

NEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their proposed actions.
- Promotes better agency decision-making by ensuring that high-quality information is available to officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to undertake a major federal action.
- For major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.
- An EIS is a detailed analysis of the effects of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including a No Action Alternative.
- The EIS also discusses ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- Through the NEPA process, the public has an opportunity to learn about the proposed action and provide information and comments.

NEPA Process

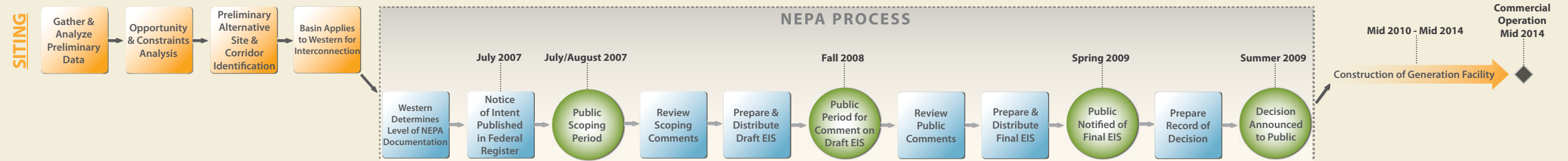
A site selection study has identified alternative sites for the generation facility and corridors for the associated utilities. The NEPA process includes:

- Public scoping open houses and a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties
- Consultation and involvement with appropriate federal, state, local, and Tribal governmental agencies
- Public review and hearings on the draft EIS
- Publication of a final EIS and Record of Decision

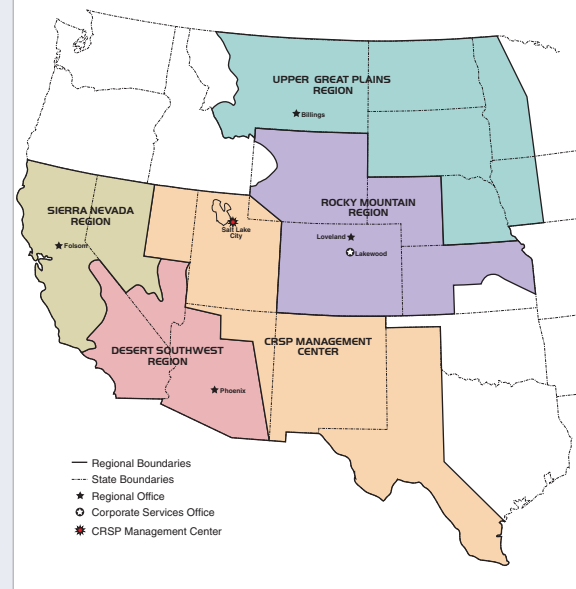
Western's Role

The NextGen Project would require an interconnection with Western's electric transmission system.

Western will prepare an EIS for the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA.



Western Area Power Administration CUSTOMER SERVICE TERRITORIES



Who is Western Area Power Administration?

Western Area Power Administration is one of the four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy. Western markets and delivers power to cities and towns, cooperatives, public utilities, and irrigation districts, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes in 15 western states. Western owns and operates about 17,000 miles of transmission line throughout these states, including South Dakota.

Who is Basin Electric Power Cooperative?

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric's service territory includes approximately 2.5 million customers and covers 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states: South Dakota, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

