



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

June 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Scoping Letter for an Environmental Assessment and Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Action for Western Area Power Administration's Parker Dam-Headgate Rock and Parker Dam-Bouse Rebuild Project (DOE/EA-1987)

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) seeks your participation and involvement in determining the scope of environmental issues associated with the above-referenced Federal action, which is further described below.

WAPA is a Federal power-marketing agency under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that operates and maintains transmission lines and associated facilities. WAPA proposes to rebuild the existing Parker Dam-Headgate Rock (PAD-HDR) and Parker Dam-Bouse (PAD-BSE) 161-kV transmission lines along the Colorado River in western Arizona and eastern California for the purpose of addressing safety and reliability issues associated with the ageing infrastructure of the PAD-HDR / PAD-BSE transmission line segments. The original lines were built in the 1950s using wood pole H-frame structures. Many of these structures are in poor condition and have surpassed the designed lifecycle, and present potential safety hazards and compromise the continued reliability of the transmission lines and power system.

In June 2014, WAPA presented two alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Since 2014, discussions occurred and WAPA is proposing another alternative to be analyzed in the EA. The third proposed action would include removing the two existing single-circuit 161-kV transmission lines (PAD-HDR and PAD-BSE) and rebuilding in-place one new double-circuit 161-kV transmission line (please see Figure 1 attached to this letter). WAPA anticipates the rebuilt 161-kV double-circuit transmission line would utilize portions of the existing rights-of-way (ROW). The proposed action would also include maintenance of existing access roads, construction of a 10-acre laydown area, and the addition of overhead fiber optic lines for utility use.

As part of the Environmental Assessment (EA), WAPA is considering two other alternatives to the proposed action; a) Reroute Alternative (through California); and b) No Action Alternative. The EA will provide sufficient information to support WAPA's project planning team and

decision-makers in determining whether or not to implement the proposed action or an alternative, or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

We would like to know of any issues, concerns and suggestions you may have regarding the project. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review process. Comments can be provided in writing (via email or U.S. Mail, or in person at the public open house scoping meeting [information below]). Please submit your comments by August 19, 2017. WAPA will also consider comments after the deadline to the extent practicable.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration
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P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005
Email: DSW-PADHDR-Rebuild@wapa.gov

Comments received, including names and addresses, could be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. Individuals may request that we withhold their name or home address, which we honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or home address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

WAPA will host a public open house to allow the public and interested parties an opportunity to learn about the project, the NEPA process, and ask questions. The meeting will be held at the following dates, times and location.

**July 18, 2017, 3:30 – 6:30 PM; and
July 19, 2017, 4:00 – 7:00 PM
Blue Water Resort and Casino
Mojave Room
11300 Resort Drive
Parker, AZ 85344**

We look forward to receiving your comments on this project and hope that you will be able to attend the public scoping meetings.

Sincerely,



Linda Marianito
Environmental Manager

Enclosure (Figure 1)

Bcc. w/enclosure

Michael Baird (WAPA DSW G5600)
Linda Marianito (WAPA DSW G0400)
Michael Setering (WAPA DSW G0400)

FILE: 5440.02 EA for Parker-Headgate Rock / Parker-Bouse Rebuild



- Legend**
- Reroute
 - ▬ Rebuild



San Bernardino County, CA

CA

AZ

La Paz County, AZ

Parker, AZ

Headgate Rock Substation

Reroute Alternative

Parker-Headgate Rock Transmission Line

Parker-Bouse Transmission Line

To Bouse Substation

Parker Dam Substation

