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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING OF THE WEST-WIDE  
ENERGY CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 25, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

MEETING 1-B

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HELD AT:

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER

700 - 14TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO

1           GOFF: Sure. Thank you, very much. My  
2 name is Robert Goff. I'm the secretary of the  
3 InterTribal Council on Utility Policy, and while  
4 we're headquartered in Rosewood, South Dakota, a  
5 state not in your -- on your map -- we have  
6 affiliate tribes in Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, New  
7 Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and California. So,  
8 we've been involved with energy issues in the Great  
9 Plains and transmission corridors, as well, in the  
10 Great Plains.

11           Most of the tribes in this country -- well, I  
12 think if you live on an Indian reservation, you're  
13 ten times more likely not to even have electricity,  
14 than if you live anywhere else in this country.  
15 The un-electrified population is ten times higher  
16 than anywhere else in the country. Yet, tribes are  
17 more likely to have transmission lines going over  
18 their heads. Very often federal, put in by the  
19 Bureau of Reclamation and now operated by Western  
20 Power Administration in Bonneville.

21           We, the tribes in the Northern Plains and  
22 other tribes around the country, are very much  
23 concerned about energy development, and this round  
24 of development, perhaps participating as more than  
25 just land owners who have their rights-of-way used,

1 but could not have access to those grids.

2 I have the honor of representing tribal  
3 interests on the Western Governors Clean and  
4 Diversified Energy Advisory Committee that I'm sure  
5 you're aware of, but we certainly call for the  
6 record -- call it to your attention that we also  
7 have a transmission study going on, and I would  
8 recommend that you certainly consult the work that  
9 the Governors and tribes throughout the entire  
10 west, some eighteen states, have been looking at in  
11 terms of the opportunities of moving renewable  
12 energy from world sources, basically, to loads.

13 The tribes in the Northern Plains would be  
14 very interested in corridors that run through the  
15 northern tier, especially through the west, because  
16 you are looking at the farm-to-market highway for  
17 tribal renewable energy production to the west  
18 coast, to the load centers that are out there.

19 Tribes are very concerned about new  
20 right-of-ways. Many of the old right-of-ways are  
21 coming up for renewal in the next ten years. These  
22 are issues that are on the table and before the  
23 tribes now. I would be here tonight to urge you  
24 and, under the new law, you are, the federal  
25 government has required for direct consultation

1 with the tribes on many of these issues. And so, in  
2 no way is my speaking here to be considered as  
3 having performed consultation, so the record is  
4 clear on that.

5 The corridors that you will be examining --  
6 many of the existing corridors do come near or  
7 across tribal lands. The opportunity for access to  
8 them have been extremely limited. We would want to  
9 recommend that in any of these new opportunities  
10 that are being developed -- these new transmission  
11 corridors -- to the extent that they can follow  
12 existing corridors, and to the extent that the can,  
13 grant access to tribes for projects on the  
14 reservation to be able to utilize that  
15 farm-to-market road.

16 Tribes have a variety of interests in these.  
17 Everything from right-of-way concerns, sovereignty  
18 concerns to taxation concerns and revenue concerns.  
19 So, I would advise you to make sure that you are in  
20 contact with each of the tribes along the way and,  
21 perhaps tribes outside of this region. I'm not  
22 sure of why the cut-off is for Montana and Wyoming  
23 and not the Dakotas, other than the relative dearth  
24 of BLM lands in some of those areas. Tribes in  
25 those areas are also looking at corridors north and

1 south for moving power.

2 The idea of a Programmatic Environmental  
3 Impact Statement or something of this order is to  
4 be congratulated, and we would hope that this can  
5 be shared amongst your sister agencies in the  
6 Department of Interior, particularly when it comes  
7 to some of the siting requirements for renewable  
8 energy projects, such as those in the Great Plains.

9 I will leave my comments at that for the  
10 moment, but will certainly reserve the right to  
11 submit different comments within the appropriate  
12 time period.

13 Thank you, very much.

14 POWERS: Thank you. Is there anybody  
15 else that did not fill out a card or indicate that  
16 they wanted to speak? Would they like to come up  
17 and make or offer any comments now?

18 Well, with that, I guess we'll conclude our  
19 formal comments period and we'll turn the recorder  
20 off and we're available -- there's several other  
21 members of the planning team representing the  
22 different agencies that are here -- and I would ask  
23 them to stand up, in addition to the three of us up  
24 here. So, we're going to be here and will be glad  
25 to try to answer questions or any kind of

1 discussions you like.

2 Thank you, very much.

3 [END OF MEETING]

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