

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

4200337018 8047



Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



111

BLM

Date: 10/13/2011

First Name: Joyce

Last Name: BARNARD

Organization or Office Name: 40-mile Ranch LLC

Mailing Address: 4165 Stafford Ct City: Casper State: WY Zip: 82609

Daytime Phone: 307 234 2922 Email: Joyceb@bresnan.net

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

Bill + I attended the open house in Douglas recently. We visited with 2 different BLM representatives. Because our property is small + narrow we were concerned about the distance on either side of the proposed transmission line. One rep. said 1/2 mile on each side; the other said a mile. We would like to know which is correct. Thanks.

Joyce

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DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
2011 OCT 17 AM 10:00



To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

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Wepaver Wood, Inc.
Eli's Remington
1761 Spruce Canyon Rd
Douglas, WY 82635



Bureau of Land Management
Statewide West Project
P.O. Box 20879

Cheyenne WY 82003

920037015



Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



112

2011 OCT 27 AM 10:00

Date: 10-24-11

First Name: Elbie

Last Name: Deining RECEIVED 001-BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Organization or Office Name: Alexander Cross, Inc.

Mailing Address: 1761 Spring Canyon Rd. City: Douglas State: WY Zip: 82633

Daytime Phone: 307-358-4280 Email: ~~elbie~~ eldeining@acme.com

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

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Comment:

As a landowner operating a ranch SW of Douglas,
I am strongly opposed to any project to build high-
voltage power line through the mountains.

Wyoming's landscape is tending to look like some
cold war era "development" in the USSR. Once ruined
this landscape will be very hard to reclaim.

The construction of power lines in high altitude
mountain is hard to justify when the same
transmission capacity could be achieved by
paralleling existing corridors.

Further, the construction of extremely
expensive lines to serve wind turbines



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BLM

Name:

Elsie Deininger

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2/2

is even more lacking in common sense.

In the end, wind generated electricity will not prove affordable - This is well known!

Government support of the wind industry is surely comparable to using government money to pasture excess wild horses until they die of old age and freezing.

The long term solution and the long term consequences should be taken into consideration.

Elsie Deininger
for Alexander Cross, Inc.
1761 Spring Canyon Rd.
Douglas, WY 82633

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Gateway West Project
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Cheyenne, WY 82003



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Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100320

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Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

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11 NOV - 1 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: 10-23-2011

First Name: Linda Lee Last Name: Barnard

Organization or Office Name: BARNARD Farms

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 305 City: Rockland State: Id Zip: 83271

Daytime Phone: 1-208-548-2643 Email: barnardml1@g.com

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

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Comment:

Our farm is within the "MILE RADIUS" area in Rockland, ID in Segment 7 on your maps and no matter whether you move north or south on that line you will affect our farm ground in some way with a transmission line.

We have asked for more definite lines, but never get any more than the MILE although I'm sure someone knows the intended route EXACTLY where they want it to go, but will not communicate that to us. I would like and would rather have it that way instead of the GUESSING over the past couple of years.

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1/2



Name:

Linda L. Barnard.

Our land is between East Fork and Sand Hollow Roads and will be impacted severely.

You will find that we, as many as other farmers in Rockland, will not ^{allow} these transmission towers to be placed on their farm ground.

It is de-valuing to the ground and intrusive to our farm as well having other vehicles in and out checking power lines, maintenance, and whatever else is needed for upkeep on these lines.

We hope that GateWay West will NOTE these concerns from the farmers in Rockland. We are a small community and hope that GateWay does not think they can come in and take over our little community so easily.

Our farm is 100% against this project since it has ~~not~~ ^{no} benefit to us. We think it is destructive to our land and our Rockland Valley overall.

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Barnes Ranch
8228 Fentelle Crk. Rd
Kemmerer, WY 83101



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

820035701A

ENTERED
100429 1/2

8228 Fontenelle Creek Road
Kemmerer, WY 83101
Oct. 21, 2011

2011 OCT 24 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this comment regarding the Gateway West Project proposal of Rocky Mountain Power Company. We are deeply concerned about the Northern Alternative being considered in Segment 4 of the EIS.

We are opposed to the selection of the Proposed Northern Alternative. We will list our objections as follows:

The existing transmission line has already been compromised. It is unnecessary and completely ridiculous to disturb a new corridor. There are few roads, little if any pollution, and minimal disturbance in this proposed area, and it should remain as is. We believe that the transmission line should parallel the existing route.

The proposed line would run through a Sage Grouse Core Area, and this is totally unacceptable. Sage Grouse are under consideration as an endangered species. They need protection, and this line will jeopardize them further. Having them declared as endangered will impact Southwest Wyoming economically.

We are deeply concerned about the possible health risks associated with high voltage transmission lines. Some research has confirmed the presence of chronic lymphocytic cancers and childhood leukemia in human populations associated with ELF-EMF (extremely low frequency-electro magnetic fields). Ongoing recent studies have also identified neurodegenerative and cardiac diseases. The existing transmission corridor has already been compromised—why compromise more?

South of Fontenelle Creek which is part of the proposed line, has been designated as "Critical Big Game Winter Habitat". We are opposed to this designation being disturbed by an electrical transmission line.

The area encompassed by the proposed route is rich in magnificent history. The Sublette Cutoff of the Oregon Trail is nearby and it would be devastating to have a power line running over it. There are other sites of historical significance in this area, such as Native American ruins, camps and hunting areas. The area possesses a long history of ranching, and settling the West. Fontenelle Creek has been homesteaded and developed by hardworking immigrants over 150 years ago. This proposed route will have great impact on the economical, social, environmental, and also emotional well being of the descendants of those settlers.

Barnes Ranch is in the process of placing a Conservation Easement on its holdings. We are working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and were advised that the proposed northern alternative for the transmission line will prevent the completion of the Easement. This will bring extreme economical hardship on our family and business.

ENTERED
100429

2/2

In conclusion, we are opposed to the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to establish a high voltage transmission line directly south and adjoining Fontenelle Creek. In light of the fact that there is an existing line south of here, and it has already been disturbed, we ask you to authorize the new line to run parallel to it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric & April Barnes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

Eric and April Barnes

From: info@gatewayeis.com
To: [Gateway BLM;](#)
Subject: 16885 A comment from gatewayeis.com
Date: Friday, October 28, 2011 1:56:32 PM

Name:
Shell Roberson

Organization:
Bell-Otte Ranch, Inc.

Mailing Address:
4408 Fetterman Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Garrett

State:
WY

Zip:
82058

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
Yes

DEIS Location:
chapter Summary

Comment:
We are completely against Segment 1E. We do not want this transmission line, or any other transmission line, in our area.

#1. Building transmission lines for wind energy, which is more expensive and less reliable to the consumer, is an incorrect principle.

#2. Your current compensation formula does not take into account future values and income. We will not be fairly compensated for the loss of use of agriculture lands during construction, the loss of those lands from production due to roads and towers with pads, and the loss future values.

#3. Your one time payments mean that we will lose the largest percentage of your payment in taxes.

#4. You do not compensate for loss of view-shed. That is forever lost to us.

#5. We have spoken with our neighbors for a 50 mile radius. The only ones who are interested in developing wind farms are those in the middle of the sage grouse core area. They are forbidden by law to do so. So to rape and pillage our ranch, when no one in our area wants or can have a wind farm, is the ultimate of incorrect principles, especially considering that we live in America.

#6. To push this transmission line through faster as the request of President, to try to increase his approval ratings is also an incorrect principle.

#7. You can't even access our area all winter, unless you plan to fly in to each pad and tower with a helicopter. And most days in the winter, the winds are so bad, you can't even do that!

From: info@gatewayeis.com
To: [Gateway BLM;](#)
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com
Date: Friday, October 28, 2011 1:56:28 PM

Name:
Linda Otte

Organization:
Bell-Otte Ranch, Inc.

Mailing Address:
4408 Fetterman Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Garrett

State:
WY

Zip:
82058

Daytime Phone:
307-761-1820

E-mail:

Confidential:
Yes

DEIS Location:
chapter Summary

Comment:
We are completely against Segment 1E. We do not want this transmission line, or any other transmission line, in our area.

#1. Building transmission lines for wind energy, which is more expensive and less reliable to the consumer, is an incorrect principle.

#2. Your current compensation formula does not take into account future values and income. We will not be fairly compensated for the loss of use of agriculture lands during construction, the loss of those lands from production due to roads and towers with pads, and the loss future values.

#3. Your one time payments mean that we will lose the largest percentage of your payment in taxes.

#4. You do not compensate for loss of view-shed. That is forever lost to us.

#5. We have spoken with our neighbors for a 50 mile radius. The only ones who are interested in developing wind farms are those in the middle of the sage grouse core area. They are forbidden by law to do so. So to rape and pillage our ranch, when no one in our area wants or can have a wind farm, is the ultimate of incorrect principles, especially considering that we live in America.

#6. To push this transmission line through faster as the request of President, to try to increase his approval ratings is also an incorrect principle.

#7. You can't even access our area all winter, unless you plan to fly in to each pad and tower with a helicopter. And most days in the winter, the winds are so bad, you can't even do that!

Duplicate

Draft EIS Comment Form

100545

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



Date: 09-12-2011

First Name: RAY Last Name: STARIK

Organization or Office Name: BOISE METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 2368 City: BOISE State: ID Zip: 83701

Daytime Phone: 208-472-5225 Email: RSTARIK@BOISECHAMBER.ORG

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

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Comment:

Within the Boise Metro Chamber's Energy Resources Policy, the Chamber supports the development of additional electrical infrastructure projects to meet the area's energy needs and to accommodate economic development. This includes implementation of plans which specify necessary transmission facilities.

The Boise Metro Chamber supports the proposed route for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.



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continued on back

BLM



ENERGY RESOURCES POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT: To support the continued economic development of Southwest Idaho and maintain the qualities of life we enjoy, the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce will:

- Encourage cost effective energy efficiency programs and responsible energy use by businesses, consumers and government, including sustainable innovation in the operation and design of buildings. Energy conservation now will lower the need for additional energy in the future. Advocate and partner with the State of Idaho and local governments for 'high performance' buildings.
- Support the development of additional electrical and natural gas infrastructure projects to meet the area's short-term and long-term energy needs and to accommodate economic development in the Treasure Valley. This includes implementation of plans which specify necessary transmission and distribution facilities and construction of environmentally responsible generation facilities within the Treasure Valley that will serve the demand and enhance system reliability.
- Urge members of Idaho's Congressional Delegation to support environmentally compatible exploration for oil and natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), on other federal lands and in portions of the Outer Continental Shelf now closed to drilling. Support allocation of a portion of the new revenues to national energy laboratories and universities for research for next generation energy development.
- Support relicensing of hydro-generation plants in the region, including retention of operational flexibility to meet demand. Hydropower is a renewable energy source that is clear and affordable.
- Support cooperative efforts to preserve and maintain existing water resources for hydro-generation in order to assure that our region's electricity rates remain affordable.
- Encourage the continued research and development of cost effective renewable energy sources, including but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal and bioenergy. Development of these energy options will lead to new industries and lower the need for traditional generation in the future.
- Advocate for the research and development in Idaho of power generation from nuclear energy. A diversified portfolio of sustainable economic energy options will best provide for the projected population and business growth in Southwest Idaho. In addition to traditional generating resources, the portfolio may include nuclear and various types of alternative energy resources.

Page 2.

Background:

Southern Idaho has historically benefited from abundant, low-cost, clean electricity due largely to the ability to generate electricity from 17 hydro-electric generation projects operated by Idaho Power on the Snake River and its tributaries. Low electricity rates have helped fuel historically unprecedented economic development in Southwest Idaho. Businesses have enjoyed reduced costs of production, making goods and services more economically competitive. Southwest Idaho consumers have enjoyed relatively greater disposable income which has allowed them to purchase more goods and services.

Due to the combination of increased demand for electricity due to population growth and increased electricity usage by individual households, and shrinking base levels of water in the Snake River that have reduced hydro-generation, once abundant supplies of electricity have become a luxury of the past. Electricity is now a precious resource, and will become more precious in the future. It must be used efficiently and conserved when possible.

Idaho lacks in-state energy resources to meet current or future demand. Idaho must import over 80 percent of the energy it consumes, including all of its natural gas and petroleum, and over half of its electricity. Much of the Treasure Valley's electricity demand is met by hydro-generation within the state. Environmental concerns and competing demands for water makes the development of significant additional hydro-generation unlikely. Moreover, while development of renewable energy resources such as geothermal, solar, wind and biomass will continue to help meet the Treasure Valley's energy needs, these energy resources cannot satisfy all additional future demand.

Meeting future demand for reliable electricity in the Treasure Valley will require unprecedented construction of new infrastructure – principally electrical transmission and generation facilities. These facilities will be expensive and take time to build. Paying for this new infrastructure will require the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) to authorize responsible, yet necessary, increases in electric rates. Since the demand for electricity is growing nationwide, utilities across the country are also required to build infrastructure and their customers will encounter similar rate increases. Although Treasure Valley customers will see an increase in the cost of electricity, on a relative basis Treasure Valley businesses and residents will continue to enjoy among the lowest rates in the country.

Growth impacts all infrastructure – water, roads, governmental services, natural gas, and electricity generation and transmission. The cost of supplying electricity to new customers is significantly greater than the cost of supplying electricity to existing customers. Electrical utilities are not permitted by law to impose the full cost of new infrastructure only on new customers. As a result, existing customers' rates increase as they bear the cost of growth. In this way, attracting new businesses can have the effect of imposing higher costs on existing businesses. In order to preserve existing businesses and jobs, communities should measure the life cycle impacts of attracting new businesses. Maintaining relatively low electricity rates requires that communities plan better for growth. It also requires that stream flows in the Snake River be maintained in order to preserve our region's base of low-cost, clean, hydro-generated electricity.

Page 3.

In order to continue to enjoy low cost electricity and still permit reasonable economic growth, Treasure Valley business leaders, political leaders and citizens should:

- Educate themselves and others about energy issues and our precious hydro-resources.
- Conserve electricity and support energy conservation and efficiency efforts.
- Support cooperative efforts to preserve and maintain water resources.
- Communities need to plan better for growth.
- Support the development of new generation necessary to allow reasonable growth.

Introduction from the "2007 Idaho Energy Plan":

Idaho has historically benefited from a reliable energy supply and from electricity and natural gas prices among the lowest in the country, despite the fact that Idaho has no domestic petroleum, natural gas or coal resources. These low electricity and natural gas rates have provided Idaho with an economic advantage in attracting and retaining industry and allowing Idaho households to spend less of their incomes on energy. However, Idaho's economy is more energy-intensive than most other states, and the expansive western landscapes require Idahoans to drive more miles and burn more gasoline than residents of most other states. This is compounded by the fact that Idaho's gasoline and diesel prices are somewhat higher than the national average. Moreover, Idaho's relatively low household incomes mean that energy is a larger relative burden for Idaho households than many other states.

While Idaho's existing electricity rates are very low, new electric generating resources are much costlier than the existing resources that serve Idaho customers. Idaho's large hydroelectric resources are fully developed, and the cost of building and operating new coal and natural gas fired power plants has risen substantially in recent years. Natural gas prices have been rising because U.S. production has not kept pace with demand, requiring the development of costlier resources such as Arctic gas or liquefied natural gas imports. Geopolitical events such as the current instability in the Middle East and rising petroleum demands by developing countries are causing high and volatile global crude oil prices – and as a result, high fuel prices in Idaho. Going forward, Idaho will likely see escalating prices for its energy supplies.

Idaho's lack of domestic energy resources means that Idaho relies on imports for over 80% of its energy needs, including all of its natural gas and petroleum supplies and more than half of its electricity. The in-state resources that are available to Idaho utilities are largely renewable resources such as geothermal, wind, hydro, and biomass. Increased deployment of energy conservation and renewable energy will help grow the state's economy by reducing the flow of dollars outside the state and creating local jobs and tax revenues.

Draft EIS Comment Form

100512

10/12

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



BLM

Date: 10/6/11

First Name: Rob Last Name: Boner

Organization or Office Name: Boner Bros. Partnership

Mailing Address: Box 872 City: Douglas State: WY Zip: 82633

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

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Comment:

Development of transmission lines are much needed for Wyoming & the country. That said, the burden should not fall on the shoulders of landowners. Companies should compensate landowners at current market rates for easements. These rates currently include an indexed, or adjusted, annual payment of some type. In Converse Co., Wyoming the current rate is \$5/rod annually for a 30' easement. This is in addition to initial damage payments. Boner Bros. has some specific concerns regarding micro-siting and ensuring that a valuable gravel resource is protected along the LE route. This is a development that could, and should, be done in a manner to address all parties concerns.

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(over)



continued on back

Name: _____



If done properly the project should allow electrical customers to access low cost resources, while protecting landowner's rights and property value.

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From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 8:00 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Levi brackett

Organization:
C. E. Brackett cattle co.

Mailing Address:
box111

Mailing Address 2:

City:
rogerson

State:
ID

Zip:
83302

Daytime Phone:
2087319535

E-mail:
lbrackett@live.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter 2 section 2 page 291

Comment:

I support alternative 7J of the gateway west project. This alternative has a smaller impact as far as who is impacted by it. going through the small community near hollister will have a far greater impact than travelling on the state line. why go through the area that is populated versus going through the desert. you have to think about the people in this area, and i am one of those effected.

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Cheyenne, WY 82003



8200387018 B047



Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



1/2

BLM

Date: Oct 24, 2011

First Name: Lonnie

Last Name: Bartlett

Organization or Office Name: Calvin Barnes Family Ranch/Fontenelle

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687 PMB 211

City: Pinedale State: WY Zip: 82941

Daytime Phone: (307)640-4544

Email: bartlettlonnie@yahoo.com

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

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Comment:

I am the grandson of Calvin Barnes.
My concern is that just this week on the
county road (Lincoln 314) Sage Grouse were slowly
crossing the road by the family ranch.
If there is more traffic due to this
line, these birds will die when people
don't stop like the local people
do to let them pass.

I don't want to see a big power
line when I go up that road, I enjoy
fishing and hunting on the ranch; I
don't want more people coming to



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online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfdocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name:

Lonnie Bartlett

ENTERED
100396

2/2

this area.

I have read much of the material and I think the route the Governor has recommended is best. Alternate 4A.

Our Ranch is on Section 4 at mile marker 96-98.

Lonnie Bartlett
10/24/2011

2011 OCT 27 AM 10:00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

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FIRST CLASS



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82003

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CASPER, WY
82601
OCT 26, 11
AMOUNT

\$6.63
00055164-04

NICOLAYSEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. BOX 7
CASPER, WY 82602-0007

TO:

Walk George, BLM Project Manager
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**

100303

**COLE CREEK SHEEP COMPANY
PARKERTON RANCH, INC.**

**PO BOX 2945
CASPER, WY 82602**

October 25, 2011

2011 OCT 28 AM 10:00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED US MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Walt George, BLM Project Manager
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

REGARDING COMMENT TO PROPOSED GATEWAY WEST
TRANSMISSION LINE

Dear Mr. George:

Cole Creek Sheep Company and Parkerton Ranch, Inc. have reviewed the Gateway West Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and submit the following comments and **objection to proposed route 1W(a)**:

As background, I am the President of Parkerton Ranch, Inc. and the Vice-President of Cole Creek Sheep Company. My family has been in the ranching business in Natrona and Converse County since 1890. Our companies own land in Township 33N, Range 76W, Converse County Wyoming, which is located a few miles west of Glenrock near and along the North Platte River. Specifically, in that Township and Range we have land in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 17. We are also the grazing lessees of much of the BLM and State land in this immediate area.

We strongly oppose the proposed route 1W(a) of the Gateway West transmission line project.

This proposed route would cut across our river-bottom irrigated farm ground and pasture area, which is some of our most productive, important, and valuable land. By using route 1W(a), a new transmission

1/14

line would severely negatively impact our ranching and farming operations. Our headquarters is located in the NW/4 of Section 2 and we have full time employees residing there. We have pivot in the NE/4 of Section 2, which irrigates a large, productive alfalfa hay meadow. We have 2 other pivots located in the NW/4 of Section 2 and the NE/4 of Section 3. We have ordered and have commenced dirtwork for a large pivot in the NW/4 of Section 3. Overhead power lines are inherently inconsistent with these circle pivots, and thus siting a new line in a way that would interfere with their operation would be extraordinarily detrimental. In addition, we have other pipe and flood irrigated land in these and adjacent sections.

Further, interference with irrigation can have important consequences for our water rights. Wyoming law requires us to beneficially use our water rights, or we can forfeit them. Our business depends on those water rights; we cannot afford to lose them and will not allow anything that could jeopardize them.

For these reasons, we take exception to the statements made and information presented in the draft EIS that show no dryland farming or irrigated agriculture acreage being impacted by the proposed route. [Table 3.18-7 (Agricultural Land Disturbed during Construction – Segment 1W) and Table 3.18-8 (Agricultural Land Disturbed during Operations – Segment 1W)]. We believe that depicting and describing only rangeland and pasture acreage, and stating under Crop Production: “Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) would cross less than 0.1 acre of irrigated farmland.” is incorrect and inaccurate. In fact, a portion of the landowner map from the Gateway website showing the 2-mile study corridor clearly shows a field under pivot irrigation. This map can be found at:

http://www.gatewaywestproject.com/documents/parcelMaps/2010_0129_LandownerMaps/Route%20Detail%20Maps_1.pdf.

Additionally, for many years we have operated a commercial bird farm for release of pheasant, chukkar, and quail to hunting clients. We have plans to install facilities, including a lodge on the river, to develop that business. A large overhead power line would be inconsistent with our bird farm operation for both firearm safety and aesthetic reasons. The game bird farm draws in raptors, eagles and other protected avian species. Installing additional perching areas by way of a transmission line across this area will increase mortality of these species. Attached as **EXHIBIT 1** is a letter from an avian biologist describing these negative impacts.

Our family and the ranch also own mineral interests in these areas, which interests are in the process of being developed by the oil and gas operator. An overhead transmission line could present conflicts with that development.

There are approximately a dozen existing residences located in and around Sections 1 and 2. Consistent with that land use pattern, over the next number of years we plan to subdivide for residential purposes portions of our deeded acreage between the North Platte River and the Glenrock Highway. My brother and I plan to construct residences on parcels in the NW/NW of Section 1 and in the NE/NE of Section 2. Those parcels were selected because they have river frontage, are easily accessible, and are east of our farming operations. We have begun the process of applying for a family subdivision through the County.

Some of the infrastructure (roads and power) has already been constructed and we have received some governmental approvals for additional infrastructure (pipelines and access permits off the highway).

This land is extremely valuable and a new high-voltage transmission line would be inappropriate anywhere near residential properties and would substantially diminish the value and long term potential.

Published paleontological studies by the University of Wyoming were undertaken in this area. Proposed route 1W(a) may threaten new findings here. Chapter 3, Section 3, p. 265 of the draft EIS states "Alternative 1W-A would have fewer impacts than the proposed Route 1W(a)" and "(p)revious surveys in this area have been limited, which may partially account for the low site density" of the proposed route. Attached as **EXHIBIT 2** is the letter of Frontier Archaeology discussing the cultural resource potential in this area.

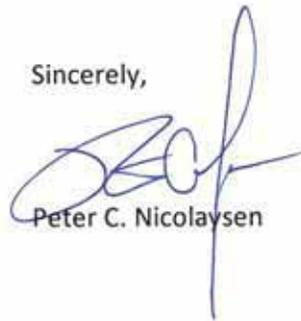
The preferred route of the State of Wyoming is Alternate 1W-A. Alternate 1W-A was the initial route of the project, and continues to show clear advantages over the proposed route 1W(a) as evidenced in the draft EIS. We would support the use of this preferred route - Alternate 1W-A.

Cole Creek Sheep Company and Parkerton Ranch oppose the proposed route 1W(a) for its negative impacts on our land, the surrounding area, and the State of Wyoming, as well as the detrimental effects it would pose to the people of Wyoming.

We have sent a detailed letter to Rocky Mountain Power detailing our concerns in February of this year. We have never heard back from them, despite our request to “engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve our concerns in regard to our farm.” It is not right that, knowing our concerns, Rocky Mountain Power would entirely fail to communicate with us, but publically reveal its intention to cross our property with these huge power lines.

Feel free to contact me at the above address or at (307) 237-1896 should you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your time and work on this Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Nicolaysen". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long vertical stroke at the end.

Peter C. Nicolaysen

PO Box 2142
Walla Walla, WA 99362

509.200.6746

Peter Nicolaysen
Parkerton Ranch
PO Box 2945
Casper, WY 82602

Dear Mr. Nicolaysen,

I am responding to your request to comment on the potential biological impacts of Rocky Mountain Power's proposed electrical transmission line route (1Wa).

It is my understanding that the two transmission lines proposed along segment 1W "would be 230 kV built on single circuit steel H-frame structures." The reason provided by Rocky Mountain Power for proposing route (1Wa) "for the northern section of 1Wa [is to] avoid[] further division of land holdings already crossed by the existing Dave Johnston to Freeze Out 230 kV line" (<http://www.gatewaywestmaps.com/>).

My interpretation of impacts of this transmission line is made in light of the following four sources of information:

1. The attached document (exhibit A) provide by Cole Creek Outfitters describing the current and historical scope of the game bird farm on the Parkerton Ranch;
2. My personal observations of the property, made on visits in all seasons over a number of years;
3. My expertise as an avian ecologist (CV; exhibit B); and
4. My reading and interpretation of the relevant scientific literature.

This transmission line (route 1Wa) will have two major adverse biological impacts, one indirect and one direct.

The indirect biological impact of the transmission lines will be to provide foraging perches to raptors (Plumpton and Andersen 1997), increase the area a single perched raptor can survey for prey (Sonerud 1992), and thus more likely than not to increase predation on susceptible species (Andersson et al. 2009). This is of special concern to Cole Creek Outfitters' Parkerton Ranch game bird farm. Raptor species that almost certainly prey on birds belonging to the game farm include, but are not limited to, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, and great horned owls. These species all occur on this site (personal observation) and they all preferentially select tall foraging perches when available and concentrate in open areas with abundant perches (Marion and Ryder 1975, Wakeley 1978, Reinert 1984,



Preston 1990, Houston et al. 1998, Leyhe and Ritchison 2004, Slater and Smith 2010).

The direct impact of the transmission lines will be to introduce a new source of mortality for birds. Mortality will come from two sources, collision and electrocution (Bevanger 1998). The transmission line corridor traverses the bird-rich (personal observation) flood plain and the channel of the North Platte River. Waterfowl are particularly susceptible to collision with transmission lines and are certain to collide with the transmission lines, although other birds, including raptors, herons, and a wide variety of small birds are also documented to be susceptible (Faanes 1987, Bevanger 1998). Several Level 1 bird Species of Conservation Concern occur in the area including bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, American bittern, and mountain plover (Nicholoff 2003) and individuals of these species may die from collisions. Raptors are particularly at risk from electrocution when perching on transmission line towers (Bevanger 1998, Mojica et al. 2009).

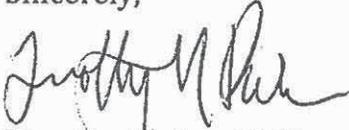
Although avian mortality from collision and electrocution is inevitable regardless of the local path selected for the installation, it is more likely than not that it will be worst along the currently proposed corridor (1Wa). First, unlike the other proposed corridors approximately 2 miles to the east which cross the North Platte in the vicinity of existing transmission lines, the existing proposal (1Wa) places the transmission lines far from existing lines. Thus 1Wa increases the number of individual birds exposed to mortality risk from transmission lines. Further, since in the area to the east, there is an existing abundance of perches, adding more is unlikely to increase the abundance of raptors without an abundant food source (there are, to my knowledge, no game bird farms in the vicinity of the other proposed corridors). Building transmission lines in the vicinity of existing lines should have a negligible increase in raptor mortality. Second, the season of release of farm-raised game birds (fall and winter), coincides with the non-breeding season for raptors. During this season, raptors often concentrate in areas with abundant food (Preston 1990, Garner and Bednarz 2000, Thirgood et al. 2003). Although no formal surveys have been conducted, it is my observation that raptors are attracted to the abundant prey at the Parkerton Ranch (in the form of farm-raised game birds). Thus the opportunity for raptor mortality from electrocution is more likely than not to be higher if the transmission line runs through the game bird farm area.

Therefore, it is in the best interest of the Parkerton Ranch game bird farm to oppose construction of transmission lines in the proposed corridor (1Wa).

Further, in my opinion, using existing corridors to the east would also be in the interest of conservation. The existing corridors lack the elevated prey abundance of the 1Wa corridor, and thus should experience a lesser increase in risk of electrocution of raptors. Also, adding transmission lines in the existing corridor will expose fewer individual birds to electrocution and collision risk than adding transmission lines in 1Wa, which is a corridor currently free of major transmission lines.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Timothy Parker, PhD
Avian Ecologist

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COLE CREEK OUTFITTERS, INC.
PO BOX 2945
CASPER, WY 82602

Since 1995, Cole Creek Outfitters has operated a commercial game bird farm on about 1500 acres along the North Platte River, just west of Glenrock, Wyoming. Each year several hundred to several thousand pheasant, chukkar, and quail are released for hunting customers. The habitat is excellent, and Cole Creek Outfitters and the landowner, Parkerton Ranch Inc., have partnered in developing and improving habitat for these game birds, which includes irrigated farmland, sagebrush and greasewood areas, and thick cottonwood stands. The irrigated crops include hay/alfalfa, sorghum sedan grass, oats and barley. There are certain areas that are closed to hunting to allow a refuge for the birds. Many birds survive and can be observed throughout the year.

In addition to game bird hunting:

- Top quality recreational fishing opportunities are available everywhere along this stretch of the River, and customers can enjoy catching brown and rainbow trout.
- Seasonally, goose and duck hunting opportunities are present, and Cole Creek Outfitters has built both field and river blinds.
- Antelope, Mule Deer and Whitetail Deer are also hunted along the river and nice bucks have been consistently taken.
- Cole Creek Outfitters has held an annual event called "The Prairie Pentathlon", which includes a variety of shooting opportunities, including sporting clays and hunting game birds and big game. Past sponsors include Winchester Ammunition and Merkel-USA firearms.

Contact our hunting manager, Kelly Glause 307-234-8640, or our licensed outfitter, Jon Nicolaysen 307-266-1599, for more information or a brochure.

Ex. "A"

9/14

Assistant Professor
Department of Biology
Whitman College
Walla Walla, WA 99362 USA

parkerth@whitman.edu
fax: 509.527.5904
phone: 509.526.4777

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Biology, University of New Mexico, with Distinction, 2002.

Dissertation: Benefits of female mate choice in the red junglefowl.

Advisor: J. D. Ligon

M.S. Biology, Kansas State University, Phi Kappa Phi, 1997.

Thesis: Nest placement and its relationship to nest predation in tallgrass prairie shrub patches.

Advisor: J. L. Zimmerman

Admitted to academic honor society, Phi Kappa Phi

B.A. International Development, Clark University, *magna cum laude*, 1992.

Admitted to academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Biology Department and Environmental Studies Program, Whitman College, 2008 - present

Visiting Assistant Professor, Research Associate, Biology Department and Environmental Studies Program, Whitman College, 2007-2008

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Research Associate, Biology Department, Whitman College, 2006-2007

Research Assistant Professor, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, 2005-2006

NSF International Research Fellow, University of Oxford (UK), 2003-2004, Kansas State University, 2004-2005

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Kansas State University, 2002-2003

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Parker, T. H., T. A. Wilkin, I. R. Barr, B. C. Sheldon, L. R. Rowe, S. C. Griffith. 2011. Fecundity selection on ornamental plumage color differs between ages and sexes and varies over small spatial scales. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 24: 1587-1597.

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PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Ornithologists' Union
Elective Member, 2010 "for significant contributions to ornithology and/or service to the Union"

American Society of Naturalists
Ecological Society of America
Sigma Xi

FRONTIER ARCHAEOLOGY

Professional Cultural Resource Management Services
3630 West 46th Street — Casper, Wyoming 82604
Telephone (307) 234-5166 — Fax (307) 234-5133



October 17, 2011

To whom this concerns:

At the request of Peter Nicolaysen and on behalf of Parkerton Ranches, an archeological review has been conducted of a segment of the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project. Specifically, the review was conducted of the northwest-southeast trending portion of a possible route depicted as 1W(a) on the Gateway West project map (Figure A-2). This portion of the segment 1W(a) is located west of Glenrock, Wyoming; and crosses several privately held parcels, including lands on the Parkerton Ranch. A review of the existing site data available to authorized users on the Wyoming Cultural Records Office website was conducted for Sections 34, 35 and 36, T34N, R76W; and Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, T33N, R76W. This list includes the sections through which the proposed transmission line would pass and the sections bordering them to the east and west. Following is a brief summary of that site data.

Known sites listed as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or listed on the National Register that may be affected by activities associated with construction of the northwest-southeast trending portion of segment 1W(a) include: 48CO183 (Oregon Trail), 48CO304 (Glenrock Buffalo Jump), 48CO775 (Childs Route of the Oregon Trail), 48CO174 (Big Muddy Oil Field), 48CO1758 (Chicago-Northwestern Railroad), 48CO2328 (Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad), 48CO2850 (Yellowstone Highway) and 48CO2560 (Bozeman Trail). Two sites, 48CO842 (a historic homestead), and 48CO858 (the historic town of Parkerton) are listed as eligibility unknown. An evaluation of the NRHP eligibility status of these two sites may be required by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

The linear sites, which includes the railroads and the emigrant trails, would inevitably be crossed by the transmission line. Therefore, an evaluation would be required to determine if the crossing occurs on a contributing or a non-contributing portion of the overall eligible site before knowing whether or not the crossing would adversely affect these sites. The visual setting is a key factor in determining if a segment of an eligible linear site is contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall eligibility. Given that the proposed transmission line will create a significant change to the current viewshed, it is possible that it would result in an adverse effect to contributing segments of these sites.

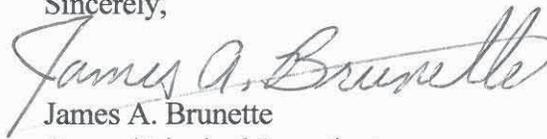
Site 48CO304, the Glenrock Buffalo Jump, is listed on the National Register of Historic places. Although the excavated portion of the site is small (less than one acre), the overall site encompasses an irregularly shaped area consisting of approximately 360 acres. Based on the project map, it appears that segment 1W(a) would cross the western site area. One concern with this alignment is the placement of the line supports/towers. While it may be feasible to place the support towers outside of the site so that the transmission line(s) will span it, the maintenance road would pass through a portion of the site. This would likely result in an adverse effect to the site, which would require some form of mitigation.



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In addition to the known sites, additional cultural resources may be present along segment 1W(a). Of course, this is a possibility for the other proposed possible routes, however, routes 1WA 1EA generally parallel an existing transmission line [1W(c)] and appear to be the most direct routes, so of the possible routes, they appear to be the best candidates for construction from a cultural resources perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Brunette". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James A. Brunette
Owner/Principal Investigator

Draft EIS Comment Form

100509

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



BLM

Date: 10/21

First Name: Walter Last Name: Savage

Organization or Office Name: VP Commissary Ranch Assoc.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171 City: Frontier State: WY Zip: 83121

Daytime Phone: 307-727-8845 Email: _____

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am opposed to the "Northern Route" because I enjoy hunting on Commissary Ridge and fishing in Fontenelle Creek. I could no longer do either of these if the northern route is chosen. Also the northern route is important elk winter range, Commissary Ridge is important Lynx habitat, and last but not least is the Raptor migration corridor along Commissary Ridge. I have seen flocks of over 100 Sage Grouse in the Fontenelle Gap area. Do not destroy a pristine area to save an already destroyed area (Hwy 30) Fossil Butte and the already ruined Oregon trail viewshed. Thank you



To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

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Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

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Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED
10044Z

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RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2011 OCT 14 AM 10:00

Date: 10-9-11

First Name: Walter E. (Tr.) Last Name: Savage

Organization or Office Name: Commissary Ranch

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171 City: Frontier State: WY Zip: 83124

Daytime Phone: 307-727-8845 Email: _____

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I submitted a comment earlier and now I realize I may not have been specific enough. I am opposed to the "northern route" for 4 reasons. #1 is the fact that the "northern" (in Section 4) route will fragment and spoil an otherwise pristine area. Right now from the existing corridor north to Hoback and Daniel the entire area is a sportsman's paradise and this area would be degraded with a "northern" route decision. I fish regularly on Fontenelle creek which I consider to be a blue ribbon trout stream, rainbow, brown & cutthroat trout can exceed 20" and with power lines running overhead I would no longer fish there. #2 is the Sage Grouse population is very healthy in the Fontenelle

over ↘



To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfdocs/gateway_west

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BLM

Name:

Walter E. Savage J. Vice pres. Commissary Ranch



Gap area. I have seen very large flocks when I've been antelope and elk hunting in the area. Once power lines are up and raptors have perches the Sage Grouse will leave. This has already happened along the existing corridor. #3 is the migratory path raptors take along Commissary Ridge.

I have sat in the ~~blind~~ blind with "Hawkwatch Int." and have read their reports that state that Commissary Ridge has one of the highest species passage rates of all their monitoring sites. Your "northern" route will be directly adjacent to Hawkwatch's monitoring sites and any raptors flying low will be subject to harm. #4 is the viewshed aspect. I realize that the Oregon Trail + Fossil Butte are part of the N.P. System and as such have special value. However with the existing lines already spoiling their view it makes absolutely no sense to go out and spoil another area that is otherwise pristine. Also Fossil Butte has a major trucking Hwy 30 and a railroad that already pass right next to it and every hill top in the surrounding area now has a white scar on the top where new private fossil digging quarries are opening up, as a result the Fossil Butte view area is already spoiled.

Last I would like to point out that because you called the "northern" route the "proposed" route, most of the local people already believe the decision has been made and their views and comments don't matter and that there is no point in making

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments

From: jmclain@blm.gov
To: blm@gwcomment.com;
Subject: 16428 Fw: Gateway West Comments
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:52:47 PM

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/11/2011 01:51 PM -----

"Chris James [
 Commercial Lender
]"
 <cjames@dlevans.com>
 To
 Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
 cc
 ksmith@dlevans.com,
 08/10/2011 09:06 AM
 kjones@dlevans.com
 Subject
 Gateway West Comments

To whom it may concern,

I am against the route proposed by Idaho Power. This is a public works project and the majority of it needs to be on public land. Private landowners in Southern Idaho should not be required to give up their valuable farm land for transmission lines that in no way benefit them. The power is simply passing through this area rather than being used to power our homes and businesses.

I support the route that was developed and approved by the five counties in Southern Idaho. They worked together with multiple agencies to develop a transmission corridor that would channel future growth and transmission lines on largely public ground.

The BLM environmental impact statement indicates that there has been little proven evidence that electrical fields caused by the power lines significantly impact humans. If that is the case, the lines will not significantly impact wildlife either and that should not be

a concern for placing the transmission lines on public land.

However it is my feeling from my past experience and the experience of others that those high voltage transmission lines do negatively impact everything from farm equipment, to livestock, and people. Especially individuals with health risks and implanted cardiac pacemakers.

Please do not allow these transmission lines to cut our beautiful valley in half. Consider the approved transmission corridor established and supported by the five counties in Southern Idaho. Idaho has vast swaths of public land that should be used to support these public projects. In the event transmission lines do cross private lands. The land owners need to be appropriately compensated. This should be the exception rather than the rule. It is not right to give these power companies and transmission lines eminent domain over the rights of private landowners, when an alternative solution has already been developed and is available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris James
Commercial Loan Officer
NMLS ID: 793790
D.L. Evans Bank
2281 Overland Ave.
Burley, ID 83318
Phone: 208-678-6000
Fax: 208-678-6898

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From: jmclain@blm.gov
To: blm@gwcomment.com;
Subject: Fw: Gateway West Comments
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:49:52 PM

100105

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/11/2011 01:48 PM -----

"Kevin Smith [
South Burley]"
<ksmith@dlevans.com>
To
Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
cc
08/10/2011 03:00
PM
Subject
Fwd: Gateway West Comments

To whom it may concern,

I am against the route proposed by Idaho Power. This is a public works project and the majority of it needs to be on public land. Private landowners in Southern Idaho should not be required to give up their valuable farm land for transmission lines that in no way benefit them. The power is simply passing through this area rather than being used to power our homes and businesses.

I support the route that was developed and approved by the five counties in Southern Idaho. They worked together with multiple agencies to develop a transmission corridor that would channel future growth and transmission lines on largely public ground.

The BLM environmental impact statement indicates that there has been little proven evidence that electrical fields caused by the power lines significantly impact humans. If that is the case, the lines will not significantly impact wildlife either and that should not be

a concern for placing the transmission lines on public land.

However it is my feeling from my past experience and the experience of others that those high voltage transmission lines do negatively impact everything from farm equipment, to livestock, and people. Especially individuals with health risks and implanted cardiac pacemakers. All proposed routes other than the five county approved route,

impacts local major highways and roads in the area by crossing or following the right-a-ways. They will impact the majority of the people living in Cassia Co at one time or an other.

The 5 county approved corridor is the best long term option for the Power Companies as well.

Everyone knows that other lines will be put in which will disrupt farm land areas next to the proposed line.

Costing the local area with reduced earning ability.

The Power Companies will have access to the 5 county corridor without any further conflicts.

Please do not allow these transmission lines to cut our beautiful valley in half. Use the approved transmission corridor established and supported by the five counties in Southern Idaho. Idaho has vast swaths of public land that should be used to support these public projects. In the event transmission lines do cross private lands (This should be the exception rather than the rule), the land owners need to be appropriately compensated.

It is not right to give these power companies and transmission lines eminent domain over the rights of private landowners, when an alternative solution has already been developed and is available. This is still part of America, with tax paying, productive Americans living here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks

Kevin Smith
Senior Vice President, Senior Lender
D.L. Evans Bank- So. Burley #07
W (208) 678-6000
F (208) 678-6898

NMLS # 789871

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DODGE CREEK RANCH

*Crossbred Cattle
Outfitting and Custom Vacations*

Jerry and Evelyn Kennedy
492 ~~Pannel~~ Road
Rock River, Wyoming 82058

11 Dodge Creek Ranch Road



100497

*Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
Po Box 20879
Cheyenne WY
82003*

82003#7018



DODGE CREEK RANCH

*Crossbred Cattle
Outfitting and Custom Vacations*

Jerry and Evelyn Kennedy
492 ~~Pannel~~ Road
Rock River, Wyoming 82058

11 Dodge Creek Ranch Road



100497

*Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
Po Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003*

82003#7018



100497

10/24/2011

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

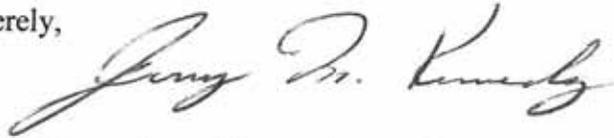
Albany County, like the rest of the state, needs to strengthen its local economy by creating jobs and promoting economic development. I support the development of properly sited transmission and energy resources because they benefit our local and state economies.

Specifically, I'm writing to express my support of proposed alternate route 1E-B of the Gateway West Project because this route avoids a critical sage grouse core area and habitat. A properly sited transmission project will help protect our natural resources, will help boost the local economy, and will help grow the Wyoming energy industry.

The Gateway West Project will also help stimulate our stagnant wind industry, which generates revenue for our landowners through lease agreements, and increases property and sales taxes in the state, enabling us to provide additional and expanded programs and services for the people of Wyoming. New wind energy projects will also create jobs, both during construction and operations, as well as ancillary jobs that support the wind facility.

Wyoming is already a world leader in the energy economy, but in order to continue this lead, we need to facilitate the development of transmission and energy projects such as the Gateway West Project. As the Bureau of Land Management finalizes its EIS, I encourage it to consider the protection of sage grouse core areas by approving alternate 1E-B.

Sincerely,



Jerry M. Kennedy Albany County Commissioner Land owner in the area of 1E-B

11 Dodge Creek Ranch Road

Rock River, Wyoming

82058

4/2

100497

10/24/2011

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

Albany County, like the rest of the state, needs to strengthen its local economy by creating jobs and promoting economic development. I support the development of properly sited transmission and energy resources because they benefit our local and state economies.

Specifically, I'm writing to express my support of proposed alternate route 1E-B of the Gateway West Project because this route avoids a critical sage grouse core area and habitat. A properly sited transmission project will help protect our natural resources, will help boost the local economy, and will help grow the Wyoming energy industry.

The Gateway West Project will also help stimulate our stagnant wind industry, which generates revenue for our landowners through lease agreements, and increases property and sales taxes in the state, enabling us to provide additional and expanded programs and services for the people of Wyoming. New wind energy projects will also create jobs, both during construction and operations, as well as ancillary jobs that support the wind facility.

Wyoming is already a world leader in the energy economy, but in order to continue this lead, we need to facilitate the development of transmission and energy projects such as the Gateway West Project. As the Bureau of Land Management finalizes its EIS, I encourage it to consider the protection of sage grouse core areas by approving alternate 1E-B.

Sincerely,



R. Evelyn Kennedy Land owner in the area of 1E-B

11 Dodge Creek Ranch Road

Rock River, Wyoming

82058

2/2

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
John Dool ey

Organi zati on:
Dool ey Oi l Inc

Mai l i ng Address:
P. O. Box 370

Mai l i ng Address 2:

Ci ty:
Larami e

State:
WY

Zi p:
82073

Dayti me Phone:
307-760-6664

E-mai l :
[j dool ey@vcn.com](mailto:jdool ey@vcn.com)

Conf i denti al :
No

DEIS Locati on:

Comment:

I'm a Landowner on proposed route 1e and also on alternate route 1e-b. My parcel number is 27751140000500 under Dooley Oil Inc. I'm in the eye of the storm and have no plans on granting the rights for this line to go across my land. I feel that there is no reason to have this line in the mountains as there is a already established line that can be accessed. I also feel that if you have a product that worthy of going to market you need a to be able to deliver it at a cost. In my eyes the cost is the transmission line. Landowners that have the generation are making a very good a market return on there land and the rest of the affected landowners are bearing the brunt of the cost. I have never had anybody contact me regarding what I can expect as compensation for these lines scaring up my ranch. If you can't afford to accomidate all interested parties fairly--- your product is not worth what you think it is. Also I feel that if the federal government didn't make this green energy so financially attractive to the companies we would not evan have wind energy, so is it really a viable alternative or is this a feel good option for the boys in Washington. If you have to use the law to force your product to market it is not a viable worthy product. I have spoken

to many of my neighbors and the unprofessional manner in which this project has moved forward has left a very bad taste in our mouths. You might feel that you are doing this for the greater good but really you are doing this at the expense of a lot of good hard working people that will receive little to no benefit from this project. The common man does not have the resources or time to read or get a legal opinion on this 3000 page document.

John Doolley



John Lucas
<John.Lucas@fmc.com>
10/28/2011 03:27 PM

To "gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov"
<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Comments for Gateway West Transmission Line Draft EIS



Please see attached FMC Gateway West Transmission Line Comments.pdf

FMC Alkali Chemicals

FMC Green River

FMC Corporation
PO Box 872
Green River, WY 82935

307.875.2580 phone
www.fmc.com

October 28, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Via e-mail only
Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov

RE: FMC Corporation's Alkali Chemicals Division comments regarding the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Gateway West transmission line project

FMC Corporation's Alkali Chemicals Division (FMC) is the world's largest producer of natural soda ash, operating two major production facilities in Southwest Wyoming. Our 900+ employees solution mine and dry mine trona from ~1,600 feet underground and then process the mineral into natural soda ash, sodium bicarbonate, and caustic soda using modern and progressive technologies. Natural soda ash is considerably less energy intensive and has a lower production cost than our primary competition—synthetic soda ash produced in China. As a result, over 50% of our production is exported, providing a significant positive trade balance for the U.S. Our operations depend on the safe and efficient extraction of trona to maintain our worldwide competitiveness.

FMC is a customer of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) and we understand that RMP has completed a very thorough engineering design and environmental review in order to develop the proposed Gateway West transmission line (GWTL) corridor. The Draft EIS is comprehensive and it is clear that RMP has worked in consultation with a significant number of regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public in order to develop possible alternatives. We are confident that RMP, the BLM and the other associated regulatory agencies will select the best alternative in order to provide the much needed power to the growing RMP customers.

As a result of the EIS consultation process RMP has selected several potential transmission routes that are worth consideration. FMC would like to offer several comments in regard to the Draft EIS in an attempt to assist RMP and BLM to select the best possible alternative. Our comments are presented below.

The FMC Granger and Westvaco Mines are located in T21N R110W, T20N R110W, T20N R109W, T20N R111W, T19N R111W, T19N R110W, T18N R111W, and T18N R110W of Sweetwater County Wyoming. This location is shown on the Draft EIS Interactive Project Map in Segment 4 and as shown below on Figure 1.



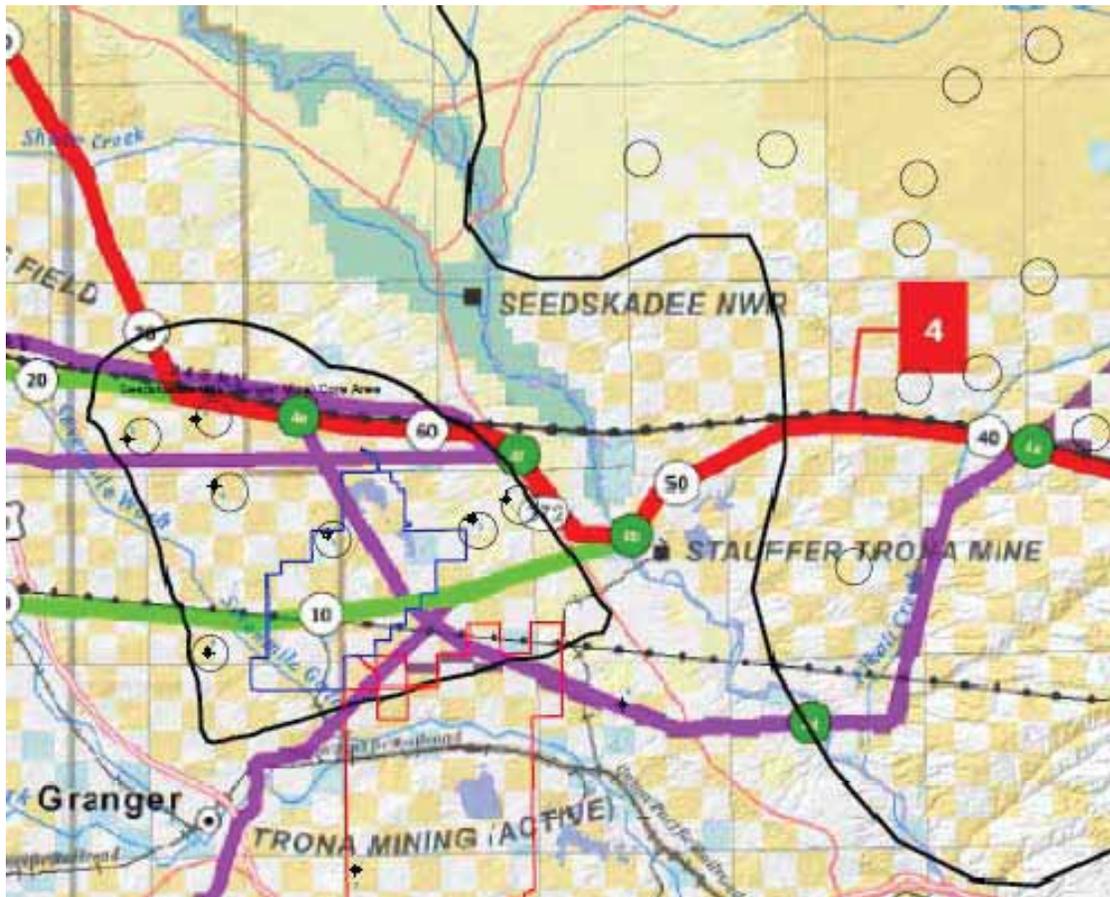


Figure 1. An excerpt from the Gateway West Draft EIS, Interactive Project Map, Segment 4. The FMC Granger and Westvaco Land Quality Permit boundaries are shown in thin blue and red lines, respectively. The WY Governor's Executive Order 2011-5 for the greater sage-grouse core area boundaries are shown in black, along with the associated sage grouse lek locations in black circles. Note: the bold red transmission line route is the proposed route identified in the Draft EIS, along with potential alternative routes in green and purple.

Comment #1

FMC prefers that the GWTL be routed inside the corridor as identified in the Governor's Executive Order 2011-5 (EO) in order to minimize future impact on the greater sage-grouse, especially in those non-industrial areas to the north such as the Fontenelle Creek drainage. Specifically, the power lines should be routed inside the Governor's corridor, following existing transmission lines where possible, through core sage-grouse population areas as discussed in the EO in item #16 (page 4), and as shown in the EO on Attachment D, Map 2.

FMC Comments to the Gateway West Transmission Line Project Draft EIS
October 28, 2011
Page 3

Comment #2

FMC realizes that RMP, the BLM and other agencies are attempting to minimize impacts to wildlife by simply avoiding the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge as illustrated in Figure 1 above; the proposed alternative skirts the refuge to the south near stations 50 to 60 (more specifically, stations 46 to 58). Additionally, there are several known greater sage-grouse leks scattered across this general area that do not appear to have been considered in the alignment. Because the FMC Granger Mine is located inside the Seedskadee Core Sage Grouse Area (as shown in the EO), we are voluntarily following the EO requirements in an effort to maintain healthy habitat for the greater sage grouse and have been tracking the sage-grouse lek counts for quite some time in order to gather accurate data regarding the health of the local leks. This proposed route around the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge is particularly concerning for us because it is located very close to several leks (in particular, the County Road 4 lek). FMC's preference for the GWTL alignment in this area is to follow the north side of the existing 345 kV powerlines from stations (approximately) 46 to 70, and in general it appears that an alignment following the existing powerline would be advantageous for the same reasons even beyond station 70. It is also important to note that we are specifically indicating that the GWTL should be on the north side of the existing powerline in this general area to avoid the existing leks near the Granger Mine. Furthermore, there are few if any wildlife concerns by following this suggested alignment even through the Seedskadee Refuge. In fact, the best alignment for the GWTL appears to be parallel to the existing powerline and just to the north of it through the Seedskadee Refuge.

Comment #3

We recommend against the south alternative route through the Seedskadee Core Sage Grouse Area shown as green in Figure 1 above. That route travels primarily through previously undisturbed habitat and lies alongside three leks in the Seedskadee Core Area. It should also be noted that this southern route could be subject to subsidence from historic and ongoing underground trona mining operations.

Comment #4

The Interactive Project Map, Segment 4 identifies several active trona mines which are incorrect or incomplete as follows: The FMC Granger mine area is not identified as an active trona mine, the "Stauffer" Trona Mine is labeled inconsistently and should be an "active trona mine", and the map incorrectly indicates a trona mine south of Kemmerer which does not exist.

We would like to thank you in advance for considering these comments. Please contact me at (307) 872-2195 if you require additional information or have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,

John Lucas
Environmental Team Leader

cc: ED file



Thomas L. Thrash
P. O. Box 543
Big Piney, WY 83113

ASHEVILLE NC 288

22 SEP 2011 PM 2 L



ENTERED
100475

SECRET

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

8200387018



pg 1/1



2011 SEP 29 AM 10:00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

P. O. Box 543
Big Piney, WY 83113

September 21, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

My comments are addressed to that portion of the Gateway West Project designated as "Segment 4 Proposed Route" north of Kemmerer, Wyoming and south of Fontenelle Creek.

Being a land owner and taxpayer with extensive holdings in Pomeroy Basin - Mamouth Hollow area, Fontenelle Creek Narrows and Fontenelle Creek Flats in the Shadow of the Palisades I strongly request that Segment 4 Proposed Route be eliminated for the following reasons:

- a) To protect the heritage given to Fontenelle Creek by the early settlers. They were drawn to the winding creek loaded with trout and fringed with willows and grassy meadows harboring abundant wildlife.
- b) To protect the Sublette Cutoff of the Oregon Trail. Wagon train after wagon train crossed the flat meadows of Fontenelle Creek leaving ruts that are clearly visible today.
- c) To protect pristine back country areas with wilderness characteristics from pollution by multiple steel towers instead of utilizing existing corridors.

If Segment 4 is the route selected private landowners in Mamouth Hollow are off the grid. No provision is addressed in "EIS" for property owners to obtain power. Our land is being taken in perpetuity for lighting millions of homes elsewhere while we are left in darkness - no electrical service.

Fort Hill LLC
Cameron Properties LTD Partnership
LOTT Partnership II
Thomas L. Thrash

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



8200337018 8047



Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
2011 OCT 27 AM 10:00

BLM

Date: 10/17/11

First Name: Mary Last Name: Cannady

Organization or Office Name: Glenrock Economic Development Inc.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 313 City: Glenrock State: WY Zip: 82637

Daytime Phone: 307 436 5355 Email: gcbiz1@aol.com

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment: (Please type your comments in the area provided below)

We have made you aware that your line 1E goes through the town of Glenrock's Gateway addition. This area is the future expansion of our town. I know that you were not aware that this area was brought into the town in 2004. Please consider this when you make your decision.

*Mary Cannady
President
GEDC.*



To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfdocs/gateway_west

continued on back



Luke Papez
<LPapez@LSPower.com>

10/28/2011 07:18 PM

To "gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov"
<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Comment letter on Gateway West Transmission Line Draft
EIS

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find the attached comment letter from Great Basin Transmission, LLC on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you.

Luke C Papez

LS Power Development, LLC

(636) 532-2200

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delete this message and any attachments. GBT - Gateway West DEIS comment letter 10-28-2011.pdf



Submitted via Email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov

October 28, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RE: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

Upon review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, Great Basin Transmission, LLC is pleased to submit the following comments:

Background: Great Basin Transmission, LLC ("GBT") is a member of the LS Power Group. LS Power is a privately held company focused on the development, investment and management of reliable and environmentally responsible power generation and transmission assets in the United States.

GBT is proposing to construct and operate the Southwest Intertie Project – Northern Portion ("SWIP-North"), a proposed 500 kilovolt (kV) AC overhead electrical transmission facility stretching 275 miles between a northern terminus at Midpoint Substation in Jerome County, Idaho, and the a southern terminus at the Robinson Summit Substation in White Pine County, Nevada. SWIP-North will be located primarily on public lands managed by the U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"). GBT holds BLM issued right-of-way grants for the project as serialized in BLM case file numbers IDI-026446, NVN-049781, and NVN-085211. Approximately 75 miles of the project will be located in Idaho, specifically within Jerome and Twin Falls counties.

Comments:

1. The Draft EIS indicates in Table 4.2-12 on page 4-41, and in the text of the last paragraph of Section 4.4.19 on page 4-94 that the SWIP-North project is "presently on hold." The SWIP-North project is not on hold. SWIP-North has received major project permits including a BLM notice-to-proceed and construction is pending completion of satisfactory commercial arrangements. GBT requests that the referenced table and Draft EIS text be updated to reflect the correct status of the SWIP-North project.



2. As provided in the description of the Proposed Action and Action Alternatives, and as displayed on several maps within the Draft EIS, the Gateway West Project is analyzing transmission alignments and substation locations that are in close proximity to the right-of-way of SWIP-North. GBT requests that the location of the SWIP-North right-of-way be considered when determining the location of the Gateway West Project elements.
 - a. Any proposed substations, interconnections, or transmission alignments that cross the right-of-way for SWIP-North need to be coordinated in advance with GBT.
 - b. For those areas where proposed alignments of the Gateway West Project will parallel the SWIP-North right-of-way (such as Segment 10 from Midpoint Substation to the proposed Cedar Hill Substation), GBT requests that BLM consult with and obtain the concurrence of GBT regarding the separation distance between parallel alignments before issuing any land use decisions.
3. GBT requests that any land use decisions that are issued as a result of the proposed Gateway West Project be subject to the SWIP-North right-of-way.

GBT would like to commend the efforts of those who were involved with the development of the Gateway West Draft EIS. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions or wish to obtain further clarification of these comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke C Papez", written in a cursive style.

Luke C Papez

Bill Rueb
1101 East 28th Ave.
Torrington, WY 82240

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003*7018 B047



ENTERED
100426

Bill Rueb
High Valley Ranch
1101 East 28th Avenue
Torrington, Wyoming 82240

October 11, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have been watching with great interest the planning of the Gateway West Transmission Line project. While I understand the need for a transmission line, I don't understand why route 1E through the mountains is being considered at all.

Route 1E will traverse through prime elk and sage grouse habitat. A large transmission line there would also create a huge eyesore in this pristine area.

Route 1E-C follows an existing corridor which is much shorter and, one would think, construction costs there would be less than building in the mountains. The proposed Wheatland-Chugwater-Aeolous route would pick up any wind turbines located to the east and south.

I am a property owner in northern Albany County and, along with other ranchers and property owners in the area, have always been concerned about the conservation and preservation of Wyoming's heritage and wildlife. Please give more consideration to using the existing corridor, route 1E-C, for the Gateway West Transmission line.

Sincerely,


Bill Rueb
High Valley Ranch
307-532-7899

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2011 OCT 17 AM 10:00

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 10:37 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Paul Martin

Organization:
Intermountain Wind, LLC

Mailing Address:
PO Box 353

Mailing Address 2:
2025 16th St

City:
Boulder

State:
CO

Zip:
80306

Daytime Phone:
303-442-2109

E-mail:
paulmartin@intermountainwind.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter Executive Summary section Route Action Alternatives page ES-7

Comment:
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to advocate the Alternative 1E-B in the Gateway West EIS. I represent a wind development company, Intermountain Wind, LLC, with a project in the vicinity of Alternative 1E-B. We control approximately 10 miles of the transmission route and would welcome the line being located there. We are not alone in our support for a line in that area of Albany County since many of the ranches near us are leased for wind development. All of these landowners would benefit from Alternative 1E-B since it would increase access to the grid for all their properties by raising the likelihood that a project is eventually built on their ground. Wyoming landowners would not directly benefit if Proposed Route is selected as that line would go through a Sage Grouse Critical Habitat Area where wind development is prohibited.

The selection of the Proposed Route would result in a greater negative environmental impact than if Alternative 1E-B were selected. In addition to the impacts to the Sage Grouse Critical Habitat, additional miles of 230kv transmission would still be needed in that area in order to connect the wind projects in the Laramie Mountains to the Gateway West Project. Alternative 1E-B greatly reduces the need for this additional transmission since it is in much of the natural route that those projects would likely follow. Selecting Alternative 1E-B would result in a lower rate for the ratepayers as well as less visual impact in that area.

The EIS identifies the visual impacts as being the biggest negative against the Alternative 1E-B. As mentioned above, there is much wind development planned for that area. If any of those projects is successful, the visual impact of the transmission line will not be the principal visual disturbance.

For several years our company has been working with the Wyoming Game and Fish and the US Fish & Wildlife Service to examine environmental concerns in that area. Intermountain Wind would be glad to provide whatever assistance that we could in the environmental review of the Gateway West Project if Alternative 1E-B route is selected. Our work confirms the initial observations in the EIS in that there would be minimal environmental impact from generation and transmission facilities in that area that can avoid Sage Grouse Critical Habitat.

Best regards,

Paul Martin
President
Intermountain Wind, LLC

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



ENCLOSURE
JUL 20 2003



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

620035701A



Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011



111

Date: 10-11-11

First Name: DeWitt

Last Name: Marshall

Organization or Office Name: John R. Marshall Farms

Mailing Address: 151 South 600 East

City: Jerome

State: ID

Zip: 83338

Daytime Phone: 208-280-0756

Email: dewitt_marshall@yahoo.com

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CHEYENNE, WYOMI

Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I farm and own land in the Hunt area within Jerome County, Idaho, directly S/SE of the Minidoka National Monument (sections 12627 + 12628). The proposed Gateway corridor runs through my property and would be extremely difficult to navigate through my irrigation systems + pivots. My request for the Gateway Project is to follow the proposed route for the SWIP transmission lines - which runs 2-3 miles to the west of my land along map section line 18E + 19 E. The route has already received the proper easements and would be a much less intrusive route on farmers/ranchers in the area. Thank you for your consideration.

DeWitt Marshall



To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

BLM

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:

Paul Nettleton

Organization:

Joyce Livestock Co.

Mailing Address:

14568 Joyce Ranch Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:

Murphy

State:

ID

Zip:

83650

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:

No

DEIS Location:

Comment:

I wish to comment on that particular section that crosses Owyhee County in SW Idaho. I want to support Alt. 9D that was developed by the Owyhee Task Force on Gateway West and backed by the local Sage Grouse Working Group and the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners. Alt. 9D would run through the Morley Nelson Birds of Prey area following an existing 138 kv transmission line in an area already disturbed by frequent fires and roading. Large transmission lines do not have a negative effect on birds of prey and have even been beneficial in many cases. This alternative would affect the least amount of private land and would not affect the aesthetics or environment adversely.

At the same time I would like to strongly disapprove of Alt. 9E and discourage its further consideration. This route runs further south into or very near prime sage grouse habitat causing adverse effects on that threatened species. Those same avian predators (especially Common Ravens) would be attracted to the large towers for nesting and hunting perches, causing irreparable harm to the sage grouse and its habitat.

Thank you for consideration in allowing my input.

LAWSON LASKI CLARK & POGUE, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

675 SUN VALLEY ROAD, SUITE A
POST OFFICE BOX 3310
KETCHUM, IDAHO 83340
TELEPHONE: 208-725-0055
FACSIMILE: 208-725-0076
WWW.LAWSONLASKI.COM

Edward A. Lawson
eal@lawsonlaski.com

October 11, 2011

Via Federal Express

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

2011 OCT 13 AM 10:00
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CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Re: Gateway West Transmission Line Draft EIS
Our File No. 10086-002

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

This firm represents SCI Properties, L.L.C. ("SCI"), the owner of Susie Q Ranch in Picabo, located in South Central Idaho. On our client's behalf, we wish to comment on the transmission line project commonly known as the Gateway West Transmission Line Project in Wyoming and Idaho (the "Gateway West Project"), which has been proposed by Idaho Power Company and Rocky Mountain Power. For the reasons set forth below in this letter, SCI expressly opposes any routing of power lines and poles of the Gateway West Project through any of the areas within the environs of Susie Q Ranch, including, without limitation, the Pioneer Mountain foothills, the environs of the City of Carey, and/or the Silver Creek/Picabo valley.

Previously, in our letter dated October 27, 2008, we submitted written comments on a comparable project commonly known as the Mountain State Transmission Intertie ("MSTI"). In this letter we wish to reiterate some of the more salient portions of that letter, which we believe has comparable bearing on the Gateway West Project.

In our earlier letter we commented upon Alternative Route C3 of the MSTI project. Our understanding is that there is renewed consideration of an unspecified route that may possibly cross the Pioneer Mountain foothills, the environs of the City of Carey, and/or the Silver Creek/Picabo valley. For the reasons set forth below in this letter, we believe that the harmful environmental, economic, social, and historical impacts of a transmission line in this vicinity outweigh the need to choose such a route over any of the alternatives.

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The vicinity of Picabo, Idaho, where Susie Q Ranch is located, is a topographically complex area involving the Picabo Airport's Vicinity Overlay District and some of Idaho's best preserved historic ranching areas, which is home to the world renowned Silver Creek. Moreover, there are nearby conservation easements specifically created with The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") to preserve the pristine character of the area and protect it from development, including transmission line projects.

This letter highlights some of the significant adverse impacts of a transmission line in the Picabo area and specifically on our client's historic ranch, the Susie Q Ranch. Moreover, this letter addresses issues that must be investigated and analyzed during the environmental review process.

PICABO, IDAHO HOME OF SILVER CREEK

There are red-winged blackbirds calling in the cattail marshes, geese clamoring on nesting sites . . . bees are gathering pollen in the wildflowers, trout rising to early hatches, all mixed with the sound of the stream – the fishing regulars call it Silver Creek music.

Jack Hemingway, 1976.¹

Picabo, Idaho, is famous for the majestic Silver Creek, which is considered a world renowned fly-fishing destination due to its tremendous aquatic hatches and blue ribbon catch and release trout population, which although visible, is very difficult to catch. Besides Silver Creek's world-class fly fishing, it is also famous for birding, canoeing, wildlife viewing, photography, and waterfowl hunting.

Surrounded by bucolic prairie farmland, sage-covered hills and distant mountains, the creek offers a picturesque landscape. In addition to its beauty, the fishing on Silver Creek is legendary. It is home to one of the largest populations of brown and rainbow trout of any wild trout stream in the country, with about 5,000 trout per mile measuring up to 24 inches. Moreover, the hatches on Silver Creek are prolific. The Mayflies include Blue-winged Olive, Pale Morning Duns, Callibaetis, Brown Drakes, Ticos, Gray Drakes, and Mahogany Duns.

Silver Creek Preserve ("Preserve") was created over 32 years ago when The Nature Conservancy purchased 479 acres just outside Picabo. The creation of the Preserve is a

¹ Ken Retallic, *Seasons on Silver Creek*, Sun Valley Guide, fall 2006.

celebrated story in Idaho and is integral to the history of nearby world famous Sun Valley, Idaho. Silver Creek gained notoriety in the 1930s, when Averill Harriman, a railroad tycoon, established the Sun Valley ski resort. To promote off-season recreation in the area, Harriman purchased property along Silver Creek and invited legendary writer Ernest Hemingway and actor Gary Cooper to Idaho to fish and hunt for pheasants and ducks along the streams. Ernest's eldest son, Jack Hemingway, who married an Idaho native and adopted the Wood River Valley as his home, also enjoyed Silver Creek's fishing oasis. In the 1960s, the Union Pacific sold Sun Valley, and in the 1970s, it was being sold again. At that time, Jack Hemingway served on the Idaho Fish & Game Commission. When Jack learned of the impending sale, he and TNC launched a fundraising campaign to help TNC purchase the Sun Valley Ranch property on Silver Creek. In 1975, TNC began the process of acquiring what is now known as the Silver Creek Preserve. Since then, the Preserve has grown to include more than 850 acres, consisting of over three miles of pristine streams. Additionally, TNC has partnered with neighboring landowners to protect over 9,500 acres of Silver Creek drainage through conservation easements, making it one of the most, if not the most, expensive and successful Western projects of TNC.

As a result of Jack Hemingway's laudable efforts, he is recognized as "the savior of Silver Creek."² At Jack's memorial service in 2000, former Idaho governor, Dirk Kempthorne, stated:

[Jack] left us an extraordinary legacy when he spearheaded the effort to preserve one of Idaho's premier trout streams, Silver Creek. . . . And now, the clear waters of Silver Creek beckon fly fishermen from all over the world . . . a living legacy to a remarkable man.³

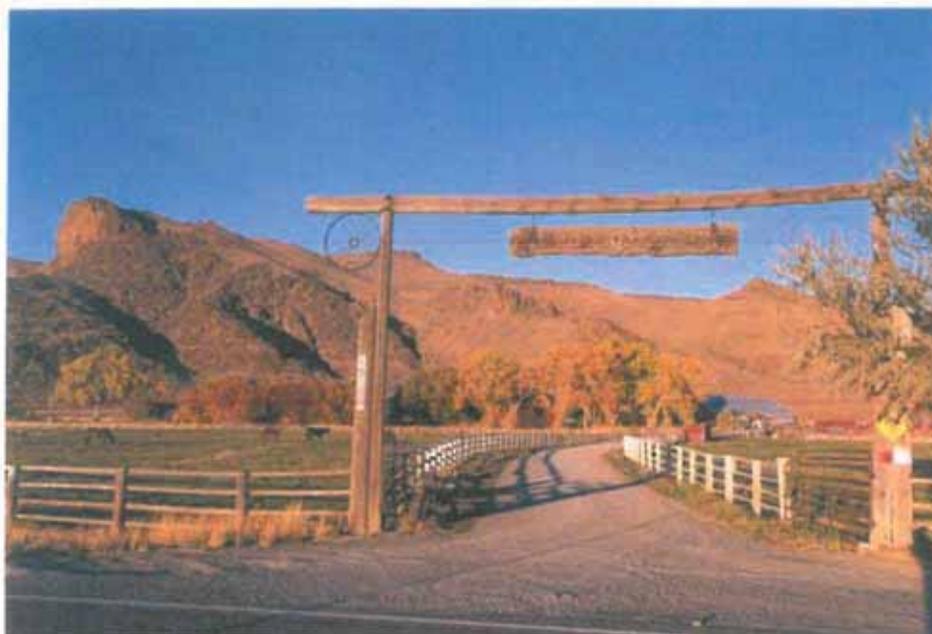
A transmission line in the vicinity of Picabo and Silver Creek Preserve not only would defeat the purpose of TNC's conservation easements, it would devastate the legacy of one of Idaho's most beloved sons.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

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SUSIE Q RANCH



According to a personal communication from Bud and Nick Purdy, whose ancestors founded the Town of Picabo, Susie Q Ranch was one of the original ranches in the area. The homestead house was built around 1900 by Eugene Chaumell, whose son Otis Chaumell was born there in 1905. The ranch is nestled against the base of the Northern Rockies, about five miles downstream from the Silver Creek Preserve. Susie Q Ranch is comprised of approximately 530 acres, with an ideal mixture of irrigated pastures, a wetland corridor, a willow and cottonwood stream corridor, high desert sage land, and two bird and wildlife habitat areas. About 92 acres of the northwesterly portion of Susie Q Ranch are protected under conservation easements granted to TNC. Silver Creek runs along the northerly boundary of this conservation easement area. The photo shown above was taken near the point at which Silver Creek enters Susie Q Ranch. From there the creek meanders along the northwest border of the ranch before turning south and east through the heart of the ranch for about 1.75 miles. The riparian area along the creek contains alders, box elders, cottonwoods, willows, aspen groves, and green pastures. The creek itself offers winter habitat for migrating



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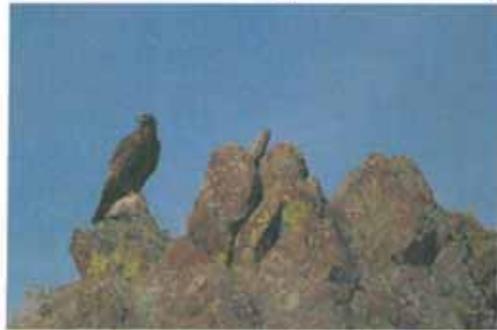
waterfowl, otters, muskrats, and beavers, as well as fish species including rainbow trout, brown trout and Wood River sculpin.

Susie Q Ranch and other areas in Picabo have a great variety of birdlife, including among others Chukars (the photo below shows a Chukar hen and her chicks near the main ranch house),



Sage Grouse, Golden and Bald Eagles, Red-Tailed Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, Blue Herons, migrating waterfowl, Killdeer, Great Horned Owls and Longbilled Curlews. Additionally, the Wood River Sculpin (*Cottus Leiopomus*), a species of special concern in Idaho, is endemic to the Big Wood River watershed. The ranch has developed two separate bird and wildlife habitat areas totaling about 18 acres. A pond located on the easterly side of Susie Q

Ranch includes an island where birds seek shelter from predatory animals. Birds nest in all areas of the ranch. As shown in the photo to the right, Golden Eagles and other birds nest in the high rocks above the main ranch house. Canada Geese nest in the willows along the south edge of Silver Creek. Other birds nest in the ranch's pastures and in its barns. In addition, a variety of wildlife utilizes the ranch throughout the year, including elk, moose, mule deer, pronghorn, mountain lions, wolves, coyotes, bobcats, fox, badgers, skunks, and porcupines. Susie Q Ranch is also a migration corridor for elk and deer that migrate annually from the Picabo desert through the northeast side of the property.



Shown below is a winter photo of deer crossing a pasture in front of an historic livery barn that was purchased from the Purdys and moved onto the property from the Town of Picabo. It is one of four historic structures located on Susie Q Ranch.



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The main ranch house is the focal point of Susie Q Ranch's guest ranch operations. As shown in the aerial photo to the right, this log house sits in a private cove nestled against the Buttes. The ranch offers an elegant atmosphere while preserving the western craftsman style. A stroll around Susie Q Ranch reveals historical barns and cabins preserved in time. In fact, the old world charm of Susie Q Ranch's barn and stable area has attracted Hollywood for the feature films "Bus Stop" with Marilyn Monroe and "The Dark Horse" with Mimi Rogers. Susie Q Ranch has also been used as the scenic backdrop for "Marlboro Man" commercials as well as for cowboy images of local photographer, David Stoecklein.



The ranch allows its visitors to enjoy one of the highest densities of trout in the world, courtesy of Silver Creek's tremendous aquatic insect hatches. In addition to fly fishing, visitors



enjoy horseback riding and hiking through green pastures and nature trails located throughout the property. The owner has made significant investments in connection with its bird and wildlife habitat areas, allowing its guests to experience up-close viewing of the birds and animals on the ranch. Moreover, the owner has maintained the ranch's historic barns with numerous antique signs and some thirty-five horse paddocks in an old time ranch setting, allowing guests to feel as though they have stepped back in time. The

entire ranch has been preserved immaculately as a testimony to its Old West heritage.

Susie Q Ranch also leases out its pastures for grazing and its stables for boarding and training horses. Susie Q Ranch provides pasture to up to 700 head of cattle. Tom Buck leases Susie Q Ranch's magnificent indoor horse arena and the adjoining grounds for his horse boarding and horse training business, which serves up to 60 horses, whose riders enjoy access to endless trails on and around the ranch.



Transmission lines, with their 145- to 190-foot-tall lattice steel towers, anywhere near the ranch would seriously diminish SCI's ability to collect revenues on these

operations and decrease its ability to attract visitors because of the aesthetic blight they would bring to an area whose aesthetic and back-to-nature charm is the ranch's *raison d'être*, as well as because of perceived health risks associated with high powered transmission lines (See Issues 2 and 11).

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED DURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

ISSUE 1: Potential Impacts to Cultural and Historic Values within the Proposed Gateway West Project Area.

As stated above, Picabo's many historic ranches, barns, and pastures, and its world-famous Silver Creek Preserve, have attracted visitors from all over the country and world to enjoy a rapidly disappearing piece of the Old West. The area's glorious light of rich pastel purples, reds, yellows and blues have been captured by photographers and posted on Idaho State's website and numerous angler, wildlife and photography websites and magazines as a lure for attracting visitors to the area. It only takes a quick Internet search of "Silver Creek Idaho" to see photos of Ernest Hemingway fishing and hunting at Silver Creek as well as other famous and local faces. The proposed transmission line project, with its imposing 145- to 190-foot-tall lattice steel towers, will compromise the historic setting of the area and visually conflict with the traditional use of the area for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and related tourist activities, all which are tied to the beauty and charm of this area. The EIS must address the impacts on historic districts, buildings, sites or objects, local character and culture, tradition, and heritage.

ISSUE 2: Adverse Socio-Economic Impacts to the Local Community.

The principal economic base of the area is tourism, commercial recreation, and farming. According to Silver Creek Preserve's 2007 sign-in records (sign-in is mandatory), the Preserve attracted 7,301 visitors representing every U.S. state and 13 countries. In fact, almost half of the visits were from different countries, including Austria, England, Japan, France, Switzerland, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Argentina, Germany, Turkey, New Zealand, and Peru. About 89 percent of the visitors to the Preserve came to fish. About 18 percent used one of the five local outfitters during the 2007 fishing season. Susie Q Ranch, like many other ranches in the Picabo area, supports the local economy directly by employing fishing guides, farmers, ranch hands, ranch caretakers, hydrologists, biologists and other water and stream experts, horse trainers and caretakers, contractors, electricians, landscapers, gardeners, and housekeepers, and indirectly by bringing visitors to the area.

As stated above, Susie Q Ranch is an investment for SCI Properties. SCI receives revenues from its horse boarding operations, grazing leases, and guest ranch. Placing the proposed transmission lines anywhere near the ranch will diminish SCI's ability to collect revenues on these operations and decrease its ability to attract visitors. In addition, the proposed

transmission lines would affect the owner's use and enjoyment of the land, its right of exclusion, and right of transfer of its land. The EIS must address the economic impacts of transmission lines on Picabo's tourism, commercial recreation, and farming.

ISSUE 3: The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Easements.

As stated above, over 9,500 acres of conservation easements have been donated to TNC by local landowners. Pat Millington, Susie Q Ranch's previous owner, gift-deeded to TNC approximately 92 acres of the ranch for perpetual conservation easements.

TNC and the owners of Susie Q Ranch have recognized that the ranch and the streams, springs, and wetlands on the ranch are a part of and contribute to the Silver Creek stream system, a unique natural spring creek ecosystem and high quality aquatic community of tremendous ecological, public, and scientific value. They have also recognized that the ranch contains significant open space with scenic values and significant natural habitat for a variety of important fish, wildlife and plants, including, among others, habitat for Sandhill Cranes, Longbilled Curlews, Golden Eagles, and Wood River Sculpin (*Cottus Leiopomus*), all species of special concern in Idaho. Moreover, TNC and Susie Q Ranch have recognized that protection and preservation of the ranch and the stream system will protect an important natural habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants, and that all of these natural elements and ecological values are of great importance to the people of the State of Idaho and are therefore worthy of preservation.

Susie Q Ranch's conservation easements specifically prohibit, unless TNC's approval is first obtained, the construction or placement of any structures, buildings, transmission lines, roads, and vehicle trails. They also prohibit the manipulation or alteration of any natural water course, wetland, stream bank, shore line, or body of water on the ranch. Moreover, they prohibit the diminution, degradation, pollution, or drainage of any surface or subsurface waters, or the lowering of any subsurface water tables or rip rapping of the bank of any natural water course on the ranch.

TNC has acquired (most through charitable donations) conservation easements from property owners near the Susie Q to protect the uniquely splendid area in and around Silver Creek. Any transmission line route bordering TNC's conservation easements, including those on Susie Q Ranch, the Swanson ranch, and the Purdys' Picabo Livestock Ranch would require the EIS to address the direct impacts the transmission line project will have on all of the conservation easements in the Silver Creek area.

ISSUE 4: The Presence of Local and Regional Bird Populations.

Silver Creek, a high-desert spring-fed water system, attracts an abundance of birdlife. As many as 150



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species have been identified in the area. Birdwatchers still report rare bird sightings, such as the white throated sparrow in 2007. Shown to the right is a photo of a Western Kingbird that hatched from a nest near the main ranch house.

The following issues should be addressed in the EIS: (1) known impacts to birds from current transmission lines and other tall structures should be thoroughly reviewed in order to identify potential impacts that could result from the transmission line; (2) the disturbance or other impacts that the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 500 kV transmission line project would have on migration patterns; (3) the potential impacts to raptors and their prey from transmission lines, including the risk of electrocution; (4) how new transmission lines and towers located in areas without trees or other natural perches may result in an increase in the hunting pressure on raptor prey species that are rare or declining; (5) the direct impact of osprey nesting on transmission lines; (6) the potential impacts to candidate species for Federal listing; and (7) the impacts on honey bee hives.

ISSUE 5: The Potential Impacts to Wildlife Habitats within the Gateway West Project Area.

There are several big game animals in the area, including, but not limited to, elk, pronghorn, moose, mule deer, and mountain lions. The EIS must address the increased risk of reduction in wildlife habitats and big game populations. There is a need to protect and maintain crucial winter range for big game, critical winter habitat, and habitats for nesting, brooding, and rearing. In addition, the EIS must address the impacts on big game migration corridors and their maintenance as viable routes for the big game identified in the area. Furthermore, the EIS must address the location of the transmission lines in relation to rare and/or sensitive wildlife habitats, including kipukas, lava tubes, caves, wetlands, and riparian areas. Also, the EIS must address the potential to increase disturbance of natural habitats and sensitive species by recreational vehicle use, hunting, and other increased access to remote sites through development corridor access.

ISSUE 6: The Potential Impacts on Sensitive Plants, Fish Species, Mammal Habitats and Migration Routes, Migratory Waterfowl and Shorebirds, and Water Quality.

The proposed transmission line project may alter the habitat of sensitive fish species within Silver Creek. The disturbance could happen in multiple ways: (a) by increasing the amount of silt in the creek as a result of rain run-off over areas disturbed by the construction of the project or by the construction or use of roads contemplated by it (see Issue 10 below), (b) by herbicides that may be needed for control of noxious weeds (see Issue 8 below), and (c) by the magnitude and frequency of underwater noise and vibrations associated with the construction and operation of the transmission lines. There is a need to preserve and/or improve supporting habitats, including water flows and quality. The EIS should include an assessment of and the potential for adversely affecting fish and water quality due to increased siltation, herbicides,

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noise, or vibration. Particular emphasis should be given to the noise and vibration thresholds that may exist for each species.

An assessment of these same issues also needs to be applied to the potential impacts upon migration routes of migratory mammals, such as elk, deer, and pronghorn, as well as the flyways for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Moreover, the proposed transmission lines may affect sensitive plant and rare native plant communities in the area. Among its abundance of wildflowers is the small yellow ladyslipper orchid, a state plant species of concern. The EIS should include an assessment of all plant species known in the area.

ISSUE 7: Increased Traffic and the Potential for Associated Impacts on Existing County, State and BLM Roads.

Increased traffic on existing county, state, and BLM roads can result in increased traffic hazards, higher maintenance costs, the need to upgrade roads, and more intensive transportation planning. The EIS should include an assessment of the magnitude and frequency of fires due to the travel of trucks and equipment on these roads and also from lightning hitting the transmission lines and towers. The EIS should include an assessment of how viable the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission lines and towers of the proposed size is in this type of terrain, geology, and weather extremes.

ISSUE 8: The Ability to Successfully Reclaim Disturbed Areas, Timely Reclamation of Disturbed Areas, and Control of Noxious Weed Invasions.

The EIS must address the potential introduction and spread of invasive species and weeds, the prevention of invasive species and weeds, the need to assure successful reclamation, including soil stabilization, interim reclamation within the first growing season, weed control, and monitoring or reclamation success with adaptive management in difficult areas.

ISSUE 9: Potential Conflicts with Livestock Management Operations in the Gateway West Project Area, Including Possible Impacts to Range Improvement Projects.

The EIS must address conflicts with livestock management operations, including reduced forage availability, livestock disturbance, harassment, electrocution, birth defects, stillborns, and the reduction of the viability of range improvement projects and compromised range/vegetation quality.

ISSUE 10: Impacts to Surface Water Resources, Including an Increased Rate of Delivery of Sedimentation to the Silver Creek System.

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The following issues should be addressed in the EIS: (1) changes in water quality and quantity; (2) adverse effects to stream hydraulics, nutrient pathways, invertebrate production and fish production; (3) soil disturbance, in and around the stream, that will cause sediment to settle into the gravel spawning beds upon which fish depend for hatching their young; (4) erosion control; (5) increased sedimentation that will increase in perpetuity if any road is built near, over, or around the creek; (6) the increase of temperature to the creek, which will reduce the oxygen available to important aquatic organisms; (7) the likelihood and description of chemical contaminations that may spill into the water and affect the quality of water and Susie Q Ranch's right of use and enjoyment, right of exclusion, and right of transfer of its land; (8) the measures such as an emergency response plan to mitigate impacts of contamination spills into or near the water; (9) the installation technique for the electrical cables and the effect on the water quality described above; and (10) the types of materials to be used in the water, such as stone, metals, concrete, etc., and the likely effects of interactions between water, encrusting organisms, and sediment.

ISSUE 11: Potential Health Impacts on Humans and Livestock.

The EIS must address the potential health impacts that the construction and operation of the transmission lines may create for humans or livestock. The EIS's analysis of potential health impacts should give particular emphasis to known impacts to humans and livestock from exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) generated by high voltage transmission lines. Specifically, the EIS must include a thorough analysis of the current studies and reports associating exposure to high levels of EMF with human health risks such as leukemia and other cancers. Moreover, the EIS must address the potential accident scenarios concerning the transmission lines and the need for appropriate emergency preparedness plans.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing clearly demonstrates the negative impacts of a regional transmission line running through the Picabo area. Clearly, the environmental, economic, social, and historical impacts of a transmission line in the vicinity of Picabo or Silver Creek, Susie Q Ranch, the environs of the City of Carey, and the Pioneer Mountain foothills outweigh the need to choose such a route over any of the alternatives.

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SINCERELY,

LAWSON LASKI CLARK & POGUE, PLLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Lawson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward A. Lawson

cc: J. M. Boman



Christopher Mullen
<christopher.mullen@lincenergy.com>

10/27/2011 07:10 PM

To "Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov"
<Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Gateway West Transmission Comments

Attached is Linc Energy's comments on the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line near Glenrock, Wyoming.

Regards,
Chris Mullen

Christopher Mullen
General Manager Oil & Gas



1 5 9 N o r t h W o l c o t t S t r e e t, S u i t e 2 5 0
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Gateway West Transmission Line Project EIS Comment v2.docx

Date: October 27, 2011

First Name: Christopher

Last Name: Mullen

Organization Office Name: Linc Energy

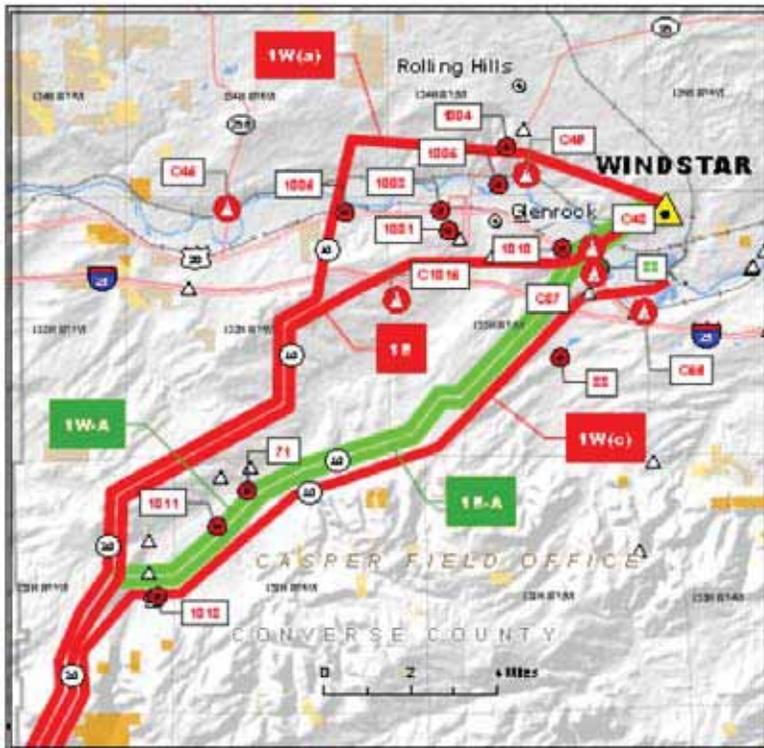
Mailing Address: 159 N. Wolcott St. City: Casper State: Wyoming Zip: 82601

Daytime Phone: 307-472-2175

Email: chris.mullen@lincenergy.com

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project, originating near Glenrock, Wyoming and ultimately terminating in western Idaho. Linc Energy fully acknowledges that Wyoming is a net exporter of energy to the rest of the nation. Without proper transmission from Wyoming, we lose jobs and opportunities here in this State. Linc Energy owns and operates oil and gas fields near Glenrock and appreciates the opportunity to work with Rocky Mountain Power in the plans and routes for their transmission expansion project. We will only be commenting on the portions of this route near Glenrock that will impact Linc's operations.

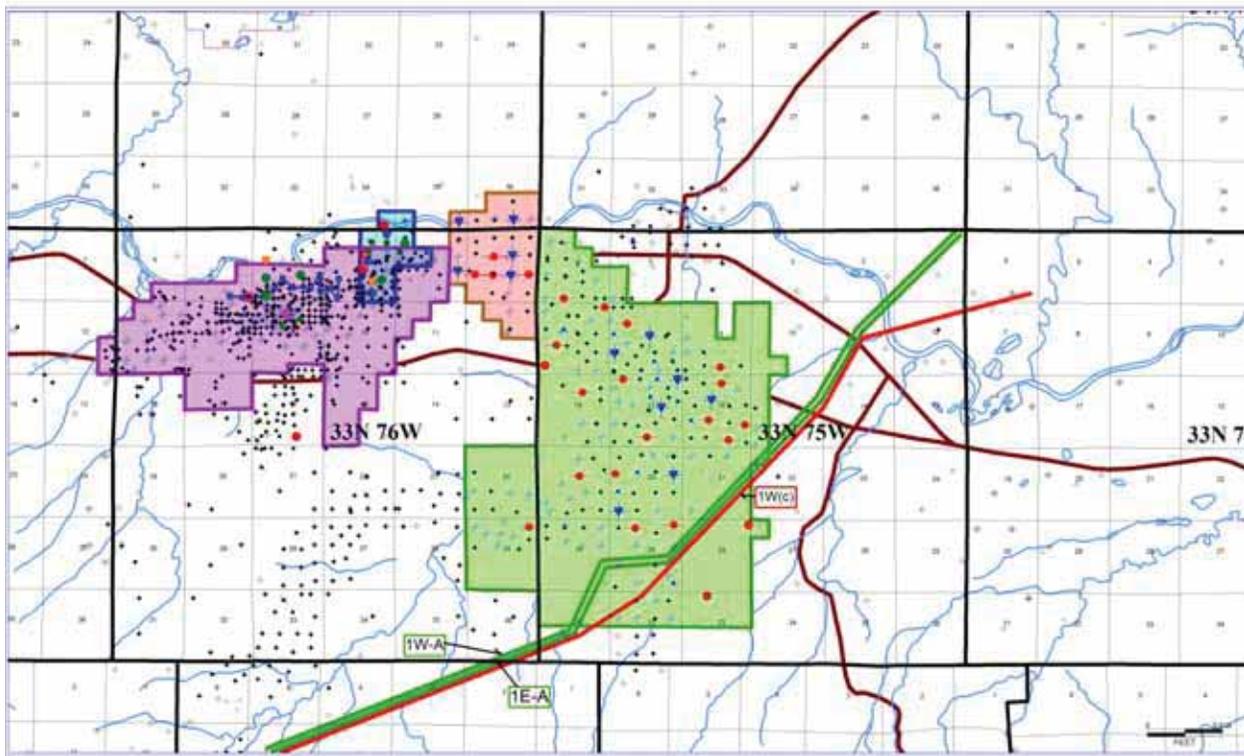
The following map is from the BLM that shows the initial segments of the proposed transmission lines. This map shows Segment 1E/1W – Wyoming, and is from Figure E.2-1 from the Draft EIS. Six representatives from Linc Energy attended the open house in Douglas on Thursday October 6, 2011. We reviewed the materials presented and discussed the routes and timing with representatives from the BLM, Glenrock, and Rocky Mountain Power.



It is our understanding that the existing transmission from the Dave Johnston Power Plant at Glenrock follows the route shown in red as 1W(c) on the map shown above. Linc Energy fully supports an expansion of this route to meet the additional transmission requirements out of the area, either 1E-A or 1W-A shown in green. To Linc this route creates the least disturbance to the area and achieves the goals at increasing transmission.

It is our understanding that proposed line route 1E is currently impractical and therefore unlikely to happen. Proposed route 1W (a) that goes west along the north side of the town of Glenrock then heads south should be moved farther west to avoid crossing Linc Energy's units to make sure that our present and future oil field operations are not affected.

Linc energy purchased the fields near Glenrock from Rancher Energy in March, 2011. Since that time the company has been actively pursuing the redevelopment of the producing properties. It is also the company's intent to initiate a CO2 Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) program in both the South Glenrock field and the Big Muddy field. The attached map shows the locations of Linc's assets in the Glenrock Area. From West to East, Linc operates the Big Muddy River Unit (Frontier) in Purple, East Big Muddy Unit (Dakota) in Blue, South Glenrock A Unit in Red, and the South Glenrock B Unit in Green.



Both the South Glenrock and Big Muddy Units have been evaluated for CO2 EOR and it is the company's intent to pursue this potential. The route that works for Linc Energy is shown in green on the above map. The eastern route is the existing 1W(c), and would also represent the 1W-A or 1E-A of the proposed expansion. The western route, 1W(a) cuts across the eastern area of the Big Muddy Unit and the Glenrock Unit.

As shown on the map, the eastern routes skirt the South Glenrock B unit and will not impact Linc's oil field operations. For this reason we would favor this route.

The greatest impact to our oil field operations is that we cannot raise a rig, either drilling or work-over, near overhead power lines. Therefore we will have to make sure that when and where the transmission is routed we will not expect to have wells located near there in any of our future plans. The fact that there is a transmission corridor near our fields will hopefully allow us to more easily work with Rocky Mountain Power to supply electricity for our EOR projects.

Regards,

Chris Mullen

General Manager – Oil and Gas, Rocky Mountains

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837
28 OCT 2011 PM 2 E



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

820037018



100324

October 28, 2011
Ray Liercke
Mountain Home Military Affairs Committee
295 East 3rd South
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

2011 NOV -1 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Day phone 208 573-4976

email mac@mountain-home.us & liercke@yahoo.com

Dear Sirs, The following represents the comments of the Military Affairs Committee of Mountain Home, Idaho made up of 90 local individual and businesses of the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Home, Idaho.

We strongly support the military in Idaho and oppose any impact that might encroach upon the bases or the military training in Idaho. The Mountain Home Training Range that includes airspace in Idaho Oregon and Nevada referred to as the Military Operating Area and two drop ranges Sailor Creek and Juniper Butte Ranges are considered some of the best training airspace and capability in the United States. We have worked hard to prevent it from encroachment and to date the Military Operating Area is authorized down to 100 feet above the ground for operational training and essentially cleared of any and all vertical obstructions that might impose a safety of flight issue. The areas around the two training ranges used for dropping training ordinance are extremely vital for military training and therefore vital to our national security. It is imperative that these areas be preserved for that purpose and no vertical obstruction impose any limitations on that capability.

We are aware that BLM and the Gateway West project have worked closely with Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho National Guard to try to adhere to their request of their desire to protect their training areas. We strongly support their request and would oppose any changes that would cause an encroachment issue to either of the bases or military training areas in Idaho. Your support of the military and our position is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Ray Liercke
President Military Affairs Committee
Mountain Home, Idaho

1/1



Billy Richey
<BRichey@mountain-home.us
>
10/28/2011 04:19 PM

To "Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov"
<Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West Comment on EIS

October 28, 2011
Ray Liercke
Mountain Home Military Affairs Committee
295 East 3rd South
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Day phone 208 573-4976

email mac@mountain-home.us & liercke@yahoo.com

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Sincerely

Ray Liercke
President Military Affairs Committee
Mountain Home, Idaho



"Desiree Taylor"
<desireent@vcn.com>
10/27/2011 08:55 AM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc "'Peter Nicolaysen'" <petercn@vcn.com>
bcc
Subject Gateway West Project Comment

Dear Mr. Walk George:

Please see the attached letter and map from Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC.

Desiree N. Taylor
Nicolaysen & Associates, P.C.
140 North Center Street
P.O. Box 7
Casper, WY 82602
307-237-1896
307-577-8799 (fax)

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SKMBT_C25011102707520.pdf

Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC
PO Box 459
Casper, WY 82602

October 26, 2011

Walt George, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Mr. George:

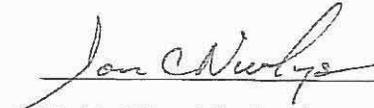
This is a comment on the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project. Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC is a small Wyoming oil and gas operator, and it owns and operates the South Glenrock Block C Unit, located immediately south of Linc Energy's East Big Muddy Unit and west of Linc's South Glenrock B Unit. The rough outline of the South Glenrock Block C Unit is shown as a yellow transparent polygon on the attached map, through which the proposed lines, 1W(a) and 1E, run.

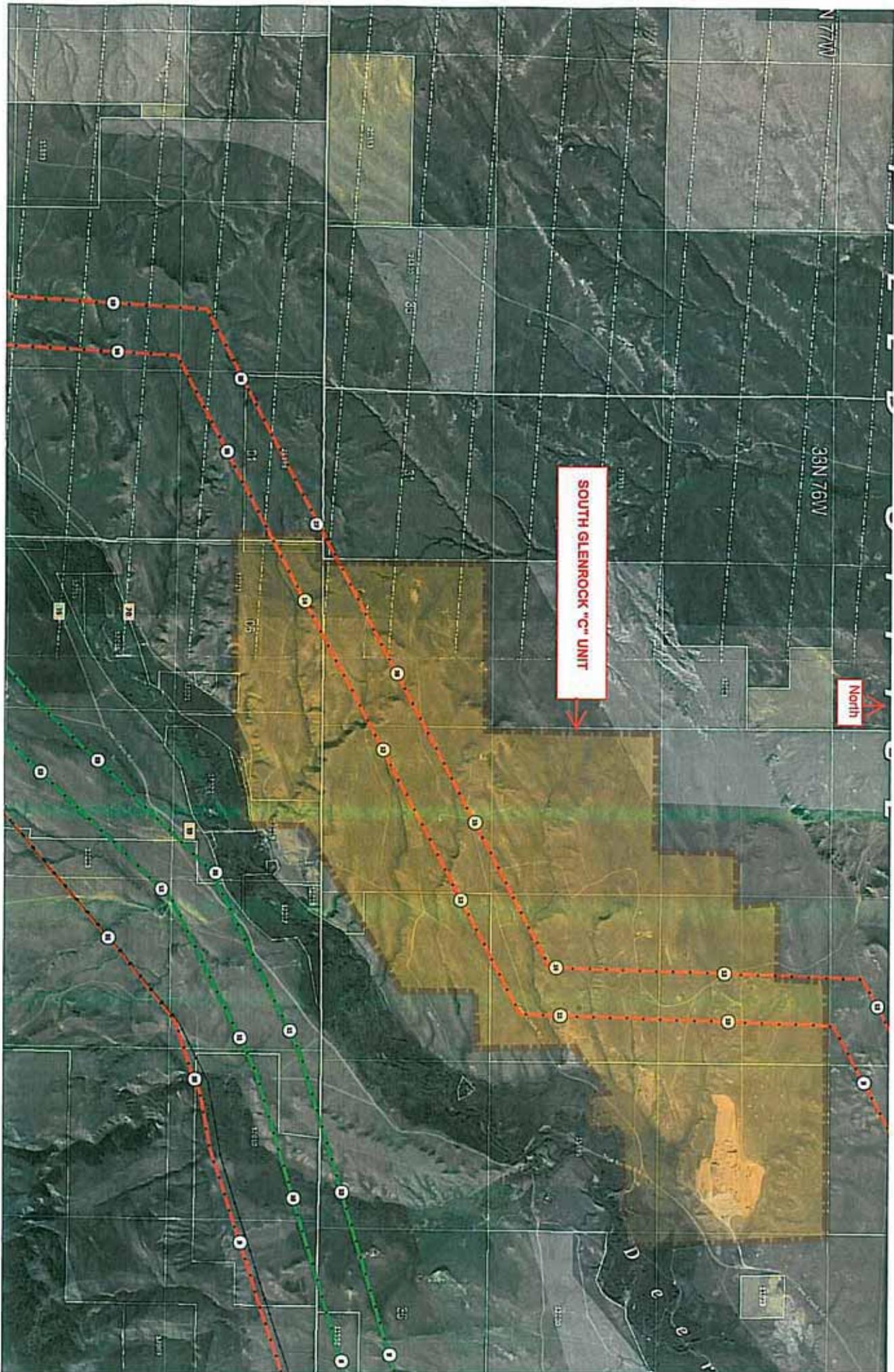
Muddy Mineral Exploration objects to proposed routes 1W(a) and 1E, as it appears they will be constructed directly through our field.

Muddy Mineral Exploration is developing this field and it intends to drill 60-70 new wells in the near future to produce the recoverable oil reserves, which are estimated at 5 million barrels. Muddy Mineral Exploration has spent significant sums on engineering and geology to develop its water-flood and CO2 programs in the South Glenrock Block C field. The development will require not only space for new wells and drilling rigs, but many pipelines, powerlines, and other facilities to undertake this extensive type of program. A new high voltage powerline and the right of way to accommodate it that runs through the middle of this field will severely impede development of this mineral resource.

Muddy Mineral Exploration supports expansion of 1W(c) and construction of lines parallel to it (1E-A). This corridor is least intrusive to the area in general and will not impact the development of the significant oil and gas resource at the South Glenrock Block C Unit.

Sincerely,

 Member,
Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC



CERTIFIED MAIL™



6060 0000 2142 3845



BWM
10.28

NICOLAYSEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. BOX 7
CASPER, WY 82602-0007

TO:

Wait George, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003



100304

Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC
PO Box 459
Casper, WY 82602

October 26, 2011



Walt George, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

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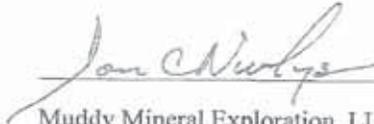
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CHEYENNE, WYOMING
DOI-BLM
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2011 OCT 31 AM 10:00

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Sincerely,

 Member,
Muddy Mineral Exploration, LLC

Duplicate

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Sam Shoul tz

Organi zati on:
Mule Creek Ranch

Mai l i ng Address:
51 Rustic RD

Mai l i ng Address 2:

Ci ty:
Bel l vue

State:
CO

Zi p:
80512

Dayti me Phone:
970-215-9433

E-mai l :
sfs@aaahawk.com

Confidential :
No

DEIS Locati on:

Comment:

This is in reference to proposed gateway west transmission line segment 1E-B alternative. I am sorry that I could not access the DEIS chapter, section or page number, but the segment number should help identify the area. This proposed collector line would go through some rough, mountainous terrain, interspersed with wet meadows, springs and bogs, and would be expensive to construct, and to maintain, especially when there are existing corridors to be utilized, and they run through the plains, a much cheaper route and one easier to maintain. In addition, this proposed route cuts through some of the prime elk calving grounds, and is also a part of the premier trophy elk area #7 (said to be one of the best in the state), an important breeding ground as well. A transmission line in this area would certainly be disruptive to the calving and breeding herds of elk, an important Wyoming resource for the future.

Please consider the impact of a line through these mountains, and consider using the existing corridor, for less expensive financial reasons, and for the benefit of the elk and grouse populations.

Sincerely
Sam Shultz

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 7:30 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West Transmission line 1 E-B alternative route in Albany County, Wyoming

----- Forwarded by Joy McClain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/17/2011 08:30 AM -----

"Sam Shoultz"
[<sfs@aaahawk.com>](mailto:sfs@aaahawk.com)

10/08/2011 01:39
 PM

[<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>](mailto:gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov)

To

cc

Subject

Gateway West Transmission line 1
 E-B alternative route in Albany
 County, Wyoming

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Please consider the impact of a line through these mountains, and consider using the existing corridor, for less expensive financial reasons, and for the benefit of the elk and grouse populations.

I understand there are other routes through Wheatland and Chugwater going to Aeolus that would not have the impacts noted above. If a collector line is needed, perhaps that is a better solution. We do not need to lose high quality habitat, especially if there are options that do less damage, and have less impact.

Sincerely
 Sam Shoultz

From: info@gatewayeis.com
To: [Gateway BLM;](#)
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 11:13:47 AM

100104

Name:
KESA LLC Sam Shoultz

Organization:
Mule Creek Ranch

Mailing Address:
51 Rustic RD

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Bellvue

State:
CO

Zip:
80512

Daytime Phone:
970-484-5688

E-mail:
sfs@aaahawk.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:

This is a comment on segment 1-E and 1-EB where it crosses over the Fetterman road. Both proposed segments cross our ranch, one on the west side, and one going E through us prior to going across the Fetterman RD. Both lines would go through areas of springs and sensitive meadows, and be in locations that would be difficult to build access roads through. The line would cross the Marshall road, which runs into the Mule Creek road (that 1-E would

cross), an existing maintained county road, that if followed by your line, would significantly cut down construction costs, and have far less impact on the area than constructing a new route through pristine areas. The impact of the line running along an existing road would be less, overall, to the area than the impact of the disturbance caused by new roads and construction in those areas of topography that are harder to reach. A line running along the Mule Creek road could possibly still be on our land (sec #9 & #10), but I would certainly be more in favor of that application. Many power lines run along the pathways of roads, this would be no different. I cannot find the numbers on your map for page # etc. asked for above.

Noh Sheep Company

3442 Addison Ave. East
Kimberly, Idaho 83341
(208) 733-3617

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
TWIN FALLS DISTRICT OFFICE
RECEIVED October 21, 2011



2011 OCT 21 PM 12 35

Walt George
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office

Dear Mr. George:

Here are the comments of Noh Sheep Company on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. Our concerns are focused on the southern, alternative routes which transect Shoshone Basin.

Scott Flinders, Tetra Tech, was most helpful at the Twin Falls open house in responding to our concerns that we had been unable to obtain or view maps adequate to determine the impact of various route proposals upon our private lands and grazing permits. He created a fine map and mailed it to us in good time. The maps on the CDs are inadequate. Neither the Twin Falls BLM office nor the Twin Falls County Commissioners had appropriate maps. Idaho Power did provide an internet site which was better, but still inadequate, and no maps with sufficient detail were available at the open house. I have talked with several other land owners and permit holders who experienced the same frustrations. Having worked with NEPA processes for many years in several capacities, I doubt that this lack of critical information meets the requirements of the law.

Noh Sheep Company is the owner of range lands which lie directly on the midline of the segment running north from the Idaho-Nevada border to the junction of segments 7I and 7J, in the vicinity of Big Creek. Both our private and National Forest lands which are included in our grazing permits are also within the highlighted area on either side of the midline. The midline of Segment 7I also crosses the southwest corner of our private grazing lands (parcel

RP15516E107200) in Shoshone Basin, where additional private lands and BLM lands within our grazing allotment are within the highlighted area.

Our son, John, the current manager of Noh Sheep Company, is the fourth generation of ownership of these properties and associated National Forest and BLM permits.

Our greatest concern is with private lands in the immediate vicinity of Big Creek, some of which are committed to two, relatively small, fenced pastures used for summer grazing for all of our rams and thus are critical for our entire operation of 2,500 breeding ewes. One of these parcels is directly on Big Creek as it enters a small canyon, and is also the location of our major sorting corrals and facilities for loading trucks. These ram pastures and facilities have unique properties, cannot be replicated elsewhere and are bisected by the midline.

Big Creek, at this location, runs through a small canyon with vertical walls, with considerable rocky areas on either side. This reach of Big Creek has extensive, healthy riparian areas and is inhabited by an extensive beaver colony. Big Creek is also a major tributary of Shoshone Creek, an important component of maintaining water quality in Salmon Falls Creek and Reservoir. These physical circumstances will likely lead to increased construction of roads for access and higher costs.

At this same site is another unique, historical feature which would have to be protected. At the time these lands were homesteaded, or possibly before. With great effort, a ditch was constructed to convey water diverted from Big Creek above the canyon, west along the canyon rim to irrigate hay ground some distance downstream. It is a remarkable testimony to the energy and hardships of that era, and should be preserved.

The recent court settlement of Earth Guardians v. Salazar moves the Endangered Species act and sage-grouse to center stage. The Shoshone Basin Sage-grouse Local Working Group, which has not been contacted by the proponents, has listed infrastructure development as the second greatest threat to sage-grouse in the area. Data in Appendix D makes it clear that Alternative Segments 7I and 7J are likely to have much greater adverse impacts upon sage-grouse than other alternatives. Adverse impacts upon this unique, successful sage-grouse population caused by Gateway or other major infrastructure developments could

significantly reduce values of private lands and permits. These costs are not addressed in the Draft.

Because the alternative route along the Nevada-Idaho border, including segments 7I and 7J, traverse dry, often remote rangelands as compared with the proposed route, the possibility of invasion and spread of invasive weeds is much greater. Major travel routes into Shoshone basin from Jackpot and Rogerson are predictable routes for invasion. Vacant lots in Jackpot are filled with knap weed. Vehicle and ORV traffic from there is increasing. Some private and BLM lands in the vicinity of Rogerson are also likely sources for invasion. Any activity in this type of terrain which increases roads invites increased use by ORVs. Risk analysis involves an estimate of the probability of an event occurring times the cost. In spite of the best intentions and short term efforts portrayed in the Draft, the long term costs of an occurrence to all private land owners and other dependent interests are enormous. This is reason enough to reject the southern route.

Any time roads of any kind are added the growing problems of gates left open, vandalism, irresponsible ORV use and other complications increase.

My reading of the draft found no reference or role for the Twin Falls Weed Bureau, the most professional, aggressive, effective defense against invasive weeds in this project area.

We do appreciate the enormous efforts which have gone into this effort by the Bureau of Land Management, and appreciate the assistance given to us and to the public.

Sincerely yours,



Laird Noh