



BLM NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE ■ 1474 RODEO RD ■ SANTA FE, NM 87505
Hans Stuart ■ External Affairs Chief ■ 505.438.7510

For Immediate Release
July 13, 2009

For Additional Information
Adrian Garcia 505.438.7424
Donna Hummel 505.438.7422

BLM Extends Comment Period on Public Input on Proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Santa Fe, N.M. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public comment period on the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Line Project through August 28, 2009. The initial public scoping comment period was scheduled to end July 13, 2009; however, due to numerous requests from groups, organizations, and concerned citizens, the BLM has made a decision to grant an extension to the formal comment period.

“The extended scoping comment period will give the public more time and an additional opportunity to share comments and concerns and identify issues and alternatives to be considered during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process,” said Linda Rundell, BLM New Mexico State Director. The BLM is the lead federal agency for a proposal by SunZia Transmission LLC to construct, operate, and maintain a high-voltage 500 kilovolt (kV) power transmission line (or two parallel lines) across southern New Mexico and Arizona. SunZia’s proposed transmission line would route would be about 460 miles in length and originate at a new substation site in either Socorro or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico; it would terminate in Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed line – or parallel lines - would be located on federal, state, and private lands. The purpose of the project would be to transport electricity, generated primarily from renewable resources, to western power markets and centers.

The BLM is the lead federal agency and will oversee the preparation of the EIS that will identify environmental impacts and evaluate alternatives for the project. The final agency decision for the proposed route, which would involve decisions on federal Right-of-Way designations, will only affect public lands administered by the BLM.

Cooperating agencies will be invited to participate, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the New Mexico State Land Office and the Arizona State Land Department. Other state agencies and local governments will be invited to participate and consultation will occur with tribal governments.

Comments can be made to the BLM via the BLM Project Website at http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty.html via the project email address at NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov or in writing to the Bureau of Land Management, SunZia Transmission Line Project, P.O Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115. Deliveries will be accepted via courier/hand delivery to the Bureau of Land Management, SunZia Transmission Line Project, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

To be added to the mailing list or if you have questions contact BLM Project Manager Adrian Garcia at (505) 438-7424.

X X X