PUBLIC MEETING FOR
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

HELD BY:
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Forest Service

REPORTER’S TRANSCRIPT
MEETING DATE:
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MODERATOR:
Scott Powers, BLM

ORIGINAL

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APPEARANCES

The Panel:

SCOTT POWERS, Bureau of Land Management
VERNELLIA JOHNSON, U.S. Department of Energy
JULETT DENTON, U.S. Forest Service

Also present:

JOE INCARDINE, Lands Chief BLM Utah
DARRELL HAFEN, Dixie Power & Light
CONSTANCE WYBRECK, Utah Division of Public Utilities

**Many names have been spelled phonetically**

DEIRDRE RAND, CCR, RFR
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DEIRDRE RAND, CCR, RPR
MR. INCARDINE: Good evening, everyone. I just want to welcome you to the public scoping meeting about energy corridor designations on federal lands, administered by BLM and the Forest Service. My name is Joe Incardine, I'm the Lands Chief for BLM Utah.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that the Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, and the Interior Department designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on land in 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 the equivalent plans and to perform any environmental review that may be required to complete the designation of these corridors.

For that purpose, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service are preparing a West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Currently, right-of-way applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and often without the
benefit of prior analysis or designation of corridors across jurisdictional boundaries. The West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS will evaluate the programmatic issues associated with energy corridor designation as well as the amendment of individual land use plans on BLM and Forest Service administered lands in the west, excluding Alaska.

Designation of energy corridors through land use planned amendments on Forest Service and BLM land will facilitate processing of energy related rights-of-way applications and the associated site-specific analyses. Argon National Laboratory is assisting the DOE, BLM, and Forest Service in preparation of this Programmatic EIS. Representatives of all three agencies and Argon Labs are here at this meeting to receive your comments.

We appreciate your interest in this project and we value your comments, and look forward to your continued involvement as we proceed with our analysis.

I would like to introduce the panel members at this time. On my right here is Scott Powers with the Bureau of Land Management. And then we have Julett Denton, in the middle, and she's from the Forest Service, Washington. And then we have Vernellia Johnson from the Department of Energy, also in Washington. Scott?
MS. JOHNSON: Okay, first off, my name is Vernellia Johnson. I am the Director of Communications & Outreach in the Office of Electricity, Delivery, and Energy Reliability, which of course is at the Department of Energy. And I'm here to welcome your comments and, again, say hello. And I look forward to hearing your comments that will help us as we continue in this endeavor. Thanks.

MS. DENTON: And I'm Julett Denton, as he said, from the Washington office. I am the National Program Lead for Special Uses and my group evaluates these authorizations to use National Forest Service lands for actions such as the right-of-ways and the corridors that we would use for these transmissions.

I also have assisting me -- we have Arian O'Connor (phonetic), in back, from the Ogden office, John Shuckett (phonetic) and Glenn Stein (phonetic) and I'd ask them to stand up so can you see who they are.

As was mentioned, we're here to get your opinion and your thoughts on the corridors, where you would want to see corridors, where you don't want to see them, and especially thoughts you have about them that will help us. As mentioned these -- at the evaluation at the end this period when we do the Record of Decision, we'll have the corridors in our land
management plans and so these are things that we'll have
to live with, so we really would like your input. And
we thank you for taking the time to come to see us
today.

MR. POWERS: And my name is Scott Powers.

As Joe said, I am the BLM Project Manager for this
project and the moderator for tonight's meeting. I just
wanted to -- I just wanted to reinforce a few of the
things that Joe had talked about, why we're doing this.
I mean, we're doing it, of course, because it was passed
by law, and the law says we'll do it and it says we'll
do it within 24 months, which is a very ambition process
for anybody that's ever been involved in an
environmental impact statement, especially one of this
magnitude.

But two primary reasons why, in my mind, you
know, we should be considering the designation of
corridors. Often if you try to permit a major linear
right-of-way across federal lines in the west, a
transmission line, pipeline, what have you, the time and
cost is often prohibitive and so, if we can go through
the process and the end result is the designation of
some very important corridors where future linear
right-of-ways can be placed, it will reduce the time and
cost to permit those facilities on federal lands.

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That's one benefit. Another benefit is it gives the corridor industry the knowledge that they need to do adequate infrastructure planning, to think long term. It costs a lot of money to build new utilities and if you can plan for it and know that you can locate them within the designated corridor, that helps their process.

There are four ways to comment on this programmatic EIS process. You can do it tonight, either formally and we'll record your comments, or you can write your comments down and leave them with us. You can -- we have the four ways described on this poster. I am sorry, I am pointing at it. We will accept your written comments at any time during the 60-day comment process, scoping period. You can send them on our website, or can you send them by fax to us.

The scoping period will end on about November 28th. We'll have a scoping summary report that we'll have available in January of '06. We hope to have a draft Programmatic EIS out for public review in August of '07. We're mandated by law to have Records of Decision signed by the Forest Service and BLM amending the BLM's land plans accordingly by August 7th of '07. So it's warp speed for this kind of process.

What we're doing tonight, we have a formal

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process, initially, we where ask people to come up and make a statement for the record and then we have a court reporter that takes that down. When we're finished with that and there's no more interest in providing those comments, we can kind of turn the recorder off and we open up the questions to kind of an informal discussion and then if somebody wants to come back on the record, we'll open it back up. So with that, any questions about the process?

MR. HAFEN: I was just wondering why they didn't include Alaska in the legislation.

MR. POWERS: Well, I don't think there's been a demand identified by the industry in Alaska.

MR. HAFEN: Fanwar's developed. They're going to bring those gas pipes in.

MR. POWERS: Well, they have an existing corridor that they do that currently. The only thing I can -- you know, that's the only thing I can think of. There just hasn't been the same type of issues associated with permitting facilities in Alaska as there is in the lower 48.

Anyway, we have one person, Darrell Hafen.

MR. HAFEN: It's Hafen.

MR. POWERS: I'm sorry. And he's with Dixie Power & Light. And if you would restate your name and
who you are representing. We appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. HAFEN: Thank you very much. What was your last name, sir?

MR. POWERS: Powers.

MR. HAFEN: Some of things that I am going to say tonight are going to seem real unusual, but tonight the White Sox are playing and if they win tonight, it's the first time since 1917 that they win the World Series, so that's about half the length of time that I have been working on my project down in Southern Utah.

We got into a complicated struggle in Southern Utah because St. George violated ethical and spiritual and almost any rule you can put in the book, by instituting an eminent domain proceeding to stop us from developing the first golf course in Washington, Utah, next to St. George. It threw us into a terrible struggle and has caused mountains of problems. But I have continued to pursue my work and long range development on power and water and also land development.

Over the years, I've been waiting for the opportunity to get back into the project that I initiated down there, say, 45 years ago. And so if you'll just bear with me, I know that the panel will be
-- well, not surprised, but they will wonder what I am
talking about in connection with this corridor because
the corridor is -- this West-wide energy corridor
they're talking about is something I originated for --
it's probably been at least 20 years.
And I visited with people in the Department
of Interior in Washington, D.C., about a corridor for a
Maglev train from Los Angeles through Las Vegas up
through Utah, Salt Lake, and on up through Alaska and
the Bering Straits and onto Russia and Europe. That
eventually will happen, and there are two organizations
in Washington that as we speak -- that are working on
that Bering Straits concept and I've mentioned to them,
"Hey, I was working on this first."
But anyway, that's a long range matter. But
immediately, the Maglev is poised to get under way
between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. That will be the
start of it. And along with the Maglev train, you're
going to need a corridor, also, in my opinion, for
fiberoptic lines, water lines, all the other items that
you have mentioned here on the transmission. And I
learned of this meeting today just by reading the
newspaper. I wasn't aware it. And then in yesterday's
paper there was an announcement by Pinnacle Corporation
and APS out of Phoenix with the transmission lines from

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Phoenix to Wyoming.

Now when the energy crisis was in California, I was there working on it, trying to bring common sense to the Governor of California on the energy crisis. And I recently was awarded the judgement in a federal court against one of those energy companies that did what I consider an injustice against me. But I was awarded that judgment so that's satisfaction on that end.

Now, when you get to Las Vegas, I'm sure Las Vegas will be there talking about the Maglev, because it's not too far down stream before they're going to get you underway on that. When I e-mailed the APS people in Phoenix today about their plans for running this transmission line up through this corridor on into Wyoming to tap into the generating plants up there, the coal plants, that doesn't make sense.

The only thing that makes sense is to open up the coal power reserves here in Utah where we have enough coal to fuel the whole west for at least 200 years, open up the fields, which are next to the Kaiparowits coal reserves, bring those coal reserves into the west desert of Utah and build your power plants there, then ship the power to Las Vegas or to California, or wherever. But you don't have to run

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those transmission lines an extra 500 miles.

Now that is a serious matter that I hope that the committee or the Energy Department will consider as they develop this because, when President Clinton closed off power almost completely with the Grand Escalante Act, a lot of opposition in Utah here to that, and we know it's a critical issue, but the President of the United States has the power to overturn what Clinton did. And I hope that he does it and I hope that we bring some common sense to this issue of power and also water because these power lines are just as critical to water as power. You can't talk about the two independently, they are both interconnected.

I have mentioned this concept that I spoke of to Arizona Public Service in an e-mail today, and then I mentioned to them how they could secure added value toward paying for these transmission lines and be a benefit to the state of Arizona, to themselves, to Utah, and Nevada, and California. And one of those possibilities would be developing these coal deposits at Kaiparowits, because all the ownership rights that exist in Kaiparowits have gone back to the federal government. So that would open up the possibility for APS to come in and secure a position in those coal rights and then they could develop the power plants
also, in with our company, or maybe Utah Power & Light
or whatever. It just should be a matter of cooperation
between everyone.

In addition to that, they don't realize, I
don't think, that the state of Arizona owns 12,000 acres
of land just south of St. George at the Arizona border
that joins onto 12,000 acres that Utah owns right next
to the border, and that land was secured by the state of
Utah as a result of 10,000 plus acres of land that I
secured from the U.S.A. and had transferred to the state
of Utah many years ago, and had in mind of utilizing
that land in development with the golf course that we
were planning down there, but that eminent domain
proceeding just ripped apart everything.

And so when the desert tortoise proposal
came along, they wanted to take that 10,000 acres for
the desert tortoise. I didn't think that was a good
idea either, but you know who has the power on that,
that's an extreme environmentalist that had the power on
that one. The little tortoise has got to be protected.

So the state of Utah got that 12,000 acres
as quid pro quo by cooperating with the
environmentalists on the desert tortoise project there
in St. George. And that 12,000 acres in Arizona and
that 12,000 acres adjoining it at the state line can be
developed into two completely independent cities, one in
Arizona, one in Utah, with major implications for the
development of the whole west. And there's some
technology that's breaking that would apply to these two
cities that I plan to propose to the state of Arizona.
I have been in touch with them for many years.

But that 12,000 acres in Arizona and the
12,000 acres in Utah is probably worth $182,000 an acre,
which is what the recent sales have been down there for
land in Washington County, probably somewhere around a
couple billion dollars, something like that. So, I feel
like I have been responsible for bringing all this
together, and I cannot understand why the city of St.
George continues to oppose me in my efforts to make a
living for me and my family.

And this corridor that's being developed has
an important part of everything that we've been working
on, and because I just recently won this suit in federal
court, it's given me courage to go to a federal court to
get my rights. If I have to go the federal court, I am
going to go to the federal court to get my rights. If
that's the only thing that's left for me, then I am
going to do it. I kept our company debt free for 45
years and pursued this work on my own at tremendous
cost.
So our time has come to get a day in the sun, and I hope that you people that are hearing this talk by me, give your voluntary support to help me get in the position with the Arizona Public Service people and the federal people in to order to make my contribution to this country, which still has yet to be determined. I want to thank you for letting me speak, without interruption and thank you very much.

MR. POWERS: Thank you. I forgot to mention, it's in the -- we have an active website that is current and it's going to be updated on a regular basis. That will keep you apprised of the project.

The scoping process, for those of you that haven't been involved in the EIS at the time, we go to the public and ask you what issues you think should be addressed in this process. And from the corridor designation standpoint, we haven't really developed any corridor alternatives that will be analyzed in that. We are going to do that after we receive information from the public scoping process.

So is there anybody else that would like to make a comment for the record? Yes, do you want to come up here? Please give your name and who you are representing.

MS. WYBRECK: Thank you very much. I hadn't
really planned to speak, but I have a question and then
may -- depending on that, would be my response. I'm
Constance Wybreck (phonetic) of the Utah Division of
Public Utilities. We assist in all aspects of utilities
regulation. As I am learning more about this project, I
guess my question is -- it's my question that it's very
expensive to even do these studies, the EIS and all of
the projects that you are supposed to do by law. Am I
right -- I mean, it seems to me it's going to be very
ing expensive. Is that coming out of your budgets or are
you going to be recouping the costs later on, if any of
these transmission lines or gas pipelines are getting
built?

MR. POWERS: What we're doing is part of our
land use planning process whereby we designate
corridors.

MS. WYBRECK: Right.

MR. POWERS: Accordingly, depending on what
comes through the process, we're directed to do this by
legislation --

MS. WYBRECK: So it's already in your
budget? It's already part of your work?

MR. POWERS: Well, yeah, we'll figure out
how to -- how to get it done.

MS. WYBRECK: Okay. My comment was going to
be, if you do try to recoup costs later on in the nature
of user fees from someone who, say, builds the
transmission line or something, I would urge you to work
with state utility commissions to make sure that those
costs are spread in a fair manner. Sometimes FERC may
set rates in ways that we don't think are quite fair.
So I would urge you to include the state in these kinds
of decisions. Thank you.

MR. POWERS: Thank you. Just for a point of
clarification, we collect cost recovery and the Forest
Service will soon be doing the same thing on all
applications for right-of-way, depending on the scope of
the projects. Anybody else interested in making a
statement on the record? If not, we will conclude this
and we'll open it up for informal discussion questions
and if -- barring -- if there's no questions, we'll just
hang around and be available one-on-one if needed.

(Closed at 7:28 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF UTAH

I, DEIRDRE RAND, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah, residing in Utah County, Utah, do hereby certify:

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I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties of said panel, proceedings, or entities related thereto.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal this 7th day of November, 2005.

Deirdre Rand

My Commission Expires:

August 23, 2008

Deirdre Rand, CCR, RPR