



# TROPIC TO HATCH 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE

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## Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Intermountain Region  
Dixie National Forest



Cooperating Agency:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Grand Staircase-Escalante  
National Monument  
and the Kanab Field Office



Cooperating Agency:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Bryce Canyon National Park

December 2009

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# **Draft Environmental Impacts Statement for the Tropic to Hatch 138 kV Transmission Line and Draft Grand- Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment**

**(X) Draft**

**( ) Final**

Lead Agency:	U.S. Forest Service Dixie National Forest
Cooperating Agencies:	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Kanab Field Office
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
	National Park Service Bryce Canyon National Park
Project Location:	Garfield County, Utah
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Date EIS Filed with EPA:	December 11, 2009
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Comment Period:	12/11/09 – 3/12/10

## **ABSTRACT**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, this Draft Environmental Impact Statement evaluates the environmental effects of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Tropic to Hatch 138 kV Transmission Line proposed by Garkane Energy Cooperative in Garfield County, Utah, on lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Dixie National Forest; U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Kanab Field Office, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; and potentially the National Park Service, Bryce Canyon National Park. The Proposed Action and Action Alternatives include construction of a 138 kV electric transmission line from Tropic extending approximately 30 miles west to Hatch as well as construction and/or expansion of substations. Associated federal actions include Dixie National

Forest issuance of a special use easement, Bureau of Land Management issuance of a right-of-way, potential amendment to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan and issuance of a right-of-way, Bryce Canyon National Park issuance of a special park permit for a right-of-way, and Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration issuance of a right-of-way for construction and operation of the project.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. City of Angoon v. Hodel (9th Circuit, 1986) and Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

PROJECT WEBSITE: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/projects/tropic2hatch/index.shtml>.

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DATE COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED: 90 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability for this document in the Federal Register.

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**APPENDIX A**

**APPENDIX B**

**APPENDIX C**

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAA	American Automobile Club
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AAGR	Annual Average Growth Rate
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interactive Committee
ATMP	Air Tour Management Plan
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BA	Biological Assessment
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BMP	Best Management Practice
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
BRCA	Bryce Canyon National Park
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CO <sup>2</sup>	Carbon Dioxide
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CR	County Road
CWA	Clean Water Act
DNF	Dixie National Forest
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
E	East
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FO	Field Office (BLM)
ft.	Feet
FR	Federal Register
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSENM	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
HMA	Herd Management Area
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IRA	Inventoried Roadless Area
KFO	Kanab Field Office (BLM)
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	Kilovolt
LF	Linear Feet
LOS	Level of Service

LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LT	Long-term (Impact)
Maj	Major (Impact)
Min	Minimum (Impact)
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MMt	Million Metric Tons
Mod	Moderate (Impact)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPH	Miles Per Hour
MVA	Megavoltampere
N	North
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Neg	Negligible (Impact)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PFA	Protected Fledgling Area
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PIF	Partners In Flight
POD	Plan of Development
PPM	Parts Per Million
R	Range
RD	Ranger District
RIMS	Regional Input-Output Modeling System
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RN	Roaded Natural
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
S	South
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIO	Scenic Integrity Objective
SITLA	School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
SMS	Scenery Management System
SPM	Semi-Primitive motorized
SPNM	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized
SPP	Spill Prevention Plan
SR	State Road
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic database
ST	Short-term (Impact)
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic database
SWCP	Soil and Water Conservation Practices
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
T	Township
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

TEC	Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate species
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UDEQ	Utah Department of Environmental Quality
UDOT	Utah Department of Transportation
UDWQ	Utah Division of Water Quality
UDWR	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
UPDES	Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
VMS	Visual Management System
VRM	Visual Resource Management
W	West
WEPP	Water Erosion Prediction Project
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WSA	Wilderness Study Area