

PUBLIC MEETING FOR
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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HELD BY: : **REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT**
MEETING DATE:
: October 26, 2005
MEETING TIME: 2:00 p.m.

Bureau of Land Management :
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Forest Service

MODERATOR:
Scott Powers, BLM

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1 focusing on how much we pack into one corridor. Thank
2 you. UT06

3 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Mike Peterson, Utah
4 River Electric Association.

14:49:24

5 MR. PETERSON: Thank you. The Utah River
6 Electric Association represents ten rural electric
7 cooperatives that provide electricity to rural parts of
8 Utah. We're excited about the prospect of streamlining
9 the process for permitting and particularly want to make

14:49:46

10 sure that small organizations that have transmission and
11 distribution facilities are also included in your
12 corridors. One of our electric cooperatives, the
13 service territory that has -- includes -- 95 percent of
14 the land where it has transmission/distribution
15 facilities are federal lands.

14:50:04

16 The cost of permitting right now for a
17 particular line have already exceeded the costs to
18 upgrade the line that is planned to be built. So we
19 want to make sure and ensure that when we end up with a
14:50:23 20 map that it does include some of those distribution
21 facilities for those smaller utilities that serve across
22 federal lands, park service, Forest Service, BLM, and
23 make sure that that process is something that is doable
24 for them.

14:50:40

25 We are willing to participate in any

1 meetings necessary to help facilitate that process and
2 just to look forward to participating. We will also
3 submit formal comments as well to the panel. Thank you.

4 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Laura Nelson, Utah
14:51:21 5 Energy Policy Advisor. UT07

6 MS. NELSON: Hi, I apologize for the late
7 notice of making my comments. I will tell you my
8 hesitation that we've only begun our preliminary review
9 of this scoping process, and, you know, the implications
14:51:42 10 of the designation of national interest energy
11 corridors, and so, even though I am the Governor's
12 Energy Policy Advisor, these are just simply my
13 observations today.

14 First of all, we just -- and I'll make these
14:51:58 15 brief. I would just encourage the agencies to give
16 priority to protecting the existing rights-of-way from
17 land uses that would limit the ability to expand energy
18 transmission in those existing corridors. I'd also
19 recommend that the agencies evaluate opportunities to
14:52:21 20 expand electric transmission in existing corridors
21 through the application of new types of technologies.
22 We -- I would also recommend that this not be at the
23 expense of looking at new potential rights-of-way and
24 that you also review those.

14:52:40 25 There's a lot of uncertainty when it comes