

Corridor EIS Archives

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 2:23 PM
To: corridoreisarchives,
Subject: Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0036

Attachments: SPPC_-_NPC_Comments_for_PEIS_Preliminary_Draft_M0036.pdf



SPPC_-_NPC_Comments_for_PEIS_P..

Thank you for your comment, Brian Whalen.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0036. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: June 30, 2006 02:22:53PM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0036

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\bw5272\My Documents\SPPC - NPC Comments for PEIS Preliminary Draft.pdf

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.



**Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Comments on the
Department of Interior / Department of Energy Preliminary
Draft issued under the Energy Policy Act Of 2005, Section 368
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**

June 30, 2006

Introduction

Sierra Pacific Resources is the investor-owned holding company for Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company (“the Companies”). We provide electricity to over 1 million electric customers throughout Nevada and in northeastern California. Among the many communities we serve are Las Vegas, Reno-Sparks, Henderson, Carson City, Elko and South Lake Tahoe. Sierra Pacific Power also provides natural gas to over 120,000 customers in the Reno-Sparks area. The Companies have two distinct Control Areas with a combined service territory of 54,500 square miles. Of the total 109,788 square miles of geographic area within the State of Nevada, 82.9% is federally controlled.¹

The Companies are pleased with the content of the Preliminary Draft of Potential Energy Corridors in the Western States. We have only minor suggestions and questions regarding some of the corridors. The Companies would like to thank the Federal agencies for an impressive and balanced preliminary draft. These corridors, when the PEIS is completed, will significantly assist in siting in the Western Interconnection.

In addition to our previously submitted comments, the Companies submit the following:

The origin and purpose of the selected corridors should be identified

The Companies noticed corridors that were not on previous presentation materials. Specifically, the lines running parallel to the Nevada – California border were not previously identified on recent materials we have seen. Although we do not object to their inclusion, their function is not apparent from our limited electrical view. An explanation of why corridors were selected and which need drove the selection (i.e. gas, electric, telecommunications) would add clarity. If any specific function is excluded from any of the corridors, identification of that exclusion would +be helpful.

Consider adding a Salt Lake City, UT – Ely, NV (Robinson Summit) Corridor

¹ Source: USDI. Bureau of Land Management. Public Land Statistics 1999. Washington, D.C. March 2000

After consulting with PacifiCorp, Sierra Pacific Power and Nevada Power believe a corridor from the Salt Lake area southwest to the existing SWIP corridor would be beneficial. This route is more direct than the I-80 corridor and less complex than the southwestern Utah corridor - for lines through and into southern Nevada.

Corridor Widths Should be Maximized

In general, create the maximum corridor width possible for facilities to be used for 500 kV AC or DC transmission circuits. Because of the great amounts of energy these lines transfer, locating them in close proximity to each other carries high risk for a simultaneous failure. At 500 kV, simultaneous failure could have significant, widespread consequences.

Corridor "Draft" Map Details

The "draft" map is scaled so it is difficult to determine where the proposed corridors are located. The Companies would like to view localized area maps on the proposed corridors (of higher resolution than the subsequently issue state by state maps). This would illustrate which existing utility route or land feature is being used for the proposed corridor. In addition the Companies request that DOE assign numbers or some form of identification to each route section to help identification of segments going forward.

California Corridors

This preliminary draft study appears to be show that only one "energy corridor" from the eastern border of California into the NP15 load center. This corridor into the northern California load center appears to be following existing transmission lines and does not appear to provide a viable route through the Reno metropolitan area. An alternate route, on federal lands, was proposed in this general area of the system. A single corridor with 3500' width does not appear to be sufficient to reliably deliver the long term expansion needs of Northern California.