

Estes-to-Flatiron Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Environmental Impact Statement Newsletter

Western Area Power Administration

August 2013, Volume 3

Draft EIS Update

The U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to rebuild the electric transmission lines between Estes Park and Flatiron Reservoir, Colorado. Western, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is currently scheduled to issue the Estes-to-Flatiron Transmission Lines Rebuild Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS -0483) this fall 2013.

Distribution of the Draft EIS Summary

Once the Draft EIS is issued, you will be sent a copy of the Draft EIS Summary. If you have received this project newsletter you will automatically receive the Draft EIS Summary - there is no need to request one.

Distribution of the Full Draft EIS

Upon issuance, the full Draft EIS will be available for download on the project website at: <http://go.usa.gov/rviP>. Paper copies or compact disk (CD) copies of the full Draft EIS are also available upon request. To develop the distribution list for the full Draft EIS, Western will mail a return postcard to the project mailing list prior to the issuance of the Draft EIS. Individuals that would like to receive a paper or CD copy of the full Draft EIS should return the postcard identifying their preferred format, or send an

email to: RMR_EstesFlatironEIS@wapa.gov.

Western encourages the use of environment-friendly electronic copies of the Draft EIS.

Public Review Period

Agencies and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS during a 45-day review period that will commence with publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register. In order to have standing to object to the project on National Forest System land per the Forest Service Objection Process, you must submit a specific written comment during this public comment period. More information about the Objection Process can be found here: <http://www.fs.fed.us/objections/>. Western will hold public meetings early in the comment period to answer questions about the Draft EIS. Public hearings will be held toward the end of the comment period. The purpose of the public hearings is to allow individuals to provide verbal testimony, in lieu of written comments. Written comments may also be mailed or e-mailed to the Western point of contact at any time during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIS. Notification of the dates and locations of public meetings and hearings will be sent to the project mailing list at least 15-days prior to each set of meetings.

Expanded Public Involvement Process

Public Scoping

Stakeholder Interviews
Public Scoping Meetings
Newsletter #1

Introduce and describe the proposed project
Identify issues for analysis in the EIS

Alternatives

Field Visits
Small Group Workshops
Newsletter #2

Receive public comment on potential options and alternatives screening criteria

Public Draft EIS

Draft EIS
Open Houses & Public Hearings
Public Notices

Distribute Draft EIS & Draft EIS Summary
Receive public comment and answer questions about the Draft EIS

Final EIS and Records of Decision (ROD)

Final EIS
Newsletter #4

Publish Final EIS incorporating comments received on the Draft EIS
Publish RODs

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Next Steps: During the public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement we encourage you to:

- Obtain a copy of the full Draft EIS by downloading a version from Western's project website or by requesting a copy in response to the postcard that will be sent to the project mailing list later this summer.
- Attend a public open house to learn more about the findings of the Draft EIS.
- Attend a public hearing to provide your verbal testimony.
- Provide your written comments by mail or e-mail at any time during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIS.

Contact

For more information, contact Tim Snowden, Western Area Power Administration, 5555 E. Crossroads Blvd., P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, fax (970) 461-7213 or e-mail, **RMR_estesflatironeis@wapa.gov**. Or, if you would like someone to contact you, please leave a voicemail at (720) 962-7213.

Additional Information

For more information on the project, visit **<http://go.usa.gov/rvtP>**

To learn more about NEPA's environmental processes, visit: **<http://energy.gov/nepa/office-nepa-policy-and-compliance>**