

West-Wide Energy Corridors Review and Opportunities for Stakeholder Engagement

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (FS), and the Department of Energy (DOE) (the Agencies), Argonne National Laboratory invites you to participate in reviews of West-wide energy corridors and in the development of recommendations for corridor changes.

The corridors, commonly known as West-wide or Section 368 energy corridors, were designated pursuant to Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct). Section 368 of the EPAAct directed agencies to designate corridors to support siting of oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines, as well as electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal land. In response, the BLM and FS designated approximately 6,000 miles of corridors in 2009. The Agencies recently released a Corridor Study evaluating the effectiveness of the corridors. The Agencies will consider the information and conclusions from the Corridor Study in conducting the corridor reviews. The Corridor Study and other information regarding how the BLM and FS designated the corridors are available at <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>.

As agreed upon in a 2012 settlement agreement that resolved litigation challenging the corridor designations, the Agencies are initiating Regional Reviews of the energy corridors. Reviews will be conducted on a regional basis starting with Region 1, which encompasses southern Nevada, southern California, and western Arizona. Each Regional Review will take approximately 6 months; completion of all the reviews will be subject to the availability of funds.

Regional Review Sequence*		
Energy Corridor Region	Start Public Input	Issue the Recommendations
Region 1 (CA, NV, AZ)	September 2016	February 2017
Region 2 (AZ, NM, CO)	March 2017	September 2017
Region 3 (CO, UT, NV)	October 2017	March 2018
Region 4 (WY, MT)	April 2018	October 2018
Region 5 (CA, NV)	November 2018	April 2019
Region 6 (MT, ID, OR, WA)	May 2019	November 2019

*Map of the regions included as Attachment 1.

The Regional Reviews will be guided by the following corridor siting principles from the 2012 settlement agreement, to ensure that:

- Corridors are thoughtfully sited to provide maximum utility and minimum impact to the environment;
- Corridors promote efficient use of landscape for necessary development;

- Appropriate and acceptable uses are defined for specific corridors; and
- Corridors provide connectivity to renewable energy generation to the maximum extent possible, while also considering other generation, in order to balance the renewable sources and to ensure the safety and reliability of electricity transmission.

The outcome of the Regional Reviews will be the development of recommendations for specific corridor additions, deletions, or alterations. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations. The recommendations will be considered for implementation by the BLM and FS during subsequent agency land-use planning processes.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To facilitate stakeholder engagement during the Regional Reviews, the Agencies have developed corridor abstracts. The Agencies will be seeking stakeholder feedback on the abstracts to ensure we have as complete and current an understanding as possible for each corridor, prior to developing any corridor recommendations. Abstracts for Region 1 will be available in early September for forty-five (45) days on the project website, known as the West-wide Corridor Information Center, at <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>.

Opportunities to provide input on the Region 1 corridor abstracts will also be offered at upcoming public webinars and meetings starting in September 2016.

- Public webinars will be held on September 7 and 29, 2016, at 9 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). Webinar information will be provided through the project website noted above at least one week prior to each event.
- Public meetings will be held on the following dates:
 - September 20, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the BLM National Training Center (9828 N 31st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85051) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. local Arizona time.
 - September 22, 2016, in Palm Springs, California, at the University of California Riverside - Palm Desert Center, Room B200 (75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT, and
 - September 27, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Hampton Inn Tropicana (4975 S. Dean Martin Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT.

If you plan to participate in any of these events, please RSVP to blm_wo_368corridors@blm.gov to help us prepare. Please include the event location, date, and your contact information in the reply.

We value any input you have and look forward to your feedback on how the Agencies can improve the West-wide energy corridors to better serve the energy transmission and distribution infrastructure needs of the western United States. We will provide additional opportunities for involvement throughout the review process. For questions regarding corridors on FS-administered lands, please contact Reggie Woodruff, FS Project Manager, at 202-205-1196 or rwoodruff@fs.fed.us. For more information on the reviews or questions regarding corridors on BLM-administered lands, contact Jim Gazewood, BLM Project Manager, at 801-539-4107 or jgazewoo@blm.gov.

