

## EIS

### **Why is the CUP being filed prior to ROD?**

Simple answer, there is nothing to be gained by waiting for the BLM's Record of Decision. While the analysis that was conducted in preparing the EIS may be instructive and provide Tooele County with considerable information for use in the conditional use permit process, Tooele County is the approving body that has jurisdiction over the approval of the conditional use permit, including the applicable conditions that may be imposed. Tooele County could require as a condition that Rocky Mountain Power complies with the EIS and Record of Decision as it may relate to private property.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because Rocky Mountain Power has requested a right-of-way grant across BLM-managed lands to construct and operate its proposed Mona-Oquirrh Transmission Line Project (Project). The EIS analyzes impacts that would occur on both private and public land, but the BLM's ROW grant only pertains to lands that it manages. The EIS is the most comprehensive and stringent document required under NEPA. In its actions as the lead federal agency, the BLM is responsible for:

- Preparing the EIS,
- Analyzing and disclosing environmental impacts,
- Determining the Environmentally Preferred Route, which includes impacts on all lands, and

Issuing a Record of Decision and right of way grant on BLM-administered lands. The BLM can only identify and recommend an environmentally-preferred alternative on non-federal lands. The BLM decision on whether or not to grant a right-of-way for the Project applies to BLM-administered lands only. Decisions for routing on private land fall under the jurisdiction of the local county or municipality. In November and December 2009, Rocky Mountain Power submitted applications for 4 CUPs required on this Project of which 3 have been approved. The 3 approved CUPs have been granted in Utah County, South Jordan City, and West Jordan City. Some of these CUPs have been granted subject to conditions which Rocky Mountain Power is committed to fulfill.

In addition to the local CUPs, Rocky Mountain Power concurrently filed an application with the Utah Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the project. The Commission plans to conduct public hearings in May 2010. This is a state regulatory proceeding that rules on the need for the project, not line routing issues.

Rocky Mountain Power intends to have all required conditional use permits and the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in hand by the time the BLM issues the Record of Decision and Right of Way grant. Rocky Mountain Power will then award a contract for the final engineering, procurement and construction of the project in order to meet an in-service date of June 2013 which is necessary for Rocky Mountain Power to provide safe, reliable, adequate and efficient service to its customers, including Tooele County.