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Environmental Study Will Consider Comments on Impacts of Energy Corridors on Federal Lands in the West

After receiving hundreds of comments in response to the release of preliminary working maps, the interagency team analyzing potential environmental effects of designating energy corridors in 11 Western States has decided that additional time will be needed to consider these comments as the agencies conduct an environmental review of proposed corridor locations.

In order to ensure full consideration of the more than 200 comments and suggestions on the preliminary maps, project managers from the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, and the Department of Defense will take additional time to refine the alternatives to be presented in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The BLM and the Forest Service also must ensure that proposed routes and the analysis of their impacts are consistent with the resource management plans for lands they manage. The public will have an additional opportunity to comment on the Draft PEIS after it is published.

In consultation with Indian Tribes, States, local governments and the public, the four agencies are preparing the PEIS to implement Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which calls for designation of energy corridors on Federal lands in 11 Western States for oil, natural gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. The Act also sets a timeframe for completing the PEIS and land-use plan amendments.

Corridors designated through this process will represent preferred locations for pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure in the West. Future projects proposed for these corridors will undergo further environmental review before necessary permits and rights-of-way would be granted.

Details about the PEIS and opportunities for public involvement in the designation are available on the project website, <http://corridoreis.anl.gov> .

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