



SunZia Transmission Proposal – Key Points

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun the permitting process for the SunZia transmission project proposal, a 460 mile long high voltage power transmission line across southern New Mexico and Arizona. The project is intended to primarily transport electricity generated from renewable energy to western power markets.

Properly sited to avoid impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat, wildlands, and the Rio Grande river corridor, the SunZia line could help meet our energy and climate goals by providing access to wind and solar projects in New Mexico and Arizona. BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will study likely impacts from the project and identify ways to avoid and minimize them.

BLM is currently holding public meetings and taking comments during its 45-day scoping period for the EIS, ending **July 13th, 2009**. Scoping is the first step in the EIS process, and is intended to identify issues to be analyzed in detail in the draft and final EIS. Scoping is your chance to raise issues and ask questions to be answered during the process – another comment period will be provided when the draft EIS is published, but raising issues early in the process offers the best chance of resolving them. General talking points on SunZia are below, along with local issues you may want to raise.

General Points

- Responsible development of renewable energy and transmission is critical to fighting climate change, supporting our economy, and avoiding the devastating impacts of coal mining and oil and gas drilling – for these reasons, it is critical that we get as much renewable energy online as quickly as possible.
- The wind, and solar projects which could be supported by SunZia would provide jobs and economic support to local communities along the line's route.
- Priority for capacity on the line should be given to renewable energy projects.
- Detailed analysis of potential impacts to the environment, local communities, recreation, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, wildlands, and other resources and values is critical to identify and avoid or minimize impacts.
- Flexibility in siting routes and considering alternative routes is imperative to minimizing impacts from SunZia.
- An open, inclusive and thorough stakeholder process should be maintained to ensure all stakeholders have their concerns and questions addressed and to allow the project to benefit from their knowledge.

Local Points

- Potential economic benefits in your area.
- Local siting issues, including wildlife, sensitive lands and waterways, recreation, cultural resources, and other issues.
- Other questions or issues pertinent to your area.

To see maps and find information on submitting comments, visit BLM's website for the project:
http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/sunzia_southwest_transmission.html

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