West-Wide Energy Corridors
Section 368: Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, Interior, Commerce and Defense to:

* Designate corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission facilities on Federal land in the eleven contiguous Western states;
Implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (continued)

- Perform any environmental reviews required to complete the designation of such corridors;
- Incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans;
- Do so within 24 months of enactment for the West and then conduct the same for the East by 2009.
What is an Energy Corridor?

“An Energy Corridor is a parcel of land either linear or areal in character that has been identified through the land use planning process. As being a preferred location for existing and future right-of-ways and suitable to accommodate 1 more or rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible.”
Legislation Requirements

- A designated corridor must, at a minimum, specify the centerline, width, and compatible uses of the corridor.
- Secretaries will also take into account the need for upgraded and new electricity transmission and distribution facilities to:
  - Improve reliability
  - Relieve congestion; and
  - Enhance the capability of the national grid to deliver electricity.
Benefits of Designated Energy Corridors

- Compatible projects proposed in designated corridors would only need to have site-specific environmental studies to determine route suitability and appropriate mitigation – EA’s rather than EIS’s for many projects.
- Provide industry with certainty for infrastructure planning.
- Streamline/expedite the processing of energy related permits and projects.
• Provide applicants with a clear set of actions required by each agency to implement projects in designated corridors.
• Encourage new and innovative technologies to increase corridor capacity.
• Encourage inter-agency coordination as part of the application process.
Implementation of Section 368

- Agencies will jointly prepare a West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).
- DOE lead, BLM co-lead, USFS and DOD Cooperating Agencies, along with the state of California.
- Substantial stakeholder participation throughout the process will be encouraged and solicited.
- Alternatives for the PDEIS were developed following a 60 day public scoping.
Planning Requirements

• Provide a comprehensive analysis and identification of West-Wide energy corridors.
• Include analysis of alternatives that meets West-Wide energy supply and demand needs.
• Include a cumulative impact analysis of West-Wide corridor implementation.
• Provide a level of analysis and procedure that allows individual BLM and FS land use plans be amended or revised with approval of the respective agency Record of Decisions.
DOE, BLM, USFS and DOD along with Argonne National Lab created the first draft of criteria to identify and designate corridors.

The first lines on the corridor map are a 100,000 ft view:
- Majority of Federal land
- Avoiding sensitive and no-go areas
Project Specifics and Timelines

• Initial public scoping ended on November 28, 2005
  – Hundreds of proposals received during scoping.
• Created website for project in October www.corridoreis.anl.gov
  – Created a web-based scoping and a communication plan utilized to provide for comprehensive, West-wide public participation.
• First draft of alternatives developed late January, 2006
  – Methodology/criteria currently were developed to help prioritize proposals/develop alternatives.
• Internal agency review of alternatives, criteria and maps February, 2006
• Governor and tribal review March-April, 2006
• Draft PEIS issued for public review and comment in November 2006
• Final PEIS issued in July, 2007
• Agency RODs signed in August, 2007
Next Steps

• Publish criteria (factors) and updated alternatives (approaches) on website
• After meeting with Governors and Tribes conduct a final review of corridors and begin to conduct the programmatic EIS
• Continue to work with working groups to address NEPA requirements
  – Cultural, biologists …
Summary

- Energy prices and stability dependent on increased supply.
- Energy corridors can improve distribution which, in turn, increases supply.
- Energy supplies can be increased at the production point, if we can transport that supply to where it can be used.
- Energy corridors are a significant provision of the Energy Policy Act for which the need is obvious.
- The coordinated system of energy corridors across the West has been compared in scope and importance to the Interstate Highway system.
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