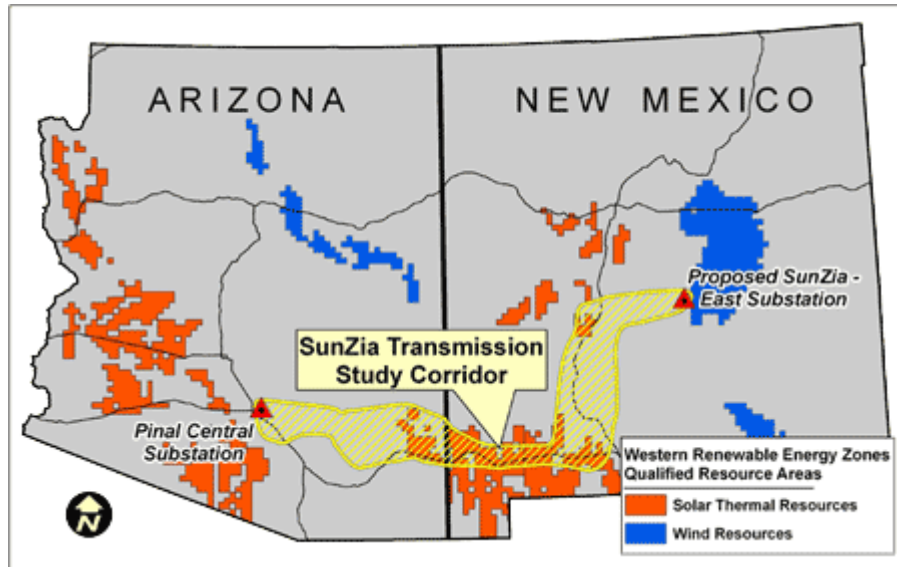


## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Resource Management Plan Amendments for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

[http://www.sunzia.net/documents\\_pdfs/blm\\_fr\\_noa\\_sz\\_deis\\_5\\_29\\_2012.pdf](http://www.sunzia.net/documents_pdfs/blm_fr_noa_sz_deis_5_29_2012.pdf)

- **90 day comment period, ends August 22, 2012**
- **Topline points:**
  - Two 500 kV transmission lines project in AZ, NM (SunZia East substation in Lincoln County, NM to Pinal Central Substation in Pinal County, AZ)
    - One is AC line
    - The other can be AC or DC
      - Depending on the configuration, the transmission lines could provide up to 4,500 MW of additional capacity
    - 3 new substations also built: Midpoint (Deming, NM), Lordsburg substation (Lordsburg, NM), and Willow substation (Willcox, AZ)
    - Commercial operation in 2016
  - The DEIS responds to the Right-of-Way application to BLM from SunZia Transmission LLC to construct, operate, maintain, and commission 2 transmission lines on public lands
  - The BLM study area was expanded to include alternative routes
    - DEIS looks at 120 alternate routes
    - BLM preferred route is 530 miles-
      - 36% (191 miles) would be on federal lands
      - 137 miles on public lands in NM
      - 54 miles on public lands in AZ
  - The transmission project includes amendments to the BLM Socorro Resource management plan, Mimbres RMP, and Safford Field office RMP
    - If an alternate route suggested does not conform to existing land use plans, an amendment is offered to the plans to bring the alternate routes into conformance
- **Should SEIA submit comments?**
  - Comment on DEIS:
    - We can comment on any of the preferred routes, all other routes, and the “no action” alternative
    - Transmission lines give access to solar, wind projects in SW, grants access to interstate power grid in the SW
    - Delivers electricity to western power markets and load centers- Phoenix, Tucson area; improves the power transfer across desert SW
    - An Economic Impact Assessment already prepared by Univ of AZ and NM State University
      - Looks at job creation under solar PV, solar thermal for each county
      - Looks at the impacts of potential renewable generation facilities
      - [http://www.sunzia.net/Uploads/SunZia%20EIA%20Generation\\_complete.pdf](http://www.sunzia.net/Uploads/SunZia%20EIA%20Generation_complete.pdf)
- **Route:**
  - [http://www.sunzia.net/resources\\_maps.php](http://www.sunzia.net/resources_maps.php)



- **Project sponsors:**
  - SunZia Transmission, LLC: Tom Wray, Mark Etherton
    - Salt River Project
    - Shell WindEnergy
    - Southwestern power Group/MMR Group
    - Tri-state generation and transmission association
    - Tucson Electric Power

Other: November 1, 2011, started an anchor tenant process for up to 50% of the merchant capacity available on the transmission lines. They are “interested to discuss reserving future transmission capacity and the subsequent sale of long-term transmission service rights for up to approximately 1350 MW at negotiated rates with qualified potential anchor tenants.”