Contact us
Comments or questions on the proposed project can be directed to:
John Holt, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
Phone: 602-605-2592
Fax: 602-605-2630
E-mail: holt@wapa.gov

To request a copy of the Draft EIS or learn more about the proposed project, call, write or e-mail:
Mark Wieringa, NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
Phone: 720-962-7448
Fax: 720-962-7262
E-mail: wieringa@wapa.gov

For project information in Spanish, contact:
Ms. Enoe Marcum, Environmental Specialist
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
Western Area Power Administration
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Phoenix, AZ 85005
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U.S. Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

Draft Environmental impact Statement available

The Wellton-Mohawk Generating Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement is now available for public review and comment. Copies of the Draft EIS are located at:

Western Area Power Administration
615 South 43rd Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

Bureau of Land Management
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, Arizona

Bureau of Reclamation
7301 Calle Agua Salada
Yuma, Arizona

DOE Reading Room
Forrestal Building
Washington, DC

Written comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked no later than Sept. 6, 2005 to be addressed in the Final EIS. E-mail and faxed comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m., Sept. 6, 2005. Oral and/or written comments will also be accepted at the Draft EIS hearings announced below.

A CD or paper copy of the Draft EIS or the Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting one of the people listed on the back of this newsletter. If you previously requested a copy of the Draft EIS in the format of your choice, a copy has been sent to you.

Steps in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

1. Preliminary
2. Draft
3. Record of Decision
4. Final

Meeting: Draft EIS Public Hearing
Date: Aug. 17, 2005
Place: Antelope Union High School
9168 South Avenue 36 East
Wellton, Arizona

Meeting: Draft EIS Public Hearing
Date: Aug. 18, 2005
Place: Yuma Civic and Convention Center
1440 West Desert Hills Drive
Yuma, Arizona

Time: 5 – 9 p.m.
Format: We are hosting an open house between 5 and 6:30 p.m. We’ll have stations with displays on the proposed project, staffed by experts who can answer your questions. We’ll also have comment forms available to gather your written input on the project. At 6:30 p.m. we’ll start a formal hearing, where you can provide oral comments for the record. A court reporter will transcribe all comments and the transcripts will be made available to the public.

Meeting: Draft EIS Public Hearing
Date: Aug. 18, 2005
Place: Yuma Civic and Convention Center
1440 West Desert Hills Drive
Yuma, Arizona

Time: 5 – 9 p.m.
Format: We will use the same format as the Wellton hearing.

Refreshments will be served at both hearings.
Dome Valley has completed a state siting process with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Western is involved because the proposed project would interconnect with Western’s transmission system. BLM and Reclamation are cooperating agencies in the EIS process because the proposed project would require transfer of 96 acres of land from Federal ownership, and the natural gas pipeline and transmission line components would require new or amended right-of-way grants.

Records of Decision and Mitigation Action Plan

Western will prepare and approve a Mitigation Action Plan after the release of the Final EIS. The MAP will be issued with the Record of Decision on whether or not to grant the interconnection. The MAP will describe how the mitigation committed to in Western’s ROD will be implemented. The MAP will also contain the schedule for completing the mitigation.

BLM and Reclamation do not have a requirement for a MAP, but do typically prepare a mitigation monitoring plan as part of their ROD packages.

Specific issues studied

The Draft EIS analyzed the following major issues:

- Short-term and long-term effects on air quality
- Direct and indirect effects on wildlife resources and habitats, including special-status species
- Direct and indirect effects on the local community from construction activity, future land use changes, landscape changes, noise and economics
- Direct and indirect effects on water quality and of water use by the proposed project
- Direct and indirect effects on cultural resources and traditional cultural values of Native Americans
- Effects on existing land uses of all proposed project components
- Hazardous waste and waste management issues and human safety

Each issue was analyzed in Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS.

Expected impacts and mitigations are disclosed in Chapter 4.