



August 31, 2012

Sent via Electronic Mail to:
Bureau of Land Management
C/O Adrian Garcia, BLM Project Manager,
NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov

Sent via U.S. Mail to:
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project
C/O EPG, Inc.
4141 North 32nd Street, Suite 102
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Re: Clarification of SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's role during the Bureau of Land Management's public meetings conducted during Scoping and public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The SunZia Southwest Transmission Project ("SunZia" or the "Project") acknowledges the press release issued on August 16, 2012 by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that stated the public review period for the SunZia Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("Draft EIS") would close on August 22, 2012, as originally planned, and that additional public meetings would not be scheduled. We agree with the BLM's assessment that a total of 255 days for public comment related to the three scoping periods and the Draft EIS public review period adequately satisfies the BLM's criteria for public involvement, as described in Section 6.9.1 of the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1.

Among numerous submitted comments on the Draft EIS, some of which we take exception as being factual, the following matter creates the need for immediate clarification in the administrative record.

The Project has become aware of certain incorrect statements that have been expressed in various published comments regarding SunZia's role during the 14 scoping meetings and 10 public review meetings conducted by the BLM. Before addressing these incorrect statements, it is worth reviewing the format of these 24 meetings. SunZia representatives attended all of these meetings.

During the scoping meetings, the BLM's contractor provided general remarks to people as they arrived and were asked to sign-in, which were to the effect of: "there are poster-boards the BLM or its contractor have prepared, that are disseminated throughout the room, along with personnel from the BLM, its contractor, and SunZia to address and answer questions you may have." At these open-house

style scoping meetings, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to review BLM's materials and, if they desired, pose questions to the BLM, its contractor, SunZia or other members of the attending public.

All public review meetings held by the BLM following publication of the Draft EIS adhered to the following format: one formal presentation given by the BLM and its contractor, during which questions and comments were not taken and no other presentations were provided by any party. Following BLM's presentation, an open-house meeting allowed the attending public to ask questions of the BLM, its contractor or SunZia. During this time, members of the public had every opportunity to discuss the Project and Draft EIS with other members of the public. Questions posed to and answered by SunZia's representatives occurred in the context of individual conversations and not in a manner as to create a formal presentation before any assembly.

The implication of the erroneous characterizations is that during either the scoping meetings or the public review meetings following issuance of the Draft EIS, SunZia made formal presentations to the assembled public. Also implied in these incorrect characterizations is the idea that SunZia was afforded such an opportunity to the exclusion of members of the public. **At no time during these 24 public meetings did any SunZia representative make any formal presentation to the attending public.**

At the request and direction of the BLM, SunZia was available during BLM's open-house meetings to answer project-specific questions raised by the attending public. We offer this correction for the record in order to defend the integrity and objectivity of the BLM's process of conducting these public meetings. It is important to SunZia and the credibility of the NEPA process that this issue be clarified in this administrative record.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions arise.

Sincerely,



Tom Wray

Project Manager
SunZia Southwest Transmission Project