

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
To: [Corridoreisarchives;](#)
CC:
Subject: Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Comment 80086
Date: Monday, November 28, 2005 6:59:47 PM
Attachments: [112805_West_Wide_letter2a_80086.doc](#)

Thank you for your comment, Loren Loo.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is 80086. Please refer to the tracking number in all correspondence relating to this comment.

Comment Date: November 28, 2005 06:59:40PM CDT

Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Scoping Comment: 80086

First Name: Loren

Last Name: Loo

Organization: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\lh11\Desktop\112805 West Wide letter2a.doc

Comment Submitted:

Gentlemen,

Attached please find Pacific Gas and Electric Company's formal response to the Notice of Preparation of a PEIS on the West-wide Corridor Project. A faxed copy will also be sent today. A hard copy will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,



245 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mailing Address:
Mail Code N10A
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

November 28, 2005

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

RE West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS

Dear Gentlemen,

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is eager to participate in the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. Previous comments were provided for the record during the public workshop held on November 1, 2005 in Sacramento, California (see attachments). This letter is intended to supplement previous comments and provide suggestions or recommendations to the project team.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company supports the provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that direct relevant agencies to establish corridors for utility facilities upon federal lands. Corridors address energy resource needs by allowing well planned utility infrastructure to be built quickly in response to the public demands ensuring continued strong economic growth. They also help to ensure the life long maintenance and operation of utility infrastructure.

Our comments are summarized in three sections. The first section is intended to provide the project team with an understanding of how corridors are useful to Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Specifically, it will describe desired features of the new corridors. The second section is intended to offer suggestions and comments regarding the corridor planning and implementation process to better ensure the success of the project and usefulness to end users. The third section will list utility corridors Pacific Gas and Electric Company wishes to put forth to the Project team for inclusion in your studies.

In general, Pacific Gas and Electric Company meets this project with guarded enthusiasm. It remains unclear how we can help the process or ensure the usefulness of the outcome. For this reason, our comments carry the common theme of a desire for more and intimate interaction with the project team. At this stage of the project it appears that information should be provided at a level to stimulate discussion. We look for future opportunities to work more closely with project team members to discuss issues and future plans.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s desired conditions for future corridors:

1. Provide a site specific corridor sufficiently wide to accommodate a forecast energy need and all ancillary activities.
2. Provide corridors suitable in terrain and free from physical constraints that prevent cost effective construction and management of utility facilities. Be mindful that underground pipelines have different corridor constraints than overhead electric power lines.
3. Restrict the corridor to comparable uses that would not displace or conflict with the intended use.
4. Provide a mechanism to allow a utility to reserve corridor space, but not to exclude free market use at the exclusion of other viable plans from competitors.
5. Provide a provision to modify corridors to accommodate specific proposals.
6. Streamline or simplify environmental and public review. Possibly implementing review or approval timeframes.
7. Allow modifications to facilities within corridors as categorical exclusions or without federal action.
8. Provide meaningful interstate connections.
9. Allow perpetual entitlements within future corridors once approved.
10. Consider the need for diversity and national security, and risk factors relevant to the reliability of the grid.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company desired features for the approval and planning process include the following:

1. PG&E would meet directly and initially with Federal and State agency staff to discuss future needs, system plans, proprietary or security restricted information that may factor in selecting corridors.
2. Consult with EEI and WECC regarding characteristics of the western grid.
3. Meet later in the process, and prior to the public release of the recommended corridors, to confirm the feasibility of corridors.
4. Hold utility working group meetings to share expectations, address needs, examine previous studies, and review progress.
5. Allow a utility advisor or working group member from Pacific Gas and Electric Company to participate in the process.
6. Continued active involvement by local and state agencies

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has examined existing and future needs in regards to the corridors across federal lands and has identified the following as an initial list:

CORRIDOR NEEDS WITHIN CALIFORNIA

Map Designation	County	Project Need and Description	Status	Federal Lands
1	Sacramento	System capacity and reliability improvements. Construction of 14 miles of 24-inch pipeline between Elk Grove and Galt, Sacramento County	Underway	USFWS
2	San Luis Obispo Kings	System capacity and reliability improvements. Construction of a 70 miles natural gas pipeline between Morro Bay and Avenal, CA.	5 – 10 years	USFS

Map Designation	County	Project Need and Description	Status	Federal Lands
3	Humboldt Trinity Shasta Tehama	System capacity and reliability improvements in response to future electric generation needs near Eureka, CA. This would include electric transmission lines and natural gas pipelines extending from Eureka to the Northern Sacramento Valley.	5 – 10 years	USFS
4	San Bernardino Kern	System capacity and reliability improvements. Construction of a parallel pipeline to existing L-300 between Arizona border near Topock and Bakersfield.	5 – 10 years	BLM
5	Placer Nevada El Dorado	Gas and electric system capacity and reliability improvements. Utility corridor(s) between Nevada border and Auburn, California.	10+ years	USFS
6	San Mateo, San Francisco	Jefferson Martin 230 kV project. System capacity and reliability improvements for the San Francisco peninsula area.	Underway	NPS
7	Various	Table Mountain to Midway 500 kV line(s) to accommodate future generation sources and bulk system power transfers from WECC. Construction of 500 kV transmission line(s).	Various (<5, 5-10, 10+ years)	BLM, USFS
8	Madera, Merced	Gregg – Los Banos. Crosstie between east and west side bulk 500 kV systems	5-10 years	USFWS
9	Calaveras, San Joaquin	Bellota – Tracy. Crosstie between east and west side bulk 500 kV systems	5-10 years	BLM
10	Kern	Midway – Vincent – Adelanto. System improvement to facilitate power transfers between northern and southern California and new generation in Southern California and desert Southeast.	5-10 years	BLM, DOD
11	Butte, Tehama, Plumas, Shasta, Lassen, Modoc	Frontier Project interconnection to accommodate future generation sources and bulk system power transfers.	10+ years	USFS

The listed corridor needs may change as projects are implemented. In addition, the list does not summarize existing infrastructure, which we believe should be considered for corridor designation. It is assumed existing infrastructure is being analyzed for corridor designation. A map depicting recommended corridors in their approximate location is included as Exhibit A.

We appreciate the opportunity of participating in this important activity. We are looking forward to continued interaction and the eventual implementation of these corridors. Please contact me at (415) 973-5696 or Loren Loo throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Diane Ross-Leech
Manager, Environmental Support and Services

cc:

Ben Morris – PG&E
Todd Hogenson – PG&E
Dan Kim – PG&E
Pam Lacey – AGA
Bud Anderson – WUG
Margaret Hunt – EEI
Rick Loughery – EEI
Lisa Beal – INGAA

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Attachments

EXHIBIT A (Corridor Map)
November 1, 2005 Letter
November 1, 2005 Powerpoint Presentation

Loren Loo
(415) 973-5817

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.