

WVEC_00014



F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Manufacturers

Box 1429 • Columbia Falls, Montana 59912
Phone (406) 892-7000 • FAX (406) 892-1612
E mail info@stoltzelumber.com
www.stoltzelumber.com

Established in 1912
Affiliations:

January 23, 2008



Charter Member

West-wide Energy Corridor Draft PEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Building 900, Mail Stop 4.
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Project Leaders,

On behalf of the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, I am submitting the following comments regarding the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. Our company is the oldest family owned sawmill in Montana and we rely heavily upon consistent and reasonably priced power to operate our plant.

I support your efforts to establish additional energy corridors and right of ways for future energy sources, both renewable and expanded existing types.

I imagine it has been a difficult process to choose corridor locations with the least amount of controversy and opposition in and around National Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Routes, etc. I commend you on your efforts to avoid state lands, private lands, and tribal areas. This probably also saves the tax payer a great deal of money if the corridors stay mainly on Federal ownership and existing energy corridors wherever possible.

14-001

The maps appear to show corridors with fragmented routes which are presumably the connections across private ownership not covered by this PEIS. I encourage the Planning Team to complete this process and whatever process would be involved in securing ROW on private lands as soon as possible. Environmental constraints and Federal judges who rule against development seem to be the common theme these days and a similar project might be impossible in another decade.

14-002

Because of the rather wide corridor widths proposed under this PEIS (66% being 3,500 feet or wider) I would suggest that the planning team consider long term management needs. Perhaps the BLM, U.S.F.S, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would continue to manage these areas as they have, however, if and when power lines and natural gas lines are constructed, other considerations must be addressed. The

14-003

Flathead Valley



Member Since 1960

WVEC_00014

F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company is an advocate of proactive management to minimize the risk of wildfire in forested terrain by maintaining forest health, as well as using grass seed and herbicides to reduce the spread of noxious weeds that commonly infiltrate utility right of way corridors.

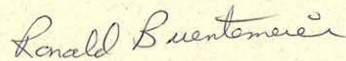
14-003
(cont.)

I also encourage you to install electric towers that are higher to allow merchantable trees to grow underneath rather than creating a permanent non-forested corridor. This is done successfully in Europe with 150-200 foot towers and the logging equipment can safely operate under the higher lines.

14-004

Good luck in the implementation of this project. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Very sincerely,



Ronald Buentemeier
General Manager
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.

WEC_00016



Mill Creek Lodging, Inc
11 Clear Creek Trail
Anaconda, MT 59711

January 17, 2008

DEIS WEST-WIDE CORRIDOR
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 Cass Avenue
Bldg. 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60434

Dear DEIS Member:

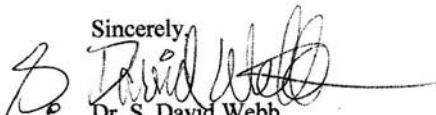
I understand the importance of significantly increasing the power transmission capacities in our western region. I have attended an educational evening with Northwestern Energy and reviewed the options for various corridors through Montana and into Idaho.

I am convinced that the most appropriate routes in western Montana pass through the Mill Creek Substation along corridors that already exist, and in areas that have long served as industrial hubs. Specifically I support the corridor that runs from Garrison south via Mill Creek to Dillon, and also the corridor that extends from near Townsend to Mill Creek. These routes already exist for 500 kV transmission lines and can easily be expanded to support parallel lines.

As indicated by this letterhead I am a resident of the Mill Creek drainage area and run a small business there. I am not offended by our area supporting more high-tension transmission lines for the simple reason that it is an important national priority and also because it will not greatly alter the appearance of our landscape. It would be far more devastating to the wholly pristine landscape in the Madison Valley near Yellowstone.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish me to elaborate on this expression of support.

Sincerely,



Dr. S. David Webb
(406) 560-7676

16-001

WEC_00017


DRAGGING Y CATTLE CO.
 Roger Peters

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60439

January 24, 2008

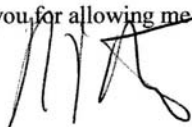
As a property owner on two of the proposed routes, I would like to offer the following comments:

1. Segment 50-260 crosses 4 miles of our deeded ground. About half of this land contains crucial Sage Grouse Habitat. We recently put this land under easement with Montana F.W.P. A power line through this area would defeat the purpose of the easement and erase the advantages gained by the Sage Grouse. This line would also parallel the Big Sheep-Medicine Lodge scenic by-way, thus reducing aesthetic values now enjoyed along this route. As a private landowner I will do all within my power, including legal means, to oppose the construction of 50-260.
2. I also own deeded property along Interstate 15, the site of proposed power line segment 50-203. I will not oppose construction of this alternative route.

17-001

17-002

Thank you for allowing me to comment.



Roger D. Peters
 Dragging Y Cattle Co.

WEC_00018

08/21/2006 16:59

6197664125

KOPPENHEIMER

PAGE 01

1/31/08

Attn:
West Wide Energy

Please eliminate any
fuel pipelines & future
expansions of electrical
transmission lines in

Segment 115-238

Thanks

18-001

Feb 01 08 02:30p

Sheila Hammack

505 867 8899

p. 1

WEC_00019

To: B.L.M., U.S. Dept. of Interior *c/o West-wide Energy Corridor BEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
Fax- (866)542-5904*

Re: Programmatic E.I.S. for the Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in Eleven Western States

From: Patricia Oshel
49 Camino de la Rosa Castilla
Placitas, N.M. 87043

I understand that at the current time you are only authorizing rights-of-way for these corridors on federal land, but we all recognize that, to be used to transmit energy from various sources, these segments will need to be connected through private lands. Why are you not proposing alternate routes to bypass towns, villages and residential areas?

The current commercial pipeline easements passing through) Placitas very close to my home are totally unobtrusive, as long as any maintenance is minimal. That would NOT be the case if new pipelines or electric transmission lines were developed in your "hypothetical" proposed corridor.

Please propose alternate routes that will not disrupt residential areas. Disruptions would occur with construction and subsequent surface maintenance, visual disenchantments within already established neighborhoods, loss of new housing opportunities in already established residential neighborhoods within the proposed corridor, and taking of property and/or homes by eminent domain for rights-of-way. Don't do this in residential areas. Find alternate routes.

19-001

Sincerely,



Patricia Oshel

2-1-08

Cc: Las Placitas Association.
Jeff Bingaman
Pete Domenici
Heather Wilson
Tom Udall
Steve Pearce
Bill Richardson
Kathy McCoy

02/07/2008 THU 13:54 FAX 435 836 2497 GARKANE ENERGY

001/002

WEC_00020

Loa Business Office



www.garkaneenergy.com

February 6, 2008

Westwide Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue - Bldg. 900
Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: Draft Proposal for Energy Corridors on Federal Lands

To Whom It May Concern:

After a review of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) proposing to designate energy corridors on federal lands in the West, we would like to offer the following comments.

As we understood Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, corridors on federal land were to be designated to help utilities and others to construct infrastructure to help solve the nation's energy needs and help provide energy independence for the U.S.

No other utility in the U.S. is more affected by National Parks, Monuments, U.S. Forests, and BLM lands than ours, and probably not many others have the resources that could be developed within our service area or adjacent to, including uranium, coal, a uranium processing mill, and oil development.

We understood that transmission and distribution infrastructure would be considered, but only large electrical transmission has been identified in the proposal thus far.

We would respectfully request that electrical transmission lines of 138 kV and 69 kV be included.

I am enclosing a service map of our area, with the resource developments being considered and studied presently. These projects would need 138 or 69 kV transmission service.

If you are really serious about assisting entities to construct the infrastructure across federal lands to help solve the nation's energy woes, including nuclear options, please reconsider our needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

GARKANE ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl R. Albrecht".

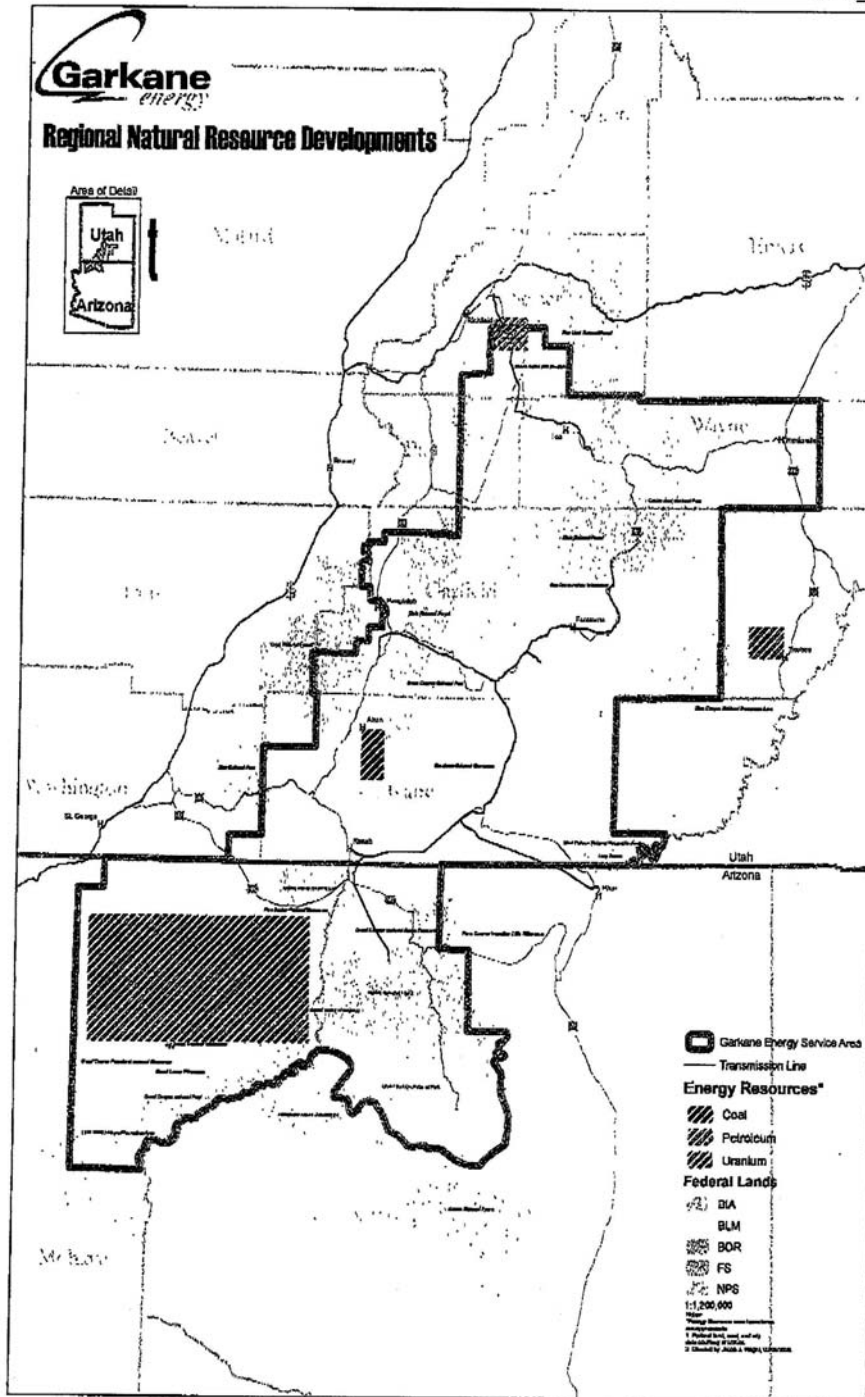
Carl R. Albrecht
CEO

Enclosure (Map)

20-001

02/07/2008 THU 13:54 FAX 435 836 2497 GARKANE ENERGY

002/002
WEC_00020



WEC_00021

Indian Springs Civic Association

Post Office Box 1
 Indian Springs, Nevada 89018
 (702) 879-5511



February 2, 2008

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail Stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60439

To Whom It May Concern:

Indian Springs Civic Association, Indian Springs, Nevada, a community based organization, requests that the West-wide Energy Corridor through this area be routed to the south of "Grandpa Mountain" on the southern boundary of our community. The currently existing corridor, defined in the BLM's Resource Management Plan, stops and starts on the southeastern and southwestern boundary of our community of approximately 1 square mile and 1200 residents. Unless the West-wide Energy Corridor goes south of the mountain, we will be faced with disruption of a significant portion of our community, and the spring, for which the community is named, and which is the source of water for the area. The negative impacts to private property and the community in general would be severe. Currently, Valley Electric of Pahrump has received a right-of-way permit from the BLM to use the new southern route, and we are pursuing revising the RMP to permanently re-route the corridor.

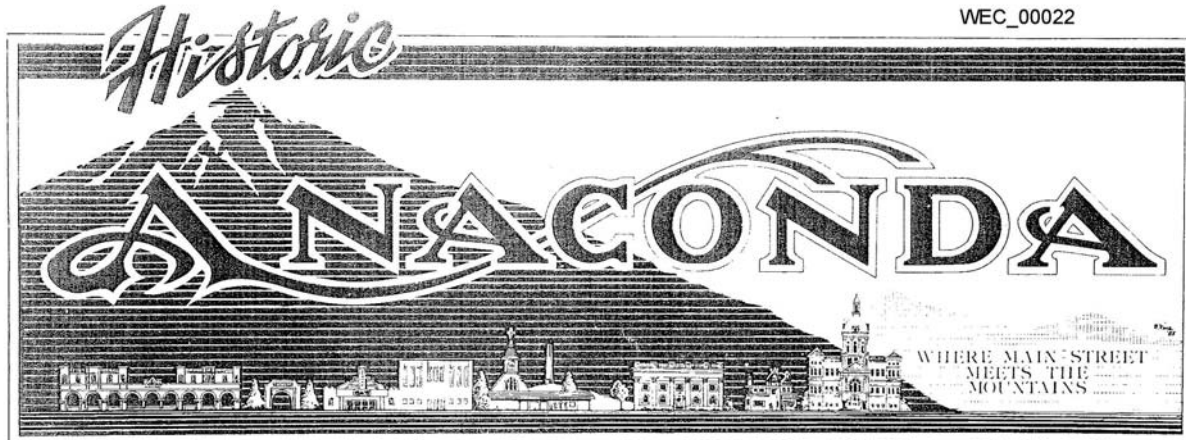
21-001

Your consideration of our request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Johnie E. Lewis, President
 Indian Springs Civic Association

WEC_00022



West-Wide Corridor DEIS
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail Stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60434

January 9, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for the designation of two additional energy corridors as part of the West-Wide Corridor designation process.

- a) Corridor from Garrison, Montana south past Mill Creek Substation to the Dillon, Montana area.
- b) Corridor from a point along existing 500 kV transmission lines near Townsend, Montana to the Mill Creek Substation.

The expanded use of these two corridors present major opportunities for the region and for the overall security of the western United States utility grid.

The above referenced routes are significantly less environmentally sensitive than other areas of the state. These routes run parallel to existing infrastructure currently owned by Northwestern Energy or Bonneville Power Administration which previously served the Anaconda Copper Mining Company Smelter located in Anaconda, Montana. By constructing adjacent to existing industrial infrastructure, pristine lands in other areas can remain so while still providing the avenues for upgrading and constructing the necessary electrical systems. The designation of these routes through less sensitive areas expedites any developer's potential plans, decreasing costs and timeframes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Name

RAY LOFTIN

Address

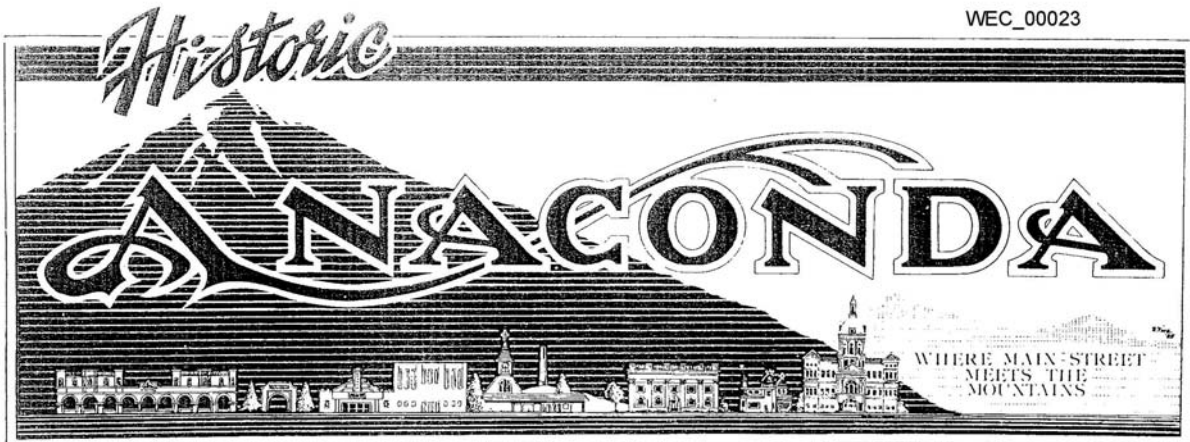
503 PINE ST.

City, State Zip

ANACONDA, MT 59711

22-001

WEC_00023



West-Wide Corridor DEIS
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail Stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60434

January 9, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dorothy S. Matthew

 Name

2011 Haggin Ave.

 Address

Anaconda, MT 59711

 City, State Zip

23-001

WVEC_00024

----- Original Message -----

From: Bk1492@aol.com <Bk1492@aol.com>

To: Kyriss, Laverne; americanvoices@mail.house.gov <americanvoices@mail.house.gov>; media@cagw.org <media@cagw.org>; comments@whitehouse.gov <comments@whitehouse.gov>; jersey@nytimes.com <jersey@nytimes.com>; foe@foe.org <foe@foe.org>

Cc: askNEPA

Sent: Sat Feb 09 06:16:15 2008

Subject: peis energy corridors on federal land in 11 western states draft exec summary

comments on this executive summary plan.

i have comments on the following pages:

es-1 - i think oil & gas men are making political deals before they have to leave office in less than a year. i think the administration oil & gas profiteers are draining their last drops of blood from american citizens in this plan and it should await a new administration. i think this whole plan should and must await the new administration since the level of approval of us citizens of this administration is at an all time low. this oil & gas infested administration has let profiteers make record profits so their execs can retire on \$400 million pensions and the rest of america is drained for gas costing \$4.00 a gallon. energy needs to be cheaper than that for america to thrive. and this administration has restricted development so that only oil & gas is left for american citizens with absolutely no research or commitment to other energy sources which are out there.. this plan is the same old stuff, the same old profiteering for oil & gas profiteers. if we concentrated on new energy sources, this would not even be necessary.

24-001

es2 in my opinion, this is a taking from americans - a land grab that profiteering oil & gas profiteers and present administration are doing. i see no reason why electric system profiteers are not required to reinvest in their equipment, but that is precisely what is being allowed by this business friendly administration. the killing of america due to the horrible tax laws which have not adequately restrained business profiteering. these electric profiteers are seeking to shift costs to taxpayers with this plan.

24-002

es-3 - having sound pipelines are a cost of the energy business not taxpayers. these profiteers are failing to maintain pipelines and instead giving \$400 million retirement pensions to their executives. they are mispending money and then asking american citizens to keep paying and paying and paying. this failure to reinvest needs fine and jail times for corporate execs who are committing murder and failing to be good american citizens. their actions are harming the american public. they are full of greed and venality and our govt is letting them get away with this.

es-4 - washington dc - sin city - has done nothing to restrain business or to require business to act responsibly. these long term "needs" are highly speculative and subject to more investigation. these profiteers come in and say we have a "need". before we do anything, we need to closely examine the claimed "need". only these profiteers know there is a "need" - nobody else. lets convince the public, after due diligence, that there is factually a need, or some profiteer's pipe dream for spending american capital and tax dollars. far too often these claimed "needs" are a smokescreen for behind the scenes corrupt profiteers who want an "in".

24-003

es6 doe is behind this massive destruction. doe the site of the secret meetings that keep the public completely out and tell it nothing. hardly democratic. hardly the way any u.s. govt agency should be run. doe has run america into the ground.

24-004

es7 all species will be negatively impacted by this polluting, massive destructive plan. that is a fact. the last paragraph is a bold faced lie.

24-005

es - no action is favored. i dont want this current administration's opportunists in sin city to make this financial killing. Lets wait for a new administration. this project should wait totally. we need new leadership on this issue. also calling this land "federal" land is deceptive. it is in fact land owned by all american citizens - and lets call it that in this plan. make a global change to say that this land is land owned by all american citizens - not "federal" land. the profiteers want to make a killing on land owned by all

24-006

WVEC_00024

american citizens - that is what this plan is proposing. why is there no fac number in this document? this is land owned by citizens in 50 states, not 11 states, and this plan has done no consultation at all with all citizen land owners. i know opportunists in the ll states have been consulted. the rest who own this land have been left out and that is a reason for putting this plan aside until a new administration consults with all 50 state landowners. this failure to involve citizens in all 50 states is an affront to american citizens. were special monetary benefits given to the ll states over the 50 state land owners? if so that is illegal since people in all 50 states own this land.

24-006
(cont.)

es11- i have observed that the state of wyoming seems to have a very money grabbing policy which seems to want to turn wyoming into newark nj - a loss for the country. i find that policy very corrupt and ddamaging to the nation as a whole. i want to be on teh paper list of developments as they go along on this plan. since my paper copy on this plan took so long to get here i ask for extension of any comment time restraints. the agency did not cooperate. i believe this hold up was purposeful.

es12 - i oppose any action at all on this plan. i oppose siting and development of energy transport projects to continue. i oppose all public lands being available for row authorization. this all should stop and wait for the new administration. this is a lame duck administration which is trying to enrich itself. i see no reason for a width of 3500 ft at any time.. 3/5 of a mile is ludicrous and far too much pollution can exist on such a wide swath of public land. 100 ft is maximum that should ever be allowed and homes should be sited on that land so that somebody can keep an eye on the pollution that goes on on this site. i see no indication in these plans that solar, wind power or hydrogen power is gaining one bit from this power push by profiteers.

24-007

es-15 all should be "restricted". nothing should be unrestricted. los angeles power needs should be satisfied in los angeles. how about wave power from pacific ocean? how about wind power in california instead of their relying on other states?

24-008

es 17 - use present roads for these corridors. cutting up wildlife land is furtherance of the war on wildlife. i do not want and oppose designation of section 368 energy corridors.

24-009

es18 - use present energy corridors not create new takings.

es19 - direct totally negative environmental effects will come from this plan. it is a lie to say anything else and this book consistently prints lies.

24-010

es20 let private profiteers in energy buy private land for use. these profiteers are raking in big bucks and yet look for this corporate welfare use of land owned by national taxpayers. this is a taking from national citizens who own the land.

24-011

es22 in every case where the words "federal lands" appear change this globally to read "nationally owned by taxpayer lands".

1-3 there is no authentic truthful honest need" for this project. where is the investment that western power companies should be making here?

1-7 i disagree there will be so much need for natural gas. we have wind power and solar power coming, both of which will cut that alleged "need". I do not believe the projections for rise in natural gas use. the price the gas profiteers are charging means more consumers cannot in fact afford to buy the product. so projections are erroneous. we cant believe the alleged projections from corrupt sin city washington dc anymore. the present profiteers supplying gas on old pipelines must be mandated to fix those pipelines instead of letting them degrade and pollute.

1-11 failure to account for environmental destruction is typical of the present administration which is horribly anti environmental. no plan should ever be approved without this factor being foremost. they are not making more land in this country so we must protect what we have. i oppose expediting this plan which shows the greedy administration agenda for a financial killing for their oil & gas men. this is dangerous.

24-012

WVEC_00024

1-14 - the reasons for destroying the environment makes no sense. this statement is that of greedy venal insiders in washington political circles looking to make a financial killing for their own private bank accounts.

1-15 - nmfs showed courage in standing up to this oil & gas corrupt plan. this plan runs right over nmfs however.

1-18 the public has no idea this stupid corrupt plan is proposed. 99 and 1/2% do not know the land they own is being proposed to be taken over by corrupt sin city politicians and their pals. this plan should be stopped on that reason alone. the "outreach" is non existent. this plan is being done completely without public outreach so sin city insiders can enrich themselves. are they buying property right now for future riches? i think we need an investigation by the inspector general of the u.s. on this subject. i sent in comments long ago, got no acknowledgment and have NOT been kept up to date as these plans progress as scoping commenters are to be.

1-19 why were no dates put on this non informational chart?

1-21 zero comments came from the public according to the plans own comment on this page. the "public" is not just industry, state and local government - that is the "insiders" not the public. making plans just for "insiders" is directly contrary to the constitution of the united states and all of its laws and regulations.

1-23 i am sure the destructive forces in wyoming govt were eager to destroy wyoming for their own financial profiteering. this whole plan is an exercise in insider financial profiteering and not necessary or helpful for the nation as a whole.

3-141 i submit a transmission station should be in dick cheney's back yard so he can verify the truthfulness of the statements made as to how quiet these transmission lines are. the governor of wyoming should also be willing to have such a transmission line in his backyard so that he can verify how quiet these transmission towers are. the public is sick and tired of these rich men letting these things happen to them when they make sure they are nowhere near these sites that they want to financially profit on. lets ask the governor of wyoming to ask for a transmission line in his backyard. i hope he supports truth in government and he can then personally testify as to how quiet these transmission lines are. the public is tired of being sold a bill of goods full of lies.

3-143 no maintenance takes place on sites like this. the alaska oil pipeline was not maintained for 15 years but oil company found \$400 million for a retirement package for its exec. this shows our govt has its head on backwards.

3-151 - no wildlife has been "improved" or "enhanced" under the wildlife management programs. wildlife is treated as completely disposable by all federal agencies regardless of the laws on the books. wildlife will get further death and injury from this plan. the protection of wildlife is non existent in our present agency administration.

3-152 blm is slaughtering, injuring and killing wild horses every single day of every year. blm is into enhancing only business profiteering, greed, venality and horror and death for wild horses and burros. blm does not follow the laws to "protect" wild horses at all. this program is a farce. migrant birds are particularly decimated by this plan.

3-162 - wild horses are routinely decimated so profiteers in grazing can have it ALL. blm does no "protection". the "other uses" is what blm plans for - all devoted to profiteering with political connections. birth control for horses has been well proven to work and in use for the past 30 years and this lie printed here about research currently is obsolete and out of date and is a lie printed on this page. the livestock should be driven out of these areas since they destroy the environment and create global warming. but bribes count in our political arena. they count in who gets to have the land and wild horses dont have any money to bribe politicians. wild horses should never be called "pests". those ignorant people have no

24-013

24-014

24-015

WVEC_00024

conception of how ecology works. the real destroyers of these lands are livestock and the cattle barons. who wrote this cruddy plan - a profiteer for his own enrichment. certainly no concern is shown for the environment or ecology in this plan. NONE.

24-015
(cont.)

3-199 fish exposed to stressful temperatures die. they dont "move along" as this writer so stupidly writes. they die. the writer is so obviously biased in this plan. The endless lies written in this plan are truly offensive to this citizen. lie after lie after lie.

3-225 - the maintenance crew who cut down trees on these corridors operate insanely since they cut down everything and spray deadly poison herbicide. that makes this corridor a deadly toxic zone. this plan is completely wrong and should never be allowed anywhere in the united states.

24-016

this plan needs complete opposition.

b sachau
15 elm s t
florham park nj07932

2-11-08; 1:51PM;Eagle Point FC# 3061

;541 826 3730 # 1/ 1

WEC_00025

February 10, 2008

West-Wide Energy Corridor
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sir or Madam,

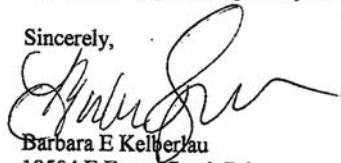
My unfavorable comment on the proposed West-Wide Energy Corridor is due to the following issues: 1) The proposed corridors would result in large scale destruction of scenic public lands, 2) The corridors would result in an unprecedented seizure of private property, including homes and businesses, and 3) The corridors as planned would put all of the country's energy transmission at tremendous risk of terrorist attack. This third issue is an enormous concern to me, and should be to you. When completed these corridors all over the country would require only a few well placed explosives and our energy transmission would be completely disrupted. These vulnerable corridors would be impossible to guard, especially at night. It seems like an incredibly stupid idea.

25-001

25-002

25-003

Sincerely,



Barbara E Kellerau
18504 E Evans Creek Rd.
Rogue River, OR 97537



WVEC_00026

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL
ALLIANCE

February 7, 2008

West-wide Energy Corridor Draft PEIS
Argonne National Laboratories
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Building 900
Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear West Wide Energy Corridor Program Team,

We are writing on behalf of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) to provide comments on the West-Wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for identification of energy corridors across 13 western states, and specifically those corridors that intersect, parallel, or include the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST).

Background

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail was designated by Congress in 1978 as a unit of the National Trails System. The 3,100 mile CDNST traverses the magnificent Continental Divide between Mexico and Canada. The vision for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is to create a primitive and challenging backcountry trail on or near the Continental Divide to provide people with the opportunity to experience the unique and incredibly scenic qualities of the area. For many of the same reasons National Parks are established, National Scenic Trails are created to conserve the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities of the area. In addition, National Scenic Trails are designed for recreation and the enjoyment of these very special places.

The Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) was formed in 1995 to work with the federal land management agencies in the completion, management and protection of the CDNST. CDTA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with nearly 3,000 members nationwide. In April 1999, CDTA was designated as the leading partner in the completion of the CDNST by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management during a Memorandum of Understanding signing in Washington, D.C. To date, CDTA has been successful in coordinating more than \$4.5 million in volunteer labor, improving and completing hundreds of miles of the CDNST, building positive relationships with the federal land managers and local clubs, organizing the first border-to-border surveys of the Trail, implementing an Adopt-A-Trail program and working with Congress to appropriate more than \$7.5 million for the CDNST in the U.S. Forest Service budget.

The CDNST is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior. The Regional Forester of the Rocky Mountain Region is the lead Forest Service official for coordinating matters concerning the study, planning, and operation of the CDNST. CDTA's staff members and volunteers work closely with the staff in Region 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the National Forest System, as well as the Bureau of Land Management state and field offices in

THE TRAIL UNITES US

P.O. Box 628, Pine, CO 80470 ▲ (303)838-3760 ▲ 888-909-CDTA (2382) ▲ info@cdtrail.org ▲ www.cdtrail.org

WEC_00026

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico, that contain the CDNST , and 4 National Park Service Units. As a proud partner of the USFS, BLM and NPS, CDTA recognizes the need to replace an overly burdensome energy corridor sighting process with more efficient planning methods. We commend the intent of developing a method that defines a collaborative interagency process and provides a framework for pre-selection of potential corridors for future energy projects. However, we would like to address some areas in the PDEIS that we feel should be more thoroughly developed, addressed and evaluated, as well as present concerns for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The following comments detail CDTA's concerns.

Identification of routes adjacent to or intersecting with the CDNST:

26-001

There are 10 routes that will cross, parallel or will be seen from the CDNST. These corridors include the following:

- Montana:** 50-203, 50-260, 51-204, 51-205
- Idaho:** 50-203
- Wyoming:** 78-138
- Colorado:**87-277, 144-275
- New Mexico:**80-273, 81-213

CDTA's Cooperative Management Partnership with Federal Agencies:

CDTA has worked over the past 15 years to develop and encourage consistent management direction for the CDNST across different administrative unit boundaries. We have made great strides in our attempt to have the CDNST recognized by our multiple agency partners as a unique resource within their boundaries and to provide protection for the CDNST. We feel strongly that this direction, in combination with our Comprehensive Plan and Proposed Directive on the Management of the CDNST, will offer the staff of the our agency partners in all administrative units responsible for managing the Trail the necessary support to fulfill the intent of the NTSA and will ensure consistent administrative treatment of the Trail's recreational, natural, and cultural resources.

Protection includes providing consistent and deliberate management direction for issues such as a desired condition for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, scenery management practices, suitable Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification(s), and various other management practices related to timber management, mineral extraction, species of concern, roads, and other special uses within or proximate to the CDNST. We recommend a consistent approach to treatment and recognition of the CDNST as well as the other National Scenic and Historic Trails affected by this PDEIS in the Final EIS.

26-002

Utility Corridors and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

Natural gas-pipelines, electric transmission lines, telephone trunk lines, communication towers and many smaller utility-distribution lines of all types already cross the Continental Divide Trail in many locations. Utility sites are, by nature, intensive, high profile land uses. The visual impacts and, in some cases, the audible impacts of these facilities detracts from the primitive

26-001
(cont.)

WEC_00026

recreational experience provided by the CDNST. Even utility lines that are located adjacent to the CDNST often can be seen for miles from the trail, disrupting an otherwise undisturbed scene (or scenery) found in these unique environments. Adverse impacts also include lights, access roads, cleared swaths of land, off-road vehicle access on utility right-of-ways, guy wires, chain link fences, and chemical treatments of the vegetation in the corridor. These ancillary impacts are often more intrusive than the lines, or sites themselves. Furthermore, the cumulative impacts of the expansion and development of utility corridors and facilities upon the CDNST environment are substantial.

To this end, CDTA seeks to minimize the impacts of utility developments and their associated facilities on the Trail's resources. To do so, CDTA encourages avoiding the following resources whenever possible in sighting utility corridors and facilities near the Trail:

1. Wilderness areas and their adjacent buffer zones;
2. USFS semi-primitive non-motorized areas and NPS natural areas;
3. Areas of significant cultural, historic and natural value;
4. The Foreground zone as determined by the Scenery Management System for all Trails, and as seen from prominent viewpoints and key scenic features such as rock outcrops with large expansive vistas, or open landscape, sub alpine, alpine areas where the landscape is uninterrupted by man's influence or development;
5. Wetlands and other important natural features; and
6. Any other special area where important Trail values, such as a sense of remoteness, would be compromised.

26-001
(cont.)

We would like to work with you to determine the best location for the energy corridor to best avoid the areas described above. In addition, we encourage the following guidelines to identify areas, where when necessary to cross, parallel or otherwise include the CDNST, utility lines and facilities may be located as to reduce their impacts to the CDNST:

1. Locating at a site where the CDNST crosses an existing state or federal highway or highway intersection. In these instances, through applying sound sighting procedures, many of these crossings may only be visible at the point of intersection. We encourage the practice of careful sighting whenever possible.
2. Locating at a site where the CDNST crosses areas that are already developed, and classified as Rural or Urban by the USFS Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS);
3. Upgrading or co-aligning a new corridor with existing lines, or relocating existing lines into new single corridors, and the subsequent decommissioning of replaced or relocated utility lines;
4. Utilization of an underground route through open areas for natural gas pipelines; and
5. Passage through an area where Trail values, such as a sense of remoteness, would not be compromised.

Finally, we highly encourage sighting teams to engage with CDTA and our agency partners to identify these key areas and potential mitigation when the CDNST and its unique resources can not be avoided.

26-003

WEC_00026

Location of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

The location of the CDNST corridor is inaccurately depicted in the PDEIS documents. This incorrect representation of the CDNST that is found in the PDEIS documents does not allow for adequate disclosure of the effects of development on this National Scenic Trail. We recommend that you acquire the appropriate GIS information for located and potential CDNST corridor segments for use in the final WVEC PEIS from CDTA and our lead agency partner the USFS. Contacts for this information include Greg Warren, CDNST Administrator (gwarren@fs.fed.us) and Suzanne Johnson, CDNST GIS Specialist (sjohnson@fs.fed.us), and Kerry Sharkarjian, CDTA GIS technician, (kerry@cdtrail.org).

26-004

Specifically, we wish to identify that the location for the southern terminus CDNST in New Mexico is incorrectly displayed on your maps. While some routes have identified the Trail’s southern terminus in Antelope Wells area, the Trail’s southern terminus is located on BLM land in Hidalgo County. We have enclosed a map, and the GPS way point for the exact terminus. We request that you update your maps and information to correctly reflect this important data point.

Protection of Visual Resources

CDTA is concerned that the strategic approach of the PDEIS risks the loss of protection of resources central to the Trail experience. In this proposal, energy corridors are a proposed one-half mile wide. In those locations where there will be new corridors located, or in the areas where existing ones will be widened, the potential for visual impacts is significantly increased. Because these land use changes have not been evaluated, it will be difficult to determine how these energy corridors may impact the CDNST. We recommend the mapping of visual resources and the impacts to these resources should be done in a manner consistent with the Scenery Management System to adequately protect the integrity and quality of the scenic resources in the areas traversed or impacted by the identified corridors.

26-005

Protection of Recreational Experiences

As a unit of the National Trails System, and otherwise considered designated area, the PDEIS should include a more fully evaluated section on impacts to recreational experiences within, intersected by, or otherwise impacted by the proposed corridors. We realize that each trail section is unique with specific localized conditions, however, we also feel that there should be consistent treatment of the Trail and its resources and the experience it offers all users in the discussion of impacts to recreational resources in this document. This is not there. In fact, specific evaluation of recreation resources currently present in the project area is not included in the document. This is a potentially disastrous oversight. We recommend that evaluation of the potential impacts to recreational resources be included in the final EIS.

26-006

Cumulative Impacts to the Continental Divide Trail

Perhaps our greatest concern has to do with cumulative effects. If full environmental-impact analysis occurs only at the project or activity level, then how does the agency propose to assess the cumulative impacts of multiple projects or activities over time and their impacts to the entire

26-007

WEC_00026

CDNST? While we applaud the agency's intentions to undertake such a collaborative process, we are concerned that without rigorous attention to the cumulative impacts of incremental decisions, the cumulative impacts of multiple projects and activities could be obscured and lead to unintended consequences that may or may not be consistent with a particular management direction for the CDNST. CDTA believes that for linear resources, such as the CDNST, that are affected by more than one corridor, that special attention be given to a full exploration and understanding of the cumulative effects to these very special and unique resources.

26-007
(cont.)

Mitigation of impacts to the CDT:

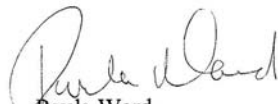
We recommend that the PEIS addresses mitigation to help alleviate direct, ancillary and cumulative impacts to the CDT in identification of these potential corridors. The section should address the need for both on-site and off-site enhancements to benefit the unavoidable scenery and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum setting effects on the CDNST and other National Scenic and Historic Trails. Potential mitigation to minimize impacts could be both on site and off site strategies and might include the following:

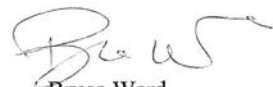
26-008

1. Funding for CDNST trail development and maintenance, corridor management, rights-of-way acquisition, and trailhead developments;
2. Removal of facilities that are no longer needed;
3. Relocation of existing smaller capacity transmission lines to the corridors identified by the PDEIS, and reclamation of those sites back to a natural state;
4. Careful review of the height and type of power line towers;
5. Careful location of power line towers so as to minimize their impacts;
6. Color and reflectivity of facilities; and
7. Landscape treatment within the right-of-way and at other places that screen structures.

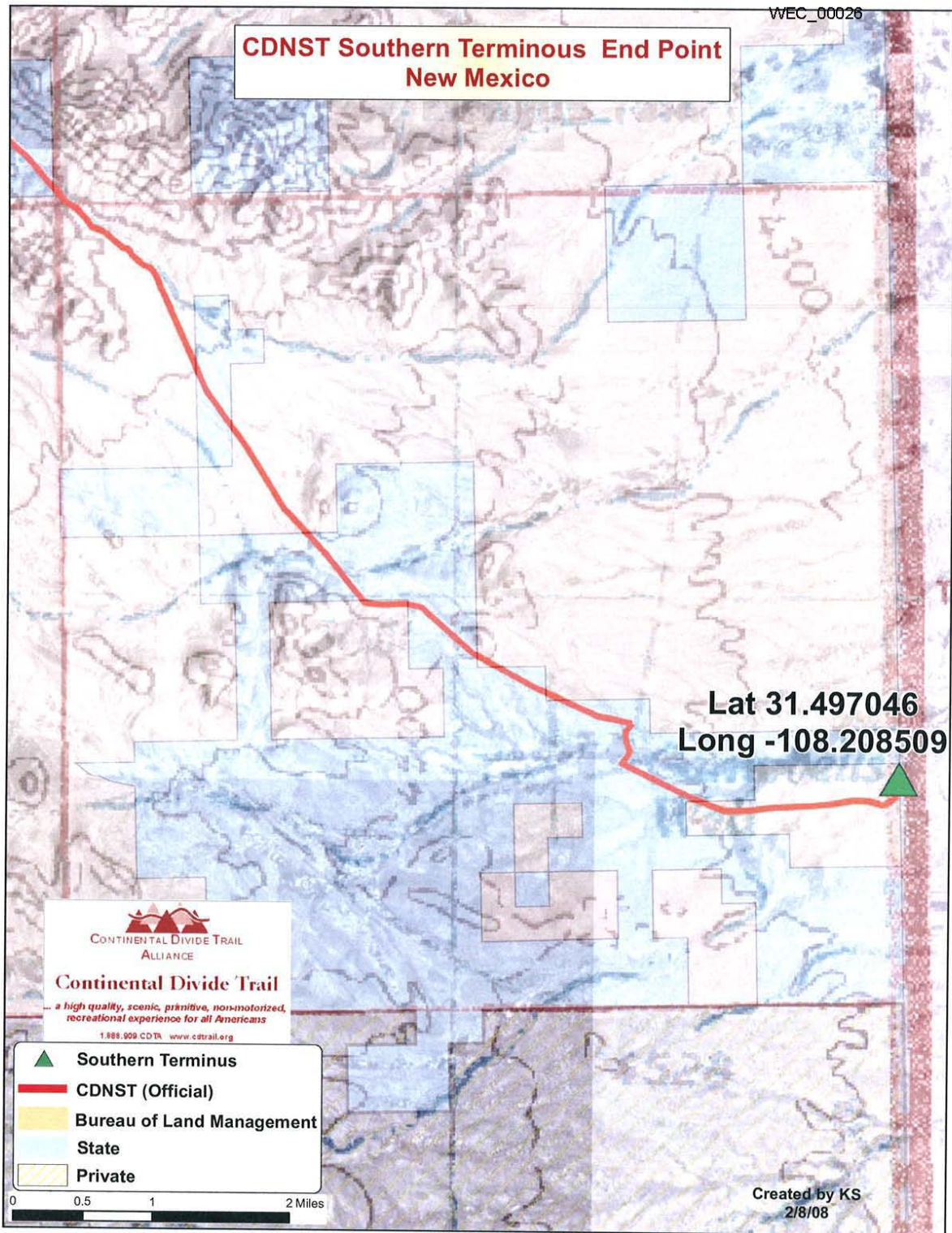
Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS. We request to remain on the mailing list and to be engaged in future public involvement processes regarding the Final EIS. If you have question or would like to contact us, please contact CDTA Field Operations Manager, Teresa Martinez at teresa@cdtrail.org, or 303-838-3760.

Sincerely,


 Paula Ward,
 Co-Executive Director


 Bruce Ward,
 Co-Executive Director

Cc: Greg Warren, CDNST Program Administrator, Kayci Cook-Collins, NPS CDNST Program Leader, Marcia DeChadenedes, BLM CDNST Program Lead



WEC_00027

1530 N. Rosedale Ave
Ajo, AZ 85321
February 5, 2008

Westwide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Lab
9700 S Cass Ave
Bldg 900 Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sir:

I am totally against the formation of these corridors.

Please do not establish the corridors. They represent a land grab from the people of the U.S. to big business. They are also a dangerous concentration of infrastructure in a designated area and vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Thank you for your consideration.

27-001

27-002

Sincerely,



Fred Goodsell



WEC_00028

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • (406) 586-1593 • fax (406) 556-2839 • gyc@greateryellowstone.org

February 7, 2008

West-wide Energy Corridor Proposal
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail Stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60439

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept these comments on the proposed energy corridors in the Draft West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) from Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC). GYC is a non-profit, conservation organization with membership of approximately 10,000 individuals, 100 local, regional, and national conservation organizations and 120 business sponsors committed to protecting and preserving the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We have offices in Idaho Falls, ID, Bozeman, MT, Jackson & Cody, WY. We live, work and play in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and care about how wildlife, wildlands and waters are managed.

We offer the following comments on the PEIS:

1. The northern portion of Segment 50-260 is directly adjacent to the Hennebery Ridge Wilderness Study Area. Power lines, and the facilities associated with the power lines, would violate the visual resource management Class I Objectives for this area and would therefore be inconsistent with the Dillon Resource Management Plan. We request that Segment 50-260 not be designated as an energy corridor.

2. Segment 50-260 occurs through the Italian Peak area of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Since 1986, and under the recently released Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan, Italian Peak has been recommended for wilderness designation. Power lines, and the facilities associated with the power lines, would severely impact the wilderness character of Italian Peak and would be inconsistent with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan. We request that Segment 50-260 not be designated as an energy corridor.

28-001

28-002

People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations.

Idaho Falls Office • 162 North Woodruff • Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 • (208) 522-7927 • fax (208) 522-1048
 Cody Office • 1285 Sheridan Ave., Ste. 215 • Cody, Wyoming 82414 • (307) 527-6233 • fax (307) 527-6290
 Jackson Office • P.O. Box 4857 • Jackson, Wyoming 83001 (307) 734-6004 • fax (307) 734-6019

www.greateryellowstone.org



WEC_00028

- 3. Segment 50-260 occurs in an area recently identified as a critical wildlife habitat connectivity corridor between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Salmon Selway Ecosystem. This area was identified as one of the most critical wildlife habitat connectivity corridors in western Montana and is unsuitable as an energy corridor. We request that Segment 50-260 not be designated as an energy corridor. | 28-003
- 4. Segment 50-260 is located in a corridor that has been identified as future suitable habitat for grizzly bears. By designating Segment 50-260 as an energy corridor there would be adverse impacts to grizzly bears and their ability to expand into this area. We request that Segment 50-260 not be designated as an energy corridor. | 28-004
- 5. Due to concerns associated with sage grouse habitat we find Segment 50-260 and the southern portion of Segment 50-51 unsuitable as an energy corridor. At least nine sage grouse leks would be impacted by energy facilities and associated roads would have significant impacts on critical sage grouse habitat. | 28-005
- 6. We find Segment 50-203 suitable as an energy corridor because this route appears to avoid major areas of concern while providing this important southerly energy corridor. | 28-006

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. Please add GYC to your mailing list for announcements and public review of any documents related to this project.


Sincerely,



Patricia Dowd
Conservation Coordinator

WEC_00029

The Hewitt family



 DAR

Department of the Army

 Gail Hewitt

 11 Washington Pl

 Helena, MT 59601-6268

Feb. 8,
2008

About the "Energy Transport
Corridor Designation"

Dear Lisa:

Please avail yourselves of
the paths (for energy transport) of
the inter-state highway
corridors; also old, ^{discontinued} rail
lines could be used.

29-001

Allow corridors for bears,
deer and elk to proceed and
thrive. They (animals) need
the trails. We (humans)
will be working - and are
working on - alternatives to many
energy sources. Do not
carve up the lands all
now enjoy.

29-002

29-003

Don't continue the federal
government's "steamroller"
approach!

29-004