

Southern Nevada
Water Authority

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

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November 14, 2005

Julia Souder
DOE Project Manager, West-wide Corridor Study
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Souder:

**SUBJECT: WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING
COMMENTS**

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (Authority) appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Authority represents seven-member water and wastewater agencies in Southern Nevada including Big Bend Water District, Boulder City, City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, Clark County Water Reclamation District, and Las Vegas Valley Water District. The Authority's mission is to manage the water resources of southern Nevada and develop solutions that will ensure adequate future water supplies for the Las Vegas Valley.

According to the project description provided in the Federal Register notice dated September 28, 2005 (FR-56647), the Proposed Action will designate corridors on Federal land for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines; and electricity transmission and distribution utilities in eleven Western States, including Nevada. The Authority asks that the Office of Electricity Delivery and Reliability take into account the designated and proposed corridors described below when drafting the PEIS and avoid conflicts with these corridors.

The Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (LCCRDA) became law on November 30, 2004 (Public Law 108-424). LCCRDA designated 2,640-foot wide corridors for utilities in Lincoln County and Clark County, Nevada. The Proposed Action has the potential to conflict with these designated corridors. Additional corridors are also designated in the draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Ely District (RMP/EIS) released by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on July 26, 2005. The Authority

Julia Souder, DOE Project Manager

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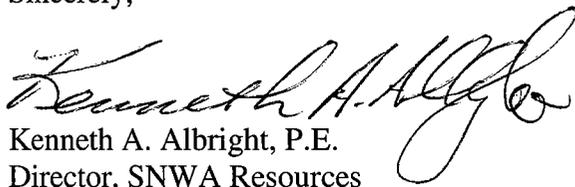
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requests that the Proposed Action be compatible with the corridors designated by the LCCRDA and the RMP/EIS.

The Authority applied to the BLM on August 1, 2004, for rights-of-way to build wells, pipelines, and associated facilities in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties for development of the Authority's Groundwater Development (GWD) Project. The BLM is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the GWD Project. The GWD Project is an integral component of the Authority's future water resource portfolio, necessary to support future population that is projected to occupy the Las Vegas Valley in the coming years. The Authority requests that the Office of Electricity Delivery and Reliability acknowledge the electricity transmission and distribution utilities associated with the GWD Project and designate these corridors in the PEIS. Electricity transmission and distribution utility corridors should be designated along major roads and highways whenever possible in order to facilitate utility development. The Authority also requests that the Proposed Action be compatible with the proposed locations for water pipelines and wells associated with the GWD Project.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or need additional information regarding the LCCRDA, RMP/EIS, or GWD Project utility corridors, please contact Holly Cheong, Environmental Planner II at (702) 862-3755.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Albright, P.E.
Director, SNWA Resources

KAA:JM:ZM:HC:lmv

c: Kay Brothers, SNWA Deputy General Manager, Engineering and Operations
Marcus Jensen, Director, SNWA Engineering