TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FEDERAL ENERGY CORRIDOR DESIGNATION

Thursday, 7:08 p.m.
October 27, 2005
Little America Inn

PROCEEDINGS
(Public scoping meeting proceedings
Page 1
MR. RABINOFF: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Alan Rabinoff. I'm the deputy state director for minerals and land with the Bureau of Land Management here in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Thanks for coming to this public scoping meeting about energy corridor designation on federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the secretaries of energy, agriculture and the interior to designate corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines, as well as electricity transmission and distribution facilities on federal land in 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 equivalent plans and perform any environmental review that may be required to complete the designation of these corridors. For that purpose, the Department of Energy, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are preparing the 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 that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The West Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate the programmatic issues and associated impacts 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, excuse me,
through land use plan amendments on Forest Service and BLM
lands will facilitate processing of energy-related
rights-of-way, applications and associated site-specific
analyses.

Argonne National Laboratories assisting the
Department of Energy, BLM and the Forest Service in
preparation of this Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement. Representatives from all three agencies and
Argonne are at this meeting this evening to receive your
comments.

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

I'd like to now introduce our panel members. On
my far right is Jerry Pell. Jerry is project manager for
the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

within the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.
And to his left, and our moderator tonight, will be
Bob Cunningham -- Cunningham, I'm sorry, who is the
assistant director for lands and realty for the U.S. Forest
Service, also in Washington, D.C. And I will be joining
the panel as well.

Bob, would you like to step up here now?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Thank you.

MR. RABINOFF: Thank you.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Alan.

And thank you folks that are here this evening.
I'd like to take just a few minutes and talk a little bit in a little more detail about the undertaking of preparing the programmatic impact statement.

First off, a little discussion here, what is an energy corridor? This is easy to say and then we start to think about it, the law requires the agencies to identify a corridor by the centerline, known widths -- established widths and identification of compatible uses. For the purposes of preparing the West Wide Energy Corridor Impact Statement, an energy corridor is defined as a parcel of land, obviously off linear in character that has been identified through the land use planning process as being a preferred location for existing -- and this is very key -- and future utility rights-of-way, and that is suitable to accommodate one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible. Energy corridors may accommodate multiple pipelines, such as for oil, gas or hydrogen, electricity transmission lines and related infrastructure, such as access and maintenance roads, compressors, pumping stations and other structures.

It's worthwhile to talk a little bit and think of, well, what are the benefits of designating these corridors among federal agencies and within federal land and western states? Certainly streamlining and expediting the processing of energy-related permits and projects, providing applicants for individual rights-of-ways within designated corridors with a clear set of actions required by each of the agencies to implement projects in designated corridors. In other words, it's an opportunity for administrators and the BLM and the Forest Service to have a
clear set of direction and understanding about what a
corridor is and the procedures they go through to
administer those corridors, reducing duplicative assessment
of generic environmental impacts by focusing further impact
assessment on site specific, on-the-ground environmental
studies to determine route suitability and appropriate
mitigation.

That means that as proposals to either remove a
facility, add on to a facility, create a new facility

within these corridors, the environmental analyses and
associated work regarding cultural resources and dangerous
species can be conducted in a very site specific and
focused manner, eliminating the need to do over and over
again broad-scale landscape-type studies that will be
addressed in a programmatic statement.

Ensuring needed interagency coordination is part
of the application process. This is an opportunity for us
and the Forest Service and BLM and other federal agencies
involved to make sure application and review process
procedures are very similar and things are not duplicated.
And as you might have seen in the past, sometimes
interpretation of federal statute is somewhat different
from one agency to another. This is a real opportunity for
us to smooth that out and really reduce what you might say
disparate of processes and procedures.

The last point is really the one I think we’ll
need to give a great deal of thought to and consideration
in this programmatic statement, but it’s really to
encourage new and innovative technologies to increase
of these questions.

Now, the procedures this evening, the way we have
done it in the previous scoping meetings, folks have
indicated on a card if they wanted to address the group,
offer some comments for the record. And we've got a court
reporter here that's keeping track of these comments. As I
understand thus far this evening, no one has stepped
forward indicating they wanted to make a presentation.
That doesn't mean you can't. We have the opportunity now
to do so.

And I thought maybe if I said something
outrageous, someone would possibly come up and rebut it,
but hopefully that won't take place, but it is an
opportunity right now to come forward and offer some
comments. These will be recorded here and added to those
that are received by the website, and I think they're on
the back, the four ways to comment. We can receive
comments over the web -- through the website, here at this
meeting, written comments can be offered by mail.

I would add if you are planning on mailing any
comments to the Department of Energy in Washington, since
the anthrax tragedy that happened there, all surface mail
going to federal agencies is screened for anthrax and other
things, and that screening process, as you would guess,
takes a little time, and also is damaging often to disks,
tapes, and other things.

So if you want to send some paper kinds of things
to the Department of Energy, Federal Express or couriers is
a preferable way to go for you. Surely if it's just paper,
it can be faxed electronically to the office and it will
get there in good shape. The reason for the recording is
so that the groups of people that will be looking at all
the comments we receive around the country have an
opportunity to get the information as factually correct as
possible, and so we're not attempting to stifle comments
here with speakers and recordings and things, so I would
courage you to offer some comments.

Is there anyone that would like to make a comment
at this time, offer up any critique they may have? Now,
what we have done in our previous meetings is -- after we
had finished with folks making presentations and regarded
comments, is stopping the recording and kind of taking a
break, and during that time we're milling about and
answering questions.

Now, I would ask the agency people, if they're in
the audience here, to stand up as representatives of the
United States government and here to help you. These folks
are knowledgeable in Forest Service and BLM and are here
and done quite a bit of work bringing a lot of material
together for us. Thank you very much. But they're

available here to talk with, and if you've got some
questions, to be able have those answered.

Page 7
comment at this time? If not, I propose that we kind of
just take about a 15-minute break and come back here at
7:30 and then spend the next 15 minutes or so. And we're
all available here, the panel, as well as the agency
people, to answer any questions and any discussions you may
have.

Okay. Thank you.

(Public scoping meeting proceedings
recessed 7:18 p.m. to 7:33 p.m.)

MR. CUNNINGHAM: It's 7:30 and we said we
would offer the opportunity at this time to -- if anyone
wanted to make a comment for the record, now's the time to
do it.

Okay. I think it's reasonable to conclude if
that's satisfactory with the folks that are here, that
we're probably finished with the formal part of the scoping
session here this evening. We will remain here in case
someone shows up a little bit later, would like to offer
comments to the record. So we'll go ahead and close this
down, at least for a half hour, and check again and see if
anyone has come and would like to offer some comments.

We will stay here and as we were doing before,

offer any comments or answer any questions that you may
have. Okay.

(Public scoping meeting proceedings
recessed 7:35 p.m. to 8:01 p.m.)

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Just for the record, no
one wanted to make any statements, so we close the session
here at 9 -- 8:00, excuse me. Is that satisfactory with
Page 8
you all, participants?

(Public scoping meeting proceedings concluded 8:02 p.m., October 27, 2005.)

CERTIFICATE

I, KATHY J. MULLIVAN, a Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings contained herein constituting a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this ___ day of ______, 200__.

KATHY J. MULLIVAN
Registered Professional Reporter