



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUL 25 1977

General Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear General Gossick:

Due to the cancellation of the proposed Kaiparowits project, one of the owners (Southern California Edison) of the proposed Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) located west of Phoenix, Arizona, has found it necessary to alter the proposed routing of the transmission corridors leading from PVNGS to a substation located at Devers, California.

Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for actions relating to PVNGS, NRC will need to supplement its environmental statement (ES) because of the new routing of the transmission line. The proposed location of this line will cross public lands and such crossing of public lands will require a rights-of-way from the Department of the Interior (DOI). To comply with the objectives of NEPA, an ES will also be required for DOI actions. It appears that both NRC and DOI will have to analyze the environmental impacts on land resources because of the new transmission line. If both agencies prepare separate ES's on similar actions, it will be a duplication of effort, time, manpower, and money. Therefore, we proposed that a joint agency supplement to the ES be prepared. The "lead agency" role for this supplement would fall to DOI since the major Federal action concerns DOI's responsibility for issuing rights-of-way over the public lands.

To facilitate coordination between the two agencies and to define the areas of responsibility, the following arrangements are proposed and agreed to by our technical staffs:

1. NRC will provide DOI with necessary data and information which must appear in the ES in order to satisfy jurisdictional requirements.



2. NRC and DOI will provide each other with the names of those individuals who will be responsible for ES coordination.

3. NRC and DOI will provide each other with copies of all communications they receive from the applicant for the proposed transmission corridors that have a bearing on the issues of concern to the other agency.

4. DOI will provide NRC with the opportunity to review Chapter I (Proposed Action) of the preliminary draft supplement ES and NRC will respond as to its adequacy within 15 working days after its receipt.

5. DOI will provide NRC with the opportunity to review the preliminary draft supplement at the same time as made available for DOI inhouse review. Each agency will have 15 working days to complete this review.

6. DOI will not publish the supplement ES in either draft or final form until NRC concurs in writing that its jurisdictional responsibility and authorities are adequately addressed in the document. Differences of opinions between NRC and DOI will be clearly stated in the statement. Information required by NRC procedures, but counter to DOI policy, shall be included in NRC's Letter of Concurrence to DOI and such Letter of Concurrence shall be made a part of the supplementing ES.

7. DOI will print, distribute, and file both the draft and final supplement with the Council on Environmental Quality.

Your concurrence to the preceding points of agreement should be indicated below. Please return the signed copy for our records.

We look forward to working with you in this joint endeavor.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Meierotto
Deputy Assistant SECRETARY

I concur and approve of the points of agreement indicated above:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Date