

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 considered as well.

2 Three, corridors expanding our connection with
3 Southern California Edison system to the north to
4 strengthen our transmission system supply in the Orange
5 County service area.

6 Four, corridors connecting to our Sycamore Canyon
7 substation need to be reconsidered and strengthened.

8 And, finally, corridors connecting potential wind
9 generations in San Diego County, and existing transmission
10 systems and the plans of substations.

11 I want to thank the Department of Energy, Interior
12 Bureau of Land Management, Agriculture for their efforts
13 on this project.

14 Sempra Energy supports the designation of energy
15 corridors. Formal comments will follow.

CA04

16 Thank you.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Next speaker will Diane
18 Ross-Leech.

19 MS. ROSS-LEACH: Good afternoon. My name is Diane
20 Ross-leech and I represent Pacific Gas and Electric
21 Company, another energy provider. We serve 1 in 20
22 Americans. We are the largest investor on the utilities.
23 I want to thank you for having this meeting and inviting
24 us to participate.

25 PG&E supports this effort and we have a few comments

1 that we'll be happy to provide to you after the meeting.
2 We support corridors because they do help promote
3 interstate energy resource planning and corridors help our
4 interdependency with the states energy delivery systems.
5 The corridors also help us with, as utilities, in
6 responding to the continuing development in the state and
7 at the local level.

8 We think the corridors are a great first step but
9 there are specific policies with each Federal and State
10 agencies Land Management Plan that needs to be established
11 to help outline what is streamline permitting process is,
12 what actions are required to implement projects that are
13 in designated corridors, such as allowing future actions
14 to be authorized as categorical exclusions or
15 environmental assessments.

16 We need to have specific designations and what
17 activities are permissible in corridors specifically for
18 utilities facilities. And corridors need to be protected
19 from incompatible uses that might constrain the ability to
20 use the corridors in the future.

21 We think that you might want to consider having
22 corridor designation run with the land, even when the land
23 changes hands out of Federal ownership.

24 We also think it would be helpful to look at the past
25 efforts we have altogether been part of and past corridor

1 studies that were unable to fully achieve some of their
2 objectives due to resources and funding constraints. So
3 those issues should be addressed right now up front.

4 We think the process needs to be simple and
5 manageable that we might want to consider fewer corridor
6 designations that meet most of the needs versus many
7 corridors that don't meet all of the needs.

8 We think we need building with flexibility and
9 adaptability over time. The process, we think, also needs
10 to address native species and cultural resource
11 consultation specifically; that we should actively lobby
12 state and local agencies to participate in the process and
13 consider the ongoing Utility Corridor Study being
14 performed at the state level.

15 In summary, PG&E supports the process and the
16 project. We commend you for addressing permit
17 streamlining and future agency actions. We need to
18 protect designated corridors from incompatible uses, and
19 build flexibility over time due to market changes and new
20 information that becomes available.

21 We look forward to working with you in the future.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Next speaker will be
24 Kim -- hopefully I'm pronouncing the last name
25 correctly -- Kiener.



October 31, 2005

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Public Scoping Initial Response
West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS

Dear Gentlemen,

Pacific Gas and Electric Company appreciates the opportunity to participate in the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. We look forward to the November 1, 2005 workshop scheduled in Sacramento, California and offer the following comments to assist in defining relevant issues.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company supports the combined federal agency focus on the effort to establish corridors for utility facilities crossing federal lands. Corridors will facilitate interstate energy resource planning and increase the collaboration between the Western States energy providers. A robust energy network is the backbone to strong economic growth in the region. The corridors will assist utilities as they respond to growth in local cities and counties.

The establishment of corridors across federal lands and the subsequent adoption in land management plans is the first step towards maximizing effectiveness this project. The benefit is realized when the designation actually results in "streamlining and expediting the processing of energy-related permits and projects", anything less than this is likely a waste of time and money.. Success can be achieved if the project team incorporates specific policies within each agency's land management plan to:

- Specify utility facilities as the primary designated activity within corridors and restrict alternate uses that constrain utility facilities.
- Examine the corridors sufficiently to ensure NEPA compliance can be performed as environmental assessments or categorical exclusions.
- Implement a streamlined permitting process for projects in designated corridors.
- Require that corridor designation runs with the land even if removed from federal ownership.

Past utility corridor studies (i.e. Trans-Sierra Crossing) were unable to fully achieve their objectives due to resource and/or funding constraints. We are keenly aware of the constraints of funding and manpower that affects our federal agencies. We urge this team to implement mechanisms now to address those issues instead of waiting for a direct impact to the project.



In California state, county and city agencies have significant impact and an important role on the siting of utility projects once they leave federal lands. Please engage them directly to participate in this process. This will assist in developing a harmonious integration with other on-going utility corridor studies (i.e. California Energy Commission 2005 Strategic Transmission Planning Project).

In summary, Pacific Gas and Electric Company applauds the agencies for demonstrating such forward thinking on an important national issue and reiterate our desire to actively participate in this process. We believe that this current effort will help bring one step closer to reality proposals critical to regional and interstate interests such as the Frontier Project. Pacific Gas and Electric Company will provide additional comments as this process progresses.

If there are questions or a need to discuss any of our comments in greater detail, please contact me or Loren Loo, (415) 973-5817.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Ross-Leech', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Diane Ross-Leech
Manager
Environmental Affairs
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

West-Wide Energy Corridor
Programmatic EIS

Public Workshop
Sacramento, CA
11/1/2005

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Comments

Pacific Gas and Electric Company supports the West-Wide Energy Corridor EIS Project:

- Corridors help facilitate interstate energy resource planning
- Supports interdependency of the Western States energy delivery systems
- Ensures continued strong economic growth for the Western States region
- Assists utilities in responding to the continuing development at the state and local level

Corridors are the first step - specific policies within each federal or state agency's land management plan should be established to:

- Outline streamlined permitting processes and actions required to implement projects in designated corridors such as allowing future actions to be authorized as categorical exclusions or environmental assessments
- Specify the primary designated activity within corridors is for utility facilities
- Corridors need to be protected from incompatible uses that might constrain ability to site and construct future utility facilities
- Require that corridor designation runs with the land even if removed from federal ownership

To ensure success of this project, we should learn from the past:

- Past utility corridor studies were unable to fully achieve their objectives due to resource and/or funding constraints - these issues should be addressed up front
- Keep the process simple and manageable
- Consider fewer corridor designations that meet most of the needs
- Build in flexibility and adaptability over time

Process should:

- Address endangered species and cultural resource consultation
- Actively lobby state and local agencies to participate in process
- Consider on-going utility corridor studies being performed at the state level

Summary on Process:

- PG&E supports the project and process
- Address permit streamlining and future agency actions
- Protect designated corridors from incompatible uses
- Build in flexibility over time due to market changes and new information