



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

March 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Public Comment, Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Action, and Historic Properties Review for WAPA's Crossman Peak Communications Facility, Mohave County, Arizona (DOE/EA-2023)

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) invites you to review and comment on the *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Crossman Peak Communications Facility Project*. The document tracking number is DOE/EA-2023. The Project is located near Lake Havasu City, Mohave County, Arizona. WAPA seeks comments from federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, and other individuals or organizations interested in or affected by this Project. WAPA prepared this document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 process, and Executive Orders 11988 – Floodplain Management and 11990 – Protection of Wetlands.

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

An EA is concise public document that that discusses the need for a project, alternatives considered, and environmental impacts. It contains a description of a project and associated resource protection measures. A federal agency circulates a Draft EA to obtain public comment prior to preparing a Final EA.

Where Can Copies be Obtained?

You can access the Draft EA online at the following websites:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/Crossman-Peak-Communications-Facility-Project.aspx>

<https://energy.gov/nepa/listings/environmental-assessments-ea>

Review copies are available at the Mohave County Library located at 1770 McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403. They are open 9 am - 6 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays; 9 am - 8 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9 am - 5 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Their phone number is (928) 453-0718.

You can ask WAPA for a printed copy by using the contact information below.

How Can You Comment?

WAPA would like to know of any comments you have on the Draft EA. For example, do you have any comments on the National Register of Historic Places eligibility determinations, proposed finding of effect and resource protection measures presented in Chapter 3.7? Do you have any comments on the floodplain impacts and resource protection measures in Chapter 3.11?

Please make your comments as specific as possible. Comments that are solution-oriented and provide specific examples are effective. For more advice, see Page 27 in *A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: Having*

Your Voice Heard, which is available at <https://energy.gov/nepa/downloads/citizens-guide-nepa-having-your-voice-heard-ceq-2007>.

Comments can be provided in writing, by phone, by fax, or via email. All comments received or post-marked on or before Monday, April 24, 2017 will be considered. WAPA will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

WAPA's NEPA Point of Contact			
Mail	Western Area Power Administration ATTN: Matthew Bilsbarrow, NEPA Document Manager P.O. Box 6457 Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457	Phone	(602) 605-2536
Email	DSW-EA2023PublicComment@wapa.gov	Fax	(602) 605-2630

Comments received, including names and addresses, could be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. Individuals may request that we withhold their name or home address, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or home address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. WAPA will accept comments submitted anonymously.

Who is Involved in this Project?

WAPA is the lead federal agency for the Project and is working cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu Field Office (BLM). WAPA would contract with Unisource Energy Services (UES) to provide electrical service to the communications facility.

What is Being Proposed, and Where is it Located?

WAPA's Project occurs northeast of Lake Havasu City, Arizona (Figure 1) and consists of three components:

Communications Facility. WAPA would construct a communications facility composed of a 100-foot-tall, self-supporting tower with attachments such as microwave dishes, a prefabricated equipment shelter, a backup generator, a propane tank, and associated concrete slab foundations on a 0.1-acre parcel on private land.

Access Road to Communications Facility. WAPA would use an existing six-mile-long dirt access road across land managed by Arizona State Land Department, BLM, and private owners on the west side of Crossman Peak. On private land, WAPA would widen the access road's switchback turns for safety.

Distribution Line and Access Road. UES would construct a 14.7-mile-long, 20.8-kV distribution line crossing private and BLM lands connecting WAPA's proposed communications facility to the existing Franconia Substation near Interstate 40. To construct the distribution line, UES would use mostly 45-foot-tall wood or steel poles, with several 55- to 80-foot-tall steel poles in the steep, 0.5-mile-long segment north of the communications facility. UES would use and improve an existing dirt road, and construct five miles of new road to access pole locations. UES would use a helicopter to construct three poles located in steep terrain, thus the distribution line's access road would not reach the communication site.

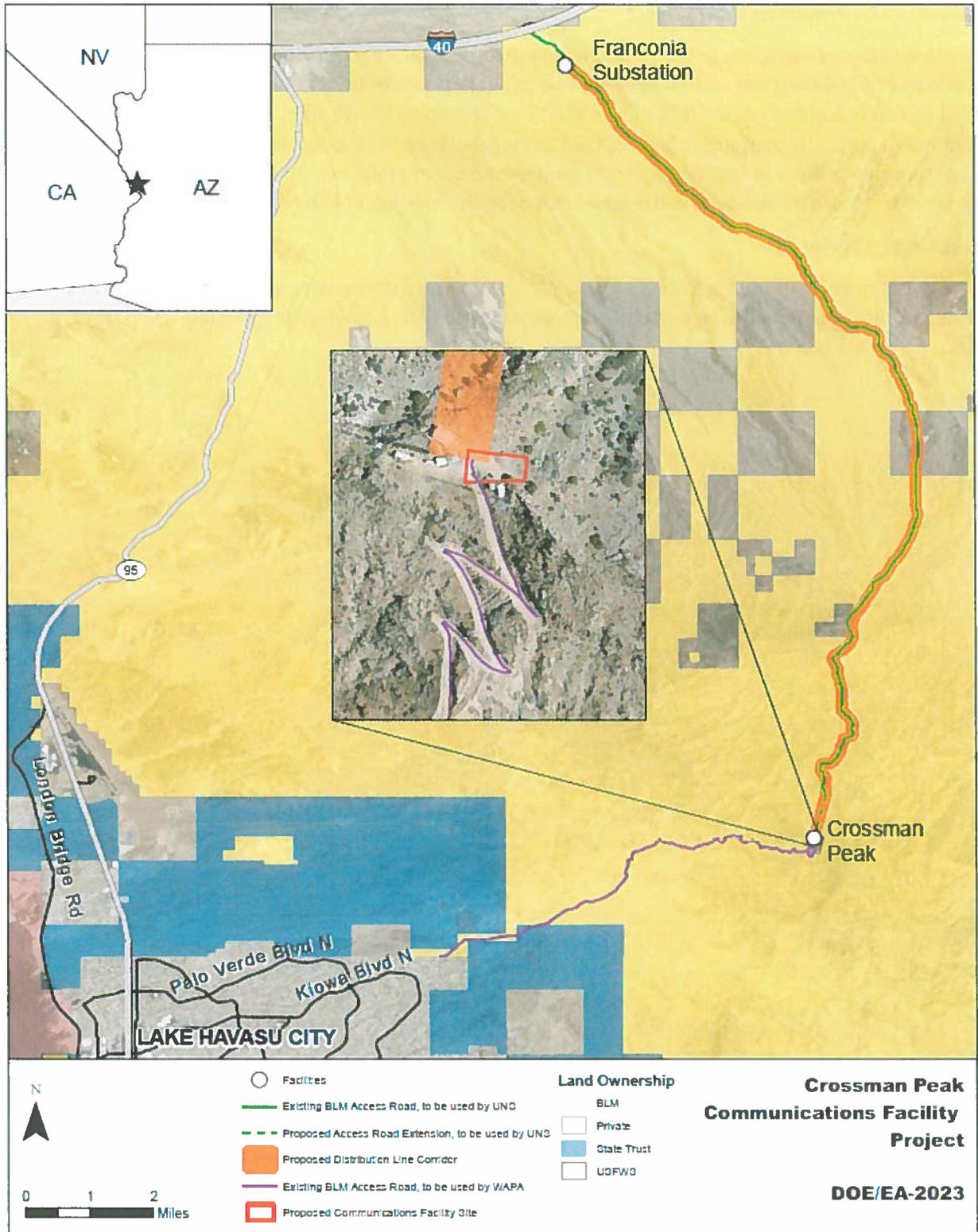


Figure 1. Project Location.

Why is WAPA Proposing this Project?

WAPA distributes electricity generated at federal hydropower dams located along the Colorado River in a safe and reliable manner. WAPA's microwave network provides the primary communication pathway between electrical generation facilities, substations, and operation centers. WAPA's microwave equipment currently operates in the 2320-2345 megahertz band, and we are shifting to the 7125-8025 megahertz band to free up spectrum for licensed commercial use. The Project is needed to bypass terrain that blocks microwaves in the new band between existing WAPA facilities.

What Happens Next?

Thank you for your interest in WAPA's work. We look forward to receiving your comments on this Project. WAPA will provide responses to comments in the Final EA, which is expected Friday, June 2, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Marianito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Marianito
Environmental Manager