



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 2010

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the *Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0414), prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. The County of San Diego, California, is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this Draft EIS.

The DOE proposed Federal action in the Draft EIS is the granting of a Presidential permit to Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC (ESJ), for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of either a 230-kilovolt (kV) or a 500-kV electric transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Mexico border in the vicinity of Jacumba, California, in eastern San Diego County. DOE has prepared this Draft EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, the Presidential permit would not be granted, and the proposed transmission line would not cross the U.S.-Mexico border. Two action alternatives were analyzed in addition to the No Action alternative: a Double-Circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and a Single-Circuit 500-kV Transmission Line. DOE will use the EIS to ensure that it has the information it needs for informed decision-making.

You are invited to comment on this Draft EIS during the 45-day comment period that will begin when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of its availability in the *Federal Register*. Comments submitted after the close of the comment period will be considered to the extent practicable. Information on how to submit comments is provided at the end of this letter.

DOE and San Diego County will conduct public hearings in the vicinity of the proposed project during this comment period. You are invited to attend these hearings and to provide oral and written comments on the Draft EIS. Detailed information on the times, dates, and locations of these hearings will be published in the *Federal Register* and in local newspapers in the near future, and also will be available on the project's website at <http://www.esjprojecteis.org>. The Draft EIS will be on both this website and on the DOE NEPA website at http://nepa.energy.gov/draft_environmental_impact_statements.htm.

If you have any questions or comments on the Draft EIS, or would like additional copies, please contact me either by mail at the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, by telephone at 202-586-3362, by fax at 202-318-7761, or by e-mail at Jerry.Pell@hq.doe.gov. However, please note that conventional mail to DOE tends to be delayed and possibly damaged because of security screening. Also, if you have received the Summary volume but would prefer the full paper version, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Pell".

Jerry Pell, Ph.D., CCM
Environmental Scientist
Project Manager
Office of Electricity Delivery
and Energy Reliability