Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

FEB 2 - 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: David R. Hill
General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Kevin M. Kolevar
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability (OE-1)

SUBJECT: 2008 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Annual Planning Summary

Attached for your information is the NEPA Annual Planning Summary for FY 2008 for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE). The Summary describes the status of ongoing and projected environmental assessments and environmental impact statements (EIS) within OE. OE is the lead for the preparation of a Programmatic EIS for the designation of energy corridors on Federal lands in the 11 Western States as mandated by section 368(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct). OE will be responsible for preparing a similar Programmatic EIS for the other 39 States to enable land management plans to be amended by August 2009, as required by section 368(b) of EPAct.

Additional OE NEPA activities contained within the Summary arise from OE's traditional role of processing Presidential permit applications. OE is not aware of any other Presidential permit applications that will be submitted within the immediate future beyond those identified in the Summary.

Questions or matters related to this NEPA Planning Summary should be directed to OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, Brian Mills, at 202-586-58267.

Attachment

cc: (w/attachment)
C. Borgstrom, GC-20
L. Jessee, GC-20

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OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY
AND
ENERGY RELIABILITY

NEPA Annual Planning Summary

2008

New Environmental Assessments

Baja Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC (DOE/EA-____) - Baja Wind applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 500-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border. The proposed transmission line would originate at a new 230/500-kV transformer station to be constructed in Mexico as part of a wind generation project to be developed inside Mexico. As a 500-kV transmission line, the proposed facilities would continue north approximately two miles to the U.S.-Mexico, and one additional mile inside the U.S. to a new interconnection with the existing Southwest Powerlink. The proposed transmission line would be used to transmit up to 1250 MW of renewable energy into the California electricity market. OE expects to conduct scoping meetings associated with the preparation of an EA during March 2008.
Location: California
Document Manager: Ellen Russell

Loring Bio-Energy, LLC (LBE) (DOE/EA-____) - LBE has applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 138-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in the vicinity of Limestone, Maine. The line would be about 5 miles long within the U.S. and would connect a proposed gas combined cycle power plant with the New Brunswick, Canada electric grid at Grand Fall Parish in New Brunswick. OE's preliminary impression is that the proposed project may require only an environmental assessment (EA), pending the availability of additional environmental information and consultation with GC. A schedule has not yet been developed for preparation of the pre-approval EA.
Location: Maine
Document Manager: Jerry Pell

Environmental Impact Statements

On Going Environmental Impact Statements

Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in Western States (DOE/EIS-0386) - Pursuant to section 368(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DOE and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, the Interior, and Defense are cooperating in the preparation of a Programmatic EIS for the purpose of designating energy corridors on Federal lands in the eleven contiguous Western States. DOE is the co-lead Agency

together with the Bureau of Land Management. Additional cooperating agencies include: Department of Agriculture; Department of Defense; Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; the States of California and Wyoming; Lincoln County, Wyo.; Lincoln County Conservation District, Wyo.; Sweetwater County, Wyo.; Sweetwater County Conservation District, Wyo.; Uinta County, Wyo.; Uinta County Conservation District, Wyo.; and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The Draft Programmatic EIS was released in November 2007 with a 90-day public comment period that ended February 14, 2008. 2008 Budget estimate $1,566,000 (DOE, BLM, FS)

Montana-Alberta Tie Line (MATL) (DOE/EIS-0399) - MATL applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 230-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. The proposed transmission line would originate near Great Falls, Montana, and extend north to Lethbridge, Alberta, and cross the U.S.-Canada border north of Cut Bank, Montana. Approximately 130 miles of the 203-mile transmission line are proposed to be constructed in the U.S. DOE and the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality are cooperating on the preparation of a single EIS. OE published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS in July, 2007. A Draft EIS was completed and distributed during February 2008. The 45 day public comment period closes on March 31, 2008, and the Final EIS is expected to be completed in June 2008.

Port Angeles-Juan de Fuca Transmission Project (DOE/EIS-0378) -Sea Breeze Corporation has applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a ±150-kV direct current submarine cable from Victoria Island, British Columbia, Canada, to Port Angeles, Washington. There are two Federal actions associated with this project: issuance of a Presidential permit by OE, and approval of an interconnection to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) electric system. BPA is the NEPA lead for this project and OE has cooperated in the preparation of the EIS, which was completed and issued in October 2007. A Record of Decision is expected by late winter 2008.

San Luis Rio Colorado Project (DOE/EIS-0395) - North Branch has applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 500-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border just south of Yuma, Arizona. The proposed line would originate at a new natural gas-fired power plant being constructed one mile south of the international border and would extend approximately 25 miles into the U.S. There are two Federal actions associated with this project: issuance of a Presidential permit by OE, and approval of an interconnection to the Western Area Power Administration (Western) electric system. Western is the NEPA lead for this project and OE has cooperated in the preparation of the EIS, the final form of which was issued in July 2007. Western has completed its Record of Decision, and OE's is expected by March 2008.

Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) (DOE/EIS-0336) - TEP has applied for a Presidential permit to construct a double-circuit, 345-kV electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border in the vicinity of Nogales, Arizona. The U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission are cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS. The Final EIS was published in January 2005 but we are awaiting completion of the State siting

process before issuing a Record of Decision. Most recent indications are that TEP may apply to amend its Presidential permit application by adding a new route variation from what had been previously proposed, but OE has not received any confirmation of this. Depending on the nature of the revised proposal and current circumstances, a supplemental EIS may be warranted.

New Environmental Impact Statements

Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the Rest of the United States (DOE/EIS-____) - Pursuant to section 368(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DOE and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, the Interior, and Defense are cooperating in the preparation of a Programmatic EIS for the purpose of designating energy corridors on Federal lands in the 39 states not included in the eleven contiguous Western States. DOE is the co-lead Agency together with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. forest Service. Interagency strategy meetings are being planned for February. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) will continue under existing contract and is currently collecting data and preparing an infrastructure siting analysis.
2008 Budget estimate: $2,700,000 (DOE,BLM,FS)
Location: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
Document Manager: Brian Mills