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**BLM TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE SAN JUAN BASIN ENERGY CONNECT TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

Scoping report available; Route refinement process begins

Westminster, Colo.— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has informed [Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association](#) that, pending formal notification, the environmental review for the San Juan Basin Energy Connect project will include the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The transmission line project is subject to a federal environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BLM is the federal agency leading the NEPA review process. The NEPA review was initiated because Tri-State will need to request right-of-way grants from the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as well as financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The Western Area Power Administration and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe also are cooperating agencies in NEPA.

The NEPA process for this project began as an environmental assessment (EA) with a public scoping process. Based on initial review of the draft scoping report, as well as additional comments received beyond the official scoping period, the BLM has determined that the appropriate level of environmental review for this project includes the preparation of an EIS.

The process to date, including October public scoping meetings, was structured to accommodate the development of either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

Comments received during the public scoping meetings and through the end of the comments period are summarized in a scoping report that is now available on the project web site at www.sjbenergyconnect.com. More details will be available in a future notice published by BLM in the Federal Register.

Comments made to date on the proposed project also are considered during Tri-State's route refinement process. A detailed comparative analysis is also being performed on potential routes. Workshops will be held in the next 90-120 days. Notification will be made publicly and to persons located along the remaining route alternatives.

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About Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

Based in Denver, Tri-State supplies wholesale power throughout a 250,000-square-mile service territory to 18 electric cooperatives in Colorado, 12 in New Mexico, eight in Wyoming and six in western Nebraska. The 44 co-ops, in turn, provide electricity to more than 600,000 meters – which translates to a population of approximately 1.4 million end-use consumers. Tri-State owns (wholly or jointly) or has maintenance responsibilities for more than 5,200 miles of transmission line. More information is available at www.tristate.coop.