



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 10, 2011

Mr. Jesse Juen
New Mexico Associate State Director
Bureau of Land Management
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Re: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Juen,

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology is pleased to support the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project in its efforts to build renewable energy electric transmission infrastructure in New Mexico. This infrastructure will create thousands of jobs and companies in our state and will position New Mexico as a leader in the renewable generation industry.

It is my understanding that routing conflicts with military installations have been resolved and that SunZia is proposing a route along the western side of the Rio Grande valley. I understand this is an environmentally friendly route and would not be visually disruptive. I am also pleased that SunZia is proposing to develop access to broadband capabilities along this route. That access is essential to creating sustainable economic growth within this region.

SunZia has worked closely with our university's research team throughout this process. They have briefed our research division frequently and have solicited our suggestions throughout the project. SunZia has suggested many ways that our students, faculty, and staff might become involved in the research and economic development opportunities this project will create.

Our university looks forward working with SunZia as this project moves forward. If you have any questions or need clarifications, please contact me at (540) 835-5600.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. López
President

focused education in science and engineering