



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: The General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Patricia A. Hoffman *PH*
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability

SUBJECT: Cancellation of programmatic environmental impact statement
(PEIS), DOE/EIS-0406

Section 368(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (the Act), P.L. 109-58 (August 8, 2005), directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to identify corridors (Section 368 corridors) on Federal lands in 39 States, other than the 11 contiguous Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) (11 Western States) that might be used for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities.

Following extensive outreach and communication with potential stakeholders and other Federal land management agencies, the Agencies decided not to designate corridors across Federal lands in the 39 states pursuant to Section 368 at this time. This is in part because Federal lands in the 37 contiguous eastern states are typically isolated and have small tract sizes, which enables pipeline and transmission line developers to avoid these lands. Further, these Federal lands are often protected to the point that energy transport infrastructure development would be inconsistent with the designated uses for these lands.

The Agencies concluded that we do not have a proposed Federal action that would trigger National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis at this time. The PEIS entitled *Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in 39 States*, DOE/EIS-0406, is canceled.

Questions or matters related to this EIS cancellation should be directed to OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, Brian Mills, at 202-586-8267.