

Corridor EIS Archives

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 10:42 AM
To: corridoreisarchives,
Subject: Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0076

Thank you for your comment, Carolyn Wright.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0076. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: July 10, 2006 10:41:26AM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0076

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Comment Submitted:

July 10, 2006

Ms. Julia Souder
United States Department of Energy 8h-033 1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. Souder:

The State of Utah appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 'preliminary draft corridor map' prepared in connection with the "Programmatic West Wide Environmental Impact Statement," currently to be released for public comment in the Fall of 2006.

As the Department of Energy ("DOE") has heard through its scoping process, there are significant challenges posed by the separate processes for identifying corridors upon federal lands pursuant to Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and upon non-federal lands pursuant to Section 1221. While these are different provisions of the Energy Policy Act, the Department of Energy's decision to separate the two processes makes it difficult to provide significant comments.

Prior to the June 15, 2006, energy corridor stakeholder meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, coordinated by Dr. Laura Nelson, the Governor Huntsman's Energy Advisor, meaningful comment was difficult to produce because neither existing nor potential corridors were identified. We appreciate the explanation of the preliminary corridor map that was provided at that meeting by the Department of Energy and the Bureau of Land Management,

and support the draft map as a positive step toward the identification of the corridors. However, the presentation of a series of "lines and dots" continues to prevent the state from making substantive comments on specific Utah routes at this juncture. Ultimately the state will need sufficient information and detail so as to allow meaningful environmental and economic analysis. We encourage the DOE and BLM to significantly enhance the detail and granularity of the maps so that the state may determine potential environmental impacts, determine how the proposed corridors relate to existing transmission lines, and the relationship to non-federal corridors to be designated pursuant to Section 1221.

Additionally, the state encourages you to give careful consideration to the comments proffered by the Utah Rural Electric Association and Garkane Energy regarding placement of the Section 368 corridors. Specifically, the Association and Garkane Energy have provided a detailed map and comments defining a potential 368 corridor that does not appear to be included on the preliminary draft map. The Utah Rural Electric Association's expertise is well known and its comments on system reliability and needs are especially important.

The state also requests that the corridor for the proposed multistate Frontier powerline be identified within the alternatives for the Environmental Impact Statement.

Throughout this process the state seeks your continued assurance that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the West Wide Energy Corridor PEIS do not become the foundation to stifle future right of way petitions from energy producers operating outside or away from corridors which may be designated.

The State of Utah is committed to providing abundant power at reasonable cost, while protecting the public interest and the environment. The state supports the designation of environmentally sound paths through the public lands, which will become the critical enablers of the development of renewable and other clean energy options across the West. These principles will guide the state as further review on the PEIS is made available.

Utah applauds Congress and the Administration for taking on the task of designating corridors, and is committed to working with DOE and the BLM in the ultimate development of these critical paths. The state believes that the designation of corridors will greatly enhance the regulatory certainty upon which energy infrastructure investments and diligent environmental review require.

We look forward to working with you in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and appreciate the excellent cooperation we have received to date. Additional comments from the Division of State History (Utah State Historical Preservation Officer) are attached.

The state appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft map. Please direct any other questions regarding this correspondence to myself at (801) 537-9275, Dr. Laura Nelson, the Governor's Energy Advisor at (801) 538-8802, or Jonathan G. Jemming at (801) 537-9023.

Sincerely,

John Harja
Assistant Director for
Planning and Policy

Dr. Laura Nelson
Energy Advisor to
Governor Jon Huntsman

Division of State History (State Historical Preservation Officer)

The Utah Division of State History maintains a GIS and archival database of previous cultural resource inventories and cultural resource sites covering the entire state. This database includes information on substantial portions of all the corridors in question within Utah. Along with the State Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, we believe that we can use these data to provide substantive comment that will assist you in developing alternatives and best management practices for the project.

In order to provide this information, however, we made a request to the Bureau of Land Management's Acting Preservation Officer that we be provided with GIS shape file data for the corridors. The scale and resolution of the map provided on your website is not sufficient for us to determine the corridor locations and provide substantive comment. We made our request on June 15, 2006. On June 16, 2006 the BLM Acting Preservation Officer informed us that we would be provided with the relevant GIS data. We appreciate the assistance of the BLM in this process, and look forward to receiving the data and providing you with comments that will assist you as you consider possible corridor alternatives and best management practices.

We note that in order to have sufficient time to provide you with this comment, we will need 30 days from receipt of the GIS data to process the data and produce comments. As of the sending of this letter, we have not yet received these data.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Webmaster at
(630)252-6182.