

Meeting - November 2, 2005
West-Wide Energy Corridor Peis Public Scoping Meeting

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WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COPY

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

On Wednesday, November 2, 2005

At 2:03 p.m.

At Tuscany Suites Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada

Reported by: Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473, RPR

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1 We now move on to our third speaker, Mike
2 Avant, is it? And, Mr. Avant, I'm not quite sure the
3 name of the company. Is it Garkane Energy?

4 MIKE AVANT: My name is Mike Avant here for
5 Garkane Energy. Garkane Energy is a small electric
6 cooperative in contrast to the two previous speakers.
7 It represents large multistate, or within a state,
8 organizations.

9 Garkane serves about 10,000 customers in
10 south central Utah, north central Arizona. We have
11 about 2,000 miles of line, and we have the dubious
12 distinction of serving more state and federal parks,
13 monuments, forest service installations than any
14 other utility in the country. Approximately 90
15 percent of our service area of lands are controlled
16 by one form of government or another. We serve Bryce
17 Canyon National Park, north rim of the Grand Canyon,
18 Zion National Park, Dixie National Forest, Fish Lake
19 National Forest. So we're neck deep in this issue.

20 There again I think you have a very, very
21 aggressive schedule and I hope very much that you
22 hold to it. We have right-of-ways for existing
23 transmission lines on the Dixie National Forest that
24 we filed for renewal of those transmission lines in
25 December of 2002. The right-of-ways expired in

1 December of 2003. This is almost December of 2005.
2 No action has been taken on those renewals. Forest
3 Service tells us that they have no budget for
4 handling right-of-ways. So I hope you can seriously
5 fix that problem.

6 In looking at your website I see nothing on
7 it that tells me how to submit or get corridors that
8 I think should be designated put onto your map. Your
9 map is I think primarily a project or product of the
10 WSEC and is looking at large multistate projects, but
11 I represent the exact opposite: The small local
12 projects, the distribution type projects that bill
13 also intended this process to cover. And we need
14 some way that's relatively easy and straightforward
15 to get our desired corridors onto this map so that
16 they can get equal consideration with the large Kern
17 River and multistate type projects.

18 We have previously submitted desired
19 corridors to other federal agencies during land use
20 plan preparation, most recently the Grand Staircase
21 National Monument when their management land was
22 developed over the last few years. Not only did the
23 information we present on corridors that needed to be
24 looked at get ignored, they also ignored and don't
25 recognize existing 230 and 500 KV transmission lines.

1 So I hope in this process that at least we can
2 recognize existing facilities and designate corridors
3 along these existing facilities.

4 But we need to be very careful in putting
5 all of our lines into single corridors in an area as
6 has been demonstrated in the Southeast United States.
7 A single storm can wipe out all of the facilities
8 serving large areas if they're all in the same
9 corridor together.

10 So I sincerely urge you to break with the
11 existing Forest Service philosophy if there's an
12 existing line, any new lines will be right next to
13 that existing line and separate them so that a single
14 tree falling over won't wipe out all of the power to
15 Southern Utah. Thank you.

16 JERRY PELL: Mr. Avant, thank you very much.
17 I appreciate that. I would invite you to chat with
18 us after we go off the record and discuss all your
19 concerns and perhaps we can help you help us with
20 your proposed corridors. But I would just say in
21 general, use the comment process just as described on
22 that poster at the back of the room and let's talk
23 after the formal --

24 MIKE AVANT: Okay. Thank you.

25 JERRY PELL: -- part of the meeting.

1 Mr. Avant was the last individual that had
preregistered to speak, and we're now at that stage
where I would invite anybody joining us this
4 afternoon that would like to speak to please just
raise your hand, come up here and join the party.

6 Madam?

7 THALIA DONDERO: Just brief remarks from
8 listening.

9 JERRY PELL: Sure. That's what we hope is
10 that when you hear what's being said, even though you
11 may not have intended to speak, that it will inspire
12 you to greatness. Please tell us your name for the
13 court reporter. NV04

14 THALIA DONDERO: My name is Thalia Dondero.

15 JERRY PELL: Could you spell that for us
16 please.

17 THALIA DONDERO: T-h-a-l-i-a, Dondero is
18 D-o-n-d-e-r-o. I've spent a lot, over 60 years in
19 Nevada, so I have been on the parks department and
20 also county commissioner for 20 years and now I'm a
21 regent for the university system. I also serve as
22 chair of your outside Las Vegas program which deals
23 with all of the federal agencies.

24 But I noticed that in the map and where it
25 comes across and there are a lot of concerns that I