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- NO ONE LEAD
 -BLM RECOMMENDS
 BIA LEAD

WORKING FOR TRIBAL

CONTRACTOR WANTS BIA LEAD

TRIBE/DINAH POWER WANTS BIA LEAD.

FAX

To: Ronald Montagna

Fax Number: 202-586-2999

Phone Number: 202-586-2645

Pages: 3

From: Glenn P. Darrington

Date: March 18, 2002

Subject: Letter from Diné Power Authority - Navajo Transmission Project Status

Job Name/Number: NTP - 1171

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Message:

Mr. Montagna,

Please provide me with your mailing address so I can mail you the original of the attached letter. You can send your mailing address to my e-mail at:

gdarrington@epgaz.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (602) 956-4370 or Steven Begay at (928) 871-2133.

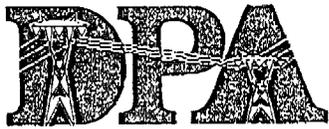
Best Regards,

Glenn Darrington, Cultural Resource Director
 Environmental Planning Group

If for any reason you do not receive a clear copy or are missing any pages of this fax

Please call and let us know so we can send it again.

602-956-4370



DINÉ POWER AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 3239
WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515
(928) 871-2133
FAX: (928) 871-4046

March 18, 2002

Ronald Montagna

Subject: Navajo Transmission Project – Project Status

Dear Mr. Montagna:

Diné Power Authority (DPA) is an enterprise of the Navajo Nation charged with developing large-scale energy projects for the benefit of the Navajo Nation. DPA enthusiastically supports the efforts of the Energy Task Force under Executive Order 13212 to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects, increase energy production and conservation, and improve the transmission of energy.

One of DPA's central efforts is the development of the Navajo Transmission Project (NTP), a high-voltage (500kV) transmission line extending from the Shiprock Substation located west of Farmington, New Mexico, to the Marketplace Substation located south of Boulder City, Nevada. This line would relieve constraints on transmission of electricity west from the Four Corners area; improve operational flexibility and reliability of the overall system; and allow increased economical transfers, sales, and purchases in the Rocky Mountain/Four Corners/Desert Southwest Region. This project will also allow the Navajo Nation to participate in the electrical utility industry and promote economic development to benefit the people of the Navajo Nation.

DPA's planning work for NTP began in 1991, with a regional environmental study to identify potential transmission corridors. Since that time, extensive environmental, engineering, and economic efforts have been completed, including the preparation of documentation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA work was completed in the fall of 1997 with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the selection of a preferred route and the publication of a Record of Decision (ROD) by the U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Authority. After the approval of the FEIS and ROD, DPA began the process of acquiring rights-of-way grants and approvals for the project. DPA also has received a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility from the Arizona Corporation Commission in November of 2000.

Currently DPA is working with those federal agencies involved with the project to complete the environmental permitting and acquire the necessary right-of-way grants. These include the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Kaibab National Forest, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Western is no longer an active participant in the project. However, Western believes the project would be best served by the BIA acting as lead federal

Ronald Montagna
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agency. DPA concurs with Western's recommendation. However, BIA seems reluctant to do so. Because the majority of the project is sited on tribal lands, DPA believes BIA should be provided with the support needed to carry out its lead agency role and be encouraged to work with DPA to bring the project to fruition. DPA believes that this situation needs to be rectified quickly so environmental permitting and approvals for this project can proceed without impacting the proposed construction schedule.

In the spirit of federal, state and tribal cooperation expressed in Executive Order 13212 and the energy future of the American west, DPA would like to request the assistance of the Interagency Task Force on Energy to resolve this situation with the BIA. DPA, its staff and representatives are available to work with you to help DPA in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information. If you require any additional information concerning the NTP, please do not hesitate to contact me (928) 871-2133.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Begay, General Manager
Diné Power Authority