

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Public Scoping)
 Comment Period)
)
 In Re: West-Wide Energy)
 Corridor Programmatic)
 EIS)
 _____)

**CERTIFIED
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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



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PUBLIC MEETING

(The following proceedings were held on the record.)

MR. STARK: Well, hello. My name is Howard Stark. I'm here to welcome you on behalf of BLM and all of our cooperators to the Programmatic EIS scoping meeting.

California -- make a couple of California comments and turn it over to the moderator. I'll throw out a couple of statistics. I am the Branch Chief of Branch of Lands under the Deputy State Director for BLM. I'm opening for the evening program tonight.

I'll throw out a couple of the statistics to make -- set the stage a little for California. We have a bunch of folks from Washington, D.C. They're on a circuit of several public meetings, give them a little California perspective.

We have about 100 million acres in California of which about 49 percent are publically held. The State owns about 2 percent; counties, 1 percent; Federal Government has 46 percent of the land base in California. As you can see from your land status maps here, there and everywhere, the Forest Service is the largest Federal holder of about 20 percent; BLM, second, at 15 percent;

1 National Park Service, 8 percent; and DOD particularly in
2 Southern California about 4 percent of that land base.

3 So the Forest Service ownership is predominantly in
4 the Sierras. The BLM and some of the DOD land base is
5 predominantly in the southern and southeastern parts of
6 California. All our right-of-way corridors come across
7 all of the public lanes and there's the need for
8 coordination.

9 As you listen to the speakers and put your comments
10 together, I hope you keep in mind the broader picture and
11 what's in the best public interest of California for the
12 taxpayers. We have the challenge of providing for the
13 energy needs of a growing California. Last time I
14 checked, I think we were projected to double in population
15 over about the next 20 years or something thereabouts.
16 Quite an increase in population over time.

17 How do we provide for the long term energy needs and
18 respond in an environmentally sensitive way to those
19 needs? I think that is sort of the challenge for us.

20 So oftentimes folks come from Washington. They say,
21 "Gee, we've got this issue. It's energy. It's corridor
22 planning." And we often say, "We're Californians. We're
23 already doing that." So I'm happy to say we do have some
24 existing corridors, as you've seen from the planning maps,
25 a lot of them coming from the north, east of Reno and east

1 from Las Vegas and from Phoenix and a couple of the
2 corridors that are also planned.

3 How does it link up with the other 11 western states,
4 the bigger picture? And how do we go about the long-term
5 planning challenges to accommodate? Then California is
6 also a little different. I imagine the other states are
7 different as far as the state regulatory structure. We've
8 got the Energy Commission, California Public Utilities
9 Commissions and, of course, the independent system
10 operators all having a stake in the success.

11 Without going into much more detail, I appreciate all
12 of you coming out and welcome you.

13 I'll introduce Paul Johnson from the Forest Service
14 Agency from Washington.

15 Actually, he'll introduce some of the other speakers.
16 Thank you all for coming.

17 MR. JOHNSON: At this time I'd like to introduce our
18 panel. I'll have them introduce themselves. Start with
19 Ms. Johnson.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Vernellia Johnson.
21 I'm the Director of Communications and Outreach at the
22 Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

23 So I wanted to say hello and welcome you all here and
24 just wanted to also thank you for taking time out from
25 your busy schedules to come and share with us your views

1 as to how best we can serve you relating to the PEIS we're
2 about to undertake.

3 Again, thank you and I welcome you all out.

4 MR. POWERS: My name is Scott Powers. I'm the BLM
5 project manager for this Programmatic Energy Environmental
6 Impact Statement.

7 I work for the Washington Office Lands and Realty
8 Group. I don't live there. I spent my entire career out
9 West. I'm glad of that.

10 We appreciate your coming. We've been talking about
11 doing this for a number of years. The time has come.
12 Whatever you can provide to help us to find the scope of
13 this project, we'd appreciate.

14 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Paul Johnson with the Department of
15 Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service. I did have a
16 distinction of serving about seven years in Southern
17 California. I'm quite familiar with a lot of the demands
18 and land uses and things that go on here.

19 We're, again, thankful for your coming here as
20 we're -- this is our scoping meeting for the West-Wide
21 Energy Corridor for the Programmatic Environmental Impact
22 Statement.

23 Just to give a flavor of that, Section 368 of the
24 Energy Policy Act of '05 directs the Secretaries of
25 Agriculture, of Commerce, Defense, Energy and the Interior

1 to come together to develop on their respective
2 authorities of corridors on the Federal lands in 11
3 western states. Those corridors would be for oil, gas,
4 hydrogen, electric transmission and distribution
5 facilities.

6 The agencies have determined that designating
7 corridors as required by the Act constitutes a major
8 Federal action, which may have a significant environmental
9 impact. Therefore, Programmatic Environmental Analysis
10 will be developed.

11 The agencies present are Department of Energy and BLM
12 will be co-leading in this undertaking and USDA Forest
13 Service will be a cooperating agency.

14 Based upon the information and analysis developed in
15 this Programmatic EIS, each agency would amend their
16 respective land use plans by designating a series of
17 energy corridors. And public participation in this
18 endeavor is very important in helping us to frame those
19 alternatives and come up with the best solution possible
20 for these corridors.

21 As you've checked in, I'm sure you've received this
22 package here which contains flyers talking about the
23 West-wide Corridors and also the Federal Register Notice
24 that initiated this action; and, also, that kind of segues
25 into four ways you can participate in this scoping

1 meeting. One is by your presence here today. You have a
2 website, which is published there. It is located in your
3 packet here. Or by your written comments, which you can
4 either leave today or you can have to us before November
5 the 28th. And the other way is by fax, which is a number
6 located on the flyer itself. So those are four ways in
7 which you can provide comments, concerns as we move
8 forward in development of this Programmatic EIS.

9 As I mentioned, the public scoping period started
10 September 28th with the publishing of the Federal Notice
11 and all comments must be received or postmarked by
12 November the 28th for consideration.

13 If comments should be postmarked after that date, we
14 will try to all intents practical to consider those
15 comments.

16 We want you to please note that if you do your postal
17 mail to Department of Energy, because of the anthrax
18 screening, you need to allow some time for that regular
19 mail to get there. We advise you to Fed Ex it overnight
20 or fax it or use the web. Or if you decide to do that,
21 send your comments early and then send the regular -- your
22 original comments through the mail.

23 Again, we thank you for coming. And we have several
24 speakers that have signed up to speak and we will start
25 with the first speaker.

1 And what we would like for you to do is come up,
2 state your name and state the company that you're
3 representing so that our reporter can record that.

4 Our first speaker is David Kates.

CA01

5 MR. KATES: I hate being the first speaker. I'm
6 David Kates. I'm with the Nevada Hydro Company. We are
7 the developers of the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage
8 Project, which is a pump storage and transmission line
9 project of Southern California. Part of our transmission
10 group may be on that western governor's association map.
11 We've never seen it in enough detail to know but it looks
12 pretty similar.

13 We're going to be submitting formal comments to you
14 but one of the things I wanted to bring to your attention,
15 we're involved in a Federal licensing effort now through
16 FERC that is very advanced. We've been studying the route
17 for five years. We have a Draft EIS coming out sometime
18 before Thanksgiving and we expect our Final EIS Record of
19 Decision sometime first or second quarter of next year.

20 So we want to participate in your process but we only
21 want to do so if your process isn't going to slow down
22 what is happening at FERC.

23 So the Lake Elsinore Project is a critical project.
24 The Southern California infrastructure is 500 megawatts of
25 advanced pump storage. It will be the most efficient

1 storage project in North America and the 5th most
2 efficient and highest in the world. So it's a world-class
3 facility.

4 Our transmission lines will be connecting Southern
5 California Edison systems with San Diego Gas and Electric
6 system in the south. It will be the first connection
7 between the two systems. It will contribute to form the
8 backbone of our PG&E's territory, which they now don't
9 have.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Terry O'Brien.

12 MR. O'BRIEN: Good afternoon. My name is Terry
13 O'Brien. I'm the Deputy Director of the California Energy
14 Commission. I'd like to thank the Federal representatives
15 for allowing the opportunity to comment today. I have a
16 prepared statement I'd like to read into the record.

17 The California Energy Commission appreciates the
18 opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of
19 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to designate
20 energy corridors on Federal land in the 11 western states
21 including California.

22 The Commission anticipates working closely with the
23 Department of Energy, the Federal land use agencies
24 including the Bureau of Land Management and the United
25 States Forest Service to identify potential energy

CA02

1 corridors within the states, as well as corridors to
2 connect California with the other western states.

3 We support this work on the part of the Federal
4 Government as it should contribute to the eventual
5 developments of energy infrastructure that will enhance
6 future energy reliability and contribute to improved
7 economic efficiency.

8 The identification of corridors should prove
9 beneficial to the development of the renewable energy
10 resources in California and help the State meet the
11 requirements of our renewable portfolio standards while
12 also increasing reliability from the State's energy
13 systems and improving fuel diversity.

14 While we believe identifying corridors is essential
15 to servicing the energy needs of California citizens, it's
16 equally essential that protection of public health and
17 safety and environmental quality be primary considerations
18 of the PEIS.

19 In addition, corridors identified in California
20 should conform to both State and local land use
21 designations and comply with other applicable laws,
22 ordinances, regulations and standards.

23 Given the significant interest and potential
24 implications and impacts associated with the study, it is
25 critical that broad stakeholder input be solicited and

1 considered. State and government, local agencies,
2 industries, environmental organizations and other groups
3 and associations representing specific segments of the
4 public all have valuable perspectives that need to be
5 considered in the formulation of the PEIS. Workshops and
6 meetings should be held throughout the state, including
7 rural areas, to allow input at the local level, not just
8 in Sacramento.

9 Designation of the energy corridors solely on
10 predominantly rural Federal land does not address the need
11 for corridors on state and private lands, urban, suburban
12 and agricultural areas.

13 There's little value of designating energy corridors
14 in remote regions of the state if these corridors do not
15 provide access links to the major urban areas where demand
16 for energy is concentrated.

17 Consequently, it's even more important for close
18 coordination between Federal agencies and state government
19 to ensure corridor connectivity. This will help
20 facilitate in the development of vital energy products and
21 projects and expedite permitting.

22 California supports and recognizes in legislation
23 pertaining to electric transmission lines the importance
24 of encouraging the use or expansion of existing
25 rights-of-way and to provide for the creation of new

1 rights-of-way when justified by environmental, technical
2 or economic reasons defined by the appropriate licensing
3 agency.

4 These principals should guide the Federal government
5 when examining potential corridors in California during
6 this proceeding.

7 The California Energy Commission is required by State
8 law to prepare and present to the Governor and legislature
9 a biannual Integrating Energy Policy Report. This report,
10 as modified by the Governor and legislature forms the
11 basis of a State Energy Policy. The California Energy
12 Commission is scheduled to adopt the 2005 Energy Report in
13 November. The report contains an integrated assessment of
14 the major energy trends and issues facing California and
15 provides policy recommendations to conserve resources,
16 protect the environment, ensure reliable, secure and
17 diverse energy supplies and enhance the State's economy
18 and protect public health and safety.

19 Given these legislative responsibilities and
20 considering proposed legislation that would require the
21 Energy Commission to establish electric transmission lined
22 corridors within California, the Commission believes it
23 would be the appropriate grid acting on behalf of the
24 resources agency, the State resources agency, to
25 coordinate the State's participation in the PEIS and to

1 serve as a primary point of contact with the Federal
2 Government in this proceeding.

3 We would therefore ask you ensure all communications
4 and information pertaining to the work on the PEIS
5 concerning California be made available to the Energy
6 Commission for its review and comment.

7 Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

8 MR. JOHNSON: All right. If you have a hard copy of
9 your comments, we could take them or you could give them
10 after the session is over.

CA03

11 Thank you. Our next speaker is William Zobel.

12 MR. ZOBEL: Good afternoon. I also have a statement
13 to read into the record. Terry has stolen my thunder.
14 But it's good to hear we're here on the same page.

15 My name is Bill Zobel with Sempra Energy. I'm here
16 today representing Sempra Energy Company.

17 Sempra Energy is based in San Diego, California.
18 It's a Fortune 500 Service Holding Company which provides
19 electricity, natural gas and value added products and
20 services to the economy.

21 Sempra Energy Company employs close to 13,000 plus
22 people and is serving more than 10 million customers in
23 the United States, Europe, Canada, Mexico, South America
24 and Asia.

25 Sempra Energy supports the Federal Government's

1 designation of energy corridors on Federal land. This is
2 an important issue to provide the safe, reliable and cost
3 effective delivery of energy to the American people.

4 Congress reinforces this as a national priority in
5 their actions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that brings
6 us here today.

7 As the nation's economy continues to expand, our
8 population continues to grow and so will our need for
9 energy.

10 While we have seen great success in the demands I've
11 mentioned, this does not and will not preclude the need
12 for additional supplies of energy and the infrastructure
13 necessary to carry the load centers. We simply cannot
14 conserve our way out of the need for additional energy
15 supplies and infrastructure.

16 At the highest level, the corridor designation
17 process must take into account public safety and system
18 reliability, create opportunity to optimize cost-effective
19 delivery of energy in a competitive manner and support to
20 the extent feasible of the renewable portfolio objectives
21 in the western states.

22 System-wide reliability and public safety must be a
23 primary consideration in the identification of the
24 corridors as has already been mentioned today.

25 The need for additional facilities and upgrades to

1 existing ones is abundantly clear. As recently as this
2 past August 25th, the California independent system
3 operators required a transmission emergency causing a
4 forced outage of more than 450,000 customers in our
5 service territory.

6 It will take the concerted and cooperative efforts of
7 both public and private interests to make the necessary
8 long-term improvements to prevent future events like this
9 from occurring.

10 Optimizing energy delivery for customers depends on
11 several factors. Not the least of which is access and
12 availability to energy infrastructure and ensuring the
13 corridor designation process does not distort competitive
14 markets.

15 One alternative to be evaluated by the PEIS as
16 mentioned in the Federal Register is an optimization
17 analysis of the new and existing corridors based on a set
18 of criteria and strategies that incorporate environmental
19 concerns, project the supply and demands, network
20 efficiencies, landscape features, the availability of new
21 technology and cost.

22 In addition to these, we recommend you also consider
23 the competitive process for the delivery of energy. If
24 done correctly, this comprehensive analysis including all
25 of these factors should clearly identify the best possible

1 solutions.

2 With regard to renewable energy, many states have
3 taken the initiative and imposed renewable energy
4 portfolios on regulated utilities. In order for the
5 regulated utilities to meet their goals, land throughout
6 the country must be set aside for renewable energy project
7 developments. These projects must have competitive access
8 to markets.

9 In California we have a goal of achieving 20 percent
10 of our demand served by the renewable energy by 2010.
11 This is an aggressive target. It will require the
12 cooperation of both State and Federal agencies if we're to
13 be successful.

14 We support and encourage the Federal Government to
15 work closely with the State of California to ensure this
16 process does its part to meet that goal.

17 Ongoing experiments with energy infrastructures
18 development are showing us space -- available space for
19 energy infrastructures are diminishing at a rapid pace.
20 Southern California in particular has experienced
21 substantial residential growth in the past several years.
22 This, coupled with many land use restrictions imposed by
23 Federal, State and local government, limits energy
24 infrastructure sites.

25 Our case in point, we recently unveiled a proposal to

1 build a new electric transmission line between San Diego
2 and Imperial counties. This project could produce enough
3 power to serve 650,000 customers. It's called the Sunrise
4 Power Link.

5 This is an example of trying to site a project on
6 land where no dedicated utility corridors currently
7 exists. Existing land use and environmental concerns make
8 siting the route an extreme challenge. Having the ability
9 to access dedicated energy corridors for configuring a
10 specific route would make this segment easier for future
11 projects. Something to keep in mind.

12 In a more general sense, the geographic location of
13 our regulated business -- excuse me -- pose some specific
14 concerns. First, the Federal Government is Southern
15 California's largest landowner as was pointed at the
16 opening of the presentation. In particular, San Diego
17 County serves as home to numerous defense facilities. On
18 one hand, this adds national security component to the
19 importance of ensuring energy delivery systems for the
20 region. But it also adds the unique difficulty in that
21 these facilities are large plots of land that in many
22 cases block access to existing or proposed energy
23 transmission infrastructure. We need to solve this
24 problem and we -- to do so, we recommend the Department of
25 Defense property be explicitly considered in this process.

1 Doing so opens up critical areas of government land's
2 energy in the infrastructure development and adds to the
3 security or adds to the security transmissions.

4 Second, directly south of our California utilities
5 service territory is the sovereign nation of Mexico, which
6 presents immediate concerns. For example, close proximity
7 on both sides of the border creates a need for new energy
8 projects of delivery infrastructure. These issues are
9 further complicated by the fact the projects within
10 Mexico are outside of the jurisdiction of the U.S.
11 planning process, making infrastructure decisions
12 difficult -- infrastructure decisions that much more
13 difficult.

14 We encourage the Federal Government where appropriate
15 to consider working cooperatively with Mexico on these
16 issues to ensure the best possible solutions for everyone.

17 And, finally, Sempra Energy Companies are very
18 interested in the identification of these corridors for a
19 variety of specialists. We have specific concerns we will
20 identify in detail in our later comments. I want to
21 mention a few of them here today.

22 One, corridors natural gas transmission projects
23 associated with the delivery of energy supplies to our
24 service territories might be considered.

25 Two, corridors touching off Camp Pendelton need to be

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.

1 MS. KIENER: Close enough. Good afternoon. My name
2 is Kim Kiener. And I'm with IID Energy. We're a division
3 of Imperial Irrigation District.

4 IID currently utilizes 540 miles of high voltage
5 transmission. Approximately 310 miles of that is 161Kv.
6 The 161Kv transmission system was originally built in the
7 1930's as part of the Western Area Power Administration
8 Transmissions to bring in power for the regional
9 irrigation districts.

10 Our service territory has continued to grow in all
11 regions and it has resulted in our need to upgrade our
12 systems.

13 We're currently evaluating potential energy
14 corridors. We anticipate providing additional comments by
15 the November 28th deadline.

16 In particular, we're looking at evaluating the
17 Imperial Valley to San Felipe corridor and the San Felipe
18 to Bannister corridor.

19 As far as the efforts we're undertaking is to develop
20 what we call our Green Path. And the Green Path system
21 will successfully meet our growing needs and it will
22 provide systems in the western interconnection.

23 IID Energy is in partnership with Citizens Energy
24 Corporation and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.
25 And we've recently introduced a renewable energy endeavor

1 that will benefit residences and businesses in Imperial,
2 San Diego, Los Angeles and Riverside County. This
3 partnership will expand our existing customer service and
4 allow us to build in neighboring control areas.

5 The Green Path Project's primary objective is to
6 increase capacity of the IID Energy transmission grid and
7 to keep pace with the anticipated growth in Southern
8 California.

9 The Green Path will upgrade IID transmission systems
10 enabling it to export a greater amount of renewable
11 geothermal energy generated from the Imperial Valley to
12 multiple delivery points.

13 The Green Path is comprised of three phases
14 including upgrades of IID Energy existing transmission
15 systems and construction of two new high capacity 230Kv
16 lines.

17 The upgrades will take place predominantly in
18 existing right-of-ways. The initial phases of the project
19 will create two interconnection points, one with San Diego
20 Gas and Electric and the other with the Los Angeles
21 Department of Water and Power.

22 The Green Path will benefit greatly from the joint
23 venture and participation of the Citizens Energy
24 Corporation and LADWP.

25 Citizens Energy is a non-profit corporation formed by

1 Joseph Kennedy, II, and provides low-income households
2 with assistance with their utilities across the United
3 States.

4 As a partner in our Green Path project, Citizens
5 Corporation will provide financial support to IID Energy,
6 transmission upgrades and, in turn, will subsidize
7 electric bills for elderly customers of the IID Energy
8 service territory.

9 We appreciate the opportunity that we've had in the
10 past to work with you. We look forward to working with
11 your agency in the future.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Ms. Cynthia Wilkerson.

14 MS. WILKERSON: Good afternoon. My name is Cynthia
15 Wilkerson. I'm the California representative for
16 Defenders of Wildlife. The defenders of wildlife are
17 dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and
18 plants in their natural community. The Defenders of
19 Wildlife has nearly 500,000 members nationwide and nearly
20 100,000 of which are Californians.

21 I'm pleased to be here today to provide comments for
22 the scoping period to be used in the preparation for the
23 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for
24 designation of energy corridors on Federal land in the 11
25 western states.

CA06

1 Especially because of the project level placement of
2 pipelines and associated infrastructure may be afforded a
3 categorical exclusion under the newly released Energy
4 Policy Act, the guidelines and criteria for siting of said
5 pipelines and associated infrastructure covered under the
6 PEIS must require significant examination in order to
7 fully analyze the potential impact.

8 In terms of wildlife impact, there are several
9 impacts that must be included in the siting process.
10 These include impact studies in the construction, ongoing
11 use and maintenance of the energy corridor infrastructure.
12 As such, the PEIS must meet the legal standards set forth
13 by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act the Bald and Golden Eagle
14 Protection Act, the California Fish and Game Code and the
15 California and Federal Endangered Species Act.

16 Additional state law must be followed by any private
17 entities proposing to build energy infrastructure on
18 Federal land. In California, this includes meeting the
19 minimized and fully mitigated standards set out by people.

20 Roads and other linear structures such as energy
21 corridors present a particular challenge to wildlife in
22 the form of habitat fragmentation. Continued habitat
23 fragmentation forces the wildlife to live on ever-shifting
24 islands of habitat, where it is more difficult to find
25 food, water, shelter, mates and protection from predators.

1 Genetic problems such as inbreeding appear and populations
2 become more susceptible to catastrophic events, such as
3 wildfire.

4 The resulting fragmented habitat inevitably leads to
5 smaller populations of wildlife and extinction of the
6 populations of species become more likely.

7 We specifically request that the impact to the
8 following be included in the PEIS as stated: Minimize
9 project footprints. Avoid steep slopes in order to reduce
10 the erosion impact. Avoid sensitive and rare natural
11 communities. Analyze, avoid, minimize and otherwise fully
12 mitigate impact of wide ranging species. Require
13 structures that discourage perching by raptors. Avoid
14 identified wildlife corridors. Avoid the flyways
15 especially for raptors. Avoid development of priority
16 areas as established in State Comprehensive Wildlife
17 Plans. Each state now has the Comprehensive Wildlife
18 Plan. Avoid development that serves as habitat corridors
19 set out in any state connectivity plans. The Defenders of
20 Wildlife is currently working with UC Davis Center for
21 Road Ecology and the U.S. Forest Service and other
22 partners to create California connectivity plans. Avoid
23 wetland resources including the upland elements of the
24 watersheds that support the wetlands themselves. Avoid
25 impact to species of plants and animals listed in the

1 State and Federal Endangered Species Act. Avoid overlaps
2 of designated critical habitats for federally listed
3 species. Be consistent with State and Federal recovery
4 plans for the listed species. Avoid local State and/or
5 Federally protected lands. Be consistent with regional
6 conservation plans, both current and in their draft form
7 as they -- these have a lot of input in terms of time and
8 money by multiple entities. Minimize growth inducing
9 impacts. Be consistent with the conservation priorities
10 existing regional land management plans for Federal Lands
11 including BLM lands. Minimize impacts due to ongoing
12 maintenance of pipelines, transmission lines and
13 distribution facilities. Minimize cumulative impacts due
14 to existing plans development in the region. Actively
15 restore native vegetation to the project footprints after
16 the infrastructure has been constructed.

17 Electricity corridors pose particular problems for
18 birds in the forms of collisions and infrastructures or
19 collisions and electrocutions. Raptors and large birds
20 are electrocuted through the phase to phase and phase to
21 ground contacts, while smaller birds are more inclined
22 electrocution from bushings and transformers as well as
23 other pole hardware.

24 Nationally, impacts from power lines have been
25 documented for nearly 350 species with a rough estimate

1 ranging from tens of thousands to 1.5 million collisions.
2 And current research indicates that the number of that of
3 deaths is actually drastically underestimated.

4 These mortalities have contributed to the decline in
5 local and regional population. As part of the specific
6 flyways, California in particular is a critical movement
7 corridor for a large number of the wintering birds that
8 utilize our refuges and flood our agricultural fields.

9 Electrocutions most often occur along distribution
10 lines in less than 70Kv and collisions are most likely to
11 occur in a greater amount of voltage. Collisions are also
12 more likely to occur when the transmission lines are
13 within the daily use areas of the birds, areas they move
14 along to forge and roost and when they're migrating
15 through the area. Body size maneuverability and height of
16 flight also contributes in the collision risks.

17 We request that you follow the Avian Protection Plan
18 Guidelines set forth by the Edison Electric Institute
19 Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the U.S. Fish
20 and Wildlife Service in April 2005. The document can be
21 found on the internet and detailed construction design
22 standards, management procedures, avian reporting systems
23 of risk assessment methodology, mortality reduction
24 measures, avian enhancement options and quality control.

25 Specific recommendations that should be included in

1 the PEIS are site analysis and bird use surveys to avoid
2 collision problems, bird flight diverters to make lines
3 more visible, avoid high bird areas, site accordance to
4 topographic features, minimize spacing of 60 inches,
5 minimum space of 60 inches between phase to phase and
6 phase to ground, cover or insulate ground wires and cover
7 conductors and changing cross-arms in installing perch
8 guards.

9 Avoidance measures must be tailored to specific
10 locations of species of concern, as current research
11 indicates, varying success of different techniques. For
12 example, a study in Colorado demonstrated that perch
13 guards may shift raptors to unsafe portions of the power
14 pole.

15 Any actions designed to avoid, minimize or otherwise
16 mitigate impact to wildlife should be monitored adequately
17 to demonstrate success for the need for adequate measures.
18 Not only will this ensure the techniques are effective, it
19 will also provide critical data to inform the state of the
20 knowledge of the effective methods that can be employed in
21 other areas.

22 The PEIS must require that contingency plans and
23 adapted measures be implemented and monitored for success
24 as well in order to fully address the potential
25 environmental impacts.

1 Further, it must be considered collisions and
2 electrocutions also cause wildfires, power outages and
3 reduce reliability of the service. The wildfire impacts
4 will undoubtedly have broad ecological impacts.

5 Thank you for hearing our comments today and we look
6 forward to their inclusion in the Programmatic EIS.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Is there anyone else in the
8 audience that did not sign up but would like to do so? If
9 you would like to, we have the time. So if you would put
10 your name on the card and bring it forward, we will be
11 more than happy to have you do that.

12 We have one more after this. It would be Brent
13 Schoradt.

CA07

14 MR. SCHORADT: Good afternoon. My name is Brent
15 Schoradt with the California Wilderness Coalition.

16 The California Wilderness Coalition is a non-profit
17 organization whose mission is to protect the last
18 remaining wild lands in California. The CWC is very
19 concerned of the corridors potential to negatively impact
20 roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, designated and
21 potential wilderness areas throughout California.

22 Since the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964
23 California residents and our congressional representatives
24 have set aside 14 million acres of Federally owned land as
25 wilderness. The California wild land is a national

1 heritage that we've committed ourselves to preserving for
2 future generations.

3 The EIS must clearly demonstrate the corridors impact
4 on California's existing wilderness areas, land proposed
5 for wilderness designation in Congress, wilderness study
6 areas and inventory roadless areas in California.

7 The construction of the corridor in existing and
8 potential wilderness areas will require road building and
9 other development activities that are clearly prohibited
10 by the Wilderness Act. While you've undoubtedly heard
11 suggestions to seek categorical exclusions from the
12 environmental review process, the California Wilderness
13 Coalition urges you to focus on stewardship of our public
14 land and not to undermine our important environmental laws
15 that protect our water, air and wild places.

16 While we applaud your efforts to provide energy
17 corridors and to view their locations of broad landscape
18 context, we ask you adhere to the following guidelines:
19 The EIS must ensure no energy corridor is located in the
20 designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, areas
21 of critical environmental concern, roadless areas, citizen
22 promoted wilderness areas or national landscape
23 conservation lands.

24 The EIS must ensure the visual resource management be
25 considered and factored in when designating corridors.

1 The EIS must also ensure best manage practices are
2 explicitly detailed and mandated to ensure the impacts on
3 national resources are limited.

4 The California Wilderness Coalition along with our
5 conservation partners throughout California will continue
6 to monitor the process and will provide written comments
7 in advance of the November 28th deadline.

8 We look forward to the Draft Environmental Impact
9 Statement and working with the agencies to ensure the
10 corridor projects does not destroy the wild land that
11 makes California unique.

12 Thanks.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Is there anyone in the audience
14 that -- come forward to state your name.

CA08

15 MR. WARNER: My name is Michael Warner. I'm an
16 environmental planner. I just have a couple of questions
17 and comments.

18 One of the questions I had was whether it's
19 contemplated this grants of right of -- right-of-way in
20 the corridors would be issued as part of the Energy Act or
21 whether they would be flip grants or some other granting
22 authority, whatever is relevant.

23 The second question I have or comment I have is
24 whether there is an opportunity for companies or
25 individuals to engage the project team directly, perhaps

1 with proprietary or project specific plans? How is that
2 going to be accomplished? Is there a working group
3 mechanism that allows that interaction to take place?
4 And sort of a second part of that question, there may be
5 security reasons to prevent the public distribution of
6 some of this information, either for security reasons or
7 proprietary reasons.

8 It will be useful, I think, to provide some
9 instructions on that topic about how that is accomplished,
10 if it's desired.

11 Beyond that, I just want to make a comment that I
12 think this is in the best interest of the country and it
13 represents sound environmental planning.

14 I applaud your efforts to go through the process.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Is there anyone else that desires to
17 make a comment for the record that did not sign up?

18 We want to applaud those that came forward to make
19 comments for the record.

20 And just to reiterate, there are four ways in which
21 you can get your comments in. One way is to be -- your
22 presence here today and reading them into the record. The
23 other one is the website that is located over to my right.
24 That is also on the handout you received. Written
25 comments, which can be faxed or mailed to the Department

1 of Energy. That address is on there as well. And also
2 can be faxed, which that fax number is there as well.

3 So we encourage you to let your desires be known as
4 we move forward in trying to complete the mandate that
5 Congress gave to us in a two-year time to complete a
6 Programmatic EIS for the designation of corridors in the
7 11 western states.

8 If there are no other ones that desire to enter the
9 record, we're going to go off the record now. And we'd
10 like to -- for the agencies that have representatives here
11 to stand for Forest Service, if we have anyone in the
12 audience from Forest Service? BLM? Department of Energy?
13 Department of Defense? Department of Commerce?
14 Look around.

15 And we're going off the record. So you're welcome to
16 ask questions of the representatives here -- that you may
17 do so as we kind of break and kind of mill around.

18 And so -- well, again, thank you for coming and we're
19 here until 4:00 o'clock. Excuse me. 5:00 o'clock.

20
21
22 (End of proceedings.)
23
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2 OF

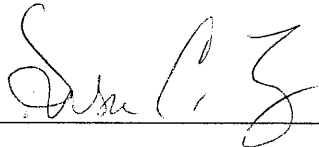
3 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

4
5 The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the
6 state of California does hereby certify:

7 That the foregoing deposition was taken before me at
8 the time and place therein set forth, at which time the
9 witness was duly sworn by me;

10 That the testimony of the witness and all objections
11 made at the time of the deposition were recorded
12 stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said
13 transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes
14 thereof.

15 In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this
16 date 11/22/05.

17
18 
19 _____
20 Certificate Number 12414