

Corridor EIS Archives

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 9:59 PM
To: Corridor EIS Archives
Subject: Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0140

Attachments: 071006_rclark_on_mapping_060906_corridorpeis_M0140.doc



071006_rclark_on_
mapping_06090...

Thank you for your comment, Rita Clark.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0140. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: July 10, 2006 09:58:35PM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0140

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Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record
Attachment: C:\My Documents\rita\energy\comments sent\071006 rclark on mapping 060906 corridorpeis.doc

Comment Submitted:
please see attachment enclosed

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.

Monday July 10, 2006
Elk Mountain, Wyoming

These comments are provided to the four Federal agencies preparing to designate energy corridors on Federal lands in 11 Western states for electricity transmission and oil, natural gas and hydrogen pipelines and are based on the individual state maps which followed the posting of a West-wide map of preliminary draft corridors released June 9, 2006.

Dear PEIS staff,

The following are comments and feedback about the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. The public comment period on the preliminary draft corridor maps (June 9, 2006) is open and will continue until July 10, 2006. Please consider my electronic (i.e., by Web) comments to be received by July 10, 2006.

I request confidentiality as provided at the corridoris Web site. I wish the Agencies to withhold my street and/or P.O. Box address, except for the town, from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Given the preliminary nature of the draft mapping and information accessible to date, I will reserve the right to comment in more detail on specific land use issues pending further detailed information and mapping plans for the Wyoming and Colorado sections of the West-wide Energy Corridor. However, I commend you all not only on your vision but on the exceptional access and response provided to me by the following government employees:

LOCAL Mr. Dave Simons, BLM Rawlins WY District Office
 Planning and Environmental Coordinator (307)-328-4200

REGIONAL Mr. Scott Powers, BLM (406)-896-5319

FEDERAL Ms. Julia Souder, DOE Project Manager, West-wide Corridor Study
 Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
 U.S. Dept of Energy (202)-586-9052

The corridor draft mapping through Northern, Western, and very Southeastern Wyoming does not as yet provide enough detail for me to comment with authority. The draft map appears to utilize or parallel existing corridors which is good. However, the sugar beet industry in north central and eastern Wyoming should be a significant consideration for the study team given the future potential value to the U.S. energy markets of ethanol derived from sugar beets far exceeding the corn produced ethanol production value.

The current placement of the corridor along Highway 30 (a.k.a. Route 287) rather than along Interstate 80 (I-80) from Laramie Wyoming to Walcott Junction at I-80 is very well thought out, the best choice for public safety and the most value added option available for the corridor. In fact, the location along Highway 30 (Route 287) as opposed to I-80 is potentially visionary given the possibility in the future of incorporating Highway 30 (Route 287) into the U.S. Interstate System if the critical energy and/or security needs of the country require an “energy highway” in the future.

The north central corridor route along (I’m assuming Route 487) from the town of Medicine Bow north towards the city of Casper Wyoming should be evaluated further considering the future uranium energy and security needs of the country. Yes, that Owen Wister “The Virginian” novel town of Medicine Bow considered to be the first Western.

The South Central Wyoming corridor route off of Interstate 80 (I-80) near Creston Junction just west of Rawlins Wyoming should be corrected immediately in this draft phase. The South Central Wyoming corridor route off of Interstate 80 (I-80) near Creston Junction just west of Rawlins Wyoming should unequivocally be placed east of or closer to Route 789 in Carbon County Wyoming to avoid significant impacts both cultural and environmental to the far eastern portion of the Red Desert in Sweetwater County Wyoming. Current and on-going road developments by Carbon County Wyoming officials and staff with excellent foresight have greatly improved access through the Route 789 area in Carbon County Wyoming. The reasons for locating within Carbon County are numerous and unambiguous.

They include: climate, limited access along I-80, historical precedent along I-80 and Highway 30 (a.k.a. 287) for energy considerations of the nation; and welcoming neighbors and diverse land use plans and objectives to include industry, conservationists, tourism, and wildlife habitat preservation. Much of this area of Wyoming is public land and deserves the best environmental protections available so you all can keep vacationing out here and enjoying your beautiful lands and the great state of Wyoming’s beloved and near pristine air and water quality.

Most importantly in this high desert environment, water is far more available in this area of Carbon County than Sweetwater County for construction purposes. Our winters here are well, long and can be very hard on citizens, workers and travelers alike. Can you envision a 1949 or 1983-84 winter-like snowstorm disabling the entire corridor and the energy and security concerns of the United States that would be compromised by another such winter? The area of Sweetwater County shown on your draft map is very isolated from the town of Rock Springs Wyoming. The West-wide Corridor Study team would be much better advised to locate that southern drop of the corridor into the state of Colorado through Carbon County Wyoming. The Carbon County location will increase the value and efficiency of the West-wide Energy Corridor project and any future energy related projects in south central Wyoming. The Carbon County location will greatly decrease the environmentalist/conservationist concern over the already volatile energy development and land use in the Red Desert area in Sweetwater County Wyoming.

This is a crucial point for the DOE staff and should be evaluated carefully including visits to the area and meetings with local and state officials as well as industry, conservationists, and ranchers. This approach will greatly facilitate the momentum of the project in regard to difficult issues of land use and potential eminent domain concerns. As M. Williamson notes often, "Relationships are our primary teacher. They are the context in which we either grow into the consciousness of the Universal force, or deny ourselves and others the opportunity to do so." Please, please do not leave the people of the great state of Wyoming out of these discussions and project management. After all, our women and men are working very hard and sacrificing to provide quite a bit of the energy the entire U.S. population currently enjoys from internal sources.

Thank you all for the opportunity afforded me through great public access to the Web and local, regional, and federal staff. I would like to reiterate how very responsive and informative my discussions and contacts with the government employees proved to be. But then in the United States of America I would expect no less. I wish you all well on this project and will comment in more detail as the draft plans move into a final phase.

Good bye and good luck with our West-wide Energy Corridor programmatic EIS and the final project.

Peace,

Rita A. Clark
Civil/Environmental Engineer
and Nursing Assistant soon to be CNA