

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project
Comments from: Jane Farmer
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I attended the Open House July 7 in Socorro, NM.

Transmission Route: The Proposed (or preferred) route crosses very valuable farm and urban land in the San Antonio area and would have significant impact, environmentally, socially, visually, and economically. The route of least significant impact should drop south in township 5S range 2E and go diagonally across the BLM land to T6S. Here it could go south through the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in T6S as the public utilizes County Road 153 which cuts off the northwest corner of the range and makes it inaccessible for the Range. The only section of private land contains no house. The Antelope Wilderness Study Area is currently being managed according to Interim Guidelines; however BLM has deemed it not possessing all the wilderness values which would qualify it for a Congressionally Designated Wilderness. Due to the magnified scope of this project, surely Congress could grant an exception to the management status should it be determined that a slight eastern boundary of the WSA needs to be utilized for the transmission lines. In township 7, the edge of the County Road could be utilized, as this is public land. The edge of Pope Road, on which the atomic bomb was transported and which crosses public land, then Ted Turner's Armendaris Land Grant, could be used for the line or it could go straight south on the west of the Missile Range and beside the existing county road.

Scoping Process has been violated.

Notice in newspaper was vague with lack of purpose, or intended audience; therefore arousing little interest for target participants. There was no formal presentation at the meeting regarding purpose. Attendees had to initiate information, responses, etc. Maps placed around for review contained spelling errors, inaccuracies in the legend, and vague information. The session was definitely not held in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and for the purpose of soliciting issues and/or alternatives, soliciting data gaps or further information. Adequate time was not provided for comments as this meeting was held July 7 with comments being due in 3 working days (July 13).

Further scoping needs to be conducted with meetings being held at the beginning of the comment period and in a format compliant with NEPA. Adequate time for formulating comments needs to be provided to the public. Meetings should be informative to the public, and seek input, information, further identification of issues, method of formulating initial issues by the agency, negotiation of schedule, and an explanation of the EIS process and how the public can be involved. Information and displays for the public should be accurate. I asked how I could get Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles or coverages for the proposed route and alternative routes and was told they were on the web site. As of July 8 at

12 noon, I am unable to locate such information on the web site. Please provide information on how these can be obtained.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may be addressing the impacts of the issues as they relate to federal land; however, private citizens should have major involvement for issues that pertain to private land and livelihood.

Potential environmental issues to be addressed and how they relate to private landowners:

Land use and recreational resources: The Proposed Route (Preferred Alternative) shows crossing private parcels of land immediately to the east, north and west of the community of San Antonio. Much of this land is rural farmland. The proposed rights of way, traffic for maintenance, etc. would be disturbing to crop production. Dropping the route southward would cross range land.

Visual resources: I currently look out my kitchen window across irrigated fields, watch my horses grazing, see hummingbirds, roadrunners, deer, pheasants, turkey and other birds. I definitely do not want to see large transmission lines. These would definitely be unsightly and degrade the visual resources. The southern route would not be seen by near as many people.

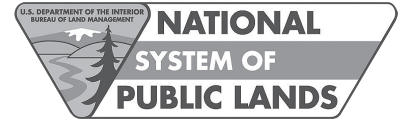
Biological resources, including special status species: Willow flycatcher nests and buffer zones in the area may be disturbed both during construction and throughout the Proposed project route. Habitat for domestic animals, deer, birds and other wild animals will be disturbed. What are the human health and safety repercussions of living and/or growing up near these major transmission lines? These issues need to be addressed and mitigated in the plan. The Proposed route would cross the Rio Grande at a reach which has been identified as containing a large population of Silvery Minnows. Dropping the route southward would not impact this species near as significantly.

Social and economic resources: The plan needs to address the social and economic impacts of nearby transmission lines to members of the public. Property values will decline in the immediate area and few people will want to live next to a high voltage transmission line. The southern route along WSMR would have virtually no social or economic impacts to humans

The current Proposed Route is not appropriate due to the amount of private land which would need to be crossed and the amount of publics which would be disrupted. A route which would drop south through the edge of White Sands Missile Range would be a route of least significant impact and should be changed to the Preferred Route.

SunZia Southwest

TRANSMISSION PROJECT



COMMENT FORM

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Add to mailing list Yes No

Withhold personal information* Yes No

Receive notification of EIS availability? Yes No

COMMENTS:

SEND COMMENTS TO:

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project | c/o EPG, Inc. | 4141 N. 32nd Street, Suite 102 | Phoenix, AZ 85018

**Copies of comments will be available for public review at the local BLM office during regular business hours. Individuals requesting their personal information be withheld from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must check "YES" in the appropriate box. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.*

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Phoenix, AZ 85018