

A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Notice of Floodplain/Wetlands Involvement for the Boyd-Valley 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of floodplain/wetlands involvement.

SUMMARY: Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is the lead Federal agency for a rebuild and upgrade of 2 miles of Western's existing Boyd-Valley 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which is connected to Platte River Power Authority's (PRPA) Boyd and Valley 115-kV substations. This project is located in Loveland, Colorado. PRPA plans to replace Western's existing H-frame wood pole, 115-kV single-circuit transmission line with two new circuits constructed on double-circuit single-pole steel structures. The rebuild and upgrade will use the same right-of-way as the existing transmission line. Based on the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) flood insurance maps, the project area is within the 100-year floodplain (base flood) for the Big Thompson River. Approximately 1 mile of the project right-of-way is located within the designated 100-year floodplain. In accordance with the DOE's floodplain/wetland review requirements (10 CFR 1022), Western will prepare a floodplain/wetlands assessment and will perform the proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain/wetlands.

DATES: Comments on the proposed floodplain/wetlands action are due to the address below no later than January 11, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Jim Hartman, Environment Manager, Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, fax (970) 461-7213, email hartman@wapa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rodney Jones, Environmental Specialist, Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, phone (970) 461-7213, email rjones@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal to rebuild and upgrade the Boyd-Valley transmission line would involve construction activities within the floodplain, including removal of 1 mile of the existing 115-kV wood pole H-frame transmission line and the construction of 1 mile of new double-circuit single-pole steel transmission line. The floodplain/wetlands assessment will examine the proposed rebuild and upgrade of the transmission line. The Boyd-Valley transmission line crosses the floodplain of the Big Thompson River in Larimer County, Colorado in T. 5N., R. 69W., Sections 23 and 24. Maps and further information are available from Western from the contact above.

Dated: December 14, 2000.

Michael S. Hacksaylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-32928 Filed 12-26-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6923-1]

Policy on Alternative Dispute Resolution

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document publishes the final policy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the use of alternative dispute resolution ("ADR"). A draft of this policy was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 59837) on October 6, 2000, for public comment. The public comment period closed on December 5, 2000, and no comments were received. Therefore, EPA is republishing this policy as a final policy. Nothing in this

document creates any right or benefit by a party against the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Robert Ward, Dispute Resolution Specialist, U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., (MC 2310A), Washington, DC, 20460; (202) 564-2922; adr@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final policy is consistent with the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-320, Oct. 19, 1996, 5 U.S.C. 571-583), which requires, in part, that each federal agency adopt a policy that addresses the use of ADR. It is also consistent with provisions of the Civil Justice Reform Act (Public Law 101-650, Dec. 1, 1990, 28 U.S.C. 471-482), the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-315, Oct. 30, 1998, 28 U.S.C. 651-658), the Regulatory Negotiation Act of 1996 (Pub. Law 104-320, Oct. 19, 1996, 5 U.S.C. 561-570); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (Pub. Law 103-355, Oct. 13, 1994, 41 U.S.C. 405); the Contracts Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. 601-613); Executive Order 12988, "Civil Justice Reform," February 5, 1996; Executive Order 12979, "Agency Procurement Protests," October 25, 1995; the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR 33.204); Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations (29 CFR part 1614); Presidential Memorandum, "Designation of Interagency Committees to Facilitate and Encourage Use of Alternative Means of Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking," May 1, 1998; and the Report of the National Performance Review, "Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less," September 7, 1993.

EPA Policy on Alternative Dispute Resolution

Purpose

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) strongly supports the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to deal with disputes and potential conflicts. ADR refers to voluntary techniques for preventing and resolving conflict with the help of neutral third parties. Experience within this Agency and elsewhere shows that ADR techniques for preventing and resolving conflicts can have many benefits including:

- Faster resolution of issues;
- More creative, satisfying and enduring solutions;
- Reduced transaction costs;
- Fostering a culture of respect and trust among EPA, its stakeholders, and its employees;
- Improved working relationships;