



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828



In Reply Refer To:
2800/WYW174598-01
(920Gorny)

Dear Reader:

RE: Right-of-Way Application WYW174598-01, Gateway West Geotechnical Drilling Project

Idaho Power Company and Rocky Mountain Power have requested a short term right-of-way to conduct geotechnical surveys on Federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). An environmental assessment (EA) for the Gateway West Geotechnical Drilling Project has been completed by the BLM. EA No. WY-060-EA09-88 addresses a data gathering project intended to collect hydrogeologic and geotechnical soil information important in the design of foundations and support structures for the Gateway West transmission line structures, substations, and other associated building foundations. This drilling project is in association with the proposed and alternate routes of the Gateway West electric transmission line. An environmental impact statement on the transmission line is currently being developed.

The project extends between the Windstar Substation at Glenrock, Wyoming, and the Hemingway Substation approximately 30 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho. Data would be collected from approximately 914 borehole locations along the 1,149 miles of proposed route and an additional 873 miles of alternate transmission line routes. An estimated 38.5 miles of overland access would be used to access the borehole locations. Granting approval of the right-of-way for this geotechnical drilling project does not determine the location of the Gateway West Transmission Line project nor does it imply approval of the application for the transmission line construction and operation.

The BLM is providing a 30-day comment period prior to signing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record. Comments that clearly articulate site specific issues or concerns, and those received prior to the close of the comment period, are most useful to us and will be considered prior to the publication of the Decision Record.

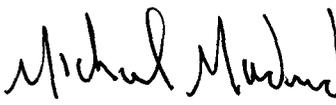
All comments, including names and addresses, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions by businesses or organizations, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of businesses or organizations, will be made available for inspection in their entirety.

The EA, maps at a 1:100,000 scale of the project area, and a draft FONSI can be reviewed at the following Bureau of Land Management website:

http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/documents.php

Comments on the EA must be submitted in writing to the BLM, Casper Field Office, at 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, or at the following email address: casper_wymail@blm.gov. Written comments must be received by July 22, 2009, to be considered. Contact Randy Sorenson at (307) 261-7522, or e-mail randy_sorenson@blm.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,


Larry Claypool
Deputy State Director,
Minerals and Lands