

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Public Scoping )  
 Comment Period )  
 )  
 In Re: West-Wide Energy )  
 Corridor Programmatic )  
 EIS )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

**CERTIFIED  
COPY**

PUBLIC MEETING  
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2005  
 2:00 P.M.

Held At: Radisson Hotel  
 500 Leisure Lane  
 Sacramento, California

Reported by: Desiree C. Tawney, CSR No. 12414



**Northern California Court Reporters**

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1 storage project in North America and the 5th most  
2 efficient and highest in the world. So it's a world-class  
3 facility.

4 Our transmission lines will be connecting Southern  
5 California Edison systems with San Diego Gas and Electric  
6 system in the south. It will be the first connection  
7 between the two systems. It will contribute to form the  
8 backbone of our PG&E's territory, which they now don't  
9 have.

**CA02**

10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Terry O'Brien.

12 MR. O'BRIEN: Good afternoon. My name is Terry  
13 O'Brien. I'm the Deputy Director of the California Energy  
14 Commission. I'd like to thank the Federal representatives  
15 for allowing the opportunity to comment today. I have a  
16 prepared statement I'd like to read into the record.

17 The California Energy Commission appreciates the  
18 opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of  
19 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to designate  
20 energy corridors on Federal land in the 11 western states  
21 including California.

22 The Commission anticipates working closely with the  
23 Department of Energy, the Federal land use agencies  
24 including the Bureau of Land Management and the United  
25 States Forest Service to identify potential energy

1 corridors within the states, as well as corridors to  
2 connect California with the other western states.

3 We support this work on the part of the Federal  
4 Government as it should contribute to the eventual  
5 developments of energy infrastructure that will enhance  
6 future energy reliability and contribute to improved  
7 economic efficiency.

8 The identification of corridors should prove  
9 beneficial to the development of the renewable energy  
10 resources in California and help the State meet the  
11 requirements of our renewable portfolio standards while  
12 also increasing reliability from the State's energy  
13 systems and improving fuel diversity.

14 While we believe identifying corridors is essential  
15 to servicing the energy needs of California citizens, it's  
16 equally essential that protection of public health and  
17 safety and environmental quality be primary considerations  
18 of the PEIS.

19 In addition, corridors identified in California  
20 should conform to both State and local land use  
21 designations and comply with other applicable laws,  
22 ordinances, regulations and standards.

23 Given the significant interest and potential  
24 implications and impacts associated with the study, it is  
25 critical that broad stakeholder input be solicited and

considered. State and government, local agencies,  
industries, environmental organizations and other groups  
3 and associations representing specific segments of the  
4 public all have valuable perspectives that need to be  
5 considered in the formulation of the PEIS. Workshops and  
6 meetings should be held throughout the state, including  
7 rural areas, to allow input at the local level, not just  
8 in Sacramento.

9 Designation of the energy corridors solely on  
10 predominantly rural Federal land does not address the need  
11 for corridors on state and private lands, urban, suburban  
12 and agricultural areas.

13 There's little value of designating energy corridors  
14 in remote regions of the state if these corridors do not  
15 provide access links to the major urban areas where demand  
16 for energy is concentrated.

17 Consequently, it's even more important for close  
18 coordination between Federal agencies and state government  
19 to ensure corridor connectivity. This will help  
20 facilitate in the development of vital energy products and  
21 projects and expedite permitting.

22 California supports and recognizes in legislation  
23 pertaining to electric transmission lines the importance  
24 of encouraging the use or expansion of existing  
25 rights-of-way and to provide for the creation of new

1 rights-of-way when justified by environmental, technical  
2 or economic reasons defined by the appropriate licensing  
3 agency.

4 These principals should guide the Federal government  
5 when examining potential corridors in California during  
6 this proceeding.

7 The California Energy Commission is required by State  
8 law to prepare and present to the Governor and legislature  
9 a biannual Integrating Energy Policy Report. This report,  
10 as modified by the Governor and legislature forms the  
11 basis of a State Energy Policy. The California Energy  
12 Commission is scheduled to adopt the 2005 Energy Report in  
13 November. The report contains an integrated assessment of  
14 the major energy trends and issues facing California and  
15 provides policy recommendations to conserve resources,  
16 protect the environment, ensure reliable, secure and  
17 diverse energy supplies and enhance the State's economy  
18 and protect public health and safety.

19 Given these legislative responsibilities and  
20 considering proposed legislation that would require the  
21 Energy Commission to establish electric transmission lined  
22 corridors within California, the Commission believes it  
23 would be the appropriate grid acting on behalf of the  
24 resources agency, the State resources agency, to  
25 coordinate the State's participation in the PEIS and to

1 serve as a primary point of contact with the Federal  
2 Government in this proceeding.

3 We would therefore ask you ensure all communications  
4 and information pertaining to the work on the PEIS  
5 concerning California be made available to the Energy  
6 Commission for its review and comment.

7 Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

8 MR. JOHNSON: All right. If you have a hard copy of  
9 your comments, we could take them or you could give them  
10 after the session is over.

CA03

11 Thank you. Our next speaker is William Zobel.

12 MR. ZOBEL: Good afternoon. I also have a statement  
13 to read into the record. Terry has stolen my thunder.  
14 But it's good to hear we're here on the same page.

15 My name is Bill Zobel with Sempra Energy. I'm here  
16 today representing Sempra Energy Company.

17 Sempra Energy is based in San Diego, California.  
18 It's a Fortune 500 Service Holding Company which provides  
19 electricity, natural gas and value added products and  
20 services to the economy.

21 Sempra Energy Company employs close to 13,000 plus  
22 people and is serving more than 10 million customers in  
23 the United States, Europe, Canada, Mexico, South America  
24 and Asia.

25 Sempra Energy supports the Federal Government's

COMMENTS OF THE  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING ON THE  
WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC EIS

Sacramento, California  
November 1, 2005

The California Energy Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to designate energy corridors on federal land in the 11 western states, including California. The Commission anticipates working closely with the Department of Energy and the federal land use agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, to identify potential energy corridors within the state as well as corridors to connect California with the other western states. We support this work on the part of the federal government as it should contribute to the eventual development of energy infrastructure that will enhance future energy reliability and contribute to improved economic efficiency.

The identification of corridors should prove beneficial to the development of renewable energy resources in California and help the state meet the requirements of our Renewable Portfolio Standard, while also increasing the reliability of the state's energy systems and improving fuel diversity.

While we believe identifying corridors is essential to serving the energy needs of California's citizens, it is equally essential that protection of public health and safety and environmental quality be a primary consideration in this PEIS. In addition, corridors identified in California should conform to both state and local land use designations, and comply with other applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards.

Given the significant interest in and potential implications and impacts associated with this study, it is critical that broad stakeholder input be solicited and considered. State government, local agencies, industry, environmental organizations, and other groups and associations representing specific segments of the public all have valuable perspectives that need to be considered in the formulation of the PEIS. Workshops and meetings should be held throughout the state, including rural areas, to allow input at the local level, not just in Sacramento.

Designation of energy corridors solely on predominantly rural federal land does not address the need for corridors on state and private lands in urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. There is little value in designating energy corridors in remote regions of the state if these corridors do not provide access and links to the major urban areas where demand for energy is concentrated. Consequently, it is even more important for close coordination between federal agencies and state government to ensure corridor connectivity. This will help facilitate the development of vital energy projects and expedite permitting.

California supports, and recognizes in legislation pertaining to electric transmission lines, the importance of encouraging the use or expansion of existing rights-of-way, and to provide for the creation of new rights-of-way when justified by environmental, technical, or economic reasons defined by the



appropriate licensing agency. These principles should guide the federal government when examining potential corridors in California during this proceeding.

The California Energy Commission is required by state law to prepare and present to the Governor and Legislature a biennial integrated energy policy report. This report, as modified by the Governor and Legislature, forms the basis of state energy policy. The California Energy Commission is scheduled to adopt the **2005 Energy Report** in November. The report contains an integrated assessment of major energy trends and issues facing California and provides policy recommendations to conserve resources; protect the environment; ensure reliable, secure and diverse energy supplies; enhance the state's economy; and protect public health and safety. Given these legislative responsibilities and considering proposed legislation that would require the Energy Commission to establish electric transmission line corridors within California, the Commission believes it would be appropriate for it, acting on behalf of the State Resources Agency, to coordinate the state's participation in the PEIS and to serve as the primary point of contact with the federal government in this proceeding. We would therefore ask that you ensure that all communications and information pertaining to the work on the PEIS concerning California be made available to the Energy Commission for review and comment.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.