

We want to hear from you...

Your views are important. Please let us know if you have comments, questions or ideas about the proposed project. Future newsletters will be issued periodically as the project proceeds.

If you are interested in more information on the environmental review process or how to get involved in this decision process, please contact Mark Wieringa at 1-800-336-7288 or trinityeis@wapa.gov.

You'll also find project information online at <http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/intertrinity.htm>.

Please also let us know how you want to get a copy of the Draft and Final EIS or if you want update your contact information or your name to be removed from this mailing list.

Please send me the Draft and Final EIS on a CD as a printed report

Please take my name off this mailing list

Please add/correct this mailing list information

Name:

Mailing address (street, city, state, zip):

e-mail address:

Please call me to discuss this proposed project

Name

Phone



Trinity EIS

P.O. Box 281213
12155 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213



Scoping meeting set for Trinity County power line work

Scoping meetings for proposed transmission facilities in Trinity County, Calif, are set for July 10 and 11 in Weaverville and Redding.

The open-house meetings to share information and answer questions will be held:

- 3 to 7 p.m., July 10, Best Western Weaverville Victorian Inn, 1709 Main St., Weaverville, Calif.

- 3 to 7 p.m., July 11, Oxford Suites, 1967 Hilltop Drive, Redding, Calif.

Both meeting locations are handicapped accessible. Please let us know by July 1 if you need other accommodations to attend one of these meetings.

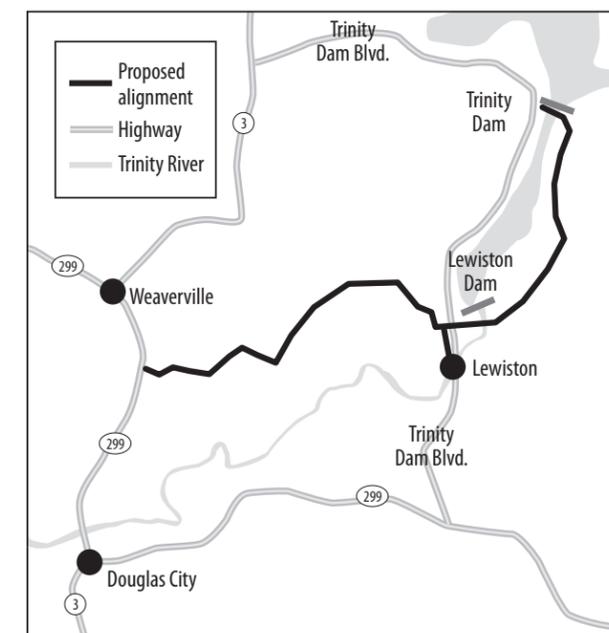
Public comments sought for environmental analysis

Western Area Power Administration seeks public comments on issues and alternatives to evaluate for environmental impacts in the Trinity Public Utility District Direct Interconnection Project Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed project involves:

- removing about 5.3 miles of 12-kilovolt distribution line from Trinity Powerplant at Trinity Dam to a tap point about 0.75 mile west of Lewistown Dam and constructing a new 60-kV transmission line on an expansion of the existing right-of-way.
- constructing a tap structure with three-way switch equipment on the new 60-kV line at the tap location 0.75 mile west of Lewistown Dam and a radial 1.2 mile tap line south to the existing Lewistown Substation on Trinity Dam Road, parallel to the existing distribution line.
- constructing a new 60-kV transmission line on new right-of-way from the tap point west about 8.5 miles to a new Weaverville Switchyard, located about 2 miles south of Weaverville on the east side of Highway 299.

Comments on the proposed project can be submitted at one of the scoping meetings or to Mark Wieringa, National Environmental Policy Act Document Manager, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213, phone: 800-336-7288, fax: 720-962-7263, e-mail: trinityeis@wapa.gov. Comments must be received by July 19.



Potential environmental issues already identified for analysis include impacts on:

- Protected, threatened, endangered or sensitive species of plants or animals or their critical habitats
- Other biological resources
- Land use, recreation and transportation
- Floodplains and wetlands
- Cultural or historic resources and tribal values
- Human health and safety
- Air, soil and water resources (including air quality and surface and ground water)
- Visual resources

Proposed project designed to improve electricity reliability

Western Area Power Administration proposes to build a direct interconnection with the Trinity County Public Utility District, located approximately 25 miles west of Redding in Trinity County, Calif.

The proposed project is designed to enhance the reliability of electrical service for the customers of Trinity PUD by establishing a new direct interconnection with Western's Central Valley Project transmission system. The proposed project would provide a direct link with the Central Valley Project transmission system and deliver energy to Trinity County as authorized by the

Trinity River Division Act.

Consumers in the Trinity area routinely see nearly 20,000 consumer hours per year in outages, according to Trinity PUD estimates. Outages can last three to four days in the winter before power is restored. Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Trinity County's transmission service provider, has had a difficult time restoring service due to the remote location and rough terrain. A direct tie may reduce the frequency and length of outages, and would relieve PG&E of the responsibility to consumers in this area.

How you can be involved in the EIS process

An environmental impact statement process consists of several steps, each with opportunities for you to be involved.

First, Western publishes a notice of intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register and makes local announcements, including this newsletter and notices in local newspapers. The formal notice of intent states the need for the action and provides preliminary information on the EIS scope, including the alternative actions to be evaluated and the kinds of potential environmental impacts to be analyzed. You'll find this notice and other project information on Western's Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/intertrinity.htm>.

Next, during the scoping process—now through July 19—Western requests your comments on the scope of the EIS, such as what alternatives should be evaluated and what potential environmental impacts should be analyzed. Western's scoping process for this EIS ends on July 19 and includes two open houses, July 10 in Weaverville and July 11 in Redding.

Following the scoping process, Western considers scoping comments as it prepares a Draft EIS. The EIS reports on the analysis and comparisons of potential environmental impacts of the various alternatives, including a "no action" alternative. The EIS also reports on ways to avoid or reduce adverse impacts. The Draft EIS will identify Western's preferred alternative for the proposed project.

After Western issues a Draft EIS, planned for early fall, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. A second public comment period for this project

Trinity Interconnection EIS timeline	
Public scoping	June- July 2006
Public provides issues and comments on EIS scope	
Draft EIS published	Fall 2006
Public review and comment	
Final EIS published	Early 2007
Public notified of availability	
Record of decision published	Spring 2007
Public notified of decision	

then begins. Western plans to give you at least 45 days to review the EIS and provide comments. Public hearings will be held during the 45-day public hearing period. Western will announce details on how you may comment on the Draft EIS in newspaper ads and another newsletter.

Western will consider all your comments as it prepares a Final EIS. Western plans to issue the Final EIS in early 2007. It will publish another formal notice in the *Federal Register* along with local notice using newsletters and local newspapers. Western must wait at least 30 days after this notice announcing the availability of the Final EIS is published before issuing a Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will explain Western's decision on the proposed project to build a direct interconnection with Trinity County PUD's electrical system and the Federal Central Valley Project transmission system. The Record of Decision, expected in early spring 2007, would also describe any commitments to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts.

What is NEPA and how does it work?

NEPA is a Federal law that serves as the nation's basic charter for environmental protection. NEPA requires that all Federal agencies consider the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions.

NEPA promotes better agency decision making by ensuring that high quality environmental information is available to agency officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to undertake a major Federal action. Through the NEPA process, you have an opportunity to learn about an agency's proposed actions and to provide information and comments to the agency. To implement NEPA, all Federal agencies follow procedures issued by the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

Early in its planning process for all proposed actions, including the proposed Trinity County PUD Direct Interconnection project, Western considers how to comply with NEPA. The appropriate level of review depends on the significance of the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Federal agencies must decide which of the three levels of NEPA review are required for each specific proposed action. For major Federal actions that

may significantly affect the quality of the human environment, NEPA requires an environmental impact statement be prepared. An EIS provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives.

When the need for an EIS is unclear, an agency may prepare an environmental assessment to provide a brief analysis. This document is used to determine whether to prepare an EIS or to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Each Federal agency also has a list of classes of actions that normally do not require an EIS or an EA because, individually or cumulatively, they do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. For these actions, a Categorical Exclusion would be prepared.

For this project, Western first started to prepare an EA. It determined that because of the potential for significant environmental impacts, including impacts to critical habitat for the threatened Northern spotted owl, an EIS would be required before Western could determine whether it would move forward with its proposed interconnection.

About Western

Western markets and delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power and related services within a 15-state region of the central and western United States. Western is one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy whose role is to market and transmit electricity from federally-owned and -operated multi-use water projects.

Contact information

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Western's Sierra Nevada Region

Most power that Western's Sierra Nevada Region sells is generated by power plants owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the California Central Valley Project, including those at Shasta, Folsom, Trinity and New Melones dams. The region imports additional power over Western's share of the Pacific Northwest- Pacific Southwest Intertie and the California-Oregon Transmission Project's 500-kV lines linking northern and central California to the Pacific Northwest. Staff at the Sierra Nevada Region also operate and maintain 18 substations and 884 miles of 69- to 500-kV transmission lines.