

# MONA TO OQUIRRH TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR PROJECT

October 2007 - Newsletter No. 1

This is the first newsletter regarding the Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project. The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp's right-of-way application for the Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project. The proposed project would establish a new, double circuit 500/345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Mona Substation near Mona, in Juab County, to the Oquirrh Substation located in West Jordan and the Terminal Substation located in Salt Lake City. As part of long range planning, this project would also include the identification of a corridor for a future double circuit 500/345kV line, the siting of two new future substations, and a land use plan amendment for utility corridors. This project may affect the areas around the communities of Mona, Eureka, Cedar Fort, Stockton, Tooele, Grantsville, West Jordan, South Jordan, and Salt Lake City.

## PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Northern Utah represents the fastest growing area within the State of Utah and constitutes one of the major growth areas within the region. The development of new transmission lines and substations is required to provide the additional capacity necessary to serve the growing electrical demand and improve reliability and operational flexibility in conjunction with future generation resources.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The EIS would address the construction, operation, and maintenance of 60-120 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines, access roads and related facilities, and the construction of two new substations. The potential environmental issues already identified for analysis include impacts to:

- Protected, threatened, endangered or sensitive species of plants or animals or their critical habitats
- Other biological resources
- Land use, including agricultural operations, recreation, and transportation
- Floodplains and wetlands
- Cultural or historic resources and tribal values
- Human health and safety
- Air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface and ground water)
- Visual resources

The BLM invites you to suggest specific issues and concerns within these general categories, or to suggest other issues that should be evaluated in the EIS.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a federal law that serves as the nation's basic charter for environmental protection. For major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment, NEPA requires an EIS be prepared. An EIS provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives. The BLM will prepare an EIS for the Mona to Oquirrh Transmission Corridor Project. Through the NEPA process, the public has the opportunity to learn about an agency's proposed action and to provide information and comments to the agency.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Below is the anticipated timeline for the project:

- Public Scoping: Fall 2007
- Draft EIS: Early Spring 2009
- Final EIS and Record of Decision: Fall 2009
- Right-of-Way Acquisition: Spring 2010
- Construction: 2010-2012

## PROJECT MAILING LIST AND NEWSLETTER

Throughout the course of the project, updates will be sent to individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list. To receive newsletters or to request to be placed on the mailing list, contact Rhianna Riggs-EPG Public Involvement Coordinator, rriggs@epgaz.com or 801-573-6814.



## COMMENT SUBMITTAL

Written public comments may be submitted during the 30-day Public Scoping Period (October 16 - November 14, 2007) by the following methods:

- Attend a public scoping meeting
- Email comments to [UT\\_M2OTL\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:UT_M2OTL_EIS@blm.gov)
- Send comments to the BLM: Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, ATTN: Pam Schuller

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Mike Nelson or Pam Schuller of the BLM Salt Lake Field Office at (801) 977-4300, or visit the project website: <http://www.monatransmission.com>

# ATTENTION: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA

**Sunset Ridge Middle School**  
6881 West 8200 South  
West Jordan, UT  
Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-8:00p.m.

**Tooele County Courthouse**  
47 South Main  
Tooele, UT  
Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-8:00p.m.

**Juab High School**  
802 North 650 East  
Nephi, UT  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-8:00pm

Public scoping meetings to gather your input will be held regarding a new transmission line corridor project. The project may affect parts of Salt Lake, Tooele, Utah, and Juab Counties.



BLM Salt Lake Field Office  
2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
ATTN: Pam Schuller