



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

SEP 26 2007

Dear Landowner:

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing to participate with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) in the Eastern Plains Transmission Project (EPTP). The EPTP would consist of approximately 1,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related facilities. The project would help Western and Tri-State serve their customers while enhancing reliability of the power delivery system in the region.

Western has identified a number of alternative transmission line routes to evaluate in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The routes were developed based on public comments, engineering and technical requirements, potential environmental impacts, costs and other considerations that will be analyzed in the EIS. Public comments were received during the public scoping periods in August and September 2006 and in February and June 2007. Western previously placed paid advertisements for the local EPTP scoping meetings in the *Limon Leader* and the *Fountain Valley News* and provided public service announcements on radio stations KCFR, KRCC, KKPC and KGDQ.

You are receiving this letter because one of the newly developed alternative routes may affect your property. You may not have been on our mailing list for this project before. Western direct mails notification to landowners who are within 1.5 miles of the centerline of identified transmission line corridors. Your property may have not been inside the notification area that we used for developing previous mailing lists.

Enclosed is a map showing alternative routes that Western will analyze in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS is scheduled to be released for public review and comment in early 2008. At that time, Western will hold public hearings and accept comments from the public during a public comment period. The locations, dates and times for the hearing have not been determined yet.

You may want to submit comments to Western on the proposed and alternative routes shown on the attached map. The thicker blue line is the project proposed alternative at this time. It may change or be modified based on public comment and review of environmental impacts and engineering and technical requirements.

We would like you to review the enclosed information and provide comments to us. You may provide comments in writing, by phone, e-mail or fax at any time before October 30, 2007. Along with this letter, we have included the following items:

- A map of all of the alternative routes that are part of the EPTP
- A detailed map that shows alternative routes that may be near your property

- A brochure that describes Western's process for acquiring rights-of-way from landowners
- A postage-paid comment form that you may use to provide comments to Western

In August and September 2006, Western presented preliminary transmission line corridors and new substation locations at 10 public scoping meetings throughout eastern Colorado and western Kansas, including Aug. 30, 2006, in Limon, and Sept. 5, 2006, in Fountain, Colorado. Based on comments received, Western gathered additional data, made several route refinements, added additional routes and considered alternatives to the preliminary corridors.

The results of this additional analysis and refinement were presented at another series of 10 public meetings in February 2007, including Feb. 13, in Limon, and Feb. 22, in Hanover, Colorado. As a result of the comments received on routes between Big Sandy Substation and Midway Substation, including a number of suggestions for possible reroutes, Western determined that additional analysis and public involvement would be beneficial to refining routes in the area.

Following additional study and refinement, primary alternative routes and other alternatives between Big Sandy Substation and Midway Substation were presented for public review and comment at an open-house meeting June 20, 2007, in Rush, Colorado. You can find maps showing the history of route development between Big Sandy and Midway on the EPTP Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/eptp/pdf/altdevhistory.pdf>.

Alternative routes between Big Sandy Substation and Midway Substation were refined again, based on comments received at the June 20 meeting, other comments and discussions with local county commissions and state agencies. The enclosed map shows the new proposed and alternative routes between Big Sandy Substation and Midway Substation. Western seeks your comments on the proposed and alternative routes and will consider those additional comments in the DEIS.

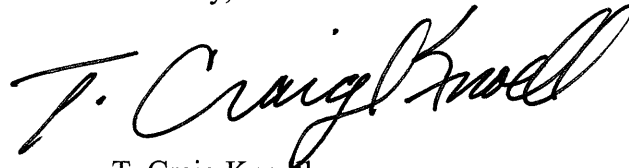
Written comments, questions and information on the Project may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

Mr. Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration, Rocky Mountain Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539
Fax: (970) 461-7213
E-mail: eptp@wapa.gov

If you wish to leave a voice message, the toll-free number is: (888) 826-4710. A Web site with additional information is located at:
<http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/eptp.htm>.

Your comments are requested by October 30, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Craig Knoell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

T. Craig Knoell
EPTP Project Manager