

Comments on Preliminary Alternative Corridors

These comments apply to specific alternatives and routing considerations. Several comments made general recommendations for selection of alternative corridors for the EPTP. Commenters also made many location-specific comments on the preliminary alternative corridors. These comments were used to:

- Identify criteria for the comparative analysis
- Provide a focus for route refinement
- Identify the proposed and alternative routes

What We Will Do Next

Alternative Route Identification

- Use comments from the public meetings to make final adjustments to the proposed and alternative routes.
- Update comparative analysis to reflect the refined routes.
- Carry the proposed and alternative routes forward into the Draft EIS.

Prepare Draft EIS

- Consider and address scoping comments
- Analyze and compare the effects of the proposed and alternative routes
- Issue Draft EIS
- Publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register
- Seek public comment on the Draft EIS

Prepare Final EIS

- Analyze and consider comments on Draft EIS
- Issue Final EIS
- Publish a NOA in the Federal Register

Announce Record of Decision

- Describe commitments for mitigating effects
- No sooner than 30 days after the NOA of the Final EIS is published

What We Have Completed

Prepared a Notice of Intent

- Published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS and an extension of the comment period in the Federal Register
- Made local announcements of the NOI and the comment period extension

Conducted Scoping and Scoping Meetings:

- Discovered alternatives to a proposed action
- Identified significant effects
- Eliminated insignificant issues
- Communicated information about the project
- Consulted with agencies and organizations
- Solicited public comments

Refined Routes

- Addressed specific concerns identified by the public at scoping
- Refined preliminary alternative corridors into alternative routes
- Completed comparative analysis to identify proposed and alternative routes

Developed Scoping Summary Report

Why We Are Having This Meeting

- Present the proposed and alternative routes to the public
- Solicit comments on selection of proposed and alternative routes
- Present a summary of scoping to the public
- Solicit additional comments on the scope of the EIS



Scoping Summary

Three hundred and fifty-seven individuals signed in at the scoping meetings. Landowners with agricultural or residential land were the primary attendees. Additional attendees included representatives from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, local governments, local utilities, the media, environmental groups, financial institutions, businesses, wind energy developers, and other interested parties.

Western received 1,348 substantive comments from 95 commenters. Alternatives and Tri-State's generation projects received the most comments. Other topics of high interest included agriculture, air quality, cumulative effects, health and safety, land use, mitigation, process, social and economic values, and water resources.

Comments on Topics to be Considered in the EIS

Western will consider these topics, which relate only to the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the EPTP, in the EIS.

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| • Access and Transportation | • Environmental Justice | • Recreation |
| • Agriculture | • Floodplains and Wetlands | • Social and Economic Values |
| • Air Quality | • Geology | • Soils |
| • Aquatic Species and Habitats | • Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste | • Special Status Species |
| • Cultural and Historic Resources | • Health and Safety | • Vegetation |
| • Electrical Characteristics | • Land Use | • Visual Resources |
| | • Noise | • Water |
| | • Paleontology | • Wildlife |

Comments to be Analyzed as Cumulative Effects

Western will use these comments to develop the discussion of cumulative effects in the EIS.

- Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects such as transmission lines, pipelines, water lines, transportation, the Peak to Prairie project, the Fountain Creek project, the Southern Delivery water pipeline
- Conflicts with Federal, state, and local land use plans and policies

Comments on Tri-State's Generation

Western will use these comments to develop a discussion of effects in the EIS that is specific to Tri-State's generation projects. The comments related to Tri-State's generation projects have been summarized by topic because of the large number of comments that apply to specific resources or components of these projects.

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| • Access and Transportation | • Cumulative Effects | • Noise |
| • Agriculture | • Environmental Justice | • Social and Economic Values |
| • Air Quality | • Generation | • Special Status Species |
| • Alternatives | • Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste | • Vegetation |
| • Climate | • Health and Safety | • Visual Resources |
| • Cultural and Historic Resources | • Land Use | • Water |
| | • Mitigation | • Wildlife |

Comments on Energy Alternatives

Western will use these comments to develop the discussion of energy alternatives in the EIS.

- Conservation
- Renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, hydroelectric)
- Alternative fossil fuels generation (natural gas, IGCC)
- Alternative locations for generation

Comments on Process and Public Involvement

Western will consider these comments in NEPA and public involvement activities to the extent that they are applicable to Western's NEPA process for this project.

- The format and content of the public meetings
- Provide information to the public as it becomes available and provide assistance to the public in reviewing information
- Compare the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives

NEPA PROCESS

