

FIELD REPORT
Q2 2020

Delivering Clean Energy
for the Future of the West.



Development Activities

As the country accelerates its transition to reliance on greater amounts of clean, affordable renewable energy, the SunZia team is working deliberately to accomplish the next phase in our development process. SunZia has spent the last 15 years working with private landowners, communities and federal, state and county governmental entities to establish the most environmentally responsible and efficient path on which to construct and operate SunZia's transmission lines.

In the recent New Mexico Legislative Session, SunZia championed a bill, signed by the Governor, that will assist rural communities by allowing the state's counties to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds for electric transmission projects



New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signing legislation to assist rural communities and the renewable energy industry.

White Sands Missile Range and SunZia Routing

Following months of close coordination with the Department of Defense and White Sands Missile Range, SunZia has elected to pursue a new location for a portion of the SunZia project in Socorro and Valencia Counties. One major objective of this re-route is to develop a new alignment that removes the SunZia transmission lines from the Northern Call Up Area that is utilized by White Sands Missile Range for very low-profile test missions related to our national defense.



Photo courtesy of White Sands Missile Range YouTube

Community and Environmental Outreach

The SunZia team continues its outreach efforts with local, state and national environmental and conservation groups, as well as maintaining an ongoing dialogue with New Mexico private landowners. Our goal is to cross the Rio Grande at a location that results in as little environmental impact as is possible. As part of the federal environmental review process, we expect that the Bureau of Land Management and other federal and state agencies will analyze the impacts and mitigation of overhead and underground 500 kilovolt transmission line construction and operation through riverbeds and floodplains.

SunZia Process and Schedule

Significant progress has been made over the last 15 years to study and permit SunZia's final location. In that time, the Department of Defense and White Sands Missile Range have evaluated the impact of SunZia's approved route in a military testing location referred to as the Northern Call Up Area. After continued coordination with the Department of Defense and White Sands Missile Range and a route approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2015, the SunZia team has decided to pursue a new route outside of the Northern Call Up Area. The process to pursue a new route is initiated by a Right of Way application to the BLM will result in a sequence of events including additional environmental review for the new portion of the route. This process will include coordination with federal, tribal and state agencies. The BLM will also solicit and consider public comment and evaluate environmental impacts on possible routes. It is anticipated that this process may take up to 18 months to complete.

Private Landowner Involvement

Engaging with private landowners is a critical part of our process and is used to inform SunZia about routing alternatives. Our real property team works closely with private landowners to ensure fair compensation for rights-of-way and easements such that the project's construction and operation minimize impacts to their land and ranching/farming operations.

Creating and maintaining dialogue with SunZia stakeholders is a priority to us. We value the relationship with private landowners who are doing their part in creating a future that is much more reliant on clean, affordable renewable energy.



Bill is one of many landowners our SunZia team works with in New Mexico and Arizona. Hear his story in our video on SunZia.net.

SunZia's New Mexico Office

Understanding that SunZia Southwest Transmission Project will be part of New Mexico's future, the project's owners, MMR Group and SouthWestern Power Group, have opened a New Mexico office in Albuquerque's North Valley. While the team is currently working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis, we look forward to welcoming visitors at an appropriate time in the future.



New Look for SunZia.net

Information about the SunZia project is available on the SunZia website (www.sunzia.net). The website includes information about the two 550-mile 500 kilovolt transmission lines, as well as a short video on how SunZia plans to deliver clean renewable energy.



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We're Building a Clean Energy Future

SunZia is a 500 kilovolt (kV) AC transmission project dedicated to clean energy. It is one of the largest interstate transmission lines of its kind - designed to transport up to 4,500 MW (megawatts) of clean energy from the wind and solar-rich areas of New Mexico and Arizona to customers across the West.

SunZia is helping make renewable energy the next great industry — benefiting local landowners, states, cities and towns while creating jobs and helping the environment.

SunZia is Clean Energy - SunZia is the Future.



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