Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-1213

FEB 02 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN SPITALERI SHAW, EH-1
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

FROM: MICHAEL S. HACSKAYLO
ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summaries (Your Memo, 12/17/04)

Per my responsibilities under DOE Order 451.1B, Section 5.a(7), please find attached the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Summary for calendar year 2005. The summary identifies the status of ongoing environmental assessments (EAs), EAs we expect to commence during the next 12 months, ongoing environmental impact statements (EISs), and EISs we expect to commence during the next 24 months. It is likely that Western will prepare other EAs or EISs not currently foreseeable. An electronic copy of the NEPA summary will be provided to the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Shane Collins, Natural Resources Manager, at (720) 962-7252.

Attachment

cc:
Lee S. Jesse, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Washington, D.C.

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Assessments

Western Area Power Administration
January 27, 2005

*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Headgate Rock-Blythe No. 1, 161-kV Transmission Line Pole Replacement Blythe, CA DOE/EA-1427	$43,000	Determination Date:	3/7/2002	The purpose of the pole replacement project is to extend the life of the Headgate Rock-Blythe 161-kV transmission line by replacing the transmission line support structures in order to allow continued electrical transmission to customers in California and Arizona.
		Transmittal to State:	April-05	
		EA Approval:	August-05	
		FONSI:	August-05	
Harry Allen-Mead 500-kV Transmission Line, NV DOE/EA-1470	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	1/22/2003	Western is a cooperating agency on this EA. Nevada Power Company (Nevada Power) has applied to Western to interconnect the proposed Harry Allen-Mead 500-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project at Mead Substation and to build a portion of the transmission line across Western-managed lands west of Mead Substation.
		Transmittal to State:	3/4/2004	
		EA Approval:	10/28/2004	
		FONSI:	10/28/2004	
Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Relocation, Arizona DOE/EA-1487	$63,000	Determination Date:	11/20/2003	Western owns, operates, and maintains the Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line. Western proposes to reroute this portion of the transmission line to enhance public health and safety, improve electrical service reliability, and prevent future ROW encroachements in this area.
		Transmittal to State:	12/23/2004	
		EA Approval:	March-05	
		FONSI:	March-05	
Beaver Creek-Hoyt-Wiggins Transmission Line Rebuild, Morgan and Weld Counties, CO DOE/EA-1508	$725,000	Determination Date:	8/17/2004	Western proposes to rebuild and upgrade the Beaver Creek to Hoyt 115-kV transmission line to a double-circuit 230 kV line; the Hoyt to Erie 115-kV line to a 230-kV double circuit line and the Hoyt-Wiggins 115-kV line. Approximately 91 miles of line are involved. The lines are in Weld and Morgan Counties, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:	April-05	
		EA Approval:	July-05	
		FONSI:	July-05	
Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Grand County, Colorado DOE/EA-1520	$200,000 (env. contract not awarded yet)	Determination Date:	12/10/2004	Western proposes to rebuild and upgrade the Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap 60-kV transmission line, between the Windy Gap Substation and the Granby Pumping Plant, a distance of 11.7 miles. The project is located in Grand County, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:	October-05	
		EA Approval:	January-06	
		FONSI:	January-05	
Cheyenne-Miracle Mile and Ault-Cheyenne Transmission Line Rebuild Project, WY DOE/EA-1456	$1,000,000	Determination Date:	9/30/2002	Western proposes to rebuild the Cheyenne-Miracle Mile and Ault-Cheyenne 115-kV transmission lines, and construct a new substation at Laramie, Wyoming. The project is located in Carbon, Albany and Laramie counties, Wyoming and Weld County, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:	3/31/2005	
		EA Approval:	4/31/2005	
		FONSI:	4/31/2005	
Peetz Table Wind Project, Peetz, Colorado	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	12/16/2004	Invenergy Wind Power, LLC has applied to Western to interconnect a proposed 129-MW wind power facility to Western's 230-kV North Yuma-Sidney transmission line. The estimated average annual output would be 49MW. The project is located in Peetz, Colorado.
		Transmittal to State:	2/1/2005	
		EA Approval:	3/31/2005	
		FONSI:	3/31/2005	
Sacramento Valley Right-of-Way Maintenance, Sacramento Valley, CA DOE/EA-1395	$1,200,000	Determination Date:	1/18/2001	Western is preparing an Environmental Assessment in response to proposed changes in operation and maintenance procedures along Western's Sacramento Valley transmission line right of way.
		Transmittal to State:	5/24/2002	
		EA Approval:	June-05	
		FONSI:	June-05	
East Altamont Energy Center, CA DOE/EA-1411	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	9/20/2001	East Altamont Energy Center, LLC applied to Western to interconnect a proposed 1100 MW combined-cycle combustion generation facility with Western's Tracy Substation near Tracy, California.
		Transmittal to State:	12/6/2001	
		EA Approval:	9/19/2002	
		FONSI:	6/2/2004	

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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Charlie Creek-Williston Fiber Optic Overhead Ground Wire Installation, ND **DOE/EA-1389**	$120,000	Determination Date:	3/20/2001	Western is preparing an EA to address its proposal to replace transmission structures and install optical overhead ground wire between Charlie Creek and Williston substations in North Dakota. The structures need to be replaced due to deterioration and the need for additional clearance for the ground wires.
		Transmittal to State:	4/7/2004	
		EA Approval:	August-05	
		FONSI:	August-05	
Havre-Rainbow Transmission Line Rebuild, Montana **DOE/EA-1424**	$350,000	Determination Date:	12/12/2001	Western is preparing an EA to address its proposal to replace transmission structures and install optical overhead ground wire between Havre and Rainbow substations in Montana. Portions of the transmission line would be rerouted to reduce land use conflicts.
		Transmittal to State:	July-05	
		EA Approval:	September-05	
		FONSI:	September-05	

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Assessments
Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 Months

Western Area Power Administration
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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
North Valley Right-of-Way Maintenance, Sacramento Valley, CA	$1,200,000	Determination Date:	January-05	Western is preparing an Environmental Assessment in response to proposed changes in operation and maintenance procedures along Western's North Area transmission right-of-way (ROW) in California. Western proposes to change the current vegetation maintenance procedures to include the expanded use of herbicides in combination with manual and mechanical removal methods in an effort to promote low-growing plant communities. The Environmental Assessment (EA) will support further Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation required when Western conducts maintenance activities that are beyond those covered in the Biological Opinion.
		Transmittal to State:	January-06	
		EA Approval:	June-06	
		FONSI:	June-06	
Trinity PUD Direct Interconnect, CA	$200,000	Determination Date:	Pending	Western is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze a proposed transmission line in Trinity County, California, to improve electric reliability in the area.
		Transmittal to State:	May-05	
		EA Approval:	June-05	
		FONSI:	June-05	
East Side Peaking Project, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	February-05	Western is a cooperating agency with Rural Utilities Service for a less that 50-megawatt peaking plant in Groton, South Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:	March-05	
		EA Approval:	May-05	
		FONSI:	May-05	
Buffalo Ridge-White 115-kV Transmission Line Interconnection, MN and SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	January-05	XCEL Energy proposes to construct a new 115-kV transmission line and associated structures and electrical equipment to connect the Buffalo Ridge Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota, with Western's White Substation in Brookings County, South Dakota.
		Transmittal to State:	May-05	
		EA Approval:	November-05	
		FONSI:	November-05	
Valley County Wind Energy Project, MT	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	February-05	Wind Hunter, LLC proposes to construct a 400-MW wind farm in northern Montana and interconnect with Western's transmission system. Bureau of Land Management would be the lead agency. Western would be a cooperating agency and adopt BLM's Programmatic Wind EIS to support a tiered EA process.
		Transmittal to State:	July-05	
		EA Approval:	October-05	
		FONSI:	October-05	
Blythe Energy Project Phase II, CA	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	February-05	Caithness Energy proposes to construct a 520-MW combined-cycle natural gas fueled power plant adjacent to the existing Blythe Energy Project in Blythe, California and interconnect with Western's transmission system. Western and the California Energy Commission will conduct a joint environmental review process.
		Transmittal to State:	March-05	
		EA Approval:	December-05	
		FONSI:	December-05	

Annual NEPA Planning Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities: Environmental Impact Statements

Western Area Power Administration
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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado River, UT DOE/EIS-0351	N/A	Determination Date:	6/6/2000	Western is a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
		NOI:	6/6/2000	
		Scoping:	7/11-19/2000	
		Draft	8/29/2004	
		Hearings	10/12,13,19-21/2004	
		Final		
		ROD		
Caithness Big Sandy Project, Wikieup, AZ DOE/EIS-0315	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	3/3/2000	Project is on hold at the request of the applicant.
		NOI:	4/18/2000	
		Scoping:	5/3/2000	
		Draft	6/22/2001	
		Hearings	7/24/2001	
		Final		
		ROD		
SEIS on Caithness Big Sandy Project DOE/EIS-1315-S1	Applicant Funded	Supplemental Analys	5/29/2002	
		Determination Date:	12/28/2001	
		Approval:		
Welton-Mohawk 520 MW Generating Facility, AZ DOE/EIS-0358	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	4/2/2003	Welton-Mohawk 520 MW Generating Facility located in Wellton, Arizona. Western is the lead Agency under NEPA and BLM and Bureau of Reclamation will be cooperating Agencies.
		NOI:	5/19/2003	
		Scoping:	6/3-4/2003	
		Draft	3/25/2005	
		Hearings	April-05	
		Final	September-05	
		ROD	November-05	
Platte River Cooperative Agreement PEIS, NE, WY, CO DOE-EIS-0295	N/A	Determination Date:	2/5/1998	Western is a cooperating agency with the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Platte River Cooperative Agreement Programmatic EIS.
		NOI:	2/10/1998	
		Scoping:	2/25/1998-4/7/1998	
		Draft	1/26/2004	
		Hearings	7/26/2004-8/10/2004	
		Final		
		ROD	December-05	

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Windy Gap Firming Project, CO **DOE/EIS-0370**	N/A	Determination Date:	7/1/2003	Western is a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Windy Gap Firming Project, Colorado. The EIS will address options for rerouting a transmission line that would be affected by the project.
		NOI:	9/8/2003	
		Scoping:	9/30/2003-10/2/2003	
		Draft	June-05	
		Hearings		
		Final		
		ROD		
Sacramento Voltage Support, CA **DOE/EIS-0323**	$1,200,000 (estimated final costs)	Determination Date:	8/8/2000	Western proposes transmission system additions and improvements to resolve voltage support problems occuring on the transmission system in Sacramento area of California.
		NOI:	8/8/2000	
		Scoping:	9/12-21/2001; 3/22/2001; 9/19/2001	
		Draft	11/15/2002	
		Hearings	12/9-12/2002	
		Final	9/19/2003	
		ROD	1/12/2004	

Annual NEPA Planning Summary Environmental Impact Statements
Expected to be Prepared in the Next 24 Months

Western Area Power Administration
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*Title, Location	Estimated Cost	Estimated Schedule (**NEPA Milestones)		Description
Big Stone II Power Plant Addition, MN and SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	February-05	Addition of a 600-megawatt, coal-based generating unit at Big Stone Generating Plant near Milbank, South Dakota. Western would be lead Federal agency.
		NOI:	May-05	
		Scoping:	May-05	
		Draft	February-06	
		Hearings	March-06	
		Final	August-06	
		ROD	November-06	
Navitas Wind Farm, SD	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	January-05	Development of a 400-MW wind farm near White, South Dakota. Western would be the lead Federal agency.
		NOI:	February-05	
		Scoping:	February-05	
		Draft	August-05	
		Hearings	September-05	
		Final	January-06	
		ROD	February-06	
Dolan Springs Wind Farm, AZ	Applicant Funded	Determination Date:	June-05	Development of a 400-MW wind farm near Dolan Springs, Arizona. Western would be a cooperating agency and the Bureau of Land Management would the be lead Federal agency. Western plans to adopt the BLM Programmatic Wind EIS to support its review.
		NOI:	July-05	
		Scoping:	August-05	
		Draft	January-06	
		Hearings	February-06	
		Final	July-06	
		ROD	September-06	
	Total Estimated Cost $0.00			