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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
October 26, 2005
Afternoon and Evening Sessions
MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul Boulevard, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

BEFORE:

RONALD A. MONTAGNA, BLM chief of Rights of
Way, DOI-BLM
JULIA SOUDER, office of Electricity Delivery
and Energy Reliability, western Regional
coordinator, DOE
BOB CUNNINGHAM, Assistant Director of Lands,
DOA-USFS

REPORTED BY: Jan A. Williams, RPR, CCR 14
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PROCEEDINGS

AFTERNOON SESSION
Page 1

16 identifying themselves as a speaker, ■ will invite
17 anyone who would like to speak on the record to come
18 forward at this time and state their name and present
19 their remarks to us on the record.

20 one last point they asked me to make. If
21 everyone that's here came past the desk and didn't
22 sign in, we would request that you do sign in sometime
23 during the evening. Thank you.

24 To parallel the procedure we used earlier
25 today, this afternoon, we'll wait a few minutes for

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1 any walk-in comments. And then we'll take a recess
2 for a period of time and then we'll reassemble and
3 then go back on the comments until the nine o'clock
4 end of the meeting.

5 MR. WENTZ: Good evening. My name is Chris
6 wentz. I'm the director of the Energy Conservation
7 and Management Division of the New Mexico Energy,
8 Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. we're the
9 renewable energy division for the state of New Mexico.

10 And we likely will be supplementing these
11 comments. These are pretty much off-the-cuff right
12 now. we just found out about this recently. But we
13 will probably be putting in comments either from the
14 governor's office and/or from the Energy, Minerals,
15 and Natural Resources Department.

16 I guess first I would just like to thank you
17 for holding this scoping meeting. I think the
18 Programmatic EIS is very important as far as the
19 future of energy transmission in the united States and
20 particularly in New Mexico.

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21 I think, looking forward, it's important to
22 look at both the short-term impacts but especially the
23 long-term impacts of the different alternatives in the
24 Programmatic EIS. The EIS will be used to facilitate
25 siting and significant investment in energy

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1 infrastructure such as oil, gas, hydrogen, pipelines
2 as well as electricity transmission and distribution
3 lines.

4 And, because this infrastructure tends to be
5 around for multiple decades, because of the
6 significant investment, it is particularly important
7 that you take kind of a long-term planning, long-term
8 vision approach. And towards that end I think it's
9 important that you particularly look at the renewable
10 energy resources, the clean energy resources that are
11 out there.

12 our current electricity transmission and
13 distribution system really has been around for over 50
14 years, a lot of it, some longer, and hasn't been
15 upgraded in a long time. so there's no reason to
16 think that this next round of investment isn't going
17 to be around a long time.

18 so largely a lot of the corridors that you'll
19 be designating are going to be used by those future
20 energy resources, a lot of ones right now that are
21 either becoming economic or are going to be economic
22 over the next 20, 30, 40 years or so.

23 To that end you need to look particularly
24 close at the renewable resources of wind and biomass.

25 This is particularly important in New Mexico. We have

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1 a lot of world class wind resources in Eastern New
2 Mexico that are largely transmission constrained and
3 are going to need additional capacity if we're to
4 benefit from those resources economically.

5 The same holds true for biomass. we've got a
6 lot of different resources out there as far as forest
7 thinnings, a lot of unhealthy forests. we've got a
8 very large dairy industry now, seventh in the nation
9 in milk production, a lot of manure, a lot of
10 livestock that could be turned into productive energy.
11 But it's going to take new capacity to get that out.

12 So also looking at what's out there, as far
13 as renewable resources and when they might become
14 economic and where they're located, it is really
15 important that the federal agencies and your
16 contractors avail themselves of as much existing
17 expertise and experience that's out there right now.
18 A lot of great planning, a lot of great assessments
19 are going on right now. And I just would like to
20 mention a couple of them.

21 One is that the western Governors
22 Association, as you probably know, have a clean and
23 diversified energy initiative for the west. This
24 initiative really evolved out of a resolution that our
25 Governor, Bill Richardson, had teamed up with Governor

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1 schwartzenegger of California and ultimately got the
2 unanimous approval of all 18 Western governors to go

3 after some clean energy goals for the future. And
4 these goals are out quite a few years.

5 And so ■ think this PEIS really figures
6 prominently into developing the resources to meet
7 those goals.

8 I would also encourage you to look at the
9 Western Governors Association resolutions. There's a
10 number of existing policy resolutions that have been
11 in place for a number of years now that represent the
12 collective position of the western Governors.

13 And ■ understand that this is going to be
14 largely a Western PEIS or at least this scoping
15 hearing is addressing that. And so you should look at
16 those policy resolutions because it establishes a lot
17 of the principles that the western Governors believe
18 need to be addressed in siting and development of new
19 transmission capacity.

20 Also you should avail yourselves of the
21 expertise of such regional groups as the western
22 Interstate Energy Board. They've got a committee on
23 regional electric power cooperation that has been
24 active for over a decade and is very intimately
25 involved in looking at especially electricity

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1 transmission corridors and electricity transmission
2 issues throughout the west.

3 And then finally the role of the states is
4 very important in this process, the state energy
5 offices, our office as well as the other western state
6 energy offices, but also the public utility

commissions that largely have the existing siting
8 authority for transmission and other energy
9 infrastructure.

10 So with that I would close and thank you very
11 much for being here.

12 MR. MONTAGNA: Thank you.

13 what I'll do now is recess this meeting.

14 It's now 7:30. I'll recess this meeting until let's
15 say 7:45. And, if other folks arrive during that time
16 period, then we'll open the meeting again, take
17 comments, and go to the nine o'clock close period. So
18 we'll recess for the next 15, 20 minutes. Thank you.

19 (Break)

20 MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, folks. It's
21 7:45. And as we mentioned we'll go back on the record
22 and again invite anyone here that would like to
23 present information for the record to come to the
24 podium, give us your name, and who you represent and
25 present your comments to the record.

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1 And we'll wait a few minutes and, if no one
2 shows up, we'll again have a recess until later in the
3 evening before we close down for the night.

4 (Break)

5 MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, folks. It's
6 eight o'clock. And we're going back on the record to
7 see if there's anyone who would like to present
8 information. Again we'll wait a few minutes and go
9 back on the record at 8:15.

10 (Break)

11 MR. MONTAGNA: Good evening, everyone. It's

12 8:15. And, as we said before, we would open this up
13 again for any comments on the record. And, since
14 there is no one identifying themselves as wanting to
15 speak on the record, we will go ahead and close this
16 evening's meeting on behalf of BLM, the Department of
17 Energy, the United States Forest Service.

18 Thank you all for attending. We look forward
19 to your comments and suggestions for our programmatic
20 Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you and good
21 evening.

22 (At 8:15 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.)
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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3 ■ JAN A. WILLIAMS, New Mexico CCR #14, DO
4 HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON October 26, 2005, the
5 proceedings were taken before me, and that ■ did report
6 in stenographic shorthand the proceedings set forth
7 herein, and the foregoing is a true and correct
8 transcription of the proceedings had upon the taking
9 of this hearing.

10 ■ FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed
11 by nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
12 this case, and that ■ have no interest whatsoever in
13 the final disposition of this case in any court.

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