

HIDALGO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-35

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project composed of two planned 500 kilovolt (KV) transmission lines located across approximately 520 miles of Federal, State, and private lands between central New Mexico and central Arizona.

WHEREAS, the transmission lines will provide new transmission capacity for electrical energy resources, particularly solar and wind renewable energy resources, that can be developed in Hidalgo County and other counties in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, SunZia is proposing to amend four components of its existing BLM right-of-way (ROW) including: (1) localized route modifications in five areas along the selected route; (2) changes to access roads and temporary work areas on Federal lands; (3) a re-route of the line in Socorro County, to accommodate ongoing concerns of the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), take advantage of an opportunity to partially parallel the Western Spirit Transmission Project, and move the eastern substation closer to proposed wind-generation projects; and (4) the addition of a substation (SunZia West) in Arizona. The four components included in SunZia's BLM ROW grant amendment application are the scope of BLM's upcoming EIS, not re-siting the entire path for the transmission line; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico's best undeveloped solar and wind energy resources are located primarily in southern and central counties in New Mexico where available transmission capacity is limited-to-nonexistent; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of new electrical transmission capacity for renewable electrical energy will provide for much needed employment and new revenues for New Mexico and its local entities; and,

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo Commission has provided support in the past including directed letters and Resolutions dated 4-21-12, 7-17-13 and 11-10-09.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (Proclaimed) that the Hidalgo County Commission fully supports the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project to provide capacity for renewable energy projects in New Mexico creating new employment and revenue for the State of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (PROCLAIMED) that the Hidalgo County Commission urges the BLM to complete the EIS and approve an amendment to the existing BLM ROW grant for the SunZia Project on BLM lands.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th day of July , 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
HIDALGO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ATTEST:

HIDALGO COUNTY



Alyssa Esquivel, Clerk



Johnny Hatch, Chairperson



Art Malott, Commissioner



Joel Edwards, Commissioner