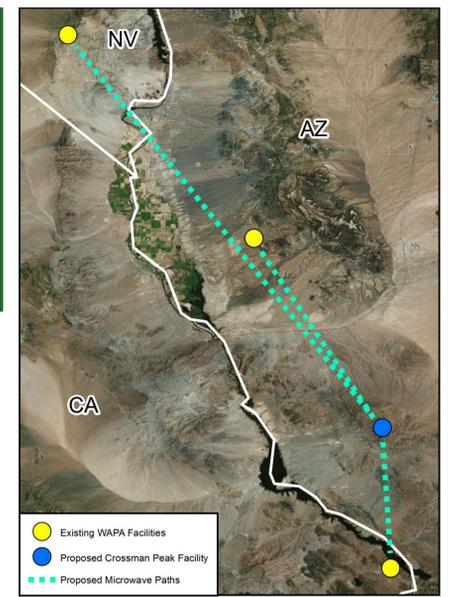


PROPOSED ACTION



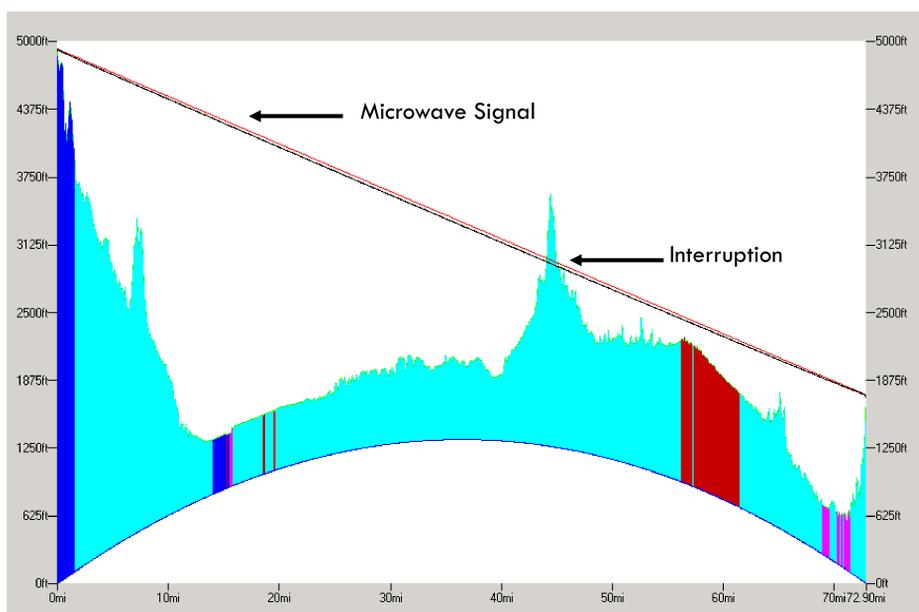
Proposed microwave paths from Crossman Peak

Purpose and Need

- Bulk electric systems require communication between facilities. WAPA's purpose and need for the project is to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electric system by establishing an interference-free microwave path at a new operating band between WAPA's communications facilities along the Colorado River. WAPA is upgrading communication equipment operating in the 2320-2345 megahertz (MHz) band with new equipment operating in the 7125-8025 MHz band to meet the President's goal of making 500 MHz of spectrum available for licensed commercial use.

WAPA's Proposed Action

- The proposed action consists of three components:
 - **Communications Facility.** WAPA plans to construct a communications facility composed of a 100-foot-tall, self-supporting tower with attachments such as microwave dishes, a prefabricated equipment shelter, a backup generator, a propane tank, and associated concrete slab foundations on a 0.1-acre parcel.
 - **Access Road to Communication Facility.** WAPA plans to use an existing six-mile-long dirt access road across Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office, and private lands on the west side of Crossman Peak. On private land, WAPA plans to widen the road's switchback turns for safety.
 - **Distribution Line and Access Road.** WAPA plans to contract with UniSource Energy Services (UNS) to provide electrical service to the communications facility. UNS would construct an approximately 14-mile-long distribution line across private and BLM land on the east side of Crossman Peak connecting to its existing Franconia Substation near Interstate 40. UNS would use existing roads to the extent possible and construct new dirt roads as needed.



Existing Christmas Tree Pass – Metal Mountain microwave path profile



Example of similar 100-foot-tall communications tower



Example of similar 40-foot-tall, metal and wood distribution poles

Alternatives

- **No Action.** WAPA would not change bands and not meet the President's goal regarding spectrum use. WAPA would not build a new communications facility, improve the access road, or contract UNS to construct an electric distribution line.
- Do you know of any more alternatives? Please describe in your comments.

BLM Involvement

- BLM's purpose is to respond to UNS's right-of-way application for construction of the 14-mile-long distribution line to supply electrical power to WAPA's communications facility and to construct and improve access roads as needed.



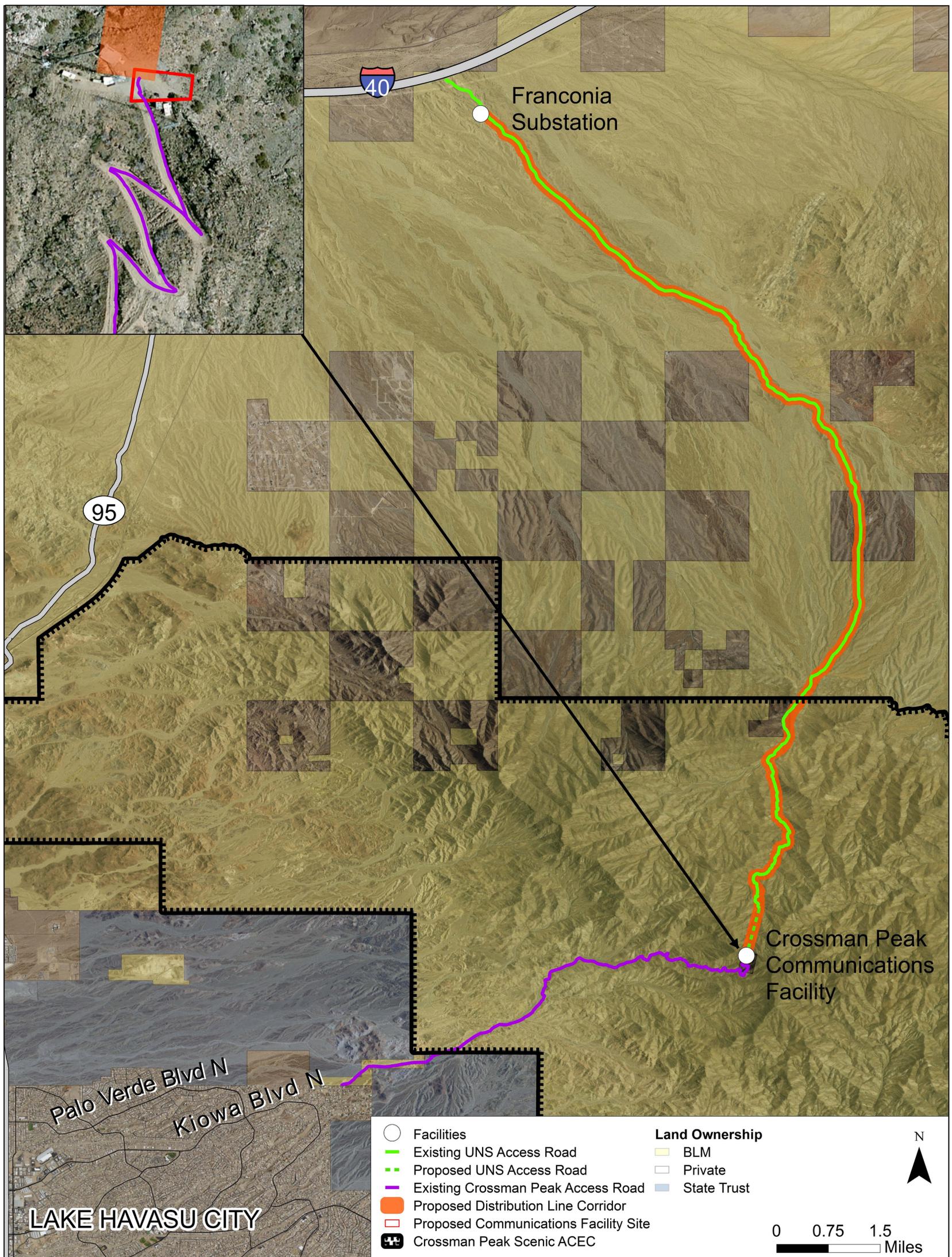
Western Area
Power Administration



UniSource
Energy
SERVICES

Crossman Peak Communications Facility Project (DOE/EA - 2023)

PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



Crossman Peak Communications Facility Project (DOE/EA - 2023)



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING SCOPING



Existing communications facility on
Crossman Peak

■ What is Scoping?

Scoping is an opportunity for the public and governments (local, state, federal, tribal) to advise WAPA on the scope and content of the topics to be addressed in the environmental document. Your comments can help WAPA:

- Identify the people and organizations interested in the project
- Identify the issues to be analyzed in the environmental document
- Identify gaps in data and information needs

Scoping is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federal actions. Public scoping represents the start of the environmental review process and allows the public to become involved early in the implementation of NEPA.

■ Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

1. **Review project information** available at the public open house and online:
<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/Crossman-Peak-Communications-Facility-Project.aspx>
2. **Ask questions** at the public open house to understand the project and the NEPA environmental review process.
3. **Suggest reasonable alternatives** to the project that meet the purpose and need and measures that may help avoid or minimize possible impacts to the environment.
4. **Submit written comments** to explain important issues that the environmental document should address or analyze.

WAPA identified the following topics to be studied during the NEPA process. The list might be revised based on public input. Let us know which topics you think are important and which may not need to be studied.

Air Quality	Native American Religious Concerns
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	Noise and Sensitive Receptors
Agriculture	Public Health and Safety
Climate Change	Recreation
Cultural Resources	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	Special-status species (Wildlife and Plants)
Hazardous Materials	Transportation
Intentional Destructive Acts	Native Habitat
Land Use	Water Resources

■ How to Get Involved

WAPA prefers to receive your scoping comments by November 15, 2016 and we will also accept comments after this date. You can submit comments by filling out a comment card at today's meeting, by sending a letter, fax or email; or by calling WAPA.

Email: DSW-EA2023PublicComment@wapa.gov
Phone: (602) 605-2536
Fax: (602) 605-2630
Mail: Western Area Power Administration
Matthew Bilsbarrow, NEPA Document Manager
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005

You will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment when it is available in February 2017.



Western Area
Power Administration



Crossman Peak Communications Facility Project (DOE/EA - 2023)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

November 2015

WAPA made the determination to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA)



October 17 – November 15, 2016

Public Scoping Comment Period

*comments will be accepted throughout preparation of the Draft EA

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
OPPORTUNITY



November 2016 – February 2017

Conduct Environmental Studies and Prepare Draft EA



February – March 2017

Release and Public Review of Draft EA

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
OPPORTUNITY



May 2017

Release Final EA



June 2017

WAPA Decision: Finding of No Significant Impact
or Determination to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement
BLM Decision: Right-of-Way Authorizations for Access Roads and Distribution Line



October 2017

Construction (depending on WAPA and BLM Decisions)



Western Area
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**Crossman Peak Communications
Facility Project (DOE/EA - 2023)**