



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region  
Carson National Forest

208 Cruz Alta Rd.  
Taos, New Mexico 8571  
505-758-6200  
TT/TDD 505-758-6329  
FAX 505-758-6213

File Code: **1950**

Greetings:

We are pleased to send a copy of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) developed for the Ojo Caliente Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line for your review. The majority of the proposed transmission line is located on the Tres Piedras Ranger District of the Carson National Forest with some of the line and the proposed substation located on lands administered by the Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

We have already incorporated the issues and concerns received from those who expressed interest on the proposed action during scoping. Please note that based on your comments and the subsequent analysis, **the preferred alternative is Alternative D with the Option and not the Proposed Action (Alternative B).** We hope you will take time to review this document and submit your comments.\* The purpose of this DEIS comment period is to allow the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the responsible officials—the forest supervisor for the Carson National Forest and BLM field office manager for the Taos Field Office.

## How to Comment and Timeframe

Public comments on the proposed action will be accepted for 45 days following the date of publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the “Federal Register” (36 CFR 215.5(b)(v)). At the present time, this information is not known. When we have this date, it will be posted on the Carson Web site ([www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson)). The publication date of the NOA in the “Federal Register” is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a DEIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Written, facsimile, hand delivered, oral and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted.

Those who provide substantive comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the Forest Service administrative appeal regulations—36 CFR 215. Substantive comments are comments within the scope of the proposed action, are specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider

---

\*Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency’s decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.



(36 CFR 215.2). The submission of comments must include a name and address of the commenter and title of the proposed action. The lead responsible official is Forest Supervisor Martin D. Chavez, Jr.

Written comments should be mailed to:

Martin D. Chavez, Jr., Forest Supervisor  
Attn: Ojo Proposed Transmission Line  
Carson National Forest  
208 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
FAX: (505) 758-6213

Hand delivered comments can be submitted at the above office during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays). Oral comments must be provided at the lead responsible official's office during normal business hours via telephone (505) 758-6311 or in person, or at an official Agency function (i.e. open house) that is designed to elicit public comments. Those wishing to provide oral comments should contact the lead responsible official or their representative to schedule their presentation. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), MS-Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) to: *comments-southwestern-carson@fs.fed.us*. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility.

#### Appeal Eligibility

For appeal eligibility each individual or representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by telephone. Individual members of an organization must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility. Comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

We are looking forward to hearing from you, especially if you see that some concern of yours has not been addressed as part of the process. We are particularly interested in new information that you think we may have overlooked. While opinions are also welcome, tangible, verifiable information is the most helpful way for me to make a good, informed decision. A final environmental impact statement and record of decision will be made after reviewing all the comments.

Additional information regarding the DEIS can be obtained from Ben Kuykendall at (505) 758-6311 or at the above address. This document and other information can also be accessed through [www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson).

Sincerely,



MARTIN D. CHAVEZ, JR.  
Forest Supervisor

