

ENERGY GATEWAY SOUTH TRANSMISSION PROJECT

February 2014 - Newsletter 4

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters from the Bureau of Land Management to keep you informed about the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement and Land Use Plan Amendments.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Available

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Land Use Plan Amendments (LUPAs) for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project (Project) on February 21, 2014. Issuing the Draft EIS and LUPAs, prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is an opportunity for the public to learn about the Project, review and comment on the Draft EIS, and be involved in the federal decision-making process.

The Draft EIS and LUPAs will be available for review for a period of 90 days; from February 21 to May 22, 2014. During that 90-day period, the BLM will host public open houses at 12 locations in the Project area. The dates, times, and locations for the open houses are provided on the back cover of this newsletter.



View from Elk Springs Ridge of an existing transmission line

What is the Project?

The BLM Wyoming is preparing the EIS on a right-of-way application for the transmission line proposed by PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power. The Project is an overhead, 500-kilovolt alternating current transmission line originating near Medicine Bow in south-central Wyoming and terminating near Mona in central Utah.

Through planning studies analyzing the electrical power system, Rocky Mountain Power determined its existing system, last upgraded

about 25 years ago, needs to be upgraded to ensure sufficient capacity and reliable power is available to its customers in the region. When completed, the line would transmit up to 1,500 megawatts of electricity.

What has taken place since the last update?

After completing the environmental studies and analyses in late 2012, a first (administrative) Draft EIS and LUPAs was distributed to the participating lead- and cooperating-agency personnel to review in January 2013. In early February, meetings were held with the reviewing agencies to discuss the document. In response to the comments, the BLM incorporated information and conducted some additional analyses and working sessions to adjust the alternative routes in several locations in the Project area.

Also in January 2013, the BLM conducted meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies to begin discussing requirements for consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Throughout the year, the Biological Resources Task Group (BRTG), composed of lead biologists from the participating federal and state agencies, convened several times

to discuss avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation of potential effects on special status species such as the greater sage-grouse, clay phacelia, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, Desert milkvetch, clay reed-mustard, and other species. Members of the BRTG also are coordinating with the BLM to evaluate the potential need for and scope of offsite mitigation to compensate for the effects on biological resources including sage-grouse and migratory birds. PacifiCorp has agreed to prepare a Sage-grouse Mitigation Plan and is currently developing a Habitat Equivalency



Analysis, in cooperation with the BLM and other agencies, which will be included in the Mitigation Plan.

In response to recent BLM guidance on National Scenic and Historic Trails (including trails under study), a group of agency specialists convened to develop an approach to address the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and Cherokee and Overland Historic Trails. Three meetings with agency and public trail stakeholders were held in March 2013.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Cultural Resources Task Group, composed of lead archaeologists from the federal and state participating agencies, continued preparing a Programmatic Agreement, which outlines the stipulations that will be followed concerning the identification, assessment, and treatment of cultural resources for the Project. A draft of the Programmatic Agreement was distributed to the federal and state agencies and consulting and interested parties for review, followed by meetings of the agencies and consulting parties in July 2013 to discuss comments on the draft Programmatic Agreement.

Public Reading Room Locations

Beginning February 21, 2014, the Draft EIS and LUPAs will be available for review between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Wyoming

BLM Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne
BLM Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins

Colorado

BLM Colorado State Office, Lakewood
BLM Grand Junction Field Office,
Grand Junction
BLM Little Snake Field Office, Craig
BLM White River Field Office, Meeker

Utah

BLM Utah State Office, Salt Lake City
BLM Fillmore Field Office, Fillmore
BLM Moab Field Office, Moab
BLM Price Field Office, Price
BLM Richfield Field Office, Richfield
BLM Salt Lake Field Office, Salt Lake
City
BLM Vernal Field Office, Vernal
Ashley National Forest, Duchesne
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Price
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest,
Salt Lake City

How to access the Draft EIS and LUPAs:

- View and/or download a copy at www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html
- Request a copy on DVD from mdunford@epgaz.com
- Review a copy at a BLM or USFS office (see Public Reading Room Locations)

How to comment on the Draft EIS and LUPAs:

- Send written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Energy Gateway South Transmission Project, P.O. Box 21150, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82003
- Email GatewaySouth_WYMail@blm.gov
- Submit comments at an open house

Comments are due by May 22, 2014

For more information about the Project

Contact Tamara Gertsch, BLM National Project Manager, at (307) 775-6115 or tgertsch@blm.gov.

Also, visit PacifiCorp's property-search website

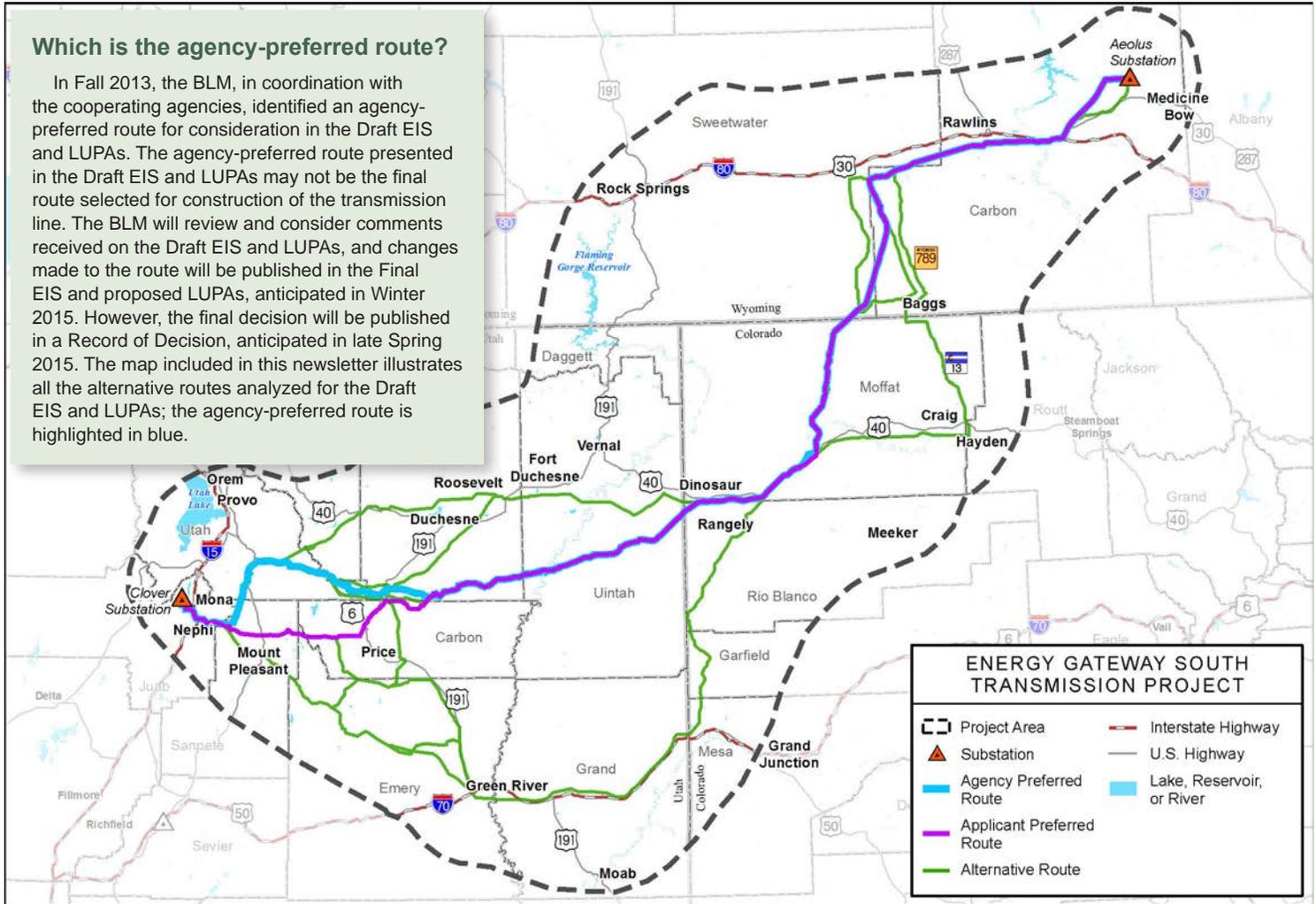
at http://gis.paragon-partners.com/FlexMaps/GWS_Website/ to see your property in relation to the locations of the alternative routes.

The Programmatic Agreement will be included as an appendix in the Final EIS. Also, the BLM met with a cultural resources representative of the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and sent letters in August 2013 and January 2014 to provide updates on the Project and to request consultation with the Tribe.

In August 2013, a revised administrative Draft EIS and LUPAs was distributed to the lead and cooperating-agency personnel for a second review. Comments were incorporated and the document (Draft EIS and LUPAs) was approved for release in late January 2014.

Which is the agency-preferred route?

In Fall 2013, the BLM, in coordination with the cooperating agencies, identified an agency-preferred route for consideration in the Draft EIS and LUPAs. The agency-preferred route presented in the Draft EIS and LUPAs may not be the final route selected for construction of the transmission line. The BLM will review and consider comments received on the Draft EIS and LUPAs, and changes made to the route will be published in the Final EIS and proposed LUPAs, anticipated in Winter 2015. However, the final decision will be published in a Record of Decision, anticipated in late Spring 2015. The map included in this newsletter illustrates all the alternative routes analyzed for the Draft EIS and LUPAs; the agency-preferred route is highlighted in blue.



Agencies Participating in the Preparation of the EIS

Lead Agency/Designated Lead State

- Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office

- Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Park Service

Cooperating Agencies

Federal

- Department of Agriculture
- Forest Service, Intermountain Region
- Department of Defense
- Army Corps of Engineers
 - Army Environmental Center
 - Navy Region Southwest

Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

States

- Wyoming
- Colorado
- Utah

Counties

- Carbon County, WY
- Sweetwater County, WY
- Mesa County, CO

- Moffat County, CO
- Rio Blanco County, CO
- Carbon County, UT
- Duchesne County, UT
- Emery County, UT
- Grand County, UT
- Juab County, UT
- Sanpete County, UT
- Uintah County, UT
- Wasatch County, UT

Wyoming Conservation Districts

- Little Snake River
- Medicine Bow
- Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins
- Sweetwater County





Energy Gateway South Transmission Project
 P.O. Box 21150
 Cheyenne, WY 82003

Note corrected address for open house in Roosevelt, Utah, on March 13, 2014.

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PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES IN YOUR AREA!

The BLM will host 12 open houses in the Project area in March and early April 2014 to provide information about the Project and Draft EIS, and will accept public comments on the Draft EIS. Stop by the open houses anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. on the dates and at the locations shown below.

MARCH and APRIL 2014			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
March 10 Grand Junction, Colorado Colorado Mesa University, Ballroom 1100 North Avenue	March 11 Vernal, Utah Western Park 302 East 200 South	March 12 Fort Duchesne, Utah Ute Indian Tribal Office 988 South 7500 East	March 13 Roosevelt, Utah Roosevelt Jr. High School 350 West 200 South
March 17 Green River, Utah Green River High School 745 West Pirate Avenue	March 18 Price, Utah Carbon County Fairgrounds 450 South Fairgrounds Road Room 130	March 19 Mount Pleasant, Utah North Sanpete High School 390 East 700 South	March 20 Nephi, Utah Juab High School 802 North 650 East
March 24 to 28 - no open houses scheduled			
March 31 Rangely, Colorado Colorado Northwestern Community College Weiss Conference Room 500 Kennedy Drive	April 1 Craig, Colorado Colorado Northwestern Community College Academic Building Commons Area 2801 West 9th Street	April 2 Baggs, Wyoming Valley Community Center 255 West Osborne	April 3 Rawlins, Wyoming Jeffrey Memorial Community Center 315 West Pine Street