

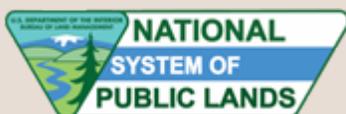
TRANSWEST EXPRESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The Bureau of Land Management and Western Area Power Administration are serving as joint-lead agencies in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the TransWest Express Transmission Project.

BLM's Purpose and Need

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding to a request from TransWest Express, LLC, to obtain a right-of-way for the use of public lands to construct and operate an extra-high voltage transmission line. The BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EIS is for the BLM to evaluate and disclose potential impacts of the proposed project and alternatives; to determine whether to issue a right of way (ROW) grant; and to amend BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) as needed.

The BLM is required to evaluate and make decisions regarding the granting of rights-of-way in response to proponent applications. Under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185), the BLM is authorized to issue ROW grants. It is the policy of the BLM to authorize all ROW applications that are in conformance with approved land use plans at the discretion of the authorized officer.



Western's Purpose and Need

Under Section 402 of the Recovery Act, Western may borrow funds from the United States Treasury to construct, finance, facilitate, plan, operate, maintain, and/or study construction of new or upgraded electric power transmission lines and related facilities. Prior to committing funds, Western must certify that the project is in the public interest; will not adversely impact system reliability or operations, or other statutory obligations; and it is reasonable to expect that the proceeds from the project shall be adequate to make repayment of the loan.

On March 4, 2009 Western solicited interest in proposed transmission projects that resulted in the submission of Statements of Interest including one for the TWE Project.

Western needs to decide whether to participate in the TWE Project as a joint owner with TransWest Express, LLC as part of Western's Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP) and consistent with its Recovery Act authority. For Western to participate, Western needs the TWE Project to satisfy the requirements of Western's TIP and its Recovery Act authority.

