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*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## State of Utah

### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

#### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
*Division Director*

January 26, 2010

Kenneth L. Sizemore, Executive Director  
Five County AOG  
1070 West 1600 South, Bldg B  
St. George, Utah 84770

Subject: Evaluation of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program

Dear Mr. Sizemore:

Thank you for providing your email response to our October 27, 2009 letter regarding the evaluation process for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGM). Your input will help us to evaluate and improve the Utah Coal Regulatory Program.

The Division is interested in receiving input from local governments, especially when there is a new mine permitting action in the area. As you are aware, the Alton Coal Project (Coal Hollow) has recently been approved and could soon become active (although the approval is currently under appeal). We encourage the involvement of the elected officials in your area and strive to keep the lines of communication open. Please contact us with any comments or concerns as they arise.

Thank you once again for commenting on the DOGM evaluation process.

Sincerely,

Daron Haddock  
Coal Program Manager  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

an  
cc: Howard Strand, OSM  
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## State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

Division of Water Resources

DENNIS J. STRONG  
*Division Director*

January 27, 2010

Mr. Gary Zabriskie  
Five County Association of Governments  
1070 W. 1600 S., Bldg. B.  
St. George, UT 84770

Dear Mr. Zabriskie:

In accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c), the Utah Board of Water Resources (UBWR) submitted an Initial Study Report letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) on January 21, 2010 regarding the Lake Powell Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12966-001. The UBWR was required to submit an initial study report describing its progress in implementing the study plan approved by the Commission in the Study Plan Determination of January 21, 2009. The Study Plan Determination identified that UBWR submit its Initial Study Report by January 21, 2010 and hold an Initial Study Report meeting on February 5, 2010. The UBWR has been preparing draft reports for the studies identified in the Study Plan Determination, and many are currently undergoing internal review and will be available soon for submittal to the Commission as draft study reports. During recent discussions with Commission staff, they recommended the UBWR postpone the February 5, 2010 Initial Study Report Meeting until complete draft study reports can be submitted to the Commission to provide enough information to hold meaningful discussions with the stakeholders. The UBWR has postponed the February 5, 2010 Initial Study Report Meeting until a later date in 2010.

Enclosed is a table showing the current status of each study report and the months in 2010 when draft study reports are expected to be ready for review and comment by the resource management agencies, Indian tribes and other stakeholders. The UBWR will review the schedule for completing these draft study reports and discuss with Commission staff a revised schedule for submitting the draft study reports and holding the Initial Study Report Meeting. All stakeholders on the UBWR mailing list will be notified via a letter sent by U.S. Mail on the re-scheduled date for the Initial Study Report Meeting. Thank you for your continued interest in the Lake Powell Pipeline project.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Strong, P.E.  
Director

Enclosure

cc:



**AGENDA ITEM # X-A. (Continued)**

<b>Lake Powell Hydroelectric Project No. 12966                      Status of Approved Study Reports</b>			
Study Plan #	Study Plan Title	Current Status of Study Report <sup>1</sup>	Month Draft Study Report Complete <sup>2</sup>
1	Air Quality Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	May 2010
2	Aquatic Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
3	Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	May 2010
4	Geology and Soil Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
5	Groundwater Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	March 2010
6	Land Use Plans and Conflicts	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
7	Noise	Preliminary Draft Complete	March 2010
8	Paleontological Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
9	Recreation Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
10	Water Resource Economics/Socioeconomics	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
11	Special Status Aquatic Resource Species and Habitats	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	April 2010
12	Special Status Plant Species and Noxious Weed Assessment	Preliminary Draft Complete	July 2010
13	Special Status Wildlife Species and Habitat	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	August 2010
14	Transportation	Preliminary Draft Complete	March 2010
15	Vegetation Community Mapping	Preliminary Draft Complete	May 2010
16	Visual Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	May 2010
17	Surface Water Quality	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
18	Surface Water Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
19	Water Supply and Climate Change	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	May 2010
20	Wetlands and Riparian Resources	Preliminary Draft Complete	April 2010
21	Wildlife Resources	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	May 2010
22	Alternatives Development	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	April 2010
23	Ethnographic Resources	Preliminary Draft in Preparation	August 2010

**Notes:**  
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary draft study reports currently completed will be updated to incorporate recent changes in the project made by Utah Board of Water Resources.  
<sup>2</sup> Month the draft report is expected to be ready for submittal to agencies, Indian tribes and other stakeholders for review and comment.

AGENDA ITEM # X-A. (Continued)

# SIGURD TO RED BUTTE No. 2 345kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT EIS

Newsletter No. 1 - January 2010

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on PacifiCorp's (Rocky Mountain Power) Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 345 kilovolt(kV) Transmission Line Project right-of-way application. The scoping meetings will also address the BLM's preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for geotechnical investigations associated with this project.

The proposed project would establish a new, single-circuit 345kV transmission line from the Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County to the Red Butte Substation near the town of Central in Washington County. The project's associated geotechnical investigations would be required to provide information needed to design the transmission line structural foundations.

This project may affect the areas around the communities of Sigurd, Richfield, Joseph, Elsinore, Glenwood, Annabella, Monroe, Junction, Kingston, Circleville, Milford, Beaver, Newcastle, Minersville, Paragona, Parowan, Enoch, Enterprise, Pinto, Central, and Pine Valley. This is the first in a series of newsletters to inform the public about the EIS and EA for the project.



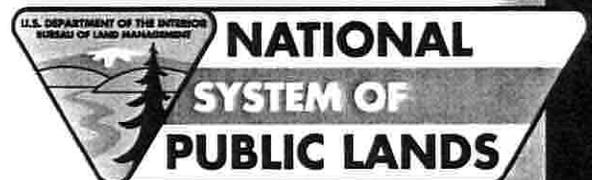
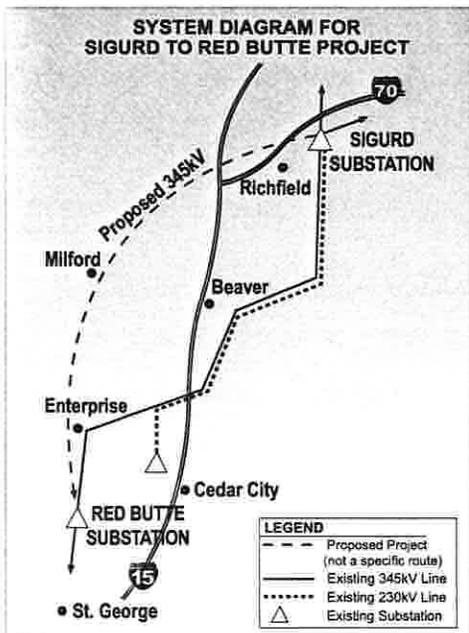
Photo of existing transmission lines on Fishlake National Forest

## WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

Southwestern Utah is one of the fastest-growing areas in Utah. Development of a new transmission line would provide additional capacity to help meet growing regional demand for electricity and improve the reliability and operational flexibility of the overall electricity delivery system.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a federal law that serves as the nation's basic charter for environmental protection. For major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the natural, human and cultural environment, NEPA requires an EIS be prepared. An EIS provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and a range of reasonable alternatives. To comprehensively address the effects of all actions associated with this project, the results documented in the geotechnical investigations EA will be incorporated into the EIS. Through the NEPA process, the public has the opportunity to learn about an agency's proposed action and to provide information and comments to the agency.

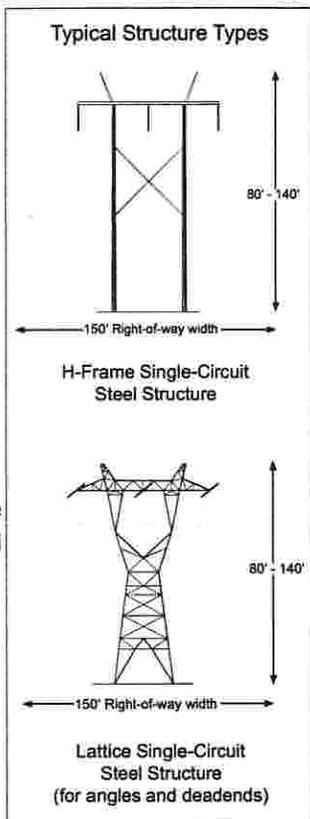


**WHAT WOULD THE TRANSMISSION LINE LOOK LIKE?**

The type of transmission line structure used depends on engineering design and constraints posed by land uses. The diagram to the right illustrates typical designs for the steel, single-circuit structures that would be used on this project. Depending on terrain, engineering factors, and other considerations, other structure designs could be used in specific locations.

Generally, the transmission line would consist of the following elements:

- Structure heights from 80 to 140 feet
- Spans between structures from 800 to 1,200 feet
- Right-of-way width of 150 feet
- Construction and maintenance access roads typically 14 feet wide



**PROJECT TIMELINE**

The anticipated timeline for the project is:

- Public scoping: 1st quarter 2010
- Draft EIS available: 1st quarter 2011
- Final EIS and Record of Decision: 3rd and 4th quarters 2011
- Right-of-way acquisition: 4th quarter 2010-2012
- Construction: 1st quarter 2012-2014

**HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE EIS PROCESS?**

The BLM, in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies, has developed a proactive public involvement program that will be integrated with the EIS process.

The first opportunity for public participation is during scoping. Scoping is the process by which the BLM solicits input on the issues and concerns that will be addressed and analyzed in the EIS. Scoping is open to the public and occurs early in the EIS process. Scoping for this project began with publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2010. The BLM will host four open houses from 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m on the dates and at the locations provided.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

- St. George - February 16, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Best Western Abbey Inn  
1129 South Bluff St.  
St. George, UT
- Milford - February 17, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Oak Tree Inn  
777 West Highway 21  
Milford, UT
- Enterprise - February 17, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Enterprise High School  
565 South 200 East  
Enterprise, UT
- Richfield - February 18, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Sevier Valley Center  
Snow Valley College  
Richfield Campus  
800 West 200 South  
Richfield, UT

**Your input and comments are valuable and important to the project. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these open house meetings.**

In addition to providing opportunities for the public to be involved, the open houses will feature displays explaining the purpose and need, project description, process of preparing the EIS, and associated schedule and maps showing the project area and environmental issues identified to date. Representatives from the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Rocky Mountain Power will be available to discuss the project with you. Your comments are welcome any time throughout the process. However, your comments will be most helpful to us at this early stage when we are determining which issues to address in the EIS.



Photo of Red Butte Substation

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 160-mile-long high-voltage transmission line, access roads, and related facilities. The environmental issues already identified for analysis include potential impacts to:

- Protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of plants or animals or their critical habitats
- Land use, including agricultural operations, recreation, and transportation
- Floodplains and wetlands
- Cultural or historic resources and Native American concerns
- Human health and safety
- Air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water)
- Visual resources

The BLM invites you to suggest specific issues and concerns within these general categories, or to suggest other issues that should be evaluated in the EIS.

Comments may be submitted to the BLM by:

- Filling out a comment form available at the open houses

- E-mailing comments to [utsrbproj@blm.gov](mailto:utsrbproj@blm.gov)
- Mailing comments to:  
Cedar City Field Office, BLM  
Attn: Rob Wilson  
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.  
Cedar City, UT 84721
- Calling the project comment line at 888-666-6470 or 801-349-2893

The public scoping period runs from January 5 through March 5, 2010.

As the project progresses, the BLM will continue to inform interested parties via the following methods:

- Periodic newsletters providing updates on the project
- Periodic announcements to regional and local newspapers and radio and television stations
- Open house meetings at key milestones during the EIS process

Also, information about the project can be found on the BLM's website at:

[www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar\\_city/planning/sigurd\\_red\\_butte.html/](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_red_butte.html/)