

**FORMAL PUBLIC MEETING
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Response</u>
Bill Chrisholm	Twin Falls	A. Alternative energy sources need to be evaluated.	A. Alternative sources of energy have been evaluated as alternatives to the SWIP in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/DPA. IPCo is pursuing many alternative energy sources to further diversity resources. However, alternative energy sources do not meet the purpose and need for the SWIP and do not replace the need for the SWIP.
		B. The DEIS/DPA lacks analysis of true energy conservation	B. Refer to Conservation and Demand Side Management on page 3-4 of this document.
Brenda Herrmann	Twin Falls	A. Favors alternative route for health reasons and land depreciation if the transmission line is placed on their land.	A. Your comments are noted and will be considered in BLM's decision process.
John Herrmann	Twin Falls	A. The DEIS/DPA does not analyze impacts on people, their health and loss of private property.	A. These impacts were addressed in the DEIS/DPA on pages 4-51 through 4-68 and pages 4-46 through 4-51 of Chapter 4.
		B. Concerned about the depreciation of the land. With a transmission line currently running through his property, SWIP would further depreciate the value of his land.	B. IPCo would compensate for the fair market value of lands used for transmission easement. There is no conclusive research that suggests that transmission lines depreciate the value of adjacent lands.
Bob Molyneux	Twin Falls	A. Recommended the preferred route	A. Your comments are noted and will be considered in BLM's decision process.

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Janet OCrowley	Twin Falls	A. What agency will govern, regulate and set rates for the transmission line?	A. The Public Service Commission in each state regulates utilities that provide service to customers in that state.
William Johnson	Wells	A. If the intertie were moved to some degree, it would avoid going through our land and certainly benefit our planned development.	A. Please refer to the Agency Preferred plan in Chapter 1 of this document. The Agency Preferred Alternative is to move the route as you suggest.
Dawn King	Wells	A. To preserve visual quality, the line should be placed across the valley, not through Oasis. B. Concerned that the power line would affect the wetlands, wildlife, and waterfowl.	A. The Agency Preferred Alternative has been modified in the Oasis area in response to public comments. Also, please refer to Impacts in the Oasis Area on page 3-17 of Chapter 3 and the Agency Preferred Alternative in Chapter 1 of this document. B. These resources have been identified and impacts to them assessed. The analysis can be found beginning on pages 3-14 and 4-9 of this document, as well as the Biological Resources section in Chapter 3.

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| C. Concerned about the health effects of being around the lines. | C. The many studies that have been conducted on EMF demonstrate that we are all affected in everyday life. Electromagnetic fields exist from microwaves, florescent lights, waterbed heaters, hair dryers, etc. The right-of-way width of 200 feet is intended to minimize these effects. Outside of the right-of-way the field levels are expected to be no higher than normally occur in household appliances. Please refer to pages 3-72 through 3-82 of the DEIS/DPA for additional information on EMF. |
| D. Need to address alternative energy. | D. Alternative sources of energy have been evaluated as alternatives to the SWIP in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/DPA. IPCo is pursuing many alternative energy sources to further diversity resources. However, alternative energy sources do not meet the purpose and need for the SWIP and do not replace the need for the SWIP. |
| E. Since the document did not mention the communities of Oasis and Wendover, the DEIS/DPA is inadequate. | E. Oasis was considered in the DEIS/DPA process, refer to the page 5-20 of the Technical Reports, Volume III - Human Environment. Also, Oasis has been added to the list of communities in Nevada (refer to Chapter 4 of this document). Wendover is 8 miles outside of the study corridor. |

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| | | F. Public notification was inadequate. | F. The BLM believes that the public notification was adequate. The planning process occurred over a several year period. Numerous news releases were sent communities in the area and newsletters were sent to a mailing list of over 3000 individuals, agencies, and organizations in order to gain public input. |
| | | G. Expressed concern about global warming. | G. Please refer to page 4-90 of the DEIS/DPA. |
| William Fisher | Wells | A. Concerned about health issues. | A. The many studies that have been conducted on EMF demonstrate that we are all affected in everyday life. Electromagnetic fields exist from microwaves, florescent lights, waterbed heaters, hair dryers, etc. The right-of-way width of 200 feet is intended to minimize these effects. Outside of the right-of-way the field levels are expected to be no higher than normally occur in household appliances. Please refer to pages 3-72 through 3-82 of the DEIS/DPA for additional information on EMF. |

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

Hiko Wirtz	Wells	<p>A. The power line affects health, property value, and the scenic qualities of the Oasis area.</p>	<p>A. The BLM agrees that the SWIP will affect the scenic quality of the landscape in the Oasis area. These impacts are documented in the DEIS/DPA, in Volume III of the Technical Report, and further in Chapter 3 of this document. The potential health effects are documented in the DEIS/DPA. There is no conclusive research that indicates that transmission lines affect human health or land values of adjacent properties. Also, the Agency Preferred Alternative has been moved so as not to affect the planned developments of Northern Holdings.</p>
		<p>B. Weren't adequately notified of the project</p>	<p>B. The planning process occurred over a several year period. Numerous news releases were sent communities in the area and newsletters were sent to a mailing list of over 3000 individuals, agencies, and organizations in order to gain public input.</p>
Jack Ekker	Wells	<p>A. Prefer the line bypass Oasis for health and quality of life reasons.</p>	<p>A. Your comment has been noted and will be considered in the BLM's decision process.</p>
Scott Brooke	Wells	<p>A. Received no legal or actual notice of the project until recently.</p>	<p>A. The BLM believes there was adequate notification about the project, the release of the DEIS/DPA, and the public meetings. The public meetings were announced in the DEIS/DPA which was released in June. There also were press releases published in local newspapers and a series of 12 newsletters mailed to over 3000 recipients over more than three years during the project.</p>

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- B. The powerline would depreciate the value of the Oasis area property itself and visually depreciate the surrounding properties.
- B. Although there has been much research on the effects of transmission lines on property values there is no conclusive evidence that there is such an effect. With the Agency Preferred Alternative (refer to Chapter 1 of this document) we do not believe that the visual impacts to the planned developments at Oasis or to the residents of Oasis will be significant. All visual impacts are documented in the DEIS/DPA, the Technical Report, and in this document.
- C. How were the various routes selected?
- C. The various routes were selected based on the criteria located on page 2-50 of the DEIS/DPA. Also refer to page 1-6 of this document.

Alfred King

Wells

- A. The visual beauty of the Oasis area will be destroyed if the power line goes through this area.
- A. The BLM agrees that there will be visual impacts as a result of constructing the SWIP. Visual impacts were assessed from Big Springs Ranch, Oasis, all other residences, and many other sensitive viewpoints along the alternative routes. Volume III of the Technical Report documents in more detail the potential visual impacts to this area (refer to Appendix H of the DEIS/DPA for locations of these reports for public review).
- B. The power line will cause a direct loss of property, making it difficult to develop.
- B. The Agency Preferred Alternative (refer to Chapter 1 of this document) will not affect the planned development of Northern Holdings in Sections 2 and 3.

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		C. The electromagnetic fields would cause a reduction in the potential for future residents and land owner.	C. Refer to response B above.
George Thiel	Wells	A. The potential power line through the Oasis would impact the proposed land use plans.	A. The Agency Preferred Alternative (refer to Chapter 1 of this document) will no affect the planned development of Northern Holdings in Sections 2 and 3.
Bob Barton	Wells	A. There was not enough notice to land owners to inform them of SWIP.	A. The BLM believes that there was adequate notification. Press releases were sent to 17 newspapers serving the communities in the area to announce the meetings. Newsletters announcing the meetings were also sent to all individuals and organizations on the mailing list. You have been on our mailing list since the beginning of the project and have also received a copy of the DEIS/DPA.
		B. Concerned about the visual impacts to the local people in the Oasis area rather than impacts to those who travel along Interstate 80.	B. Visual impacts were assessed from Big Springs Ranch and all other residences along the alternative routes. Our methodology states that residences are more visually sensitive than travellers on I-80, and this was used to assess visual impacts. In Table VR-7 of Volume III of the Technical Report documents that all residences have a high visual sensitivity and Interstate highways received a visual sensitivity rating of moderate.

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Fredd Dunham	Wells	<p>A. The close proximity of high-voltage power lines to the proposed subdivisions greatly reduces the viability of the proposed land use plans.</p> <p>B. Suggests having an alternative that bypasses around Oasis and the Big Springs Ranch.</p>	<p>A. The Agency Preferred Alternative (refer to Chapter 1 of this document) will not affect the planned development of Northern Holdings in Sections 2 and 3.</p> <p>B. Note that the Agency Preferred Alternative has been changed from links 221 and 223 to 211. Refer to response A above.</p>
Patricia Dunham	Wells	<p>A. The local communities needs have not been addressed in the DEIS/DPA.</p>	<p>A. The BLM believes that local impacts are addressed. Visual impacts, land use, and socioeconomic impacts are all documented in the DEIS/DPA. We were not made aware of the planned developments by Northern Holdings, nor have they been filed with Elko County. We have now considered this planned development as a future land use (refer to Chapter 3 of this document).</p>
Joanne Garrett	Ely	<p>A. The Ely to Delta segment is a violation of the Great Basin National Park.</p> <p>B. Object to the military concerns having preference over the national park concerns.</p>	<p>A. Alternative highway crossings to mitigate potential visual impacts to the park are evaluated under the Sacramento Pass Mitigation Reroute in Chapter 3 of this document.</p> <p>B. The military concerns have been evaluated with similar criteria to other impacts. These different impacts are being carefully weighed in determining the environmental preferences. BLM will consider your concerns when it makes its decision.</p>

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| | | C. Although the DEIS/DPA addresses the health issues, still believes there is a health issue. | C. The evidence is still inconclusive on health effects. Your comments are noted. |
| | | D. The simulations did not portray the visual impacts adequately. | D. The simulations were done to create the best likeness to the real situation as current technology allows. |
| | | E. Could not locate the tax revenue comparison tables for the various routes. | E. Refer to Table 4-4 in the DEIS/DPA. Note, an updated table including the Agency Preferred and Utility Routes were added. Refer to page 4-16 in Chapter 4 of this document. |
| Rod McKenzie | Ely | A. Panel 4 does not include highway 318. | A. That is correct. Highway 318 is not on the Panel 4 map. The highway is contained within the boundary of Panel 3 and 5 maps and does not occur in the area that Panel 4 map covers. |
| | | B. Boundaries from the Humboldt National Forest are missing near Ely on Ward Mountain. | B. This error has been corrected in the Errata of this document. |
| Joseph Reilly | Delta | A. What is the purpose of the public hearing if the DEIS/DPA hasn't been circulated for more than one month? | A. The DEIS/DPA had been in circulation for over two months prior to the public meeting in Delta. |
| Rex Stanworth | Delta | A. Who will own the Ely to Delta segment of the SWIP, Idaho Power or Los Angeles Department of Water & Power? | A. The right-of-way for the Ely to Delta Segment would be assigned to IPCo who would request that BLM assign it to LADWP. The LADWP on behalf of the UNTP participants would construct, operate, and maintain this portion of the line. |

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

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| B. Doesn't feel SWIP will be a benefit to the intermountain area, other than a small source of tax revenue. | B. There are potential benefits to the intermountain region from power transfers, reliability, and power sales from the various generation stations located within this region. |
| C. If LADWP gets the right-of-way granted, will they have to meet Millard County's environmental criteria and regulations that go along with having a right-of-way? | C. Yes. |
| D. Can part of an unbuilt IPP corridor be used for this project? | D. There is no unbuilt IPP corridor along the Ely to Delta segment of the SWIP. |
| E. Recommends using existing corridors for environmental reasons. | E. It is not possible to route the SWIP parallel to existing utilities for its entire length although BLM agrees in principal to your comment and the mandate of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (1976) to consolidate corridors. The selected routes are based on planning methodology to identify and minimize impacts. Subsequent evaluation and comparison was done to select an alternative that minimizes impacts to the degree possible. Your comments will be taken into consideration during BLM's decision process. |
| F. Would like to have an additional public meeting. | F. The BLM does not believe that an additional public meeting is warranted. |

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

Jeff Van Ee

Las Vegas

A. No-Action alternative needs further evaluation

A. The BLM believes that an adequate range of alternatives to the SWIP was evaluated and that the SWIP DEIS/DPA discussion of the no-action alternative is adequate. The no-action alternative would result in other actions being taken, which is discussed in the SWIP DEIS/DPA on pages 2-10 and 2-11.

The no-action alternative could lead to construction of new generation resources in various parts of the West because existing electrical resources would not be able to utilize the SWIP for regional exchanges. Environmental impacts associated with generation (e.g., air quality) and transmission (e.g., similar types of impacts to the SWIP) would occur if generation is constructed.

A second possible result of the no-action is that electrical rates in various parts of the West may be impacted if the SWIP is not constructed and more expensive generation options are exercised. Finally, the stability and reliability of the electrical system in the West would not be enhanced without the SWIP.

The BLM believes that the SWIP is a desirable action for the utility industry to most efficiently utilize electrical conservation and availability and minimize environmental impacts in the western United States.

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

- B. There is not sufficient data in the DEIS/DPA to judge the economic feasibility of the proposed line.
- C. The DEIS/DPA does not discuss getting the power from Dry Lake Substation through to California. The transmission line would have to go through the Sunrise Mountain WSA and other critical areas.
- D. Suggest expanding the scope to look at impacts in the future, where the power is ultimately going and when it is scheduled to arrive in some markets. Also should look at connecting and routing future power lines through critical areas.
- E. In some of the areas that SWIP will be serving there will be an excess of power at certain times of the year. Would like to see further regional analysis done to study where the power is, where it is going, and which areas are deficient.
- B. Please refer to the expanded discussion of Purpose and Need in Chapter 3 of this document.
- C. This is addressed in the discussion of the Marketplace-Allen Transmission (MAT) Project through the Sunrise Mountain area in the DEIS/DPA on pages 2-52 and 4-81. Also refer to the Cumulative Effects discussion on the MAT in Chapter 3 of this document.
- D. It is not possible without contracts in place to discuss precisely where the power will be scheduled to flow. However, the expanded purpose and need in Chapter 3 of this document has an illustration showing the potential seasonal diversity between regions of the west. We believe that the planning studies during the SWIP EIS process has analyzed all reasonable and feasible routing alternatives, and corridors have been consolidated where possible.
- E. Refer to response D above.

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

- F. Doesn't feel the DEIS/DPA adequately address the impacts the transmission line will have on adjacent WSAs.
- G. There is insufficient economic data to show why this is the least costly alternative to provide electricity both north and south

- F. This discussion has been expanded in Chapter 3 of this document.
- G. The revised Purpose and Need section in Chapter 3 of this document contains information about comparative costs of different resource options. To meet the future electrical needs of the region, transmission is shown to be the least cost alternative as compared to demand-side management (i.e., conservation) or new generation.

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

Bob Maichle

Las Vegas

A. No-Action alternative not adequately analyzed.

A. The BLM believes that an adequate range of alternatives to the SWIP was evaluated and that the SWIP DEIS/DPA discussion of the no-action alternative is adequate. The no-action alternative would result in other actions being taken, which is discussed in the SWIP DEIS/DPA on pages 2-10 and 2-11.

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A second possible result of the no-action is that electrical rates in various parts of the West may be impacted if the SWIP is not constructed and more expensive generation options are exercised. Finally, the stability and reliability of the electrical system in the West would not be enhanced without the SWIP.

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Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

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| | | B. | Will the utility corridors be able to be used for things other than transmission lines (e.g. water lines, access)? | B. | IPCo and LADWP are concerned about vandalism and potential liability issues associated with sanctioned use of these rights-of-way. Especially if the liability concerns can be adequately addressed by user groups it is possible that they would be open to discussion. |
| | | | | | The BLM can allow joint occupancy of a right-of-way by compatible uses. |
| | | C. | Would like more detail concerning the banking of energy. | C. | The utilities are not aware of banking of energy, although reserve margins are planned by every utility to handle unexpected occurrences. |
| David Breekey | Las Vegas | A. | Concerned about the ability of the right-of-way to be used by other utilities. | A. | The BLM reserves the right to require the common use of a right-of-way (ROW) and the right to authorize use of the ROW for other compatible uses. Any additional use of the ROW is subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. |
| | | B. | What does Nevada Power have to say concerning the availability of power in extra by 1997 (when SWIP is in operation) or power in extra anywhere in the southwest. | B. | Please refer to the discussion in the DEIS/DPA about Nevada Power on pages 1-7 and 1-8. |

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

C. The no-Action alternative needs further evaluation.

C. The BLM believes that an adequate range of alternatives to the SWIP was evaluated and that the SWIP DEIS/DPA discussion of the no-action alternative is adequate. The no-action alternative would result in other actions being taken, which is discussed in the SWIP DEIS/DPA on pages 2-10 and 2-11.

The no-action alternative could lead to construction of new generation resources in various parts of the West because existing electrical resources would not be able to utilize the SWIP for regional exchanges. Environmental impacts associated with generation (e.g., air quality) and transmission (e.g., similar types of impacts to the SWIP) would occur if generation is constructed.

A second possible result of the no-action is that electrical rates in various parts of the West may be impacted if the SWIP is not constructed and more expensive generation options are exercised. Finally, the stability and reliability of the electrical system in the West would not be enhanced without the SWIP.

The BLM believes that the SWIP is a desirable action for the utility industry to most efficiently utilize electrical conservation and availability and minimize environmental impacts in the western United States.

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

- D. Need to address alternative energy.
- E. If LADWP gets the Ely to Delta power, how does the power get to Los Angeles? To get the power to LA, a corridor will need to go through the Sunrise Mountain WSA. How will this be done?
- F. A one mile wind power corridor that goes through the Sunrise Mountain WSA is being proposed to Congress, how does this tie in with SWIP?
- D. Alternative sources of energy have been evaluated as alternatives to the SWIP in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/DPA. IPCo is pursuing many alternative energy sources to further diversity resources. However, alternative energy sources do not meet the purpose and need for the SWIP and do not replace the need for the SWIP.
- E. There are two 500kV lines currently through the Sunrise Mountain ISA. The Navajo-McCullough line and the IPP #1 500kV DC transmission line. The Utah-Nevada Transmission Project already has a third right-of-way grant from Delta through the Sunrise Mountain ISA, but cannot proceed until the WSA issue is resolved. The SWIP DEIS/DPA discusses the Marketplace-Allen Transmission (MAT) Project in the Cumulative Effects on page 4-81 of the DEIS/DPA. This project was conceived to attempt to minimize the number of total lines through the Sunrise corridor.
- F. The BLM is not aware of this proposal or any of its details.

Formal Public Meeting Comments and Responses (Continued)

- G. It is said that the Northwest power generation will be affected by the salmon being listed. How will this affect the ability to transfer power if it is not in the Northwest to bring it to Nevada?
- H. The DEIS/DPA did not adequately address why SWIP is needed.
- G. It is not clear how the listing of the salmon will impact the operation of the SWIP. The utilities believe that there may be benefits to the salmon by operating the SWIP.
- H. Refer to the expanded Purpose and Need in Chapter 3 of this document.