From:	corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
To:	Corridoreisarchives;
CC:	
Subject:	Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Comment 80018
Date:	Tuesday, November 22, 2005 12:04:46 AM
Attachments:	PEIS_comments_for_west_wide_energy_corridor_11-20-05_80018.doc

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Thank you for your comment, Noah Weiss.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is 80018. Please refer to the tracking number in all correspondence relating to this comment.

Comment Date: November 22, 2005 12:04:45AM CDT

Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Scoping Comment: 80018

First Name: Noah
Last Name: Weiss
Address:
City:
State: CO
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Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record
Attachment: C:\My Documents\PEIS comments for west wide energy corridor 11-20-05.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

To Whom It May Concern in the offices of the Department of Energy, the Bureau of land management, and the US Forest Service:

I am writing you to submit my comments concerning the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the designation of energy corridors on federal land in 11 western states (DOE/EIS-0386). As a citizen, chemical engineer in the energy field, and environmentalist, I know how important efficient energy transmission structures are, as well as how important the health and well being of our national lands is to our nation and future generations. This project and PEIS is a huge undertaking and it is with all due diligence and patience that this process should be carried out, such that no damage will be imparted upon this nation's land, while also providing adequate energy transmission to meet future demands. Below I have listed, in no specific order of importance, recommendations I have for the process and what to consider when drafting the PEIS and how to conduct the PEIS. I implore you to take these into consideration such that we may protect our nation's most important resource, our wild lands and open spaces.

1: In constructing the routes of these proposed energy corridors, no routes or energy corridors should pass through any wilderness area, citizen proposed wilderness area, Roadless area (either inventoried or not inventoried), or area of critical habitat for protected species or mature forests (referred to below as sensitive and wild areas). As well, no energy corridor should pass within ten (10) miles of any such area, especially any proposed or existing wilderness areas. All areas under consideration for energy corridors should be evaluated to see if they fit the accepted criteria for sensitive and wild areas, as well as if their installation will affect the pristine nature or intrinsic value of any such areas within a reasonable distance (ten square miles) of the proposed corridor. Due diligence should be performed for all such areas according to department environmental impact statement guidelines. All proposed energy corridors which have any affect on any of the above-mentioned sensitive areas, they should be struck down and no action taken.

2: All proposed energy corridors should have no impact on protected or endangered species, and should be planned to have Zero impact on species habitat or populations, with incidental take levels set at Zero for all species.

3: When at all possible, energy corridors should follow and run next to existing energy transmission infrastructure (where it doesn't interfere with comments 1 and 2) corridors or next to large interstate highways. As large interstate highways run to large population centers where the energy demand is highest, this would both put energy where it is needed most and also put energy corridors in areas which are already significantly disturbed by road placement, thus minimizing environmental impact and concentrating developed areas on public land.

4: Energy corridors should be limited to 208 feet in width on all public lands (roughly the side length of one square acre), regardless of their status as sensitive and wild. This will allow for minimal impact on surrounding lands.

5: All energy corridors encompassing electrical transmission lines should also be built to accommodate the introductions of wind turbines in the energy corridors where wind presence deems it efficient to put wind turbines. Wind turbines should be included in the permitting process where energy corridors meet the above 4 recommendations.

6: No new road construction should be carried out on forest lands, and no logging should be allowed around energy corridors beyond the 208 feet within the energy corridor, and then only that logging necessary for installing of the energy transmission infrastructure.

7: Site-specific EIS's should be conducted for every 10 mile long portion of the proposed energy corridors for all sections on public lands. These should be consistent with current methods for the specific parcels of land under investigation. This will allow for an in depth analysis of all proposed corridors such that no impact on the environment will be realized by the construction of the energy corridors.

8: Wildlife crossings and connections should be worked into all energy corridor plans every mile such that wildlife can pass laterally through the corridor areas with Zero impact on migration and wildlife movement. All energy corridors should be designed with optimal movement for wildlife taken into consideration.

9: energy corridors should avoid running parallel to rivers, streams and other bodies of water, as well as in scenic areas on public land. This will help protect the scenic nature of our public lands and the pristine qualities of our waterways.

10: Current best practices and state of technology practices and protocols should be used for all pipeline construction to minimize impact and leakage from the pipes. However, All EIS's should be conducted with the assumption that there will be spills of oil and natural gas, such that these impacts can be factored into effects on water and other environmental impacts.

11: county and state officials, as well as local land managers should have final say on any energy corridor proposals and should have the authority to veto any proposed energy corridors, even if it resides solely on public land within a given county or state.

12: it should be the primary policy of all EIS's associated with energy corridors and with the permitting process to have a Zero impact policy on the environmental quality of all public lands which the energy corridor passes along. As well, all energy corridors should be designed with zero impact on wildlife, water quality, and overall health and environmental quality of the areas they pass through. In all possibilities, energy corridors should exist where infrastructure already exists and when no impact will be had on the local land and environment.

As a citizen of the United States, with equal interests in the public lands, I implore that you use the above 12 guidelines to shape the PEIS for the energy corridor and use all of

my suggestions in the final EIS for the energy corridor plan. I reserve the right to make more comments on the above mentioned plan in the future, and plan on making comments as the process continues. I look to you to take these comments and incorporate them into the energy corridor EIS such that we can both provide energy to meet growing demand as well as protect our natural environment and wild spaces.

Sincerely,
Noah Weiss

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