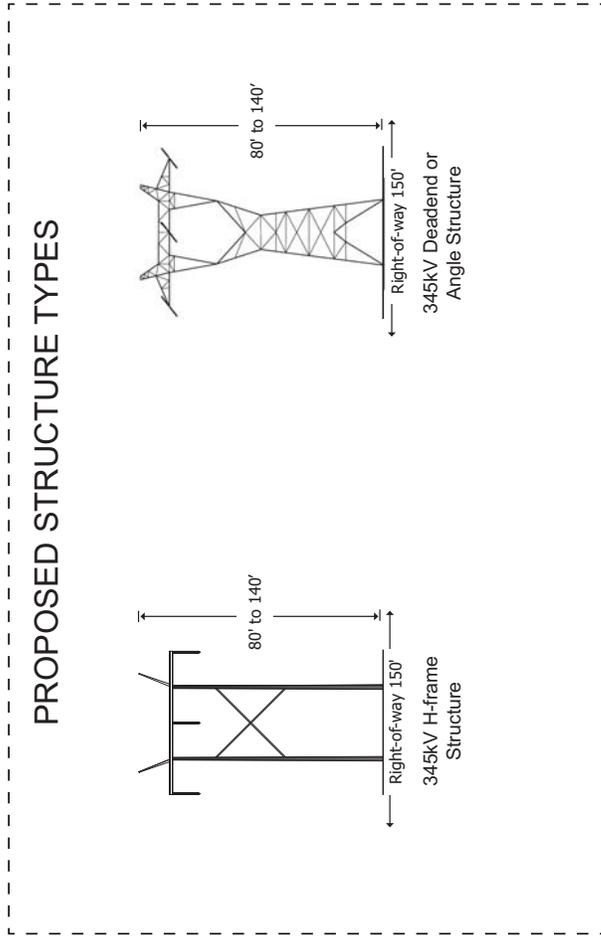
Tubular Steel, Single-Circuit
H-Frame Tangent Structure



Lattice Steel, Single-Circuit
Deadend or Angle Structure

These photographs show the types of structures that would be predominantly used for this project.

STRUCTURE TYPES



NEPA PLANNING APPROACH

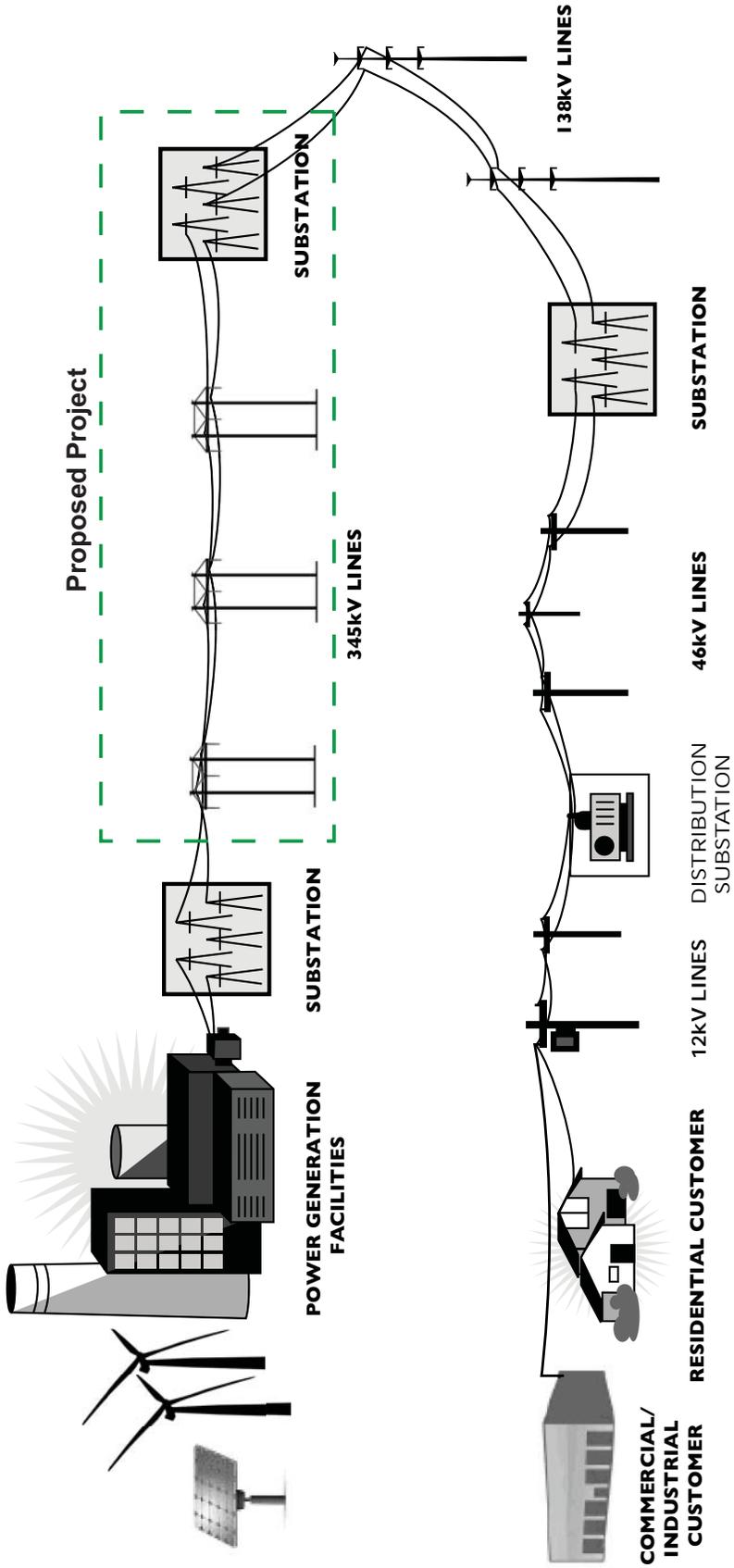
Major Steps	2008			2009			2010			2011			2012			2013			2014				
	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
Project Start-Up																							
Agency & Public Scoping																							
45-day Public Comment Period																							
Detailed Inventory																							
Impact Assessment & Mitigation Planning																							
Alternatives Selection																							
Draft EIS																							
65-day Public Comment Period																							
Final EIS & Record of Decision																							
Federal, State, & Local Permits																							
Right-of-Way Acquisition																							
Construction																							
In-service Date																							

Note: The dates shown in this chart are pending approval of the project.



ELECTRICITY:

From generating sources to the customer



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APPENDIX D – LETTERS FROM REGULATORY AGENCIES

- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

FEB 05 2010

FEB 05 2010

Ref: 8EPR-N

Mr. Lucas Lucero, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721



RE: Scoping Comments for the Sigurd-Red Butte
Transmission Line Project, Utah

Dear Mr. Lucero:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8, has reviewed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sigurd-Red Butte Transmission Line Project (Project). We have also briefly examined materials available on the BLM website, including the Project Description, Preliminary Right-Of-Way Application, and Application Amendment Letter, in order to obtain a better sense of the project's location and potential impacts. PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power Company, proposes to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission approximately 160 miles of 345 kV overhead electric transmission line. The project area is approximately between the towns of Richfield and Central, Utah, but proposed alternative right-of-ways vary significantly. In accordance with EPA's responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(C), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, we are providing scoping comments regarding issues that we believe should be considered during preparation of the EIS.

Project Purpose, Need, and Alternative Development

BLM's Project Description identifies the need for the proposed project as impending full utilization of the southwest Utah transmission system, predicted by PacifiCorp to occur by 2014. Circumstances contributing to this prediction include regional growth as well as increased per customer electric usage, which has resulted in a significant increase in overall demand for electricity in the region. It is important that the project purpose defined in the EIS address this underlying need without too narrowly constraining the range of project alternatives.

The EIS should rigorously explore and objectively evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the stated project purpose and need. These alternatives may differ significantly from the proposed action. For example, given that increased per customer electric usage is a contributing factor to the need for increased access to electricity, conservation may be

a reasonable alternative to satisfy this need. An alternative that is outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency must still be analyzed in the EIS if it is reasonable.

Access to Renewable Energy Sources

EPA believes that current and future access to renewable energy sources should be an important factor in evaluation of electrical transmission alternatives. Utah's goal to receive 20 percent of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025 will lead to increased renewable energy production in the state. The project area lies within or near wind, solar, and geothermal zones identified by the Governor's Utah Renewable Energy Zone (UREZ) Task Force. One current large-scale wind farm, the Milford Wind Farm, is identified in the proponent's Application. Access to electrical transmission is a critical issue in developing renewable energy resources, and this factor should be considered when developing and evaluating right-of-ways.

Environmental Concerns

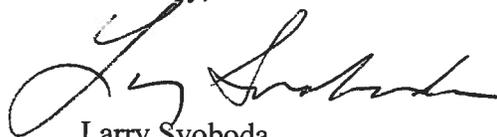
In addition to the issues described above and those identified by BLM in the NOI, EPA has identified eight further environmental concerns for consideration. Based on our current knowledge of the proposed project and the area, we recommend the EIS address the following:

1. Protecting wetlands and riparian areas and associated ecosystems;
2. Protecting ground and surface water quality;
3. Protection of air quality;
4. Effects on fish, wildlife, and vegetation;
5. Noxious weeds and invasive plants;
6. Potential project effects on local communities;
7. Cumulative impacts; and
8. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

We are enclosing our detailed scoping comments that provide additional information and further discussion of these issues and concerns.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments at this early stage of the NEPA process for the Sigurd-Red Butte Transmission Line Project. We hope you will find our comments useful in preparing the EIS, with regard to the project purpose and need, alternative development, and renewable energy potential, as well as consideration of other potential environmental impacts. If you have any questions you may contact me at (303) 312-6004, or you may contact Molly Brodin of my staff at (303) 312-6577.

Sincerely,



Larry Svoboda
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosure: EPA's Detailed Scoping Comments

**Detailed Scoping Comments by the Environmental Protection Agency
Sigurd-Red Butte Transmission Line Project**

1. Protecting wetlands and riparian areas and associated ecosystems

EPA considers the protection, improvement, and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas to be a high priority. Wetlands and riparian areas increase landscape and species diversity, support many species of western wildlife, and are critical to the protection of water quality and designated beneficial water uses. Potential impacts on riparian areas and wetlands include: water quality, habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life, flood storage, ground water recharge and discharge, sources of primary production, and recreation and aesthetics.

Discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, is regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This permit program is administered jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and EPA. Please consult with the Corps to determine if any jurisdictional wetlands are present in the project area, and determine the applicability of CWA Section 404 permit requirements to this project. Additionally, Executive Order (EO) 11990 directs Federal Agencies to "take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities" and agencies are further directed, to the extent permitted by law, to "avoid undertaking or providing assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds (1) that there is no practicable alternative to such construction, and (2) that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use..." The EIS should describe how the transmission line alternatives will address the wetland protection goals in EO 11990, as applicable.

After all practicable efforts have been made to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands, the remaining unavoidable impacts to wetlands should be compensated for through wetland restoration, creation, or enhancement. In general, the required compensatory mitigation should be located within the same watershed as the impact site, and should be located where it is most likely to successfully replace lost functions and services, taking into account such watershed scale features as aquatic habitat diversity, habitat connectivity, relationships to hydrologic sources (including the availability of water rights), trends in land use, ecological benefits, and compatibility with adjacent land uses (40 CFR 230.93(b)(1)). Wetland restoration is preferred to wetland creation or enhancement because restoration has a higher rate of success.

2. Protecting ground and surface water quality

The EIS should clearly describe water bodies and ground water resources within the analysis area that may be impacted by project activities. An analysis of the area's geology, topography, soils, and stream stability in terms of erosion and mass failure potential may be necessary to adequately evaluate for the potential risks to surface and subsurface water quality and quantity, aquatic habitat, and other resources from specific project activities. Appropriate

BMPs to reduce potential non-point sources of pollution from this project's proposed activities should be designed into the project.

The EIS should provide information on water quality impaired waters designated by States under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act along the transmission line routing, and State efforts to develop or revise Total Maximum Daily Loads. We note that multiple 303(d) listed impaired waters are present in the project vicinity, and may be impacted depending on the final right-of-way selection. If the Project will impact impaired waters, BLM should identify the parameters resulting in a 303(d) listing and describe how the proposed project might affect those parameters. The EIS should demonstrate that construction and operation of the transmission line will not result in further degradation of impaired waters.

Events such as vehicular spills of hazardous or toxic materials could result in significantly more adverse habitat and water quality impacts. The EIS should discuss the frequency or likelihood of such events, and describe spill and release response capabilities. Storm water management should also be evaluated.

3. Protection of air quality

The EIS should provide for evaluation and disclosure of potential air quality effects of transmission line construction and operation alternatives, including the project's potential affect on: criteria pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), including ozone; applicable Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments; visibility impairment and air quality related values (AQRV) in the protection of any affected Class I Areas; any significant concentrations of hazardous air pollutants; and protection of public health.

The EIS should evaluate air quality impacts and detail mitigation steps that will be taken to minimize associated impacts. The types of fuels to be used during construction activities, increased traffic during construction and operations, and related emissions, should be disclosed and the relative effects on air quality and human health evaluated. We recommend that clean diesel equipment, vehicles, and fuels be used during construction as much as possible.

The EIS should evaluate effects of any proposed road improvements, new road construction, and general ROW construction and operation activities on the area. Dust particulates from construction, and ongoing operations on roadways are important concerns for public health and the environment. Airborne dust may not only be a visual nuisance, but can be potentially dangerous to asthma sufferers and others with respiratory illnesses. Construction techniques and appropriate dust control methods to reduce airborne dust and sediment runoff from the project area should be considered. Detailed plans for addressing dust control for the project should be included. The plans should include: dust suppression methods, inspection schedules, and documentation and accountability processes.

4. Effects on fish, wildlife, and vegetation

The effects of project activities on area ecology, including vegetation, fish and wildlife,

and associated aquatic and terrestrial habitat, from transmission line construction and operation should be disclosed and evaluated in the EIS. The affected environment section should include current quality and capacity of habitat, usage by wildlife near the proposed project, known wildlife corridors/trails that may be affected, and fisheries resources and aquatic habitat in surface waters that may be affected.

If the proposed transmission line construction, operation or maintenance could affect federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their designated critical habitat, the EIS should include the Biological Assessment and the associated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Biological Opinion or informal consultation.

5. Noxious weeds and invasive plants

Among the greatest threats to biodiversity is the spread of noxious weeds and exotic (non-indigenous) plants. Many noxious weeds can out-compete native plants and produce a monoculture that has little or no plant species diversity or benefit to wildlife. Noxious weeds tend to gain a foothold where there is disturbance in the ecosystem. Studies show that new roads and utility right-of-ways can become a pathway for the spread of invasive plants.

We suggest that a vegetation management plan be prepared to address control of such plant intrusions. The plan should list the noxious weeds and exotic plants that occur in the resource area. In cases where noxious weeds are a threat, EPA recommends the document detail a strategy for prevention, early detection of invasion, and control procedures for each species. Early recognition and control of new infestations is essential to stopping the spread of infestation and avoiding future widespread use of herbicides, which could correspondingly have more adverse impacts on biodiversity and nearby water quality.

6. Potential project effects on local communities

The proposed Project route traverses a variety of human environments. The EIS should identify and address social and economic impacts this project may have on these different communities. This would include, but is not limited to, identifying the number of outside workers that would be brought in to construct the project and duration of proposed construction activities through various communities. The EIS should also consider environmental related socio-economic impacts to local communities such as housing for project workers, schools, burdening existing waste and wastewater handling facilities, increased road traffic with associated dust and hazardous materials spill potential, and wildlife impacts resulting from habitat reduction. Plans to avoid or minimize such impacts should be evaluated.

Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," signed in 1994, applies to federal agencies that conduct activities that substantially affect human health or the environment. In accordance with this order, the EIS should identify the characteristics of the communities that are impacted, particularly the socio-economic characteristics. Close attention should be paid to communities that may be considered environmental justice (EJ) communities. The EIS should disclose and

evaluate the short- and long-term impacts on EJ communities.

7. *Cumulative impacts*

The EIS should examine the cumulative impacts of development of the Project. NEPA requires that cumulative impacts be addressed as the incremental impacts when added to other past, present, and "reasonably foreseeable" future actions, regardless of whether they are federal actions. This includes evaluation of direct and indirect effects of all reasonably foreseeable actions on all resource categories, including water quality, aquatic habitat, fisheries, wetlands, air quality, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. The cumulative impacts analysis should also include cradle-to-grave considerations for the transmission line, such as long-term maintenance and final decommissioning.

EPA considers the following five key areas of information in reviewing cumulative effects analyses:

- Clear identification of resources being cumulatively impacted and the geographic area where impacts occur;
- Use of appropriate analysis area boundaries for the resource and time period over which the cumulative effects have occurred or will occur;
- Identification of impacts that are expected to resources of concern in each area from the proposed management direction through analysis of cause-and-effects relationships (include scientifically defensible threshold levels);
- Adequate evaluation of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have affected, are affecting, or would affect resources of concern (include adequate evaluation vs. benchmark or baseline or reference conditions); and
- Disclosure of the overall cumulative impacts that can be expected if the individual impacts are allowed to accumulate, and comparisons of cumulative impacts for the proposed management direction and the reasonable alternatives in relation to the no action alternative and/or an environmental reference point.

8. *Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change*

EPA recommends the EIS include an analysis and disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. We suggest a four step approach:

1. Consider the future needs and capacity of the proposed action to adapt to projected climate change effects.
2. Characterize and quantify the expected annual cumulative emissions attributable to the Project, and use CO₂-equivalent as a metric for comparing the different types of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted.
3. Briefly discuss the link between GHGs and climate change, and the potential impacts of climate change.
4. Discuss potential means to mitigate project-related emissions.



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH FIELD OFFICE
2369 WEST ORTON CIRCLE, SUITE 50
WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH 84119

March 5, 2010

In Reply Refer To
FWS/R6
ES/UT
10-CPA-0039



Cedar City Field Office, BLM
Attn: Rob Wilson
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84721

RE: Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345kV Transmission Line Project EIS

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We have received notice of your intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives and impacts related to construction of an electrical transmission line from the Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County to the Red Butte Substation near the town of Central in Washington County. PacifiCorp proposes to construct a new, single-circuit 345kV transmission line consisting of structures varying in height from 80 to 140 feet, a right-of-way width of 150 feet, and access roads that are typically 14 feet wide. The distance between structures would span between 800 and 1,200 feet. We are also aware that you plan to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the geotechnical exploratory phase of this project. We are working separately with you and PacifiCorp to address wildlife concerns on that phase.

Under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulation 40 CFR § 1503.1(a) (1), we are providing comment with respect to environmental impacts that fall under our jurisdiction by law and special expertise. Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, our responsibilities to States under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, we have identified issues that should be addressed relative to fish and wildlife resources for this project. In Section 1 of this letter we identify issues that should be addressed in your NEPA compliance document. In Section 2 of this letter, we address your responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Section 1

In planning and implementing surface disturbance activities, PacifiCorp should avoid sensitive wildlife periods and areas (e.g. nesting season and calving season, migration corridors, etc.). In particular PacifiCorp should evaluate and minimize impacts to migratory bird habitat, focusing on species on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2008 List of Birds of Conservation Concern and species that are listed among the Partners in Flight Priority Species. To help meet responsibilities under Executive Order 13186 (Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds), we recommend that BLM stipulate certain measures to avoid and minimize disturbances. For example, PacifiCorp should conduct ground-disturbing activities outside critical breeding seasons for migratory birds; minimize temporary and long-term habitat losses; and, provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts. Intermountain West

Joint Venture has identified potential focal areas for bird habitat conservation and restoration efforts which can be useful in identifying areas for offsite, in-kind habitat compensation. Specific to raptors, we recommend that you include information regarding power line design in the EIS. To comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, PacifiCorp should construct raptor-safe power lines and ensure adequate separation between conductors and/or grounded hardware. Perch guards may be used to prevent larger raptors from landing on the power poles. You can find additional guidelines in the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's publications, "Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1994," and, "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006," prepared for the Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C. In addition, "The Avian Protection Plan Guidelines" (2005) provides a useful toolbox of measures to mitigate the impacts of power lines on raptors. These documents are available at <http://www.aplic.org>.

We recommend use of the *Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances* which were developed in part to provide consistent application of raptor protection measures statewide and provide full compliance with environmental laws regarding raptor protection. Raptor survey and mitigation measures are provided in the Raptor Guidelines as recommendations to ensure that proposed projects will avoid adverse impacts to raptors.

Please note that we removed the bald eagle from the federal list of endangered and threatened species. While bald eagles no longer are provided protection under the ESA, they are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in addition to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a Utah Wildlife Species of Concern that has been petitioned for listing under the ESA. Numerous active greater sage-grouse leks and substantial nesting and brood-rearing habitat are known to exist within the project study area. We recommend surveys to identify breeding, nesting, brood-rearing and/or wintering habitats within the project area. You should coordinate with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to determine surveying needs and protocol.

In your EIS, you should discuss how PacifiCorp has aligned the power line to avoid impacts to greater sage-grouse. Where impacts may be unavoidable, you should analyze direct, indirect and cumulative potential impacts to sage-grouse populations and identify minimization and compensation measures PacifiCorp will employ during construction and maintenance activities.

PacifiCorp can minimize impacts to greater sage-grouse by aligning the power line corridor and associated facilities to avoid leks and brood-rearing areas. At a minimum, PacifiCorp should locate the power line and associated facilities 2 miles from active lek sites. Raptors prey on greater sage-grouse and utilize power poles for perches, therefore PacifiCorp should also consider existing raptor habitat in its power line alignment to minimize potential predation. You will find guidelines, including seasonal and spatial buffers, in the UDWR's *Utah Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan, 2009*, Publication 09 and in *Guidelines to Manage Sage Grouse Populations and Their Habitats* (Connely et al. 2000).

Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) is a sensitive species in the State of Utah and a species that has also been petitioned for listing under the ESA. The project area contains historic and currently occupied habitat for this species. Pygmy rabbits prefer areas with tall dense sagebrush and loose soils. We recommend surveys to determine and plan avoidance for suitable and occupied pygmy rabbit habitat. You should coordinate with UDWR to determine surveying needs and protocol.

PacifiCorp can minimize impacts to pygmy rabbit by aligning the power line corridor and associated facilities to avoid occupied habitat. Where impacts may be unavoidable, PacifiCorp must minimize

ground disturbance and sagebrush removal. Please be aware that efforts to trap and relocate pygmy rabbit are largely unsuccessful, and therefore not a viable alternative to avoidance.

As with all projects that will create surface disturbance, there is potential for introduction and spread of invasive species. PacifiCorp should take all possible measures to prevent their introduction or proliferation. Monitoring and control efforts should be implemented following soil disturbance. Revegetation seed mixes should contain native plants or non-natives that will not naturalize.

In the project EIS, you should identify permanent impacts to vegetation that will result from the project. In particular, you should identify the number of acres of woody vegetation that will be permanently impacted due to ROW maintenance. Where avoidance and minimization is not possible, you should work with PacifiCorp to identify mitigation commitments.

Section 2

Federal agencies have specific additional responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA. You should review the proposed action and determine if it will affect any listed species or critical habitat. You can obtain current County species lists from our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice/EndSpp.html>. We recommend that you check this website on a regular basis to confirm that you are working with the most current list. If you determine, with our concurrence that the action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat, the consultation process is complete, and no further action is necessary.

Formal consultation (50 CFR 402.14) with us is required if you determine that an action is "likely to adversely affect" a listed species or will result in jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02). You should also confer with us on any action which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10). A written request for formal consultation or conference should be submitted to us with a completed biological assessment and any other relevant information (50 CFR 402.12).

We also direct your attention to section 7(d) of the ESA, as amended, which underscores the requirement that the Federal agency or the applicant shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources during the consultation period which, in effect, would deny the formulation or implementation of reasonable and prudent alternatives regarding their actions on any endangered or threatened species.

Candidate species have no legal protection under the ESA. Candidate species are those species for which we have on file sufficient information to support issuance of a proposed rule to list under the ESA. Identification of candidate species can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, allowing resource managers to alleviate threats and, thereby, possibly remove the need to list species as endangered or threatened. Even if we subsequently list this candidate species, the early notice provided here could result in fewer restrictions on activities by prompting candidate conservation measures to alleviate threats to this species.

Only a Federal agency can enter into formal ESA section 7 consultation with the USFWS. A Federal agency may designate a non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation or prepare a biological assessment by providing written notice of such a designation. The ultimate responsibility for compliance with ESA section 7, however, remains with the Federal agency.

The following is a list of species that may occur within the project area and are managed under Conservation Agreements/Strategies. Conservation Agreements are voluntary cooperative plans among resource agencies that identify threats to a species and implement conservation measures to pro-actively conserve and protect species in decline. Threats that warrant a species listing as a sensitive species by

state and federal agencies and as threatened or endangered under the ESA should be significantly reduced or eliminated through implementation of the Conservation Agreement. Project plans should be designed to meet the goals and objectives of these Conservation Agreements.

Species

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout

Least Chub

Spotted Frog

Scientific Name

Oncorhynchus clarkii utah

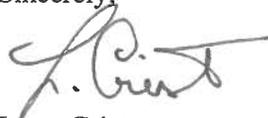
Lotichthys phlegethontis

Rana luteiventris

We recommend that you reference the Conservation Agreements for these species and continue to work with the resource agencies to determine appropriate minimization and mitigation measures.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. For further assistance, please contact Amy Defreeze, Ecologist, at the letterhead address or (801) 975-3330 x134.

Sincerely,



Larry Crist
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: USFS, Dixie National Forest – 1789 North Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84721
USFS, Fishlake National Forest – 115 E. 900 N., Richfield, Utah 84701
UDWR – Cedar City (Attn: Bruce Bonebrake) (by email)

APPENDIX E – LIST OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

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**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Federal Agencies	Comment Summary
3/5/2010	Amy Defreese	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		See comment letter presented in Appendix D.
2/5/2010	Larry Svoboda	Environmental Protection Agency – Region 8		See comment letter presented in Appendix D.
3/26/2010	Mike Smith	U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Fishlake National Forest		Provided information regarding potential conflicts of the project with Richfield City and their water storage tanks, water developments and fireworks platform. Noted that Richfield City prefers that the alternative routes be moved further to the west on lands administered by USFS to avoid potential conflicts. Informed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that the USFS lands located west of Richfield are a bedrock-controlled landscape. Expressed support for an additional alternative route to be located south and adjacent the Fremont Indian State Park, but noted that any corridor in this area should be surveyed by USFS archaeologists prior to development of the environmental impact statement (EIS). Expressed preference that all existing and proposed transmission lines be supported on two sets of towers to minimize impacts on lands administered by USFS. Suggested consideration of an additional alternative route placed north of Interstate 70 (I-70) in the area located east of Cove Fort and continuing southeast and east down Clear Creek Canyon.
Local Agencies				
3/4/2010	Lee Bracken	Enterprise City		Expressed concern that the alternative route (Link 280) considered near Enterprise could that affect a sensitive watershed area where the city maintains two natural springs for culinary water use. Expressed concern that an increase in number of roads, associated with project construction and maintenance, could and promote rampant all-terrain vehicle (ATV) proliferation, which could potentially result in impacts on the community's watershed, the "scenic beauty" of the area, and wildlife habitat. Expressed concern that any corridor through or near the Enterprise's city limits could have an effect on economic development and residential growth. Noted that, once established, any new utility corridor could invite additional proposals for additional utility projects.
2/17/2010	Ward Dotson	Minersville City		Expressed concern potential impacts on growth of Minersville City.
3/4/2010	James Eardley	Washington County Commission		Provided information on the <i>Vision Dixie Principles</i> . Noted that protecting visual aesthetics within the county is an important element of the county's <i>Vision Dixie Report</i> . Expressed preference for the westernmost (Links 280, 285, and 290) or center alternative route (Link

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
3/4/2010	Rick Hansen	City of St. George	270). Acknowledged the need and expressed general support for the proposed project. Encouraged BLM and the Applicant (Rocky Mountain Power) to consider original project costs and ongoing maintenance accessibility when selection a route, stressing that facilities that are accessible generally have lower overall costs and greater overall reliability.
2/11/2010	Mike Langston	Richfield City Corporation	Provided information regarding the location of the city's water sources and their water storage tanks and annual city fireworks display and launch pad area.
3/30/2010	Ray Owens	Town of Joseph	Provided information about plans for placement of a new water tank near the existing water tank. Suggested a route adjustment that would move the route alternative (Links 45 and 60) to the north adjusting the route alternative to the north within the community.
No Date	Bruce Parker	Millard County	Information was provided regarding Millard County zoning ordinances and the possibility of the requirement of an amendment to the Millard County General Plan. Expressed concern for possible visual impacts on the Cove Fort Historic Site. Protested location of the project anywhere north of I-70. Encourage selection of the alternative route (Links 66 and 68) with the shortest possible distance in Millard County and located south of I-70.
2/18/2010	Stephen Platt	Iron County	Expressed overall support for the project.
2/25/2010	Wayne Smith	Iron County	Expressed agreement with eliminating the 'purple' route (i.e., route recommended at scoping for elimination from detailed analysis; commenter referring to Links 180, 182, 183, 185) due to potential impacts on agricultural lands within the county and potential conflict with a planned 'belt way' project (from the Interstate 15 [I-15] summit exit to Iron Springs Road). Discouraged the BLM from selecting Links 395, 430, 435, and 438 due to potential socioeconomic impacts. Expressed support for selection of Links 160, 165, 220, 240, 245, and 250 as the preferred route. Encouraged the BLM and Applicant to adhere to local planning and zoning ordinances, along with acquiring proper easements from the county. Suggested the location of the line within the chosen corridor should be done in a manner that carefully considers existing and future transmission facilities, to minimize crossings and most effectively use the corridor area. Suggested that restoration of county roadways should be included in the analysis to

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
2/17/2010	Don Willden	Beaver County Commission	insure they revert back to the original condition after construction of the line. Restoration of disturbed range land and fences also should be included in the analysis. Expressed preference for the alternative route (Link 75) that follows the same general path as the 46-kilovolt (kV) line from Sulphurdale to the Blundell Geothermal Generating Station. Suggested to modify this alternative to run south of the Milford Wind Farm (First Wind) as they believe such a modification would encounter less opposition from the public and would allow for future renewable energy facilities.
Special Interest Groups			
3/4/2010	Tiffany Bartz	Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA)	Expressed concern potential impacts on wilderness characteristics of the Antelope Range area proposed for wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. Recommended that the Draft EIS fully disclose all proposed future and ongoing transmission line projects in Utah. Requested that the EIS contain an explanation of how the project relates to the West-wide Energy Corridor programmatic EIS. Requested that the purpose and need for the project include the generation sources and destination of power to be carried by the proposed transmission line. Requested that the EIS analyze impacts related to project requirements for redundancy and reliability and clearly explain why new corridors requiring significant new surface disturbance are required. Noted that the inventoried roadless areas on the Dixie National Forest could be affected by the project. Expressed concern that new surface disturbance and the construction of access roads potentially could affect visual resources and result in increased unauthorized off-road vehicle use, which could affect sensitive species and riparian and wetland areas and spread invasive weed species. Provided SUWA's shapefiles for all of the areas in Utah that are proposed for wilderness in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and encouraged the BLM to evaluate any overlap by the alternatives routes. Expressed concern for the potential impact on the historic site near the junction of I-15 and I-70. Stated this site is currently being researched. Expressed concern about the project's impact on BLM sensitive species and other imperiled species and their habitats. Clarified that previously provided comment referred to the proposed transmission line. Stated that the project must comply with the Eagle Act and the
4/7/2010	Tiffany Bartz	SUWA	
2/8/2010	Cory Davis	We Nooch Society	
2/17/2010	Lauren McCain, PhD	WildEarth Guardians	
3/5/2010	Lauren McCain, PhD	WildEarth Guardians	
2/19/2010	Kevin Mueller	Utah Environmental Congress	

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Expressed concern for the alignment of some of the alternatives being considered in terms of compliance with the Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Expressed concern for potential impacts on populations and population trends of all management indicator species on both the Fishlake and Dixie National Forests. Expressed concern that construction of proposed alignments would result in irreversible and/or irremediable loss of inventoried potential wilderness areas on National Forest system land. Stated preference for the alternative route recommended for elimination, and the opinion that this route would be the preferable alternative in terms of impacts on National Forest system land.
2/12/2010	Steve Shaffer	We Nooch Society	Expressed concern for the project potentially being located in proximity to a historic site near the junction of I-15 and I-70.
Individuals (Alphabetized by Last Name)			
3/4/2010	John Allen	Enel North America	Provided information on the development of a geothermal plant near the site of the former Bonnet Geothermal Power Plant. Expressed preference for Link 420.
2/25/2010	Robert Aston		Expressed concern for the project being located in the community of Central, Utah, due to potential impacts on public health and safety, wildland fire management, and visual resources. Expressed preference for Links 385 or 440.
2/18/2010	Reginald and Madaleen Bingham		Provided future plans for development of their property, and information regarding water supply, underground electricity, agricultural practices, and the location of an ATV trail located on the property.
2/23/2010	James Bowden		Expressed concern for potential impacts on his property (e.g., vandalism, trash) including hunting areas and to wildlife. Noted that the area is difficult to access during the winter months due to snow levels. Warned of the potential of vandalism of project structures to the level of unauthorized hunting that occurs on his property.
2/24/2010	Steve Brown		Expressed concern for potential impacts on residential neighborhoods, and requested that impact on communities be minimized when routes are selected.
2/17/2010	Julie Jean Castro		Expressed concern for wildlife in the Pine Valley Mountains and the health and safety of recreationists in the area. Expressed concern for impacts on fire frequency and visual resources. Stated preference for the western alternative route (Links 280, 285) or for a new alternative

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
2/13/2010	Doris and Betty Clegg		route that follows the existing utility corridor. Expressed concern for noise and interference with radios and cell phone reception and potential impacts on human health and visual resources. Inquired about who would be getting use out of the power carried by the line. Asked about the estimated increase in costs to ratepayers.
2/27/2010	Charles Cumberland		Inquired about the proximity of route alternatives to his home, as he was unable to attend the scoping meetings. The BLM Project Manager, replied to him via email on 3/2/2010.
2/17/2010	Joan Davis		Provided information regarding plans for future development of her private property.
2/25/2010	Evelyn and James Dunn		Expressed concern for potential impacts on visual resources, wildlife, and fire frequency.
3/4/2010	Deena Ellis		Suggested additional alternative route be located farther west from the community of Central, Utah, and away from private property.
3/4/2010	Win Mark Ellis		Suggested additional alternative route be located on BLM- and USFS-administered lands and away from the community of Central, Utah.
3/3/2010	Irvin Ence		<i>See Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/2/2010	Kay Ence		<i>See Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/20/2010	Norman Fawson, MD		Expressed preference for route 270 due to socioeconomic concerns, and environmental and visual impacts.
3/2/2010	Nicole Swanson-Fillmore		<i>See Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/18/2010	Daryl Friant		Suggested paralleling existing lines through Sevier County and locating the project on the west side of the county and outside of incorporated areas. Provided information on recreational resources that are located between the between the cities of Richfield and Elsinore and requested that impacts on bike trails be minimized.
2/16/2010	Victoria George		Expressed concern for noise and interference with computers and other electrical equipment associated and potential impacts on human health and safety, wildlife, and visual resources. Inquired about the potential for undergrounding the transmission line.
2/23/2010	Robert Gray	Grassy Flat Land & Livestock	Expressed agreement with eliminating Link 280, a 'purple' route (i.e., route recommended at scoping for elimination from detailed analysis), due to potential impacts on private property values, human health and safety, and visual resources.

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
No date	Susan Gray	Grassy Flat Land & Livestock	Expressed preference for reinstating the 'purple' route (i.e., route recommended at scoping for elimination from detailed analysis; commenter referring to Link 440) as he believed it would result in the lowest impacts on citizens and private land.
3/4/2010	Jay Grimshaw	Renewable Energies, LLC	Provided information regarding the BLM property he leases with three existing power lines and two existing gas lines (property located south and west of Newcastle in Section 20). Also provided information on a geothermal anomaly on the property and stated that an additional transmission line would magnify his costs for developing the property, if not limit his ability to develop the property.
3/2/2010	Bryce Gubler		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	Kelton Gubler	AAA Quality Cab	See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/2/2010	Rose Gubler		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/1/2010	Allan Haberman		Expressed preference for locating the project adjacent to the existing transmission line.
2/28/2010	Amber Huffman		Expressed concern for the potential of a route being located through the community of Central, Utah. Stated preference for an alternative route that would not be located near Central.
3/2/2010	Brad Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	Cary Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	Cindy Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/2/2010	Colby Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/16/2010	Daniel Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	Daniel Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/2/2010	John Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/1/2010	Kendrick Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/2/2010	Kim Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	Roy Hafen		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/17/2010	Bryan Hamilton		Expressed concern that a right-of-way for the transmission line on his property would limit his options for placing wind turbines on his land.
2/18/2010	John and Randa Hawley	Hawley Rock Products, Inc.	Expressed agreement with eliminative the route alternative (Link 20; recommended by Applicant for elimination from detailed analysis) located on east of I-15, south of Elsinore. Expressed concern that a

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			right-of-way for the transmission line on or adjacent to their business property would affect their business and affect nearby farmland and homes.
2/18/2010	John and Randa Hawley	Hawley Rock Products, Inc.	Clarified that previously submitted comment referred to the alternative route (Link 20) located east of I-70, rather than I-15, south of Elsinore.
2/3/2010	Bradley Hays		Expressed concern for potential impacts on visual resources and recreational opportunities. Noted that, once established, any new utility corridor could invite additional proposals for additional similar projects.
3/3/2010	June Herpel		Expressed concern for potential impacts on visual resources in the Pine Valley area.
2/16/2010	John Henderson	Sunroc Corporation	Expressed support for the project because of the impacts that a potential outage could have on the St. George area.
2/21/2010	Linda Jackson		Stated preference for Links 280 and 270 and for the project to be located parallel existing lines to consolidate right-of-ways and associated impacts. Also expressed support for Link 440 because of historic Indian villages that are located in proximity to the other route alternatives. Protested the location of the project from Dixie Deer Estates (Link 270).
2/21/2010	Michael Jackson		Expressed concern for impacts to property values of the Dixie Deer Estates properties related to the visibility of the line. Expressed support for Link 440 because it would not be visible from Dixie Deer Estates and would increase fire zone clearance.
2/18/2010	Anchalee Jaidee		Expressed general concern for potential impacts associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMF) from the transmission line. Expressed support for Link 440 because it would be located further away from homes. Acknowledged the need for transmission projects, but stated that avoiding populated areas should be a priority criterion in siting the proposed project.
3/4/2010	Robert Jensen	Jensen Bayles, LLP	Expressed agreement with eliminating Link 280 from consideration in detailed analysis based on potential impacts on livestock and agricultural operations and residences and reliability issues associated with locating four separate transmission lines in the same corridor.
3/4/2010	Spencer Jones		Expressed agreement with eliminating Link 280 from consideration in detailed analysis.
2/17/2010	Wendell Jorgensen		Expressed preference for the western route (Links 280, 285, and 290) because (1) the central route (Link 270) would be located adjacent to existing lines, which would result in reliability issues associated with

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			locating four separate transmission lines in the same corridor, and (2) the eastern route (Link 260) would affect more private property and could affect property values.
3/1/2010	Karen Julander		Informed BLM that one alternative route (Link 66) could transect a recreational and agricultural property in Mud Flat, which currently is leased to an oil company. Locating the project on this property could result in condemnation. Stated preference for the project to be located on the Fishlake National Forest, adjacent to an existing transmission line.
2/19/2010	James Kaufman	Kaufman & Sons, Inc.	Expressed concern about potential impacts on his business property (ranch) including disturbance of wells and springs and vegetation grazed by livestock. Stated support for locating the project near Sulphurdale to the Blundell Geothermal Generating Station running north and west of Milford Municipal Airport, which already has an access road.
3/2/2010	Edyth Kirk		Expressed support for Link 440 because it avoids private lands.
2/26/2010	Roy Lineberry		Expressed concern about potential impacts on his property and property use including agricultural operations, recreational use, and use of private aircraft. Stated that historic structures are located on his property. Expressed preference for burying the transmission line and locating the transmission line on federal land.
2/14/2010	James & Marilyn Lurth		Opposed location the project south of Minersville, east of Beaver, or east of Milford (Links 420 and 425) due to potential impacts on visual resources. Expressed concern for radio interference, and potential impacts on existing water supply and storage and flood control infrastructure and an ATV recreation area and historic charcoal kilns that occur on their property.
2/17/2010	Marilyn Lurth		Expressed concern for radio interference and potential impacts on existing water supply and storage and flood control infrastructure and the future growth of the community. Stated support for location of the project on the west side of Milford Valley adjacent to existing transmission lines.
2/9/2010	Steven Manning		Expressed concern about potential impacts on the Cove Fort, historic Spanish mines, and a cultural site consisting of a 12-foot-high rock monument with adjoining rooms that is located near Twin Peaks area.
3/2/2010	Douglas McArthur		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table</i> . Also expressed concern that the project would interfere with farming and ranching

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			operations and recreational and hunting activities. Stated preference that the project be located adjacent to existing transmission lines.
2/18/2010	D. Carol McCulley	BRAVE	Opposed location of the project near the community of Beaver, Utah, adjacent to National Forest boundaries, or near wildlife and deer management areas. Expressed concern for potential impacts on visual resources if the project is located near Beaver Canyon Road (a scenic highway), Beaver River, or South Creek.
3/2/2010	Joycelyn Mehrkish		Opposed location of the line near Central, Utah, due to potential impacts on human health and safety. Stated support for the project to be located adjacent to existing transmission lines.
3/2/2010	James Milne	James Milne Trust	See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table</i> .
3/2/2010	Verl Milne		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table</i> . Also expressed concern for potential impacts on private property and visual resources.
2/15/2010	Julia Marie Moore	BRAVE	Opposed location of the project across the Beaver River or on BLM-administered lands.
2/18/2010	Carson Nowers		Expressed concern that a right-of-way for the transmission line on or adjacent to his property would affect his development plans for the property and farming operations, as well as the existing homes in the area.
3/5/2010	Gail Pomeroy		Opposed location of the project through the community of Minersville concern for radio, cell phone, or televisions interference and potential limitations on the town's growth.
3/5/2010	James Pomeroy		He opposes routing the line through Minersville because it may affect the town's growth. It also may cause interference with radios, cell phones, and television reception.
3/5/2010	James Pomeroy		Expressed concern that a right-of-way for the transmission line on his property would limit his options for placing wind turbines or cell towers on his land. Expressed concern for interference with radios and cell phone reception and future utilities on his land. Stated preference for locating the project on the west side of Dry Wash/Piute Trail 76.
3/5/2010	Ed Pons		Expressed concern that a right-of-way for the transmission line on his property would limit his options for placing wind turbines or cell towers on his land. Expressed concern for interference with radios and cell phone reception and future utilities on his land. Stated preference for locating the project on the west side of Dry Wash/Piute Trail 76.
1/27/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Requested information on route alternatives considered. Stated that the area extending from Cedar to Enterprise, Utah, includes critical fawning

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			areas for local deer herds, and stressed that the EIS must include analysis of short- and long-term impacts on these areas.
2/10/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Stated that the communities of Milford and Central, Utah, are identified by the State of Utah as "at-risk" communities for wildfire, which should be considered in selection a route for the project.
2/19/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Requested more detailed maps of specific areas to facilitate development of comments.
2/23/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Expressed concern about potential impacts of Link 270 on the aquifer that supplies the Central Community Special Services District and on the views and property values of the Dixie Deer Estates community.
3/1/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Requested that an exception to the March 5, 2010, deadline for submitting scoping comments be extended for communities and counties.
3/3/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Suggested that a possible "loop alternative" into the Red Butte Substation could alleviate the need for crossing two existing transmission lines and could be advantageous to the planned future substation annex.
3/5/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Expressed concern about potential impacts of Link 270 on the aquifer that supplies the Central Community Special Services District and on the views and property values of the Dixie Deer Estates community. Suggested the alternative route could be adjusted to the western side of the ridge could possibly minimize these potential impacts. Also suggested that a possible "loop alternative" (map provided) into the Red Butte Substation could avoid crossing two existing transmission lines and could be advantageous to the planned future substation annex. Opposed Link 290 due to concern for impacts on the pristine characteristics of the Pine Valley area and associated impacts on recreation and tourism. Opposed Link 290 based on concern for potential impacts on big game in the Enterprise and Ox Valley areas, impacts associated with likely increases in unauthorized use of project access roads by ATVs, and impacts on fire frequency and fire suppression activities should fires occur. Warned that construction access for the route alternative would be difficult.
3/7/2010	Gordon Poppitt		Advised the BLM that illustrations supporting his previous comments were delivered to the BLM Cedar City Field Office.
3/3/2010	Elwin Prince		See Form Letter A provided following this table.
3/3/2010	Tonna Prince		See Form Letter A provided following this table.

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
3/5/2010	Terry Ray	Rocky Mountain Power	Reiterated the purpose and need for the project and provided written comments on the project submitted to them by landowners in the project area. These comments were considered in the development of issues to be considered in the EIS.
3/4/2010	Charles and Nadine Reed		Protested locating the project through the community of Central, Utah, based on concerns of human health effects caused by transmission lines; impacts on viewsheds and associated impacts on property values; danger posed to local aircraft; potential impacts on deer habitat, hunting areas, and established grazing lands. Also expressed concern that residents of Central were not notified sooner of the proposed project. Recommended that Link 285 be the route alternative selected for the project.
2/22/2010	Guy and Mary Ritchie		Protested locating the project through the community of Central, Utah, based on potential impacts on forested lands in the area and dust associated with construction and project access. Requested that the project be located adjacent to existing transmission lines, and communicated preference for Link 440 (presented at the scoping meetings as recommended for elimination from detailed analysis) or Links 280, 285.
2/17/2010	Sally Rose		Expressed about possible safety concerns associated with location of the project near the community of Milford, Utah, and potential impacts on growth of the community. Requested that the project be located adjacent to existing transmission lines.
2/17/2010	Brad J. Ruge		Notified the BLM that he has pacemaker and expressed concern about the Project being located on or adjacent to his property near Enterprise, Utah.
2/24/2010	Diane Sutteer		Requested that the Applicant make a concerted effort to conserve trees, vegetation, and wildlife when constructing the project.
2/28/2010	Shari Huffman-Dillard Richison		Expressed concern of effects on their health and the health of their animals caused by transmission lines and impacts on property values. Expressed preference for Link 440 (presented at the scoping meetings as recommended for elimination from detailed analysis).
2/17/2010	Gerald R Schiefer	Pine Valley Fire Department	Expressed support for the overall purpose and need for the project. Expressed concern about fire danger associated with the transmission line (specifically smoke ionization and fires caused by lightning strikes), especially near forested areas; possible impacts on the Pine Valley Wilderness Area; possible impacts to the "pristine characteristics" of the

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
			Pine Valley area and associated effects on tourism. Requested that the project be located adjacent to existing transmission lines and "above sage brush."
3/8/2010	Mary Simmons		Concerned that drilling associated with the geotechnical investigation would affect the water sources and for the Jacobsen Springs Gardner Ranch Property, Mud Springs (and distribution line), and Jacobsen Spring.
2/21/2010	Emmett Smith		Opposes any alternative route near the community of Central, Utah, due to concern for potential impacts on human health associated with transmission lines.
3/3/2010	Richard Spotts		Expressed support for the purpose and need for the project as it relates to reliability and redundancy planning because of the potential impacts of outages on residents. Requested that the EIS disclose impacts on renewable resource development, and address mitigation for visual impacts of access roads, increased unauthorized use of access roads, proliferation of noxious and invasive weed species, and impacts on visual resources and sensitive wildlife species.
3/2/2010	Thad Stewart		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/18/2010	Seth Stinson		Expressed preference for reinstating the 'purple' route (i.e., route recommended at scoping for elimination from detailed analysis; commenter referring to Link 440) as he believed it would result in the lowest impacts on human health and the environment.
3/3/10	Valerie Swanson		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/27/2010	Michael and Sandy Taylor		Expressed concern for potential impacts of a transmission line on the viewshed from his property near Beaver, Utah, and on his property value.
3/3/2010	Sherridan Talbot		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
2/23/2010	Don & Roberta Thomas		Expressed preference for the alternative route in the Milford area rather than the Beaver area (Links 420 and 425) because that area is less populated.
3/2/2010	R.C. and Arleen Tolman		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>
3/3/2010	William Torres		Expressed preference for the project to be located parallel existing lines near the Dixie Deer Estates (Central, Utah, area) to consolidate right-of-ways and associated impacts.
3/3/2010	Luanne Truman		See <i>Form Letter A provided following this table.</i>

**TABLE E-1
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Comment Summary
3/4/2010	Daniel Tullis	Tullis Family Organization	Opposed locating the project in Pinto Canyon (near Newcastle, Utah). Expressed preference for locating the proposed transmission line adjacent to the existing powerline and pipeline along Bench Road, through Holt Canyon to the existing Red Butte Substation.
2/27/2010	Samantha Wallace		Supported locating the transmission line as far west as possible (in Central, Utah, area) due to concerns for potential impacts on human health and livestock from EMF from the transmission line, fire frequency, visual resources, and property values.
2/23/2010	Brad Wallis		Supported locating the transmission line as far west as possible (in Central, Utah, area) to minimize potential impacts on fire frequency and visual resources, which could decrease property values.
2/20/2010	Kathy Whittaker		Could not attend the scoping meetings. Ask to be notified of future meetings.
2/11/2010	Corey J. Winkel		Expressed concern that a right-of-way for the transmission line on his property would limit his options for developing his property, interfere with agricultural operations (e.g., disturb wells used for watering), and “diminish” his property’s value. Stated preference for locating the Project north of I-70 and west of Richfield.
2/25/2010	Gerald Schiefer Loretta Scheifer <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Illegible signature</i>		See Form Letter B provided following this table.
2/25/2010	Rosalind Soltis Fred Pendleton R. Pendleton Mike Fluaharty <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Illegible signature</i>		See Form Letter B provided following this table.
2/25/2010	Bruce Berguson Laura Berguson Ralph Brooks <i>Illegible signature</i> <i>Illegible signature</i>		See Form Letter B provided following this table.
2/18/2010	No name(s) <i>provided</i>		See Form Letter B provided following this table.

NOTES: ATV = all-terrain vehicle
BLM = Bureau of Land Management
EIS = environmental impact statement
I-15 = Interstate 15
I-70 = Interstate 70
kV = kilovolt
SUWA = Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
USFS = U.S. Forest Service

SIGURD TO RED BUTTE NO. 2 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT COMMENTS

Link 260 of the Sigurd to Red Butte Transmission Line from New Castle, Utah south to Red Butte parallels the Pinto creek riparian corridor to Grass Valley and then turns southwesterly to Central town and terminates at Red Butte No. 2. Because this link parallels perennial streams, it creates major conflicts with historical, cultural, recreational, economic, wildlife and environmental resources and values. These conflicts are discussed below.

Historical Resources and Values

The Pinto creek riparian corridor has great historical significance. It is located along on the Old Spanish Trail which is recognized as a historical trail and dates to the 1776 Dominguez Escalante expedition from Santa Fe to Los Angeles. In more recent times, Pinto was a stopover point on the stagecoach route following this historic trail.

Pinto creek and its riparian corridor were the backdrop for the pioneer settlements along this watercourse. Pinto townsite and The Diary, located upstream of Pinto, were settled in the late 1850s. New Castle town, located at the mouth of Pinto canyon in Iron county, came later in the early 1900s. Several small farms on Pinto creek are located between Pinto townsite and New Castle.

The agricultural foundations of these communities led to the construction of one of Utah's first transbasin water diversions. This diversion was completed in the early 20th Century. The diversion works, channel and tunnel divert water from the Colorado river basin into the Great Basin river basin. This transbasin diversion is still in use today.

The remnants of these historical activities within the Pinto creek riparian corridor draw visitors all year long, but in particular during the spring, summer and fall when the cooler temperatures of these higher elevations provide relief from the higher temperatures in the lower lying St. George area. The major surviving historical landmarks within this corridor include the Pinto cemetery which has recently been enlarged to allow additional burials, the historical residences in the Pinto townsite area, the monument commemorating the location of the Pinto church/schoolhouse, the New Castle cemetery, and the transbasin diversion works. In addition, by traveling eastward along the dirt road from Pinto to U-56, a traveler can access Old Irontown, the location of the first iron ore smelting operations west of the Mississippi river.

The proposed location of the 345 kV transmission line parallel to this riparian corridor conflicts with, and impairs, these historical resources and values. The transmission line's towering 80-140 foot structures would dwarf these historical structures, impair and detract from the visitors' visual experience of these historical resources and values and the visitors' ability to visualize the area in the context of its historical setting. The negative visual impact presented by the proposed transmission structures and lines cannot be mitigated in this historical context.

Cultural Resources and Values

The proposed transmission line also conflicts with the historical and existing cultural values and resources of the area. The Pinto creek riparian corridor was settled by a small group of pioneers. Some of these pioneers' descendants continue to own and operate ranches within the

FORM LETTER A

riparian corridor and graze cattle on the surrounding public lands. Others who are not descendants of the original settlers also operate ranches in this riparian corridor and also graze on adjacent public lands. The location of the proposed transmission line will conflict with these cultural resources and values. This riparian corridor is sparsely populated with visual vistas of surrounding mountains and rural pasture lands. These spectacular and unimpaired vistas are visible from existing and potential residences within this riparian corridor. The visual catastrophe created by the transmission structures and power lines not only impair these vistas but devalue private property located adjacent to the power line structures and lines. Devaluation of private property lessens state and local tax revenues from these private lands. Location of the power line structures and access roads on private property renders productive land less productive and may sever adjacent tracts of land. It also promotes conflicts between private land owners and authorized and unauthorized users of these access roads required to maintain the proposed transmission line.

Location of the power line adjacent to private lands exposes the owners and livestock to the EMF associated with the transmission of electrical energy. While the effect of EMF on living organisms is still hotly debated, if studies prove there is an adverse effect on living organisms, it's too late to relocate the power transmission line.

Recreational Resources & Values

As mentioned earlier, Pinto creek, forms a perennial stream/riparian corridor from the Colorado river/Great Basin divide located just north Grass Valley, north to New Castle reservoir, a length of approximately 22 miles. This corridor is highly utilized by recreationalists during all seasons of the year for camping, fishing, hunting, hiking and other recreational activities. Many recreationalists camp on public domain next to or near Pinto creek and New Castle reservoir. They fish for rainbow trout planted in the stream and in New Castle reservoir. These recreationalists hike the surrounding hills and mountains. What will they see if the transmission line is constructed? Towering steel structures and associated electrical lines dwarfing pinyon and cedar trees and obstructing otherwise pristine vista of raw and majestic mountain peaks and valleys.

This riparian corridor and associated uplands is also a popular mule deer and wild turkey hunting area. These recreational hunting activities also include associated camping and hiking activities that are impaired in the same manner. Location of the transmission line within this area impairs these activities to a higher degree than those recreationalists utilizing the Pinto creek area because of the need of these individuals to locate the hunted-game in higher elevations where the power structures and lines are more visible. Property owners within the riparian corridor also engage in these hunting and fishing activities generally to a greater extent than visitors to the area because they have a vested interest in the area that brings them to these locations on a more regular basis than visitors to the area.

The transmission line's negative visual impact on these recreational resources and values cannot be overstated. Location of the transmission line along this route will discourage visitors who travel hundreds of miles to experience these resources and values. They will not return thus reducing the positive economic impact derived by local communities as a result of their visits.

FORM LETTER A

Wildlife Resources & Values

Wildlife will also be adversely affected by the location of the structures and power lines and the resulting access roads required if this transmission line is constructed. The EMF will affect wildlife in the same manner as humans. Some wildlife will be displaced by the location of access roads and structures. Human access to otherwise inaccessible or difficultly accessed lands will be created or enhanced through the construction of access roads that will be used, perhaps illegally, by all terrain vehicles. This additional access will likely result in an increase in poaching and wildlife harassment.

The Pinto creek riparian corridor is home a variety of birds of prey. These raptors have lengthy wing-spans and are subject to electrocution in take-offs and landings from perches provided by the power line structures.

Environmental

Construction of the transmission line in this area will result in damage to the environment. Access roads must be built for construction and maintenance of the transmission line. These construction activities permanently scar the ground surface and even if restored pose an increased risk for erosion and the introduction and propagation of non-native and noxious vegetation species on the disturbed sensitive mountain soils. Use of the access roads for maintenance and other authorized activities and unauthorized use will increase the potential for wildfire by creating human access to areas otherwise not accessible.

Based upon the foregoing, Link 260 of the Sigurd to Red Butte Transmission Line should not be the preferred alternative. Link 270, 440, or 285-290 should be considered.

FORM LETTER B (SAMPLE)

25 February 2010

Pine Valley, Utah

To: Rocky Mountain Power and the Bureau of Land Management

Sirs:

We have been invited to make comment on the proposed power line that will go from Sigurd, Utah to the Red Butte Power Substation at Central, Utah..

As residents of Pine Valley, we are absolutely against bringing this power line up Pinto Canyon and down the Pine Valley road to Central.

Pine Valley is a beautiful small pristine valley in the midst of the Dixie National Forest. Much of the mountain area surrounding this valley is designated as Wilderness. Thousands of tourists and campers come to this area because of its beauty.

We do not want a Major Power Line and its expanded right of way disturbing the beauty of this area .

We are also concerned with the possible effects on the fauna of the area, the possible fire hazards and the hazards to firefighters who could be fighting fire under or near the 345 kilovolt power line.

Please route this line away from Pine Valley and the beauties of the Dixie national forest.

SIGNED:

Gerald R. Schiefer
Gerald R. Schiefer
Gary
Larada M. Schiefer



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