

# Energy Gateway South Transmission Project Update

In late spring, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed collecting and compiling natural, human, and cultural resource data to use as the baseline to analyze the potential impacts the project may have on the environment along the approximately 2,000 miles of alternative routes. After the lead and cooperating agencies (Agency Interdisciplinary [ID] Team) reviewed the data for adequacy, from April to June 2012, the potential impacts were assessed and measures to reduce, or mitigate, the impacts were identified. As a result of the impact assessment and in response to agency requests, some of the alternative routes were adjusted or refined further.

Then, from June through July 2012, the alternative routes were screened and compared to identify those routes that should be analyzed in detail in the environmental impact statement (EIS). The results were reviewed with the Agency ID Team participants during workshops in Price, Utah; Craig, Colorado; and Rawlins, Wyoming, the week of August 20, 2012. With concurrence on the results from the Agency ID Team, on October 3, 2012, the BLM Project Manager briefed the three BLM State Directors, BLM Field Managers, and U.S. Forest Service management to reach concurrence. The alternative routes (approximately 1,335 miles) to be addressed in detail in the EIS are presented in the map titled "Alternative Routes" dated October 11, 2012.

The BLM is currently preparing the Draft EIS that will disclose the impacts of the project. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be released for public review in spring/summer 2013.

In addition to the preparation of the EIS, the BLM, in coordination with several other federal and state agencies and consulting parties, began preparation of a Programmatic Agreement under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

November 2012

