



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

February 28, 2014

SUBJECT: Scoping Letter for Environmental Assessment of Western's Parker-Davis Transmission System Programmatic Operation and Maintenance and Integrated Vegetation Management Project (DOE/EA-1982)

Dear Interested Party:

This letter invites you to be involved in and provide input on environmental issues associated with the above-mentioned Federal action, which is further described below.

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is a Federal power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy that operates and maintains transmission lines and associated facilities. Western proposes Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities and the implementation of an integrated vegetation management program on the Parker-Davis Transmission System, in the Desert Southwest Region (see attached map).

The Parker-Davis Transmission System currently consists of 53 substations, 9,993 structures (i.e., poles, towers), and 1,534 miles of transmission line. These actions would occur within existing, legal rights-of-way (ROW) on existing transmission line and access roads, as well as at substations / maintenance facilities associated with the power system. The proposed O&M activities would consist of aerial and ground patrols to locate and correct problems, regular and preventive maintenance, inspections and repairs to protect against operational hazards, and road repair to provide access for maintenance and emergencies. The integrated vegetation management program would manage vegetation to protect facilities from fire, control the spread of noxious weeds to protect environmental quality, and establish and maintain stable, low-growing plant communities in the ROW.

Western proposes these actions to maintain existing transmission line and access road ROWs, to ensure system reliability, and to establish and maintain safe all-weather access to transmission line structures and appurtenant facilities. Western will serve as Lead Federal Agency in the preparation of an environmental assessment for this project.

We would like to know of any issues, concerns, and suggestions you may have regarding the proposed actions. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review process. Comments can be provided in writing (via U.S. mail or e-mail), by phone, or in person at the public open house meetings (information below).

Please submit your comments by April 4, 2014.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration
ATTN.: Sean Heath, Environmental Protection Specialist
Desert Southwest Region
615 S. 43rd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009
Email: DSW-ParkerDavisProEA@wapa.gov
Phone: (602) 605-2592

Western will host three public open house meetings to allow the public and interested parties an opportunity to learn about the proposed project, the NEPA process, ask questions, and provide comments. The meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 6:00-8:00 pm
Suddenlink Community Center
2380 3rd Street
Bullhead City, AZ 86442

Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 6:00-8:00 pm
The Lounge, Yuma Civic Center
1440 West Desert Hills Drive
Yuma, AZ 85365

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 6:00-8:00 pm
DoubleTree Suites
7051 S. Tucson Blvd.
Tucson, AZ, 85756

We look forward to receiving your comments on this project and hope that you will be able to attend one of the public open house meetings.

Sincerely,



Linda Marianito, Environmental Manager

Enclosure (map)

Parker-Davis Transmission System Operation and Maintenance Project Area



