

PUBLIC SCOPING PLAN

Golden Valley 230kV Transmission Line Project

Prepared for:
UNS Electric

Prepared by:
Transcon Environmental, Inc.
1745 South Alma School Road, Suite 220
Mesa, Arizona 85206
(480) 807-0095

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A Meeting Room Layouts
- Attachment B Meeting Material Checklist

INTRODUCTION

UNS Electric (UNSE) is proposing to construct a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in the vicinity of Golden Valley and Kingman, Arizona. The proposed project would cross private land, public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Arizona State Trust land. Because the proposed project crosses federally-managed lands, it must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Regulations of NEPA will be implemented through the development of an environmental assessment (EA), for which the BLM is the lead federal agency; the EA will also comply with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines. Additionally, UNSE will require a Certificate of Environmental Compliance (CEC) from the Arizona Corporation Commission. As part of the scoping phase of the EA process, the BLM will seek agency and public comments on the proposed project; public input will also support the CEC Application. Public scoping efforts, including public meetings, are described in this Public Scoping Plan.

PUBLIC MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Locations and Times

Two public meetings are scheduled, one within the City of Kingman, the other within the Community of Golden Valley. Meeting locations and times are:

- June 28, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at:
Hampton Inn & Suites
1791 Sycamore Avenue
Kingman, Arizona 86409
- June 29, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at:
Golden Valley Public Safety Training Center
423 Colorado Road
Golden Valley, Arizona 86413

Meeting Participants

UniSource Electric: Project proponent
Bureau of Land Management: Lead NEPA agency
Transcon Environmental, Inc.: Third-party consultants

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Mailings

Property owners within a one-mile buffer (one-half mile to either side) of both alternatives were sent a letter describing the proposed project, including a map of alternatives being considered. The letter provided information about both public meetings, and was mailed Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

Newspaper Notifications

Notifications about both meetings were published in the Kingman Daily Miner newspaper on June 14 and 19, 2016, and the Standard Newspaper on June 22, 2016.

Radio Ad

A radio announcement was also be broadcast on the radio via _____.

PRE-PUBLIC MEETING ACTIVITIES

Meeting Format

The public meetings will be in the form of an “open house,” allowing attendees to view handouts and display boards and interact directly with UNSE, BLM, and Transcon Environmental representatives. There will not be a formal presentation. A greeting station will be located and staffed at the primary entrance to each facility. Greeters will:

- Request public participants sign in
- Provide handouts describing the proposed action and alternatives, the scoping process, and the NEPA and CEC processes
- Explain that the format of the meeting is an open house, and that display boards contain project information and there are representatives with name tags nearby to answer questions
- Provide a pre-addressed comment form and encourage the attendees to provide written comments

Display boards containing project information will be positioned within the room, easily accessible to the attendees. Representatives from the BLM, UNSE, and Transcon will facilitate the meetings and remain close to display boards to help inform the public about the project and permitting processes. The facilitators will listen to public comments as they occur and will interact with members of the public, but will not be responsible for recording this input. Rather, the facilitators will encourage individuals to write comments

on the provided comment form and submit them during the meeting or mail them to the indicated postal address. Only written comments will be officially considered as part of the EA process.

Set-Up

Transcon will coordinate with staff at each facility to arrange for the building to be unlocked by 4:30 p.m., and to ensure the building is properly locked and secured upon the team’s departure. Transcon will ensure the meeting room is properly set-up (i.e., appropriate signage, registration table, table and chairs, comment box, and display boards). Refreshments will be available at a separate table. Attachment A includes layouts of each meeting room.

Meeting Materials

Meeting material will include display boards and visual simulations, comment forms, refreshments, among other items. A full checklist of meeting materials are included in Attachment B.

PUBLIC MEETING ACTIVITIES

Public Registration

Transcon will encourage meeting participants to register via the sign-in sheet; entry to the meeting and the right to offer written or verbal comments will not be denied even if a person declines to register.

Communication Guidelines

General Guidelines

- Ensure the public formalize their comments/concerns via a written comment form
- In general, if you are not the best person to answer the question, direct the individual to the better informed person:

Team Member	Expertise	Board Assignment*
Rebecca McCarthy (UNSE):	Tower and engineering information; media requests	#6
Ed Beck (UNSE):	EMF and siting process	#7
Renee Darling (UNSE):	Regulatory process	#3
Andy Whitefield (BLM):	Resources addressed in the EA; media requests (the BLM will coordinate any requested interviews)	#4
Mike Gibelyou (UNSE):	Siting process; right-of-way questions	#5

Team Member	Expertise	Board Assignment*
Trevor Buhr (BLM):	Scoping process roles and responsibilities	#1 and #2
Matt Driscoll (BLM):	Visual resources and simulations	#9-#16
Greg Gryniewicz (Transcon):	Public involvement	#8
George Miller (Transcon):	Regulatory process	Table with maps
Nicole Dunlap (Transcon):	General coordination	Sign-in table
* Board assignments refer to the display board that each team member should stay in the vicinity of; board assignments are meant to generally match each team member's area of expertise. See Attachment B for descriptions of display boards.		

Project Details

- The project is a proposed 230kV transmission line from Harris Substation to a new substation to be built near Mineral Park Road
- The transmission line would be approximately 20 miles long
- The right-of-way width would be 125 feet
- Poles would be approximately 800 feet apart
- The poles would be tubular steel monopoles (self-weathering) measuring approximately 2.5 to 5.5 feet at the base¹ and approximately 1 foot wide at the top
- UNSE's need for the project is to:
 - Improve reliability
 - Replace aged equipment
 - Accommodate future electricity demands
- The BLM's need is to respond to a request for a grant of right-of-way, which triggers the NEPA process and public involvement
- The BLM is analyzing impacts to all land crossed by the project alternatives, not just the BLM land
- Generally, where the project is on the border between BLM-managed land and private land, the transmission line would be built on BLM-managed land
- Currently, the schedule is to build the project in 2018
- Tower height will average approximately 100 feet tall, but will vary with terrain

¹ Monopole size depends on double circuit structure, location, and terrain.

- This is the same project that was proposed in 2007/2008; it was cancelled when Mineral Park Mine no longer wanted to pursue it; public input from that time period has been used to define the current alternatives
- Two main alternatives are being considered, the East Cerbat Alternative and West Cerbat Alternative; there is currently not a preferred alternative
- Where there is not currently access, one small two-track access road will be required
 - It has not yet been determined if the public will be able to use the access roads; if you feel strongly one way or the other, please write a comment
- Additional public meetings may be held once the EA is published and ready for public review; however, these meetings are not scheduled at this point
- The two alternatives were developed after a siting study and public meetings were performed in 2007 and 2008; numerous alignments were originally considered through Golden Valley but the public largely expressed concerns with impacts to property values and views
- Any comments received after July 28, 2016 may not be considered; encourage timely comment submission to ensure comments are included in the analysis
- Please direct questions regarding amateur (ham) radio signals to _____.

Timelines

- Public and agency contacts were initiated this month (June 2016)
- Environmental studies will take place through the fall/winter of 2016
- The CEC Application is expected to be submitted in early 2017
- If approved, construction would begin in 2018

Alternatives Development

UNSE has undertaken a comprehensive two-phase siting study to identify alternatives. Phase I involved identifying the geographic scope of the analysis area and included mapping routes that met the purpose and need for the project. Suitable alignments are closely associated with existing land uses and infrastructure.

Phase II was a qualitative examination and involved examining suitable alignments for potential to encounter sensitive issues or resources, taking into account fragility, scarcity, and importance of each resource. Public and stakeholder interest were considered. Engineering and construction criteria were also considered.

The siting study identified multiple alternatives through Golden Valley and along the US 93 corridor. Alternatives were further refined via a series of public meetings held in Golden Valley in 2007 and 2008. Slight modifications have been made to the alternatives identified in 2007 and 2008 based on preliminary input from UNSE engineers.

Comment Collection

Transcon will provide a box for the public to leave written comments. Transcon will be responsible for collecting the comments received at the meeting and will provide copies of these comments to the BLM.

At about 7:15 p.m., Andy Whitefield will make an announcement that the meeting will be ending shortly and reminding the public to submit their comments.

POST-PUBLIC MEETING ACTIVITIES

Departure Activities

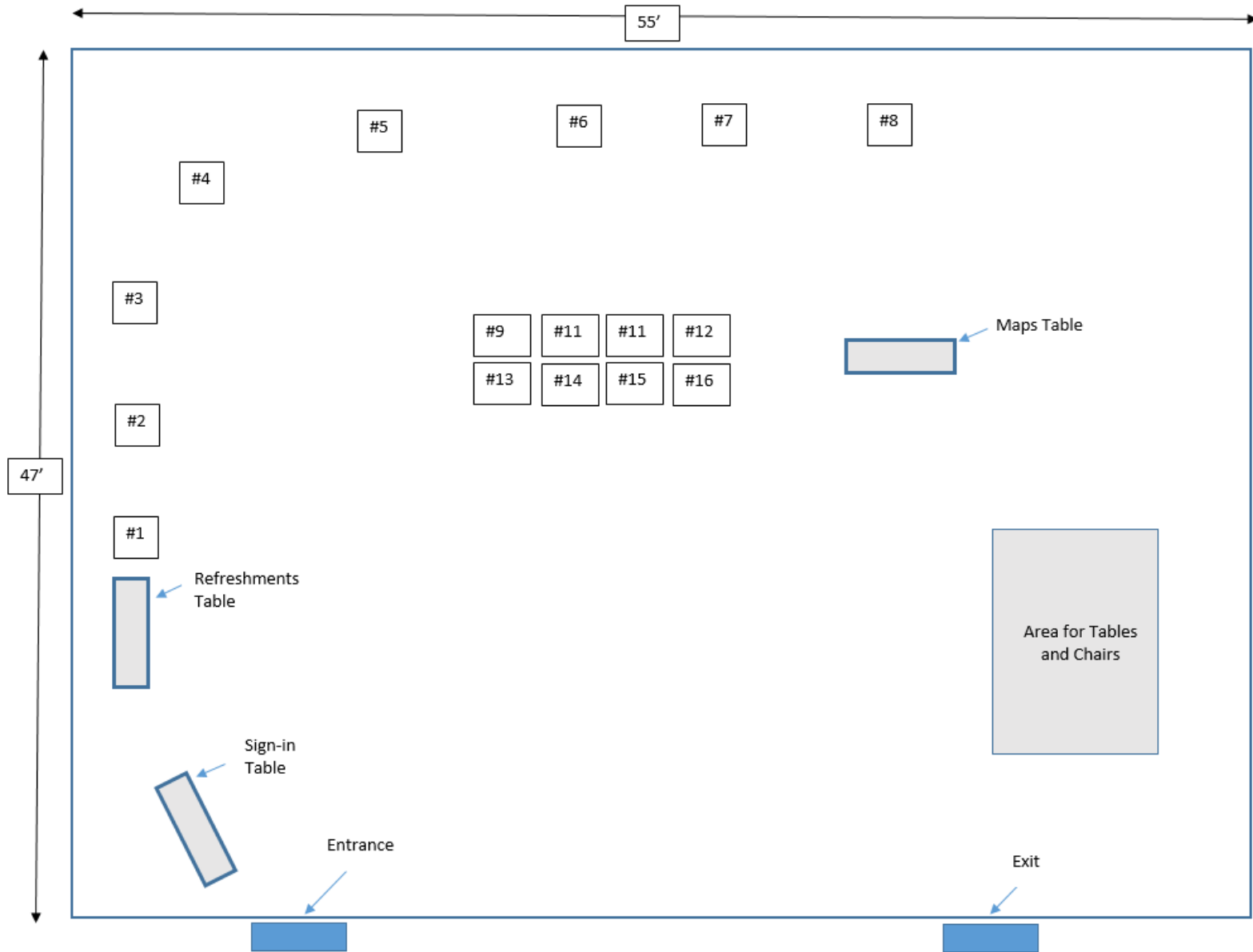
Transcon will coordinate clean-up of the meeting space.

Scoping Summary Report

All comments not collected at scoping meeting will be forwarded by Transcon to the BLM on a weekly basis. Transcon will prepare a scoping summary report, which will include all comments received during the public meetings and comments received by mail, voice message, and email. The report will also summarize other scoping efforts, such as to other agencies.

ATTACHMENT A
MEETING ROOM LAYOUTS

Hampton Inn & Suite Conference Room



ATTACHMENT B
MEETING MATERIAL CHECKLIST

Golden Valley Public Meeting Material Checklist

- Welcome Sign
- Sign-in Sheets (enough for 100 people to sign/meeting)
- Comment Forms (150 per meeting)
- Handout # 1 – Project Description/NEPA Information
- Handout # 2 – Project map (8.5 x 11, color)
- Display # 1 – Scoping Process
- Display # 2 – EA Roles and Responsibilities
- Display # 3 – Regulatory Process
- Display # 4 – Resources to be Addressed in the EA
- Display # 5 – Large project area map – 1 land status with alternatives
- Display # 6 – Tower profile with dimensions
- Display # 7 – EMF
- Display #8 – Public Involvement
- Display #9 to #16 – Visual Simulations
- Large-scale Aerial Map
- Comment Box
- Comment Box Sign with Arrow
- Name Tags
- “Please Sign-in” sign
- Arrows (left and right)
- Miscellaneous materials – clear packaging tape, stapler, scissors, clips, manila folders, note pads, sticky notes, paper, pens, sharpies (different colors), etc.
- Refreshments (Sugar free crackers or chips, cookies, and bottled waters)
- Napkins
- Cooler and Ice
- Table Cloths
- 3 Tables and 25 chairs
- 20 Easels