

## How Can I Learn More?

You can request a written copy or a compact disc (CD) containing an electronic version of the Final EIS via Western's Web site at [www.wapa.gov/transmission/intersanluis.htm](http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/intersanluis.htm) or by calling, faxing or e-mailing your request to Mr. John Holt (contact information provided below). Please specify if you would like a printed copy or CD version of the Final EIS. The following contacts can provide additional information on the San Luis Rio Colorado Project EIS:

- Mr. John Holt, Environmental Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005; phone: 602-605-2525; fax: 602-605-2414; e-mail: [holt@wapa.gov](mailto:holt@wapa.gov)
- Mr. Mark Wieringa, NEPA Document Manager, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213; phone: 720-962-7000; fax: 720-962-7263; e-mail: [wieringa@wapa.gov](mailto:wieringa@wapa.gov)
- For project information in Spanish, contact Ms. Enoe Marcum, Environmental Specialist, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005; phone: 602-605-2525; fax: 602-605-2630; e-mail: [marcum@wapa.gov](mailto:marcum@wapa.gov)

- For information on the Presidential permit process, contact Dr. Jerry Pell, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20585; phone: 202-586-3362; e-mail: [jerry.pell@hq.doe.gov](mailto:jerry.pell@hq.doe.gov)

### Final EIS available for review

The San Luis Rio Colorado Project Final Environmental Impact Statement is now available for review. Copies of the Draft and Final EIS are located at:

<b>Yuma County Library</b> 350 3rd Avenue Yuma, AZ 85364 928-782-1871	<b>Foothills Branch Library</b> 11299 S Glenwood Avenue Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-1640
<b>San Luis Branch Library</b> 731 N 1st Avenue San Luis, AZ 85349 928-627-8344	<b>Somerton Branch Library</b> 240 Canal Street Somerton, AZ 85350 928-627-2149



# FACTS ABOUT The proposed San Luis Rio Colorado Project YUMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

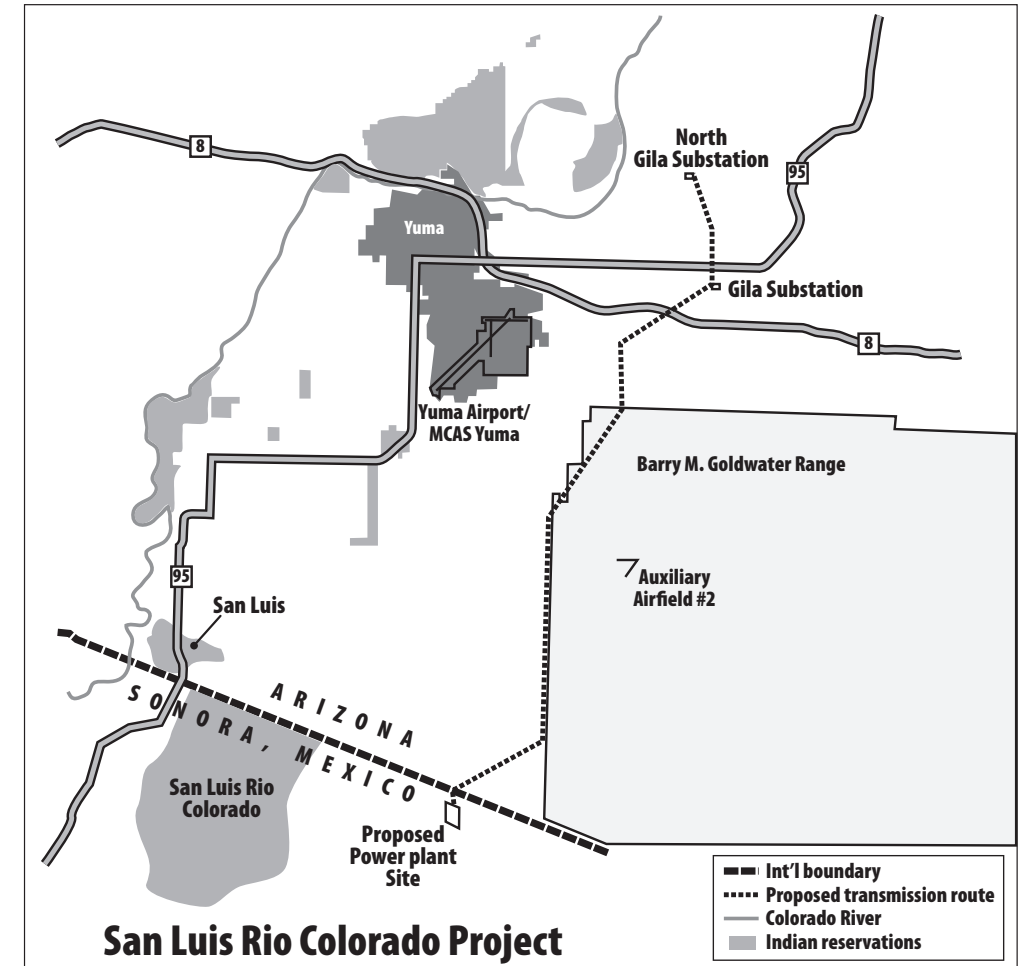
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## Final Environmental Impact Statement available

Western Area Power Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy have prepared an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act for the San Luis Rio Colorado Project located near Yuma, Arizona.

During the public review period for the Draft EIS, Western received comments from Federal and State of Arizona agencies, tribes, organizations, potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals.

Because public and agency comments did not substantially modify any of the alternatives or the environmental analysis in the Draft EIS, the full text of the draft has not been reprinted. Rather, a comment and response document, combined with the original Draft EIS, serves as the Final EIS.



### What is the San Luis Rio Colorado Project?

Generadora del Desierto S.A. de C.V. (GDD) is proposing to build a new 550-Megawatt nominal (605-MW peaking) natural gas-fired, combined cycle power generating facility to be located approximately 3 miles east of San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico, and about 1 mile south of the international border.

GDD and North Branch Resources, LLC (NBR) want to sell electricity in both Mexico and the United States and have applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct two 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines across the United States border from Mexico. NBR has applied to interconnect with Western's transmission system in the Yuma area.

GDD proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain the power plant in Mexico and the short section of transmission line located in Mexico. The applicants propose that Western construct, own, operate and maintain the double-circuit 500-kV transmission components in the United States, at the applicants' expense. The transmission line would interconnect with Western's transmission system through a 500/161-kV expansion at Gila Substation, located east of Yuma. In that case, Western would become co-applicant on the Presidential permit application. Western is favorably considering this proposal.

Although the applicants proposed a 500-kV project, Western and the applicants now favor a 230-kV double circuit option evaluated in the EIS.

### What you told us

Western received 390 comments on the San Luis Rio Colorado Project Draft EIS. To respond to those comments in the Final EIS, the comments were grouped into the following 22 categories

- Underground option
- Aviation safety
- Barry M. Goldwater Range and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma
- Flat-tailed horned lizard and habitat
- Visual impacts
- Local benefit
- Cumulative impacts
- Agriculture impacts
- Plant in Mexico/enforcement of standards
- Connection to other plans
- Air quality
- Property values
- Cultural resources/Class III
- Biology
- Electric and magnetic fields
- Radio and television interference
- International boundary
- Water regulations
- Alignment
- Contact information
- Corrections
- Other

### Specific issues studied

The following issues and concerns were identified during scoping and are addressed in the Draft EIS:

- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Aviation safety
- Cost of power
- Cumulative impacts
- Environmental process
- Health and safety
- Land use compatibility
- Paleontology
- How project power would be marketed
- Power supply
- Project description
- Threatened, endangered, and special status species
- Transmission line route and configuration
- Visual impacts
- Water
- Out-of-scope issues, including actions and processes in Mexico

### Findings of Draft EIS

The Draft EIS concludes that while impacts to environmental resources would occur, no significant long-term impacts to resources are expected from constructing, connecting, operating and maintaining the proposed project. Short-term effects would be primarily related to construction activities and would be minor and temporary.

There is one significant impact that would not be mitigated—a conflict with the City of Yuma’s plans to build the East Yuma Freeway, north of Interstate 8. The City passed a resolution opposing the project, so there is one unmitigated significant impact regarding the use of right-of-way within the City of Yuma.

### Why are DOE and Western Involved in this Project?

#### Interconnection Request

Western’s Open Access Transmission Service Tariff and Large Generator Interconnection Procedures require Western to respond to an application for interconnection with Western’s transmission system as presented by an applicant. In addition, Section 211 of the Federal Power Act requires that transmission services be provided upon application if transmission capacity is available.

NBR requested an interconnection to the Federal transmission system under Western’s Tariff. Western must determine whether to grant or deny the interconnection while considering effects of the proposed project on existing customers, the environment, system reliability and any system modifications needed to accommodate the interconnection.

If the interconnection request is granted and the proposed project proceeds, one option is for Western to construct, own, operate and maintain any required modifications to its own transmission system within the United State at the expense of NBR. Because the proposed project would integrate a major new source of generation into Western’s transmission system, Western determined that an EIS is required under DOE’s NEPA Implementing Procedures. Decisions on Western’s role in this project will be made in the Record of Decision for the San Luis Rio Colorado Project.

### Presidential Permit Request

GDD has applied to DOE’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct two 500-kV electric transmission lines across the United States border from Mexico.

By Executive Order, a Presidential permit must be issued before electric transmission facilities may be constructed, operated, maintained or connected at the United States international border. The Executive Order provides that a Presidential permit may be issued after a finding that the proposed project is consistent with the public interest and after concurrence by the U.S. Departments of State and Defense.

In determining consistency with the public interest, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project under NEPA, determines the project’s impact on electric reliability (including whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the United States electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions), and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. Issuance of a Presidential permit indicates that there is no Federal objection to the project, but does not mandate that the project be completed.

### How has Public Comment been Incorporated in the EIS Process?

Preparation of the Draft EIS included public information and scoping meetings as well as consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments. After analyzing public concerns and possible impacts from the proposed project, Western, in consultation with the cooperating agencies, issued a Draft EIS.

Western hosted public information meetings and public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS during the public review period. Western reviewed all comments received during the public review period to assist with development of the Final EIS.

This notice announces the publication of the Final EIS. Western and DOE will make individual decisions on whether to move forward with their actions related to the proposed project in a published Record of Decision at least 30 days after the release of the Final EIS.