



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

West Desert District
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84119
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www.blm.gov/ut



IN REPLY REFER TO:
UTW000

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project (Project) and Draft Pony Express Resource Management Plan Amendment. This document was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in consultation with cooperating agencies, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, implementing regulations, the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) and the BLM land use planning handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable laws.

The DEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of granting a right-of-way to Rocky Mountain Power (a division of PacifiCorp) for the purpose of constructing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning a double-circuit 500/345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Project also includes the siting of two new future substations and an amendment of the BLM Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO) *Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP)* for a utility corridor that would be wide enough to accommodate a second future double-circuit 500kV transmission line when needed. Portions of the proposed Project cross lands administered by the BLM.

The Proponent's Proposed Action consists of a new double-circuit 500/345kV transmission line from the existing Mona Substation to a proposed future 500/345/138kV Mona Annex Substation near the community of Mona in Juab County, Utah, on to a proposed future 500/345/138kV Limber Substation to be located in the Tooele Valley. Two double-circuit 345kV lines are proposed from the Limber Substation. One line would extend to the existing Oquirrh Substation, located in West Jordan, Utah, and the second line to the existing Terminal Substation, located in Salt Lake City, Utah. Approximately 34 miles, or 24 percent, of the proposed Project would be located on lands administered by the BLM West Desert District-SLFO and Fillmore Field Office (FFO) in Utah. The granting of right-of-way for the proposed Project and designation of a new utility corridor would require an amendment to the SLFO's current *Pony Express RMP* (1990). However, an amendment to the FFO's *House Range Resource Area RMP* (1987) would not be required. A utility corridor would not be designated within the FFO, and the *House Range Resource Area RMP* does not require a plan amendment in order to grant a new right-of-way.

The DEIS is not a decision document. Rather, its purpose is to inform the public and interested parties of impacts associated with implementing the proponent's proposal as associated with granting right-of-way to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission transmission facilities across federal lands, and designating a utility corridor for future projects. This DEIS also provides information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decision making process for other permits required for implementation of the project.

The BLM will host public meetings in West Jordan, Tooele, and Nephi, Utah, to provide an overview of the Project and take public comments on the proposed Project and the DEIS. The public meetings will be announced by the BLM at least 15 days in advance through public notices, local media news release, and mailings.

Comments will be accepted for 90 days following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best use your comments and information if received within the review period. Comments may be submitted electronically at UT_M2OTL_EIS@blm.gov or by mail to:

Salt Lake Field Office
Attention: Mike Nelson
2370 South 2300 West
Salt lake City, Utah 84119

Fillmore Field Office
Attention: Clara Stevens
35 East 500 North
Fillmore, Utah 84631

It is the BLM's practice to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information with your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may 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. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Printed copies of the DEIS are available for review at the SLFO and FFO. Electronic copies of the DEIS on CD are available for public distribution. The DEIS is also available for review and downloading from the BLM website at:
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake/planning/mona_to_oquirrh_transmission.html.

If you have any questions regarding the NEPA process used to prepare the DEIS, or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact Mike Nelson, Assistant Field Manager, at 801.977.4300.

Sincerely,



Glenn A. Carpenter
West Desert District Manager