

Corridor EIS Archives

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 2:35 PM
To: corridoreisarchives,
Subject: Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0030

Attachments: EPA2005368mapcomments_M0030.doc



EPA2005368mapcomments_M0030.doc..

Thank you for your comment, James Luce.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0030. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: June 28, 2006 02:35:06PM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0030

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Attachment: H:\Active\Jim\Letters and memos\EPA2005368mapcomments.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Webmaster at
(630)252-6182.

June 27, 2006

Honorable Samuel Bodman, Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Attention: Ms Julia Souder, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Dear Secretary Bodman:

The State of Washington appreciates the opportunity to comment on the “preliminary draft corridor map” prepared in connection with the “Programmatic West Wide Environmental Impact Statement,” (PEIS) a draft of which we understand will be released for public comment in the fall of 2006.

We reaffirm our November 22, 2005 comments regarding the challenges posed by separate processes for identifying corridors over Federal lands pursuant to Section 368 and over non-Federal lands pursuant to Section 1221. While these are different provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Department of Energy’s (DOE) decision to separate the two processes makes it difficult to provide meaningful comments.

In preparing our comments we again reviewed the November 7, 2005 “Report to Congress: Corridors and Rights-of-Way on Federal Lands” and the “Summary of Public Scoping Comments for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement” issued in February 2006. Washington State attended the November 3, 2005 “scoping meeting” in Seattle, Washington but was unable to offer meaningful comments because neither existing nor potential corridors were identified. While DOE’s draft map is a positive step toward that identification, its presentation as a series of “lines and dots” unfortunately leaves us in the same position today.

It appears that one significant corridor identified in Washington may parallel or be the same as an existing high voltage electric corridor in the vicinity of Stevens Pass, Washington. Another corridor in the Spokane area appears to parallel an existing gas pipeline. But since the lines on the map lack accompany text, we are unsure. There are also a series of small black dots in several parts of the State. These are likewise not identified by text, and their exact location therefore remains a mystery.

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We are therefore unable to offer meaningful comment on potential environmental impacts identified on the draft Section 368, or how the lines and dots may relate to existing transmission lines or non-Federal corridors which may be designated by the Secretary under Section 1221.

We do, however, encourage you to listen carefully to the comments of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) regarding placement of Section 368 corridors. BPA's transmission expertise is renowned and its comments on system reliability are especially important.

Our State's commitment to providing abundant power at reasonable cost, while protecting the public interest and our environment, will guide us as we provide further comments on the proposed Section 368 corridors.

We look forward to working with you in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and appreciate the excellent cooperation we have received from Ms. Julia Souder on the Section 368 process.

Best regards,

James Luce, Chair
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council