



• Soils

Issues or effects may include:

- Soil compaction
- Increased potential for wind or water erosion

• Floodplains and wetlands

Issues or effects may include:

- Potential alterations

• Water resources

Issues or effects may include:

- Discharge of sediment to streams

• Protected, threatened, endangered or sensitive species of animals or plants; or their critical habitats

Issues or effects may include:

- Disturbed or displaced species
- Habitat alteration

• Other biological resources (including general wildlife, vegetation, and noxious weeds)

Issues or effects may include:

- Habitat alteration
- Changes to vegetation composition
- Spread of noxious weeds

• Air

Issues or effects may include:

- Vehicle emissions during construction
- Fugitive dust during construction

• Visual resources

Issues or effects may include:

- Alteration to visual landscape, especially in flat, open terrain

• Cultural or historic resources and Tribal values

Issues or effects may include:

- Effects to pre-historic or historic cultural resources
- Discovery of new sites
- Compromise of Tribal values

• Socioeconomic resources

Issues or effects may include:

- Economic benefits (spending) during construction
- Changes in tax revenue
- Disproportionate effects to minority and low-income groups



<http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/eptp.htm>

Common Terms

Corridor: A one-mile wide strip of land to be evaluated for possible transmission routes.

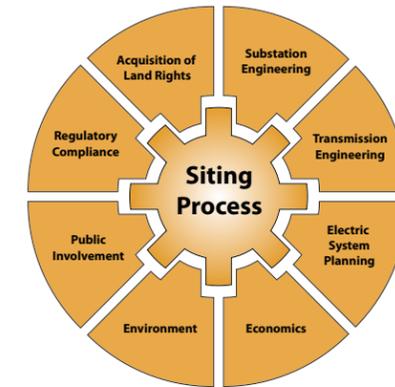
Route: A specific alignment of the transmission line within a 200-foot wide easement.

Opportunity: A favorable location for siting a transmission line. While opportunity areas are preferred for siting, they are rarely present along an entire proposed route.

Constraint: A location that should be avoided, to the extent possible, when siting a transmission line. Because of the complex nature of siting, constraint areas are often crossed by portions of proposed routes.



Western Area Power Administration and Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. will use an open and comprehensive siting process that considers electric system planning, economics, environment, public involvement, regulatory requirements, acquisition of land rights, and engineering

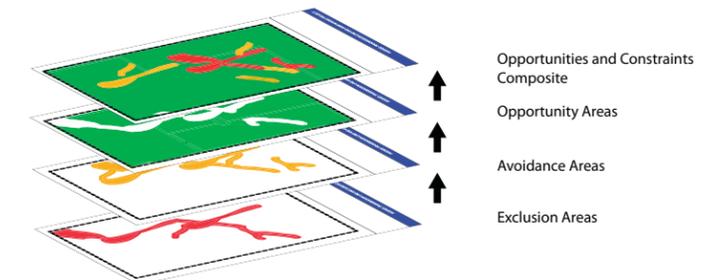


Siting Goals

- Maximize the use of opportunity areas
- Minimize the use of constraint areas

Preliminary Corridor Identification Phase

Step 1. Conduct opportunity and constraint analysis using mapped resource data.



Typical resource data include:

- Agricultural lands
- Airports
- Mineral development (oil and gas, gravel)
- Communication towers
- Land ownership
- Residential areas and municipal boundaries
- Recreational areas
- Scenic areas or routes

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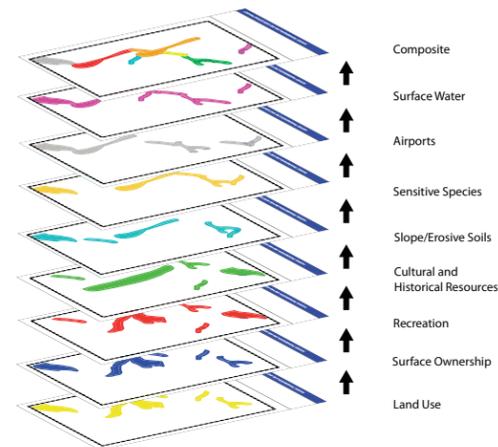
- Transportation corridors
- Existing utility corridors (transmission lines)
- Soils
- Water resources (including wetlands and floodplains)
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation
- Wildlife habitats

Primary opportunities include:

- Existing utility line easements
- Transportation corridors
- Rangeland
- Edges of fields

Primary constraints include:

- Residential areas and structures
- Water bodies
- Irrigated agriculture
- Conservation areas
- Critical plant or wildlife habitats



Step 2. Identify preliminary alternative corridors.

Step 3. Seek public input/feedback on preliminary alternative corridors during the public scoping period.

Route Refinement Phase

Step 1. Address specific concerns identified by the public, including new resource information, and refine preliminary alternative corridors into alternative routes

Step 2. Conduct comparative analysis of the alternative routes.

- Identify resource criteria
- Rank individual criteria among alternatives
- Calculate composite scores to compare alternatives

Step 3. Present alternative routes and comparative analysis at public route

refinement workshops (to be scheduled at a later date) for review and comment

Alternative Identification Phase

Step 1. Use public comments and stakeholder concerns from the route refinement workshops to make final adjustments to the alternative routes.

Step 2. Update comparative analysis to reflect the refined routes.

Step 3. Identify a preferred route and any feasible alternatives based on the comparative analysis.

Step 4. Carry the preferred and alternative routes forward for analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement, where the public is provided additional opportunities to be involved and provide comments.

Identification of Environmental Issues

Western will evaluate the potential effects to the resources identified in the EIS. Where a resource is affected, the EIS will include methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these effects.

Western identified the following resources and potential issues for evaluation in the EIS. Others may be added to this list based on comments received during scoping.

• Land use, recreation and transportation

Issues or effects may include:

- Compatibility with current land use
- Limitations on some activities near facilities

• Agricultural operations

Issues or effects may include:

- Reduced amount of land available for agriculture
- Changes to the types of agricultural activities in the right of way

• Human health and safety

Issues or effects may include:

- Electric and magnetic fields
- Aviation safety, especially during crop spraying
- Potential for contact with energized lines

