

BIG SANDY ENERGY PROJECT EIS -- SUMMARY OF MAY 3, 2000 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Verbatim Flipchart Notes from Scoping Meeting	Actual Question/Comment Heard at Scoping Meeting	Response Provided at Scoping Meeting and/or Answers to Questions
Quest. for Caithness	N/A	N/A
Normal water req. for each phase?	How much water would be required for each phase?	The estimated average water demand for both phases is 3200-acre feet per year. The EIS will address water consumption impacts.
Why is water from Baghdad not feasible?	Cyprus-Bagdad has offered water for the plant site. What is happening with that?	Cyprus-Bagdad has offered to Caithness to study what options would be available and feasible for using water pumped from the Big Sandy floodplain for the Cyprus-Bagdad mine. The Cyprus-Bagdad pipeline parallels the transmission line corridor near the proposed plant site. The EIS will address the Cyprus-Bagdad water supply options.
Why Gas source from North now? (Orig. from West)	Why has the proposed natural gas (NG) source changed from the El Paso Natural Gas Company transmission line to the west to the NG supply lines to the north. Initially, the route to the west was described as better because of the existing NG supply line right-of-way.	Caithness changed the proposed route to the north because of the McCracken Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern and associated desert tortoise habitat and opportunities to utilize the U.S. Highway 93 right-of-way. Upon completion of the scoping process and preliminary environmental inventory, Western and BLM will determine NG pipeline routing alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS.
Still considering a tap for Wikieup?	Will there be a tap of the proposed NG pipeline to supply NG to Wikieup?	Providing NG to the Wikieup area is not part of the proposed action. However, Caithness' proposal will do nothing to preclude a NG supply company from providing service to the Wikieup area.
What are the ton per yr of pollution?	How many tons of air pollutants will be emitted from the 720 MW power plant? Caithness has this information and should share it at the scoping meeting.	The EIS will discuss the impacts on air resources, including the amount of air pollutants emitted by the proposed power plant. Western and BLM will independently evaluate and verify the air modeling results in consultation with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Preliminary studies indicate that the maximum yearly potential emissions from the generating facility will be about 213.4 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NO _x), 254 tons of

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		carbon monoxide, 45.2 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), 33.9 tons of sulfur dioxide, 72.4 tons (from NG combustion) and 34.7 tons (from the cooling towers) of PM-10, and a total of 17.45 tons hazardous air pollutants.
My land is being crossed pipeln No more lines on my land	Concerns were expressed about the proposed NG pipeline crossing private land. A ranch owner does not want any more pipelines across his ranch. There would be problems burying the pipeline with Hackberry Road.	Western and BLM will explore routing alternatives to minimize impacts on private lands. The routing alternatives will be addressed in the EIS.
Light pollution looked at, pointed down possibly	What about light pollution? Will the power plant's light cause pollution? Can the lights be designed to minimize light pollution?	Caithness will need to comply with the Mohave County Dark Sky Ordinance, which includes requirements for shielding and filtering. The EIS will address the effects of power plant lighting and possible mitigation measures.
Where is the power going? Anything to County	Will the County get any of the power produced by the power plant or will it all be shipped out?	The proposed project would be a merchant plant, selling power on the open market. Citizen's Utilities and Mohave Power Cooperative serve Mohave County. Citizen's and Mohave Power Cooperative could pursue purchasing power from the Big Sandy Energy Project or numerous other power suppliers in a deregulated utility environment.
Set parameters must be met? Guidebk ARE THERE Provide website	Are there set parameters that must be studied? Where is this information available?	The EIS will meet the requirements of the CEQ Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40CFR 1500-1508), the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021, as amended), the Department of the Interior NEPA Implementing Regulations (517DM 1-7), and the BLM NEPA Manual and Handbook (MS 1790, H-1790-1). The CEQ and DOE regulations and related guidelines are available at http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/

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Close consultation re: Effects to Res. Trad. & Cultural values & interests TRIBAL CONCERNS Coop Agency?	The Hualapai Tribe wants close consultation with Western and BLM considering concerns about impacts to reservation and cultural and traditional values, for example natural resources and plants. The Hualapai Tribe requested to be a cooperating agency.	Western and BLM invited the Hualapai Tribe to be a cooperating agency, and the Hualapai Tribal Council passed a resolution to become a cooperating agency.
Oppose to the project (TRIBE) No mention on draw down Big Sandy HABITAT Crit. Native Species Natr'l Res's Air Quality process	Dr. Kerry Christensen with the Hualapai Tribe is opposed to the project. Issues with the aquifer drawdown and its effects on the Big Sandy River and associated species habitat, including the southwestern willow flycatcher need to be addressed. What will be the specific drawdown of the Big Sandy? How does the air permitting process work for a two-phase project?	<p>The EIS will address the effects of water pumping on the Big Sandy River and associated wildlife habitats and natural resources. The purpose of the EIS is to analyze the concerns and issues raised during scoping. The drawdown of the aquifer will be addressed in the EIS.</p> <p>The air quality permitting process will address both phases of the project. If the second phase is not implemented within a time specified by the ADEQ, a new application will need to be submitted for the second phase.</p>
What happens if our wells go dry? 50 yrs	What happens if existing wells in the Wikieup area go dry? In 5, 10, or 15 years?	The EIS process involves assessing the impacts to environmental resources, including ground water resources. If impacts are identified, the process is designed to mitigate impacts. The EIS will address the effects of water pumping on existing wells in the Wikieup area. Following the impact assessment, a determination of appropriate monitoring and potential mitigation will be developed and presented in the EIS.

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Criteria for water draw down?	How do you test a well for drawdown? How do you test a well for using water for a 10 to 50 year period?	Western and BLM will rely on hydrologists to define tests for determining drawdown. Western and BLM will independently evaluate and verify any tests conducted by Caithness addressing water drawdown effects. A pump test protocol has been developed and reviewed by several hydrologists. The protocol includes pumping water from a production well and observing effects in nearby observation wells. The test will be implemented in late August or early September. The results will be used, together with a basin-wide water budget, to help assess long term impacts.
What happens to water being used?	What happens to the water that is used for the power plant?	Ninety to 95% of the water used for cooling evaporates. About 5% of the water will be discharged to evaporation ponds or used for beneficial agricultural purposes. A detailed water balance for the project is being developed.
Scenic Highway what hap to it?	What will happen to the scenic highway designation on US Highway 93?	ADOT is a cooperating agency and the impacts on designation will be discussed with ADOT. No effect on the scenic highway designation is expected. The EIS will address the visual resource impacts of the project, including views from US Highway 93.
Water is a crit resource, bring MC into crit res. comm. for proper water use	Referencing a recent Arizona Republic article, a Hualapai tribal representative suggested bringing Mohave County into the State's groundwater critical resource committee. What are the existing ground water management goals?	Mohave County is a cooperating agency on the EIS. However, BLM and Western cannot influence what the county will do regarding participation in state committees.
Endangered species in Wikieup? (US)	What about the threatened and endangered species that live in Wikieup -- the humans? What about the impacts of lack of water on the people in Wikieup?	The EIS will address impacts to the community of Wikieup, including air, water, social and economic impacts.

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BigSandy as Wild/Scenic River Will this effect its status?	Will the proposed Big Sandy Energy Project effect the status of the Big Sandy River as a wild and scenic river?	The portion of the Big Sandy River north of the U.S. Highway 93 bridge does not have the potential to be designated. A portion from the bridge downstream has potential for designation. The EIS will address impacts to the Wild and Scenic River designation. The hydrology studies will determine potential impacts, and all will be disclosed in the EIS.
How is Western paid for this? No compensation? What is the trans. tariff rate	Will Western make a profit from the Big Sandy Project? Who will pay Western's salaries? Does Western receive compensation for granting the interconnection? What is the transmission tariff rate?	Western, as a Federal agency, does not make a profit. Western, in considering applications for interconnection or transmission service, must ensure that its costs for studying the interconnection are not borne by its customers or the public. Therefore, all of Western's costs in addressing the applications are borne by the applicant. The EIS will address Western's policies on open transmission access and include information on the transmission tariff. The transmission tariff rate for firm point-to-point transmission service on the Intertie 500-kV transmission system is currently \$17.23/kW-year.
HB2324 Net Tax Revenue to MC?	What is the net tax revenue that Mohave County will receive?	The EIS will address the socioeconomic impacts to Mohave County, including taxation.
Potential for this p. to prov. benefits?	What are the potential benefits that this project could provide?	The EIS will address the socioeconomic impacts to Mohave County, including taxation.
How much really comes to Wikieup for comm. imprvmt?	The County has not addressed how \$4.5 million in tax revenue will be addressed. How much will come to Wikieup from County taxes? Will all go to the County seat or will some go to Wikieup?	The EIS will address the socioeconomic impacts to Mohave County and to Wikieup, including taxation.

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<p>Will neg. comm. from the commun. be effective in this process? Will they be considered</p>	<p>There was local opposition to the rezoning, but the Board of Supervisors voted for it. How effective will local voices be?</p>	<p>All comments will be addressed during the EIS process. The decision makers will consider all comments received. Local comments have been useful in helping BLM and Western define issues for the EIS.</p>
<p>Will the local comm. comments have more weight? For example, Casa Grande</p>	<p>Will the local community have greater weight than other comments? Will information be provided on what happened with the Cassia Grande power plant?</p>	<p>All comments will be considered equally. BLM and Western will collect information on the Casa Grande power plant and determine if it relates to the proposed project.</p>
<p>Where are the decision makers in the process. Who makes the decision? Mike Hacskaylo Administrator</p>	<p>Why are not the decision makers at the scoping meeting? Why aren't people at the scoping meeting who can answer questions.</p>	<p>The decision makers are Mike Hacskaylo, Western's Administrator and John Christensen, BLM Kingman Field Office Manager. The EIS process is intended to disclose the positive and negative impacts for the decision makers review.</p>
<p>Concern that the process doesn't happen in conjunction w/answers Decisions w/held until after voting</p>	<p>There is a concern that the decisions have already been made and public input will not be considered.</p>	<p>Western, BLM and the Federal cooperating agencies cannot make a decision until the EIS process is complete.</p>
<p>Touch on Env. Justice in such an area</p>	<p>Environmental Justice is an issue because there are small populations.</p>	<p>The EIS will address potential environmental justice impacts to low income and minority populations, not small populations.</p>
<p>Pres. Council asks to supp. sustainability Renewables & How Western should be add. this, taking account. Why not more participants in renew.</p>	<p>Based on Presidential mandates, what is Western doing to support sustainable energy and renewables?</p>	<p>Western does have a renewable energy program. However, this program is not related to the purpose and need for the Big Sandy Energy Project. Western will share what it is doing to support sustainable energy and renewables with interested parties.</p>

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How could MC use fresh water for power plant - Why is this a good idea?	How and why does Mohave County want to use good, fresh groundwater and let others use the effluent? Does the tax revenue provide more benefit than loss of a precious resource? Why not use other types of water resources?	Mohave County has approved with conditions the use of water for power plant use when the Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning for the power plant. The EIS will not attempt to assign monetary values to different resources.
Who is on the env. study? How are they selected? Who funds? Not lowest Want an impartial decision maker bidder? Include tribe in dec.	Who is going to be on the environmental studies team and how are they going to be selected? Important not to select the lowest bidder. The tribe needs to be included in the environmental studies.	Western and BLM have selected URS to conduct the environmental studies based on its technical qualifications. URS will be working with the Hualapai tribe in conducting environmental studies. The Hualapai Tribe is a cooperating agency.
How far away can the location be changed before the process starts over? What is process? Is it shortened?	How far away can Caithness move the plant before the (County rezoning) process is voided?	The rezoning applies to 120-acre parcel. If the plant moves outside of the 120-acre parcel, Caithness would have to apply for rezoning.
No rubber stamp for EIS team	Realistic, important decision needed on environmental contract. There should not be a rubber stamp of the environmental studies team. The environmental studies team has to make impartial decisions.	Caithness, BLM and Western have executed a memorandum of understanding that affirms that BLM and Western will independently direct the EIS contractor.
If plant goes in & there is an effect on the water-at what point would you stop?	If the power plant is constructed and it has an effect on the area's water supply, at what point would Caithness stop generating electricity?	A pump test protocol has been developed and reviewed by several hydrologists. The protocol includes pumping water from a production well and observing effects in nearby observation wells. The test will be implemented in late August or early September. The results will be used, together with a basin-wide water budget, to help assess long term impacts. The results will dictate whether monitoring and mitigation is needed to protect the area's water supply.

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Addressing where the water is coming from-source Aquifer recharge?	Will Western and BLM address where the water is coming from? The aquifer recharge? Will isotope testing be conducted?	BLM and Western will address where water is coming from and aquifer recharge and will conduct isotope testing.
In comp. - other ppts & solar/wind generation using less water Dry cooling	The studies need to compare the environmental impacts of the proposed power plant to other generation types (e.g. solar and wind). Will the studies address a dry cooling option, as being used in a Boulder City, Nevada power plant?	BLM and Western are still developing the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS, including alternative generation technologies and cooling options. Alternatives selected for detailed review in the EIS must substantially meet the purpose and need for the project and be technically and economically feasible..
Detailed hydrolog. study	A detailed hydrological study is needed.	See response to similar comments above.
Sugg. that the closer you are to the project more you are against it. Plant. Bullhead City or Lake Havasu	Why can't the plant be located closer to Bullhead City or Lake Havasu City where water is available.	The EIS will address the availability of water from the Colorado River. BLM and Western are still developing the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS.
If power leaving Wikieup why is it benefit ?	If the power is leaving Wikieup, why is the project a benefit to the Wikieup area.	The EIS will address both the potential benefits and negative impacts to the Wikieup area.