

Corridor EIS Archives

EM006

From: Sullivan, Robert G.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:08 PM
To: Corridor EIS Archives
Subject: FW: Garkane Energy 138kv Corridor/Tropic to Duck Creek

Bob S.
630-252-6182

From: Carl [mailto:calbrecht@garkaneenergy.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 11:30 AM
To: corridoreiswebmaster
Cc: lsnelson@utah.gov; jjemming@utah.gov; rondaniels@utah.gov; John Harja
Subject: Garkane Energy 138kv Corridor/Tropic to Duck Creek

Dear Sirs: As a follow-up to the Preliminary Draft Corridor Map for Utah, and our meeting with DOE representatives in Utah on June 15, 2006, I would like to make the following comments. During the public comment period, Garkane Energy Cooperative, Inc. proposed that an energy corridor be designated from Tropic to Duck Creek, in Utah. This proposed corridor is necessary to enable Garkane to upgrade our existing transmission system which provides power to Western Garfield and Northern Kane Counties. Because these counties are over 90% federally owned, it is not possible to construct this facility or any other, without crossing federally controlled lands. Garkane's proposed corridor was not included on the preliminary corridor maps released by DOE. This proposed line is of the utmost importance to us if we are to meet the current and future load growth which is taking place in the region. Garkane is a small rural electric cooperative with over 2000 miles of electrical transmission and distribution line. Most of these lines are located on the many public lands in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, which include four national parks, two national monuments, three national forests, and considerable BLM lands. The five major counties we serve in Utah and Northern Arizona are all over 90% federally owned. To serve customers in our service territory most often involves crossing these lands. The EPACT of 2005, Sect. 368, specifically states, that ALL federal lands will be considered. DOE has arbitrarily decided not to consider any corridors which cross Park Service, Monuments, or other "sensitive" lands. Sect. 368 also says the impacted utilities must be consulted. We were only given the opportunity to submit public comments and were not consulted. Sect. 368 also says distribution corridors must be considered, not just multi-state large transmission projects. Our situation is just what Congress envisioned when the law was passed. Our proposal involves a host of federal agencies with conflicting agendas, which precludes a viable route. The specific project we are referring to (existing line), presently crosses a national monument, a national park, a national forest, and BLM lands. We are proposing to bypass the national park (new line), and build adjacent to an existing Utah Power 230kv line which runs north around the park, then back west to Duck Creek through forest and BLM lands. If we do not obtain a corridor, we will have to implement a building construction moratorium in this part of our system in the near future. In May, I testified before a Congressional Sub-Committee on Water and Power about this very issue. I note that the committee met again on June 28th, the subject being, "Meeting Electricity Demand in the West Through Responsible Development of R/Ways on Federal Lands. I quote Rep. George Radanovich, Chairman in his opening statement: " The Energy Bill signed into law last year set up a process to help us move in the direction of building new transmission. The Energy Bill required the designation of energy corridors through federal lands to help expedite the new transmission." I gave a copy of our proposed route map to Ms. Julie Sauder of DOE at the meeting held in Salt Lake City on June 16th. I respectfully ask that our project be reconsidered in the final report and corridor designation. Thank-You. Carl R. Albrecht, CEO, Garkane Energy Cooperative, Inc. Box 465, Loa, Utah 84747. Tel. 435-836-2795, Cell#: 435-979-6578. Email : calbrecht@garkaneenergy.com

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