

TransWest Express Transmission Line Project

About the NEPA Process

TransWest Express, LLC applied to the BLM for a right-of-way grant to use public lands for portions of the TransWest Express Transmission Line Project. The company has applied for a special use permit to the Uintah Wasatch Cache, the Manti-La Sal, the Dixie and the Fishlake National Forests, as the proposed line also crosses these federally-managed lands.

Western Area Power Administration has joined BLM as joint lead, as both agencies use the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (40 CFR 1500) to assist their decision-making. The agencies will prepare the environmental impact statement (EIS) in compliance with NEPA and other federal laws.

On September 9, 2011, Western and TransWest executed a Development Agreement in which Western agreed to jointly fund the development phase of the Project 50 percent each. Western is using this process to decide whether to enter into agreements with TransWest, whereby Western would use its borrowing authority to partially finance and have an ownership in the Project. The agreements would, among other things, define the respective rights and obligations associated with ownership of the Project (to include ownership of transmission capacity); address construction, operation, and maintenance associated with the transmission line; and acquisition of ROWs for the Project.

To learn more about the NEPA process, check out *A Citizen's Guide to NEPA* (pdf).

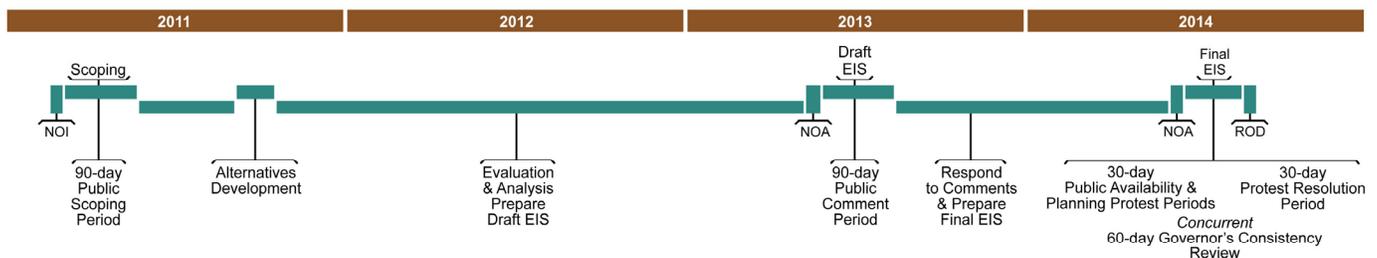
NEPA Schedule Update

The draft environmental impact statement is scheduled to be available for a 90 day public comment during the summer of 2013.

NEPA Process Timeline

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NEPA timeline and milestones



- NOI = Notice of Intent
- NOA = Notice of Availability
- EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
- ROD = Record of Decision