

Department of Energy

Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

DEC 1 7 2018

B0401.BL

Dear Customers and Interested Parties:

This letter is to notify you that Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) has extended the scoping comment period for the proposed Lookout Solar Project (Project) and has scheduled an additional public meeting (open house format) for the Project. WAPA representatives will attend the meeting.

The Project would involve construction of an 840-acre photovoltaic solar generating facility. Other project components would include a new substation, a new underground transmission line, access roads, and a maintenance and operation center. The Project would be located approximately 22 miles south of Buffalo Gap, primarily on lands within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota and Custer Counties, South Dakota (see enclosed map).

The Project would interconnect with WAPA's New Underwood to Wayside 230-kilovolt Transmission Line. As a result, WAPA will provide Federal oversight of the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed Project on resources such as wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, cultural and recreation resources, as well as other social, economic, and environmental effects.

The scoping period provides an opportunity for the general public, government agencies, and tribal governments to identify issues and alternatives that will help WAPA define the scope of the EA. The additional public scoping meeting (open house format) will be held to provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss the Project with Federal agency resource specialists and to submit comments. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Hot Springs Public Library.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

By mail to:
 Western Area Power Administration
 Attn: Ms. Christina Gomer
 2900 4th Avenue North
 Billings, MT 59101

- By fax to (406) 255-2900
- By email to gomer@wapa.gov

• In writing at the public scoping open house meeting:

Wednesday, January 16th, 2019 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hot Springs Public Library 2005 Library Drive Hot Springs, SD 57747

For your input to be considered during preparation of the draft EA, WAPA requests comments no later than Tuesday, February 19, 2019. If you have any questions, or need more information about the Project, please contact WAPA using the methods listed above. Thank you for your time and interest in the Project.

Sincerely,

Christina Gomer

NEPA Coordinator

Christina Lomer

Enclosure

