PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
October 26, 2005
Afternoon and Evening Sessions
MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul Boulevard, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

BEFORE:

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JULIA SOUDER, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Western Regional Coordinator, DOE
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PROCEEDINGS

AFTERNOON SESSION
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MR. SINGLETON: Good afternoon. My name is Ed Singleton and I'm the district manager for the Albuquerque District BLM office here in Albuquerque. And I want to welcome you to a presentation on the West-Wide Energy Corridor designation and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Thanks for coming to this public scoping meeting about this energy corridor designation on federal lands administered by the BLM and Forest Service.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, and Interior to designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrocarbon pipelines and also electricity transmission and distribution facilities on the 11 contiguous Western states.

The Act further directs the Secretaries to incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant agency land use plans and resource management plans or their equivalent and to perform any environmental review that may be required for the completion of the designation of the corridors.

For that purpose DOE, BLM, and the Forest Service are preparing a West-Wide Environmental Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, the impact statement corridor designation as well as the amendment of individual land use plans on BLM and Forest Service administered lands in the West excluding Alaska.
The designation of these energy corridors through the land use plan amendments on Forest Service and BLM lands will facilitate the energy related rights of way applications in associated site-specific analyses.

We appreciate your interest in this project and value your comments and look forward to your continued involvement in this important effort.

What I would like to do now is introduce the panel that's going to be doing the presentation.

Julia Souder from Department of Energy.

MS. SOUDER: Good afternoon.

MR. SINGLETON: Bob Cunningham from the Forest Service and Ron Montagna from BLM Washington office. Thank you.

MR. MONTAGNA: Again good afternoon to all. We appreciate you taking time out of all your busy schedules to come here today.

Again my name is Ron Montagna and I'm with the BLM Washington office. And, as just kind of a brief introduction, several years ago in my career I actually worked here in Albuquerque. And I have processed a lot of the power lines actually coming into town. So I'm glad to see the lights are still on.

And a good colleague of mine, Ed, just walked in the door. And I want to thank Ed for hosting the meeting here and having the Albuquerque district and the New Mexico state office support us with some of the facility management we have here.
Ed is a dedicated and much valued BLM public servant. And, in addition to that, he's a long-time friend. And again, Ed and folks, we appreciate the efforts on behalf of our effort.

As Ed said earlier, the United States Department of Energy and Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture are going forward with this West-Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. And we'll kind of get into the details of what we hope to accomplish.

But the important thing for the land managers is that we need to do an analysis that will allow us to amend our land use plans. And, as Ed had mentioned, you know, the question we've been getting is why are we doing this. And as Ed mentioned Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 enacted by Congress in August of this year directs our Secretaries to conduct this study. And we're to do it for the 11 Western states.

The agencies determined that designating the corridors as required by Section 368 constitutes a major federal action which may have significant impact upon the environment within the meanings of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Consequently, we have to generate an environmental impact statement to study and to analyze those anticipated impacts. And what we are going to do in this statement is to identify energy corridors and then designate them.
And I guess the immediate question is what is an energy corridor. And, for the purpose of this project, an energy corridor is a parcel of land either linear, and I think we're familiar with those, or areal in character which is basically a site type facility that has been identified through the land use planning process, and I think this is important for us, as the preferred location for existing and future rights of ways and suitable to accommodate one or more ways which are similar in purpose.

So, when we go about this process, the federal agencies are going to look at our public lands and our landscape and try to identify those energy highways that we need to designate to encourage the transportation of energy from source to load. Now, the agency folks here today, we're here to listen. This is not a question and answer format. We will try our best to not discuss the specifics of this process. What we're here to do is to gain insight and feedback from our publics on what we need to address in this process. However, do note that we'll probably have a break during this afternoon session. And then, at the end of the session, there will be federal agency people here that will be able to the best of our ability to address any questions and answers that you have. But those will be off-the-record Qs and As.

For the commenting, for the information that we request, in addition to the remarks that you present today, we really encourage you to avail Page 3
yourselves to comment on this Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement using any one of four
methods that we show here on the posters and on the
card that we handed you in your packet.
So we will take comments at the scoping

meetings, through our web site, we will take written
comments, and we will take faxed comments. Let me
offer a word of caution. If you send written
comments, and the address is provided in your packet,
they will go through traditional snail mail to DOE.
And that's a time-consuming process.
And also, because of the security measures
that have been enacted to ensure that correspondence,
hard correspondence is free of anthrax and other
things, the correspondence is treated. So many times
the letters are actually damaged.
So we accept snail mail. It's a way to
come. But I think it really would be much more
efficient to provide your comments either via fax or
really through our web site.
Before I go to our first speaker, I just want
to bring up these points again. And I hope I'm not
redundant. The scoping process is designed to do
three things. And that's why you're here. The
scoping process is designed for you, the public, to
tell us the issues that affect you with regards to
this project.
We also request in scoping that you provide
us any information that you think is relevant to the
And the third critical part of the scoping is to have the public help us refine the alternatives to be examined in the POEIS.

So we're going to request your comments, we're going to analyze that when we go over the scoping comments. And it is conceivable that we would probably contact you all for further clarification of those comments. And any time up to the issuing of the draft document, if you want to provide additional information to us, you can do that.

Three more quick points. Will the agency folks that are here please stand up that will be around for the duration. And our friends in the back, during the breaks or after the meeting, we encourage you to discuss any of these issues you have with our agency folks. Each speaker will be allotted approximately ten minutes and then I'll kind of notify you with a two-minute warning.

And again the on and the off the record, everything that we say from the podium is basically on the record. And, for Qs and As and for opinions and clarification, we can do that either at the breaks or at the end of the session.

So with that my introductory remarks are over. And I would like to invite our first speaker to the podium. And that's Ms. Lynda Lovejoy, Commissioner for New Mexico Public Regulation.
Commission. Thank you.

MS. LOVEJOY: WOW, that was quick. I've never been given the floor this soon in a meeting.

And I don't -- I'm not here to speak, I'm just here to present a couple of issues on this. And Julia, right? Nice to see you again.

I represent District 4 which is the northwest area of the State of New Mexico on the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. And I would like to just say to Department of Energy, as you're doing your scoping meeting, that from the New Mexico point of view, there are 21 tribes here in New Mexico.

Probably New Mexico and Arizona have the largest tribal membership -- members rather in their states.

And I would just like to caution the Department of Energy, although you will not be directly dealing with tribes in siting and application issues because that responsibility greatly lies with the Secretary of Interior, however, I think there will be times when you will have to coordinate on these matters.

And I would just like to state to DOE that I hope that what little land base the tribes have, that their small land base does not become an energy corridor because a lot of lands, tribal lands -- or rather a lot of the transmission lines and gas lines go through tribal lands. And so that's just a bit of information for you to keep in the back of your mind.

The other issue that I just want to state is
how many corridors are needed in your scoping plan I
guess for the western region and specifically the
Southwest area, whether the plans were placing
multiple utilities in these corridors in consideration
with their -- with their interdependence
characteristics or independent characteristics. And
so those are just things that I want to state. Thank
you.

MR. MONTAGNA: Our next speaker is David
Eubank from the Public Service Company of New Mexico.

Thank you.

MR. EUBANK: Okay. Thank you and good
afternoon. My name is David Eubank. I hold the title
of professional engineer in the transmission
development and contracts department at PNM. And
the appreciation you putting on this meeting.

Who is PNM. For those of you who don't know,
PNM is the largest utility company in New Mexico. We

serve -- we've brought electric service to about
400,000 customers and gas service to about 470,000
customers.

We've been around about 90 years. And today
PNM is the largest subsidiary of PNM Resources and
energy holding company based here in Albuquerque. We
operate about 2,700 miles of electricity transmission
facilities and about 1,500 miles of gas pipeline.

PNM's interest in this process, why we
support this process, is significant amounts of land
in New Mexico are federal land. And portions of many
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PMU facilities are on federal land. And portions of any new energy corridors will also be on federal land. And the future energy supply to PMU including the major Albuquerque area could be blocked without appropriate land management practices.

Depending on what the meaning of the no action alternative is, the no action alternative as set out in the notice might not allow PMU to meet its future energy needs or to allow PMU to meet the future energy needs of its customers.

The capacity of the Northern New Mexico system, and here speaking from the perspective of the electric transmission system, has been maximized through various improvements over the last 15 years.

And so, to further increase the capacity of our system, PMU will have to construct new facilities.

So, at some point in time, sir, as you mentioned, you processed new facilities for PMU. That process will probably have to be engaged in again.

As far as the corridor concept, as set out in the PEIS, we believe that DOE should interpret that as to cover, you know, three broad concepts. First, and it's not clear in looking at the map, recognizing that it's caveat ed as, you know, not being dispositive as to what corridors might be designated, perhaps viewed as an example, right, but many existing corridors are not on that map.

And so the question is, if any energy corridors or rights of way on federal land that exist...
today in agency land management plans, will they as a
matter of process become energy corridors within the
meaning that Section 368 legislation.

That's a concern or just something that as I
read it, as a utility planner, it's not clear to me.
And hopefully the PEIS process could clarify that or
other materials associated with the process as we
proceed could clarify that.

So the first broad concept would be
designation of corridors for existing facilities or

energy corridors for existing facilities.
The second would be to designate corridors
for planned facilities. Clearly, in any particular
plan, there are going to be defined endpoints of it,
of a facility, and some notion, whether it be a broad
corridor or a narrow corridor, of a specific picture
of land use. And so there's existing and then
planned, plans that are on the books, plans that are
perhaps made public but are specific.

And then third would be conceptual corridor
designation and the thinking there from the
perspective of meeting broad policy objectives; for
instance, development of wind resources. The concerns
or questions -- I know you mentioned this is not a Q
and A session at this point.

But sometimes it's easiest to express a
concern by just asking a rhetorical question. Again
it would be helpful to seek clarification now as to
whether existing rights of way are or are not
designated by the process, just as a matter of
process, that they're going to be considered to be
energy corridors automatically. Okay. Or if PNM or
other transmission providers or facility owners need
to go through this process and specifically designate
them.

We'd like to see the procedural benefits
within the siting process that attach to designations
of energy corridors be made clear. I mean what's that
really mean. You hear automatic categorical exclusion
or whatever. Just to see that clarified would be
helpful.

We think that designation of corridors, when
corridors are designated, there should be sufficient
space between them so as to avoid reliability impacts.
If one contingency or one unfortunate event can damage
one corridor, let's separate them far enough so that
that event doesn't impact two corridors.

And then, for uses within corridors that are
designated -- and maybe this goes to how wide a
corridor should be designated. But, if we're going to
set up energy corridors so that multiple energy uses
are contained within that corridor, then the corridor
width should be specified sufficiently widely enough
so that those facilities can be operated safely and
reliably within the corridor.

Just in terms of an example of policy
objectives, one I'd like to mention is the proposition
of wind energy development in New Mexico. New Mexico
is rich in wind resources that have yet to be
developed. PNM has a 200 megawatt plant that it
purchases power from.

There are many other proposals to develop
wind in New Mexico. And the government and
governmental interests, business interests,
environmental interests have strongly advocated
development of those resources.

However, they're located in the eastern
portion of New Mexico where there are very few
transmission lines, it's a weak transmission system
there. And so the large-scale development of wind
that many interests support will also require
development of significant transmission facilities,
electric transmission facilities. And this process,
we would like to see it address that concept and cope
with that in the EIS.

Presently PNM is a jurisdictional electricity
utility. We have four projects totaling approximately
650 megawatts in our interconnection queue today. And
PNM is required under its Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission open access tariff to integrate those
resources into its system and provide transmission
service, develop transmission resources to meet their
needs in a manner comparable in which we provide
transmission service to our own load and customers.

And so we'd like to see this process find a
way to accommodate those other mandates that we are
under. And that concludes what I have to say. We
will file more extensive written comments by the
deadline. And we'll propose corridor designations at
that time. Thank you.

MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you, David. We
appreciate your suggestions. Our next speaker is
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. I appreciate the
opportunity to speak here today. Western Water and
Power production is a limited liability partnership
developing biomass power plants in several states in
the West including New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado.
The development of these biomass power plants
is under various stages at this time. But we have a
number in New Mexico that are fairly far along. And
I'll talk about one of the concerns we have in
transmission access, but let me give you a little
background.

Biomass power plants have the potential in
the West to reduce forest fires and allow for better
management of the forest areas by thinning out forest
areas as well as BLM rangeland areas and state
rangeland areas, crest lands in the West because of
the overgrowth of forested area, trees as well as the
rangeland area, pinon juniper.

New Mexico has one of the largest growths of
pinon juniper in the West. The U.S. Department of
Agriculture estimated that, at the turn of the
century, there was about 1.25 million acres of pinon
juniper land. The rest was grassland in the state.
USDA now estimates that there's almost 12 and
a half million acres of pj it's abbreviated as, in New
Mexico that's greatly reduced the grassland which is
not only necessary for wildlife habitat improvement
but also for improved grazing in the state of New
Mexico and other Western states.

I've been in the energy business for 30
years. I've been developing various projects
including wind projects for various clients in Texas
and New Mexico, doing siting work and transmission
interconnection work for several projects that have
been completed, particularly in Texas.

Wind projects I'm speaking of now. And also
worked on many solar projects and in several states
for another client. And then we're developing these
biomass projects ourselves independently of that.

Let me talk now briefly on transmission
problems that we have in developing these projects.

This is one of the most critical hindrances
to the developing of renewable projects in the west as
it is in New Mexico, is transmission access and being
able to get the power out to a market. We, therefore,
support this effort by the DOE and the various federal
agencies in developing the energy corridors to assist
in being able to interconnect with transmission and
get the power to a market somewhere.

As I say this is one of the most difficult
problems we have, particularly in rural areas where
there is limited transmission, there's limited access
to that transmission because of constraints in both
federal and state law that don't allow easy access to
that transmission.

Particularly in the state of New Mexico, a
lot of the rural areas are served by associations
let's just say. Their broad designation actually --
they have a designation. But that's a broad
designation for the various associations that supply
the various rural cooperatives in the states.

And they control the access to their
transmission with very little regulatory oversight.
That's one of the concerns that we have and one of the
problems we have in developing these projects.
The other concern that I have in the process
is that it should include access to transmission

without regard to where it's located. In other words,
not just looking at the metro areas in the various
states and the major transmission access routes, but
it also needs to take into consideration and try to
accommodate corridors that are going to also lead to
development of wind projects, major wind projects, and
biomass projects and other renewable projects.

In particular I am speaking about in the
Western states which have a tremendous market
potential for these projects. And they have all kinds
of potential in improving environmental -- including
environmental benefits and improving the forest and
rangeland, habitat and water retention in those areas,
as well as providing critical energy for the United
States instead of relying on foreign energy.
The other concern I have is access should provide a quick process that allows these companies that are developing these projects like ours, independent power projects, if you will, to have quicker access approval, if possible, and limited bureaucratic processes.

It's very critical in the development of these projects that they be done as quickly as possible so that you know if you're going to have improvement or not and a fairly quick process, where

you don't have to go through years and years and years which costs a lot of money in trying to develop these projects. That's my limited comments today. Thank you.

MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you, Jack.

The three folks who registered to speak have spoken. So at this time we'll invite anyone else who would like to speak on the record to come up and speak, have the same ten-minute time frame, but they will have to identify themselves by name and hopefully provide spelling, if a little bit of an odd spelling.

So, if there's anyone here that would like to speak on the record at this time, we just invite you to come forward.

MR. SCOTT: My name is Jack Scott. And I figured there would be more time and I just haven't really made many notes here. But I do have a couple things and will add future written comments.

But one of the problems involved with the designation of any energy corridor is that, where it
comes off federal land, it goes onto private or Indian
land. And this basically becomes a taking of that
land because, especially with the private land, we as
private citizens are not afforded the same
protections, environmental or otherwise, that are

afforded to federal properties.

The companies have the right to come in and
under the guise of eminent domain and condemnation
basically steal the property. Currently, under court
systems here, sometimes we're allowed environmental
protections. But, if you look at the environmental
statutes, basically the bottom line is you have to
prove damages to your property which is very expensive
and time-consuming.

And condemnation, state and national, can
sometimes go on for ten years, at which time the
private citizen is trying to fund, pay lawyers. First
off, in many areas like Northwest New Mexico, you
can't even find lawyers who will take issues dealing
with oil and gas because they're all basically bought
and paid for by the oil and gas companies or are on
some form of retainer so it's a conflict of interest.
So that's an issue that definitely is going
to have to be addressed. And rights given to private
property owners in this. The width of the corridors
are very, very critical to private property owners. I
haven't had a chance to look at the map.

But there was virtually no notice of this
meeting in local newspapers here, in the Four Corners
region anyway. I would request that there be an

additional scoping meeting scheduled for that area. I
think it would be very fair and very needed.

To have to drive 200 and some miles to
Albuquerque or 400 miles to Denver, and that was the
very first that I heard, through the Durango Herald,
and first availability of time and location after
calling BLM and everything over the last three or four
days.

Apparently there is stuff in the mail to me
this is addressing this issue now, but it wasn't
received. But virtually nobody knows that up there.
So I do request an additional scoping meeting be held
either in Farmington or Durango, Colorado. I
understand the map does have a possible corridor that
stretches south of Durango. That came out of the
Durango Herald this morning.

With a scope as broad as is being proposed, I
think in a sense part of it is going to be futility or
else a lot of issues will be looked over, because it
is just way too broad to cover under one EIS. And the
whole process, I mean we're talking probably thousands
of miles of corridor designation or justifying current
corridors.

I'd like to point out also that many of the
so-called current corridors were established --

pipeline, transmission line locations were established
before NEPA came into effect. And it's more or less
been a rubber stamp since because there was one
existing line. They were allowed to go in and put in
additional existing lines.
I think that we need to change that and we
need to go back and evaluate whether these lines are
in the right location to begin with environmentally as
if -- looking at them as if they hadn't already been
there and looking at it from the new NEPA, and I say
new meaning the seventies and stuff, NEPA standards
because many of these existing lines didn’t meet NEPA
and will never meet NEPA.
And it costs the companies a tremendous
amount to go in and try to put them in locations where
they shouldn’t be just because of topography. Some
topography. Some examples, in the Durango area, where it's extremely
expensive, where they're forced into an area because
there was an existing line.
I'm sure there are lots more things that I
won't bring up. But that's currently what I have.
Thank you.
MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you.
Once again are there any other speakers that
would like to speak for the record? Okay. What I
propose is that we'll take a maybe 15-minute recess.
And then I'll announce that we go back on the record.
It's 2:41 now. So let's break until three. We'll be
off the record.
If anyone has any questions or would like to
chat about what we're proposing, we'll do that. And
then at three o'clock, if there are other folks that
are coming in because it is a three-hour session,
we'll reconvene and go back on the record. Is that
acceptable to everyone?

Okay. Thank you. We are off the record.

(Break)

MR. MONTAGNA: Good afternoon, folks. It's
three o'clock. And we previously agreed we would
reconvene to accept any additional on-the-record
comments. So, if we can have folks seated or at least
standing to the sides, we'll reconvene.

Again my name is Ron Montagna and I'm with
BLM. We thank everyone for attending this afternoon.
We will again open up the scoping session for
on-the-record comments to anyone who may have arrived
during our break and during the off-the-record
discussions.

Has anyone either arrived since our last
on-the-record session or decided during the break to

present comments for the record?

MS. SOUDER: During the off-the-record, there
was a gentleman from an electric company who gave me a
map and a card, Dennis Malone. And we will take any
products from you right now, if you would like to give
them to us on the record, and we could submit that
too. So anything you want to give us today is greatly
appreciated. Thank you.

MR. MONTAGNA: Well, folks, it is three
o'clock. We'll go off the record and reconvene at
3:30. If anyone comes in or if anyone decides they
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want to go on the record before that, just let us
know. We're here until five. Thank you.

(Break)

MR. MONTAGNA: Again, folks, good afternoon.

It's 3:42. I'm just a little bit late on getting back
on the record. As we mentioned previously, there's an
opportunity to present comments for the record. And,
if anyone is interested in doing so, please step
forward at this time.

Step to the podium, give us your name and who
you represent, if anyone, and make your comments to
the record. If there's no one here, we'll close. It
is 3:42. We'll close the record until 4:30. Is that
okay? We are now off the record.

EVENING SESSION

MR. ELLSWORTH: Good evening, everyone. My
name is Don Ellsworth. I'm the field manager for the
Bureau of Land Management, Socorro field office. And
I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for
coming to this public meeting on energy corridor
designation on federal lands administered by BLM and
the Forest Service.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the
Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, and Interior to
designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen
pipelines and electricity transmission and
distribution facilities on federal land and
contiguous western states.

So with that thank you very much for coming
and I'm going to turn it over to the panel that consists of Julia Souder with the Department of Energy.

MS. SOUDER: Thank you for coming.

MR. ELLSWORTH: Bob Cunningham with the Forest Service and Mr. Ron Montagna with the Bureau of Land Management. And at this time I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to Ron to moderate this session.

MR. MONTAGNA: Thanks a lot, Don, we appreciate it.

The session we will have this evening will be real similar to the one we had this morning, and I see a lot of the same familiar faces. So pardon the redundancy, but that's the script we have for these meetings.

As Don introduced me, my name is Ron Montagna and I'm with the BLM out of the Washington office. And it's just a real pleasure for me to be back in Albuquerque to participate in these scoping meetings for the West-Wide Regional Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. And we will refer to it during the course of the meeting as the PEIS effort.

This is the second of 11 scoping meetings that the team will hold throughout the western United States. Yesterday we had our first series of meetings in Denver, today we're having them in Albuquerque and in Salt Lake; and, over the course of the next two weeks, we will have them in the rest of the 11
contiguous western United States.

This effort is an interagency PEIS. And it's being conducted by the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, Defense, and the Forest Service.

Tonight the representatives are here from the Department of Interior being represented by BLM, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Ag by the United States Forest Service.

The EIS we're endeavoring to develop over the next two years is designed to evaluate those issues associated with the designation of energy corridors on federal lands in the 11 western states. And the first question we get most of the time is why are you doing this. And the reason is fairly simple. We're being directed to do it pursuant to Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

And that section directs the secretaries of the agencies I just identified to designate under their respective authorities corridors on federal lands in the 11 Western states for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. And collectively we're referring to those as energy corridors.

The agencies involved at this time have determined that designating corridors required by Section 368 of the act constitutes a major federal action which may have a significant impact upon the environment within the meaning of the National
For this reason it's the agencies' intent to conduct this Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. DOE and the BLM are co-leads for this effort. And the Forest Service is a cooperating agency.
The second question that usually comes to us is what is the energy corridor. And the definition that we're using for this effort is 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 rights of ways and is suitable to accommodate one or more rights of ways which are similar in purpose.

And, for those BLM'ers that are here or folks that have worked with BLM over the years will recognize that, because that has been -- that's very similar to the traditional definition of a corridor found in both BLM regulations and in our manuals.

The reason the Federal agencies are here today are to listen to what the public has to say about the project we're about to start. This is not a question and answer format. We are going to try to avoid -- which gets to be fairly difficult, we are going to try to avoid discussing the specifics of this project.

What we need and what we request from the
public is your concerns and your interests with
respect to the assignment we have been given pursuant
again to Section 386.

Having said that please note that, during the
course of the evening, we'll probably have several
breaks and then we'll be around at the end of the
session. And, during these breaks and at the end of
the session, we will go off the record and we will try
to entertain any questions you may have to help kind
of set the parameters on how we can all participate in
this effort in the most efficient way possible.

However, when I'm on the record and I think
when my colleagues are on the record, we will not be
responding to questions or try to provide answers at
this time.

As you came in, you were given package
materials. And we request that you avail yourselves
to the comment cards. It's important for all of us
that we get as good as information to go forward with
this effort as possible.

In addition to the comment cards, there are
three other ways to respond or to provide input to
this Programmatic EIS effort. And we provide those
both in your handout and on these poster boards. And
the first method is to participate in the scoping
meeting.

The second method is to provide comments
through our Internet site. And we have the location
there. The third method are written comments. And we
As a general note, let me state that, although written comments are permitted and, of course, we encourage them, they're probably the least efficient way of getting information to us. They're slow. And secondly, all correspondence we get via snail mail, through hard letters, goes through a security process in Washington. That really slows down the process and it also often damages the documents themselves.

So, although that method is permissible and we encourage it, we really encourage the submission of comments through the Internet. That's really the most efficient way to get them in.

Before I go on any more, we need to probably discuss what scoping really means. And that's why you guys are really here. The scoping process starts with these meetings and then continues through written comments and then face-to-face meetings, if requested.

But what we need in the scoping process are basically three things.

One is we need to have you, the public, tell us the issues that you think are going to affect you by the designation of these corridors.

Secondly is to have you provide us, the federal agencies, information that you think is relevant to us to generate good land use decisions on the identification and designation of these corridors.

And third is to help us identify and refine the
alternatives to be examined in the Programmatic EIS.
Again this information is provided both in
the notice of intent and the information sheet that
you received in the packet.
Before I open this up for public comments,
again there are just three short points. Let's see.
As I mentioned during the breaks and after the
session, the agency folks will be around to provide
some insight into the process. So those agency people
other than us three, if anyone is here that is
familiar with what we're doing, if you would just
identify yourselves, we can have folks more easily
chat with you during breaks. Come on, Bob Suitcamp.
That's what you're getting all these good overtime

hours for.
The second item I just want to finish off
with is, when speakers come to the mike, they need to
identify themselves and they need to, if they
represent any organization, state who they represent.
And the third point is again just to reiterate the on
the record, off the record process.
When we're at the podium, all comments from
the podium are on the record. The folks here at the
front table will again refrain from question and
answer format. However, when we have our breaks at
the end of the session, we'll go off the record and
we'll be more than happy to entertain these Qs and As
at that time. So that ends my prepared remarks.
And, since no one presented a card
identifying themselves as a speaker, I will invite anyone who would like to speak on the record to come forward at this time and state their name and present their remarks to us on the record.

One last point they asked me to make. If everyone that's here came past the desk and didn't sign in, we would request that you do sign in sometime during the evening. Thank you.

To parallel the procedure we used earlier today, this afternoon, we'll wait a few minutes for any walk-in comments. And then we'll take a recess for a period of time and then we'll reassemble and then go back on the comments until the nine o'clock end of the meeting.

MR. WENTZ: Good evening. My name is Chris Wentz. I'm the director of the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. We're the renewable energy division for the State of New Mexico. And we likely will be supplementing these comments. These are pretty much off-the-cuff right now. We just found out about this recently. But we will probably be putting in comments either from the governor's office and/or from the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department.

I guess first I would just like to thank you for holding this scoping meeting. I think the Programmatic EIS is very important as far as the future of energy transmission in the United States and particularly in New Mexico.
I think, looking forward, it's important to look at both the short-term impacts but especially the long-term impacts of the different alternatives in the programmatic EIS. The EIS will be used to facilitate siting and significant investment in energy infrastructure such as oil, gas, hydrogen, pipelines as well as electricity transmission and distribution lines.

And, because this infrastructure tends to be around for multiple decades, because of the significant investment, it is particularly important that you take kind of a long-term planning, long-term vision approach. And towards that end I think it's important that you particularly look at the renewable energy resources, the clean energy resources that are out there.

Our current electricity transmission and distribution system really has been around for over 50 years, a lot of it, some longer, and hasn't been upgraded in a long time. So there's no reason to think that this next round of investment isn't going to be around a long time.

So largely a lot of the corridors that you'll be designating are going to be used by those future energy resources, a lot of ones right now that are either becoming economic or are going to be economic over the next 20, 30, 40 years or so.

To that end you need to look particularly close at the renewable resources of wind and biomass.
This is particularly important in New Mexico. We have a lot of world class wind resources in Eastern New Mexico that are largely transmission constrained and are going to need additional capacity if we’re to benefit from those resources economically.

The same holds true for biomass. We’ve got a lot of different resources out there as far as forest thinnings, a lot of unhealthy forests. We’ve got a very large dairy industry now, seventh in the nation in milk production, a lot of manure, a lot of livestock that could be turned into productive energy.

But it’s going to take new capacity to get that out.

So also looking at what’s out there, as far as renewable resources and when they might become economic and where they’re located, it is really important that the federal agencies and your contractors avail themselves of as much existing expertise and experience that’s out there right now.

A lot of great planning, a lot of great assessments are going on right now. And I just would like to mention a couple of them.

One is that the Western Governors Association, as you probably know, have a clean and diversified energy initiative for the West. This initiative really evolved out of a resolution that our Governor, Bill Richardson, had teamed up with Governor

Schwartzenegger of California and ultimately got the unanimous approval of all 18 Western governors to go
after some clean energy goals for the future. And
these goals are out quite a few years.
And so I think this PEIS really figures
prominently into developing the resources to meet
those goals.
I would also encourage you to look at the
Western Governors Association resolutions. There's a
number of existing policy resolutions that have been
in place for a number of years now that represent the
collective position of the Western Governors.
And I understand that this is going to be
largely a Western PEIS or at least this scoping
hearing is addressing that. And so you should look at
those policy resolutions because it establishes a lot
of the principles that the western governors believe
need to be addressed in siting and development of new
transmission capacity.
Also you should avail yourselves of the
expertise of such regional groups as the western
Interstate Energy Board. They've got a committee on
regional electric power cooperation that has been
active for over a decade and is very intimately
involved in looking at especially electricity

transmission corridors and electricity transmission
issues throughout the West.
And then finally the role of the states is
very important in this process, the state energy
offices, our office as well as the other western state
energy offices, but also the public utility
commissions that largely have the existing siting
authority for transmission and other energy
infrastructure.

So with that I would close and thank you very
much for being here.

MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you.

What I'll do now is recess this meeting.
It's now 7:30. I'll recess this meeting until let's
say 7:45. And, if other folks arrive during that time
period, then we'll open the meeting again, take
comments, and go to the nine o'clock close period. So
we'll recess for the next 15, 20 minutes. Thank you.

(Break)

MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, folks. It's
7:45. And as we mentioned we'll go back on the record
and again invite anyone here that would like to
present information for the record to come to the
podium, give us your name, and who you represent and
present your comments to the record.

And we'll wait a few minutes and, if no one
shows up, we'll again have a recess until later in the
evening before we close down for the night.

(Break)

MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, folks. It's
eight o'clock. And we're going back on the record to
see if there's anyone who would like to present
information. Again we'll wait a few minutes and go
back on the record at 8:15.

(Break)

MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, everyone. It's
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8:15. And, as we said before, we would open this up
again for any comments on the record. And, since
there is no one identifying themselves as wanting to
speak on the record, we will go ahead and close this
evening's meeting on behalf of BLM, the Department of
Energy, the United States Forest Service.

Thank you all for attending. We look forward
to your comments and suggestions for our Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you and good
evening.

(At 8:15 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, JAN A. WILLIAMS, New Mexico CCR #14, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON October 26, 2005, the
proceedings was taken before me, and that I did report
in stenographic shorthand the proceedings set forth
herein, and the foregoing is a true and correct
transcription of the proceedings had upon the taking
of this hearing.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed
by nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
this case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in
the final disposition of this case in any court.

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RECEIPT

DATE: October 26, 2005

WITNESS NAME: Hearing

CASE CAPTION: Public hearing

ATTORNEY: MS. ODessa Hopkins

DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other

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