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

**Re: Comments of the White Mountain Apache Tribe on the  
West-wide Energy Corridor**

To Whom It May Concern:

The White Mountain Apache Tribe provides the following public scoping comments on the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS process.

**Option 1: No Action**

The Tribe does not support this action. It is the Tribe's position that changes are needed in the western regional transmission system.

**Option 2: Increased Utilization**

The Tribe supports this action. It is the Tribe's position that utilization improvements are critical to regional transmission availability and should be the top priority in any effort to improve regional transmission.

**Option 3: New Corridor**

It is the Tribe's position that this option should be combined with the "Optimization Criteria Alternative." The Tribe supports development of new corridors with consideration of efforts already made by regional planning organizations but favors new corridors only when they are supported by a demonstrated public need; as is noted above, alternatives to new corridors should be evaluated first and prove to be insufficient.

In addition, the Tribe favors new corridors on the condition that they are developed with the support of and on terms acceptable to all potentially impacted tribes, most of whom have not been directly represented in prior transmission planning processes.

Finally, combining new and existing corridors based on a set of criteria and strategies that incorporate environmental concerns, projected supply and demand, network efficiencies, landscape features and the availability of new technologies and costs should also be considered.

**Option 4: Optimization Criteria**

The Tribe supports this option on the condition that new corridors are developed only when no reasonable alternative exists and on terms acceptable to all potentially impacted tribes.

Sincerely,



**Amy T. Mignella**  
**Special Counsel**  
**White Mountain Apache Tribe**