
Western Area Power Administration

Serving the West with
Federal Hydropower



Western Area Power Administration

- Western Area Power Administration (Western) is a power marketing administration within the Department of Energy.
- Western delivers electric power to customers in 15 western states via high voltage transmission lines.
- Western owns and/or operates over 17,000 miles of transmission lines and numerous support facilities.



Energy Rights-of-Way across Tribal Lands

- Many of Western's current rights-of-way date from the 1940s.
- These were agreements between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Some were term limited to 50 years.
- Many of these older rights-of-way will need to be renegotiated in the next 5-10 years.

Rights-of-Way Negotiations

- Appraisal consistent with Federal guidelines:
 - Just compensation based on fair market value of the land rights
 - Diminished in value due to the Western project

What is happening...

- Cost of renewal of existing rights-of-way on Tribal lands has been considerably more than fair market value:
 - Tribes want to negotiate not on land value, but on electrical capacity, electrical improvements and a share of the transmission line revenue, or
 - For one dollar less than the cost of relocating off Tribal lands

What is happening, continued

- Western is required to obtain rights-of-way in perpetuity. Tribes offer 10-year, 5-year or even 1-year terms.
- It can take years to successfully negotiate a renewal of an existing right-of-way.
 - Streamlining this process could include developing time frames for any procedures and deadlines for responses
 - Failure to respond could be deemed concurrence

Recap of Western's issues

- Valuation techniques
- Perpetual versus term limits
- Negotiation times
- Response deadlines

For more information

Western Area Power Administration

Corporate Services Office

12155 West Alameda Parkway

Lakewood, CO 80228

- Steve Webber, Lands Team Lead,
(720)962-7272, awebber@wapa.gov
- Susan Starcevich, Realty Specialist/Land
Management, (720) 962-7275,
starcevi@wapa.gov

