Appendix A
EIS Scoping Report

GRANBY PUMPING PLANT – WINDY GAP TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

December 4, 2007

FINAL

Prepared for
Western Area Power Administration

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap Substation Transmission Line Rebuild Project (GPP-WG). Western is a power marketing agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and DOE Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021). The EIS will address the environmental effects associated with siting, constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission line and associated facilities.

Western is the lead Federal agency for the NEPA process. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency. The Bureau of Land Management and Grand County, Colorado have requested cooperating agency status (status pending at time of draft). Other project participants include Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. (Tri-State), Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. (MPEI), and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD).

This Scoping Summary Report describes scoping and public involvement activities conducted as part of the NEPA process for the proposed project. Specifically, this scoping summary report:

- Describes coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies; Native American tribes; other interested parties, including the public, on the scope of actions.
- Provides information about the public scoping meeting.
- Lists and summarizes all comments received, consolidated by topic (comments submitted verbally, by website, fax, email, or U.S. mail).

1.1 Description of Project

The transmission system in the Granby-Grand Lake area is currently fed by two 69-kV transmission lines: one from the west at Windy Gap Substation (near Granby) and one through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel (Adams Tunnel) from the east at Mary's Lake Substation (Estes Park). This two-way feed arrangement allows the three substations (Granby, Granby Pumping Plant, and Willow Creek Pumping Plant) to be fed from the Windy Gap Substation, Mary's Lake Substation, or both.

Substations receiving electricity from more than one source create "looped" (two-way) systems, which are more reliable than if "radially" (one-way) fed from a single source. Substations fed from a two-way system can remain in service as long as at least one of the lines feeding the substation remains in service, whereas one-way feed substations are out of service whenever the single line feeding them is out of service.

The electric cable in the Adams Tunnel between Estes Park and Grand Lake has exceeded its predicted useful life (40 years) and, upon failure, will not be replaced. The failure of the cable will leave 6,750 Mountain Parks Electric (MPEI) customers with only a one-way transmission supply. Without the completion of this project, these customers risk extended power outages,

especially during adverse winter weather and periods of line maintenance, due to the lack of an alternate transmission circuit to supply the area. Installing a double-circuit line from the Windy Gap substation to the Granby, Granby Pumping Plant, and the Willow Creek Pumping Plant substations will address the electrical deficiencies that will be created when the cable fails.

The proposed project would rebuild and upgrade approximately 12 miles of existing single-circuit 69-kV line as a double-circuit 69/138-kV transmission line. A new substation would be built at the Granby Pumping Plant to accommodate the second line and a new power transformer. A new line connection would be added at the Windy Gap Substation to accommodate the second circuit.

The project would ensure that the electrical system in the area would continue to operate within established electrical criteria during motor starting operations at Granby and Willow Creek Pumping Plants. Engineering studies indicate that once the Adams Tunnel cable is out of service, the voltage drop upon starting the pumping plant motors will exceed acceptable limits by the year 2010, if load growth in the area continues at the current rate. The purpose of this project is to:

- Provide a second power source to the Grand Lake-Granby area before the failure of the Adams Tunnel cable.
- Continue to provide reliable, looped transmission supply to MPEI customers in advance of the Adams Tunnel cable failure.
- Ensure that the area's electric system will continue to operate within acceptable voltage criteria while accommodating future load growth in the area and the operations of the pumping plants.
- Allow Tri-State to serve its local member (MPEI) with reliable power.
- Allow Western to provide reliable service to the area.
- Replace a 60-year old transmission line and meet safety requirements by building line to be compliant with the current NESC.

1.2 Project Background

In 2005, Western began preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) as the appropriate level of NEPA compliance for the proposed Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap transmission line rebuild. Two public meetings, intended to inform the public of the project, the environmental analysis process, and to invite public feedback, were held in July 2005 and November 2006. Prior public meeting summaries are included in Attachment A. Based on a review of numerous public comments and public concern regarding the potential for significant impacts, Western determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would instead be the appropriate level of analysis and compliance.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on August 10, 2007. The NOI invited public participation in the EIS scoping process and solicited public

comments on the scope and content of the EIS. Formal public scoping for the EIS was initiated with the publication of the NOI and ended on September 17, 2007. The NOI is included in Attachment B.

2.0 SCOPING ACTIVITIES

2.1 Scoping Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) defines the process of scoping as "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action," (40 CFR 1501.7). As the lead agency, Western is responsible for the following actions as part of the scoping process:

- Invite the participation of affected Federal, state, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons (including those who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds), unless there is a limited exception under Sec. 1507.3(c). An agency may give notice in accordance with Sec. 1506.6.
- Determine the scope (Sec. 1508.25) and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS.
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3), narrowing the discussion of these issues in the statement to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere.
- Allocate assignments for preparation of the EIS among the lead and cooperating agencies, with the lead agency retaining responsibility for the statement.
- Indicate any public environmental assessments and other EISs which are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the impact statement under consideration.
- Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements so the lead and cooperating agencies may prepare other required analyses and studies concurrently with, and integrated with, the environmental impact statement as provided in Sec. 1502.25.
- Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the agency's tentative planning and decision making schedule.

2.2 Scoping Coordination

Scoping activities for the Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap Substation Transmission Line EIS included the publication of an NOI in the Federal Register; notification of stakeholders by U.S. mail and phone; a public scoping meeting; and correspondence with potentially affected Federal, state and local agencies and Tribes.

The following Federal, state, and county agencies and Native American tribes were notified of the EIS. See Attachment C for local and municipal agencies, including Chambers of Commerce, sanitation districts, and utility providers that were notified of the project.

- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Northern Arapaho Business Council
- Arapaho Language and Cultural Commission
- Northern Ute Tribe
- Grand County Planning and Zoning and Commissioners
- Kremmling Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historic Society
- Rocky Mountain National Park, National Park Service
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Council
- Shoshone Tribe Business Council
- Colorado State Engineer's Office

Following publication of the NOI, the Bureau of Land Management (Kremmling Field Office) and Grand County requested cooperating agency status (status pending at time of this report). The Northern Cheyenne Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office requested on-site consultation. Western is coordinating the requested on-site consultation for late 2007. The National Park Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Environmental Protection Agency submitted comment letters and requested to be kept informed of project progress. Throughout the EIS process, consultation with each of these agencies will be conducted as necessary.

Additionally, Western compiled a list of private stakeholders from property records searches, prior project mailing lists, and interested parties and/or persons that requested to be notified of the project. Attachment C contains a list of stakeholders notified during the EIS scoping process. Example stakeholders include, but are not limited to: interested individuals and local businesses, potentially affected landowners, special interest groups, and news media.

Throughout the EIS process, Western is maintaining a project website (http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/infragranby.htm). The project website provided advance notice of the scoping meeting, meeting materials presented at the scoping meeting (posted after the meeting), background information and maps, and an online comment form.

2.3 Scoping Meeting

Western conducted one EIS scoping meeting on August 30, 2007 from 4–7:00 pm at the Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. office in Granby, Colorado. Public meeting notices and requests for public input were published in *Sky-Hi News*, the local newspaper in August 2007, prior to the August 30th meeting. A copy of the newspaper notice is included in Attachment D.

Western selected an open house format for the meeting. Large-format informational displays and take-home fact sheets provided information about the project. A large aerial-based map showing parcel boundaries and depicting the alternative corridors facilitated discussion with landowners and interested individuals to identify specific property issues and concerns.

Western staffed the scoping meeting with approximately 12 project representatives who could respond to public comments and questions, including Western's NEPA project manager, two realty specialists, the project electrical engineer, and a public information specialist. EDAW, the consulting firm contracted with Western to assist in the development of the EIS, staffed the meetings with their project manager, assistant project manager, visual resource specialist, and wildlife biologist. Additionally, Tri-State and NCWCD staff was available for questions.

The project representatives and meeting facilitators present included:

Mark Kueny, Western
Rodney Jones, Western
Ruthette Kennedy, Western
Carey Ashton, Western
Randy Wilkerson, Western
Tom Friar, NCWCD
Bruce Meighen, EDAW
Jeremy Call, EDAW
Molly Cobbs, EDAW
Diana Leiker, EDAW
Sonia Kim, Tri-State

Approximately 26 individuals attended the August 2007 scoping meeting. Landowners with residential land in proximity to the alternative corridors were the primary attendees. Other meeting participants included representatives from the National Park Service (NPS), local government officials, electrical utility representatives, media, and business owners. The sign-in sheets from the meeting will be used to update the project mailing list (Attachment F).

3.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED

Western received approximately 200 comment forms, letters, emails, and faxes throughout the pubic scoping period, as well as verbal comments. After the meetings, representatives responded to queries from commenters that could not be addressed at the meetings. All original comment letters, forms, and scoping meeting sign-in sheets will be maintained in the project record.

Western distributed an official comment form including a checklist of issues and resources to be marked as important when evaluating the transmission line alternatives (Attachment E). The most frequently marked topics on the official comment form checklist were visual effects,

proximity to residences, and land use. Health and safety, physical issues (weed control, erosion), biological issues (wildlife habitat, wetlands), and historic or cultural resources were also noted as important. The form also included space for handwritten comments and questions.

All comments received were reviewed by Western and sorted into one of four categories based on how they will be addressed in the EIS: Topics to be Considered in the EIS, Comments to be Analyzed as Cumulative Effects, Comments on Process and Public Involvement, and Comment on Alternative Corridors. Comments appearing multiple times have been grouped into a single statement. These following summarized statements will be used to focus the scope of the EIS.

3.1 Topics to be Considered in the EIS

The following summary statements pertain to the project description and Purpose and Need statement:

- Outline local benefits of project
- Address the perception that transmission line rebuild would only benefit water pumping, large water projects, and Front Range water users
- Provide clarification on whether there is any connection between Windy Gap Firming Project and GPP-WG Rebuild
- Provide clarification on the decision and need for upgraded voltage
- Consider the national initiative to provide “green power”
- Stress the financial responsibility of NCWCD to partially fund the line
- Outline the premise of the project (e.g., feasibility and engineering studies on rebuilding Adams Tunnel cable)

The following summary statements are resource specific. Western will consider the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the project on each of the resources listed below. The comments provided will help to identify the potential scope of impacts as well as to identify previously unconsidered impacts or concerns.

Visual

- Consider visual impacts throughout valley
- Refine photosimulations and viewshed analyses

Wildlife & Vegetation

- Consider the effects on:
    - Greater sage grouse
    - Winter range for elk and mule deer; recommend no activities between November and April

    - Spread of non-native plants and noxious weeds
    - Migratory birds
- Provide more information regarding reclamation efforts on the existing ROW (e.g., revegetation plans)

Human Health and Safety (Electromagnetic Fields)

- Consider:
    - Health impacts
    - Interference with electronic devices
    - Potential EMF impacts on cattle

Land Use

- Evaluate outcomes of the BLM-NCWCD Land Exchange
- Assess floodplain risks
- Consider impacts to airports/pilots
- Consider impacts to rural character of community and county
- Review project consistency with Grand County Zoning and Three Lakes Design Review Area
- Consider impacts to existing and proposed conservation easements
- Consider increased fire risk at Cutthroat Trout Bay Campground and CR64
- Consider impacts to local real estate sales
- Concerns regarding towers placed near irrigation ditches
- Consider new subdivisions planned in/near alternative corridors

Socioeconomics

- Evaluate cost differences between above and below ground alternatives and the strategies/tactics for funding each
- Consider costs to the consumer
- Assess impacts to tourism/socioeconomics as a result of diminished views and changed rural character
- Assess impacts on local fire protection and school districts as a result of devalued properties (decrease in property tax)
- Provide comparisons with other mountain towns that have buried lines
- Evaluate tax consequences to local citizens

Wetlands/Fens

- Consider potential impacts to fens

Cultural

- Consider the importance of preserving cultural sites and heritage resources

Recreation

- Consider
    - Impacts to recreation experiences
    - Impacts to model airfield southwest of Willow Creek Reservoir
    - Keeping the line out of the ANRA; removing line from the ANRA

3.2 Comments to be Analyzed as Cumulative Effects

These comments will be used to develop the parameters for the cumulative effects analysis in the EIS, particularly with respect to present and reasonably foreseeable future actions and concerns within the project area.

- Consider the effects of:
    - Local pine beetle epidemic
    - Ongoing development in valley, particularly with respect to culture, character, and visual resources
    - The proposed transmission line and beetle kill (dead stands) on wildlife
    - Beetle kill and forest stand removal on visual resources (opening viewscape)

3.3 Comments on Process and Public Involvement

These comments will be used to enhance future public involvement activities and improve the process for public comment and communication.

- Provide additional opportunities to comment
- Provide explanation as to why the process taking so long

3.4 Comments on Alternative Corridors

These comments will be considered when refining project alternatives, including routing considerations and construction methods.

- Consider burying the lines underground, in tunnels, or on the lakebed of Lake Granby

- Provide more information on the proposed access roads and infrastructure needed for line construction and maintenance
- Provide additional information on what will become of the line to Estes Park. Will it be disabled or left in-tact?
- Consider impacts of undergrounding cable including extensive excavation, ground disturbance, and the need for continuous access

3.5 Summary

The EIS will address impacts of the proposed project and a range of reasonable alternatives that achieve the purpose and need of project. The list of issues contained in this report is a compilation of comments received during the EA and EIS scoping periods. Western will use the public scoping comments and information received to help define the scope of potential environmental issues, refine project alternatives, and identify mitigation measures associated with the project. In addition, based on comments received during scoping, the project Purpose and Need will be restated to further clarify 1) the central reasons for pursuing the project and, 2) the local benefits of the project.

4.0 ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Summaries
Attachment B – Federal Register Notice of Intent
Attachment C – Project Mailing and Notification List
Attachment D – Public Meeting Notice
Attachment E – Official Comment Form
Attachment F – Public Meeting Sign-in Sheets
Attachment G– Categorized Public Comments

Attachment A
Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Summaries

Public Scoping Meeting Summary
July 28, 2005

I. Background

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) owns and operates a 12-mile, 69,000 volt (69-kV) electric transmission line in Grand County, Colorado that originates at Windy Gap Substation, located immediately northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 40 and Colorado State Highway 125 (Map 1-1). The single circuit, wood pole, H-frame transmission line generally runs northeast along U.S. Highway 34 and terminates at the Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard at the end of County Road 64. Portions of the existing transmission line are adjacent to the western shoreline of Lake Granby. The Study Area includes tracts of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land managed by the Kremmling Field Office, United States Forest Service (Forest Service) land managed by the Arapaho National Forest including portions of the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA), Colorado State land, and private land.

The Alva B. Adams Tunnel (Adams Tunnel) is a water diversion tunnel routed under the Continental Divide between Estes Park and the Town of Grand Lake. The tunnel carries a 69-kV transmission line in the form of an electric cable owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and operated by Western. This cable currently provides a second source of electrical power to the Grand Lake-Granby area by allowing looped transmission service between the Estes Park and Windy Gap substations. The Adams Tunnel cable has exceeded its predicted useful life (40 years) and, upon failure, will not be replaced. The Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap transmission line rebuild project is being proposed to address the electrical deficiencies that will be created when the cable fails.

II. Purpose and Need

The failure of the Adams Tunnel cable system will leave large parts of the Mountain Parks Electric (MPEI) system with only a one-way or radial transmission supply. The portion of the MPEI system affected by this transmission system includes members in the areas extending from the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park on the north, to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch on the south, and from Byers Canyon on the west to the Arapaho National Recreation Area/Continental Divide on the east. Included in this area are the towns of Hot Sulphur Springs, Granby, and Grand Lake, as well as hundreds of customers in rural parts of the area, particularly along the U.S. Highway 34 corridor. Without completion of this project, 6,750 MPEI customers risk extended power outages especially during adverse winter weather due to the lack of alternate transmission circuits to supply the area. This would affect the Northern Colorado Water Conservation District (NCWCD) and MPEI customers served by these facilities.

The project would ensure that the electric system in the area will continue to operate within established electrical criteria during motor starting operations at Granby and Willow Creek pumping plants. Engineering studies indicate that once the Adams Tunnel Cable is out of service, the voltage drop when starting motors at Willow Creek Pumping Plant will exceed acceptable limits by the year 2010, if load growth in the area continues at the current rate.

Grand County is one of the fastest growing counties in Colorado. Between 1990 and 2003, Grand County experienced a 63% increase in population (CODO website, U.S. Census Bureau). Similarly, the number of housing units in Grand County increased 35% between 1990 and 2003. Between 1990 and 2000, the towns of Grand Lake and Granby experienced population increases of 72.6% and 57.9%, respectively (CODO website, U.S. Census Bureau). Population growth projections suggest that Grand County will experience a 125% increase in population by the year 2030. Electrical load demand is expected to increase, commensurate with county population growth projections.

The purpose of this project is to:

- Provide a second source of power to the area between Grand Lake and Granby before the failure of the 69-kV Adams Tunnel cable.
- Continue to provide reliable, looped transmission supply to MPEI customers in advance of the Adams Tunnel cable failure.
- Ensure the electric system in the area will continue to operate within acceptable voltage criteria while accommodating future load growth and the operations of the Farr (Granby) and Willow Creek pumping plants.
- Allow Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) to serve its local member (MPEI) with reliable power.
- Allow Western to serve customers in the area in a reliable manner.
- Replace a 60-year old overhead transmission line and add shield wires for improved lightning protection.

The parties involved include Western, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State), MPEI, and Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD).

III. Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting was held on July 28, 2005 at the Grand Lake Fire Protection District to identify issues early in the project. Individual notification letters were sent to property owners within 500 feet of any potential alignment corridor. Newspaper advertisements, letters to government officials, local articles and fliers were also used to notify the public. Thirty-one people attended the meeting. At the meeting, attendees were asked to visit informational stations to learn about the project. Attendees participated in interactive activities to identify issues, objectives and alternatives, and were given comment sheets. Western, MPEI and USFS staff were available to answer questions and receive comments from attendees. All attendees were encouraged to sign up for the project mailing list to stay informed of the project's progress.

A. Purpose, Need and Issues Comments

During the public meeting, attendees participated in an issue identification exercise; each person was asked to write specific issues or concerns that the EA should address. If a comment was already on the presentation boards, participants placed a green or red dot (sticker) next to the

comment to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement. Participants also added comments under the statements to explain why they thought it was important.

Comments received on the Purpose and Need statement focused on who will benefit from the power upgrades. Western staff restated that the primary purpose of the project is to ensure reliable power to local residents. The other issues identified ranged from wildlife protection to private property impacts.

B. Data Maps

Comments received on the data map included:

- The elk winter and production area shown on the map extends east, to the west side of Table Mountain.

C. Alternative Map Comments

Attendees were asked to comment on the maps showing preliminary alternative concepts. Many attendees liked Alternative C and the concept of removing the line from its current location, as well as the consolidation of lines. Attendees also liked the concept of removing lines from highly visible areas near U.S. Highway 34. Other attendees liked the concept of moving the existing line, because it is in close proximity to a number of residences and passes through the center of a subdivision.

Numerous attendees disliked Alternative C, because it relocated the existing line to a new location. Their concern focused on the new route and impacts to viewshed and property values.

Several people were concerned that both Alternatives B and C include a larger right-of-way and greater tower heights than current conditions. This could result in the removal of homes in Alternative B as well as impacts to visibility.

Other comments on the map included the need to bury the line.

IV. Comment Forms, Letters and Emails

In addition to comments received at the meeting, other comments were received from emails, letters and comment forms. A general summary of comments are found below, organized by comment subject. All comments, original letters, emails and comment forms are contained, in their entirety, in the project record.

Alternatives

- Remove existing lines if not needed
- Consolidate existing lines
- Upgrade lines to meet existing National Safety Code standards
- Need construction standards for new transmission lines
- Need to bury the line

- Bury the line near or under Lake Granby
- Use only wood poles
- The cost to bury the line will be absorbed by rate payers
- How is the power allocated?
  - Local residential
  - Local commercial
  - Power to pump Grand County water out of the county?
- Since power is used to pump water out of the county, recipients can contribute to the cost of burying the line
- Support for relocating the existing line
- Support for consolidating multiple lines
- Support for moving the existing line from in front of the lake
- Support for burying the line
- Support for replacing the existing line (no change to the existing environment), this will minimize impacts to new areas
- It was stressed that Western should reevaluate the cost of burying the line and not just choose the low cost option
- Restate who is benefiting from the line and the need to break out power consumption need by residents, commercial, Granby Pumping Plant and other consumers
- What percent of power will be going outside of Grand County?
- Overall, support the purpose and need
- A new monopole facility located in the current ROW, higher off the ground, would be an improvement
- The existing ROW was legally obtained, so we should use it
- Existing residential developments have long since accommodated the existing power transmission facility
- It is a time-honored and proven tenet of land use planning and development that utilities share a common "corridor," where possible. Such has been the case for decades, with the existing subject ROW, over most of its length along the east side of Table Mountain, paralleling Highway 34.
- Support an Environmental Impact Study instead of and Environmental Assessment
- Relocate a portion of the reroute at the bottom of Lake Granby
- Concerns about whether the alignment can be modified
- Need for assurance that the existing line will be removed
- Concern on how one line will be added and another removed
- Need assurance that the ROW will be vacated if the line is removed
- Need assurance that the vacated ROW will be restored
- Would a wider easement be needed if the existing line is upgraded?
- Acknowledgment that an upgrade is necessary under Alternatives B or C
- The benefit of forward thinking, of providing power to the area
- What other agencies will be involved (e.g., FERC)?
- What is the level of permitting that is required?

- How will decisions be communicated to the public?
- Reconstruct the line in the Adams Tunnel
- Thanks for doing the public meeting
- Need to improve public notification
- Evaluate the option for use of the existing pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby for the installation of a cable system to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines

Wildlife

- Minimize impacts to wildlife
- Impacts to wildlife should be evaluated
- Avian collisions
- Effect on deer and elk winter range
- Effect of creek crossings on brook trout
- Effects on wildlife, fish and plant Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species (TES) and other species of concern
- Soil erosion and disturbance to vegetation will impact aquatic resources
- Potential impacts to threatened, endangered and sensitive species
- Potential impacts to species of concern, including greater sage grouse
- Concerned about impacts to undisturbed rural landscape and wildlife
- Potential of adverse impacts to wildlife, including critical wintering habitat and migration routes

Visual

- Visual effects in Grand County
- Impacts to viewsheds need to be evaluated (including within and adjacent to USFS lands)
- It is believed there are elements of the project that are inconsistent with criteria in the Three Lakes Design Review Area (Section 14.5) of the Grand County Zoning Regulations
- Need for visual modeling
- Concern over the size of poles and visibility of poles
- Potential improvements of views to the lake with removal of the existing line
- Concern with compliancy with the Grand County Master Plan
- The need to limit site disturbance and vegetation clearing that is visible from residential developments and public roads by means of minimizing clear-cut widths and other established landscape techniques, such as a revegetation plan
- Ensure compliance with the Grand County Zoning Regulations – Section 14.5. Three Lakes Design Review

Fire

- Effect on planned Table Mountain burn (NF lands)
- Consider fire hazards - wooded vs. grassland

Public Safety

- Impact to public safety
- Concern over the safety effects from EMF to existing residents if the existing line was rebuilt

Cultural

- Potential disturbances to significant paleontological or cultural sites
- Ensure the protection of historic and archeological sites

Recreation

- Impact on recreation sites
- Impacts to the Arapaho National Recreation Area should be analyzed (wildlife and visual), which was established for its cultural and scenic value

Land Use

- Consider the effects on property values if the line is relocated
- Concern over loss of property values if the existing line was rebuilt
- Impacts of reroute to property values and future home construction
- Consider existing and planned land uses

Wetlands

- Potential impacts to wetlands and fens

Socioeconomic

- The need to protect the County's rural character while maintaining the economy by providing reliable, cost-effect electrical services
- Ensure that new development is served by adequate infrastructure by enhancing system reliability

V. Additional Information

For more information or to provide comments, please contact:

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GRANBY PUMPING PLANT – WINDY GAP TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC MEETING #2
MPEI COMMUNITY ROOM, GRANBY, COLORADO
NOVEMBER 15, 2006 4-7PM

Background

The transmission system in the Granby-Grand Lake area is currently fed by two 69-kV transmission lines: one from the west at Windy Gap Substation (near Granby) and one through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel (Adams Tunnel) from the east at Mary's Lake Substation (Estes Park). This two-way feed arrangement allows the Granby, Granby Pumping Plant, and Willow Creek Pumping Plant substations to be fed from the Windy Gap Substation, Mary's Lake Substation, or both.

Substations receiving electricity from more than one source create "looped" (two-way) systems, which are more reliable than if "radially" (one-way) fed from a single source. Substations fed from a two-way system can remain in service as long as at least one of the lines feeding the substation remains in service, whereas one-way feed substations are out of service whenever the single line feeding them is out of service.

The electric cable in the Adams Tunnel between Estes Park and Grand Lake has exceeded its predicted useful life (40 years) and, upon failure, will not be replaced. The failure of the cable will leave 6,750 Mountain Parks Electric (MPEI) customers with only a one-way transmission supply. Without the completion of this project, these customers risk extended power outages, especially during adverse winter weather and periods of line maintenance, due to the lack of an alternate transmission circuit to supply the area. Installing a double-circuit line from the Windy Gap substation to the Granby, Granby Pumping Plant, and the Willow Creek Pumping Plant substations will address the electrical deficiencies that will be created when the cable fails.

Purpose and Need

The project would ensure that the electrical system in the area would continue to operate within established electrical criteria during motor starting operations at Granby and Willow Creek Pumping Plants. Engineering studies indicate that once the Adams Tunnel cable is out of service, the voltage drop upon starting the pumping plant motors will exceed acceptable limits by the year 2010, if load growth in the area continues at the current rate. *The purpose of this project is to:*

- Provide a second power source to the Grand Lake-Granby area before the failure of the Adams Tunnel cable.
- Continue to provide reliable, looped transmission supply to MPEI customers in advance of the Adams Tunnel cable failure.
- Ensure that the area's electric system will continue to operate within acceptable voltage criteria while accommodating future load growth and the operations of the pumping plants.
- Allow Tri-State to serve its local member (MPEI) with reliable power.
- Allow Western to provide reliable service to the area.
- Replace a 60-year old transmission line and add shield wires for improved lightning protection.

Public Open House

The first public meeting was held in Grand Lake on July 28, 2005. Western received feedback on the preliminary alternatives and the aspects of the project area's unique natural environment. As a result of the input received at the first meeting, the project team decided to delay the project in order to best address

public comments through additional resource analyses, including additional visual, recreation and wildlife studies, and alternative considerations.

Since the public meeting in July 2005, Western's primary goal has been to better understand the affected resources and refine alternatives. The purpose of the November meeting was to share the results of the additional studies and solicit input on the project alternatives. The input received from this round of public consultation will enable us to evaluate our proposed and alternative actions.

The November 2006 meeting format was intended to promote informal interaction between project personnel and the interested public, with exhibits and opportunities to make written and verbal comments. Meetings attendees were invited to visit numerous presentation boards to learn about the background, existing conditions, issues, and alternatives, and to provide their input to Western and USFS representatives and the consulting team. Attendees provided their input directly on the boards, to representatives, or on comment sheets available at the meeting entrance. Approximately 40 interested persons attended the meeting.

The project representatives and meeting facilitators present included:

Roy Gearhart, Western
Mark Kueny, Western
Rodney Jones, Western
Ruthette Kennedy, Western
Carey Ashton, Western
Randy Wilkerson, Western
Les Shankland, MPEI
Tom Friar, NCWCD
Bruce Meighen, EDAW
Chad Schneckenburger, EDAW
Molly Cobbs, EDAW
Carol Kruse, USFS
Brad Orr, USFS

Summary

In general, the comments received from the public meeting indicate that the public is in favor of moving the lines to the west side of Table Mountain, away from the Scanloch subdivision, Lake Granby, and U.S. Highway 34. Land use, proximity to residences, visual effects, and human health and safety were among the most important issues to meeting attendees.

However, Western received several comments in direct opposition to Alternative C and the project overall. Opposition was based on wildlife and visual concerns, the preservation of the landscape character west of Table Mountain, and the perceived potential for connected actions related to water development. Other comments in opposition to the alternatives and/or overall project challenged the language of the project's presentation, including the purpose and need statement and project title.

All public meeting comment forms and comment letters received since the November 15 meeting can be found in Attachment A.

Issues and Comments

All comments are presented verbatim from the comment forms and boards. No changes/edits have been made (including spelling errors). Where handwriting is illegible on the forms, EDAW has attempted to correctly interpret comments. EDAW will maintain the original forms in the administrative record.

Comments Received on 72x90 Tabletop Map:

- Would like to see imaging of changes at Stillwater Tap area (towers, lines). Not available at 11/15 meeting.
- Could someone address the visual impact of Alt. C. near Orvis-Shorefox. It's location to the ridgeline? Not available at 11/15 meeting in Granby.

Comments Received on Presentation Boards:

Alternative	Benefits	Disadvantages
Alternative A	(No comments received)	(No comments received)
Alternative B	▪ Alternative B is preferred because it will impact an existing right of way – no impact new undisturbed lands with high quality environmental resources. People impacted by Alternative B are already impacted by these powerlines. ▪ Please use colored poles!!!	▪ Need to reconsider putting line under Lake Granby from Granby Pumping Plant to Granby Substation. The technology exists and is done beneath Great Lakes and oceans. It terms of minimizing impacts to subdivisions and important agricultural lands this would be the best alternative.
Alternative C	▪ Best choice – If Alternative B is considered my property in Scanloch will be unbuildable and you will be negotiating decreased value compensation for many homeowners and property owners. The brown poles blend in best with the environment. ▪ Most logical choice, hands down. ▪ Absolutely the best choice. ▪ Best choice for everyone. ▪ Best choice – has the least impact on the most people and properties. ▪ Go "C" (comment repeated on three boards) ▪ Excellent choice. Great care and thought for all issues. ▪ Only choice for all considerations. ▪ Best option for all the people who use Lake Granby and live near it and view it. Much more cost effective and keeps it hidden more. Longer we wait the more it will cost – lets do it now! ▪ The consideration of using 'camoflague' [*sic*] paint on some of the towers; green – in forested area, tan/brown – in shrub area (flat land) ▪ Best choice for all of us living on the pumping plant road. Not near as many home and best for all. ▪ Best option – use brown poles. ▪ Visually & residentially the best choice for all concerned. ▪ Please use colored poles!	▪ Impact entirely new ground, including valuable raptor, elk, mule deer, bear and wetlands/fens habitat! Impacts Traditional Cultural Property on Table Mountain. Impacts lands protected by conservation easements. One of the justifications – removal of line from ANRA is misleading – Alternative C also would impact a new section of ANRA land!

Comments Received on Comment Forms:
15 comment forms were received from the public meeting.

"Please check the following issues important to you for evaluating the transmission line alternatives."

Visual Effects: 12, Need to adhere to Three Lakes Design Review for pole placement, materials and siting
Physical issues (weed control, erosion): 2
Proximity to residences: 13
Radio or television interference: 4
Noise: 3
Public Lands: 3
Recreation Resources: 4
Health and safety: 11
Land use (fields, corrals): 6
Water issues (springs, seeps, wells): 3
Biological issues (wildlife habitat, wetlands): 4
Historic and cultural sites: 3
Project Cost: 2
Other: 3, Proposed Alternative C, Connection to Windy Gap Firming and CBT projects, Moving the line makes the land useless.

"Are there any special uses, circumstances, or factors on your land, not already addressed, that you would like the Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap EA to be aware of? If so, please list."

We strongly support your proposed action Alternative C. It will enhance the view from the lake, highway 34, and other areas as people traverse between Granby and Grand Lake. 80 properties 20 new versus 20 properties only 4 new is huge. Strong consideration should be given to this additional impact. Property value, aesthetics are huge. Proposed Alternative C meets and supports ALL NEEDS. Electrical supply, visual enhancement, property value, AND SAFETY. Bullet 1 & 2 are HUGE given environmental issues and saving our spaces. Strongly support Proposed Alternative C.

We live on the pumping plant road and feel it is best to go with Alternative C for us our trees (healthy trees) on private property and all people in line on this road. Go "C" the best choice.

I am concerned that the construction of this line will affect the value of my property. For the past 5 years we have been waiting for Three Lakes Sanatation Dist. To remove the abandon ponds that I look at every day now I am face with looking at a large power line. The distruction of public land, national recreation area. [*sic*] (Note: Commenter lives approximately 0.3 mile from all alignments. Residence is located in the Stillwater Estates subdivision.)

Yes 1) Your lines presently go over 5 of my lots thereby decreasing the value of these lots and preventing any building on them. 2) I own one small lot that is directly on and within the confines of the Granby Substation. There is no access to my lot except through the substation. Perhaps you folks would like to purchase this lot and thereby prevent me from paying taxes on land I can't use!

I live at L15 Cty Rd 64. This would greatly improve my lot and house if Alternative C is used.

No. But would like to see Plan C take effect.

You are to be commended on considering all options and selecting option C with minimum visual impact when viewed from highway 34 and Lake Granby. These locations have the highest human traffic. Cost will be much reduced from other options.

Would like to see option C because of visual impact, and concerned about set backs.

If option B is used and Western power had to obtain 100' ROW it would require them to buy my house and several others in my Scanloch neighborhood. Option C greatly improves the views from Lake Granby, Hwy 34 and homes in the area.

Re: Scanloch Subdivision on Table Mountain. Homes on either side of line according to 30 foot easement. Alt. B Rebuilding in existing = 100 foot easement which is literally impossible to implement due to homes within this easement area. This is NOT about view! We already live next to existing line. Alternative C is most viable for property concerns, without question.

The [Purpose and Need] still identifies project as a "rebuild" although various alternative analysis discussed increased/upgraded transmission capacity. Grand County has raised this concern at July 2005 Public House, January 24, 2006 letter and October 24, 2006 letter.

If the [Purpose and Need] is an upgrade that Grand County believes that the analysis under the EA process does not fully address affected environment, as well as connected activities described in Item 3, as required under NEPA.

Grand County believes there is a connection between this project, the Windy Gap Firming Project, the Windy Gap project and the CBT. The availability of increased transmission capabilities will directly benefit all of these projects and their facilities.

Grand County believes WAPA has a responsibility in the long term roles, and cost sharings for the current drawdown post monitoring, as well as future drawdown efforts. The drawdown option was recommended by the USBOR as the "best method" to control weed growth in Shadow Mountain. The weed growth has accelerated in the last decade, and will probably require more frequent occurrences. The impact of weeds relates to water quality, recreation and overall riparian health. We expect that WAPA would be a partner in future efforts related to weed growth.

The Public House provided considerable information to previously raised issues/concerns w/ regards to visual, alternative analysis for UG/UG hybrids/tunnel upgrades, and associated costs. This is reflected by the general discussion with participants and the written comments.

Moving the lines from their present location renders the lots owned by Winston Hill totally useless for residential use. Those four lots must be purchased by WAPA if the lines are changed. They are presently on the market for $360,000.

Half of my land is not useable under the current configuration. The line is almost directly over my house. I would like to see it moved.

The lower lines that feed downhill of the main lines are very low in front of my driveways. The lowest phase should be moved up to top of pole. Large vehicles can touch them if we are not careful, and my trees will soon hit the low phase.

"Please provide any other comments on the Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap EA and identify any issues that need to be addressed."

The choice of recommending lower poles, the tan option and making the changes in the near future rather than waiting for an emergency reflect sound judgment.

Please use the brown poles.

Please address above issue as an addendum consideration if Alternative B is selected, so that a special consideration will be made for specific areas of existing line running directly thru these residential areas, for it to be re-routed around these homes. Appears only other option is to purchase our properties??? MUST be addressed!!!

I am a proponent of Alternative C for a number of reasons – mainly the property (private) issues. I commend you for doing your homework as your information presented was well presented and thought out.

Grand County resubmits the 10/24/06 letter recently sent to WAPA. Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 restate the major points of this letter. Grand County has not received a formal response to this letter. Refer to Attachment A. (Note: Copy of October 24, 2006 letter to Rodney Jones attached to comment sheets)

Issue: moving the lines would make all four lots useless.

Moving the lines to opposite side of Table Mountain is most beneficial to the most people and also provides clearer path for wintering elk to come off Table and down to lake, and protected area south of dam road E of 34. Over there the impact on housing and living conditions will be minimal as most lands is farmed/hayed. Our two families vote for move to other side.

Attachment B
Federal Register Notice of Intent

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 4.200.

h. *Applicant Contact:* David Lovely, Hydro Supervisor, Madison Paper Industries, P.O. Box 129, 3 Main Street, Madison, Maine 04950–0129, (207) 696–1225.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Bell, (202) 502–6062.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene and protest:* August 20, 2007.

Please include the project number (P–2365–040) on any comments or motions filed. All documents (original and seven copies) should be filed with: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments, protests, and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper, see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site under the ''e-filing'' link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. Please include the project number (P–2365–040) on any comments or motions filed.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person in the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

k. *Description of Request:* The license request approval to temporarily modify the operation of the project by lowering the water level in the project forebay to allow repair of the western forebay wall.

This maintenance work will consist of refacing the existing wall through the placement of forms and pouring concrete. In order to expose the area to be repaired such that the majority of the work will occur above the waterline, MPI proposes to temporarily lower the water lever of the forebay and headpond by approximately 2.5 feet from normal pond level of 248.15, at the top of the inflatable flashboards. The licensee proposes to gradually lower the forebay from its normal full pool elevation and to maintain the reduced water level via operation of the powerhouse turbines and deflating the inflatable flashboards and waste gate. The required minimum downstream flow (1,540 cfs or inflow, whichever is less) in the Anson tailrace will be maintained during this drawdown period via the turbines and flashboards/waste gate as well. The licensee anticipates a need to maintain this lowered elevation for intermittent periods of time for up to two months beginning on or about August 6, 2007 while the work is being accomplished. If there is sufficient inflow to the project, the licensee proposed to raise the pond level to the normal operating elevation on weekends and other periods when the Contractor is not working. Once the repair work, along the wall progresses above the lower elevation the pond level will be returned to the normal operating level.

The licensee proposes to maintain minimum downstream flows while refilling the project forebay by gradually filling the pond through maintaining a higher inflow than outflow, until the pond level is returned to normal.

l. *Locations of the Application:* Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First St., NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. This filing may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov* using the ''eLibrary'' link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1–866–208–3676 or e-mail *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or for TTY (202) 502–8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene:* (Anyone may submit comments, a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210. 385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

o. Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title ''Comments'', ''Protest'', or ''Motion to Intervene'', as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers.

p. *Agency Comments:* Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

q. Comments, protests, and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov* under the ''e-filing'' link.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7–15645 Filed 8–9–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Grand County, CO

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Conduct Scoping; Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for rebuilding the Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap transmission line in Grand County, Colorado. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will participate in the preparation of the EIS, which will address the proposed removal of about 12 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, the construction and operation of about 12 miles of new 138–kV double-circuit transmission line (operated at 69/138–kV), and adding a second power transformer. Input for the scope of the EIS may be provided in writing or at an open-house scoping meeting in the project area.

DATES: An open-house public scoping meeting will be held Thursday, August 30, 2007, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Granby, Colorado. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and closes at midnight on September 17, 2007. To be assured of consideration, all

comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope must be received by the end of the scoping period.

ADDRESSES: The open-house public scoping meeting will be held at Mountain Parks Electric, Inc., 321 West Agate Avenue, Granby, CO 80446–0170. Written comments regarding the project should be addressed to Mr. Rodney Jones, NEPA Document Manager, Western Area Power Administration, Rocky Mountain Region, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539–3003; fax (970) 461–7213, or e-mail *GPPWGP@wapa.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed project, to be added to the project mailing list, or to request a copy of the EIS, contact Mr. Rodney Jones at the address provided above or at toll-free telephone (800) 472–2306. For general information on DOE's NEPA review procedures or status of a NEPA review, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC–20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586–4600 or (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western is a power marketing agency of DOE that markets Federal electric power to statutorily defined customers, including project use, municipalities, irrigation districts, and Native American tribes. Western initially determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be prepared for the proposed Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project on February 25, 2005. Western held open-house scoping meetings on July 28, 2005, and November 15, 2006. The public expressed numerous concerns about the impacts of the project. Based on a review of the public's concerns, Western subsequently determined that an EIS would be prepared.

The EIS will address the environmental impacts of the proposal to remove about 12 miles of existing 69–kV transmission line and the construction and operation of about 12 miles of new 138–kV double-circuit transmission line (which would be operated at 69/138–kV), and adding a second power transformer. Alternatives, including the no action alternative, will also be addressed in the EIS. Western's EIS process will comply with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, as amended), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508) and DOE NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR part 1021). Because the proposed project may involve action in floodplains, the EIS will include a floodplain assessment and floodplain statement of findings following DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022).

Description

Western's Rocky Mountain Region proposes to rebuild and upgrade the Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap 69–kV transmission line, between the Windy Gap Substation and the Granby Pumping Plant, a distance of approximately 11.7 miles. The transmission line, which was constructed on wood-pole H-frame structures, is located in Grand County, Colorado, near the towns of Granby and Grand Lake. Other participants in the project include Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. (Tri-State) and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD).

Western's Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap 69–kV transmission line has been in operation approximately 65 years. It supplies electrical power to the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C–BT) facilities and electrical substations operated by Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. (MPEI), a Tri-State member operating company.

The area transmission system has also been served by the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Adams Tunnel 69–kV cable for the past 50 years, and the cable is at the end of its planned service life. The Adams Tunnel 69–kV cable provides Tri-State with a second power source for MPEI loads. In 1992, Western and Reclamation studied costs, engineering requirements and electrical system constraints for replacing the Adams Tunnel cable in anticipation of its eventual failure. In 1994, Western and Reclamation decided not to replace the cable if it fails.

For electrical service reliability, Tri-State must maintain a second source of power for MPEI loads. The result of systems studies by both Western and Tri-State demonstrated electrical system reliability improvements when a new 138–kV transmission line was added between the Windy Gap and Granby substations.

The NCWCD expressed interest in extending the 138–kV transmission line directly to C–BT Project facilities at Granby Pumping Plant to allow better voltage support for motor starting at Granby Pumping Plant.

The proposed project includes the following actions.

- Remove 10.0 miles of 69–kV circuit: Windy Gap Substation-Stillwater Tap.
- Remove 1.7 miles of 69–kV circuit: Stillwater Tap to Granby-Granby Pumping Plant Substation.
- Remove three 69–kV line switches at Granby Tap.
- Construct 10.0 miles of 138-kV double-circuit transmission line with overhead fiber optic ground wire (operated at 69/138–kV): Windy Gap Substation-Stillwater Tap.
- Construct 1.7 miles of 138–kV double-circuit transmission line with overhead fiber optic ground wire (operated at 69/138–kV): Stillwater Tap-Granby Pumping Plant Substation.
- Install 69–kV three-way line switches at new Willow Creek Tap (replaces Granby Tap).
- Install 69–kV three-way line switches at Stillwater Tap.
- Construct a new 138/69–kV Granby Pumping Plant Substation, consisting of two circuit breakers with 138–kV main and transfer busses and a 138/69–kV power transformer.
- Install a new 69–kV circuit breaker at the existing 69/6.9–kV Granby Pumping Plant Substation.
- Install a new 138–kV circuit breaker bay at the Windy Gap Substation.

The right-of-way for the existing transmission line is generally 30-feet wide, which is inadequate for new transmission line construction and maintenance. Some segments of the proposed rebuilt and upgraded transmission line would be constructed on new rights-of-way on alternative alignments. Remaining segments of the transmission line would be constructed on existing rights-of-way that will be widened to accommodate construction, operation, and maintenance.

The proposed substation site for the new 138/69–kV Granby Pumping Plant Substation would be approximately 200 feet by 150 feet in area, and located entirely on Reclamation property.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, none of the proposed facilities would be constructed, and the existing 69–kV transmission line would be left in place. Different transmission projects could be proposed by other entities to strengthen the electrical system in the project area.

Agency Responsibilities

Western has determined that an EIS is required under DOE NEPA implementing procedures, 10 CFR 1021, in light of the public's concerns about potential impacts of the project. Western will be the lead Federal agency for preparing the EIS, as defined in 40 CFR 1501.5. In addition, the USFS has been designated a cooperating agency. Western invites interested agencies,

Tribes, organizations, and members of the public to submit comments or suggestions to assist in identifying environmental issues and in determining the appropriate scope of the EIS. Western will invite other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, with respect to environmental issues, to be cooperating agencies on the EIS, as defined in 40 CFR 1501.6. Such agencies also may make a request to Western to be a cooperating agency. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified in 40 CFR 1501.6(b).

Environmental Issues

The EIS will address impacts from the proposed project and a range of reasonable alternatives that achieve that same purpose and need. This notice is to inform agencies and the public of the proposed project and solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues Western has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include:

1. Impacts on protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants or their critical habitats;
2. Impacts on other biological resources;
3. Impacts on land use, recreation, and transportation;
4. Impacts on floodplains and wetlands;
5. Impacts on cultural or historic resources and tribal values;
6. Impacts on human health and safety;
7. Impacts on air, soil, and water resources (including air quality, surface water impacts, and groundwater impacts);
8. Visual impacts; and
9. Socioeconomic impacts and disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply any predetermination of impacts. Western invites interested parties to suggest specific issues within these general categories, or other issues not included above, to be considered in the EIS.

Public Participation

Opportunities for public participation are planned for the entire EIS process. Western anticipates the EIS process will take about 12 months and will include an open-house public scoping meeting; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies; public review and hearing on the published Draft EIS; a published Final EIS; and publication of a Record of Decision. Western will mail newsletters to the mailing list developed for the proposed project to communicate project status and developments. Anyone may request to be placed on the mailing list.

The scoping period will provide opportunity for interested members of the public, representatives of groups, and Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies to give input on the scope of alternatives and issues that will be addressed in the EIS. As part of the scoping period, Western will hold a public open-house scoping meeting near the project area. Interested individuals and groups are invited to attend anytime between 4 and 7 p.m., according to the date and location noted above. The open-house scoping meeting will be informal, with Western representatives available for one-on-one discussions with attendees. Attendees will have the opportunity to view maps of the proposed transmission line route, learn about the NEPA process and the proposed schedule, suggest changes and improvements to the proposed project, and obtain additional information. Written comments regarding environmental issues, alternatives, and other scoping issues may be turned in at the scoping meetings or may be provided to Western by fax, e-mail, U.S. Postal Service, or other carrier. Although comments on the proposed project may be submitted at any time during the EIS process, to be assured consideration in helping define the scope of the EIS, all comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments received by Western at or as a result of the July 28, 2005, and November 15, 2006, open houses will be used to help define the scope of the EIS.

Dated: July 30, 2007.

Timothy J. Meeks,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7–15666 Filed 8–9–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OECA–2006–0775; FRL–8452–8]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; NSPS for Stationary Gas Turbines (Renewal); EPA ICR Number 1071.09, OMB Control Number 2060–0028

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that an Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This is a request to renew an existing approved collection. The ICR which is abstracted below describes the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost.

DATES: Additional comments may be submitted on or before September 10, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing docket ID number EPA–HQ–OECA–2006–0775, to (1) EPA online using *http://www.regulations.gov* (our preferred method), or by e-mail to *docket.oeca@epa.gov,* or by mail to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Environmental Protection Agency, Enforcement and Compliance Docket and Information Center, mail code 2201T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB at: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Learia Williams, Compliance Assessment and Media Programs Division, Office of Compliance, Mail Code 2223A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564–4113; fax number: (202) 564–0050; e-mail address: *williams.learia@epa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has submitted the following ICR to OMB for review and approval according to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 1320.12. On October 5, 2006 (71 FR 58853, EPA sought comments on this ICR pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d). EPA received no comments. Any additional comments on this ICR should be submitted to EPA and OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Attachment C
Project Notification and Mailing List

Representing	First Name		Last Name
	Terry	and Sarah	Albright
Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture	Don		Ament
	Stephen	and Donita	Banks
	Thomas		Barrett
	Marjorie L.		Bass
	Barbara		Bearce
	Richard		Beasley
Three Lakes Water and Sanitation District	Sally		Blea
Vice-Chairman, Business Committee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	Bill		Blind
	David		Boelter
	Jim	and Jackie	Boyd
	Gerald W.	and Phyllis M.	Bozarth
	Richard	and Barbara	Brancio
Chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council	Richard		Brannan
Executive Director, Granby Chamber of Commerce	Sharron		Brenner
	Ron		Brown
	Kenneth	and Ann	Brown
Arapaho Language and Cultural Commission	William		C'Hair
	Edward	and Bobbie	Carney
	Donald S.	and Kandi L.	Carpenter
	Frances P.		Carter
Forest Supervisor, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	Glenn		Casamassa
Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office	Susan		Cassel
	Jim		Cervenka
NAGPRA Representative, Northern Ute Tribe	Betsy		Chapoose
	Mark	and Sara	Cherrington
	Jane F.		Cherryholmes
	Ronald	and Jodi	Choronzy
	Michael	and Cynthia	Christianson
	David J.	and Beth	Cimbura
NAGPRA Representative, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Niel		Cloud
	Barry		Cole
	Gary		Conte
State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historic Society	Georgianna		Contiguglia
	Raymond		Covington

Representing	First Name		Last Name
	Walt	and Lori	Curtis
Grand County Commissioner	Duane		Daily
	Joel		Dale
	Ann E.		De Boe
	Daniel Patrick		Demarco
	Jennifer Rose		Dicarlo
	Julius	and Marlene	Diczek
	David R.		Dillie
	Scott	and Heather	Dirschl
	Ed	and Jane	Dirschl
	Jeffrey	and Dana	Domer
	Douglas R.	and Sandra M.	Doudna
	Doug	and Sandy	Doudna
	Harry	and Christine	Duckwall
	Michael	and Carol	Dunlap
	Randy		Duzan
D.K.P. Inc.	Dennis		Eckley
	Kent		Eckley
D.K.P. Inc.	Clydene		Edelen
	Garth		Eicher
	Garth		Eichler
	Melinda		Ellison
	Holly		Endres
	Dustin	and Anita	Entz
	Victor H.		Esch
	Jim		Felton
	John	and Juliana	Ferguson
	John Robert	and Joann	Fetters
	Todd		Fink
	Edward Henry		Fisher
THPO Officer, Northern Cheyenne THPO Office	Conrad		Fisher
	Ardyth A.		Fournier
	Alfred J.	and Victoria R.	Frank
	Robert A.	and Jennifer S.	Freeman
District Head, IT Branch, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Tom		Friar

Representing	First Name		Last Name
Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Clement		Frost
	Wendell		Funk
	Gloria S.		Gale
Chief, Planning and Compliance, Rocky Mountain National Park	Larry		Gamble
	Adam	and Charlotte	Garcia
	Charles Frederick	and Anne M.	Garcia
	Frank B.	and Linda L.	Geddes
	Paul		Gehart
	Lew Paul		Geisendorfer
	Susan		Gerhart
	Thomas Michael	and Rebecca Jean	Gleason
	Ronnie Carl	and Mary	Glover
NAGPRA Representative, Northern Arapaho Tribe	Robert		Goggles
	Troy L.	and Lori Ann	Gonzales
	Marion	and Lavon	Green
	David	and Vera	Grisinger
	Richard		Grout
Colorado Anglers	Michael R.		Guertner
	Greg and Mary		Gutierrez
	Cyrus Allen		Hackstaff
	Janet		Haggard
Town Manager, Town of Granby	Tom		Hale
Town Manager, Town of Grand Lake	Shane		Hale
	Donald W.		Hamilton
	Terry L.		Hammond
	Charles	and Rosemary	Haney
CSFS & Stillwater Fire Abatement Coalition	Mandy		Hanifen
	James C.		Hansen
	Beryl Jo		Harden
Regional Director, Colorado Department of Transportation	Karla		Harding
	Eugene R.	and Bertha L.	Harnke
Harrington Landscapes	Paul		Harrington
	Carletta		Harty
	Toni		Hass
	David		Hastoglis

Representing	First Name		Last Name
	Scott	and Julie	Heiss
	Frederick William		Heiss
	Gary Lee	and Ruth Ann	Herzberg
District Lands Staff, Sulphur Ranger District	Patricia C.		Hesch
	Patricia		Hesch
	Winston C.		Hill
	Earle	and Ivy	Howard
	Clifford M.		Hulbert
Manager, Grand County Water and Sanitation	Bruce		Hutchens
	Michael	and Susan	Hyde
	P. Richard	and Brigid	Irish
	Larry	and Vickie	Ivy
	Jack	and Ramona	James
	Jack	and Katherine	Jenkins
	Paul	and Carol	Jensen
Johnson and Repucci, LLP	Richard		Johnson
	Keith	and Vicki	Johnson
Darcy Jordan Trust	Darcy		Jordan
	Darcy		Jordan
Manager, Thousand Trails Area	Jerry		Junker
	Patrick S.		Kelly
The Kercel Family Trust	Mike		Kercel
	Joe		Kercel, Jr.
	Ronny J.	and Caryl D.	Kershner
Stillwater Creek, LLC / J / Ranch	Bill	and Joanne	Kieger
	Robert		King
	Morris		King
	Rick L.	and Deborah M.	Kinning
	Walter		Kirkwood
	Keith	and Kendra	Klingbail
	Dale Alan		Kluth
NAGPRA Representative, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Terry		Knight, Sr.
	Harry		Knottcamp
	Mark	and Jennifer	Krieg
Special Projects Coordinator, Arapaho - Roosevelt National Forests	Carol		Kruse

Representing	First Name		Last Name
Lambright, LLC	Joseph		Lambright
Ms. Lucille M. Lareau	Donna		Lareau
Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce	Polly		Lawler
Power System Planning, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.	Stan		Lawrenson
	Barry	and Margaret	Layton
	James		Liles
	Kevin	and Anne	Lillehei
	Irene M.		Lindgren
Colorado Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan		Linner
	Robert	and Sally	Linton
Chairman, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council	Eugene		Little Coyote
Michael Lombardi Revocable Living Trust	Michael		Lombardi
	John Gregory	and Rogene	Lowe
	Timothy F.		Lyons
	James	and Karen	Maculewicz
District Ranger, Sulphur Ranger District	Craig		Magwire
	Brian Richard	and Ann Michelle	Mahony
	Perry	and Lynn	Malisani
Director, Grand County Planning and Zoning	Kris		Manguso
	Fred		Marrott?
Shore Fox	Jeff		Martin
	Joe	and Caroline	Martin
RMC Consultants, Inc.	Marilyn		Martorano
	Thomas A.	and Victoria A.	Mason
	Homer B.	and Melba D.	Matlock
	Roger		Matlock
Colorado Division of Wildlife	Bruce		McCloskey
	Dan		McGrail
	Lewis		McGrath
	Wayne		McReynolds
EDAW, Inc.	Bruce		Meighen
	Ronald L.	and Gail A.	Mickalson
	Steven	and Patricia	Miller
Mirr Properties, LLC	Kenneth		Mirr
Arapaho Language and Cultural Commission	Alonzo		Moss, Sr.

Representing	First Name		Last Name
	Harry W.		Mott, Jr.
	Patrick		Mundy
	Joseph		Murray
	Joseph		Murray
	Joseph S.	and Josephine S.	Murray
Sr. Environmental Specialist, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.	Karl		Myers
	Paul		Nachtigal
Chairwoman, Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Council	Maxine		Natchees
	Clarence		Nelson
	Harry	and Irene	Nelson
Grand County Commissioner	James		Newberry
Alice Marie Nordloh Family Protection	Alice Marie		Nordloh
	Michael		Norton
	Jean S.		Nyquist
	Thomas A.	and Kathleen E.	O'Connor
Colorado Division of Wildlife	Kirk		Oldham
	Connie		Opperman
	Brad		Orr
General Manager, Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.	Joe		Pandy
	Frederick	and Deborah	Parsons
	James		Paul
	Robert Scott		Penson
	Raymond	and Katherine	Polk
Chairman, Shoshone Business Council, Shoshone Tribe	Ivan		Posey
	Spike	and Pat	Potts
Mountain Lakes Properties	Donna		Ready
	Scott		Ready
Grand County	Colleen		Reynolds
Director of Public Works, Town of Hot Sulphur Springs	Jack		Rickman
	Connie		Roberts
Grand Lake Real Estate, Century 21	Constance		Robertson
	Robert	and Susan	Ronald
	Pete	and Joan	Rosales
	Bill		Rugin
Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office	John		Ruhs

Representing	First Name		Last Name
	Cynthia		Rupert
Archaeologist, Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office	Frank		Rupp
	Clare Beth		Rutila
Three Lakes Water and Sanitation District	Dan		Scharaeder
	John	and Kristin	Schiechl
	Kyle	and Mitzi	Schirado
	Donald	and Patricia	Schmid
	L. Scott		Schobe, Jr.
	Sandra Jean		Schoenebeck
	Dan		Schrader
	Dean		Schultz
	Kevin Leigh	and Darlene Renee	Schumacher
	Gregory	and Cynthia	Seader
	Ronald	and Mary Janice	Sears
Sexton Family Trust	c/o Kerrel and Steven		Sexton
Engineering Manager, Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.	Les		Shankland
	Leslie A.		Shankland
SEI	Janet		Shargrew
	Paul	and Judy	Shetler
	Lowell	and Cynthia	Showalter
	Gerald	and Jo Ann	Shumaker
	Scott		Simmons
Colorado State Engineer's Office	Hal D.		Simpson, P.E.
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Inc. – MediaNews Group	Dean		Singleton
	Mike	and Cindy	Smith
	Randal L.		Smith
	Cheri		Stanton
	Paul	and Carol	Stauch
	Ken	and Marilyn	Stevenson
	Brit		Storey
Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office	Renee		Straub
	Ronald	and Olivia	Strauss
Three Lakes Water and Sanitation District	Paul		Strauss
	Kathleen A.		Striegel
Coyote Ridge B and B	Kathy		Stromberg

Representing	First Name		Last Name
Archaeologist, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	Sue		Struthers
Grand County Commissioner	Nancy		Stuart
	Thomas	and Kristin	Swanson
	Gordon Eugene		Tetsell
	William	and Susan L.	Tomasek
	Henry	and Stephanie	Tray
	Janet M.		Tuttle
District Head, Collection Systems Dept., Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Noble		Underbrink
Grand County Manager	Lurline		Underbrink-Curran
	Bruce	and Karen	Vangundy
	Raymond F.		Vanous
	Jerry		Vogt
	Kevin A.		Wachter
	Raymore		Walcher
	Janice		Waldron
Mayor, Town of Granby	Ted		Wang
	William	and Beverly	Westlake
Ms. Dorothy F. Taylor	Kathy		Weyer
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Selwyn		Whiteskunk
	David	and Patricia	Wishart
	Dale Alan	and Tine M.	Woolley
	Tom		Wunder
Noriyuki & Parker Pc			
Boselli Family Partnership			
Good Skiing, LLC			
Horn Ranches Inc.			
Singing Elf Inn, Inc.			
Stillwater Ranch Development Co.			
Big Rays Enterprises, LLC			

Attachment D
Public Meeting Notice

Open House

Granby Pumping Plant-to-Windy Gap Transmission Line Project

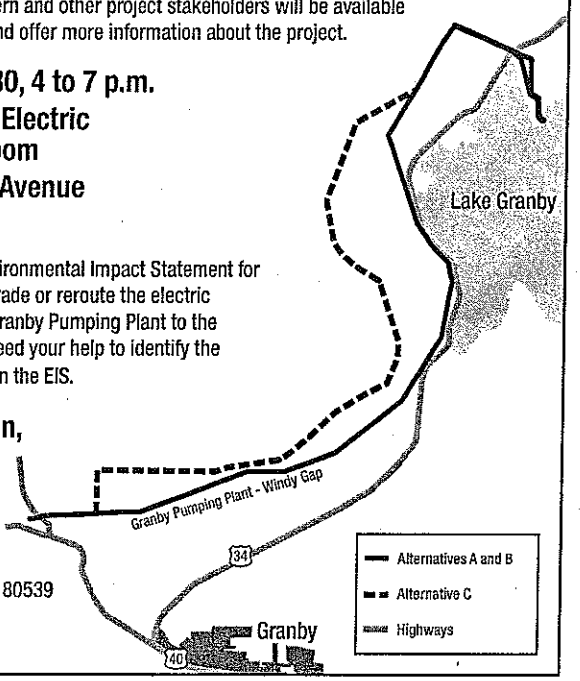
Western Area Power Administration

Learn more about the Granby Pumping Plant-to-Windy Gap transmission line project to help ensure reliable electric service in Grand County at an open house, Aug. 30.

Representatives from Western and other project stakeholders will be available to answer your questions and offer more information about the project.

▶ Thursday, Aug. 30, 4 to 7 p.m.
Mountain Parks Electric
Community Room
321 West Agate Avenue
Granby, Colo.

Western will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project to upgrade or reroute the electric transmission line from the Granby Pumping Plant to the Windy Gap substation. We need your help to identify the scope of issues to evaluate in the EIS.



For more information, please contact:

Rodney Jones,
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Admin.
Rocky Mountain Region
P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539
Phone: 970-461-7371
E-mail: gppwgp@wapa.gov

Attachment E
Official Comment Form

PUBLIC SCOPING

COMMENT FORM

Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Granby Pumping Plant - Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Please submit comments by September 17, 2007. You may:

- Leave this form at the public scoping meeting.
- Mail the form or a letter to the address below.
- E-mail comments to gppwgp@wapa.gov.
- Fax the form or a letter to 970-461-7213.

Please check the following issues important to you for evaluating the transmission line alternatives.

____ Visual effects

____ Physical issues (weed control, erosion)

____ Proximity to residences

____ Radio or television interference

____ Noise

____ Public Lands

____ Recreation Resources

____ Health and safety

____ Land use (fields, corrals)

____ Water issues (springs, seeps, wells)

____ Biological issues (wildlife habitat, wetlands)

____ Historic and cultural sites

____ Project Cost

____ Other_____

Are there any special uses, circumstances, or factors on your land, not already addressed, that you would like the Granby Pumping Plant - Windy Gap EIS to be aware of? If so, please list.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please provide any other comments on the Granby Pumping Plant - Windy Gap EIS and identify any issues that need to be addressed.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Sign up to receive the Granby Pumping Plant - Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project EIS

Let us know if you would like to receive a copy of the EIS. Once the EIS is completed, the document will be available at public libraries on CD. **To receive a copy, please check one box:**

☐ Notify me of its availability ☐ Send me an electronic copy on CD-rom

Tell us how to reach you

Western will not share your contact information with others, however, all comments submitted will be become part of the project record.

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional)
Please Print
Name:_____
Representing:_____
Mailing Address:_____
City:_____
State:_____
Zip:_____
Daytime Phone:_____
Email address:_____

Completing this form will automatically add you to the mailing list.
If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box to the right. ☐

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION !

Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539

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Attachment F
Public Meeting Sign-In Sheets

IN ORDER TO PROTECT PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION, THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN WITHHELD FROM THE REPORT.

Attachment G
Categorized Public Comments

GRANBY PUMPING PLANT – WINDY GAP TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CATEGORIZED PUBLIC COMMENTS

Note: The following categorized comments represent most, but not necessarily all, public comments relevant to the specific topics identified below.

SOILS

Keywords searched: soil, erosion, sediment, sedimentation, geology, access roads

Number	***Comment***
1	Important issue, physical issues (weed control, erosion)
2	The alignments presented for the power line rebuild cross and run parallel to portions of Lake Granby and several streams in the Willow Creek Valley. Line construction, removal, and maintenance activities, including access roads, can impact surface waters, wetlands, fens and riparian areas. The runoff of sediments and pollutants along the ROW and the potential disruption of established drainage patterns may require mitigation to minimize impacts. To the extent practicable, impacts to wetlands should be avoided and work near lakes or streams should be carefully managed to avoid impacts to surface water quality and aquatic life. If transmission line construction or removal involves the deposition of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine if a 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. Storm water permits for this project may also be required from both EPA and the State of Colorado. These permits generally require the development a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) that may be applicable to both permits. Such plans require the use of best management practices to protect surface waters and wetlands, endangered species and historic properties. For information on securing a federal permit, contact Greg Davis in EPA's Storm Water program at 303-312-6314. For the State of Colorado, contact Nathan Moore at 303-692-3555.
3	We note that WAPA's preferred alternative will require a new alignment and a 100-foot right-of-way (ROW) for a large portion of the transmission line upgrade. The DEIS should assess the environmental impacts and benefits associated with any new alignments and associated access roads and infrastructure, and also identify measures that will be taken to reclaim the former ROW.

SOCIOECONOMICS

Keywords searched: cost, economy, economic, tourism, property, properties, property value, finance, financial, environmental justice

Number	***Comment***
1	It seems to us the real impact issues to be evaluated are; 1) Costs, 2) Views, 3) Health, and in that order. Under costs, it would seem to make sense to spend the deferred repair and maintenance expenses pending on increasing line capacity. I have not patrolled the entire line but, across our lots the poles appear to need replacing and the crossties are rotten and splintered. It appears to me the cost of increasing capacity would be higher with option B as the land values, small lot sizes and multiplicity of owners will force many of the expansion easements into the creation of unusable remainders. There are several cases where existing structures would be within the new easement and additional properties will have significant easements to be purchased. It appears easement costs would be less

	expensive across agricultural and public land as opposed to residential or commercial properties. This should favor option Cover B. While not expressed by Grand County, there is an economic downside to County assessments and taxes by removing or devaluating residential properties as would occur under option B. I am unable to evaluate the reduction in assessed valuation impact to entities such as the Fire District, Recreation District and School District, but clearly residential and vacant residential properties are taxed at a higher rate than agricultural land and public lands bear no tax burden. In summary, Option C is the most desirable. It provides for expansion of electric capacity that will be necessary as the area grows. It impacts the fewest properties and persons. It appears to cost the least and at a minimum protects the existing tax base of several taxing districts. We suspect Option C will actually increase the tax base as properties unusable due to the existing power line easement will become buildable and existing residences will see their values increase with the removal of the current eyesore. Option C will enhance the experience of locals and tourists alike as the view improves through the3 Lakes Design Review Area.
2	Expert Harry Orton, Orton Consulting Engineers International Ltd., indicates underground lines are safer, preserve scenic beauty and cost nearly the same as overhead lines over the long term. East Slope folks are the beneficiaries of the additional or more reliable water supply. It is only fair they fund burying the lines. WAPA's estimate is $10 million for overhead versus $40 million for burial. Assuming a life cycle of 40 to 50 years, the life cycle cost to bury the lines would amount to less than $1 million a year. For the one million East Slope residents who benefit, this would amount to a surcharge of less than $1 a year. Besides, they like to vacation here too! The Federal legislation enabling the Project clearly placed the burden for building and maintaining the facilities on the Project and its successors, namely, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy. Under those circumstances, the Conservancy should bear the cost of replacing the Adams Tunnel line to assure our access to the "green power" produced with Grand County water in Estes Park.
3	Protecting the County's rural character while maintaining the economy: Reliable, cost-effective electrical services are a basic need for the citizen's of Grand County. Mountain Parks Electric is responsible for this service to Grand County. Mountain Parks Electric will receive a direct benefit from Western's proposed upgrade. We appreciate their ability to provide cost effective, dependable electrical service to the varied topography, remote areas and diverse ecosystems within Grand County. We also commend their proactive outlook to identify current and future service needs of the community, and to identify appropriate capital improvements to meet those needs. We acknowledge that system reliability will be improved with the looped transmission. The delivery of reliable, cost-effective electrical service will support the needs of existing and future customers in an area extending from Rocky Mountain National Park, south to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch, between Byers Canyon and the Continental Divide.
4	Cost is not a reason to eliminate an alternative if it is the least environmentally damaging. By not including replacement of the Adams Tunnel line, this eliminates the possibility of Grand County to obtain cheaper power (the hydro component of the Colorado Big Thompson Project has paid for itself many times over) and does not meet the national perspective stating that "Green Power" is necessary for environmental health of the nation.
5	Additional issues: What is the point of installing overhead lines now, just to increase the cost of burying them at a later date?
6	I understand the need of updating the existing 69kv lines with something that will carry the necessary power in the future, and I understand that burying these lines is an option but one that would increase the cost of the installation and the subsequent maintenance/upkeep/etc. There are alternatives being presented by Western (much appreciated) – makes it sound as if Western is well aware there will be a public outcry about the propose towers and route. We need to look toward the future and not toward costs - please consider your alternative option of burying the cables rather than erecting them along the highway.
7	You are already probably well away of the cultural resources present in the area, and the site inspection to be carried out by EDAW, Inc and RMC, Inc will probably bring further resources to light. Should this happen, please please please allow for the cost and time needed to accurately and responsibly record these cultural sites. They are our heritage and once they have been disturbed, much of the information to be gleaned from them is lost.

8	What are the long term costs of this project?
9	For a large stretch of Alternative C, the powerline is proposed to be co-located in the right-of-way ("ROW") currently occupied by the Willow Creek Pipeline. However, the alignment diverges from the pipeline ROW at the point where the Property's southeastern corner adjoins BLM land. There does not appear to be any justification for this divergence from either an environmental or economic standpoint. Lt appears that this realignment may have been done solely to accommodate one private landowner to the south. If so, it seems highly inappropriate for a federal agency to accommodate one private land owner to the direct detriment of another at the cost of additional environmental impacts. Nor is there any reason for WAPA not utilizing the existing ROW under Alternative B as it heads southwest from the BLM property. Use of either of these existing ROWs would reduce ROW acquisition costs, minimize viewshed impacts, and prevent new surface disturbance.
10	Let's see if we can do an underwater pipeline to take the water from the pumping plant intake into the Adams Tunnel and down in elevation in the tunnel to such a level, if possible, that the water will siphon out of Lake Granby. If the drop in elevation is not adequate to create the siphon, maybe a one-way Intake valve can be Installed to pull the water into the pipe. If the siphon could be created to take the water from the Lake Granby intake, a pumping station would not be necessary. It could all be done via siphon! A wye could be installed in the pipe with a one way intake valve to send the water Into the Colorado River below the Shadow Mountain Dam during times when the natural downstream flow was not enough to make up the required stream flow. Power could still be generated from the subcontinental water flow--possibly without even having to pump the water. The approach would solve the water quality issues and return Grand Lake to its once pristine clarity, as It should be. It would also solve the route question for the WAPA power lines. Please forward this concept around to the engineers who can specify how to build the above described system. It will solve the water quality problem which the Big Thompson project has created, and it will solve the route for the WAPA power lines. The relative cost of the project Is small.
11	I would like to see an actual cost figure applied to every alternative and how that cost is spread for the lifetime of the upgrade. I would like to see the actual cost/benefits of this project applied directly to Grand County. Will additional upgrades need to be made to provide power and if so what do these upgrades cost and who will have to pay those costs.
12	I would like to know the price difference in placing the transmission line underground versus erecting above ground towers 120 feet in the air.
13	Alternative C Would Result in Severe Economic Impacts. Damage to conservation values present on the Property through implementation of Alternative C will result in significant adverse economic impacts. The economic impacts to the Ranch Owners for the area taken and to the remainder of the Property from Alternative C would be substantial and would extend far beyond the ROW. The Ranch Owners are concerned that WAPA has not fully considered or taken into account the economic value of these lands and the resultant additional costs that obtaining ROWs would add to implementation of Alternative C. Damage to the Property's conservation values may adversely affect the value of the planned conservation easements and consequently may result in impacts to the donation value that could be claimed by the Ranch Owner under federal and state law. It is estimated that the value to the Ranch Owners of the existing and planned conservation easement donations for the Property will ultimately be in the millions of dollars. If Alternative C is implemented, WAPA would be required to compensate the Ranch Owners to the full extent of the lost economic value to the Property and related existing and future conservation easements. Elimination of alternatives due to additional cost alone is not a sufficient reason to eliminate an otherwise reasonable alternative from consideration. Without fully analyzing these alternatives, there is no way to determine whether an incrementally higher cost may be justified in light of lesser environmental impacts. The Ranch Owners believe that WAPA likely has underestimated the costs of Alternative C by failing to take into account the costs to compensate the Ranch Owners for damage to the Property and conservation easements, which may be in the millions of dollars. Similarly, the need to contract for specialized resources does not justify elimination. Each of these alternatives is economically and technically feasible and warrant

	full consideration as an alternative in the NEPA process.
14	What will be the tax consequences to the county residents and businesses? It is time strong consideration is given to placing all new lines underground regardless of cost. Further degradation caused by the installation of huge poles and lines could cause financial burdens on everyone in the county especially real estate owners adjacent to the selected path of the proposed lines. This consequence could easily be greater than the additional costs associated with solving this problem with an environmentally and economically responsible way.
15	This project has been in the planning and talking stage too long. It is high time the work begins. The plan presented a year ago in the fall of 2006 is the best one and this project should have stayed on schedule. Every delay just costs more.
16	This limited scope alternative (option C) would also require relocation of the Granby Substation to, the Willow Creek Sub to achieve loop transmission supply as well as require installation of two 25 kV lines from the relocated Granby Sub (at Willow Creek Sub) to connect with existing 25 kV line along Highway 34. Assuming easement availability along CR 40, these two 25 kV lines could be installed underground at an estimated cost under $500,000; cost for relocation of the Granby Substation is estimated to be minimal using existing major equipment. Although underground transmission lines are technically feasible, the initial cost of such facilities is 10-20 times that of comparable overhead transmission lines. Additionally, the environmental impact of constructing underground transmission lines is much greater, being comparable to construction of a pipeline or new roadway with extensive excavation and resulting surface disturbance. Vehicle access along an underground line route is also required for the life of the facility for operation and maintenance purposes. If underground transmission were to be seriously considered as an option, the replacement of cables in the Adams Tunnel would be a preferred alternative in my opinion. As a local property owner, I am opposed to paying for the higher cost of undergrounding these lines since the difference in costs would usually fall on the local community requesting such underground option.
17	When we built our home on our property we did not have overhead power lines installed. Although we incurred a higher cost, we buried our power. They say it starts with one person. I believe that your proposed project would destroy all that we've attempted to preserve and set us back monumentally. As people of this earth are becoming more aware of the impact we have on the environment, it is beyond my comprehension that you would even consider the idea of installing these huge towers in such a non-urban area. I realize that this method would save you lots of money. Are you telling me that money is worth the destruction of animal habitats? Not to mention the destruction of the mountain's natural beauty. This, by the way, is how many of us make our living. The beauty and peace of this area have brought tourists here, thus creating an income for all of us. The dollars tourists bring to Grand County affect all residents, from the independent shop owner to construction companies. Erecting towers to replace power to allow water naturally in this area to be diverted elsewhere? I can't even begin to tell you how selfish that sounds. We understand the need for the water in the metro area. And, we understand that the water diversion happened here long before I was a local resident. accept that fact. Although, I am quite disturbed when I make trips to the city to see the folks there misusing water and really having no understanding of where the water comes from and just how precious the resource is to all of us. But, erecting these towers to save yourselves money, while destroying our home is wrong. If you want to talk dollars, what happens to property values when y'all erect these unsightly towers in my backyard? Not to mention, the dollars J may have to spend in the future on medical expenses to try and preserve my health in the future from exposure to the EMFs. I believe from your mailing address that you are in Loveland In that case, Grand County is your backyard. Can you truly in good conscious destroy your own backyard to save a few dollars? Or is watering your sidewalk that important?
18	I realize that we the electric users will pay more for putting them underground. I am perfectly willing to trade higher power costs for elimination of such abhorrent eyesores.
19	Of THESE three alternatives we are in favor of Alternative C. However, we are interested in the burial proposal but do not understand

	the expense and environmental impacts that would be involved.
20	How this project is going to affect our power bills. How it will benefit Grand County in the future.
21	I agree with the conclusions stated in the Letter from Grand County and that the lines should be placed in water tunnels rather than build new towers and lines. With the Pine Beetle eliminating the trees that would help to hide these new towers and lines, it is in the best interest of everyone to put the lines into the water tunnels. This would also seem to be more cost effective in the long run, less maintenance and no need for construction of new towers.
22	Bury them. I realize this will increase your cost but if you do not bury them then I will be paying the cost by loss of views and decreased property value as well as possible health issues that we may not even be aware of.
23	If you truly care about human and environmental welfare, you must put financial costs below them.
24	How much of the bill for this project will be paid by front range users?
25	A project of this magnitude and environmental impact along with the economic consequences should receive broader review than has been possible to his point.
26	Economically, property values will decline. Real estate agents are having difficulty selling property near the proposed route already. Potential buyers will choose areas with more scenic views; tourists who value the peaceful undeveloped character now present will go elsewhere. We strongly resent WAPA's tactic of pitting residents against each other with respect to Alternative Routes Band C. It is an unconscionable divisive act by a Federal Government agency in a community that has traditionally been very cohesive. It is certainly understandable that residents in the Scanlock subdivision, who stand to have power lines removed from their property, would be pleased because they would be economically favored by the relocation of the power line through their subdivision. However, there are many other subdivisions with a larger total population (Idle Glen, Lake Forest, etc.) that will have taller towers and wires on their property or be within view of them. Communities facing new transmission lines have stated that no one property owner should suffer economic hardship.
27	Who needs the power? Who pays for it?
28	First choice would be no visible transmission lines. I don't imagine this would be a realized method of construction because there may be too many terrain and various logistical as well as economic obstacles with the economics being in the forefront of any consideration, Nonetheless it would have the least impact on the critical lakefront environment and scenic "views".
29	The EIS will address impacts from the proposed project and a range of reasonable alternatives that achieve that same purpose and need. This notice is to inform agencies and the public of the proposed project and solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues Western has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include… socioeconomic impacts and disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.
30	Grand County's bread and butter is tourism. Tourism depends upon maintaining the beauty of the area and the sense of being in the "wide open spaces out west". The area you are proposing to put these extremely high transmission poles is one of the premier dude ranch areas in the nation and it would have a negative visual impact on what makes Grand County special. There are other alternatives which could provide the same service, but would not have the visual impact you are proposing. Please do not use the 100 ft plus pole proposal and use others with less visual impact.
31	The technology is here to put the lines under ground or under water...why even consider in a beautiful and scenic area like Grand County, which is also partly dependent on tourism to build huge power lines and destroy what is most precious to us all??? I thought we live in an age to live forward and not backward. So many concerns about this issue should be considered. This is not something we can change in the next couple years. You cannot seriously consider to put them in an area where people come to live to get away from pollution in any kind just maybe because it is the cheapest way?? We chose to live in this healthy mountain region for a purpose and

	do not want to have huge power poles planted in front of us. Please consider the alternatives # 6 or 7 on your list.
32	For these people money is everything. Stop all construction of the East Slope.
33	Our main concerns have been loss of views with the line crossing in front of our house, as well as a potential decline in property values that could arise from this.
34	If the lines are not buried and ultimately are more unsightly than the existing lines, we would not be opposed to participating in legal action for diminished property values.
35	I understand the effort to increase reliability of electrical services. However, human real property values (safety, view, etc) and wildlife needs (safety, transit) militate against adding towers twice as tall as the existing problematic towers! Please re-use the existing towers and/or place/replace the in-tunnel electrical lines or bury the new lines underground with the absolute minimal surface disruption!
36	We find it more advantageous for Hot Sulfer Springs, and Grand County, to reap the rewards from the property values if the lines were to be removed away from the Granby, Scanloch Subdivision. It would entice a lot more land owners with vacant land to start building their dream homes. We have been land owners for 26Years, but hesitate to build on such a beautiful lot because of the existing power lines. We thank you for your time, as we truly believe Alternative C will be the right choice for everyone!!
37	This will decrease our property values as it goes directly in front of our views of Lake Granby and the ranches coming from county road 41.
38	As a local property owner, I am opposed to paying for the higher cost of undergrounding these lines since the difference in costs would usually fall on the local community requesting such underground option.
39	This area is very sensitive to "scenic views", lake scenes, and mountain scenes reflected by the market pricing of real estate, Any encroachment by power transmission lines as mentioned earlier should blend in well or the value of the adjacent properties usually are decreased. Neither I or any of my neighbors would want to experience a decrease in our property values.
40	With the elimination of No.1 because of practical, technical, and financial reasons, the second choice. if implemented, would still be the most desirable to us as adjacent land owners. However. No.3 could also be a fairly acceptable compromise especially if some consideration is given to terrain enhancement underneath the line.
41	I would hope that it would be done without raising local taxes.

VISUAL

Keywords searched: visual, visually, aesthetic, esthetic, scene, scenic, scenery, view, viewshed, visible, byway, scenic byway, VRM, visual resource management, VQO, visual quality objective

Number	***Comment***
1	There is absolutely no need to pollute the sky and people’s views with huge power lines.
2	First of all I am opposed to any proposal which would adversely affect wildlife and any existing scenic corridors. The line currently in place has visual detractions; however, we have become used to it. I also do not want any increase in height of power lines. I feel increase height only negatively impacts wildlife. Then you add markers which would be in place for aircraft and there are visual impacts.
3	Secondary to health is the visual impact. We can't look outside now without power lines in all directions.
4	The 138kv lines are likely a health hazard as well as a visual detraction. If the lines are not buried and ultimately are more unsightly than the existing lines, we would not be opposed to participating in legal action for diminished property values.

5	This project also has the potential to impact wildlife, native vegetation and visual resources. Impacts to visual resources associated with the proposed power poles and lines should be thoroughly assessed for each alternative. As feasible, the placement of transmission lines underground should be considered in any areas with high scenic value.
6	The visual, health and recreational resource issues could all be avoided by burying the lines or putting them in the existing water tunnel. Why should the residents and visitors to Grand County have to put up with visual pollution caused by front range power needs. The transmission line installed through Church Park from Fraser to the Williams Fork is an example of gross visual damage to our public lands resource that could have been avoided by alternative routing or burial of the lines. Don't do it to us again! Bury the lines! There is no way that above ground transmission lines benefits the residents of Grand County. The high recreational and residential use of the area should preclude even the thought of above ground lines. Just bury them!! I
7	I feel that visual impacts of 120' towers will destroy the rural flavor of the area and we should strongly consider the use of existing tunnels to carry the transmission lines. I live in Granby on a street that buried the power lines and we have enjoyed the views by not having to look through towers and lines.
8	Grand County has concerns regarding the direct consequences of the proposed installation in overall impact and impairment to visual resources, and wildlife in the area within and adjacent to the Arapaho National Recreation Area. The Grand County Zoning Regulations require electric utilities to minimize the visual degradation of the landscape caused by power lines and towers. However, Staff believes that there may be another option that would meet the same intent of an 'underground installation'. Staff requests that Western evaluate an option for use of the existing pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby for the installation of a cable system to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines. Joint use of the pipeline for both conveyance of water and installation of the electrical lines would be a more sustainable alternative. Use of this pipeline as a 'chase' would eliminate the need for new construction, and would be more aesthetically compatible. It would allow easy access for maintenance to the electrical lines since the pipeline is not in continuous use for the conveyance of water. Materials and installation methods for underwater electrical cabling is technically feasible. We do not believe that Western has fully analyzed the impact of the proposed tower structures on the landscape within the Three Lakes Area. The key element of design criteria in this area is a harmonious and appropriate design. The proposed tower structures, at 120- ft. are intrusive to the overall panoramic mountain and scenic view shed and don't easily blend into the natural, surrounding landscape. With regards to the proposal using aboveground facility, we encourage Western to limit site disturbance and vegetation clearing that is visible from residential developments and public roads by means of minimizing clear-cut widths and other established landscape techniques, such as a revegetation plan. The proposed option of a single pole tower does not minimize this impact. Comments were made at the public meeting related to the potential of underground construction of the electric transmission lines.
9	Visual effects, Proximity to residences, Noise, Health and safety, I believe that these power lines should be buried, for all the reasons above as well as for the land value. These big power lines hurt real estate values.
	Many other mountain towns/areas have declined to have these huge towers erected as they mar our landscape - makes them sound rather ugly. There are alternatives being presented by Western (much appreciated) – makes it sound as if Western is well aware there will be a public outcry about the propose towers and route. We need to look toward the future and not toward costs - please consider your alternative option of burying the cables rather than erecting them along the highway. This proposal sounds safer, much more aesthetically pleasing and hey, it makes you guys look good - everyone wins.
10	We are all very fortunate to live in such a beautiful place with so many uses. With each new development project, the views and the uses decrease. We need to become more aware in our planning, so that we are able to grow as a community while preserving the way of life that has attracted everyone here.
11	The area you are proposing to put these extremely high transmission poles is one of the premier dude ranch areas in the nation and it

	would have a negative visual impact on what makes Grand County special..There are other alternatives which could provide the same service, but would not have the visual impact you are proposing. Please do not use the 100 ft plus pole proposal and use others with less visual impact.
12	Please seriously consider the underground placement of these power lines to eliminate scenic pollution, wildlife disturbances, potential health impacts and overall disruption of the quality of our outdoor experiences.
13	Damage to the viewshed from the Property, along with the likely spreading of noxious weeds caused by the proximity of the Property to new surface disturbance, will result in adverse economic impacts to the Property. This Property is currently valued at approximately five and one-half million dollars ($5,500,000.00). The economic impacts to the Ranch and the Preserves by virtue of the visual imposition of a powerline in a currently pristine viewshed would be substantial. The Ranch and the Preserves are concerned that WAPA has not fully considered or taken into account the economic value of the Property and the resultant additional compensation due to landowners if WAPA implements Alternative C.
14	I found the visual analysis to be misleading. Examining the visual impacts of Alternative A, it appears that there are several areas where 40+ towers are visible. Examining Alternative B, there are very few locations where 40+ towers are visible, yet the towers in Alternative B could be up to twice as tall as the towers in Alternative A. I realize that there will be a few less towers in Alternative B, but it is counter intuitive to believe that towers that are twice as tall will be less visible. Please redefine how you "slice" the categories (i.e., the number of towers that are visible) to fairly represent the visual impact. To reduce reflected sunlight from the transmission line itself, please use low spectral line (i.e., line with low reflectivity). When removing and trimming trees within the right-of-way, please avoid clear-culling a straight line through forested areas. Please vary the edge and "feather" in the cut.
15	We do want to know if there will be potential visual impacts from key vantage points within the park. One vantage point that specifically comes to mind is the historic Shadow Mountain lookout tower, which is a popular destination near Grand Lake.
16	We do not want the huge power poles impacting our land and country-side. We expect WAPA to respect our county's beauty and the need to keep it that way. We now have tall poles and lines that are intrusive. Now you want to increase the height of the poles, the width of the poles and the amount of power through the lines. Our visitors don't like the poles we have to put with now. We are recommending that you put the power lines underground. Environmentally this is the green thing to do. That would mean you could then remove the ugly poles. We expect you to do the very best for us and not just make it less expensive for the eastern slope
17	The technology is here to put the lines under ground or under water...why even consider in a beautiful and scenic area like Grand County, which is also partly dependent on tourism to build huge power lines and destroy what is most precious to us all??? I thought we live in an age to live forward and not backward. So many concerns about this issue should be considered. This is not something we can change in the next couple years. You cannot seriously consider to put them in an area where people come to live to get away from pollution in any kind just maybe because it is the cheapest way?? We chose to live in this healthy mountain region for a purpose and do not want to have huge power poles planted in front of us. Please consider the alternatives # 6 or 7 on your list.
18	I would like to know the price difference in placing the transmission line underground versus erecting above ground towers 120 feet in the air. 120 foot towers would definitely have an adverse visual effect when contrasted against the backdrop of the mountain ranges.
19	The overall visual beauty of the county and its natural resources are the reason this county and the people and business in it are here. Degradation of this visual beauty is at an all-time high due to the massive death of our forests. Further degradation caused by the installation of huge poles and lines could cause financial burdens on everyone in the county especially real estate owners adjacent to the selected path of the proposed lines.
20	Additionally there seems to be some local opposition to proposed overhead transmission lines due to potential visual impacts…. Following the route of Option C from Windy Gap to Willow Creek Sub would minimize visual impacts of the transmission line portion of such a project…. This would leave the existing (overhead, unshielded) 69 kV line from Willow Creek Sub along Highway 34 to

	Stillwater Tap and beyond as a radial line once the Adams Tunnel cables fail. The remaining 69 kV line could be rebuilt as an H-frame single-circuit overhead line in the existing route with lower height than proposed double circuit line in Option B to minimize visual impact changes… This eliminates additional visual and other impacts of Alternative C from the Willow Creek Pump Plant to Granby Pump Plant. Such an alternative would have the added benefit of removing the visual impact of the existing Granby Sub from view of the scenic byway on Highway 34.
21	It is evident to me that alternative C is the best choice. Moving the lines to the west of Table Mountain will keep the visual effects out of the Recreation Area as much as possible and fewer residences will be affected.
22	The thought of higher lines that would further mar the beauty of our surroundings distresses me. Surely there are better alternatives.
23	You need to come up with more constructive ideas that preserve the remaining landscapes without industrial scars. Bury the darn line or scrap the line idea all together!!
24	High voltage electric transmission lines, structures, and termination equipment, to the best of my knowledge, do not ever provide any enhancement to the visual or environment of any landscape or terrain and are there only because of a necessity--the necessity of carrying electrical energy from point A to point B, and the further distribution according to the needs. Keeping this in mind and maintaining a good and aceeptac1e balance between the necessity and environment, Tam submitting the following for your consideration, and hopefully the eventual implementation. First choice would be no visible transmission lines. I don't imagine this would be a realized method of construction because there may be too many terrain and various logistical as well as economic obstacles with the economics being in the forefront of any consideration, Nonetheless it would have the least impact on the critical lakefront environment and scenic "views". Second choice would be construction of the new line in place of the existing westernmost line of the two now existing. This would place it farther away from the homes in the neighborhood and visually partially mask its presence because of the trees in the campground between it and C.R.64. Third choice is the placement of the towers on the immediate west side of C.R. 64. This placement would keep all of the wiring to the pumphouse on the west side ofC.R,64 and there would be no crossover of the roadway. Fourth and last, which involves the placement of the new towers to be on the east side ofC.R.64, would be the least acceptable to me, and 1believe, most of my neighbors, when there are other three other more favorable options. Acknowledging that the visual or scenic aspect of any considerations regarding placement of power transmission lines is unfortunately too often almost at the bottom of priorities when determining the location of structures I don't agree with this philosophy but I understand why it persists. The visual can also be just as important a criteria as avian habitat. In some situations the visual concerns could be much lower while in other circumstances much higher. A better and more comprehensive analysis of any location could conceivably produce more acceptable and pleasing results. Maybe this is the case now in progress on this project--·I surely hope so. The visual impact of anyone turning onto C.R.64 from Hwy 34 would be greatly improved by having the lines placed over the campground as described in NO.2. This campground is in most cases a weekend campground by reservation only and I doubt there is anyone using the campgrounds who would ever pay the slightest attention to any power lines above or towers erected on the ground. There is already in place an existing clear cut area under the existing lines in the middle of the campground. Since there is only one access road, (C,R,64). to my home and all of my neighbors properties, whatever the final configuration or location of the line may become, everyone going to and from their homes in the valley via the C.R.64 intersection at the firehouse, will be subjected to the visual encroachment of the lines and towers, It would be wise to do it right, visually, environmentally, and culturally(?) acceptable to the homeowners in the immediate area as well as fulfill the requirements of the WAPA electrically. I am going to contact directly or indirectly as many of my neighbors as possible and try to create more interest now that a little more is known about the scope of the project so they may be contacting your office for some possible additional information. Removing the old wood poles requires the replacement with new 90 to 95 ft, towers. I would like to see the use of the pre-rusted single tubular mono-tower which blends into the landscape reasonably well and no consideration be given to the four-legged lattice style, galvanized or coated steel structures so often used on many lines. This area is

	very sensitive to "scenic views", lake scenes, and mountain scenes reflected by the market pricing of real estate, Any encroachment by power transmission lines as mentioned earlier should blend in well or the value of the adjacent properties usually are decreased. Neither I or any of my neighbors would want to experience a decrease in our property values. One observation 1have recently made of the e)listing 65 foot +/- wood poles is the compatibility of their appearance next to lodge pole pine trees. Steel mono pedestal towers do not have the natural quality took that wood poles have but if they are prerusted they are much preferred over the lattice structures.
25	We, as property owners, experience the visual impact of the towers daily whereas campers camp in the campground because of the lake views and shoreline exposure, fishing, facilities, and privacy requiring reservations to use the campground, They pay no attention to what's up in the sky above them or how many wires arc overhead and because of their one or two day stays in the campground, they concentrate only on their camp-out. We, as neighbors to the campground, have a much broader interest in the surrounding area and are much more aware and expect more of what's around us.
26	The EIS will address impacts from the proposed project and a range of reasonable alternatives that achieve that same purpose and need. This notice is to inform agencies and the public of the proposed project and solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues Western has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include: visual impacts.
27	We live now with the shortsighted "savings" of constructing utility poles and wires across every stretch of land in our country because people did not put their collective foot down to require buried utility lines from the beginning. We must now do the right thing before our only scenery is metal and wire! If for no other reason, couldn't you have pity on Grand County where we've lost so much of our forests to not overpower what's left of our neighborhood with utility structures and power lines? Even if we had our beautiful trees back we don't want them to be dwarfed by +100' metal structures. You might want to consider your long-term benefits of burying the lines: not only would it show your responsibility for the environments of your customers but it would also ensure growth of your customer base by attracting buyers and builders to an area kept pure, undefiled by mass of metal. I understand that burying the lines will be more expensive at the outset, but I beg you to factor in the long-range benefits to residents and tourists, wildlife, environment and commerce as well as the good will to and gratitude of current and future generations.
28	Expert Harry Orton, Orton Consulting Engineers International Ltd., indicates underground lines are safer, preserve scenic beauty and cost nearly the same as overhead lines over the long term. Economically, property values will decline. Real estate agents are having difficulty selling property near the proposed route already. Potential buyers will choose areas with more scenic views; tourists who value the peaceful undeveloped character now present will go elsewhere.
29	I also agree with Grand County's comments regarding the need to not interfere with Wildlife, nor scenic views.
30	The degradation of the scenic corridor is too high a price to pay for this “back-up” power. Continue to use the tunnel route, or consider going underground to windy gap.
31	The Property enjoys rich and valuable environmental resources. Conservation values associated with the Property include scenic and open space values, agricultural values, natural habitat, native vegetation, rare plant communities, and riparian and wetland values. These values are discussed further in Section 3, below. Colorado law recognizes the importance of these natural elements and ecological values and has created conservation easements as a key tool to facilitate private efforts to preserve natural systems. See C.R.S. §§ 38-30.5-101 - 38-30.5-111. These values have been identified throughout the Property and warranted protection through the placement of conservation easements on various parcels in favor of The Nature Conservancy. Copies of these deeds of conservation easement already in place were provided with our January 17, 2007 letter. Many of these same values are now threatened by Alternative C.
32	Your plan will essentially amount to an unlawful "taking" of our views, wildlife habitat, radio and TV reception, and a quiet and safe environment. The huge towers and transmission lines as planned will also have a severe negative impact on the tourist economy of our

	area. As it seems unlikely that we need double the power locally, we assume your plan is for more power for the pumping of water out of Grand County and to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Should you be able to prove a need for the powerful, 138kV lines to replace the existing lines, the solution to all the above would be to bury them underground, reducing EMF exposure and preserving scenic beauty.
33	Economically, property values will decline (just ask the real estate agents now trying to sell property near the proposed route). Potential buyers will choose areas with more scenic views; tourists who value the peaceful unworldly character now present will go elsewhere. Economically, as a community we stand to suffer. Who profits?
34	We strongly believe that the area's beauty affected by these lines receive the greatest influence. This is a residential community which depends heavily on tourists. These unsightly power lines should be underground to avoid the detrimental impact that the unsightly lines would have on the tourists coming to view and enjoy the area, and spend their money.
35	We do not want the view spoiled, in addition to the many other contributing factors that make these 105-foot towers a terrible idea.
36	Views are impacted with the existing line and options Band C have location view issues to either selection. There is a priority to views within the 3 lakes Design Review sub area. Given the legislated mandate to have extra concern over views in the 3 Lakes area and that Relationship with the southern portions of Rocky Mountain National Park, it would seem view considerations favor option C over either A or B.
37	I understand the effort to increase reliability of electrical services. However, human real property values (safety, view, etc) and wildlife needs (safety, transit) militate against adding towers twice as tall as the existing problematic towers!
38	It took us three and a half years to locate our property with its magnificent view; abundant wildlife; quiet tranquil mountain charm; excellent TV, radio, and wireless internet reception without interference; and no 105',138kV transmission towers with 8 wires and accompanying "noise." Our property is south-sloping. Our entire home is oriented to the south with incredible views from nearly every room. The front of our home is practically all widows to take advantage of the view. We buried the electric line to our home so we they would not obstruct that view. WAPA's proposed 138kV transmission lines in our view corridor, which extends all the way to the Winter Park ski slopes, would mar the beautiful mountains and valleys that we enjoy every day. We will see them from our dining area, bedrooms, living room, study, hot tub, deck and driveway. They will annoy us when we awake, at breakfast, lunch and dinner; as we garden and do other chores, when we try to relax on our deck, as we hike our property and in the Arapaho National Forest immediately behind our home, and as we depart and arrive at our home every day. They will annoy our children and grandchildren and will be obstacles for the next 50 years or more until they are replaced with undergrounding technology that now exists. Currently, there are no power lines of any kind behind Table Mountain, so WAPA would be introducing them into a pristine area. We and others hike in the National Forest lands on Table Mountain and would look down on unsightly towers and wires. WAPA's use of brown painted towers would not help. For over half the year they would be obtrusive beyond anyone's imagination against the white snow.
39	Because Alternative C would locate a portion of the transmission line near the top Of a ridge line just south of the Property, it would have significant adverse impacts to the Property. These impacts include, but are not limited to, new surface disturbance and the potential for the spreading of noxious weeds, disruption of the viewshed from the Property (as well as from Highways 34 and 40), and impacts to the economic value of the Property.
40	Location of the powerline just south of the southern edge of the Property unnecessarily places the powerline near a ridge line. This location will undoubtedly result in adverse viewshed impacts to both the Property and to Highways 34 and 40 that would otherwise be reduced if the Willow Creek Pipeline ROW were used. It is our understanding that one of WAPA's major considerations in determining alternative alignments was to reduce the viewshed impacts associated with the powerline. An alignment near a ridge line will have precisely the adverse viewshed impacts that WAPA claims to be seeking to avoid. These impacts must be fully considered and appropriate mitigation measures proposed in the EIS.

41	This will decrease our property values as it goes directly in front of our views of Lake Granby and the ranches coming from county road 41.
42	Alternative C unnecessarily reroutes the transmission line on previously undisturbed lands, will have significant adverse impacts on sensitive species and habitats, will adversely affect the viewshed (including the view from Table Mountain and the Arapahoe National Recreation Area), will have significant negative economic impacts on the Property, and may degrade the conservation easement values present on the Property.
43	The existing power lines running along Highway 34 (Mountain Parks Electric) are ugly. Adding tall steel poles at the height proposed to this view would be intolerable. Moving the power lines to the west side of Table Mountain Seems to be the only choice to limit the sight of them from the public view. Once relocated, the higher poles should be painted a color to help them blend with the background.
44	We have a beautiful valley-please don't distort it!
45	Every day when I turn on to CR 64 from US 34 I am confronted with the most distracting eyesore to our beautiful mountains surrounding Lake Granby, your present power transmission lines. To increase the size of this sight would be devastating.
46	Beetle kill has made everything above the ground highly visible.
47	We moved to the Stillwater area because of the pristine views and natural beauty. That would be destroyed if the lines are not buried.
48	Our main concerns have been loss of views with the line crossing in front of our house, as well as a potential decline in property values that could arise from this.
49	The height of new poles if installed in the existing easement would make them visible from all areas of the Arapahoe Recreation Area.
50	The proposed towers will emit a constant "noise" and be very visible, especially now that we are losing all of our tall trees to beetle kill, which provided cover for much of the existing single circuit, 69kV, 50' wood pole, H-frame design.
51	We are in the process of putting in a small subdivision just west of the Cherrington Meadow and it appears that your transmission line will run right in front of it. Now that Hwy 34 is a designated scenic byway, it seems ridiculous to put a big ugly power line the length of that meadow, which is (other than the lake) about the only scenic thing between Grand Lake and Coffee Divide! Any thought given to burying the line across that meadow?
52	The land belongs to all of us and our progeny; therefore all uses must be in our best interests for the long term. When I drive to Grand Lake I want to see the mountains, not power lines. When I boat on Lake Granby I want to see the expanse of the lake, not power lines. When I sit on the deck I expect to wave to and chat with neighbors, not look across power lines. When I drive by the Willow Creek road I enjoy seeing antelope running free, not avoiding power line structures.
53	As Grand County expands, with more development, we must upgrade our image. Overhead power lines are one of the most unattractive and devaluing additions to our county. We should be moving toward burying existing power lines .. certainly not adding more and larger lines.

LAND USE

Keywords searched: land use, conservation, easement, existing land use, future land use, zoning, zoning code, zoning regulation, master plan, plat, development

Number	***Comment***
1	Western's staff has proactively sought out current land use applications in the area where the proposed service will be located. In addition, there is a segment of the existing transmission line that will be relocated from existing development where Western operates with limited right of way. They have attempted to minimize conflict with existing and planned land uses.

2	I see no benefit to clearing public land to put powerlines through these woods and meadows when they are in place now.
3	This firm represents Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Inc., Hudler Holdings LLC and Rick A. Pederson, LLC (collectively, the "Ranch Owners"), owners of approximately 980 acres of land formerly known as the East Hudler Ranch and now known as the E Diamond H Ranch (the "Property"). The Property is rich in environmental resources and was purchased by the Ranch Owners in 2003 with the intent to conserve the Property. To date, conservation easements have been placed on approximately 210 acres out of the total 980 acres in an effort to preserve significant environmental and conservation values present on and around the Property. As discussed in greater detail herein, placement of an additional 560 acres (including approximately 315 acres in 2007) in conservation easements is planned in the coming years. The Ranch Owners are very concerned about WAPA's persistent pursuit of Alternative C, despite the significant adverse impacts that this alternative will have on the environmental and conservation values. Alternative C unnecessarily reroutes the transmission line on previously undisturbed lands, will have significant adverse impacts on sensitive species and habitats, will adversely affect the viewshed (including the view from Table Mountain and the Arapahoe National Recreation Area), will have significant negative economic impacts on the Property, and may degrade the conservation easement values present on the Property. If Alternative C were implemented, the damage to the Property, including the existing and planned conservation easements, could well be in the millions of dollars. WAPA would be required to pay compensation for such damage. Because of these adverse impacts, the Ranch Owners continue to vigorously oppose any attempt to reroute the transmission line on or near the Property, which would disrupt the conservation values for which this Property has been protected. The Property enjoys rich and valuable environmental resources. Conservation values associated with the Property include scenic and open space values, agricultural values, natural habitat, native vegetation, rare plant communities, and riparian and wetland values. These values are discussed further in Section 3, below. Colorado law recognizes the importance of these natural elements and ecological values and has created conservation easements as a key tool to facilitate private efforts to preserve natural systems. *See* C.R.S. §§ 38-30.5-101 - 38-30.5-111. These values have been identified throughout the Property and warranted protection through the placement of conservation easements on various parcels in favor of The Nature Conservancy. Copies of these deeds of conservation easement already in place were provided with our January 17, 2007 letter. Many of these same values are now threatened by Alternative C. In 2003, the Property was platted and divided into 28 parcels of35 acres each, known as the C Lazy U Preserves. The C Lazy U Preserves was platted as a covenant controlled ranch preservation community with special emphasis placed on maintaining the agricultural and conservation values of the Property. To this end, conservation easement donations have already been placed on some of these parcels. Moreover, conservation easements for 16 of the remaining parcels (approximately 560 acres) are planned for the coming years. Due to the nature of state and federal tax laws that govern conservation easement donation, in order for the Ranch Owners to obtain the full tax benefits for the value of the conservation easement donations, the total value that may be donated in any given year is limited. This means that the number of parcels that can be placed into a conservation easement per year is also limited, making the placement of the Property into conservation easements a multi-year process. Following completion of extensive environmental baseline studies and appraisals, six parcels were placed into three separate conservation easements in 2006. An additional nine parcels are planned for conservation easement donations to The Nature Conservancy for 2007. The Ranch Owners plan to donate conservation easements for the majority of remaining parcels in following years. The existing and planned conservation easements function to preserve and protect, and to enhance and restore, the open space and significant natural features and values of the Property. The specific purposes identified in the existing conservation easements include conservation of important habitat for wildlife, protection of rare or unique native plants, and conservation of the diverse forest, meadow, and riparian vegetative communities and the wildlife inhabiting these communities. These easements recognize that protection of the Property will contribute to the conservation of habitat for wildlife and plants and place affirmative restrictions on activities that may occur on the protected parcels. Alternative C threatens these values and is inconsistent with the uses allowed under the existing conservation easements. Moreover, the adverse impacts resulting from implementation of Alternative C

	threatens to degrade the very values that the Ranch Owners are seeking to protect, thereby jeopardizing the conservation easement future of these parcels. WAPA must, at a minimum, recognize and account for the potential loss of these conservation values and adverse impact to the value of these conservation easements, if Alternative C were to be implemented. Damage to the Property's conservation values may adversely affect the value of the planned conservation easements and consequently may result in impacts to the donation value that could be claimed by the Ranch Owner under federal and state law. It is estimated that the value to the Ranch Owners of the existing and planned conservation easement donations for the Property will ultimately be in the millions of dollars. If Alternative C is implemented, WAPA would be required to compensate the Ranch Owners to the full extent of the lost economic value to the Property and related existing and future conservation easements. There is a strong likelihood that significant adverse impacts affecting unique characteristics on and near the Property would result from Alternative C. It is precisely these values that the Ranch Owners and The Nature Conservancy have sought to protect through placement of conservation easements on the Property.
4	It appears to me the cost of increasing capacity would be higher with option B as the land values, small lot sizes and multiplicity of owners will force many of the expansion easements into the creation of unusable remainders. There are several cases where existing structures would be within the new easement and additional properties will have significant easements to be purchased. It appears easement costs would be less expensive across agricultural and public land as opposed to residential or commercial properties. This should favor option Cover B. While not expressed by Grand County, there is an economic downside to County assessments and taxes by removing or devaluating residential properties as would occur under option B. I am unable to evaluate the reduction in assessed valuation impact to entities such as the Fire District, Recreation District and School District, but clearly residential and vacant residential properties are taxed at a higher rate than agricultural land and public lands bear no tax burden.
5	I have owned and lived in Scanloch Subdivision for 35 years. It is my primary residence. The possibility of widening the existing 30' easement to 100' would render much of my property unusable and some existing buildings would have to be removed. It would be a "taking". The height of new poles if installed in the existing easement would make them visible from all areas of the Arapahoe Recreation Area.
6	We appreciate the opportunity to comment. We support that objective to improve system reliability and understand the benefits to the citizens of Grand; however, we do believe that there are elements of the project that are inconsistent with criteria in the Three Lakes Design Review Area (Section 14.5) of the Grand County Zoning Regulations. The Grand County Zoning Regulations require electric utilities to minimize the visual degradation of the landscape caused by power lines and towers. Again, staff requests that Western evaluate the use of the existing water pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines. Joint use of the pipeline for both conveyance of water and installation of the electrical lines is a sustainable alternative that would eliminate a portion of the 12- mile project to currently be only evaluated in an aboveground option. As stated above, we believe this process should include an evaluation of the use of underwater electrical cabling to carry the proposed electrical service from Windy Gap to Lake Granby.
7	GRAND COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS - SECTION 14.5 THREE LAKES DESIGN REVIEW, The Three Lakes Design Criteria was developed to support the enabling legislation of the Arapaho National Recreation Area. It is the intent of these standards to foster sensitive and creative solutions for facilities located in this area. It is utilized in review for all projects located within the area. We encourage Western to fully analyze the impact of the proposed tower structures on the landscape within the Three Lakes Area. The key element of design criteria in this area is a harmonious and appropriate design. The proposed tower structures at 120 feet, are intrusive to the overall panoramic mountain and scenic view shed and do not easily blend into the natural, surrounding landscape. The Grand County Zoning Regulations require electric utilities to minimize the visual degradation of the landscape caused by power lines and towers. Again, staff requests that Western evaluate the use of the existing water pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines. Joint use of the pipeline for both conveyance of water and installation of the electrical

	lines is a sustainable alternative that would eliminate a portion of the 12 mile project to currently be only evaluated in an aboveground option. As stated above, we believe this process should include an evaluation of the use of underwater electrical cabling to carry the proposed electrical service from Windy Gap to Lake Granby.
8	We have evaluated the proposed project under the appropriate goals from the Grand County Master Plan: MAINTAINING OPEN SPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT: We have concerns that the proposed alternative may have an adverse impact on the wildlife habitat, particularly with critical wintering habitat and migration routes. It is our understanding that studies are underway, and Western will present findings with regards address this concern. Upon completion of this analysis, Western shall incorporate mitigation that will minimize side effects such as wildlife habitat disruption in their final proposal. PROTECTING THE COUNTY'S RURAL CHARACTER WHILE MAINTAINING THE ECONOMY: Reliable, cost-effective electrical services are a basic need for the citizen's of Grand County. Mountain Parks Electric is responsible for this service to Grand County. Mountain Parks Electric will receive a direct benefit from Western's proposed upgrade. We appreciate their ability to provide cost effective, dependable electrical service to the varied topography, remote areas and diverse ecosystems within Grand County. We also commend their proactive outlook to identify current and future service needs of the community, and to identify appropriate capital improvements to meet those needs. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AND MINIMIZING ITS IMPACT: We acknowledge that system reliability will be improved with the looped transmission. The delivery of reliable, cost-effective electrical service will support the needs of existing and future customers in an area extending from Rocky Mountain National Park, south to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch, between Byers Canyon and the Continental Divide. With regards to the proposal using aboveground facility, we encourage Western to limit site disturbance and vegetation clearing that is visible from residential developments and public roads by means of minimizing clear-cut widths and other established landscape techniques, such as a revegetation plan. The proposed option of a single pole tower does not minimize this impact. Comments were made at the public meeting related to the potential of underground construction of the electric transmission lines. We understand that there are on-going studies to evaluate the proposed alignment on historic and archeological sites. We encourage that you share any information about potential alignment/historic site conflicts. Western's staff has proactively sought out current land use applications in the area where the proposed service will be located. In addition, there is a segment of the existing transmission line that will be relocated from existing development where Western operates with limited right of way. They have attempted to minimize conflict with existing and planned land uses. 2 Grand County staff has received several comments from concerned citizens regarding the question of underground installation and why it was not evaluated. This comment is directed on the installation of a new underground facility. Staff understands that there are issues with line separation, line protection, safety and right-of-way with an underground system. However, Staff believes that there may be another option that would meet the same intent of an 'underground installation'. Staff requests that Western evaluate an option for use of the existing pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby for the installation of a cable system to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines. Joint use of the pipeline for both conveyance of water and installation of the electrical lines would be a more sustainable alternative. Use of this pipeline as a 'chase' would eliminate the need for new construction, and would be more aesthetically compatible. It would allow easy access for maintenance to the electrical lines since the pipeline is not in continuous use for the conveyance of water. Materials and installation methods for underwater electrical cabling is technically feasible. ENSURING THAT NEW DEVELOPMENT IS SERVED BYADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE. The main objective of this project is to enhance system reliability by providing a looped transmission system. Currently there is concern with the potential loss of the 69- kV cable in the Alva B. Adams Tunnel. This cable supplies a secondary source of electrical power for a major share of the citizens of Grand County. It allows looped transmission service between Estes Park and the Windy Gap Substations. As you have indicated, this cable is antiquated and in need of replacement. There is a direct beneficial impact of this project with the provision for a second source of power to the area between Grand Lake south to Granby, from the Continental Divide west to Byers Canyon. The proposed rebuild will provide residents of Grand County a reliable,

	looped power supply.
9	The alignments presented for the power line rebuild cross and run parallel to portions of Lake Granby and several streams in the Willow Creek Valley. Line construction, removal, and maintenance activities, including access roads, can impact surface waters, wetlands, fens and riparian areas. The runoff of sediments and pollutants along the ROW and the potential disruption of established drainage patterns may require mitigation to minimize impacts. To the extent practicable, impacts to wetlands should be avoided and work near lakes or streams should be carefully managed to avoid impacts to surface water quality and aquatic life. If transmission line construction or removal involves the deposition of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine if a 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. Storm water permits for this project may also be required from both EPA and the State of Colorado. These permits generally require the development a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) that may be applicable to both permits. Such plans require the use of best management practices to protect surface waters and wetlands, endangered species and historic properties. For information on securing a federal permit, contact Greg Davis in EPA's Storm Water program at 303-312-6314. For the State of Colorado, contact Nathan Moore at 303-692-3555.
10	WAPA has produced little evidence to convince us that there is a real need to double the power for our 6750 or so local users. What is apparent from the location of the line leading directly to the Granby Pumping Station is that the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District needs more power to pump water out of the county for East Slope development. The water in Windy Gap reservoir belongs to the East Slope. In 2003 they submitted plans to improve, or "firm," their water reliability by requesting two additional reservoirs with capacities of 100,000 and 30,000 acre-feet of water. It is hard to believe there is no connection between these projects. Shadow Mountain Lake and Grand Lake are already polluted with toxic algae. The idea of taking more water out of the county and erecting unsightly towers to do so at our expense is simply preposterous. Moreover, on good authority, we have recently learned that the lines in the Adams Tunnel have not been used to transmit power back to Grand County for several years, as the switch is locked out. In that light, we further question the premise for the entire project which is based on the fact that these existing lines in the Adams Tunnel are nearing the end of their useful life.
11	In addition, the Orvis Golf Course and large proposed development around it would be adversely impacted by the erection of such towers and lines so close to this development.
12	I believe we can grow and develop responsibly, and that there is a finite amount of resources available for all growth, both in the mountains and on the front range. We cannot allow the unlimited, blind destruction of our resources for unlimited growth.
13	Living near or under such lines presents many unfavorable outcomes for residents and tourists - views, noise, radio and TV interference, and exposure to EMFs. Pilots face higher risk for accidents. Hawks, eagles and other migrating birds will be impacted. Herds of 100+ elk and moose will have their migratory route, along the proposed route, disrupted. With more and more development, this is their only path. Ranchers have reported that after transmission lines were run, cows died at a higher rate. And when our ranchers become frustrated with the 138kV transmission lines and sell out, we lose the pleasurable vistas their lands provide every day.

WILDLIFE

Keywords searched: wildlife, threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, boreal toad, big game

Number	***Comment***
1	The proposed transmission line rebuild will have both direct and cumulative impacts to the greater sage grouse in the area. The project

	lies within occupied range of the greater sage grouse as defined by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Greater sage grouse utilize this area year round for breeding, brood-rearing, summer and winter habitats. The greater sage grouse is a state species of special concern and has been petitioned multiple times for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Middle Park Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan (2001) will provide more detailed information on greater sage grouse in Middle Park. Currently a comprehensive Colorado Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan is in its final draft stages and should be available later this year. Additionally, this area is the southeastern most range for the greater sage grouse, and has been significantly compromised by surrounding developments, habitat fragmentation, and human disturbance. Current information does not support any exchange between North Park or other western Middle Park greater sage grouse populations and is isolated. The transmission line rebuild will place the disturbance in closer proximity to this breeding area. Greater sage grouse collision potential and increased predation is likely to occur with the proposed rebuild alternative. Overall, the existing route imposes the least impact to greater sage grouse and minimizes cumulative impacts already in place with other significant habitat losses in the area. The area of Table Mountain and the surrounding habitats are defined as winter range for elk and mule deer. All human activities associated with any construction and maintenance of this transmission line within winter range should not take place between November and April. This will help maintain the viability of this severely limited seasonal habitat. Human disturbance in this area may displace elk to adjacent private lands and cause conflicts. The invasion and spread of non-native plants and noxious weeds within the rerouted alignment are of concern. These plants reduce the density of native vegetation and can out compete native plants that many wildlife species are dependent on. Precautions should be taken to reduce the introduction or spread of these plants. Cleaning vehicles before introducing them to a new area and having a comprehensive plan to control weeds after construction takes place is imperative. A variety of migratory birds occur in the area. These include a variety of raptors including eagles and osprey. Ospreys also have attempted to utilize other utility poles in the area for nesting. Impacts from collisions and electrocutions may increase mortality with these species especially considering the increased height and number of lines associated with the new transmission line. The CDOW is very concerned about the wildlife impacts that re routing and increasing the size of the structures will have on wildlife in the area. In addition to direct effects, this preferred alternative will also contribute to cumulative impacts to wildlife.
2	First of all I am opposed to any proposal which would adversely affect wildlife and any existing scenic corridors. I also do not want any increase in height of power lines. I feel increase height only negatively impacts wildlife.
3	If you truly care about human and environmental welfare, you must put financial costs below them. I understand that burying the lines will be more expensive at the outset, but I beg you to factor in the long-range benefits to residents and tourists, wildlife, environment and commerce as well as the good will to and gratitude of current and future generations.
4	This project also has the potential to impact wildlife, native vegetation and visual resources. The DEIS should specifically evaluate impacts and appropriate measures that will be employed to protect habitat for sage grouse, deer, elk, raptors, fish and other species that may be impacted by transmission line construction, removal and maintenance activities. Provisions for the management and control of noxious weeds and invasive plant species along ROW corridors should be included in project alternatives. EPA recommends that any disturbed areas be revegetated with native, weed-free vegetation and monitored as part of the ROW maintenance provisions following construction.
5	The impact of the project on wildlife during and after construction will need to be carefully assessed.
6	I understand the effort to increase reliability of electrical services. However, human real property values (safety, view, etc) and wildlife needs (safety, transit) militate against adding towers twice as tall as the existing problematic towers! Please re-use the existing towers and/or place/replace the in-tunnel electrical lines or bury the new lines underground with the absolute minimal surface disruption!
7	It took us three and a half years to locate our property with its magnificent view; abundant wildlife; quiet tranquil mountain charm; excellent TV, radio, and wireless internet reception without interference; and *no* 105',138kV transmission towers with 8 wires and

	accompanying "noise." Our property is south-sloping. Our entire home is oriented to the south with incredible views from nearly every room. The front of our home is practically all widows to take advantage of the view. We buried the electric line to our home so we they would not obstruct that view. Our property is on the route of antelope, moose, and hundreds of elk who winter here and migrate south on the proposed power line route behind Table Mountain. With fall approaching we will have moose and herds of elk bedded down on our hillsides and right next to our house. Every day we use our binoculars to spot wildlife behind our house and in front of our house in the valley. The proposed route will disrupt wildlife migration and interfere with our sightings.
	Grand County has concerns regarding the direct consequences of the proposed installation in overall impact and impairment to visual resources, and wildlife in the area within and adjacent to the Arapaho National Recreation Area. MAINTAINING OPEN SPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT: We have concerns that the proposed alternative may have an adverse impact on the wildlife habitat, particularly with critical wintering habitat and migration routes. It is our understanding that studies are underway, and Western will present findings with regards address this concern. Upon completion of this analysis, Western shall incorporate mitigation that will minimize side effects such as wildlife habitat disruption in their final proposal.
8	I also agree with Grand County's comments regarding the need to not interfere with Wildlife, nor scenic views.
9	This letter is to express strong opposition to building 138kV towers and transmission lines from the Granby Pumping plant to Windy Gap. These have no place In this valley. They would destroy the character of this mountain resort area and pose unnecessary threat to the wildlife in the valley. Of special concern would be the danger to migratory birds such as the bald eagles that winter in the area, the breeding white pelican colonies and ospreys. Camouflage of the towers would not take away the danger, especially during potential heavy wet spring snows. The proposed alternatives such as replacing the Adams Tunnel cable or burying the lines and then following the Windy Gap tunnel make much better environmental sense.
10	Please seriously consider the underground placement of these power lines to eliminate scenic pollution, wildlife disturbances, potential health impacts and overall disruption of the quality of our outdoor experiences.
11	The existing and planned conservation easements function to preserve and protect, and to enhance and restore, the open space and significant natural features and values of the Property. The specific purposes identified in the existing conservation easements include conservation of important habitat for wildlife, protection of rare or unique native plants, and conservation of the diverse forest, meadow, and riparian vegetative communities and the wildlife inhabiting these communities. These easements recognize that protection of the Property will contribute to the conservation of habitat for wildlife and plants and place affirmative restrictions on activities that may occur on the protected parcels. Alternative C threatens these values and is inconsistent with the uses allowed under the existing conservation easements. Moreover, the adverse impacts resulting from implementation of Alternative C threatens to degrade the very values that the Ranch Owners are seeking to protect, thereby jeopardizing the conservation easement future of these parcels. WAPA must, at a minimum, recognize and account for the potential loss of these conservation values and adverse impact to the value of these conservation easements, if Alternative C were to be implemented. Alternative C could significantly affect unique environmental characteristics of the Property and could affect sensitive and threatened or endangered species habitat. As identified in the Walsh report and outlined in our prior comments, Alternative C could significantly adversely affect valuable environmental resources on the Property as a result of both long and short-term surface disturbance to previously undisturbed areas. Aquatic resources, water quality, wetlands, and fens, as well as other important ecological values present on the Property, may be adversely impacted by Alternative C. Because fens take thousands of years to development and are therefore essentially irreplaceable and cannot be mitigated, these potential impacts are particularly troubling. In addition, it is probable that Alternative C could adversely affect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat. As of2003, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program was tracking 29 elements of biological significance within 20 kilometers of the Property. Walsh has concluded that appropriate habitat for some of these elements exists in the area and the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts to these resources associated with Alternative C is "highly probable."

	Other sensitive and threatened or endangered species and their habitat present on or near the Property may also be adversely affected by Alternative C. WAPA's lack of knowledge about the potential impacts of the Project on these environmental resources does not excuse consideration by the agency, but rather requires the agency to do the necessary work to obtain relevant information. *See Nat'[Parks and Conservation Ass'n* v. *Babbitt, 241* F.23d 722,733 (9th Cir. 2001). Finally, WAPA must take into account the adverse environmental effects of Alternative C caused by the spreading of noxious weeds onto currently pristine lands that surround the proposed ROW. Undertaking new surface disturbance to construct the Project in a new ROW will undoubtedly contribute to noxious weeds being introduced and spreading onto both the Property and areas of the Arapahoe National Recreation Area. Such impacts must be addressed and appropriate mitigation measures developed. There is a strong likelihood that significant adverse impacts affecting unique characteristics on and near the Property would result from Alternative C. It is precisely these values that the Ranch Owners and The Nature Conservancy have sought to protect through placement of conservation easements on the Property. Reasonable alternatives that WAPA should fully analyze include, but are not necessarily limited to: (1) replacement of the Adams Tunnel power cable, which is an inherently reasonable alternative given that there is currently a power cable located in the Adams Tunnel that currently provides a second source of electric power to the area; (2) installation of an underground transmission line along all or portions of the existing route (Alternative B), which would avoid new surface disturbance outside of the existing ROW; and (3) installation of an underwater submarine cable under Lake Granby for portions of the route, which would avoid essentially all impacts to the Arapahoe National Recreation Area. Each of these possible alternatives would avoid significant environmental impacts. Visibility impacts (including those to Table Mountain and the Arapahoe National Recreation Area) would be minimized or totally eliminated and surface disturbance would be temporary, rather than permanent. These alternatives would also lessen any potential impacts to birds and wildlife.
12	Although information has been provided regarding living near high voltage lines, there is no conclusive proof that high voltage doesn't cause illness. The wildlife in the area of Table Mountain is currently more threatened by the mountain lions in residence than by moving the power lines. It is evident to me that alternative C is the best choice. Moving the lines to the west of Table Mountain will keep the visual effects out of the Recreation Area as much as possible and fewer residences will be affected.
13	My family and I have always had a deep respect for preserving the beauty of the natural landscape of Grand County. Where we have control, we do our best to maintain what nature has given us and respect not just the land, but the wildlife as well. We have a deer trail that runs through our property. Although we have just 2.4 acres, we have made it a point to not disturb the area of the deer trail. In addition, when we built our home on our property we did not have overhead power lines installed. Although we incurred a higher cost, we buried our power. They say it starts with one person. I believe that your proposed project would destroy all that we've attempted to preserve and set us back monumentally. As people of this earth are becoming more aware of the impact we have on the environment, it is beyond my comprehension that you would even consider the idea of installing these huge towers in such a non-urban area. I realize that this method would save you lots of money. Are you telling me that money is worth the destruction of animal habitats? Not to mention the destruction of the mountain's natural beauty. This, by the way, is how many of us make our living. The beauty and peace of this area have brought tourists here, thus creating an income for all of us.
14	Your plan will essentially amount to an unlawful "taking" of our views, wildlife habitat, radio and TV reception, and a quiet and safe environment. The huge towers and transmission lines as planned will also have a severe negative impact on the tourist economy of our area. As it seems unlikely that we need double the power locally, we assume your plan is for more power for the pumping of water out of Grand County and to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.
15	Please do not destroy our views, interfere with our health and safety, disturb our land and wildlife, and please don’t put powerlines above ground.
16	I have attached, for your convenience, the most recent federal species list for Colorado. (see list)

17	Our wildlife is struggling as it is because of beetle kill and changes to their migration, let's not run them out completely.
18	Living near or under such lines presents many unfavorable outcomes for residents and tourists - views, noise, radio and TV interference, and exposure to EMFs. Pilots face higher risk for accidents. Hawks, eagles and other migrating birds will be impacted. Herds of 100+ elk and moose will have their migratory route, along the proposed route, disrupted. With more and more development, this is their only path. Ranchers have reported that after transmission lines were run, cows died at a higher rate. And when our ranchers become frustrated with the 138kV transmission lines and sell out, we lose the pleasurable vistas their lands provide every day.

RECREATION

Keywords searched: recreation, tourism

Number	***Comment***
1	We own 9 lots in Scanloch on Table Mountain. The current power towers are unsightly and diminish the recreational value of the Granby/Grand Lake corridor. Evidently the newly proposed plan will be worse. It is unfathomable to us that Western Area Power Authority has no sense of the need for Grand County to be appealing as a tourist and vacation home destination, separate from the numerous new subdivisions that are burying their lines. The economy of Grand County needs the assistance of governmental entities to enhance the quality of life rather than be a detriment. There is no reason that Grand County doesn't compete with Summit County as a resort community as it has more natural amenities. The 138kv lines are likely a health hazard as well as a visual detraction.
2	The visual, health and recreational resource issues could all be avoided by burying the lines or putting them in the existing water tunnel. Why should the residents and visitors to Grand County have to put up with visual pollution caused by front range power needs. The transmission line installed through Church Park from Fraser to the Williams Fork is an example of gross visual damage to our public lands resource that could have been avoided by alternative routing or burial of the lines. Don't do it to us again! Bury the lines! Additional issues There is no way that above ground transmission lines benefits the residents of Grand County. The high recreational and residential use of the area should preclude even the thought of above ground lines. Just bury them!
3	Grand County has concerns regarding the direct consequences of the proposed installation in overall impact and impairment to visual resources, and wildlife in the area within and adjacent to the Arapaho National Recreation Area. The Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA) is comprised of 36,000 acres located within the upper reaches of the Colorado River Valley. Established by Congress in 1978, the enabling legislation, Pub. L. 95-450 states that the area was established not only due to the high quality recreation, but to protect and conserve the scenic and historic values.
4	Please note that there is a model airfield located southwest of the Willow Creek Pumping Plant. This airfield is an outdoor recreation facility that accommodates radio controlled model aircraft. The Alternative C powerline will be located close to this airfield. There are two concerns: First, model aircraft could strike the lines. Second, the powerline may interfere with radio transmissions and a pilot could lose control of an aircraft which poses a safety risk. The Grand County Commissioners were involved several years ago in securing funding for the airfield. I do not know who administers it.
5	I would like to see the actual cost/benefits of this project applied directly to Grand County. Since the pumping of water thru shadow mountain is causing the lake waters of Grand Lake to be polluted and have a growth of algae that affects drinking water as well as adverse affects for people swimming or recreating in the lakes, this may require a completely new design of the way the water is transferred to Adams tunnel.
6	More than most other communities, the scenery IS Grand County. Most people are here because they appreciate it, tourism depends

	on it.
7	Grand County's bread and butter is tourism. Tourism depends upon maintaining the beauty of the area and the sense of being in the "wide open spaces out west". The area you are proposing to put these extremely high transmission poles is one of the premier dude ranch areas in the nation and it would have a negative visual impact on what makes Grand County special..There are other alternatives which could provide the same service, but would not have the visual impact you are proposing. Please do not use the 100 ft plus pole proposal and use others with less visual impact.
8	The technology is here to put the lines under ground or under water...why even consider in a beautiful and scenic area like Grand County, which is also partly dependent on tourism to build huge power lines and destroy what is most precious to us all??? I thought we live in an age to live forward and not backward. So many concerns about this issue should be considered. This is not something we can change in the next couple years. You cannot seriously consider to put them in an area where people come to live to get away from pollution in any kind just maybe because it is the cheapest way?? We chose to live in this healthy mountain region for a purpose and do not want to have huge power poles planted in front of us. Please consider the alternatives # 6 or 7 on your list.
9	You may recall when we first met, I was breaking ground for our mountain home. At that time, I expressed concerns about impact of the proposed project on: The value of our property, Health and safety (EMF), Loss of view, Loss of tourism. My concerns remain unchanged although, since meeting, other concerns have arisen.

AQUATICS

Keywords searched: aquatic, fish, creek, stream, trout, riparian, wetland

Number	***Comment***
1	The alignments presented for the power line rebuild cross and run parallel to portions o Lake Granby and several streams in the Willow Creek Valley. Line construction, removal, and maintenance activities, including access roads, can impact surface waters, wetlands, fens and riparian areas. The runoff of sediments and pollutants along the ROW and the potential disruption of established drainage patterns may require mitigation to minimize impacts. To the extent practicable, impacts to wetlands should be avoided and work near lakes or streams should be carefully managed to avoid impacts to surface water quality and aquatic life. If transmission line construction or removal involves the deposition of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine if a 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. Storm water permits for this project may also be required from both EPA and the State of Colorado. These permits generally require the development a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) that may be applicable to both permits. Such plans require the use of best management practices to protect surface waters and wetlands, endangered species and historic properties. This project also has the potential to impact wildlife, native vegetation and visual resources. The DEIS should specifically evaluate impacts and appropriate measures that will be employed to protect habitat for sage grouse, deer, elk, raptors, fish and other species that may be impacted by transmission line construction, removal and maintenance activities.
2	Alternative C could significantly affect unique environmental characteristics of the Property and could affect sensitive and threatened or endangered species habitat. As identified in the Walsh report and outlined in our prior comments, Alternative C could significantly adversely affect valuable environmental resources on the Property as a result of both long and short-term surface disturbance to previously undisturbed areas. Aquatic resources, water quality, wetlands, and fens, as well as other important ecological values present on the Property, may be adversely impacted by Alternative C. Because fens take thousands of years to development and are therefore essentially irreplaceable and cannot be mitigated, these potential impacts are particularly troubling.

3	Let's see if we can do an underwater pipeline to take the water from the pumping plant intake into the Adams Tunnel and down in elevation in the tunnel to such a level, if possible, that the water will siphon out of Lake Granby. If the drop in elevation is not adequate to create the siphon, maybe a one-way Intake valve can be Installed to pull the water into the pipe. If the siphon could be created to take the water from the Lake Granby intake, a pumping station would not be necessary. It could all be done via siphon! A wye could be installed in the pipe with a one way intake valve to send the water Into the Colorado River below the Shadow Mountain Dam during times when the natural downstream flow was not enough to make up the required stream fiow.
4	In addition any construction in wetland and riparian habitats should be avoided if at all possible. The impact of the project on wildlife during and after construction will need to be carefully assessed.
5	The Property enjoys rich and valuable environmental resources. Conservation values associated with the Property include scenic and open space values, agricultural values, natural habitat, native vegetation, rare plant communities, and riparian and wetland values. These values are discussed further in Section 3, below. Colorado law recognizes the importance of these natural elements and ecological values and has created conservation easements as a key tool to facilitate private efforts to preserve natural systems. The existing and planned conservation easements function to preserve and protect, and to enhance and restore, the open space and significant natural features and values of the Property. The specific purposes identified in the existing conservation easements include conservation of important habitat for wildlife, protection of rare or unique native plants, and conservation of the diverse forest, meadow, and riparian vegetative communities and the wildlife inhabiting these communities. These easements recognize that protection of the Property will contribute to the conservation of habitat for wildlife and plants and place affirmative restrictions on activities that may occur on the protected parcels. Alternative C threatens these values and is inconsistent with the uses allowed under the existing conservation easements. Moreover, the adverse impacts resulting from implementation of Alternative C threatens to degrade the very values that the Ranch Owners are seeking to protect, thereby jeopardizing the conservation easement future of these parcels. WAPA must, at a minimum, recognize and account for the potential loss of these conservation values and adverse impact to the value of these conservation easements, if Alternative C were to be implemented.

HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Keywords searched: health, human health, public health, safety, public safety, human safety, EMF, electromagnetic field

Number	***Comment***
1	My home is right in the area where you are looking into running these lines. We already have line running and these will only make the views worse. I did not move the area to look at wires. Bury them. I realize this will increase your cost but if you do not bury them then I will be paying the cost by loss of views and decreased property value as well as possible health issues that we may not even be aware of.
2	I would like to know if you will absolutely guarantee my family & future generations will NOT have health issues from a line such as you are proposing. I don't think you can.
3	The 138kv lines are likely a health hazard as well as a visual detraction.
4	It seems to us the real impact issues to be evaluated are; 1) Costs, 2) Views, 3) Health, and in that order. While there is some debate over the health impacts to human beings of electromagnetic radiation, that debate does continue. As an example, the December 2006 issue of Scientific American reports a University of Zurich study that found transcranial magnetic stimulation altered decision-making on the part of human beings. It would seem the fewer persons living around high voltage lines would be the most desirable option given equality in the rest of the issues (option C.)

5	The visual, health and recreational resource issues could all be avoided by burying the lines or putting them in the existing water tunnel.
6	While your literature indicates EMF exposure is safe, Google searches on the internet reveal that state governors and communities throughout the United States are vehemently opposing 138kV transmission lines. They are banned near schools because of the increased incidence of brain tumors and cancer. At this time it is simply unknown how much exposure is safe. A study conducted by the State of Rhode Island indicated that putting transmission lines underground reduces EMF exposure by more than 99% at a distance of as little as 25 feet. If we really need these powerful, 138kV lines to replace the existing 69kV lines, it would obviously be prudent to bury them for health related reasons. Expert Harry Orton, Orton Consulting Engineers International Ltd., indicates underground lines are safer, preserve scenic beauty and cost nearly the same as overhead lines over the long term.
7	The Grand County Board of County Commissioners is responsible for planning for the health, safety and well being of Grand County both now and in the future. We support that need to provide reliable, cost-effective electrical services for the citizen of Grand County.
8	Please seriously consider the underground placement of these power lines to eliminate scenic pollution, wildlife disturbances, potential health impacts and overall disruption of the quality of our outdoor experiences.
9	Another one of my neighbors has the line within 20 to 30' of his house creating some health concerns not to speak of the detrimental effect on property values.
10	The Alternate C affects grazing land, and goes right over another new subdivision planned in the area of County road 41. I would like to see the actual cost/benefits of this project applied directly to Grand County. Since the pumping of water thru shadow mountain is causing the lake waters of Grand Lake to be polluted and have a growth of algae that affects drinking water as well as adverse affects for people swimming or recreating in the lakes, this may require a completely new design of the way the water is transferred to Adams tunnel.
11	The current line is less than 100 feet from my home. For health reasons as well as looks I strongly support moving it to the other side of Table Mountain.
12	There appears to be no firm evidence of the need for the new transmission lines. If it is determined that they are actually necessary, then it is imperative that the lines be buried. Windy Gap and the other places along the proposed area are special, beautiful places that must be preserved. It would be irresponsible to threaten the health of our environment and our children.
13	Although information has been provided regarding living near high voltage lines, there is no conclusive proof that high voltage doesn't cause illness.
14	If you want to talk dollars…what happens to my property values when y'all erect these unsightly towers in my backyard? Not to mention, the dollars I may have to spend in the future on medical expenses to try and preserve my health in the future from exposure to the EMF's.
15	Human real property values (safety, view, etc) and wildlife needs (safety, transit) militate against adding towers twice as tall as the existing problematic towers! Please re-use the existing towers and/or place/replace the in-tunnel electrical lines or bury the new lines underground with the absolute minimal surface disruption!
16	Another safety related issue concerns our local pilots. Our airport is very close to the proposed route of the power lines. Local pilots fly over the proposed route every day taking off and landing, and would face higher risks if the much taller power line towers and lines were built.
17	Grand County staff has received several comments from concerned citizens regarding the question of underground installation and why it was not evaluated. This comment is directed on the installation of a new underground facility. Staff understands that there are issues with line separation, line protection, safety and right-of-way with an underground system. However, Staff believes that there may be another option that would meet the same intent of an 'underground installation'. Staff requests that Western evaluate an option for

	use of the existing pipeline between Windy Gap and Lake Granby for the installation of a cable system to carry the proposed electrical transmission lines. Joint use of the pipeline for both conveyance of water and installation of the electrical lines would be a more sustainable alternative. Use of this pipeline as a 'chase' would eliminate the need for new construction, and would be more aesthetically compatible. It would allow easy access for maintenance to the electrical lines since the pipeline is not in continuous use for the conveyance of water. Materials and installation methods for underwater electrical cabling is technically feasible.
18	Please note that there is a model airfield located southwest of the Willow Creek Pumping Plant. This airfield is an outdoor recreation facility that accommodates radio controlled model aircraft. The Alternative C powerline will be located close to this airfield. There are two concerns: First, model aircraft could strike the lines. Second, the powerline may interfere with radio transmissions and a pilot could lose control of an aircraft which poses a safety risk.
19	One of the properties of power transmission lines is the creation of a magnetic field surrounding the wires when voltage is applied and flows through the lines. The question has been asked of me as to the consequences or effects caused by the more concentrated array of cables, height of the proposed towers, and the voltages involved. I can speak with firsthand experience on a related medical subject, AICD's, (automatic implanted cardio-defibrillators). The manual provided with the units from a manufacturer explains what an electromagnetic field is and how a strong electromagnetic field can cause EMI, or electromagnetic interference. A strong electromagnetic field can temporarily block the functions of an AICD, either preventing it from providing required treatment or causing an inappropriate delivery of a shock. To ensure proper functioning of the AICD they list, in addition to other things, the following to avoid: large generators and power plants, large TV or radio transmitting towers and power lines carrying more than 100,000 volts. The critical distance from power lines for those with implanted medical devices and other possible electrical side effects of the lines varies depending on the source of interference and strength. In reviewing this data, a person having an implanted AICD medical device should follow the instructions of his doctor or manufacturer. This particular characteristic of high voltage power lines and associated towers is a factor to some persons but the primary concern at this time is the location of the new lines and their support structures.
20	Should you be able to prove a need for the powerful, 138kV lines to replace the existing lines, the solution to all the above would be to bury them underground, reducing EMF exposure and preserving scenic beauty.
21	Living near or under such lines presents many unfavorable outcomes for residents and tourists - views, noise, radio and TV interference, and exposure to EMFs. Pilots face higher risk for accidents. Hawks, eagles and other migrating birds will be impacted. Herds of 100+ elk and moose will have their migratory route, along the proposed route, disrupted. With more and more development, this is their only path. Ranchers have reported that after transmission lines were run, cows died at a higher rate. And when our ranchers become frustrated with the 138kV transmission lines and sell out, we lose the pleasurable vistas their lands provide every day.
22	You may recall when we first met, I was breaking ground for our mountain home. At that time, I expressed concerns about impact of the proposed project on: The value of our property, Health and safety (EMF), Loss of view, Loss of tourism. My concerns remain unchanged although, since meeting, other concerns have arisen.