



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

**SEP 26 2007**

Dear Interested Party:

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.

Enclosed is a map showing the proposed and alternative routes between Big Sandy Substation, near Limon, and Midway Substation, near Fountain, Colorado, 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.

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. In addition to the Midway-Big Sandy map, we have also enclosed a map of all of the alternative routes that are part of the EPTP.

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](mailto: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>.

Sincerely,

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

T. Craig Knoell  
EPTP Project Manager