WAPA F 1400.59#
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

Western Area Power Administration

DATE: JAN 31 2007

REPLY TO ATTN OF: A7400

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summary

TO: Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, Washington, D.C.

Attached is the Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary for Western Area Power Administration for calendar year 2007, as required by Department of Energy Order 450.1 B, NEPA Compliance Program. Electronic copies will be provided to Lee Jessee of your staff.

Please contact Shane Collins at 720-962-7252 if you have any questions.

Timothy J. Meeks
Administrator

Attachment

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

Western Area Power Administration
January 2007

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Blythe Energy Project Phase II Transmission Project, California **DOE/EA-1522**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	11/30/2004 9/8/2006 10/11/2006 3/1/2007	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, Calif. Joint document with the California Energy Commission. Revised Final Staff Assessment/Final EA issued 9/8/06; EA Approval - Commission Decision on Amendment Petition 10/11/06. FONSI drafted and at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their review/revision, will be issued as a joint FONSI by BLM and Western.
North Area Right-of-Way Maintenance, California **DOE/EA-1539**	$ 1,200,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	2/22/2005 3/15/2007 8/31/2007 8/31/2007	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 the Biological Opinion.
City of Needles and Aha Macaw Interconnection, California **DOE/EA-1560**	$ 50,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	10/12/2006 1/15/2007 2/28/2007 2/28/2007	Western proposes to reconstruct an existing transmission line and construct a new substation to connect the Aha Macaw Tribe and the City of Needles, California.
Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Rebuild Project, Grand County, Colorado **DOE/EA-1520**	$ 200,000	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	12/10/2004 10/1/2007 1/1/2008 1/1/2008	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.
Xcel Energy Buffalo Ridge-White 115-Kv Transmission Line Project, Minnesota and South Dakota **DOE/EA-1559**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date: Transmittal to State: EA Approval: FONSI:	1/27/2005 5/22/2006 10/20/2006 10/20/2006	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.

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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:	7/11/06	
		EA Approval:	2/28/2007	
		FONSI:	2/28/2007	
Valley County Wind Energy Project, Montana DOE/EA-1560	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	6/29/2005	Wind Hunter, LLC proposes to construct a 400-MW wind farm in northern Montana and interconnect with Western's transmission system. BLM is the lead agency. Western is a cooperating agency.
		Transmittal to State:	6/2/2006	
		EA Approval:	pending	
		FONSI:	pending	
Charlie Creek-Williston Fiber Optic Overhead Ground Wire Installation, North Dakota 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:	2/15/2007	
		FONSI:	2/15/2007	

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

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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Arroyo Energy Project, Mohave County, Arizona	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	2/1/2007	Western has received a request to interconnect gas-fired combustion turbines with its transmission system near Kingman, Arizona.
		Transmittal to State:	4/1/2007	
		EA Approval:	8/1/2007	
		FONSI:	8/1/2007	
Coolidge-Rodgers ROW Perfection, Arizona	$ 50,000	Determination Date:	TBD	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.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Davis-Mead Reconductoring, Arizona and Nevada	$ 75,000	Determination Date:	TBD	Western proposes to reconductor about 65 miles of transmission line in Arizona and Nevada.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Colusa Generating Station, Colusa, California	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	On November 6, 2006, E&L Westcoast, LLC (E&LW) filed an application with the California Energy Commission for the construction and operation of a proposed nominal 660-MW natural gas-fired, combined-cycle electric generating facility. The proposed power plant would be located approximately 14 miles north of the City of Williams, California and four miles west of Interstate 5.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Alternate Intake EA, Contra Costa County, California	TBD	Determination Date:	TBD	CCWD requests a direct interconnection to the Western's 69-kV Tracy-Los Vaqueros line to supply power to CCWD proposed new pumping plant station. An EA is required to study the environmental impacts of a new interconnect and the construction of a new 3-mile tap line to the proposed pumping plant. Western will construct, own, and maintain the new line. CCWD is to provide funding.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Shasta Substation Expansion Project, Shasta County, California	TBD	Determination Date:	TBD	Western proposes to expand the Shasta Substation for increased reliability. The expansion will include commissioning new equipment while expanding the footprint of the existing substation.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

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Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and Western 230kV Folsom Dam Transmission Line Relocation Project, Folsom, California	TBD	Determination Date:	TBD	SMUD, Western, and USBR are proposing an EA to analyze a northern alignment for SMUD's 230-kV T-line being relocated as a result of a Proposed Folsom Dam Bridge Road EIS project. The EIS for the Folsom Dam Bridge Road project did not adequately evaluate the preferred alignment by SMUD. The EA would analyze the preferred alignment and allow for a proposed future SMUD/Western interconnection project into Western's Folsom Substation.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
PPM Wind Energy Project, Akron, Yuma County, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
PPM Wind Energy Project, Limon, Lincoln County, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Wauneta Wind Energy Project, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Vegetation Management and Control Project for the Blue River-Gore Pass/Gore Pass-Hayden Transmission Line, Colorado	TBD	Determination Date:	TBD	This EA, likely to be done with the U.S. Forest Service as a cooperating agency, is pending further discussion on the proposal.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Invenergy Wind Farm, Spencer, Iowa	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Wessington Springs Wind Farm, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	Western has received a request to interconnect a wind farm with its transmission system near Wessington Springs, South Dakota. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

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DisGen Wind Energy Project, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed 60 MW wind farm that would interconnect with Western's transmission system at the Mission Substation in South Dakota. The goal is to build the proposed project on tribal trust lands with the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
PPM Wind Energy Project, White, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Summer 2007	This is a proposed 140 MW wind farm near Western's White Substation in South Dakota. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW. Specific details about the project and schedule have not yet been discussed.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
TransCanada Wind Farm, Eagle Butte, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	TransCanada and Red Mountain Tribal Energy proposes to interconnect a 75 -150 MW wind farm at Western's Eagle Butte Substation in South Dakota. Specific details about the project and schedule have not yet been discussed.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
TransCanada Wind Farm, Big Bend, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	TransCanada and Red Mountain Tribal Energy proposes to interconnect a 75 -150 MW wind farm at Western's Big Bend Substation in South Dakota. Specific details about the project and schedule have not yet been discussed.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Tierra Wind Energy Project, Wyoming	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
Shell Wind Energy Project, Wyoming	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	BLM is the lead Federal agency on this wind project, which would interconnect with Western's system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		
GroWind Wind Energy Project, Rock River, Albany County, Wyoming	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	TBD	This is a proposed wind farm that would be interconnected with Western's transmission system. The expected generation capacity is below 50 average MW.
		Transmittal to State:		
		EA Approval:		
		FONSI:		

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

Western Area Power Administration
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Trinity Public Utility District Direct Interconnection, California **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, CA.
		NOI:	5/16/2006	
		Scoping:	6/22/2006	
		Draft	2/9/2007	
		Hearings	2/12-2/16/2007	
		Final	7/9/2007	
		ROD	8/8/2007	
San Luis Rio Colorado Project, Arizona **DOE/EIS-0395**	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	9/29/2005	The applicant proposes to construct a 520-MW natural gas-fired power plant in Sonora, Mexico, and a double-circuit transmission line from the power plant across the international boundary into Yuma County, Arizona. The proposed transmission line would be approximately 25 miles long and connect to Western's transmission system at Western's Gila Substation east of Yuma, and Public Service's North Gila Substation northeast of Yuma. The Applicant has applied to Western for an interconnection agreement and to the U.S. Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to cross the border. The Applicant proposes that Western construct, own, operate and maintain the transmission facilities within the U.S. at the Applicant's expense.
		NOI:	2/10/2006	
		Scoping:	2/28/2006-3/10/2006	
		Draft	11/9/2006	
		Hearings	12/7/2006	
		Final	March 2007	
		ROD	April 2007	
Sacramento Voltage Support, California **DOE/EIS-0323-S**	$ 1,400,000	Determination Date:	3/7/2005	Western proposes transmission system additions and improvements to resolve voltage support problems occurring on the transmission system in the Sacramento area of California. The Supplemental EIS is being prepared to address new routing alternatives and local customer participation.
		NOI:	5/9/2006	
		Scoping:	5/9/2006-7/15/2006	
		Draft	4/10/2007	
		Hearings	7/7/2007	
		Final	3/18/2008	
		ROD	4/18/2008	

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Windy Gap Firming Project, Colorado **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:	9/30/2003-10/2/2003	
		Draft	6/5/2005	
		Hearings		
		Final	Fall 2007	
		ROD	Fall 2007	
Eastern Plains Transmission Project (EPTP), Colorado **DOE/EIS-0390**	Customer Funded	Determination Date	12/21/2005	The EPTP consists of approximately 1000 miles of high voltage transmission lines and related facilities. The project is an undertaking developed and funded by some 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:	7/21/2006	
		Scoping:	8/28/2006-9/14/2006	
		Draft	July 2007	
		Hearings	August 2007	
		Final	February 2008	
		ROD	April 2008	
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 in the southeast corner of the project area. The proposed project consists of up to 102 wind turbine generators rated at 2 MW each, connected by an underground electrical and communication collection system that would feed into a collector substation near White Substation.
		NOI:	2/18/2005	
		Scoping:	3/1/2005	
		Draft	8/21/2006	
		Hearings	9/14/2006	
		Final	Feb-07	
		ROD	March/April 2007	
Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project, South Dakota and and Minnesota **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. Western is in the process of preparing a Supplemental DEIS for public review in late spring 2007.
		NOI:	5/27/2005	
		Scoping:	6/14/2005-6/16/2005	
		Draft	4/6/2006	
		Hearings	5/6/2006	
		Final	October 2007	
		ROD	November 2007	

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

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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Dolan Springs Wind Farm, Arizona	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	6/5/2007	Development of a 400-MW wind farm near Dolan Springs, Arizona. Western would be a cooperating agency and the BLM would the be lead Federal agency. Western plans to adopt the BLM Programmatic Wind EIS to support its review.
		NOI:	7/5/2007	
		Scoping:	8/5/2007	
		Draft	1/6/2008	
		Hearings	2/6/2008	
		Final	7/6/2008	
		ROD	9/6/2008	
Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Project (DCI), Alameda County, California	TBD	Determination Date:	TBD	Western would participate in the proposed Project in which the USBR is the lead Federal agency and Western would participate as a cooperating agency. Western proposes to adopt the USBR EIS to satisfy it's NEPA compliance requirement for the design and construction of a new 69 kV transmission line to deliver Central Valley Project power to the proposed Project site.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
NextGen Power Plant Project, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	3/31/2007	The NextGen Project involves the potential construction of a 700 MW net coal-fired base-load generating facility, with a proposed in-service date of early to mid-2012.
		NOI:	4/30/2007	
		Scoping:	6/1/2007	
		Draft	3/1/2008	
		Hearings	4/1/2008	
		Final	8/1/2008	
		ROD	9/30/2008	
PPM Wind Energy, Iowa	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Summer 2007	PPM proposes to build a 240 MW wind farm to interconnect into Western's transmission system in Iowa. Specific details about the project and schedule have not yet been discussed.
		NOI:		
		Scoping:		
		Draft		
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		

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JustWind Wind Farm, South Dakota	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	Spring 2007	JustWind proposes to build a wind farm with an actual output of 81 MW that will also be tied to a hydrogen generation facility in South Dakota. Project discussions have just started and project details and schedules have not been laid out.
		NOI:	Spring 2007	
		Scoping:	Summer 2007	
		Draft	Fall 2007	
		Hearings	Fall 2007	
		Final	Winter 2008	
		ROD	Winter 2008	