

U.S. Forest Service - News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ed Fischer – 605-673-9207

Date: 1/3/14

High Voltage Power Line Project Ready for Review

Rapid City, SD - The Black Hills National Forest announces that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Teckla-Osage-Rapid City 230 kV Transmission Line Project is available for public review and comment.

This project proposes a high-voltage electric transmission line from northeastern Wyoming to the Rapid City area in South Dakota. The line would connect the Teckla Substation in Campbell County, Wyoming, to the Osage Substation in Weston County, Wyoming, and the Lange Substation located in Pennington County near Rapid City. This transmission line would strengthen the transmission network, improve transmission system reliability, and help meet future demand for electricity and economic development in the region. The project would cross private, state and public lands including lands managed by the Black Hills National Forest (lead unit for the project), Thunder Basin National Grassland, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management High Plains District (BLM), and the State of Wyoming.

The DEIS evaluates and discloses the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects of three alternatives considered in detail: the No Action alternative (Alternative 1), the Proposed Action (Alternative 2), and the Proposed Action with Route Modifications (Alternative 3). The agencies have identified Alternative 3 with the route modifications 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3f and 3g as the preferred alternative.

Comments on this project must be submitted in writing and postmarked or e-mailed no later than 45 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*, which was on Friday, December 27. Comments on the DEIS should be specific and address the adequacy of the document and the merits of the alternatives discussed. Comments submitted, including names and addresses of commenters, will be public information. Comments should be mailed to Ruth Esperance, District Ranger, Mystic Ranger District, Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Project, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57702. Comments may be emailed to: comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-mystic@fs.fed.us with 'Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Line' as the subject. The DEIS is available on the Black Hills National Forest web site at <http://go.usa.gov/Bh1>.

Public meetings are planned to present and take comments on the DEIS, at the times and locations shown below:

Monday, January 13, 2014

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Forest Service – Mystic Ranger District

8221 South Highway 16

Rapid City, SD

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Forest Service – Hell Canyon District

1225 Washington Boulevard

Newcastle, WY

In case of inclement weather one or both meetings may be moved to the week of January 27. If this happens, an updated meeting announcement would be posted on the Black Hills Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills/>

Agency officials including Craig Bobzien, Black Hills National Forest Supervisor (lead unit for the project), Stephanie Connolly, BLM High Plains District Manager and Carolyn P. Upton, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland Deputy Forest Supervisor will cooperate in the analysis and will each issue a final decision for the project, for their respective managed areas. For more information on this project, contact Ruth Esperance at the Mystic Ranger District office in Rapid City, SD phone (605) 343-1567; or Ed Fischer at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office in Custer, phone (605) 673-9207.