

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING



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CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

July 10, 2006

Office of Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Comments on the Preliminary Energy Corridor Map

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the preliminary draft energy corridors associated with the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. I would also like to express my appreciation to the federal agency planning team for its significant efforts to keep the State of Wyoming and interested stakeholders up-to-date on the status of the project. I particularly appreciate the openness, candor and willingness to work with stakeholders on the ground and at a level of detail that will give all involved the opportunity for a successful outcome.

I support the federal government's initiative to designate energy corridors across the United States. As a leading energy-producing state, moving our vast resources to market is vitally important to the state, its energy companies and the nation in general. Wyoming can help the nation meet its energy demands, but only if this energy can find its way to market.

Please consider the following comments and observations as you move forward in refining the energy corridors and drafting the environmental impact statement:

Impacts to Private Lands

Please give serious consideration to the impacts that designated rights of way may have on adjacent private land. A high level of coordination between the federal agencies and private landowners should occur upon the release of a more detailed plan of action. Our respective organizations should work closely together to minimize limitations on the private landholder's rights and to minimize unwanted impacts on private land. My office stands ready to facilitate meetings with the corridor planning team staff and affected parties to talk about this issue at greater detail in the future.

Market

As you proceed to finalize these corridor designations and work on the creation of the EIS, I ask that you remain careful that the corridors not restrict transmission of Wyoming energy resources to market, as that could have serious negative effects on Wyoming's economy.

Additionally the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA) has three public/private development partnerships underway for transmission upgrades to support the development of additional energy generation in Wyoming and, in turn, to serve various high demand Western markets. I ask that your agencies give full consideration to incorporating these project developments into the proposed energy corridors. Please see the WIA's comment letter for more specific details regarding these projects.

Multiple Use

Multiple use capabilities of energy corridors should be a strong consideration in your designation decisions. Flexibility in the ability to move a number of energy products – such as renewable energy, energy byproducts, and other non-traditional energy resources, in addition to electricity and natural gas – out of Wyoming is very important. Specifically there may be a need to move byproduct CO2 from industrial facilities for use in enhanced oil recovery. Movement along an energy corridor may be a critical factor in the development of otherwise unrecoverable oil.

Capacity for the Future

While proposed energy corridors are clearly a present need, we must also keep an eye on the future. Energy corridor designation should take plan for sufficient capacity to handle energy demands 20 years from now. A long-term outlook is critical to this project, as it allows for flexibility that will enable us to alleviate or at least mitigate issues in the future.

Minimizing the Impact

Wyoming highly values our environment and our varied cultural resources. I ask that your corridor designations continue to minimize negative environmental and cultural effects. I commend you for the effort you have demonstrated to date and ask that such actions continue during the rest of the planning process and particularly during implementation.

Corridor Width

With the myriad competing interests, it only makes sense to maintain flexibility in designating corridor width. In some places, there may be a requirement to expand corridor width to accommodate a variety of users. In other places, such as areas deemed environmentally sensitive, it may be necessary to limit the size of the corridor. Allowing

for corridor width flexibility will be important to balance competing concerns at the site-specific level.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS, and I hope that we can continue to work toward our common interests on this project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Freudenthal", written in a cursive style.

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DDF:TS