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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING OF THE WEST-WIDE  
ENERGY CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 25, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

MEETING 1-B

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HELD AT:

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER

700 - 14TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO

1           RUST: Welcome to the new Colorado  
2 Convention Center. It kind of fooled me that with  
3 the finishing of the new addition part, though,  
4 they changed some of the entrances around and when  
5 I came here this afternoon, I had to wander around  
6 quite awhile before I finally, accidentally found  
7 my way in here.

8           My name's Lynn Rust. I'm the Deputy State  
9 Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals for  
10 Colorado-BLM, and it's my pleasure to welcome all  
11 of you to this first public scoping meeting of the  
12 West-Wide Energy Corridor Environmental Impact  
13 Statement. Actually, this is one-B. One-A was  
14 this afternoon, and one-B is this evening.

15           This environmental impact statement for this  
16 study is required by the Energy Policy Act, which  
17 was passed by the Congress this summer and signed  
18 by the President into law August 8th. This joint  
19 effort involves five federal agencies and covers  
20 land in eleven western states. And it will be  
21 on-going for the next couple of years.

22           Additional scoping meetings will be held  
23 throughout the west over the next couple of weeks,  
24 totaling eleven different hearings. This is really  
25 one of the most comprehensive pieces of energy

1 legislation to come out of the Congress in a very  
2 long time. And for the federal agencies involved  
3 and the wide variety aspects of the energy bill,  
4 there is a lot that the Congress and the  
5 administration is expecting out of the federal  
6 agencies, and this is one of the big ones.

7 Please use this opportunity to give your  
8 comments and suggestions on this important project.  
9 The agencies will use all comments collected during  
10 the scoping period, which ends November 28th to  
11 formulate the draft Programmatic Environmental  
12 Impact Statement - - or as often referred to, the  
13 PEIS, because it takes so long to say it the other  
14 way.

15 When the draft is released, there will be  
16 additional opportunity for public review and  
17 comment on the various alternatives that are  
18 developed, which those comments will be  
19 incorporated into the final EIS and Record of  
20 Decision.

21 Comments will be accepted in a variety of  
22 forms: through your verbal and written testimony  
23 today; in written form through the mail, on the web  
24 and by fax. One aspect in terms of mail, sending  
25 mail into Washington -- because of the anthrax

1 scare, there are special security measures in  
2 place, actually for when mail goes to federal  
3 agencies and Congressional folks in Washington,  
4 D.C. They pass through special screening and,  
5 actually, sometimes it is -- I've seen evidence  
6 where it will destroy CDs, it will destroy  
7 videotapes, and, also, there's quite a bit of  
8 delay. So, I think usually it's best to send it by  
9 FedEx -- that doesn't have to go through that and  
10 why, I do not know that.

11 The importance of energy transportation  
12 corridors really can't be over-stated. It's  
13 something that I've been talking about for some  
14 time, as have others. Scott and I have been talking  
15 about it. You can explore and develop energy,  
16 minerals energy, resources, all you want in certain  
17 areas, but if you can't get it to market, it's not  
18 going to do you any good. And, so therefore, with  
19 the country's growing energy needs, this is a very  
20 -- the Congress and the administration recognize  
21 this to be a very critical issue to be addressed.

22 At this time I'd like to address our panel  
23 members for today's meeting. Your moderator will  
24 be Scott Powers of the Bureau of Land Management;  
25 Julia Souder with the Department of Energy -- who,

1 she is the National Project Manager for this EIS;  
2 and Paul Johnson with the Forest Service. All  
3 three of them are out of Washington, D.C., which  
4 I've managed to avoid. So, Scott. Go ahead and  
5 take it away.

6 POWERS: Thank you. Before we commence,  
7 we were each just going to briefly say a couple of  
8 words about our agency and why we're here. And, I  
9 am the BLM Project Manager of this project. I'm  
10 fortunate enough to get paid like I work in  
11 Washington, but I don't have to live there. I live  
12 and work out of Billings, Montana.

13 BLM's been looking at doing this corridor  
14 project for a number of years. We see a lot of  
15 benefits in it. It's going to have a significant  
16 impact on our workload because it will result in a  
17 land-use plan amendments, which is pretty serious.  
18 And I'll talk -- I'll give a little bit more  
19 background information just briefly, but I want to  
20 let Julia tell you a little bit about DOE.

21 SOUDER: Thank you all for coming here,  
22 tonight. It's really important that we hear your  
23 comments and that you take part in the process.  
24 I'm Julia Souder from the Department of Energy in  
25 Washington, D.C., within the office of Electricity

1 Delivery and Energy Reliability and the Western  
2 Regional Coordinator and will be working on this,  
3 as well as other pieces of the energy bill. This  
4 is really important to help streamline the process  
5 that makes it easier for all the applicants to  
6 actually better understand and to help each other  
7 make sure that [inaudible] long arduous process.  
8 So, we're looking forward to making [garbled].

9 P.JOHNSON: Good evening, and welcome to  
10 Denver, which is our [garbled]. My name is Paul  
11 Johnson. I'm with the Forest Service, working in  
12 minerals and geology and facilitate the  
13 implementation of the Energy Act for the Forest  
14 Service. Again, we welcome you and we are looking  
15 for your comments to help us as we move forward in  
16 developing this Programmatic EIS.

17 POWERS: Just to make sure we're all on  
18 the same page, I want to just give a little bit of  
19 background information. Lynn touched on quite a  
20 bit of this, but the Energy Policy Act of 2005  
21 requires Secretaries of Energy, Ag, Interior,  
22 Commerce and Department of Defense to consider the  
23 designation of corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen  
24 pipelines and electricity transmission and  
25 distribution facilities on federal lands in eleven

1 contiguous western states.

2 The key component of this is that, in order to  
3 designate corridors, we have to do that through the  
4 land-use planning process, which is, as I mentioned  
5 briefly a minute ago, that's a major resource  
6 allocation decision for land managing agencies.  
7 And, so to consider this on such a wide scale is  
8 going to be an extremely complex process.

9 What we wanted to do in these scoping meetings  
10 is to gather as much input as to how we should be  
11 doing that as we possibly can. We are not putting  
12 together the alternatives for the Programmatic EIS,  
13 yet. They're all going to be developed once we have  
14 received all the input during the scoping period.

15 I just want to elaborate a little bit on the  
16 importance of scoping. I assume that most people  
17 understand a little bit about scoping, but it  
18 really helps give us a direction on what the scope  
19 of the project should be, and it raises those  
20 issues to the forefront that we need to consider in  
21 that plan. And, we really need to find out what  
22 those needs and concerns of, not only the industry,  
23 but anybody else that has an interest in this  
24 project. And I suspect we'll be getting quite a  
25 bit of input related to that.

1           There's four ways to submit comments in this  
2 process, and we have them here identified in the  
3 poster. We also have an up and running website and  
4 the address is over here. You probably received  
5 one of these summary statements when you checked  
6 in, and that has some additional information about  
7 scoping and those addresses I mentioned before.

8           We're going to ask those people that wish to  
9 give formal comment tonight that we will record, to  
10 come up here and provide their comments. And if  
11 you have a hard copy of them which to leave with  
12 us, that's fine. You're comments will be entered  
13 into the official record for scoping. And, at the  
14 conclusion of those formal comments, we'll turn off  
15 the record and have more of an informal discussion  
16 during that time frame. So, we have at this point,  
17 two people that have signed up and we might as well  
18 go ahead and kick it off.

19           So, Heath Nero, with the Wilderness Society.  
20 Just re-state your name and who you're  
21 representing, we'll appreciate it.

CO07

22                   NERO: Hello, my name is Heath Nero.  
23 It's H- E-A-T-H N-E-R-O. And I'm representing the  
24 Wilderness Society tonight.

25           First, I'd like to thank the Bureau of Land



1 Management, the Department of Energy and the U.S.  
2 Forest Service for the opportunity to comment here  
3 tonight.

4 The Wilderness Society, founded in 1935,  
5 strives to deliver to future generations an  
6 unspoiled legacy of wild places. Our 250,000  
7 members nationwide are dedicated to ensuring that  
8 the remaining wild places remain wild. In that  
9 vein, I would like to offer our initial public  
10 comments on the West-Wide Energy Corridor  
11 Programmatic EIS.

12 Earlier today, you heard a number of comments  
13 from the energy industry urging for categorical  
14 exclusions to the requirements of the National  
15 Environmental Policy Act -- NEPA. Further, these  
16 energy industry representatives asked for  
17 streamlined processes to expand the energy corridor  
18 network that this EIS will identify in the end.

19 The Wilderness Society urges you to focus on  
20 stewardship of our public lands and not provide for  
21 broad categorical exclusions or streamlining of  
22 important environmental policy requirements that  
23 protect our water, air and wild places. While the  
24 Wilderness Society applauds your efforts to  
25 identify energy corridors and to view their

1 location in a broad landscape context, we ask that  
2 you adhere to the following three guidelines.

3 First, the EIS must ensure that no energy  
4 corridor is located in a designated wilderness  
5 area, wilderness study area, area of critical  
6 environmental concern, roadless area, citizen  
7 proposed wilderness area, or national landscape  
8 conservation land.

9 Secondly, the EIS must ensure that visual  
10 resource management is considered and factored in  
11 with designating corridors.

12 Third, the EIS must ensure that best  
13 management practices are explicitly detailed and  
14 mandated to ensure that impacts on natural  
15 resources are limited.

16 The Bureau of Land Management recently  
17 undertook a Programmatic EIS for wind energy  
18 development. Although we did not support every  
19 part of the EIS, overall, this Programmatic EIS did  
20 accomplish the three criteria I listed above. Those  
21 working on the West-Wide Energy Programmatic EIS  
22 should, likewise, consider and use these three  
23 criteria to help formulate the Record of Decision  
24 for this EIS.

25 The Wilderness Society, along with our

1 conservation partners across the west, will  
2 continue to monitor this process and will provide  
3 written comments in advance of the November 28th  
4 deadline.

5 Again, thank you, very much, for your time.  
6 The Wilderness Society looks forward to working  
7 with you to develop a PEIS to ensure that energy  
8 can be transported safely, without comprising the  
9 west's greatest resource, it's wild and [garbled]  
10 lands.

CO08

11 POWERS: Thank you. Our next commentor  
12 is Bud Anderson with Northern Lights Transmission.

13 ANDERSON: Again, my name is Bud  
14 Anderson, representing the Northern Lights  
15 Projects.

16 TransCanada Corporation is one of North  
17 America's leading infrastructure companies, with  
18 more than \$18 Billion in assets. That's U.S.  
19 Dollars. Out of that \$18 Billion, we have  
20 approximately \$15.3 Billion in natural gas assets,  
21 natural gas pipelines, etc. The power end of that  
22 is about \$2.5 Billion. As you can see, we're a  
23 pretty substantial company throughout North  
24 America.

25 Although TransCanada is best known for our

1 natural gas pipeline business, we're also a very  
2 rapidly emerging player in the field of power  
3 generation and transmission. TransCanada's  
4 financial strength and experience in linear  
5 facilities positions well to pursue opportunities  
6 within the pipeline and electrical and natural gas  
7 transmission areas.

8 Northern Lights Project is TransCanada's  
9 initiative to facilitate the development of new,  
10 inland generation by providing new electrical  
11 transmission capacity to the west coast and to the  
12 southwest states.

13 Northern Lights is currently developing two  
14 500,000 volt, high voltage, direct current  
15 projects. The inland project, being the first one,  
16 provides a path to interconnect low cost, renewable  
17 and other energies in Montana, Wyoming, Nevada and  
18 Idaho, with grown loads to the southwest. Energy  
19 will be moved to southern Nevada, southern  
20 California and, potentially, Arizona.

21 The Soleilo [phonetic] Project provides a path  
22 to bring in low cost, high efficiency, low emission  
23 co-generation from Canada, Montana, eastern  
24 Washington, eastern Oregon, to the Pacific  
25 Northwest and, potentially, on to California.

1 Northern Lights hereby submits a number of  
2 interregional transmission and pipeline corridors  
3 for development through the Programmatic  
4 Environmental EIS, PEIS, process under Section 3.68  
5 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. A 30-year  
6 planning horizon is proposed. Again, a 30-year  
7 planning horizon is proposed -- along with  
8 transmission planning, organization, consultation,  
9 approaches to permitting that will facilitate a  
10 much-needed development of new energy corridors in  
11 the western United States.

12 I'd like to take a minute on the corridor that  
13 we have identified, we've taken in very much  
14 consideration the areas of critical environmental  
15 concern in the selection of our routes, along with  
16 the national and wilderness study areas. We have  
17 used and utilized existing corridors throughout the  
18 two different projects and their auxiliary routes.

19 Northern Lights is supportive of the  
20 initiative created by Section 3.68 of the Energy  
21 Policy Act of 2005 and will assist the Department  
22 of Energy, Department of Interior, Department of  
23 Agriculture and other federal agencies -- [garbled]  
24 new set of lips and I'm trying them out the first  
25 time tonight -- fulfilling their legal and

1 legislative mandate.

2 I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you  
3 on the panel for providing us the opportunity to  
4 participate in this very important endeavor, and I  
5 offer any assistance that we can have and can give  
6 to you in the endeavor.

7 Thank you, very much.

CO09

8 POWERS: Thank you. The next presenter  
9 would be Linda Grace McBryde with Spring Grace  
10 Ranch.

11 McBRYDE: Thank you for letting me speak  
12 tonight. My name is Linda Grace McBryde, and I  
13 operate a non-profit in Mesa, Colorado, a town of  
14 300 near Grand Junction. The program that I've had  
15 there has been for children to learn about  
16 environmental science, and then they do an art  
17 project to remember that lesson.

18 We've had like 6,000 children, many of them  
19 have been slow learner or from backgrounds where  
20 they do not get to a pristine environmental  
21 setting, such as the ranch in Mesa.

22 The reason I'm here is, two weeks ago I found  
23 out that my old farmer neighbor has leased out ten  
24 acres to create a 4,000 hp compression station  
25 directly across the street, which will be the

1 largest compression station in Mesa County. The  
2 decibel level I believe our county allows is 85,  
3 and it will put me completely out of business. My  
4 property value has gone down the tubes with this  
5 person's decision to go ahead with a lease to  
6 Momentum Energy Group. They're now trying to buy  
7 right-of-ways for the pipeline so they can get to  
8 the TransColorado pipeline.

9 We are very concerned in Mesa, because we know  
10 that we have a lot of natural gas in our area and  
11 realize it's an important resource at this time.  
12 But, to have people come in and at your expense and  
13 your cost wipe you completely out to create this  
14 kind of scenario in your own backyard is shocking  
15 and disheartening and financially very cruel, for  
16 lack of a better term.

17 We found out about this study just in time,  
18 and we're very glad to hear about it. We know  
19 things are just going to begin to happen in our  
20 little valley, called Plateau Valley. If there's  
21 any way that these can be put in corridors so that  
22 people don't experience what I'm personally  
23 experiencing and my immediate neighbors, we all  
24 really want to support that. So, I've driven down  
25 from Mesa tonight to let you know what happens to

1 people who own land in rural areas who are already  
2 very challenged to take care of land, that  
3 something like this can cause this much hardship.

4 I'm not sure that the man who gave the  
5 permission for this compression station to be on  
6 his land really knew what he was doing, and it's  
7 just really been very shocking. Momentum is trying  
8 to work with us, but we understand that this size  
9 of a compression station that's ten acres will be  
10 heard for miles. So, we would really, really like  
11 to see it go on a BLM corridor and I am very  
12 grateful for the energy and forethought to try to  
13 put things of this nature in one area that,  
14 unfortunately, will have to have an industrial tone  
15 in our beautiful wilderness. But to have things  
16 scattered here and there and running rough-shod,  
17 both in the wilderness on the BLM or in people's  
18 backyards, is really a major problem, I think, in  
19 Collard.

20 Thank you.

21 POWERS: Thank you, very much. Robert  
22 Gulf? InterTribal?

23 GOFF: [inaudible].

24 POWERS: Thank you. Would you mind  
25 repeating that?



1           GOFF: Sure. Thank you, very much. My  
2 name is Robert Goff. I'm the secretary of the  
3 InterTribal Council on Utility Policy, and while  
4 we're headquartered in Rosewood, South Dakota, a  
5 state not in your -- on your map -- we have  
6 affiliate tribes in Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, New  
7 Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and California. So,  
8 we've been involved with energy issues in the Great  
9 Plains and transmission corridors, as well, in the  
10 Great Plains.

11           Most of the tribes in this country -- well, I  
12 think if you live on an Indian reservation, you're  
13 ten times more likely not to even have electricity,  
14 than if you live anywhere else in this country.  
15 The un- electrified population is ten times higher  
16 than anywhere else in the country. Yet, tribes are  
17 more likely to have transmission lines going over  
18 their heads. Very often federal, put in by the  
19 Bureau of Reclamation and now operated by Western  
20 Power Administration in Bonneville.

21           We, the tribes in the Northern Plains and  
22 other tribes around the country, are very much  
23 concerned about energy development, and this round  
24 of development, perhaps participating as more than  
25 just land owners who have their rights-of-way used,

1 but could not have access to those grids.

2 I have the honor of representing tribal  
3 interests on the Western Governors Clean and  
4 Diversified Energy Advisory Committee that I'm sure  
5 you're aware of, but we certainly call for the  
6 record -- call it to your attention that we also  
7 have a transmission study going on, and I would  
8 recommend that you certainly consult the work that  
9 the Governors and tribes throughout the entire  
10 west, some eighteen states, have been looking at in  
11 terms of the opportunities of moving renewable  
12 energy from world sources, basically, to loads.

13 The tribes in the Northern Plains would be  
14 very interested in corridors that run through the  
15 northern tier, especially through the west, because  
16 you are looking at the farm-to-market highway for  
17 tribal renewable energy production to the west  
18 coast, to the load centers that are out there.

19 Tribes are very concerned about new  
20 right-of-ways. Many of the old right-of-ways are  
21 coming up for renewal in the next ten years. These  
22 are issues that are on the table and before the  
23 tribes now. I would be here tonight to urge you  
24 and, under the new law, you are, the federal  
25 government has required for direct consultation

1 with the tribes on many of these issues. And so, in  
2 no way is my speaking here to be considered as  
3 having performed consultation, so the record is  
4 clear on that.

5 The corridors that you will be examining --  
6 many of the existing corridors do come near or  
7 across tribal lands. The opportunity for access to  
8 them have been extremely limited. We would want to  
9 recommend that in any of these new opportunities  
10 that are being developed -- these new transmission  
11 corridors -- to the extent that they can follow  
12 existing corridors, and to the extent that the can,  
13 grant access to tribes for projects on the  
14 reservation to be able to utilize that  
15 farm-to-market road.

16 Tribes have a variety of interests in these.  
17 Everything from right-of-way concerns, sovereignty  
18 concerns to taxation concerns and revenue concerns.  
19 So, I would advise you to make sure that you are in  
20 contact with each of the tribes along the way and,  
21 perhaps tribes outside of this region. I'm not  
22 sure of why the cut-off is for Montana and Wyoming  
23 and not the Dakotas, other than the relative dearth  
24 of BLM lands in some of those areas. Tribes in  
25 those areas are also looking at corridors north and

1 south for moving power.

2 The idea of a Programmatic Environmental  
3 Impact Statement or something of this order is to  
4 be congratulated, and we would hope that this can  
5 be shared amongst your sister agencies in the  
6 Department of Interior, particularly when it comes  
7 to some of the siting requirements for renewable  
8 energy projects, such as those in the Great Plains.

9 I will leave my comments at that for the  
10 moment, but will certainly reserve the right to  
11 submit different comments within the appropriate  
12 time period.

13 Thank you, very much.

14 POWERS: Thank you. Is there anybody  
15 else that did not fill out a card or indicate that  
16 they wanted to speak? Would they like to come up  
17 and make or offer any comments now?

18 Well, with that, I guess we'll conclude our  
19 formal comments period and we'll turn the recorder  
20 off and we're available -- there's several other  
21 members of the planning team representing the  
22 different agencies that are here -- and I would ask  
23 them to stand up, in addition to the three of us up  
24 here. So, we're going to be here and will be glad  
25 to try to answer questions or any kind of

1 discussions you like.

2 Thank you, very much.

3 [END OF MEETING]

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1 STATE OF COLORADO )  
2 ) ss. CERTIFICATE  
3 COUNTY OF DENVER )

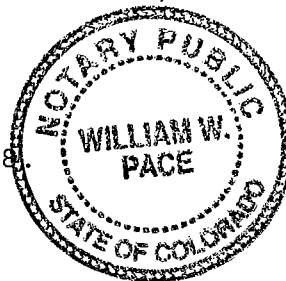
4 I, William W. Pace, Notary Public within  
5 and for the State of Colorado, do hereby certify:

6 That the foregoing proceedings were  
7 transcribed from a digital recording and  
8 thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my  
9 supervision, and that the same is, to the best of  
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12 digital recording made available to me for  
13 re-recording transcription;

14 That I am not related to or in any way  
15 associated with any of the parties to said cause  
16 of action, or their counsel, and that I am not  
17 interested in the event thereof.

18 In witness whereof, I have affixed my  
19 signature and seal this 7th day of November, 2005.

20 My commission expires April 28, 2008.



21  
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23  
24 William W. Pace  
25 William W. Pace, Digital Reporter