

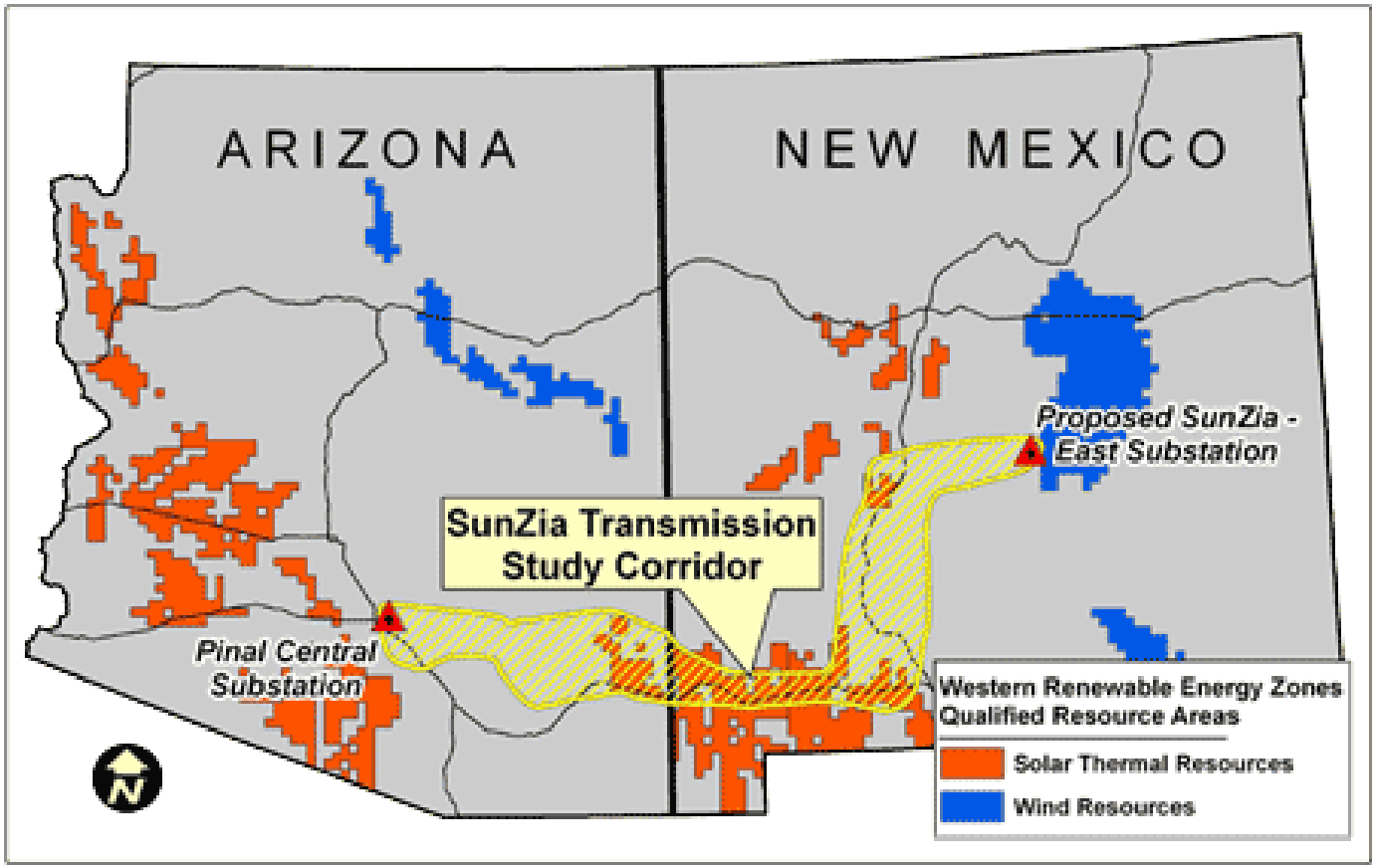




SunZia Transmission Project –

Lessons for Renewable Energy Transmission and Land Conservation

Montana Renewable Energy Workshop – May 14, 2010



What is a renewable energy transmission line?

Project Overview and Timeline

- ~450 mile, 500 kV transmission line
- Single-circuit AC line = 1,500 MW capacity
- DC line = 3,000 MW capacity
- Total capacity = 3,000 to 4,500 MW

- Spring 2008 – conversations with developer begin
- Spring/Fall 2009 – BLM scoping begins
- Spring 2010 – BLM scoping continues

- Projected Draft EIS winter 2010, Final EIS winter 2011, ROD Spring 2012, project in operation 2014

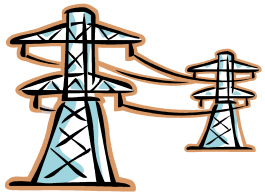
1) Engage Early and Often

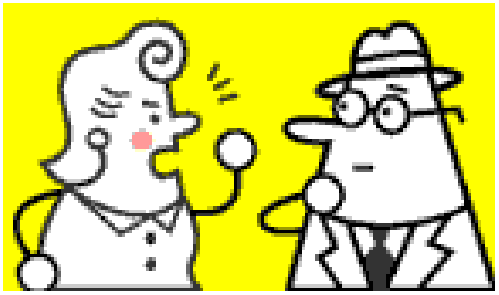
- Reach out and make it happen.
- Be both supportive and critical, as necessary.
- Identify specific solutions, not just obstacles.
- Make yourself valuable to the process.
- Compromise.
- Draw the line when you need to.
- Establishing good working relationships early will make all of this much easier.

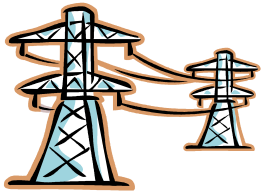
April 2010 map

2) Develop a campaign, and seek clarity and consensus from conservation partners on common goals.

- **Acknowledge that there may not be consensus and prepare to address it in a professional manner that minimizes "green vs. green" battles in public.**





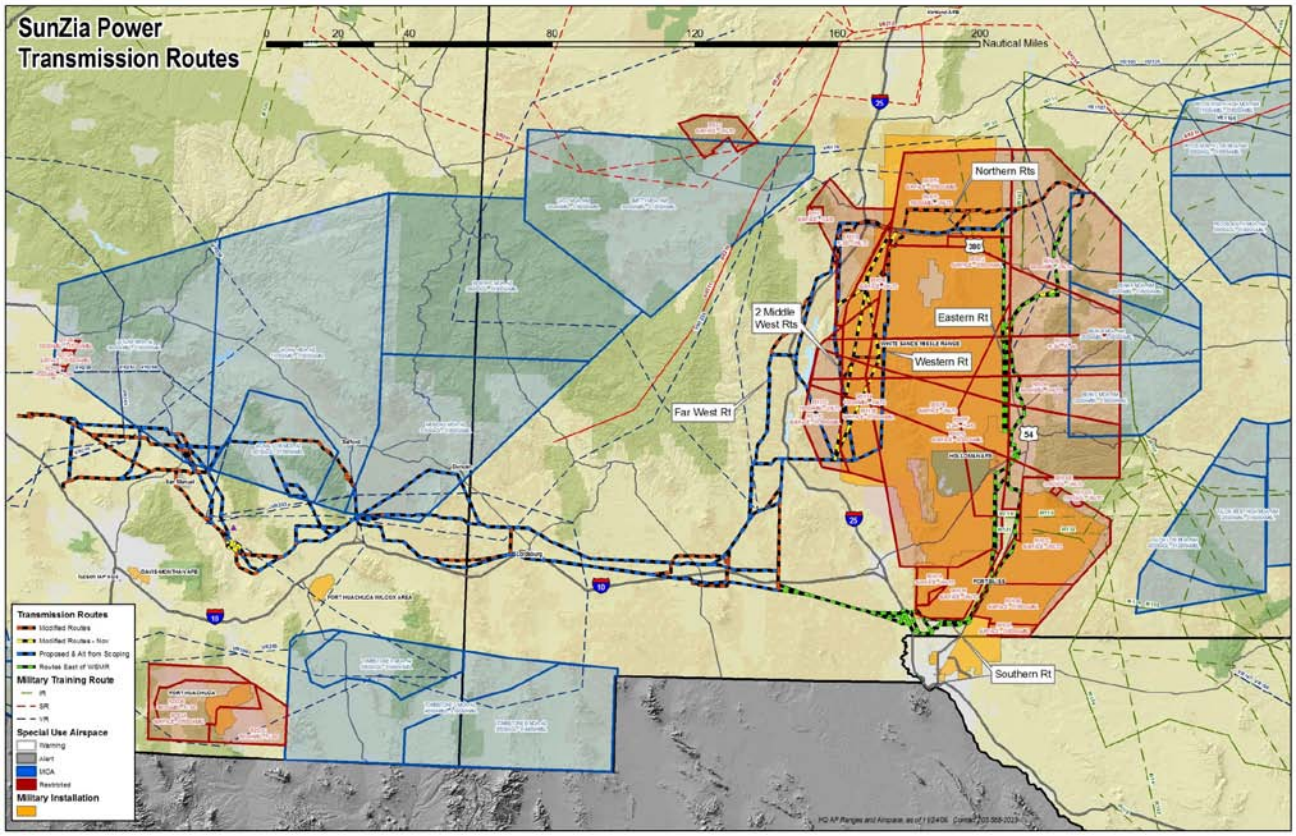


3) There Will be Unlikely Stakeholders with Common and Different Goals than Your Own

- **Build relationships and trust with all, but remember that each interest has its own bottom line.**

- **For project proponents, that is generally getting their project built as quickly and cheaply as possible – which is not a surprise but should not be forgotten or taken personally.**

DOD Airspace Map with SunZia Routes



4) Technological advancements can help minimize impacts.

- **Be realistic about technical and economic constraints, but push the envelope wherever you can.**

Section of underground 69 kV transmission line

Questions and Discussion