

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY

AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

Re: Section 368, Energy) Public Law 109-58 (H.R. 6)
Policy Act)

Verbatim Record of Proceedings

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

November 3rd, 2005

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A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S:

PANEL MEMBERS

JULIA SOUDER

Western Regional Coordinator
Office/Electricity Delivery,
Energy Reliability

DAVID QUICK

Public Affairs Specialist
Bureau of Land management

MARYANNE KURTINAITIS

U.S. Forest Service
Washington, D.C

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Also Present

Jerry Magee
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office

Allen Gibbs
USDA Forest Service
Public Affairs coordinator

Reporter of Record

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Verbatim Record of Proceedings regarding a Public Scoping Meeting taken at the instance of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, pursuant to Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act under Public law 109-58 (H.R. 6), at the Holiday Inn Seattle Center, 211 Dexter Avenue North, City of Seattle, County of King, State of Washington, before Allen R. Emerson a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, commencing at the hour of 2:00 o'clock PM on Thursday, November 3, 2005;

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and testimony given, to wit:

MR. GIBBS: I'm Allen Gibbs and I'm with the USDA Forrest Service from Seattle and I'm here to welcome you all to this meeting of the West Wide Energy Corridor, Problematic Environmental Impact Statement, also known as PEIS. Our purpose is to listen to you folks and I certainly appreciate that you have come out on what is Seattle's first really big storm of the fall season and this meeting along with the one in Phoenix concludes the national series of public meetings, which have been held across the country.

So I would like to start by introducing

Julia Souder with the U.S. Department of Energy.

MS. SOUDER: Thank you all for being here today, I'm Julia Souder and I'm the project manager for Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act and I'm also the Western Regional Coordinator in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

MR. QUICK: I'm David Quick and I'm a public affairs specialist with the Bureau of Land Management in the Washington D.C. Office.

MS. KURTINAITIS: Good afternoon folks, I'm Maryanne Kurtinaitis and I'm with the U.S. Forest Service out of Washington, D.C. and I have been there for about nine months now and I work in the land management program there. I'm just going to go over a few things with you as to why we're here and what are the things we are looking for as far as scoping comments. Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act that was signed on August 8, 2005 of this year directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy and Interior to designate energy corridors under our respective authorities on Federal Land in the eleven western states within

the next two years. So that would be by August of 2007 to implement this. The key to these designations are going to occur in the Land Use Planning Process. Agencies determine that the designation of corridors, as required by the Act, is a major federal action and it is the intent of the agencies to prepare a Problematic Environmental Impact Statement that addresses environmental impacts, public proposed action, and a range of reasonable alternatives. This public participation in the West Wide Energy Corridor Study is very important. The Notice Of Intent for this was published at the end of September of this year and I encourage you to pick up a copy of that because that will really, probably help you along as far as some of the - what to respond to as far as the initial alternatives and some of the environmental concerns that we will be addressing.

The intent of the scoping meeting is to solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope in the context of the problematic EIS. Federal agencies, public interest groups, Native American Tribes, business and members of the public, we are looking for all of their comments to come in

and also the scoping comments are going to refine our preliminary alternatives that are listed in that Notice of Intent.

As was stated, this is the last day of our eleven city tour and there are four ways that you can submit comments. The first way, if I can direct you to the chart or the poster board over there. One is comments through our world wide web and that's a great website to check out and there is a handout that is kind of a one-page informational, information that is sitting on the website now that is handy. Regular mail, you can send it regular mail but I have to caution you due to the fact that all the federal agencies are still in D.C., all our regular mail is still run through Anthrax screening and in between the time delay and the documents and cd's, what they look like afterwards, we would recommend that you probably send it express mail if you do want to send something hard mail.

You can also fax it to us or being here today by just giving a formal presentation or just by filling out the comment card that you received in your packet. All are equal weight responses as far as scoping comments.

The things that we're looking for from these comments is outlining what is important to you, identifying compatible uses; is this a proposed corridor or an existing corridor and to the point of - if it's describing - you know you want to get from point "A" to point "B" and that is also going to help us refine those alternatives that are listed in the Notice Of Intent.

Already referred to, the website is also listed here, very good information and as you go through the process there is just going to be more and more information that will be on that website. You can always kind of catch up with the latest that is going on with the study.

The formal comments that we receive here today will be recorded on the inter-official record. During the formal presentation we would prefer not to have questions and answers, although you can ask questions if you would like.

From all this, all the different meetings, we're going to gather all that information and all of the scoping comments and they will be published on the websites around January and February of 2006.

After we have the formal presentations then we

will turn off the recorder and we can take a break and have informal discussions with agency representatives from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Will those folks stand up who are here from the local offices. I appreciate that, thank you.

We would like to keep your comments to ten minutes but with such a small group that is not really a problem today if you wanted to go over. We really appreciate you attending this meeting, your participation is important. Lets get started, are there - oh, one more thing, this would be a good time to turn off your cell phones and pagers.

Are there any elected officials or tribal representatives who would wish to speak at this time:

MR. RIGDON: I'm actually not an elected official but I would like to comment.

MS. KURTINAITIS: Please. If you could come up here that would be great and just state your name.

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MR. RIGDON: My name is Philip Rigdon and I'm the director of natural resources for the Yakima Nation. Generally one thing that the Yakima

Nation will be concerned about is any impacts to our Reserve Treaty Rights within designated corridors and how those impacts will affect access and so forth for our usual gatherings, hunting and within that, any impacts to these Reserve Treaty Rights and the need for the government to have participation under the Energy Policy Act with the Yakima Nation.

MS. KURTINAITIS: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to make a formal presentation at this time? Or any questions that you have that you would like to get on the record?

Okay, at this time then what we will do, since the meeting will run from 2:00 to 5:00 and folks may be strolling in a little bit later, we will take a fifteen minute break and break into informal discussions and go off the record and then we will get back together about 2:30 and see if there are some folks who would like to make a formal presentation.

(Recessed 2:15 PM)

(Reconvened 2:30 PM)

MS. KURTINAITIS: All right, we will get started again and go back on the record and see

if we have any new folks who have showed up that would like to give a formal presentation or if they have questions that they would like to get on the record.

(No Response)

MS. KURTINAITIS: All right, we will just go off the record again and wait to see if anyone else appears and we will get back to our informal discussions.

(Off the record)

(Reconvened 7:00 PM)

MS. SOUDER: Good evening everyone. Usually we like to have our local agent introduce us but he may have left sick so we will introduce ourselves. I'm Julia Souder with the Department of Energy and I'm the Western Regional Coordinator for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and again I want to thank you for your time. There is a lot of traffic and crazy weather out there but we appreciate your coming in and joining us.

MR. QUICK: My name is David Quick and I work with the Bureau of Land Management in the Public Affairs Office in Washington D.C.

MS. KURTINAITIS: My name is Maryanne

Kurtinaitis, good evening, thank you for coming. I'm with the Washington D.C. Office, also for the Forest Service in the Lands and Realty Management Program.

MS. SOUDER: Just before we get to the formal comments I just want to go over again the reasons why we are here. Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act was signed in August of this year and it directs the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy and Interior to designate energy corridors under our respective authorities on Federal Land in the eleven western states within two years. The key to these designations are going to occur in the Land Use Planning Process. Agencies determine that the designation of corridors, as required by the Act, is a major federal action. We intend to prepare a Problematic Environmental Impact Statement to address environmental impacts and proposed actions and a range of reasonable alternatives. This public participation in the West Wide Energy Corridor Study is an important part of the process.

The intent of the scoping meeting is to solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope in the context of the Problematic EIS. Federal Agencies, public interest groups, Native

American Tribes, businesses and members of the public, environmental groups are also asked to help refine our preliminary alternatives that are listed in the Notice of Intent.

This is our last day of our eleven city tour and there are four ways that you can submit comment as outlined on our poster and also in paper form that is in front of you. You can submit a comment through our website, which is also on the poster here and on the board and regular or snail mail and just to kind of highlight that, there are some problems receiving mail such as cd's or packages and we would recommend that you send it Express Mail. Also faxing information to us is welcome or just being here today presenting a formal comment on the record or filling out the comment card that you received in your packet is a great way to comment but whichever way you comment, they are all given equal weight.

The end of the scoping period, which began with a Public Notice of Intent, ends November 28th. If we do receive documents a day or so later we are not going to say no they can't come in but we are trying to stick to the November 28th date

but we do understand that things do happen in life,
a lot of things can happen.

Today we are looking for comment on what is
important to you in outlying and identifying
compatible

uses within proposed corridors or existing corridors
and try to be specific in describing from point "A"
to point "B", which will help us refine those
alternatives that are listed in the Notice of Intent.

We also have a website that has a lot of good
information that will help you understand the process
we're going through today.

The formal comments that we receive today will be
recorded in an official record. However during the
formal presentation we would prefer not to have
questions and answers. When you come up to the podium
during your formal comments you can ask any questions
that are of concern to you and that will be included
in a publication and that will be out in January
or February of 2006, where we will have all the formal
comments listed from all the presentations from all
the western cities and also via fax or through the
web.

So once we do receive formal comments and you

don't have anything more to say, then we will go off the record and have informal discussions with agency representatives from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. We will limit our public comments to fifteen minutes, usually we say ten but we have a small group here. Again, thank you participating in this process.

Are there any elected officials or tribal representatives who wish to speak? And at this time I would ask everyone to turn off their cell phones and pagers.

Again, is there anyone in the audience who wants to come up and present information at this time?

(No Response)

We will take a fifteen minute break and wait and see if more people come and go off the record at this time and then come back on the record at 7:30 or 7:35.

(Recessed 7:15 PM)

(Reconvened 7:31 PM)

MS. SOUDER: Thank you again for all being here. It's after 7:30 and I'm wondering if anyone would like to make a formal request on the

record?

MS. HIRSH: I'm Nancy Hirsh and I'm with the Northwest Energy Coalition and we're a regional public interest organization based in Seattle with offices in Boise and Salem and we work for clean and affordable energy for the Pacific Northwest. So our focus is on electric facilities, the Bonneville Power Administration and state and local governments in this area. my overarching comments, not having had a chance to really look at those studies in the federal register and I really apologize for that, but we want to encourage the federal agencies to look at the roll of non-wires alternatives and conservation programs and load management programs as a part of looking at alternatives when considering appropriate corridors and looking at the impacts of the new corridors compared to the impacts of investments in technologies that reduce the need for transmission lines, gas pipelines. The pipeline and transmission line technologies are one mechanism and one method for delivering services and products to people but our technology has advanced quite a bit in the last twenty years and we can use load management and

conservation technologies for reducing consumers and businesses increased demand for gas and electricity in putting up new wires or expanded pipeline capacity.

Also information technology that we didn't have twenty years ago or ten years ago has now made it possible to make both appliances, commercial technology more interactive with the energy consumption that they have, so that the technologies can power down and power up during peak and off-peak times such that, again, you reduce the constraint and congestion on a transmission line or on a gas pipeline or the need for more gas in a pipeline for extended capacity.

And so when looking at a potential with a vast array of new pipelines or wires, corridors in place, those may not be necessary and we may not need to develop those. So one option is yes, we can at least look at what those corridors might be and plan and then choose different alternatives when we get to the point of actually doing construction. But I feel, like history has shown, that when we plan, we do, and so we're likely to invest a lot in the process and in the preparation of potential corridors and therefore

not wanting to look at alternatives that might make construction on that corridor unnecessary.

So in the problematic phase we would recommend that there be a serious consideration on how these non-pipeline, non-wire alternatives fit into looking at solutions and a lot of it can be on a pure economic basis.

The economic benefits in investing with non-wires conservation efficiency, distributed generation technologies, smart and prudent technologies, have much more local benefit, economic benefits for the community, for the region, for new industries and new technologies, advances in technology than just building

another pipeline or opening a new transmission line.

That is the extent of my comments, thank you.

MS. SOUDER: Thank you for your comments. Would anyone else like to come to the podium for a formal presentation? Well hearing none and it's a little after 7:35. Lets give it a little more time and then come back on the record around 8:00 o'clock.

(Recessed 7:36 PM)

(Reconvened 8:59 PM)

MS. SOUDER: There being no one new who
has come forward, we're going to close the session.
Thank you again for your input.

(Adjourned 9:00 PM)