



Energy Fact Sheet

Designation of West-wide Energy Corridors

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Key Messages

- Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate corridors on federal land in 11 Western States for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities.
- The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (which will identify and evaluate issues associated with corridor designation) is expected to be available in late July 2007. At the release, a 90-day public comment period and public meeting schedule will begin.
- The primary goal of designating energy corridors is to improve energy transmission in the West by relieving congestion and enhancing the existing power grid.
- The designation, when implemented, will amend land use plans already in place.

Defining a 368 Energy Corridor

- Energy corridors are linear areas on a map that the federal agencies have identified as their preferred location for energy transmission facilities.
- All 368 corridors must specify:
 - a center line,
 - a width (The proposed defined width is 3500 feet.), and
 - compatible uses of the corridor (possibility of multiple projects).
- A corridor designation does not guarantee right of access for development.
- It will not be mandatory to locate transmission projects in a defined corridor.

The Three-Step Process for Developing a Corridor

- Step 1: Develop a conceptual grid without topographic or administrative restrictions.
- Step 2: Identify preliminary corridor sites. Move corridors so they do not cross non-federal land or sensitive areas.
- Step 3: Refine locations. During this process, local federal land managers provide input further ensuring that the corridor avoids important or sensitive local resources and so that the corridor is compatible with local land use plans.

(continued...)

Energy Corridor Designations in 11 Western States

- There are approximately 6,300 miles of corridor that could be designated in the 11 western states.
- In the 11 western states, 86 percent of these corridors fall on BLM land and 11 percent on Forest Service land, with remainder on other agencies.
- In the 11 western states, 62 percent of the corridors follow already designated corridors and/or developed rights-of-way.

Energy Corridor Designations in Colorado

- There are approximately 414 miles of corridor which may be designated in Colorado.
- In Colorado, 289 miles of these corridors follow already designated corridors and/or developed rights-of-way. That is, 69 percent of the potentially designated corridors in Colorado follow prior designations and/or development.

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Other Resources:

<http://corridoreis.anl.gov/index.cfm>