

Public Scoping Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona
November 3, 2005

Public Scoping Meeting for DOE West-Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS
November 3, 2005
Phoenix, Arizona (Hilton Garden Inn, 4000 N. Central Ave)
Comments by Robert E. Kondziolka

- Representing Salt River Project (Manager of Transmission Planning) and Southwest Area Transmission (SWAT) Sub-Regional Planning Group (Chairman). Describe each.
- SRP and SWAT appreciate the opportunity to participate and provide comments at this public scoping meeting. Will provide an overview of the issues we plan to submit written comments by November 28.
- Regional and Sub-Regional Planning – planning activity in the west is very active and there are multiple groups focused on identifying the most viable projects. Alternatives are studied in the planning stages prior to projects being proposed. We encourage DOE to work with WECC and the sub-regional planning groups.
- WECC Planning Process – WECC has a “Regional Planning Process” that provides notice and invites other parties to consolidate their needs into a singular or fewer projects. This is an effort to minimize the impact of maximize the value of new transmission projects.
- Joint Owned Projects – a significant amount of transmission in the west is jointly owned to reduce the risk of the project and to consolidate needs. Most of the major projects that have been announced will be jointly owned. We believe the DOE should provide consideration to those projects that are jointly sponsored and owned as demonstration to need, alternative evaluation, and minimization of impact.
- Reliability – we recommend DOE evaluate and consider a balance between the public desire for consolidation of facilities within corridors and the risk of placing too many facilities in a common corridor. We recommend the basis for determining this balance be a rational evaluation based on the types of events that may cause a loss of multiple facilities in a common corridor and the impact of the loss and its consequences.
- Separation of Facilities in Common Corridors – we also recommend that consideration be given to the distances between the different pipelines and electric transmission lines when designating corridors and corridor widths. The basis of the evaluation should consider the safety and reliability impact of each facility upon the other facilities, not just previously used separation distances.
- Global Needs Identified by SWAT – SWAT is evaluating long term needs for the southwest, not just what is needed during the next 5 to 10 years: We encourage the DOE to have a long term perspective in their evaluation and consider future needs. SWAT studies have identified needs for additional transmission, but if action is not taken during this evaluation, the needed corridors may not be available to access the various resources.

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- Existing Corridors – we encourage the DOE to incorporate all previously designated corridors and man made linear features on federal lands as energy corridors.
- Connected Action, Cumulative Impacts, Emissions & EMF – we request the DOE to address these as global issues and not leave them to be needlessly studied on each and every project as area specific EA or EIS issues. The western interconnection is one large electrical grid and every project is tied to all previously constructed and energized section. We recognize that cultural and biological resources are likely to be the focus of individual applications. However, we do request that Class III cultural resource surveys not be required during the permitting stage of a project. We recommend that Class III cultural resource surveys not be required until the time period prior to construction or earth disturbing activities.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to the next phase of participation.