

## READER'S GUIDE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project (Draft EIS). The purpose of the federal action on federally managed lands is to determine if the use of those lands for portions of the Gateway West Project is in the public interest. The need for the action is established by the federal agencies' responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act<sup>1</sup> to respond to an application for a right-of-way. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must respond under the Clean Water Act<sup>2</sup> to an application for a permit to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The public will have 90 days to review this Draft EIS. Given that the document consists of about 3,150 pages, 7 chapters and 10 appendices, we prepared this Reader's Guide to assist your review. It includes general guidance as well as a section-by-section summary and guide.

We hope this Guide will help you find information more easily, understand the various components of the proposal and how they are constructed, and have a complete understanding of measures incorporated into the proposal by the Proponents that are analyzed as part of the Proposed Action, and the mitigation measures required by the BLM and Forest Service in addition to the Proponents' Proposed Action.

### GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Sections of the Draft EIS have been divided into separate volumes. The volumes are identified in the section-by-section guide below, along with the approximate number of pages. The volume contents are also listed in the front of each volume.
- Given the length of the Draft EIS, readers are encouraged to maximize their use of the electronic version of the document. All sections of the Draft EIS can be downloaded from the project Web site ([http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west)). CD copies of the Draft EIS may also be requested at this site.
- The electronic copies of all sections are provided in PDF format, with bookmarks included to assist in navigating through the text.
- Acronyms are defined upon their first use. A master list of all acronyms used in the Draft EIS is provided in the front of each volume.
- A consolidated list of literature cited is located in Chapter 7.
- Appendix B contains detailed design information on the transmission line and its ancillary facilities. It also contains a narrative description of how the transmission line will be built. You are encouraged to review this material if you are not familiar with transmission line construction.
- Appendix C contains the Proponent's proposed Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs). These measures are incorporated as part of the Proposed Action. Because many of these measures have not typically been included in

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, 43 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 22

<sup>2</sup> Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251

project proposals, you are encouraged to review this material to understand the impacts analysis in Chapter 3.

- Appendix D contains tables comparing quantitative impacts to various resources across route alternatives. Many readers find these tables a quick reference for impact and route comparisons.

## REVIEWING THE DRAFT EIS

At a minimum, we recommend reviewing the following parts of the Draft EIS:

- Chapter 1, “Purpose and Need”
- Chapter 2, “Alternatives”
- Appendix B, “Transmission Line and Substation Components Common to All Action Alternatives”
- Appendix C, “Environmental Protection Plan and Measures”

**Chapter 1** presents (1) the Proponent’s purpose and need for the Project and the purpose and need for the agency actions, (2) a list of issues identified during scoping that form the basis for the analysis and provides a comparison of the alternatives considered across all resources, (3) information on the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis, and (4) the laws, regulations, and policies bearing on the proposal.

**Chapter 2** is the heart of the EIS and summarizes the results of the detailed analysis found in Chapters 3 and 4. Alternatives analyzed in detail and those considered but not analyzed (and rationale why they were not fully analyzed) are presented in this chapter. In Chapter 2 you will also find a summary of the EPMs proposed by the Proponents and considered part of the project description. In many cases, BLM and the Forest Service have required additional mitigation, and those mitigation measures are also summarized in Chapter 2. For a narrative summary comparison of the alternatives and cumulative effects, please see Sections 2.9 and 2.10.

If you have time to read **Chapter 3**, please first carefully read the introduction in Section 3.1. The Project is so large and, for some segments, there are so many alternatives, that understanding how each resource section is organized will save time and reduce confusion. Very importantly, please note that much of the analysis is reported in the “Effects Common to All Action Alternatives” subsection and is not repeated in the comparison of impacts among alternatives in each resource section of Chapter 3.

Chapter 3 combines both Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (sometimes presented as separate chapters in other EIS documents). This allows an analysis by resource that starts with a description of the resource across the analysis area and then describes the consequences of permitting the Proposed or Alternative Routes across that analysis area for that resource.

We arranged the effects discussion in Chapter 3 by resource rather than segment because this avoids repeating basic resources information in each segment narrative. If you are interested in the Project effects to a particular resource (e.g., wildlife or water resources), across the entire project, you would read Sections 3.10 and 3.16, respectively. If you are interested in all the Project effects in a certain segment, you will need to use the bookmark for that segment’s text in each of the resource sections of Chapter 3. The CD format of the Draft EIS is bookmarked and will facilitate this type of review.

The following table presents a summary description of each chapter and appendix and explains how they support one another in displaying the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Section	Description
Executive Summary (Vol. 1a, ~28 pages)	This stand-alone summary provides an understanding of why the agencies have prepared the Draft EIS, summary-level descriptions of each agency’s proposed actions and alternatives, and the potential impacts of these actions.
1: Purpose and Need (Vol. 1a, ~40 pages)	This chapter provides the purpose and need for the agencies’ actions; the purpose and need for the Project itself, the scope of analysis; Cooperating Agencies; presents a description of applicable federal orders and mandates and provides a list of permits, consultations, and approvals required for the Project to be constructed and operated; summarizes the scoping conducted for the Project; and lists the issues that were raised during scoping that drive the analysis.
2: Alternatives Considered (Vol. 1a, ~212 pages)	This chapter is the heart of the EIS and provides a description and a summary comparison of the Proposed Action, Route Alternatives, the Design Schedule, and Structure Variations, and the No Action Alternative. It includes alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis and the rationale for this decision. It provides a detailed description of the Proposed Action and the design and construction components common to all Action alternatives. Chapter 2 summarizes the comparison among Route Alternatives, presents a summary of mitigation measures, and also summarizes the needed plan amendments. It is supplemented by <b>Appendix A</b> , which shows maps of the Proposed and Alternative Routes; by <b>Appendix B</b> , which provides design and construction details common to all action alternatives; and by <b>Appendix F</b> , which details the proposed plan amendments for both National Forest System Lands and Public Lands managed by the BLM.
3: Affected Environment and Environmental Effects (Vol. 1a, ~758 pages and Vol. 1b, ~746 pages)	This chapter is organized by resource, and is introduced by a general guide to the chapter, explaining how each resource is organized and how disturbance is calculated (Section 3.1). It covers, by resource, the affected environment and the environmental consequences of the Action Alternatives and compares them to the No Action Alternative. It also analyzes the impacts of the plan amendments where they change underlying land classification and could have impacts beyond that of the project itself. It provides the detailed analysis that supports the comparison of alternatives found in Chapter 2, and is itself supported by detailed tables of comparisons found in <b>Appendix D</b> and by maps and simulations of visual impacts found in <b>Appendix E</b> . Sections 3.1 through 3.9 are found in Volume 1a, while Sections 3.10 through 3.23 are found in Volume 1b.
4: Cumulative Effects (Vol. 1b, ~96 pages)	Chapter 4 presents the cumulative effects of the Gateway West Project when considered together with the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the analysis area. It includes the rationale for selecting other actions for inclusion, lists and describes those actions or projects, and presents an analysis of their cumulative effect. It includes consideration of land use plan amendments and is supported by maps presented at the end of <b>Appendix E</b> .
5: Consultation and Collaboration (Vol. 1b, ~24 pages)	This chapter highlights the consultation and collaboration process for the proposed Project, including the general public as well as Tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies and organizations.
6: Glossary and Index (Vol. 1b, ~26 pages)	The glossary provides definitions of specialized words and phrases found in the document and also briefly defines the important federal laws that provide the framework for the analysis. The index allows the reader to search the document by important word or phrase.

Section	Description
7: Literature Cited (Vol. 1b, ~50 pages)	This chapter presents literature cited, organized alphabetically by author for the entire document.
Appendix A (Vol. 3, ~18 pages)	Appendix A provides 11 x 17" maps of the Proposed Route and Alternative Routes, starting with a map that covers the whole project and followed by maps for each segment. For each segment, the maps depict the Proposed Route in red, the Alternative Routes considered in detail in green, and the Alternatives not considered in detail in purple. Detailed maps of each substation follow.
Appendix B (Vol. 2, ~80 pages)	Appendix B, Transmission Line and Substation Components Common to All Action Alternatives, is derived from the Proponents' Plan of Development and contains design details that supplement the description found in <b>Chapter 2</b> .
Appendix C (Vol. 2, ~226 pages)	Appendix C contains the Proponents' proposed Environmental Protection Measures that were considered as part of the Proposed Action. The EPMs were submitted to the BLM as plans, and have been presented here in five sections within the Appendix, including Environmental Protection Measures and Plans (C-1), Framework Reclamation Plan for Construction (C-2), Proposed Plant and Wildlife Conservation Plan –Construction Activities (C-3), Plan for Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Response Activities (C-4), Greater Sage-grouse Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (C-5), and Framework Mitigation Plan for Unavoidable Impacts to Waters of the U.S. (C-6).
Appendix D (Vol. 3, ~202 pages)	Detailed large-format (11 x 17") tables comparing quantitative impacts across Route Alternatives are presented in Appendix D.
Appendix E (Vol. 3, ~123 pages)	Appendix E contains large-format (11 x 17") maps depicting the results of GIS analysis for various resources and also contains locational maps for Key Observation Points (KOPs) and the photographic simulations associated with those KOPs for both visual and cultural resources.
Appendix F (F-1 and F-2, Vol. 2., ~88 pages)	In several cases, for a Proposed or Alternative Route to be approved, the land management plan for the USFS or BLM unit crossed must be amended. Appendix F contains the language of each proposed plan amendment and a brief analysis of the need for the amendment and the effects of the amendment. Appendix F-1 details amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans or Management Framework Plans, while Appendix F-2 details amendments to Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plans.
Appendix G (G-1 and G-2, Vol. 2, ~356 pages)	Appendix G is the visual analysis supplement for Appendix F, and provides simulations of the Proposed or Alternative Route that would trigger a plan amendment, and the impacts to the underlying land allocations. Appendix G-1 supports the analysis of BLM plan amendments while Appendix G-2 supports the analysis of USFS plan amendments.
Appendix H (Vol. 2, ~52 pages)	This appendix provides the complete list of Interagency Operating Procedures (IOPs) from the Programmatic EIS for the West-wide Energy Corridors (DOE and BLM 2009). It shows how Gateway West has complied with those procedures and where such compliance can be found in the document.
Appendix I (Vol. 3, ~18 pages)	Appendix I presents a large-format (11x17") calendar of seasonal stipulations by wildlife species and by federal land managing unit
Appendix J (Vol. 2, ~4 pages)	This appendix provides details of the sage grouse analysis framework for interstate transmission lines.