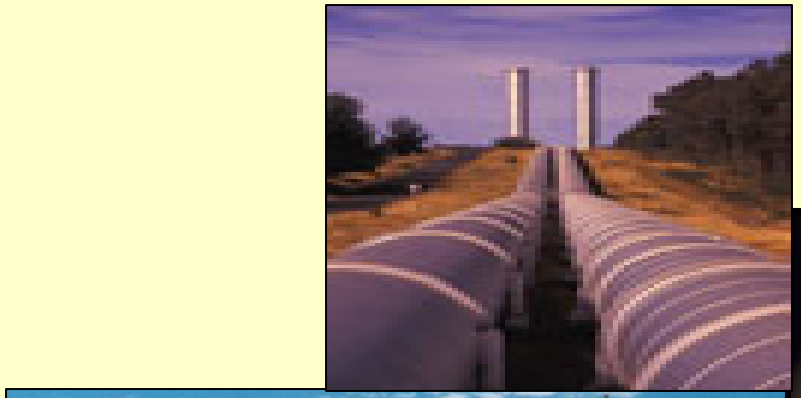
West-Wide Energy Corridors



Implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005

Section 368: Secretaries of Energy, Agriculture, Interior, Commerce and Defense to:

* **Designate corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission facilities on Federal land in the eleven contiguous Western states;**

Implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (continued)

- **Perform any environmental reviews required to complete the designation of such corridors;**
- **Incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans;**
- **Do so within 24 months of enactment for the West and then conduct the same for the East by 2009.**

What is an Energy Corridor?

“ An Energy Corridor is a parcel of land either linear or areal in character that has been identified . . . . . through the land use planning process . . . . . As being a preferred location for existing and future right-of-ways and suitable to accommodate 1 more or rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible.”

Legislation Requirements

- A designated corridor must, at a minimum, specify the centerline, width, and compatible uses of the corridor.
- Secretaries will also take into account the need for upgraded and new electricity transmission and distribution facilities to:
  - Improve reliability
  - Relieve congestion; and
  - Enhance the capability of the national grid to deliver electricity.

Benefits of Designated Energy Corridors

- Compatible projects proposed in designated corridors would only need to have site-specific environmental studies to determine route suitability and appropriate mitigation – EA's rather than EIS's for many projects.
- Provide industry with certainty for infrastructure planning.
- Streamline/expedite the processing of energy related permits and projects.

Benefits of Designated Energy Corridors (continued)

- Provide applicants with a clear set of actions required by each agency to implement projects in designated corridors.
- Encourage new and innovative technologies to increase corridor capacity.
- Encourage inter-agency coordination as part of the application process.

Implementation of Section 368

- Agencies will jointly prepare a West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).
- DOE lead, BLM co-lead, USFS and DOD Cooperating Agencies, along with the state of California.
- Substantial stakeholder participation throughout the process will be encouraged and solicited.
- Alternatives for the PDEIS were developed following a 60 day public scoping.

Planning Requirements

- Provide a comprehensive analysis and identification of West-Wide energy corridors.
- Include analysis of alternatives that meets West-Wide energy supply and demand needs.
- Include a cumulative impact analysis of West-Wide corridor implementation.
- Provide a level of analysis and procedure that allows individual BLM and FS land use plans be amended or revised with approval of the respective agency Record of Decisions.

Criteria Development

- DOE, BLM, USFS and DOD along with Argonne National Lab created the first draft of criteria to identify and designate corridors
- The first lines on the corridor map are a 100,000 ft view
  - Majority of Federal land
  - Avoiding sensitive and no-go areas

Project Specifics and Timelines

- Initial public scoping ended on November 28, 2005
  - Hundreds of proposals received during scoping.
- Created website for project in October www.corridoreis.anl.gov
  - Created a web-based scoping and a communication plan utilized to provide for comprehensive, West-wide public participation.
- First draft of alternatives developed late January, 2006
  - Methodology/criteria currently were developed to help prioritize proposals/develop alternatives.
- Internal agency review of alternatives, criteria and maps February, 2006
- Governor and tribal review March-April, 2006
- Draft PEIS issued for public review and comment in November 2006
- Final PEIS issued in July, 2007
- Agency RODs signed in August, 2007

Next Steps

- Publish criteria (factors) and updated alternatives (approaches) on website
- After meeting with Governors and Tribes conduct a final review of corridors and begin to conduct the programmatic EIS
- Continue to work with working groups to address NEPA requirements
  - Cultural, biologists …

Summary

- Energy prices and stability dependent on increased supply.
- Energy corridors can improve distribution which, in turn, increases supply.
- Energy supplies can be increased at the production point, if we can transport that supply to where it can be used.
- Energy corridors are a significant provision of the Energy Policy Act for which the need is obvious.
- The coordinated system of energy corridors across the West has been compared in scope and importance to the Interstate Highway system.

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