

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ORIGINAL

November 2, 2005

OR01-OR06

2:00 p.m.

Location: The Holiday Inn, Downtown Portland

1441 N.E. Second Avenue

Portland, OR 97232

ORIGINAL

1	Panel members:	
2	Julia Souder	
3	Maryanne Kurtinaitis	
4	Ron Montagna	
5		
6		
7	Speakers:	Page
8	Michael Burke	8
9	Kenneth Dillon	12
10	Natalie McIntire	15
11	John Thiebes	18
12	Brian Kuehne	19
13	Jim Thorton	24
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

14:03:21 1 MR. DeVINNEY: Good afternoon, everyone.
2 If you could take your seats. Welcome to
3 Portland for those of you who are from out of
4 town. We're holding off the rain for you for
14:03:28 5 just one day. If you stay overnight, all bets
6 are off.
7 If you haven't attended any of these
8 meetings in the past, I should introduce the
9 panel here, Maryanne Kurtinaitis from the
14:03:38 10 Forest Service is on the panel; Ron Montagna
11 from the BLM Washington office; and Julia
12 Souder from the Department of Energy, and they
13 are on the panel today. We have a court
14 reporter who will be taking notes for all your
14:03:52 15 comments. And as you can see from this board
16 to my left, there are other opportunities for
17 you to provide comments too. So if you have
18 written statements that you brought with you,
19 the panel will accept those as well. We're
14:04:01 20 very informal. If you want to come up after
21 the introductions have been made and provide
22 your comments, you are welcome to do so. There
23 won't be answers here. This is your
24 opportunity to provide your thoughts on what
14:04:16 25 the scope of the utility studies should be.

14:04:19

1 Julia.

2 MS. SOUDER: Thank you. Good afternoon,

3 everyone. Thank you so much for being here.

4 Thank you, Bob, for the introduction. We all

14:04:26

5 appreciate it.

6 My name is Julia Souder and I am the

7 Western Regional Coordinator for the Department

8 of Energy and the project manager for this

9 Section 368.

14:04:39

10 Section 368 of the energy policy act,

11 which was signed August in 2005 directs the

12 secretaries of agriculture, commerce, defense,

13 energy, and interior to designate energy

14 corridors under respective authorities on

14:04:55

15 federal land in the 11 western states within

16 two years, excluding Hawaii and Alaska.

17 Key of designations will occur in the land

18 use planning process. Agencies determined that

19 designating corridors, as required by the act,

14:05:10

20 is a major federal action. We intend to

21 prepare a programmatic environmental impact

22 statement to address environmental impacts from

23 proposed action and range of reasonable

24 alternatives. A public participation in the

14:05:25

25 west-wide energy corridor is very important to

14:05:29 1 the study. The notice of intent that was
2 published on September 28th outlined the four
3 alternatives, and a lot of the other scoping
4 meetings are in the process of what we're
14:05:40 5 working to achieve.

6 Today the intent of the scoping meeting is
7 to solicit public comments for consideration
8 and establish the scope and content of the
9 programmatic EIS. The federal agencies, public
14:05:55 10 interest groups, Native American tribes,
11 businesses, environmental groups, nonprofits,
12 members of the public, we all look to help and
13 have your help in helping us with this project.

14 We're holding meetings in 11 western
14:06:13 15 states, and there are four ways to make
16 comments, as Bob pointed to earlier, electric
17 comments through our website, which is also
18 over there too, and regular mail. And just a
19 caution with snail mail. It's better to
14:06:28 20 actually send your packages via Federal
21 Express, UPS, any type of express service so it
22 doesn't go through the extreme anthrax process,
23 because a lot of documents or CDs or any kind
24 of materials that are sent to us are usually
14:06:42 25 destroyed or changed into other products so

14:06:45 1 that when we receive them, it's very hard to
2 decipher, and they don't do a lot of the same
3 processing with the Federal Express packages,
4 so it's the best way to get it to us. But,
14:06:54 5 also, you can fax it to us, and also, today,
6 presenting your comments orally, is greatly
7 appreciated, and there are -- in the packets
8 you were given, comment cards that you can fill
9 out too and leave here if you don't want to
14:07:08 10 speak, and they're all treated with equal
11 weight.

12 The comments, if you do decide to send
13 them via mail or to the website, need to be
14 submitted by November 28 of this year.

14:07:21 15 What we're looking for in these comments
16 are outlining what is important to you,
17 identifying federal uses, and helping us refine
18 alternatives in the notice of intent. And
19 again, here is the comment form. We really
14:07:40 20 want your comments, so please.

21 And the formal comments are recorded, as
22 Bob said, with the official record. And we're
23 not having Q's and A's during this process.
24 There will be a report published in
14:07:53 25 January/February of 2006 that actually shows

14:07:58 1 all of the formal comments, and the publication
2 that will be posted on the website. I highly
3 recommend that you visit the website, because
4 there is a little section that you can click a
14:08:07 5 box that says, Please notify me via e-mail when
6 new notices come out, new projects are there,
7 or this report, even a draft PIS. It will be a
8 great help to you and to us.

9 So once we're finished with the formal
14:08:23 10 discussion, we can turn off the recorder and we
11 can break for informal discussions with the
12 agency reps. And will the agency reps who are
13 here today from various agencies please stand
14 up. Thank you very much for coming and for
14:08:38 15 your participation. Thank you very much.

16 We would like it if you would please keep
17 your comments to about ten minutes. There will
18 be flashing buzzers and sirens that go off if
19 you go over that. Just kidding.

14:08:56 20 And just thank you very much for being
21 here. This is a really important. Comments
22 mean a lot to us. And just wanted to ask if
23 there were any elected officials or tribal
24 members, representatives, that wish to speak?
14:09:10 25 Any elected officials?

14:09:14 1 And also, one more reminder, if everyone
2 could please turn off your cell phones and
3 pagers and Blackberries and other fun gadgets
4 that we carry around, I-pods. Thank you.

14:09:32 5 Thank you again, and let's begin. Will
6 Matt -- and I am sorry if I mispronounce the
7 names wrong. You can also please restate your
8 name correctly, so I can learn. And come up to
9 the podium, restate your name for the court
10 reporter, that would be great. Thank you very
11 much. Matt Featherstone from Portland General
12 Electric.

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Actually, I was not
14 slotted to speak, but we have two
15 representatives from Portland General Electric
16 that were.

14:09:55 17 MS. SOUDER: That's okay. I'll move on to
18 the next card. Michael Burke from Trans
19 Canada.

14:10:10 20 MR. BURKE: Suppose to speak over here?
21 MS. SOUDER: Yes, please.

22 MR. BURKE: My name is Michael Burke from
OR01 23 Trans Canada Gas Transmission Northwest. And
24 we've been involved in this project for quite
14:10:22 25 awhile through our involvement with the Western

14:10:24 1 Utility Group, and so we're really glad that
2 the Department of Energy actually is taking
3 this on. It's a big project, but we think it's
4 something that will benefit the western energy
14:10:34 5 business and look forward to the results in the
6 process.

7 A couple of just brief comments, and I
8 won't read my whole letter here. But first
9 thing is on the mapping -- I know you've got
14:10:45 10 your map on the wall there and that looks very
11 familiar, because I think that's what came out
12 of the one effort earlier. But one of the
13 things that would be very helpful in this whole
14 process would be to make sure and differentiate
14:10:55 15 between existing corridors, proposed corridors,
16 and corridors that may be approved and not used
17 or something like that, and to also
18 differentiate between the facilities within
19 there. It's hard to look at that map and know
14:11:08 20 what's an electric transmission line, a
21 pipeline, or whatever. So just more details
22 really would be very helpful in the whole
23 process and evaluation.

24 One of the other issues is to make sure
14:11:19 25 and assure consistency and coordination with

14:11:24 1 other plans, and I know on the western-wide you
2 are trying to do that. But there is instances
3 where forest service -- abutting forest service
4 districts don't actually -- one might have a
14:11:36 5 corridor and one might not. So hopefully that
6 will -- some of that will be resolved. And
7 also, there is some -- an effort up in the
8 state of Washington to develop tools for
9 jurisdictional -- for local jurisdictions from
14:11:50 10 a planning perspective and trying to tie the
11 whole -- this whole corridor concept in with
12 some of the state and local efforts that are
13 going on to try to basically improve
14 coordination.

14:12:02 15 Additionally, we're -- I am with Gas
16 Transmission Northwest, which was purchased by
17 Trans Canada a couple of years ago, so we now
18 look at -- from an international perspective.
19 So when the corridors get near the Mexico
14:12:15 20 border or the Canadian border, some sort of
21 evaluation of our brothers north and south
22 might be helpful to look at an overall
23 perspective there.

14:12:31 24 The expansion of existing facilities, we
25 typically, in the gas transmission business,

14:12:33 1 will build a parallel pipeline when we want to
2 expand our facilities and vice-versa in the
3 electric business. They build parallel power
4 lines. And we want to make sure, as the
14:12:45 5 corridors get designated, that our facilities
6 and others don't get sandwiched with an
7 electric line and a pipeline and an electric
8 line and all of that, so just some forward
9 thinking in trying not to sandwich facilities
14:12:58 10 will be helpful.

11 Additionally, new projects, we've
12 participated in this process and tried to get
13 some of our projects that we're thinking about,
14 as well as our existing facilities on that map
14:13:09 15 back there. But there is projects out there
16 that I can't even think of today that may come
17 up tomorrow. And so we would like to make sure
18 that the -- that there is flexibility there,
19 that new projects don't get precluded out
14:13:21 20 because they didn't go through this process and
21 participate in this.

22 Definition and corridor width, the more
23 definition we can have through this process, so
24 that you sort of know the rules of the road,
14:13:35 25 what is the corridor width, what's the

14:13:38 1 allowable use in there, and try to reduce as
2 much ambiguity as possible would be very
3 helpful.

14:13:46 4 And finally, we're always concerned about
5 security and critical energy infrastructure
6 information, and I am sure you are thinking
7 about that, and we just want to make sure that
8 that's a consideration as you go through the
9 process. So thank you.

14:13:56 10 MS. SOUDER: Thank you. Kenneth Dillon
11 from Portland General Electric.

OR02 12 MR. DILLON: Thank you. My name is
13 Kenneth Dillon from Portland General Electric
14 Transmission Services Department, and I am here
14:14:21 15 representing, today, the electric transmission
16 needs of Portland General Electric.

17 Portland General Electric Company is an
18 electric utility engaged in the generation,
19 purchase, transmission, distribution, and
14:14:30 20 retail sale of electricity in the state of
21 Oregon. PGE's service area is located entirely
22 within Oregon and covers 3,150 square miles.
23 PGE serves more than 750,000 retail customers
24 and also sells wholesale electric energy to
14:14:47 25 utilities, brokers, and power marketers located

14:14:51 1 throughout the western United States. PGE has
2 transmission lines for the delivery of
3 electricity from its plants located in Oregon
4 to its service territory, or to the Northwest
14:15:00 5 grid. PGE also has a 79.5 percent ownership
6 interest in a 20-inch diameter natural gas
7 pipeline that runs approximately 18 miles from
8 Beaver Generating Plant located in Clatskanie,
9 Oregon, to Cowlitz County, Washington, where it
14:15:15 10 interconnects with the interstate gas
11 distribution system of the Northwest Pipeline
12 Company.
13 As I said, I am here today to represent
14 the electric transmission side. We applaud and
14:15:26 15 support the effort of coordinating federal
16 agencies to prepare a programmatic and
17 environmental impact statement of the energy
18 corridors in the western states for a number of
19 reasons. The existing transmission system is
14:15:36 20 becoming more and more congested with system to
21 system transfers. . Establishment of new
22 right-of-ways and construction of new
23 transmission facilities is hard to accomplish
24 today. Right away acquisition is often opposed
14:15:50 25 by land owners and public interest groups, and

14:15:51 1 it's hard -- and it's based upon health and
2 environmental and other concerns.

3 New transmission was previously needed to
4 meet liability and some transfers. Today's
14:16:01 5 system we need far more -- there is far more
6 demand for transferability, and thus, more
7 transmission is needed. Transmission
8 construction can take five to ten years with
9 the majority of that time falling in
14:16:11 10 right-of-way establishment. Wind and gas
11 generation resources need access to new
12 transmission much faster than traditional
13 resources did. Generation sites close to load
14 are becoming very limited. Assistance with
14:16:26 15 acquisition of right-of-way land will be
16 crucial to future transmission construction.
17 Cooperation is required for state and federal
18 entities to ensure corridor establishment.
19 Utilities have accepted that time to construct
14:16:38 20 new lines is long, but market participants
21 continue to demand a short lead time. Much of
22 the transmission needed for PGE system from
23 Eastern Oregon into Western Oregon crosses over
24 federal land.

14:16:50 25 And in conclusion, PGE would like to thank

14:16:53 1 the agencies once again for this opportunity to
2 participate in the scoping process. Thank you.

3 MS. SOUDER: There is some disturbance,
4 but we can't really -- we've already decreased
14:17:17 5 it as much as we can. Sorry.

6 Natalie McIntire, Renewable Northwest
7 Project.

8 MS. McINTIRE: Good afternoon. I am
9 Natalie McIntire with the Renewable Northwest
14:17:35 10 Project. I recognize many of you in the
11 audience, but for those of you who aren't
12 familiar with our organization, we are a
13 nonprofit renewable energy policy and advocacy
14 organization. We work in the four northwest
14:17:46 15 states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and
16 Montana, and we are working to encourage the
17 development of solar, wind, and geothermal
18 resources.

19 The members of our organization include
14:17:57 20 energy companies, consumer groups, and
21 environmental organizations. We are very
22 pleased, too, that you are endeavoring on this
23 effort to identify corridors because for
24 renewable energy resources, transmission has
14:18:10 25 become a major bottleneck. So we know that

OR03

14:18:14 1 federal land in the west will be needed for
2 transmission corridors, but at this point we
3 have not identified all of those corridors or
4 the timing that's necessary. So at this point
14:18:26 5 we want to just make some very brief comments,
6 and we will be making more written comments at
7 a later point, probably in conjunction with the
8 American Wind Energies Association and West
9 Wind Wires.

14:18:37 10 So I just want to encourage you to look at
11 all of the work that has been done so far,
12 SSG-WI effort, RMATS, the NTAC effort, as well
13 as other subregional transition planning
14 organizations. Also, we would like to point
14:18:50 15 you to the Western Governors Association CDEAC
16 study, the draft wind report from that effort
17 on this is very strong, and that could help
18 direct towards the wind resources in the west.

19 We would also encourage you to look at the
14:19:04 20 National Renewable Energy Lab information, as
21 well as the Renewable Energy Atlas of the west,
22 which indicates renewable energy resource sites
23 around the west.

24 I am sure you are aware, and many of the
14:19:16 25 others in the audience are as well, but

14:19:18 1 renewable resources bring both economic and
2 environmental benefits, and so transmission
3 corridors that can help support the development
4 of renewable resources should be given the
14:19:28 5 priority in this study. And renewable
6 resources are not usually located near load
7 centers and so transmission is critical in
8 order to get that electricity to the load.

9 And as Mr. Dillon mentioned as well, the
14:19:43 10 time frames between development of renewable
11 energy resources and transmission are a little
12 bit disconnected between a couple years'
13 development of wind, to five, ten more years
14 required for transmission. And so planning and
14:19:58 15 working through this environmental impact
16 statement and coordinating between all of the
17 departments, federal departments, should help
18 to limit that time disconnect. So as much work
19 that we can get done ahead of time will help.

14:20:12 20 We thank you again, and we will be
21 submitting some more comments and look forward
22 to participating as the process goes along.

23 MS. SOUDER: John Thiebes with the
24 National Wild Turkey Federation. Did I say the
14:20:34 25 last name right?

14:20:36

1 MR. THIEBES: Close.

2

MS. SOUDER: Sorry.

OR04

3

MR. THIEBES: Thank you for the

4

opportunity to comment today. My name is John

14:20:40

5

Thiebes. I am a regional biologist with the

6

National Wild Turkey Federation. Our

7

organization was established in 1973, and we

8

have 521,000 members with 2,200 chapters

9

statewide. My area of representation is

14:20:56

10

primarily the northwest, Oregon, Washington,

11

and Idaho.

12

The National Wild Turkey Federation is

13

more interested in the corridor, once it's been

14

established, than anything else, because that

14:21:10

15

provides the variety of habitat that is most

16

important on federal land that isn't managed

17

for now with the protection to -- from fires

18

and so forth, so there is not a lot of

19

management. So basically our organization is

14:21:27

20

for active management on public lands,

21

especially managing for forest openings to

22

enhance wildlife habitat. If anything, we

23

would be very much for your option, alternative

24

number four, which is optimization, as long as

14:21:45

25

it's economically sound and also sound for

14:21:48

1 wildlife management.

2 Thank you for the opportunity today, and
3 that's all I have.

14:21:57

4 MS. SOUDER: Thank you. Is there anyone
5 else that would like to come up and give oral
6 comments?

7 MR. KUEHNE: Yes.

OR05

8 MS. SOUDER: Just please state your name.

14:22:15

9 MR. KUEHNE: Hi, my name is Brian Kuehne.
10 I am also with Portland General Electric. I
11 manage the Integrated Resource Planning for
12 that company.

14:22:28

13 PGE has contracts with Bonneville Power
14 Administration for the majority of its
15 transmission requirements. We also own
16 transmission lines for the delivery of
17 electricity to our service territory. We thank
18 you for this effort you're undertaking to
19 assess the energy corridors in the western
20 states.

14:22:44

21 In the west, electric transmission can
22 cross multiple states, as well as a number of
23 public lands that are under different federal
24 jurisdictions. However, unlike gas pipelines,

14:22:56

25 the siting authority for interstate electric

14:22:59 1 transmission still resides with individual
2 states. Hence, the permitting process can add
3 substantial time. Large transmission projects
4 can take as long as ten years to implement,
14:23:10 5 exceeding the time required to site and
6 construct most power plants.

7 The bulk power grid in the Pacific
8 Northwest has become congested over time.
9 Little new transmission capacity has been added
14:23:23 10 and the demands continue to increase. Several
11 electrical flowgates or points of managed
12 congestion have reached their respective limits
13 and have little or no available transfer
14 capacity. These flowgates exist throughout the

14:23:39 15 Pacific Northwest grid and a given flowgate
16 typically involves the electric facilities in
17 more than one corridor. For PGE, the
18 constraints hamper our ability to move out of
19 new resources mostly located east of the
14:23:51 20 Cascade Mountain Range to our customers.

21 Renewable resources, primarily wind, have great
22 potential in Eastern Oregon and Washington.

23 Coal for both conventional and the newer
24 clean-coal or gasification technologies lie
14:24:07 25 primarily east of the Rockies, and this must be

14:24:10 1 moved either by wire or by rail. For these
2 resources to reach PGE and other load centers
3 in the Pacific Northwest, both the existing and
4 new transmission corridors will have to be
14:24:23 5 utilized. This need was reinforced recently in
6 PGEs most recent request for proposals when we
7 received 111 proposals from 43 different
8 counterparties, but the output of comparatively
9 few of these could be brought to Portland.

14:24:39 10 Corridor utilization will have to be
11 increased to meet the increasing demand for
12 power. Increasing environmental regulations
13 over the past few decades have made existing
14 corridors nearly the only viable option to
14:24:53 15 expand capacity. However, utilization of
16 existing corridors does have practical limits.
17 The highest operating voltage in the western
18 states is 500 kV. There are still
19 opportunities to convert lines of lower voltage
14:25:07 20 to higher voltage. Adding new circuits in
21 existing corridors is another practical
22 expansion opportunity, and in some cases the
23 only viable option.

14:25:20 24 Typical rights-of-way for high voltage
25 transmission are 150 to 200 feet. Well

14:25:24 1 utilized corridors can then be in the order of
2 800 feet or more and contain combinations of
3 different voltages and multiple-circuit
4 structures.

14:25:33 5 However, from an electric system
6 reliability perspective, placing too much
7 dependance on any given corridor can have
8 unacceptable system reliability consequences.
9 Loss of corridors is a very low probability

14:25:46 10 event, but history shows that it does happen,
11 typically due to theft, fire, or
12 weather-related hazards. Therefore, corridor
13 diversity can be crucial. The health of the
14 electric system will, in some cases, be

14:25:59 15 dependent on spreading the power demand among
16 several highly utilized corridors. As a
17 practical matter, upgrading the existing
18 corridors can be difficult because of the
19 possible need to temporarily take the existing

14:26:12 20 infrastructure out of service. Without spare
21 capacity in the system or more timely upgrades
22 being constructed, the market impact can be
23 potentially severe. Thus the corridor
24 initiative needs to have a long-term

14:26:26 25 perspective and identify new alternative

14:26:30 1 corridors for existing paths that are already
2 pushing reliability limits.

3 We at PGE have just begun a new round of
4 analysis for our next integrated resource plan.

14:26:40 5 We believe that we will require new electric
6 transmission capacity across the Cascade
7 Mountains in a five to ten year time frame.
8 The entire cross-Cascades transmission system
9 is nearing its capacity to serve peak winter

14:26:55 10 power needs. In addition, historical, seasonal
11 peaking diversity between California and the
12 Pacific Northwest is diminishing due to more
13 air conditioning load in the Pacific Northwest
14 which moves us closer to a dual peaking, as is

14:27:14 15 the case with other utilities in the Pacific
16 Northwest.

17 Procuring new, firm transmission capacity
18 to PGE's load center is unlikely without
19 significant transmission infrastructure

14:27:25 20 additions. PGE has -- also has a significant
21 corridor across the Cascades, which is not
22 displayed on the initial map, entitled,
23 Examples of Possible Energy Corridors. We will
24 submit more detailed information identifying

14:27:39 25 this and other proposed -- or existing or

14:27:43 1 potential corridors which should be considered
2 in this process. And with that, we wish to
3 thank the agencies once again for this
4 opportunity to participate in the scoping
14:27:53 5 process. Thank you.

OR06

6 MS. SOUDER: I saw a hand go up. Thanks.

7 MR. THORTON: Thank you for the
8 opportunity. My name is Jim Thorton. I am
9 with -- senior consultant with the consulting
14:28:11 10 firm of College (sic) Environment. But I am
11 here today to speak privately and as a former
12 Washington State director of the Rails to
13 Trails Conservancy. And I would urge you to
14 look at abandoned railroad right-of-ways.

14:28:29 15 There are ways that you can use those, if they
16 haven't been divided up. But I think that
17 there are corridors all over the western United
18 States, and especially on federal lands, that
19 you should look at as potential right-of-ways
14:28:43 20 for pipelines and transmission lines. And
21 that's all I have to say today, but I really
22 appreciate the opportunity.

23 MS. SOUDER: Thank you very much. I
24 noticed there were a couple more people that
14:28:54 25 came into the room. If you would like to come

14:28:56 1 up and give an oral statement for the record,
2 that would be great and we appreciate it. We
3 need to have you come up and state your name
4 and organization for the record.

14:29:13 5 Anyone else interested?

6 It's 2:30 right now, so let's take a break
7 for 15 minutes and see if anyone else would
8 like to speak after that, then we'll go off the
9 record and come back at 2:45. Thank you.

14:29:36 10 (Break in proceedings.)

11 MS. SOUDER: Could everyone sit down
12 again, and we'll start again on the formal
13 process, please.

14 We're working in true government fashion.

14:57:43 15 It's 3:00. We were all getting so excited
16 about talking amongst ourselves.

17 I would like to ask if anyone, after
18 having discussions off the record, would like
19 to come back on the record and give any formal
14:57:58 20 comments to the podium up here and to all of
21 us. Also, if you would like to submit
22 documents to us, maps, anything else, we would
23 be happy to take those too.

24 No one is getting itchy to come up here
14:58:45 25 and speak in front of everybody? Well, thank

14:59:13

1 you very much, and we'll go back off the
2 record. Thanks.

3

(Break in proceedings.)

4

14:59:21

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I, ROSEMARY TANZER, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for Oregon and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported the proceedings had upon the hearing of this matter, previously captioned herein; that I transcribed my said stenotype notes through computer-aided transcription; and, that the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record of all testimony adduced and proceedings had upon the hearing of said matter, and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Portland, Oregon, this 11th day of November, 2005.



/s/ ROSEMARY TANZER

CSR CERTIFICATE 94-0299