



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

AUG 01 2007

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing to rebuild the Granby Pumping Plant to Windy Gap 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, located near Grand Lake and the town of Granby, in Grand County, Colorado. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of our upcoming environmental review process and to share and solicit information regarding cultural and environmental resources associated with the proposed project that may be of interest and importance to you. Western initially determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be prepared for the proposed Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project on February 25, 2005. Western held open-house scoping meetings on July 28, 2005, and November 15, 2006. The public expressed numerous concerns about the impacts of the project. Based on a review of the public's concerns, Western subsequently determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be prepared.

The EIS will address the environmental impacts of the proposal to remove about 12 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line and the construction and operation of about 12 miles of new 138/138-kV double circuit transmission line (which would be operated at 69/138-kV), and adding a second power transformer. Alternatives, including the no action alternative, will also be addressed in the EIS. Western's EIS process will comply with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, as amended), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508) and DOE NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR part 1021). Because the proposed project may involve action in floodplains, the EIS will include a floodplain assessment and floodplain statement of findings following DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022).

The enclosed project description and map provide specific details on the proposed project. Western will assume the role of lead Federal agency for the preparation of the EIS for the proposed project. The project area includes private lands and public lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and Grand County. The U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland, will be cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

Western has acquired the services of two environmental contractors, EDAW, Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, and RMC, Inc. of Lakewood, Colorado, to conduct studies and evaluate the natural, human, and cultural resources that could potentially be affected by the proposed project.

Specifically, EDAW and RMC will prepare a biological report for the proposed action, conduct cultural resource inventories, and prepare a stand-alone cultural resource inventory report. The results of the studies, inventories, and evaluations will assist in the planning for the construction of the proposed project. EDAW will also prepare the EIS for Western's review.

At this time, we would like to hear from you concerning any interests or issues you would like to discuss about the transmission line rebuild project and the proposed environmental review. We would appreciate receiving your input by September 17, 2007. Comments received by Western at or as a result of the July 28, 2005, and November 15, 2006, open houses will be used to help define the scope of the EIS. Western is also planning a public scoping workshop to be held August 30, 2007, to further solicit input on the project. The scoping workshop will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. offices located at 321 West Agate Avenue, Granby, Colorado 80446-0170.

Western will make a draft EIS available to the State of Colorado, Native American Tribes, Federal agencies, local government agencies, and on request, to members of the public for review and comment.

If you would like a copy of the draft EIS when it is available, or have specific issues or concerns you would like to submit to Western, please contact:

Mr. Rodney Jones
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Region
5555 E. Crossroads Boulevard
Loveland, Colorado 80538-8986

or, you may email them to: GPPWGP@wapa.gov

Thank you for your assistance and participation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



James D. Keselburg
Regional Manager

2 Enclosures