Corridor 73-138

East Wamsutter Corridor

Corridor Purpose and Rationale

This short distance corridor in south central Wyoming provides a crucial link between multiple Section 368 energy corridors. The corridor connects Corridors 78-138 and 138-143 to Corridors 73-133 and 73-139. Input regarding alignment from multiple organizations[1] during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. A 500-kV planned transmission lines follows the entire length of the corridor. A 1000-kV planned transmission line generally follows the path of the corridor. The recently authorized 500 kV Energy Gateway West transmission line project is within the corridor for 3 miles. Gateway South, a recently authorized 500-kV transmission line, generally follows the path of the corridor from MP 4 to MP 15. A planned natural gas and a planned refined product pipeline would intersect the corridor and two planned electric transmission lines would extend within or adjacent to the full length of the corridor.

Corridor location:
Wyoming (Carbon and Sweetwater Co.)
BLM: Rawlins Field Office
Regional Review Regions: Region 4

Corridor width, length:
Width 3,500 ft
6 miles of designated corridor
16 miles of posted route, including gaps

Designated Use:
- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)

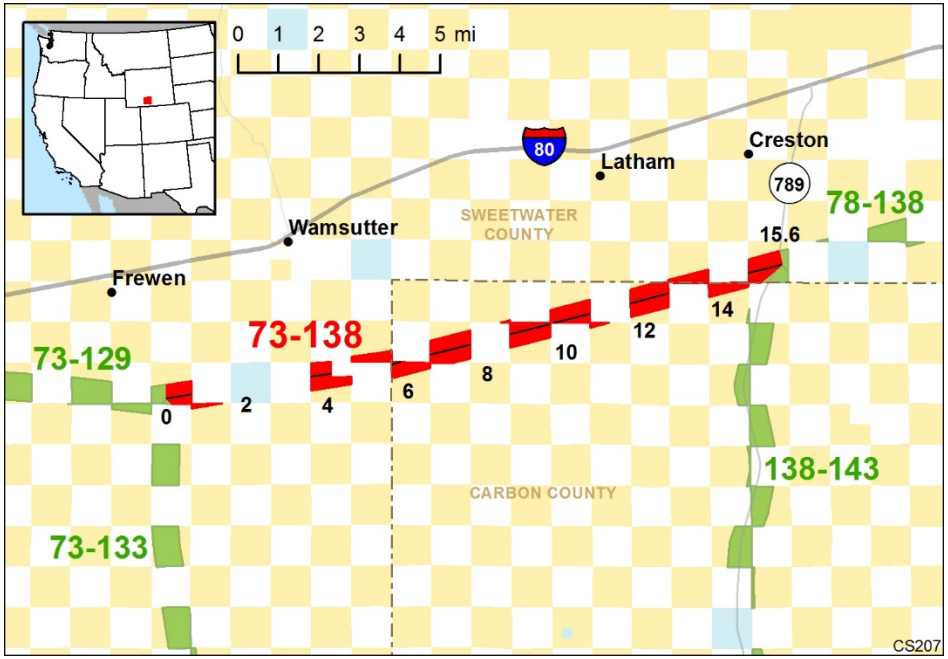
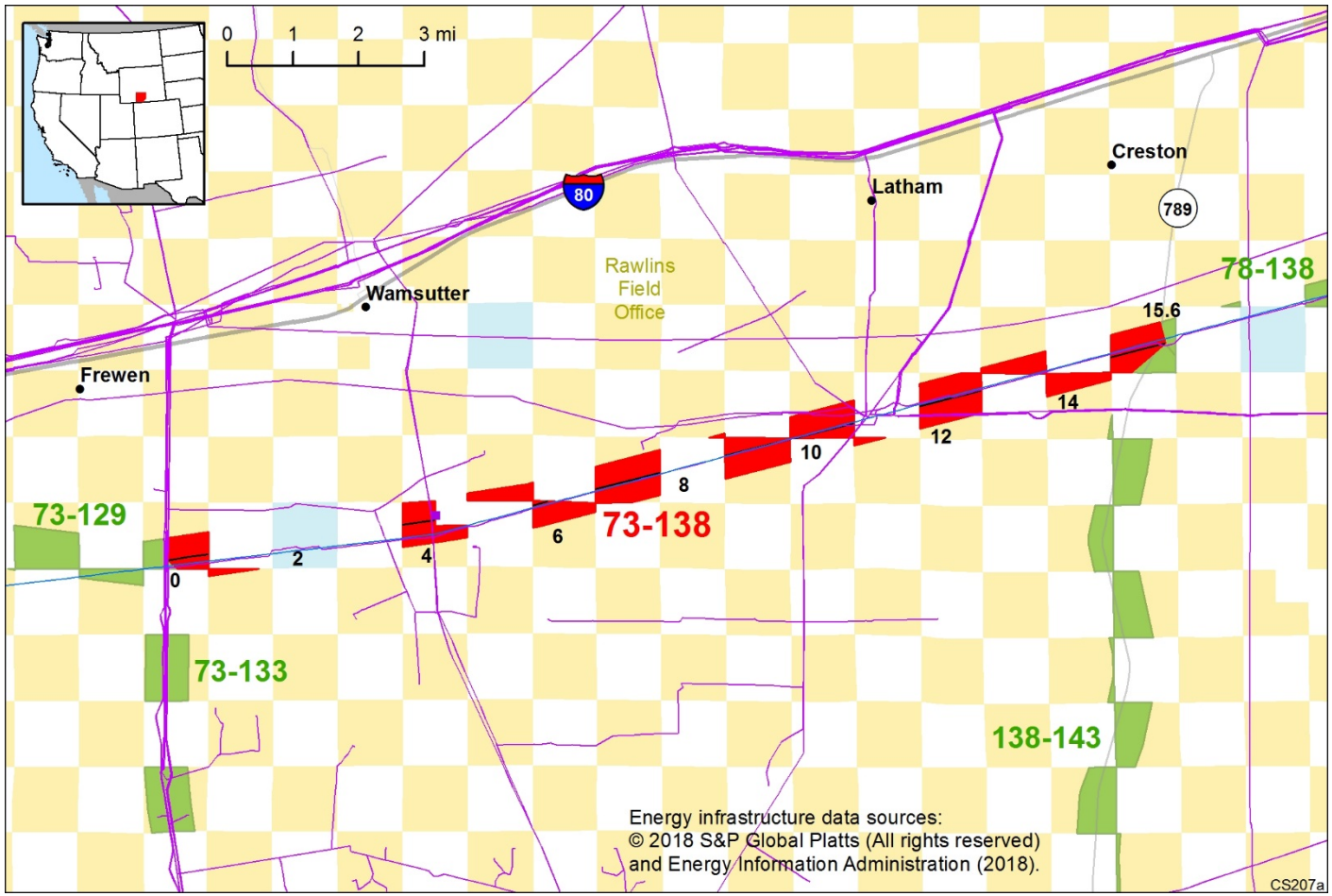
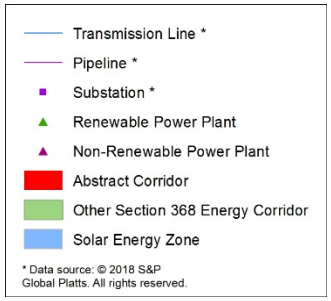


Figure 1. Corridor 73-138

Corridor history:
- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - A 230-kV transmission line runs the length of the corridor.
  - Four natural gas pipeline are within or adjacent to a portion of the corridor.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
  - 16 substations are within 5 mi of the corridor.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

[1] American Wind Energy Association, National Grid, PacifiCorp, Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Utility Group, and Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline Authority





Keys for Figures 1 and 2

Figure 2. Corridor 73-138 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

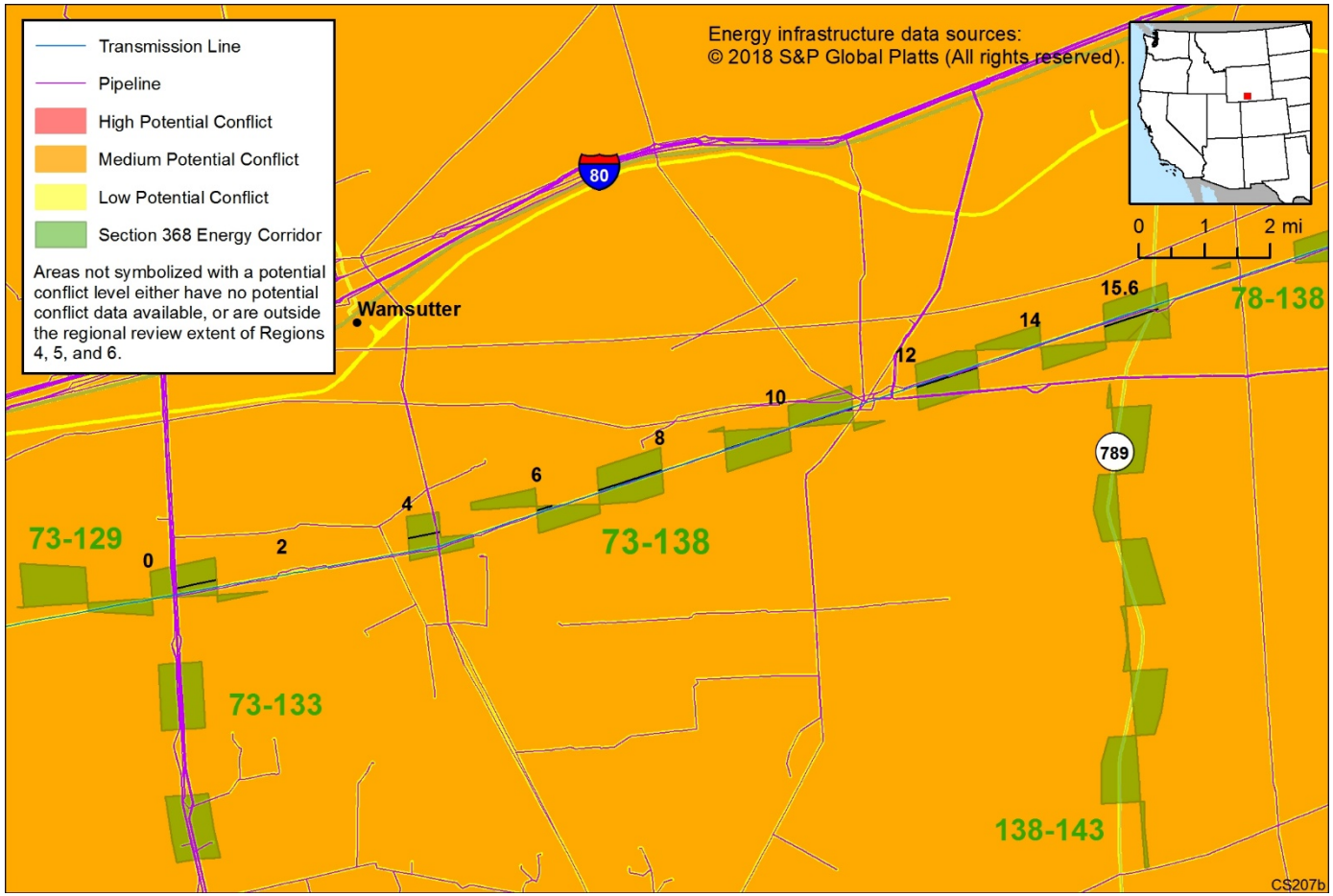


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 73-138

Figure 3 reflects a comprehensive resource conflict assessment developed to enable the Agencies and stakeholders to visualize a corridor's proximity to environmentally sensitive areas and to evaluate options for routes with lower potential conflict. The potential conflict assessment (low, medium, high) shown in the figure is based on criteria found on the WWEC Information Center at www.corridoreis.anl.gov. To meet the intent of the Energy Policy Act and the Settlement Agreement siting principles, corridors may be located in areas where there is potentially high resource conflict; however, where feasible, opportunity for corridor revisions should be identified in areas with potentially lower conflict.

Visit the 368 Mapper for a full view of the potential conflict map (https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/)

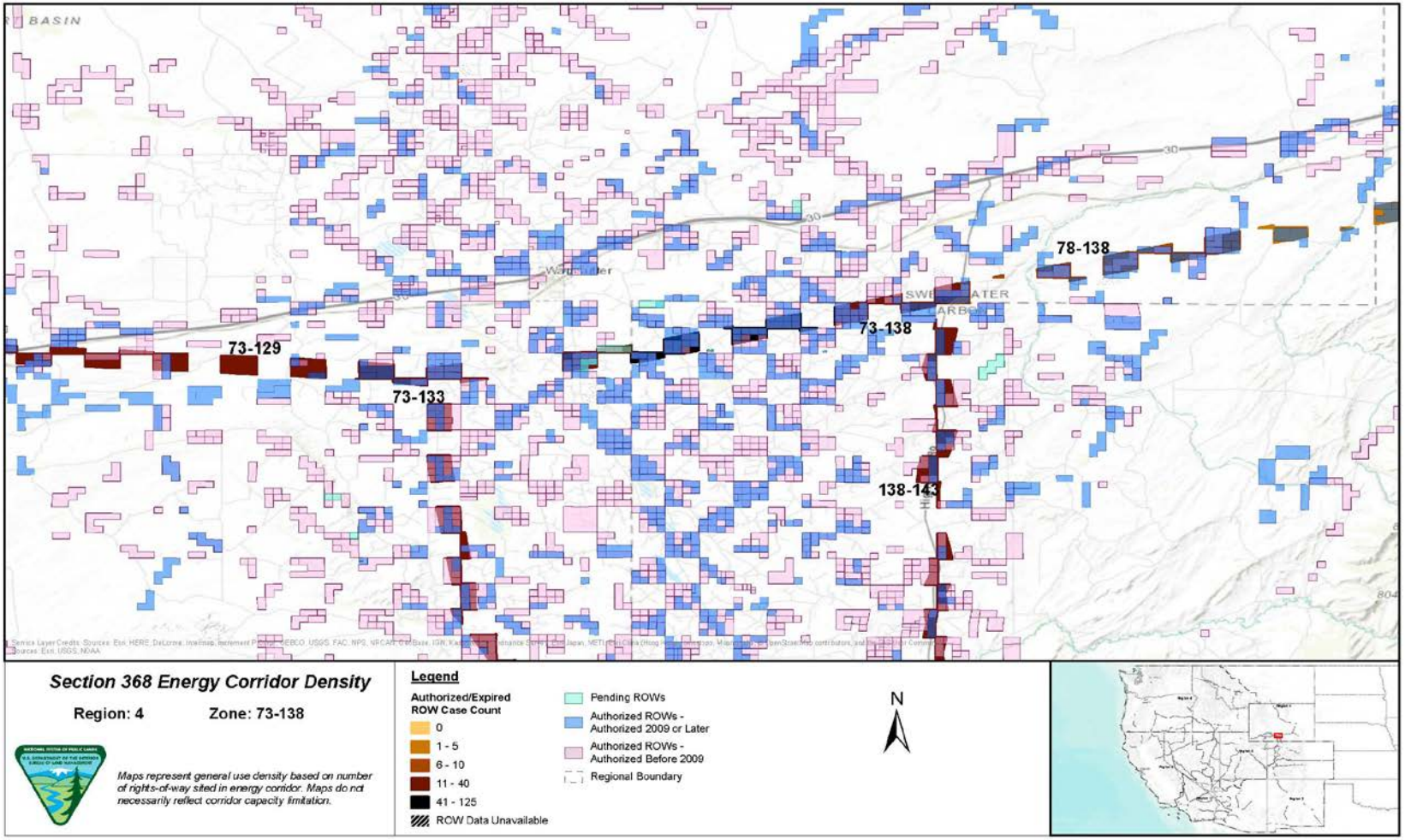


Figure 4. Corridor 73-138, Corridor Density Map

Figure 4 shows the density of energy use to assist in evaluating corridor utility. ROWs granted prior to the corridor designation (2009) are shown in pink; ROWs granted after corridor designation are shown in blue; and pending ROWs under current review for approval are shown in turquoise. Note the ROW density shown for the corridor is only a snapshot that does not fully illustrate remaining corridor capacity. Not all ROWs have GIS data at the time this abstract was developed. BLM and USFS are currently improving their ROW GIS databases and anticipate more complete data in the near future.

Corridor Review Table

Designated energy corridors are areas of land prioritized for energy transmission infrastructure and are intended to be predominantly managed for multiple energy transmission infrastructure lines. Other compatible uses are allowable as specified or practicable. Resource management goals and objectives should be compatible with the desired future conditions (i.e., responsible linear infrastructure development of the corridor with minimal impacts) of the energy transmission corridor. Land management objectives that do not align with desired future conditions should be avoided. The table below identifies serious concerns or issues and presents potential resolution options to better meet corridor siting principles.

The preliminary information below is provided to facilitate further discussion and input prior to developing potential revisions, deletions, or additions.

CORRIDOR 73-138 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	**MILEPOST (MP)[1]**	**STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**	**POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS [2]**
BLM Jurisdiction: *Rawlins Field Office* ***Agency Land Use Plan:*** *TransWest Express Transmission Project ROD; Rawlins FO ARMPA (Dec 2016)*			
Through the TransWest Express Transmission Project ROD, Section 368 energy corridor 73-138 (Rawlins-Wamsutter Corridor) is expanded from 3500 ft to 7000 ft for all utilities from approximately MP 4 to MP 15.6. Exceptions to resource stipulations within the designated corridor may be granted if measures of avoidance or minimization are not feasible. Minimum separation distance from existing transmission is required in GRSG core areas. All possible measures will be taken to avoid conflicts with other existing and proposed uses (utility and otherwise) within the designated corridor. The ROD also designated the new Wamsutter-Powder Rim corridor running from north to south along the western Sweetwater/Carbon County line for 81 miles (approximately from the northern to southern boundary of Sweetwater County). The new corridor has a width of 3500 ft for all utilities.	MP 4 to MP 15		Section 368 energy corridors are priority areas open to ROWs to maximize energy transmission while minimizing impacts on other resources.
BLM Jurisdiction: *Rawlins Field Office* ***Agency Land Use Plan:*** *Rawlins RMP (2008)*			
Other than the GRSG GHMA and PHMA intersections discussed below, no issues related to			

CORRIDOR 73-138 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	**MILEPOST (MP)[1]**	**STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**	**POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS [2]**
resource intersections with the corridor in the Rawlins FO have been identified.			
BLM Jurisdiction: *Rawlins Field Office* ***Agency Land Use Plan:*** *Wyoming GRSG ROD and ARMPA – March 2019*			
GRSG GHMA and corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMP indicates that collocating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.	MP 0 to MP 14	RFI comment: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (46% overlap). Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within four miles of important GRSG breeding areas.	The location appears to best meet the siting principles because collocation is preferred and the corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines. The GHMA encompasses a broad area on both sides of the corridor that cannot be avoided.
GRSG PHMA (avoidance area) and the corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMP indicates that collocating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.	MP 14 to MP 15	RFI comment: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (46% overlap). Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within four miles of important GRSG breeding areas.	ROW avoidance areas are not compatible with the corridor's purpose as a preferred location for infrastructure. However, the corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines. The PHMA encompasses a broad area on both sides of the corridor that cannot be avoided.

[1] Mileposts are rounded to the nearest mile.

[2] Siting Principles include: *Corridors are thoughtfully sited to provide maximum utility and minimum impact on the environment; Corridors promote efficient use of landscape for necessary development; Appropriate and acceptable uses are defined for specific corridors; and Corridors provide connectivity to renewable energy generation to the maximum extent possible, while also considering other generation, in order to balance the renewable sources and to ensure the safety and reliability of electricity transmission.* Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy

Additional Compatibility Concerns

The issues and concerns listed below are not explicitly addressed through agency land use plans or are too general in nature to be addressed without further clarification. Although difficult to quantify, the concerns listed have potential to affect future use and/or development within this designated corridor. The Agencies provided a preliminary general analysis, as shown below. The information below is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder review.

Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources could be a concern in the Rawlins FO.

Analysis: Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of an undertaking on cultural resources.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; FO = field office; GHMA = general habitat management area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; MP = milepost; NHPA = National Historic Preservation Act; PAC = priority area for conservation; PHMA = priority habitat management area; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = request for information; RMP = resource management plan; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.