

**US Department of Energy**  
**West-wide Energy Corridor**  
**Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Public Meeting**  
**January 15, 2008**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

Statement of the [SunZia Southwest Transmission Project](#).

Good afternoon.

My name is Tom Wray. I am manager of transmission and generation projects at Southwestern Power Group here in Phoenix. My firm is leading the development activity for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. My company has been an active participant in regional transmission planning initiatives in the Western Interconnect for almost a decade.

The SunZia project will consist of two separate 500 kV ac transmission lines that will interconnect loads and resources in Arizona and New Mexico. The project is conceived as an EHV transmission facility for delivering primarily renewable generation resources, particularly wind and solar generation, from their remote locations to markets. As is the case in other regions of the country, these renewables are severely transmission-constrained, inhibiting their access to fungible electricity markets. SunZia plans interconnections with existing EHV facilities along its route to improve system reliability and other bulk power transfers.

As currently scoped, SunZia is approximately 350 miles in length, lies within Arizona and New Mexico and traverses portions of at least seven counties. The project's study area generally utilizes many existing linear facilities, such as the Interstate 10 corridor, high-pressure interstate natural gas pipelines and other EHV transmission lines. The corridor designated by the Department as "81-213" lies within a portion of the study area in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico and could be utilized by SunZia.

The project will be the subject of an environmental impact statement pursuant to NEPA. The Bureau of Land Management will act as the lead federal agency in the EIS.

We believe ideally that coordinated regional planning efforts involving affected stakeholders should precede major interstate transmission projects. The underlying concept for the SunZia project was itself the product of such a process.

**The public interest is best served when policy discourages uncoordinated, ineffective planning resulting in projects that unwisely duplicate facilities or unnecessarily deplete our environmental resources. On the contrary, such policy should identify and designate energy corridors that:**

- 1. Utilize existing linear energy and transportation facilities;*
- 2. Consider duly-sited, but not necessarily constructed, EHV transmission facilities resulting from state or federal siting actions; and,*
- 3. Integrate with agency resource management plans that designate linear energy and transportation corridors.*

**Information on the progress and planning for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is available on our website at [www.sunzia.net](http://www.sunzia.net)**

**Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and to the Department of Energy for its efforts with this important matter.**

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