



Over 3,000 high-paying infrastructure jobs coming to New Mexico

By [Mikhail Zinshteyn](#) | 10.06.11 | 4:45 pm

Yesterday, the Obama administration fast-tracked seven transmission projects across 12 states — including one in New Mexico — that will generate thousands of construction jobs and increase electric output in the Southwest and Rocky states.

From [Smart Grid](#):

SunZia Transmission, LLC, plans to construct and operate up to two 500 kV transmission lines originating at a new substation in Lincoln County in the vicinity of Ancho, New Mexico, and terminating at the Pinal Central Substation in Pinal County, near Coolidge, Arizona. The project will engender about 3,408 direct jobs during the construction period.

The planned development will stretch from just south of Albuquerque to Las Cruces.

“Transmission is a vital component of our nation’s energy portfolio, and these seven lines, when completed, will serve as important links across our country to increase our power grid’s capacity and reliability,” [said](#) Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in a statement. “This is the kind of critical infrastructure we should be working together to advance in order to create jobs and move our nation toward energy independence.”

In total, 10,000 jobs will be created through the administration’s efforts, called Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT). Nine federal agencies are involved, including The Departments of Energy, The Interior, Commerce and The U.S. Department of Agriculture.