

Estes-to-Flatiron Transmission Lines Rebuild Project

Drop-in Learning Session Fact Sheet

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Document Review

Draft EIS Release

- The Draft EIS was released for public review on September 19, 2014
- It can be downloaded from the project website listed below
- If you would like to receive a CD or hard copy of the Final EIS, you may sign up to receive a copy on the sign-in sheet or email RMR_estesflatironeis@wapa.gov

Draft EIS Review

- Western will hold public hearings and open houses to provide information on the Draft EIS and gather public input
- Agencies and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS during a 45-day public review period
- Comments can be provided to Western through mail, email or during the public hearings.

Objectives for Draft EIS Review

- Provide a forum for the public to provide comments on, or to ask questions about, the findings of the Draft EIS
- Obtain comments on the adequacy and completeness of the EIS, corrections of errors, and input for selecting an agency preferred alternative

What's in the EIS?

- Alternatives considered and measures taken to minimize adverse impacts
- Affected Environment:

Description of the existing environmental conditions for physical, biological, and human resources

- Environmental Impacts:

Direct and indirect impacts of each alternative

- Cumulative Impacts:

Environmental impacts of the project when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

How to make your comment count:

- Be clear, concise, and relevant
- Things to comment on: the proposed alternatives, the assessment of the environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, measures, and issues of concern.
- Provide solution-oriented comments and specific examples and supporting rationale that would aid in reaching a decision
- Include facts (e.g. comparative impacts, issues of most concern, information on resource tradeoffs, information on the relative values attached to resources)
- Reference the name of the Draft EIS and include your name, address, telephone number and organization represented (if applicable)
- NEPA isn't a voting exercise -- don't simply provide an expression of preference for one alternative versus another

Comments can be made orally at the public hearings, in writing at the drop-in meetings or public open houses, mailed or emailed to the address provided below.

Send your comments to:

Mark Wieringa
Western Area Power Administration A7400
PO Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
Email: RMR_EstesFlatironEIS@wapa.gov

Draft EIS comments must be received or post marked by November 14, 2014.

For project updates, copies of all meeting materials, and the Draft EIS document visit: <http://go.usa.gov/rvtP>

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How Scoping Comments Were Addressed

Impacts of new ROW acquisition

- The amount of new ROW required was calculated for each alternative
- The amount of ROW that would be decommissioned was calculated
- The number of landowners affected by each alternative was determined

Impacts on viewsheds, including travel corridors, residential areas and recreational sites

- New routing alternatives were developed to avoid issues identified during scoping
- New design alternatives were developed, including underground construction and lower structure heights
- Visual simulations were prepared from 14 sensitive viewpoints
- Project-specific design criteria were developed to minimize impacts

Impacts on protected areas

- The number of protected areas crossed by each alternative was determined

Impacts of road construction

- An additional transportation study was completed to identify the length of road construction in areas with difficult constructibility
- Access road needs were more specifically identified

Impacts on recreational uses and experiences

- Simulations and visual analyses were conducted from major recreational use areas
- Impacts on Pole Hill Road OHV use were analyzed

Impacts on existing infrastructure, e.g. Upper Thompson Sanitation District

- Re-routes were developed to avoid conflicts with this facility

Other Issues

- Impacts on all other identified issues were analyzed, e.g. human health, wetlands, wildlife, and special status species

Agency Preferred Alternative

- Selection of the agency preferred alternative will seek to balance Western's need for system improvements with environmental and land use considerations
- The agency preferred alternative will be determined after comments on the Draft EIS are analyzed
- Western has not chosen an agency preferred alternative

Draft EIS Open House and Public Hearings

Open House 4:30-6pm Public Hearing 6pm

October 29th, 2014
Rialto Theater
228 East 4th Street
Loveland, CO

October 30th, 2014
Estes Park Conference Center
101 South St. Vrain
Estes Park, CO

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