

United States Government

Department of Energy

Western Area Power Administration

memorandum

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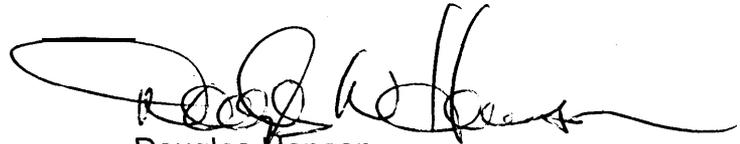
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: A7400

SUBJECT: Annual NEPA Planning Summary

TO: Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42

Please find attached the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Summary for calendar year 2002. This summary is an excerpt of Western's 2002 Annual Site Environmental Report under preparation. Upon approval of the Annual Site Environmental Report, a copy will be provided. An electronic copy of the NEPA summary has been provided to Katherine Nakata of your staff.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Nancy Werdel at (720) 962-7251.



Douglas Hanson
Acting Environment Manager

Attachment

cc:
K. Nakata, Environmental Protection Specialist, EH-42, Washington, DC

National Environmental Policy Act CY2002 Annual Report

Western continued to review activities for environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 2002. Environmental planning activities fall under three categories: (1) Western projects, including maintenance and upgrades of Western's transmission lines and facilities, (2) cooperating agency projects, where Western acts as a cooperating agency where other Federal agencies are the lead, and (3) work requested by private parties, such as power plant interconnections and use of Western's transmission towers for telecommunication systems.

As summarized in Table 1, Western completed 126 Categorical Exclusions (CX), one Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), two Draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and issued one Record of Decision (ROD). Western also worked on an additional seven EAs. Four private proponent projects were suspended, and one EA is on hold to assess routing alternatives. Two private proponent projects were reviewed, but a determination on the appropriate level of NEPA compliance is pending further definition of the proposed projects.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF NEPA ACTIONS

NEPA Action	Western Projects	Cooperating Agency Projects	Private Proponent Projects	Total
CX completed	126			126
EA completed			1	1
EA in progress	6		1	7
EA on hold	1			1
EIS completed	1 (Draft)		1 (Draft)	2
EIS in progress				
ROD issued		1		1
FONSI issued				
Under consideration			2	2
EIS/EA suspended			3	3
EIS Cancelled			1	1

Western Activities

Western conducts reviews for potential impact of business activities on the environment. The majority of activities reviewed were categorically excluded from further NEPA documentation based on Subpart D of 10 CFR 102.1. The status of the EAs and EISs are listed here. A list of completed and ongoing CXs is compiled in Table 2.

Western Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements

Creek Crossing for Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line (California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP)) EA (DOE/EA-1353)

- EA Determination signed November 2000.
- The EA placed on hold pending receipt of new information on alternate access options (May 2001).

Sacramento Valley Right-of-Way Maintenance (DOE/EA-1395)

- EA Determination signed January 18, 2001.
- Draft EA expected spring of 2003.

Sacramento Voltage Support (DOE/EIS-0323)

- EIS Determination signed August 8, 2000.
- Public scoping meetings held September 12-21, 2000 in Folsom, Lodi, and Marysville, California.
- Public workshops held March 22 and September 19, 2001 in Folsom, California.
- Draft EIS released on November 15, 2002.
- Public Hearings held December 9, 11, and 12, 2002 in Lodi, Folsom and Marysville, California.

Wolf Point- Williston Transmission Line Project (DOE/EA-1401)

- EA Determination signed July 24, 2001.
- Draft EA released January 22, 2003.

Charlie Creek- Williston Fiber Optic Project, Overhead Ground Wire Installation (DOE/EA-1389)

- EA Determination signed March 20, 2001.
- Draft EA expected spring 2003.

Havre-Rainbow Transmission Project (DOE/EA-1424)

- EA Determination signed December 2001
- Alternate routes are being evaluated to determine their feasibility.
- Draft EA expected fall 2003.

Headgate Rock-Blythe (formerly named Parker-B&he No. 1), 161 -kV Transmission Line Pole Replacement Project (DOE/EA-1427)

- EA Determination signed December 12, 2001.
- Final EA expected early 2003.

Cheyenne-Miracle Mile I 15-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (DOE/EA-1456)

- EA Determination signed December 12, 200 1.
- Draft EA expected summer 2003.

**TABLE 2. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS ONGOING OR COMPLETED
IN CALENDAR YEAR 2002¹**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	COMPLETED
<i>Colorado River Storage Project</i>	
Rate Adjustment for Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects Firm Power, CRSP Transmission and Ancillary Services	04/02
Page Electric Utility Energy Supply Contract	12/02
<i>Desert Southwest Region</i>	
Coolidge-Electrical District 2 #1 115-kV and Coolidge-Oracle 115-kV Transmission Line Structure Replacement(Arizona)	01/02
Parker-Planet Ranch 69-kV Transmission Line Access Road Relocation	01/02
Oracle-Tucson 230-kV Transmission Line Pole Replacement and Double Circuit Installation (Arizona)	02/02
Apache Substation Breaker Replacement (Arizona)	02/02
Phoenix-Maricopa 115-kV Transmission Line Upgrade Structures 3 1/4 to 36/1 (Arizona)	03/02
Electrical District #5 Substation Strain Bus Replacement (Arizona)	03/02
Harcuvar Substation Breaker Replacement (Arizona)	04/02
Maricopa to Casa Grande Transmission Line Upgrade to 230-kV and Expansion of the Casa Grande Substation (Arizona)	05/02
Cochise Substation Easement Out-Grant for Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (Arizona)	05/02
Saguaro-Oracle 230-kV Transmission Line Thermal Upgrade (Arizona)	06/02
Lone Butte Substation Upgrade (Arizona)	07/02
Senator Wash Substation Breaker Replacement (Arizona)	08/02
Parker-Blythe #1 230-kV Transmission Line Staging Storage Areas (Arizona-California)	08/02
Peacock-Prescott-Pinnacle Peak 230-kV Transmission Line Inset Structure Placement (Arizona)	10/02
Liberty Substation Heavy Equipment Training (Arizona)	10/02
Mead Fiber Optic Project (Boulder City, Nevada)	11/02
<i>Rocky Mountain Region</i>	
Horsetooth Dam Project (Colorado)	01/02
Fleming and Frenchman Creek Substations SPCC Measures (Colorado)	02/02
Gunnison Substation Property Transfer (Colorado)	02/02
Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake Reroute Project (Colorado)	02/02
Wagon Wheel Substation and Interconnection (Wyoming)	02/02
Windsor Substation Modifications (Colorado)	02/02
Big Horn-Basin Upgrade Project Line Upgrade, including Big George-Carter Mountain Transmission Line Upgrade and Cedar Mountain Microwave Site Repairs (Wyoming)	03/02

¹ In previous years Western reported ongoing projects in this listing of CXs. However, due to the increasing number of potential projects that never reach maturity, Western has chosen to limit this list to only completed CXs. For consistency purposes, those projects considered ongoing in the CY2001 report will be reported until a CX is completed or the project is cancelled.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	COMPLETED
Wray Substation Modifications (Colorado)	03/02
Granby Sub-Willow Creek Pumping Plant-Willow Creek Dam 2.4 kV Transmission Lines Pole Replacements (Colorado)	04/02
Troublesome Sub-Colorado Irrigation Pump 12.5-kV Transmission Line Pole Replacements and Existing Access Road Repairs (Colorado)	04/02
Midway Substation Microwave Tower (Colorado)	04/02
Curecanti-Montrose 115-kV Access Road Repair Between Structures 1 0/3 and 1 0/4 (Colorado)	05/02
Heart Mountain Substation (Wyoming)	05/02
Rate adjustment for the Western Area Colorado Missouri Control Area Energy Imbalance Service	05/02
Curecanti-Blue Mesa, Blue Mesa-Salida Fire Protection and Access Road Repairs (Colorado)	06/02
Lingle and Lyman Taps Structure Replacements (Wyoming)	06/02
Salida Substation Equipment Replacements and Upgrades (Colorado)	06/02
Island Lake Microwave Tower (Colorado)	07/02
Blue Mesa-Skito 115-kV Transmission Line, Structure 12/1 Crossarm and Pole Replacement (Colorado)	07/02
Box Butte-Chadron Transmission Line Structure Repairs and Existing Access Road Repairs (Nebraska)	08/02
Ault Substation Communication Site, Transformer and Meter Installation (Colorado)	08/02
Deer Peak Microwave Tower (Colorado)	08/02
Lovell-Thermopolis 115-kV Transmission Line Access Road Repairs and Pole Replacement (Colorado)	08/02
Big Horn-Baisn Metering Site Installation (Wyoming)	09/02
Kiowa Creek-Hoyt 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Colorado)	10/02
Curecanti-Montrose 115-kV Transmission Line, Structure 12/3 Locate Anchor Rod and Possible Replacement (Colorado)	12/02
East Pryor Microwave Site Permit Renewal (Montana)	ongoing
Shiprock-Four Corners 345-kV Termination (New Mexico)	ongoing
Lyman Substation Expansion (Wyoming)	ongoing
Boysen Peak Microwave Site Upgrades (Wyoming)	ongoing
Gering-Stegall North and South Access Road Maintenance (Nebraska)	ongoing
PMOC Auxiliary Power Supply (Colorado)	ongoing
XCEL Energy Interconnection at Steamboat Springs (Colorado)	ongoing
Estes and Mary's Lake Substation Transformer Removal and Replacement (Colorado)	ongoing
Archer-Stegall Access Road Repairs (Wyoming/Nebraska)	ongoing
Stegall-Wayside Culvert Installation (Nebraska)	ongoing
Sheep Knob Microwave Site Access Road Repairs (Colorado)	ongoing
Magnetic Mountain Microwave Building Installation (Colorado)	ongoing
Lovell-Yellowtail #1 and 2 Cultural Surveys (Wyoming)	No CX Required
Glendo-Lusk/Glendo-Podolak Cultural Survey (Wyoming)	No CX Required
Windy Gap-Granby Pumping Plant Cultural Surveys (Colorado)	No CX Required
Glen Canyon-Shiprock Cultural Survey (Arizona/New Mexico)	No CX Required
<i>Sierra Nevada Region</i> (all actions on California)	
Security Gate & Sidewalk Installation Folsom Service Center	01/02
Round Mountain-Cottonwood 500-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal	01/02
Maxwell-Tracy 500-kV Transmission Line Culvert Repair Tower 108	01/02
Elverta Maintenance Center and Substation Herbicide Application	02/02

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	COMPLETED
Elverta Maintenance Center and Substation Access Road Maintenance	02/02
Tracy-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Tower Cleaning and Painting	02/02
California Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Access Road Vegetation Management, Tower 428	02/02
Herbicide Application at Western Substations	04/02
Keswick-Elverta and Olinda-Elverta 230-kV Transmission Lines, Towers 20/1 to 2 1/1, and Olinda-Tracy 500-kV Transmission Line, Towers 3/2 to 4/1, Tree Removal and Trimming	04/02
Keswick-Elverta and Olinda-Elverta 230-kV Transmission Lines, Towers 28/3 to 29/3, and Olinda-Tracy 500-kV Transmission Line, Towers 1 1/3 to 12/3, Tree Removal and Trimming	04/02
Shasta-Cottonwood #1 & #2 230 kV Transmission Line Tree Trimming, Towers 6/5 to 8/1	04/02
Flanagan-Keswick 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal, Tower 7/1	04/02
Keswick-Airport 230 kV Transmission Line Tree Removal, Towers 0/1 to 3/2	04/02
Keswick-Elverta and Olinda-Elverta 230-kV Transmission Line, Towers 4/1 to 5/1, and Shasta-Cottonwood #1 & #2 230-kV Transmission Line, Towers 1 1/1 to 12/1. Tree Removal/Trimming and Access Road Maintenance	04/02
Airport-Cottonwood 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal/Trimming. Towers 13/2 to 13/3 and 9/4 to 1 0/5	04/02
Roseville-Elverta 230-kV Transmission Line Nextel Cellular Installation Permit, Tower 2/1	04/02
Hurley-Tracy 230-kV Transmission Line Cingular Telecommunication Facility Installation Permit, Tower 12/5	04/02
COTP Communication Tower Access Road Upgrades	04/02
Contra Costa-Ygnacio 69-kV Transmission Line Wooden Pole Removal Project	06/02
COTP Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal Towers 164-180, 201-203, 276-287	06/02
Hurley-Tracy 230-kV Transmission Line Tree and Brush Removal Towers 1 1/2 to 1 1/4	06/02
Round Mountain-Cottonwood 500-kV Transmission Line Tree and Brush Removal Towers 5/3 to 6/2	07/02
Contra Costa Water District Treatment Plant Tap Line	07/02
Folsom-Roseville 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal/Trimming, Tower 02/04	07/02
Hurley-Tracy 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal, Towers 44/5 to 45/1	08/02
Hurley-Tracy #2 230-kV Transmission Line Vegetation Clearance, Towers 50/4 to 50/5	08/02
Hurley-Tracy #2 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal/Trimming, Towers 54/3 to 55/2	08/02
Shasta-Cottonwood 230-kV Transmission Line Vegetation and Access Road Maintenance, Towers 0/4 to 6/1	08/02
Tracy-Ygnacio 69-kV Transmission line Transformer and Wooden Pole Removal	08/02
Roseville-Folsom 230-kV Transmission Line Tree Removal, Towers 1/5 to 2/2	09/02
Collections from Central Valley Project Power Contractors to Carry Out the Restoration, Improvement, and Acquisition of Environmental Habitat Provisions	10/02
COTP Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Vegetation Management & Access Road Upgrades, Towers 3 10 to 320	10/02
Cottonwood-Roseville 230-kV Transmission Line Tree and Brush Removal, Tower 113/2	10/02
Round Mountain-Cottonwood #1 230-kV Transmission Line Land Slide, Tower 0/3	10/02
Project Use Power Purchase Under the 2004 Power Marketing Plan	11/02
Elverta-Hurley 230-kV Transmission Line Collocate Cingular Wireless Transmitter, Tower 5/2	11/02
Malin-Round Mountain 230-kV Transmission Line Vegetation Management & Access	11/02

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	COMPLETED
Road Upgrade, Towers 80/4 to 86/1	
Shasta-Cottonwood #1 and 2, Road Repairs, Towers 23/1 to 28/1, 0/4 to 6/1	ongoing
Cottonwood-Roseville, Tree Removal, Towers 19/5 and 20/1	ongoing
Maxwell-Tracy, Tree Removal, Towers 155/4-156/1, 159/3-4	ongoing
<i>Upper Great Plains Region</i>	
Wessington Springs Communication Site Crossing Agreement for a Water Pipeline (South Dakota)	01/02
Bismarck Substation Maintenance Building Rebuild and Yard Regrading (North Dakota)	02/02
Carrington Substation Building Construction and Rebuild of Substation (North Dakota)	03/02
Glendive Substation Stage 03 Transformer Replacement (Montana)	03/02
Glendive Substation Automatic Security Gate Addition (Montana)	03/02
Watertown Maintenance Center Building Demolition (South Dakota)	03/02
Tiber-Tiber Tap 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild (Montana)	04/02
Antenna System Removal/Replacement at Knee Hill, Sheeps, Coulee, Tyler, Havre, Shelby #2, and Conrad Butte Microwave Sites (Montana)	05/02
Carrington Substation Transmission Line Easement (North Dakota)	05/02
Dawson County Substation Automatic Security Gate Addition (Montana)	05/02
Devils Lake Microwave Site Grounding, Fencing and Concrete Foundation Installation (North Dakota)	05/02
Elk Creek Substation Stage 01 Construction (North Dakota)	05/02
Fargo Substation Water Well Closure (North Dakota)	05/02
Jamestown Substation (North Dakota) New Transformer Installation	05/02
Jamestown Substation Building Construction (North Dakota)	05/02
Miles City Converter Station Automatic Security Gate Addition (Montana)	05/02
Oil Storage Tank Removal at Granite Falls (Minnesota), Devils Lake (North Dakota) and Fargo (North Dakota) Substations	05/02
Devils Lake-Carrington 115-kV Transmission Line Reroute (North Dakota)	06/02
Dawson County-Glendive 115-kV Transmission Line Re-conductor Project (Montana)	06/02
Fort Peck-Dawson County 230-kV Steel Tower Replacements (Montana)	06/02
Pierre Substation Oil Tank Removal (South Dakota)	06/02
Rolla Substation Foundation Replacement (North Dakota)	06/02
Tea Substation New Substation Construction (Montana)	06/02
Beresford Substation-City of Beresford Interconnection Project (South Dakota)	07/02
Bisbee, Lakota, and For-man Substations Security Fence Repair and Replacement (North Dakota)	07/02
Fox-man Substation 115-kV Bypass Bay and 69-kV Transformer/Transformer Breaker Additions (North Dakota)	07/02
Linton Fiber Optic Regeneration Site Construction (North Dakota)	07/02
Oil Storage Tank Removal and Construction of Oil Containment at at Morris and Granite Falls (Minnesota), Devils Lake (Nebraska), Fargo and Bismarck (North Dakota) Substations	07/02
Sioux Falls Substation Secondary Containment Installation (South Dakota)	07/02

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	COMPLETED
Washburn Substation Expansion for McLean Electric Coop (North Dakota)	07/02
Burford-Trenton Pumping Station Transformer Replacement and Secondary Containment Installation (North Dakota)	08/02
Creston Substation Secondary Containment Installation (Iowa)	08/02
Dennison Substation Secondary Containment Installation (Iowa)	08/02
Rugby Substation Otter-tail Power Company Fiber Optic Installation (North Dakota)	08/02
Sioux City Substation Secondary Containment Installation (Iowa)	08/02
Steel Structure Painting at the Killdeer, Watford City and Custer Lookout Communication Sites (North Dakota)	08/02
Antenna Replacement at Killdeer, Watford City, and Custer Lookout Communication Sites (North Dakota)	09/02
Borrow Ditch Access at Ottumona Road (South Dakota)	11/02
Tappen Fiber Optic Regeneration Station Installation (North Dakota)	11/02
Terry Pumping Substation Pump Relocation and Secondary Containment Installation (Montana)	11/02
Eagle Butte 115-kV Extension Project, Oahe Portion (South Dakota)	12/02
Glenham Fiber Optic Regeneration Station Installation (North Dakota)	12/02
North Dakota Fiber Optic Project – Installation of Fiber Optics on the Bismarck–Glenham 230-kV Transmission Line	12/02
Rapid City Tie Project, Basin Electric (South Dakota)	12/02
South Dakota Fiber Optic Project -Installation of Fiber Optics on Wicksville-Wall (115-kV), Oahe-Phillip (115-kV), Yankton-Gavins Point (115-kV), Oahe-Sully Butte (230-kV), Oahe-Glenham (230-kV) and Rapid City-Elk Creek (115-kV) Transmission Lines	12/02
Box Elder Transmission Line Reroute (Part of Havre Rainbow EA)	Project Deleted from CX list

Cooperating Agency Projects

Western routinely participates in other agency EAs and EISs that have the potential to affect hydropower generation or Western’s transmission system. Western’s participation in these projects helps to ensure that the affects on hydropower generation or Western’s transmission system actions are adequately reviewed and presented in these documents. In 2002, Western participated in the following:

Central Valley Project Improvement Act Programmatic EIS

Western's Sierra Nevada Regional Office is a cooperating agency on the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Programmatic EIS, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Reclamation. The Final EIS was issued in October 1999. A ROD was signed on January 9, 2001. Western continues to work on implementation actions.

CALFED Bay/Delta Program EIS

Western's Sierra Nevada Regional Office is a cooperating agency on the CALFED Bay/Delta Program EIS. Thirteen State and Federal agencies are involved in this project. The Final EIS/EIR was issued in March 2000. The ROD was signed August 28, 2000. Western continues to work on implementation issues and tiered documents to assure impacts to hydropower are addressed adequately.

Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration EIS

The Sierra Nevada Regional Office provided input for the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration EIS. The USFWS has the lead on this EIS. The EIS addresses flow levels in the Trinity, which could affect Western's hydropower resource. The ROD was signed December 19, 2000. In response to a court ruling, a Supplemental EIS is being prepared to address affects on the Sacramento River water flows and fishery impacts of this action. Western has never been formally asked to cooperate on this EIS, but has provided extensive input into the power analysis.

Platte River Cooperative Agreement EIS (DOE/EIS-0295)

The USFWS and Reclamation are preparing an EIS on the Platte River Cooperative Agreement with the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Western's Rocky Mountain Region is a cooperating agency. The Interior agencies are developing proposals for public review. The Draft EIS is expected in March 2003 with the Final EIS in late 2003.

Hoover Dam Bypass EIS (DOE/EIS-0352)

The Federal Highway Administration is preparing an EIS on a bridge that will bypass Hoover Dam on the Colorado River along the Nevada/Arizona border. The draft EIS, issued in September 1998, indicated that a number of Western's lines and/or switchyards would have to be relocated. Based on the draft, Western requested to be a cooperating agency from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on November 27, 1998. The FHWA released their ROD on March 21, 2001. Western issued a ROD on October 1, 2002 that adopted the FHWA's EIS and announced its decision to modify its transmission lines.

Flaming Gorge Dam Operations EIS (DOE/EIS-0351)

Western's CRSP Management Center is a cooperating agency in the Reclamation EIS on operating the Flaming Gorge Dam to achieve the flows recommended by the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Western was invited to be a cooperating agency, along with eight other Federal and state agencies. The project has been delayed by several months for data collection needs and hydrological modeling. The Draft EIS will probably be available to the public in early 2003.

Missouri River Master Manual EIS

Western's UGP Region was named by the USACE as a cooperating agency for an EIS for operations of the dams on the Missouri River. The Revised Draft EIS was published in 2001. Western has participated in public meetings held throughout the Missouri River Basin. The Final EIS is now scheduled to be published in July 2003.

Private Proponent Projects

Western has been approached by private entities for use of Western's transmission system, primarily for interconnection of new power plants. Western worked on nine of these projects in 2002; however four of these projects were suspended by

the proponents. Western completed one EA and one draft EIS. The level of NEPA documentation has not been determined on two projects. The status of these projects is listed here:

Big Sandy Energy Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0315)

- EIS Determination signed March 3, 2000.
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published April 18, 2000.
- Public scoping held May 3, 2000.
- Additional public information meeting held August 29, 2000.
- Draft EIS Notice of Availability (NOA) published June 22, 2001.
- SA Determination signed October 31, 2001.
- Supplemental Draft EIS Determination signed December 28, 2001.
- Project suspended in 2002.

*Powder River Basin, Wyoming-Denver, Colorado, Area 345-kV
Transmission Line EIS (DOE/EIS-0326)*

- EIS Determination signed September 19, 2000.
- Awaiting additional information from project proponent.
- EIS removed from active EIS list in 2002.

East Altamont Energy Center (DOE/EA-1411)

- EA Determination signed September 20, 2001.
- Public scoping meeting held November 14, 2001 in Tracy, California.
- EA approved September 19, 2002.

Roseville Energy Center

- Project suspended in 2002 during project evaluation. NEPA determination never finalized.

Rio Linda/Elverta Power Project

- Project suspended in 2002 during project evaluation. NEPA determination never finalized.

Ivanpah Energy Center EIS (230-kV Transmission Line Inter-connection into Mead Substation) (DOE/EIS-0354)

- BLM Lead Federal Agency; Cooperating Agency Agreement signed October 11, 2002
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published February 15, 2002.
- EIS Determination signed February 15, 2002.
- Public scoping held March 5-7, 2002.
- Draft EIS Notice of Availability (NOA) published November 22, 2002.
- Public Hearings held December 10-12, 2002.

Edgely Wind Energy Project (DOE/EA-1465)

- EA Determination signed December 9, 2002.

Wellton Mohawk Generating Facility Project (Power Plant)

- Proponent proposal being evaluated.

Caithness Blythe II, LLC (Power Plant)

- Proponent proposal being evaluated.

Future NEPA Actions

Western is currently reviewing the proposals from three private proponents for interconnection to its transmission system. Western also plans to begin an EA similar to the Sacramento Area Vegetation Management EA in the Redding, California, area pending funding approval. This EA will cover right-of-way management for several lines, including collecting data for a geographical information system. Mitigation may be necessary if endangered species or cultural resources are encountered. An EA for the second phase of the Hoover Bypass Project will begin in 2003. This project will upgrade the Hoover-Mead transmission line and remove the Arizona-Nevada Switchyard near Hoover Dam in Nevada. Table 3 summarizes Western's planned NEPA projects for 2003:

TABLE 3: NEPA PROJECTS PLANNED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

PROJECT	EIS	EA	COST
Hoover Bypass Project Phase II (Nevada)		✓	\$80,000 (funded by Federal Highway Administration)
Teneradora del Desierto Power Plant (Mexico) 500-kV Interconnection to North Gila Substation	✓		\$750,000 (applicant funded)
Exira Generating Station (Iowa)		✓	\$500,000 (applicant funded)
Harry Allen-Mead 500-kV Transmission Line (Nevada)		✓	\$500,000 (applicant funded)
Durango Pumping Plant Substation and Transmission Project (Colorado)			NEPA level not determined.
Redding Area Right-of-Way Management (California)	I	✓ I	\$500,000

