

PUBLIC MEETING FOR  
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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HELD BY: : **REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT**  
Bureau of Land Management : MEETING DATE:  
U.S. Department of Energy : October 26, 2005  
U.S. Forest Service : MEETING TIME: 2:00 p.m.

MODERATOR:  
Scott Powers, BLM

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1 focusing on how much we pack into one corridor. Thank  
2 you.

UT06

3 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Mike Peterson, Utah  
4 River Electric Association.

14:49:24 5 MR. PETERSON: Thank you. The Utah River  
6 Electric Association represents ten rural electric  
7 cooperatives that provide electricity to rural parts of  
8 Utah. We're excited about the prospect of streamlining  
9 the process for permitting and particularly want to make  
14:49:46 10 sure that small organizations that have transmission and  
11 distribution facilities are also included in your  
12 corridors. One of our electric cooperatives, the  
13 service territory that has -- includes -- 95 percent of  
14 the land where it has transmission/distribution  
14:50:04 15 facilities are federal lands.

16 The cost of permitting right now for a  
17 particular line have already exceeded the costs to  
18 upgrade the line that is planned to be built. So we  
19 want to make sure and ensure that when we end up with a  
14:50:23 20 map that it does include some of those distribution  
21 facilities for those smaller utilities that serve across  
22 federal lands, park service, Forest Service, BLM, and  
23 make sure that that process is something that is doable  
24 for them.

14:50:40 25 We are willing to participate in any

1 meetings necessary to help facilitate that process and  
2 just to look forward to participating. We will also  
3 submit formal comments as well to the panel. Thank you.

4 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Laura Nelson, Utah  
14:51:21 5 Energy Policy Advisor. UT07

6 MS. NELSON: Hi, I apologize for the late  
7 notice of making my comments. I will tell you my  
8 hesitation that we've only begun our preliminary review  
9 of this scoping process, and, you know, the implications  
14:51:42 10 of the designation of national interest energy  
11 corridors, and so, even though I am the Governor's  
12 Energy Policy Advisor, these are just simply my  
13 observations today.

14 First of all, we just -- and I'll make these  
14:51:58 15 brief. I would just encourage the agencies to give  
16 priority to protecting the existing rights-of-way from  
17 land uses that would limit the ability to expand energy  
18 transmission in those existing corridors. I'd also  
19 recommend that the agencies evaluate opportunities to  
14:52:21 20 expand electric transmission in existing corridors  
21 through the application of new types of technologies.  
22 We -- I would also recommend that this not be at the  
23 expense of looking at new potential rights-of-way and  
24 that you also review those.

14:52:40 25 There's a lot of uncertainty when it comes