

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Eagle Crest Energy Company

Project No. 13123-002

NOTICE OF APPLICANT PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE /
SUBSTATION LOCATION AND STAFF ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION LINE
ROUTE / SUBSTATION LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED EAGLE MOUNTAIN
PUMPED STORAGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC
MEETINGS

(January 3, 2011)

On June 22, 2009, Eagle Crest Energy Company (Eagle Crest or applicant) filed an application for an original license with the Commission for the proposed Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (Eagle Mountain Project). This notice describes the transmission line route proposed by the applicant and the alternative route recommended by staff identifies in its draft environmental impact statement (draft EIS). This notice and copies of the draft EIS are being sent to landowners of property crossed by and adjacent to both the proposed and alternative transmission line routes and to federal and state land management agencies, local elected officials, and parties to the proceeding. We are currently soliciting comments on the proposed and alternative transmission line routes and the draft EIS. Additionally, as discussed below, we will be hosting two public meetings on February 3, 2010, to discuss the transmission line routes as well as our other recommendations in the draft EIS.

The proposed Eagle Mountain Project would be located at the inactive Eagle Mountain mine in Riverside County, California, near the town of Desert Center and would consist of: (1) an upper and lower reservoir with surface areas of 191 and 163 acres, respectively; (2) an underground powerhouse with four reversible pump-turbine units each rated at 325 megawatts (MW) for a total generating capacity of 1,300 MW; (3) a 13.5-mile-long transmission line; and (4) groundwater supply facilities.

Eagle Crest's proposed transmission line would transect the Desert Wildlife Management Area, parallel the existing Eagle Mountain Road for about 4.5 miles before crossing the Chuckwalla Valley in a southeasterly direction, and connect to the proposed interconnection collector substation on the western edge of Desert Center, California. Commission staff's recommended alternative transmission line route would diverge from the applicant's proposed route after crossing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Colorado River Aqueduct. The route would then parallel the existing 160-kilovolt Southern California Edison transmission line for about 10.5 miles going

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southeast, then turn south for about 2 miles to the staff recommended substation location, immediately south of Interstate 10 and about 6 miles east of Eagle Crest's proposed substation.

When compared to the proposed transmission line route, the staff recommended alternative route would be slightly longer; however, it would be largely co-located with existing transmission line structures and be outside of the Desert Wildlife Management Area; therefore, it would likely have less effect on the threatened desert tortoise and its habitat.

Additional information about the proposed project is available on the FERC website at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "e-Library" link. Enter the docket number, (P-13123), to access the public record. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866)208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202)502-8659.

All comments must be filed by **Monday, February 28, 2011**, and should reference Project No. 13123-002. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ferconline.asp>) under the "eFiling" link. For a simpler method of submitting text-only comments, click on "eComment" under the "Documents and Filings" tab. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and eight copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, you are invited to attend a public meeting that will be held to receive comments on the transmission line routes and the draft EIS. The time and location of the meetings are as follows:

Daytime Meeting:

Date: February 3, 2011
Time: 1:00 PM
Place: University of California at Riverside
Palm Desert Graduate Center
Address: 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, **Room B114/117**
Palm Desert, California 92211

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Evening Meeting:

Date: February 3, 2011
Time: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Place: University of California at Riverside
Palm Desert Graduate Center
Address: 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, **Room B200**
Palm Desert, California 92211

At these meetings, resource agency personnel and other interested persons will have the opportunity to provide oral and written comments and recommendations regarding the draft EIS. The meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. This meeting is posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

For further information, please contact Kenneth Hogan at (202) 502-8434 or at kenneth.hogan@ferc.gov.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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