

RESOLUTION 2013-5
RESOLUTION RE-AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF
THE SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in renewable energy resources, and state and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development, and resulting revenues from taxes and the necessary provision of local governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) proposes to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV electrical transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity for existing and developing renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development resources are located primarily in the central and southern part of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide up to 4,500 megawatts of needed transmission capacity; and

WHEREAS, the existence of SunZia creates an opportunity for the development and construction of future wind and solar generation projects and related jobs that would otherwise not occur without transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are good for the environment and help to minimize our dependence upon foreign oil, reduce air pollution and diversify energy generation sources; and

WHEREAS, SunZia submitted a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in September of 2008, BLM issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on June 14, 2013, and BLM anticipates issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) on the right-of-way application in mid-September, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the FEIS provides a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to such impacts; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted nine public scoping meetings in New Mexico and fourteen total scoping meetings throughout SunZia's study area, has expanded the project study area on three occasions and extended the length of the initial scoping period to address initial public and military comments, has held other community meetings to request public input and identify possible issues of concern that may result from the project; and

WHEREAS, the BLM sought comments on specific issues and concerns related to alternative routes for the project's transmission facilities, affected environmental resources, and related matters; and

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as this County Commission are very important to development of a complete record for the FEIS and the ROD; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2011 this County Commission previously passed, approved and adopted Resolution 2011-18 declaring support of the SunZia project.

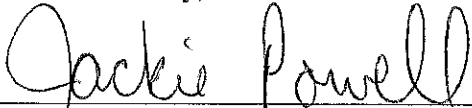
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this County Commission encourages the development of renewable energy generation and transmission projects in the state of New Mexico, and when possible specifically within Lincoln County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this County Commission supports the construction and operation of additional transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for New Mexico's renewable energy projects; and

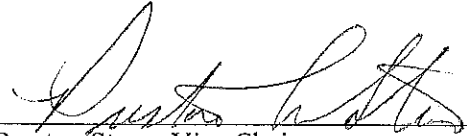
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners re-affirms their endorsement of the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, and urges the BLM to judiciously expedite issuance of the ROD for SunZia's right-of-way application in order to expand regional economic development opportunities in New Mexico, by creating the necessary transmission capacity to deliver New Mexico's renewable energy resources to western customers and markets.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 16th day of July 2013.

Board of Commissioners
Lincoln County, State of New Mexico




Jackie Powell, Chair

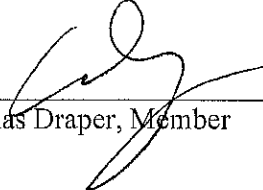


Preston Stone, Vice Chair

Kathryn Minter, Member



Mark Doth, Member



Dallas Draper, Member

ATTEST:



Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk

