Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
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FEB 01 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN SPITALERI SHAW, EH-1
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

FROM: MICHAEL S. HACSKAYLO
ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summaries (Your Memo 12/6/05)

Per my responsibilities under DOE Order 451.1B, Section 5.a (7), please find attached the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Summary for calendar year 2006. The summary identifies the status of ongoing environmental assessments (EA), EAs we expect to commence during the next 12 months, ongoing environmental impact statements (EIS), and EISs we expect to commence during the next 24 months. It is likely that Western will prepare other EAs or EISs not currently foreseeable. An electronic copy of the NEPA summary will be provided to the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact C. Shane Collins, Natural Resources Manager, at (720) 962-7252.

Attachment

cc:
Lee S. Jesse, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Washington, D.C.

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status
Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Assessments

Western Area Power Administration
January-06

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Blythe-Headgate Rock No. 1, 161-kV Transmission Line Pole Replacement Blythe, CA DOE/EA-1427	$ 143,000	Determination Date:	3/7/2002	The purpose of the pole replacement project is to extend the life of the Headgate Rock-Blythe 161-kV transmission line by replacing the transmission line support structures in order to allow continued electrical transmission to customers in California and Arizona.
		Transmittal to State:	9/1/2005	
		EA Approval:	1/20/2006	
		FONSI:	1/20/2006	
Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Relocation, Arizona DOE/EA-1487	$ 63,000	Determination Date:	11/20/2003	Western owns, operates, and maintains the Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line. Western proposes to reroute this portion of the transmission line to enhance public health and safety, improve electrical service reliability, and prevent future ROW encroachements in this area.
		Transmittal to State:	12/23/2004	
		EA Approval:	12/22/2005	
		FONSI:	12/22/2005	
Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Grand County, Colorado DOE/EA-1520	$ 200,000	Determination Date:	12/10/2004	Western proposes to rebuild and upgrade the Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap 60-kV transmission line, between the Windy Gap Substation and the Granby Pumping Plant, a distance of 11.7 miles. The project is located in Grand County, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Cheyenne-Miracle Mile and Ault-Cheyenne Transmission Line Rebuild Project, WY DOE/EA-1456	$ 1,000,000	Determination Date:	9/30/2002	Western proposes to rebuild the Cheyenne-Miracle Mile and Ault-Cheyenne 115-kV transmission lines, and construct a new substation at Laramie, Wyoming. The project is located in Carbon, Albany and Laramie counties, Wyoming and Weld County, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Charlie Creek-Williston Fiber Optic Overgead Ground Wire Installation, ND DOE/EA-1389	$ 120,000	Determination Date:	3/20/2001	Western is preparing an EA to address its proposal to replace transmission structures and install optical overhead ground wire between Charlie Creek and Williston substations in North Dakota. The structures need to be replaced due to deterioration and the need for additional clearance for the ground wires.
		Transmittal to State:	4/7/2004	
		EA Approval:	April-06	
		FONSI:	April-06	
Havre-Rainbow Transmission Line Rebuild, Montana DOE/EA-1424	$ 350,000	Determination Date:	12/12/2001	Western is preparing an EA to address its proposal to replace transmission structures and install optical overhead ground wire between Havre and Rainbow substations in Montana. Portions of the transmission line would be rerouted to reduce land use conflicts.
		Transmittal to State:	March-06	
		EA Approval:	April-06	
		FONSI:	April-06	
Blythe Energy Project Phase II Transmission Project, CA DOE/EA-1522	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	11/30/2004	Blythe Energy, LLC, proposes to build two new transmission lines in the vicinity of its 520-MW Blythe Powerplant, west of the city of Blythe, California. The proposed transmission line project will increase the capability of the transmission paths between the Blythe Powerplant and the transmission system serving Southern California electric load centers. The proposed project consists approximately 74 miles of new 230-kV transmission line on concrete poles.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

Blythe Energy Project Phase II, CA **DOE/EA-1526**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	3/9/2005 5/2/2005	The Blythe Energy Project Phase II would be located next to the Blythe Energy Project facility that the California Energy Commission approved in 2001. The proposed combined-cycle powerplant would have a nominal rating of 520 MW and consist of two 170-MW combustion turbine generators, one 180-MW steam turbine generator
North Area Right-of-Way Maintenance, CA **DOE/EA-1539**	$1,200,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	2/22/2005	Western is preparing an EA in response to proposed changes in operation and maintenance procedures along Western's North Area transmission right-of-way (ROW) in California. Western proposes to change the current vegetation maintenance procedures to include the expanded use of herbicides in combination with manual and mechanical removal methods in an effort to promote low-growing plant communities. The EA will support further Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation required when Western conducts maintenance activities that are beyond those covered in its maintenance Biological Opinion.
Buffalo Ridge-White 115-kV Transmission Line Interconnection **DOE/EA-unassigned at this time**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	1/27/2005	Xcel Energy proposes to construct a new 115-kV transmission line and associated structures and electrical equipment to connect the Buffalo Ridge Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota with Western's White Substation in Brookings County, South Dakota.
Valley County Wind Energy Project **DOE/EA-unassigned at this time**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	6/29/2005	Wind Hunter, LLC proposes to construct a 400-MW wind farm in northern Montana and obtain transmission service from Western. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency. Western is a cooperating agency and would adopt BLM's EA process.

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Assessments Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 Months

Western Area Power Administration
January 24, 2005

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
GroWind Wind Energy Project, Rock River, Albany County, Wyoming	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		This is a proposed Wind Farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 Average Megawatts.
PPM Wind Energy Project, Limon, Lincoln County, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		This is a proposed Wind Farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 Average Megawatts.

PPM Wind Energy Project, Akron, Yuma County, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		This is a proposed Wind Farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 Average Megawatts.
Invenergy Wind Farm, Spencer, Iowa	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		This is a proposed Wind Farm that would be interconnected with Western's Transmission System. The expected generation capacity is below 50 Average Megawatts.
Coolidge-Rodgers ROW Perfection, Arizona	$ 50,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		Western proposes to perfect its rights-of-way across the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will participate in the EA process.
Davis-Mead Reconductoring, Arizona and Nevada	$ 75,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:		Western proposes to reconductor the Davis-Mead transmission line with aluminum composite conductor. The line is located in Arizona and Nevada.

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Impact Statements

Western Area Power Administration
Januray 24, 2005

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado River, UT **DOE/EIS-0351**	N/A	Determination Date: NOI: Scoping: Draft Hearings Final ROD	6/6/2000 6/6/2000 7/11-19/2000 8/29/2004 10/12-21/2004 11/15/2005	Western is a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

Caithness Big Sandy Project, Wikieup, AZ **DOE/EIS-0315**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	3/3/2000	Project is on hold at the request of the applicant.
		NOI:	4/18/2000	
		Scoping:	5/3/2000	
		Draft	6/22/2001	
		Hearings	7/24/2001	
		Final		
		ROD		
SEIS on Caithness Big Sandy Project **DOE/EIS-0315-S1**	Applicant Funded	Supplemental Analysis	5/29/2002	
		Determination Date:	12/28/2001	
		Approval:		
Welton-Mohawk 520 MW Generating Facility, AZ **DOE/EIS-0358**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	4/2/2003	The Welton-Mohawk 520-MW Generating Facility is located in Wellton, Arizona. Western is the lead agency and the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation are cooperating agencies.
		NOI:	5/19/2003	
		Scoping:	6/3-4/2003	
		Draft	7/22/2005	
		Hearings	8/17-18/2005	
		Final		
		ROD		
Platte River Cooperative Agreement PEIS, NE, WY, CO **DOE-EIS-0295**	N/A	Determination Date:	2/5/1998	Western is a cooperating agency with the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Platte River Cooperative Agreement Programmatic EIS.
		NOI:	2/10/1998	
		Scoping:	25/1998-4/7/1998	
		Draft	1/26/2004	
		Hearings	6/2004-8/10/2004	
		Final	Winter -06	
		ROD	Spring-06	
Windy Gap Firming Project, CO **DOE/EIS-0370**	N/A	Determination Date:	7/1/2003	Western is a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Windy Gap Firming Project, Colorado. The EIS will address options for rerouting a transmission line that would be affected by the project.
		NOI:	9/8/2003	
		Scoping:	0/2003-10/2/2003	
		Draft	6/5/2005	
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Sacramento Voltage Support, CA **DOE/EIS-0323-S**	$1,200,000 (estimated final costs)	Determination Date:	3/7/2005	Western proposes transmission system additions and improvements to resolve voltage support problems occuring on the transmission system in Sacramento area of California. The supplemental EIS is being prepared to address new routing alternatives and local customer participation.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

Construction and Operation of the Proposed White Wind Farm Project, Brookings County, South Dakota **DOE/EIS-0376**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	2/10/2005	Navitas Energy proposes to build up to 200 MW of wind generation over 31 square miles of land in eastern Brookings County, near the city of White, South Dakota. The project would interconnect to Western's White Substation. The proposed project consists of up to 102 wind turbine generators rated at 2 MW each, connected by an electrical and communication collection system that would feed into a collector substation near White Substation.
		NOI:	2/18/2005	
		Scoping:	3/1/2005	
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Eastern Plains Transmission Project **DOE/EIS-0390**	Customer Funded	Determination Date	12/21/2005	The EPTP Transmission Project consists of approximately 700 miles of high voltage transmission lines and related facilities. The project is an undertaking developed and funded by one of Western's customers. Western proposes to participate in order to obtain transmission capacity and to improve system reliability. The project is located in eastern Colorado and western Kansas.
		NOI:	July-06	
		Scoping:	August-06	
		Draft	July-07	
		Hearings	August-07	
		Final	January-08	
		ROD	February-08	
Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project, SD and MN **DOE/EIS-0377**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	4/12/2005	The Big Stone II Project involves the construction of a 600-MW, coal-fired generating facility near Milbank, in Grant County, South Dakota. The Big Stone II generating unit would be located next to the existing Big Stone Plant, and would require new or upgraded transmission lines in the area. Approximately 120 miles of new transmission lines are proposed in South Dakota and Minnesota.
		NOI:	5/27/2005	
		Scoping:	6/14-16/05	
		Draft	April-06	
		Hearings	May-06	
		Final	October-06	
		ROD	November-06	
Trinity County Public Utility District Direct Intercnnection Project, CA **DOE/EIS-0389**	$ 200,000	Determination Date:	12/2/2005	Western proposes to provide a direct interconnection with the Trinity Public Utility District by constructing a transmission line between Trinity Dam and Weaverville, California.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Impact Statements
Expected to be Prepared in the Next 24 Months

Western Area Power Administration
January 24, 2005

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Dolan Springs Wind Farm	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:		Development of a 400-MW wind farm near Dolan Springs, Arizona. Western would be a cooperating agency and the Bureau of Land Management would be the lead Federal agency. Western plans to adopt the BLM Programmatic Wind EIS to support its review.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		