



**West-wide Energy Corridor  
Programmatic EIS Scoping Comments**

**Commenter:**

**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.  
1100 W. 116 Ave.  
Westminster, Colorado 80234**

**Introduction:**

Founded in 1952, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) is a wholesale electric power producer/supplier that serves 44 rural electric cooperatives and public power districts in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming. Tri-State's member distribution systems cover a 250,000-square-mile member service territory and serve more than 543,000 metered customers (translating to a population of over 1 million people). The customer classification for Tri-State's member loads include 33% residential (farm and non-farm); 53% commercial and industrial; 11% irrigation; 3% other.

Tri-State's generation facilities required to serve its members include over 2,000 megawatts of generation capacity, 5096 miles of high voltage transmission lines and 135 transmission substations.

**Comments:**

- Corridors should be of sufficient width to ensure adequate clearances between lines for reliability in case of weather, plane crashes, etc. Tri-State supports 1 mile wide corridors.
- Utilities need the rights and permission to manage the vegetation growth within the corridor so the possibility of a vegetation-related flashover, outage, or fire is minimized.
- Corridors should also be wide enough to accommodate access roads.
- Corridor should have specific designation for use. (i.e. oil/gas, electric)
- Corridors should be established through an intergraded approach involving coordination with state, local, and tribal agencies
- All of the existing transmission facilities should be included as existing energy corridors and designated as such.





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- Tri-State has designated some conceptual corridors (where endpoints are approximate and purpose and need is still be developed by inter-utility planning groups.
- Given the dynamic nature of the western electrical power grid, Tri-State supports a process for periodic review and updating of the designed corridors.
- Tri-has enclosed maps of its service territories in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. We have used the Western Utility Group Study base maps. Tri-State was founding member of this group and we want to build from the base they established. Tri-State has added annotations to the maps as follows:
  - Green lines represent Tri-State's existing transmission lines.
  - Blue lines represent Tri-State's proposed transmission facilities.
  - Red lines represent Tri-State's conceptual transmission facilities.
- Tri-State's requests the DOE consider all of Tri-State's existing transmission lines be designated as energy corridors.

In addition to the above comments Tri-State is an active member of the Western Business Roundtable and fully support the comments submitted to you in letter form by Mr. James T. Sims, Executive Director.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert "Mac" McLennan  
Vice President External Affairs





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LEGEND

- |  |                            |  |                          |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | Wilderness Area            |  | National Wildlife Refuge |  | Existing Corridor          |
|  | Wilderness Study Area      |  | Wild & Scenic River      |  | Proposed Corridor          |
|  | Indian Land                |  | Military Use Area        |  | Agency Designated Corridor |
|  | National Park              |  | Other Federal Land       |  | Corridor Window            |
|  | National Conservation Area |  | State Designated Land    |  | Energy Source              |

SCALE 1:750,000

\*Includes National Monuments, National Recreation Areas & National Scenic Areas

NEW MEXICO

WESTERN REGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY



PREPARED FOR WESTERN UTILITY GROUP  
 BY MICHAEL CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES

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RED CONCEPTUAL  
 GREEN EXISTING  
 BLUE PROPOSED



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LEGEND

- |                            |                          |                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wilderness Area            | National Wildlife Refuge | Existing Corridor          |
| Wilderness Study Area      | Wild & Scenic River      | Proposed Corridor          |
| Indian Land                | Military Use Area        | Agency Designated Corridor |
| National Park              | Other Federal Land*      | Corridor Window            |
| National Conservation Area | State Designated Land    | Energy Source              |

SCALE 1:75000  
 0 10 Miles

\*Includes National Monuments, National Recreation Areas & National Seaside Areas

# COLORADO

## WESTERN REGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY



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LEGEND

- |  |                            |  |                          |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
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# WYOMING

## WESTERN REGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY



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