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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
October 26, 2005
Afternoon and Evening Sessions
MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul Boulevard, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

BEFORE:

RONALD A. MONTAGNA, BLM chief of Rights of
Way, DOI-BLM
JULIA SOUDER, office of Electricity Delivery
and Energy Reliability, western Regional
coordinator, DOE
BOB CUNNINGHAM, Assistant Director of Lands,
DOA-USFS

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3 will file more extensive written comments by the
4 deadline. And we'll propose corridor designations at
5 that time. Thank you.

NM03

6 MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you, David. we
7 appreciate your suggestions. our next speaker is
8 Mr. Jack Maddox with Western Water and Power.

9 MR. MADDOX: Thank you. I appreciate the
10 opportunity to speak here today. western water and
11 Power production is a limited liability partnership
12 developing biomass power plants in several states in
13 the west including New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado.

14 The development of these biomass power plants
15 is under various stages at this time. But we have a
16 number in New Mexico that are fairly far along. And
17 I'll talk about one of the concerns we have in
18 transmission access, but let me give you a little
19 background.

20 Biomass power plants have the potential in
21 the west to reduce forest fires and allow for better
22 management of the forest areas by thinning out forest
23 areas as well as BLM rangeland areas and state
24 rangeland areas, crest lands in the west because of
25 the overgrowth of forested area, trees as well as the

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1 rangeland area, pinon juniper.

2 New Mexico has one of the largest growths of
3 pinon juniper in the west. The U.S. Department of
4 Agriculture estimated that, at the turn of the
5 century, there was about 1.25 million acres of pinon
6 juniper land. The rest was grassland in the state.

7 USDA now estimates that there's almost 12 and
8 a half million acres of prairie it's abbreviated as, in New
9 Mexico that's greatly reduced the grassland which is
10 not only necessary for wildlife habitat improvement
11 but also for improved grazing in the state of New
12 Mexico and other western states.

13 I've been in the energy business for 30
14 years. I've been developing various projects
15 including wind projects for various clients in Texas
16 and New Mexico, doing siting work and transmission
17 interconnection work for several projects that have
18 been completed, particularly in Texas.

19 wind projects I'm speaking of now. And also
20 worked on many solar projects and in several states
21 for another client. And then we're developing these
22 biomass projects ourselves independently of that.

23 Let me talk now briefly on transmission
24 problems that we have in developing these projects.

25 This is one of the most critical hindrances

18

1 to the developing of renewable projects in the west as
2 it is in New Mexico, is transmission access and being
3 able to get the power out to a market. we, therefore,
4 support this effort by the DOE and the various federal
5 agencies in developing the energy corridors to assist
6 in being able to interconnect with transmission and
7 get the power to a market somewhere.

8 As I say this is one of the most difficult
9 problems we have, particularly in rural areas where
10 there is limited transmission, there's limited access
11 to that transmission because of constraints in both

12 federal and state law that don't allow easy access to
13 that transmission.

14 particularly in the state of New Mexico, a
15 lot of the rural areas are served by associations
16 let's just say. Their broad designation actually --
17 they have a designation. But that's a broad
18 designation for the various associations that supply
19 the various rural cooperatives in the states.

20 And they control the access to their
21 transmission with very little regulatory oversight.
22 That's one of the concerns that we have and one of the
23 problems we have in developing these projects.

24 The other concern that I have in the process
25 is that it should include access to transmission

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1 without regard to where it's located. In other words,
2 not just looking at the metro areas in the various
3 states and the major transmission access routes, but
4 it also needs to take into consideration and try to
5 accommodate corridors that are going to also lead to
6 development of wind projects, major wind projects, and
7 biomass projects and other renewable projects.

8 In particular I am speaking about in the
9 western states which have a tremendous market
10 potential for these projects. And they have all kinds
11 of potential in improving environmental -- including
12 environmental benefits and improving the forest and
13 rangeland, habitat and water retention in those areas,
14 as well as providing critical energy for the united
15 states instead of relying on foreign energy.

16 The other concern I have is access should
17 provide a quick process that allows these companies
18 that are developing these projects like ours,
19 independent power projects, if you will, to have
20 quicker access approval, if possible, and limited
21 bureaucratic processes.

22 It's very critical in the development of
23 these projects that they be done as quickly as
24 possible so that you know if you're going to have
25 improvement or not and a fairly quick process, where

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1 you don't have to go through years and years and years
2 which costs a lot of money in trying to develop these
3 projects. That's my limited comments today. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you, Jack.

6 The three folks who registered to speak have
7 spoken. So at this time we'll invite anyone else who
8 would like to speak on the record to come up and
9 speak, have the same ten-minute time frame, but they
10 will have to identify themselves by name and hopefully
11 provide spelling, if a little bit of an odd spelling.

12 so, if there's anyone here that would like to
13 speak on the record at this time, we just invite you
14 to come forward.

NM04

15 MR. SCOTT: My name is Jack Scott. And I
16 figured there would be more time and I just haven't
17 really made many notes here. But I do have a couple
18 things and will add future written comments.

19 But one of the problems involved with the
20 designation of any energy corridor is that, where it