



CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

Transmission Infrastructure Program  
Western Area Power Administration  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, CO  
80228- 8213

March 25, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, Dakota Resource Council, Native Action, Plains Justice and Western Organization of Resource Councils write to request an extension to the thirty (30) day comment period and additional opportunities for public hearing on WAPA's Notice of proposed principles, policies and practices for a Transmission Infrastructure Program. Notice was published in the March 4, 2009 Federal Register (Vol. 74, No. 41, p. 9391) and the public comment period closes April 3, 2009. A single public hearing was held March 23, 2009 at WAPA's controlled access facility in Lakewood, CO.

Because WAPA covers an enormous geography served by many small nonprofit and community organizations representing farming, ranching, hunting, conservation, tribal and other interests that will be affected by new or upgraded electric power transmission lines and related facilities, greater opportunity for public input on a program of this magnitude is appropriate. Many of these organizations would like to comment on the proposed action and principles, or at least have a more convenient opportunity to ask questions, but have limited resources.

At a time when many of our members are busy with calving or other urgent seasonal matters and had not anticipated the request for comments, 30 days is a very short deadline. For organizations that meet only once a month, it is nearly impossible to respond on this timeline. We believe that maximizing public involvement at this early stage in the transmission planning process will improve the process, maximize the utility of expanded transmission infrastructure for all potential users, and decrease opposition to eventual site-specific proposals. The public interest would therefore be served by an expanded public comment period and additional public hearings.

It would also be very helpful to have more than one opportunity for public hearing, including broader public notice of hearing dates and times, freely available and advertised opportunities to participate by phone or internet, and hearings held at sites that are open to the public. We therefore request a sixty (60) day extension and suggest a new public comment deadline of June 5, 2009. We further request additional public hearing opportunities during an

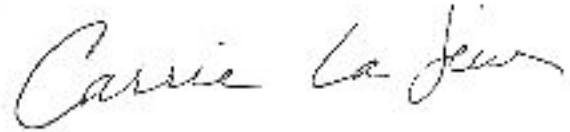
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extended comment period, particularly in any areas under WAPA jurisdiction with a higher than average probability of new or expanded transmission siting, and expanded public notice and accessibility for the additional public hearings.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie La Seur". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Carrie La Seur  
President & Founder