

July 10, 2006

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Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Comments on Preliminary Map of Potential Energy Corridors - Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the above captioned map on behalf of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA) with membership in all 33 of New Mexico's counties as well as 14 additional states.

The Association believes that the maps do not provide sufficient information for meaningful comment and analysis by potentially affected individuals, especially private land owners. It is vital that significant input from affected individuals, including private landowners, through early notices and true negotiations about routes and impacts be included in all decision making regarding the corridors.

While the current proposal is to affect only public lands, it is important to note that most areas outlined in the maps are "checker boarded," as in segments of private land intermittent among public lands, and therefore have great affect on private lands owners. The Association fears impacts on private land justified by their proximity as neighbor to public lands.

These private land owners need to be contacted, with advance notice, and informed of all proposed corridor locations, given an opportunity to voice concerns and negotiate impacts, and informed on all possible preliminary fees and/or annual payments that might be required. Private property rights must be considered and respected as they are going to be most at risk regarding corridor mapping.

Concerning private property rights at risk, the Association is extremely concerned about the potential use of eminent domain to further undermine the property rights in the name of energy production. Clearly, corridor mapping and other similar processes can be used to discriminate against ranchers. The hope is that the use of this mapping process will help protect all, rather than placing the uncompensated costs and burden on private land owners in the corridors.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed corridor map and we look forward to continuing to receive information on proposed energy corridor locations and uses, and providing constructive comments as the designation process continues.

Sincerely,

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