

# **EXHIBIT J**

## EXHIBIT J – SPECIAL FACTORS

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As stated in R14-3-219, Exhibits to Application, Exhibit J of the Rules of Practice and Procedure Before Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee:

***“Describe any special factors not previously covered herein, which Applicant believes to be relevant to an informed decision on its application.”***

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The following sub-exhibits include information related to special factors Southline believes relevant to an informed decision on its Application:

Exhibit J-1	Design Philosophy
Exhibit J-2	Public Involvement
Exhibit J-3	Relocation of Crane Lake

As summarized herein, from the outset, Southline worked to minimize environmental impacts through its design philosophy (Exhibit J-1) and extensive public outreach, consultation, and coordination activities (Exhibit J-2). The Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), Western Area Power Administration (“WAPA”), and Southline Transmission, L.L.C. (“Southline”) conducted formal and informal efforts to involve federal, state, and local agencies; private and public organizations; tribes; and stakeholders. These efforts resulted in a mitigation plan for Crane Lake described in Exhibit J-3.

## EXHIBIT J-1 – Design Philosophy

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The Project was designed from the outset to parallel linear infrastructure features, thus minimizing its environmental impact. Consistent with that design philosophy, virtually all of the CEC Proposed Route parallels existing linear infrastructure.

Southline began working with regional planning groups in 2009 to analyze transmission needs in southern New Mexico and Arizona. Over the next two years Southline developed preliminary line design informed by those regional plans and preliminary routing possibilities. The Project was designed to minimize land and resource impacts by developing a route along existing corridors and by upgrading existing transmission lines where feasible—an innovative approach that respects the region’s communities and natural and cultural resources. Because of that design philosophy, more than 85% of the overall Project route, and 98% of the Arizona portion of the Project parallels or upgrades existing corridors.

## EXHIBIT J-2 – Public Involvement

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### SCOPING PROCESS

#### I. PRE-NEPA OUTREACH

Southline conducted a series of informal stakeholder meetings and workshops in 2011 prior to the formal National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) scoping period. The goals of these meetings were to give the public early notification and to solicit public input from interested stakeholders that would help Southline develop a proposed Project that could be presented to the BLM in a formal ROW application.

Southline met with local jurisdictions such as city administrators, county commissioners and supervisors, as well as Arizona state officials and representatives from local community organizations and agencies within the Project area. The following table lists these pre-NEPA stakeholder meetings.

**Table J-1.** Locations of Pre-NEPA Meetings Conducted in Arizona with Jurisdictions and Agencies

<b>Date</b>	<b>Jurisdiction/Agency</b>
July 18, 2011	Southwest Transmission Cooperative
July 18, 2011	Fort Huachuca
July 19, 2011	Cascabel Working Group Tucson Audubon Community Watershed Alliance Empire-Fagan Organization
July 20, 2011	City of Willcox
August 2, 2011	Arizona State Land Department
August 2, 2011	Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
August 3, 2011	Cochise County
August 4, 2011	Arizona Non-governmental Organizations
August 5, 2011	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
August 22, 2011	Natural Resource Defense Council
September 12, 2011	Pima County

Southline also hosted pre-NEPA public meetings in Willcox, Tucson, and Marana, Arizona (September 27–29, 2011) and Benson, Arizona (November 10, 2011). Southline also held a routing workshop in Tucson on September 28, 2011.

As a result of this public outreach, the public was informed about the proposed Project and participated in the preliminary routing process prior to the formal public scoping process. These meetings helped identify stakeholder concerns and resulted in the collection of important information used to develop Project routing alternatives.

## **II. NEPA OUTREACH**

Scoping was conducted in the early stages of EIS preparation, to encourage public participation and solicit agency and public comments on the scope and significance of the proposed Project (40 C.F.R. § 1501.7). On April 4, 2012, a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) published in the Federal Register initiated the NEPA process for the Project and began a 60-day public scoping period, during which the public had the opportunity to provide input on potential issues to be addressed in the EIS. Thereafter, the scoping comment period was extended by 30 days until July 5, 2012. Notification of the 30-day extension was disseminated via Internet news release and email. NEPA scoping was particularly effective since agencies and the public were already familiar with the proposed Project and had actively been engaged in formulating routing alternatives during Southline’s pre-NEPA public outreach.

A Notice of Availability (“NOA”) for the Draft EIS/Draft RMPA published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2014 announced the release of the Draft EIS and the beginning of a 90-day comment period. Members of the public had several methods for providing comments during the NEPA scoping period:

- Comments could be handwritten on comment forms at the scoping meetings. Comment forms were provided to all meeting attendees and were also available throughout the meeting room.
- Emailed comments could be sent to a dedicated email address: [BLM\\_NM\\_Southline@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NM_Southline@blm.gov).
- Individual letters and comment forms could be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to the BLM Las Cruces District Office.

All comments were given equal consideration, regardless of method of transmittal.

Three public open houses/hearings and one agency meeting were held in Arizona. These meetings were widely advertised, beginning at least two weeks prior to their scheduled dates. A summary of the advertisements can be found in Section 2.1 of the Final Scoping Report (Exhibit B-2).

The scoping meetings provided information on project planning activities and gave agency personnel and the public the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. Presentations were given at each meeting by the BLM National Project Manager and a Southline representative. WAPA, the BLM, and Southline representatives were available at the meetings for questions. Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions and were allowed to provide oral and written comments after the presentation.

**Table J-2.** Public and Agency Scoping Meetings Held in Arizona (2012)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>
<b>Public Meetings</b>				
May 15, 2012	5:30 p.m.	Willcox, Arizona	Quality Inn 1100 West Rex Allen Drive	20
May 16, 2012	5:30 p.m.	Benson, Arizona	Benson Unified High School 360 South Patagonia Street	22
May 17, 2012	5:30 p.m.	Tucson, Arizona	Palo Verde High Magnet School 1302 South Avenida Vega	31
<b>Agency Meetings</b>				
May 17, 2012	10:00 a.m.	Tucson, Arizona	National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute 3265 East Universal Way	31

Comments received before the July 5, 2012 deadline were used to help formally scope the proposed Project.

### **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

Agencies, tribes, and organizations that have jurisdiction or a specific interest in the Project were contacted at the beginning of scoping to inform them of the Project, verify

the status and availability of existing environmental data, request data and comments, and solicit their input. Additional contact was made throughout the scoping process to clarify or update information provided by the agencies and organizations. This section describes in more detail the consultation and coordination efforts that have occurred throughout the entire process.

## I. COOPERATING AGENCIES

A cooperating agency is an agency that has special expertise with respect to an environmental issue and/or has jurisdiction by law. Federal, state, and local agencies that have clear jurisdiction over portions of the proposed project routes were invited to become a cooperator in the preparation of the EIS. Tribal governments were also invited to participate in the Project as a cooperating agency and to provide special expertise with respect to environmental issues. The following entities were invited to be cooperators:

- Arizona Air National Guard
- ADOT
- AGFD
- ASLD
- City of Sierra Vista, AZ
- Cochise County, AZ
- Doña Ana County, NM
- Graham County, AZ
- Grant County, NM
- Greenlee County, AZ
- Hidalgo County, NM
- Luna County, NM
- NMDGF
- NMDOT
- NMSLO
- Pima County, AZ
- Pima County Department of Environmental Quality
- Pinal County, AZ
- U.S. Air Force Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
- USACE
- U.S. Army Fort Huachuca
- U.S. Border Patrol
- BIA
- Reclamation
- DOD
- EPA
- FAA
- FHWA
- FRA
- FWS
- Forest Service
- NPS
- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Comanche Nation

- Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Gila River Indian Community
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- The Hopi Tribe
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tonto Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Seventeen agencies accepted invitations to participate; the following federal, state, and local agencies signed on and consulted as cooperating agencies during preparation of the EIS.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Western Regional Office)
- USACE (Albuquerque District)
- Reclamation (Phoenix Area Office)
- DOD Clearinghouse
- EPA
- DOD Fort Huachuca
- NPS
- Forest Service (Coronado National Forest)
- FWS (Region 2)
- AGFD
- ASLD
- NMDGF
- NMSLO
- Cochise County, Arizona
- Greenlee County, Arizona
- Graham County, Arizona
- City of Sierra Vista, Arizona



On October 4, 2012 and December 12, 2012, the BLM and WAPA conducted webinars for the cooperating agencies to participate in the alternatives development process for the proposed Project. The agency alternatives developed, as presented in Section 2.7 of the Final EIS, were based in part on input from cooperating agency staff attending these webinars.

On August 24, 2012 and April 13, 2013, the BLM and WAPA conducted Tumamoc Hill outreach meetings in Tucson, Arizona. A follow-up webinar was hosted on November 7, 2013 to update workshop attendees on proposed Project alternatives and present visual simulations of the proposed Project alternatives around Tumamoc Hill. These meetings and webinars were stakeholder workshops designed to gain input on proposed Project alignments and resource sensitivities around the sensitive Tumamoc Hill area. Attendees at these workshops included agencies and local officials. Coordination with Tucson Ward 1 and their participation in these meetings specifically reached out to neighborhoods surrounding Tumamoc Hill.

Additionally, on June 13, 2013, the BLM and WAPA met with representatives from Department of Defense Fort Huachuca to discuss potential issues with potential alignment alternatives. Representatives from Fort Huachuca expressed concerns regarding impacts from the proposed Project on the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Testing Range (“BSETR”). Meeting notes are included as part of the Final EIS (Exhibit B-1).

The cooperating agencies reviewed the Draft EIS in October and November 2013, and the Final EIS in February 2015.

The FWS and the AGFD conducted a site visit to the Willcox Playa with the BLM and WAPA in January 2014. The goal of the site visit was to discuss routing options near the playa and to allow the FWS and the AGFD to discuss their concerns regarding potential impacts near the Willcox Playa. See Chapter 2 of the Final EIS (Exhibit B-1) for route variations included as a result of FWS and AGFD outreach.

On December 16, 2014, the BLM and WAPA conducted a webinar for the cooperating agencies to summarize feedback received on the Draft EIS, describe the new route variations, and notify the cooperating agencies that the Agency Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS had changed since the Draft EIS. The cooperating agencies reviewed the Final EIS in January 2015.

On May 6, 2015, representatives from the AGFD and the FWS met with the BLM and WAPA to discuss their concerns regarding Project alternatives in the vicinity of the

Willcox Playa Wildlife Area. A follow-up meeting was held with Jim DeVos (Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division) of the AGFD on June 10, 2015. On June 24, 2015, the AGFD provided a letter outlining their mitigation requests to offset impacts to the Willcox Playa Wildlife Area; this mitigation includes relocating Crane Lake and has been incorporated into the Proponent committed environmental measures presented in Section 2.4.6 of the Final EIS (Exhibit B-1). Meeting notes and the AGFD letter are included as part of the Final EIS.

## **II. TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

In 2012, in compliance with the NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (as amended), and Executive Order 13175, the BLM initiated government-to-government consultation with 21 federally recognized tribes. The initial notification letters provided information about the proposed project, initiated government-to-government consultation, invited the tribes to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS, and invited them to participate in NHPA Section 106 process. This initial outreach and follow-up correspondence resulted in several face-to-face consultation meetings, which are listed below in Table J-4. Table J-4 also includes letter and email correspondences with the tribes.

Although no tribes requested cooperating agency status for the preparation of the EIS, several tribes are participating in Section 106 consultation. The tribes that have been actively participating in government-to-government and Section 106 consultations include the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Pueblo of Isleta, the Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur, and the Pueblo of Zuni.

**Table J-4.** Correspondence and Meetings with Tribes

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
10/4/2011	San Carlos Apache Tribe	BLM Meeting with San Carlos Apache and White Mountain Apache, which included an overview of the Southline Project. Additional BLM staff present: Connie Stone, Dan McGrew, Amy Sobiech, Joan Galanis, Mike Johnson, Tom Dabbs, and Scott Cooke. Ms. Grant expressed concern about springs and plant resources near Lordsburg and wondered whether there were plans to establish a utility corridor in the area.
10/4/2011	White Mountain Apache Tribe	BLM Meeting with San Carlos Apache and White Mountain Apache, which included an overview of the Southline Project. Additional BLM staff present: Connie Stone, Dan McGrew, Amy Sobiech, Joan Galanis, Mike Johnson, Tom Dabbs, and Scott Cooke.
4/23/2012	Ak-Chin Indian Community	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Comanche Nation	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Gila River Indian Community	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Mescalero Apache Tribe	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Pueblo of Acoma	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Pueblo of Isleta	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Pueblo of Laguna	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Pueblo of Tesuque	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
4/23/2012	Pueblo of Zuni	Tribal consultation initiation and cooperating agency invitation letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	San Carlos Apache Tribe	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	The Hopi Tribe	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	The Navajo Nation	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Tohono O'odham Nation	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Tonto Apache	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
4/23/2012	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Tribal consultation initiation and project introduction letter from BLM.
5/2/2012	The Hopi Tribe	Hopi response letter to BLM, interested in consulting on any proposal that has the potential to adversely affect NRHP-eligible properties.
5/4/2012	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Response letter thanking BLM for the April 23 letter regarding the Southline Project and stating that there is no need to send additional information unless project planning or implementation results in the discovery of sites and/or items having known or suspected Apache Cultural affiliation.
5/7/2012	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo response to BLM consultation initiation letter. The Pueblo currently does not have any comments and believes the project will not adversely affect traditional, religious, or culturally significant sites of Pueblo and does not have any opposition to the Project. Request consultation if any remains or artifacts are found that fall under NAGPRA guidelines.
5/22/2012	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Email from BLM (Jane Childress) with response to questions from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
7/3/2012	Tohono O'odham Nation	Email from BLM with copy of tribal consultation initiation and Project introduction letter.
7/18/2012	Tohono O'odham Nation	Meeting at San Xavier with BLM (Amy Sobiech and Karen Simms also present), WAPA (Mark Wieringa), San Xavier District Tohono O'odham, Galileo Project (Meredith Griffin). Project Overview and discussion with handouts of Project presentation, maps, and timeline. Tribal concerns with ROW across their lands.
7/20/2012	Four Southern Tribes	Meeting with BLM and 4 Southern Tribes. Sign-In sheet (21 attendees) attached to meeting notes. Southline Project update with PowerPoint presentation and handouts (newsletter and map).
8/28/2012	Pueblo of Zuni	Introductory presentation on the Southline Project, including PowerPoint presentation.
10/15/2012	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Introductory presentation on the Southline Project, including PowerPoint presentation and handouts of project area map and PowerPoint presentation.
10/18/2012	San Carlos Apache Tribe	Introductory presentation on the Southline Project, including PowerPoint presentation and handouts of project area map and PowerPoint presentation.
11/9/2012	Pueblo of Isleta	Introductory presentation on the Southline Project, including PowerPoint presentation and handouts of project area map and PowerPoint presentation. Tribe had questions about whether Southline and SunZia would be in the same corridor. That has not yet been determined but is possible in some places.
4/23/2013	Tohono O'odham Nation	Meeting to discuss issues related to Tumamoc Hill. Tribal representatives expressed concerns regarding any routing of the proposed Project that includes Tumamoc Hill.
9/23/2013	The Hopi Tribe	Letter from the Hopi Tribe indicating that they have reviewed the materials sent to them on 9/23/2013 and would like to continue consultation on the project, including reviewing cultural resources survey information and proposed treatment plans.
1/15/2014	The Hopi Tribe	Southline presentation included reviewing maps and discussing cultural issues, including trails, crossing of San Xavier District land, and Tumamoc Hill.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
3/27/2014	Ak-Chin Indian Community	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Comanche Nation	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Gila River Indian Community	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
3/27/2014	Mescalero Apache Tribe	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Pueblo of Acoma	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Pueblo of Laguna	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Pueblo of Tesuque	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
3/27/2014	Pueblo of Zuni	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	San Carlos Apache Tribe	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	The Hopi Tribe	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	The Navajo Nation	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
3/27/2014	Tohono O'odham Nation	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Tohono O'odham Nation	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Tonto Apache	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
3/27/2014	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Letter from BLM transmitting a CD and hard copy of the Southline Draft EIS. The letter also summarizes the project, lists cooperating agencies, provides email and physical addresses for comments, outlines the length of the comment period, provides locations for public hearings, and extends the offer to arrange consultation meetings and provide additional information.
4/17/2014	Ak-Chin Indian Community	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Comanche Nation	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Gila River Indian Community	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
4/17/2014	Mescalero Apache Tribe	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Pueblo of Acoma	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Pueblo of Laguna	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Pueblo of Tesuque	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Pueblo of Zuni	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	San Carlos Apache Tribe	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	The Hopi Tribe	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	The Navajo Nation	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Tohono O'odham Nation	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Tohono O'odham Nation	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Tonto Apache	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.
4/17/2014	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Invitation letter from BLM to agency only and public Draft EIS meetings.

Date	Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization	Description
5/5/2014	The Hopi Tribe	Letter from the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office concurring that this proposal is likely to adversely affect numerous prehistoric cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe but that effects cannot be determined until the alignment is determined. They have reviewed the Draft EIS/RMPA and understand that only 7% of the analysis area has been previously surveyed. They also understand that BLM is attempting to develop a PA to address cultural resource identification for the areas still to be surveyed. They request continuing consultation on the proposal and to be provided with copies of the cultural resources survey and treatment plan for review and comment.
5/13/2014	San Carlos Apache Tribe	Tribal consultation response letter to BLM indicating concurrence with Draft EIS/RMPA report findings.
6/17/2014	Tohono O'odham Nation	Also present: BLM: Mark Mackiewicz, WAPA: Mark Wieringa, Galileo Project: Ellen Carr, Maria Martin. Meeting at San Xavier with San Xavier District Tohono O'odham to provide Project update and seek comments on the Draft EIS. Meeting included a PowerPoint presentation. Handouts included maps and the May 2014 Project newsletter. Tribal representatives expressed concerns regarding erosion of access roads.
7/25/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Letter to BLM requesting detailed information on the footprint of the Southline Project and the Apache and proposed Midpoint substations. A meeting with BLM to review the footprint information is also requested.
7/31/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Mr. Thompson called to request a meeting with BLM and also maps of the proposed Southline Project showing the location of the Akela Flats Reservation.
8/4/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Email from BLM providing maps for Cochise County and the Akela Flats Reservation.
8/7/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Response from BLM to July 25 letter informing Mr. Thompson that no decision has yet been made on the Southline Project and so there are no exact routes yet determined and asking for the locations of Fort Sill Apache trust/fee lands so that BLM can provide a map of the Midpoint and Apache substations in relation to tribal land. The letter also re-invites the Fort Sill Apache Tribe to be a cooperating agency on the Southline Project (original invitation letter from 4/23/12 enclosed) and mentions that Jane Childress will be contacting Chairman Haozous to arrange a meeting.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Native American Tribe/ Tribal Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>
8/25/2014	Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Ms. Childress contacted Mr. Haozous to follow up on the request for a meeting.
10/6/2014	Pueblo of Isleta	Meeting to provide update on Southline Project.
2/17/2015	Tohono O'odham Nation	Meeting to provide updates on Southline Project and to present the completed PA.

### **III. INTEREST GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

Over 100 organizations and special interest groups in Arizona and New Mexico were notified and coordinated with for this Project and were placed on the Project mailing list. A list of these organizations can be found in Chapter 5 (Table 5-13) of the Final EIS (Exhibit B-1).

#### **DRAFT EIS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The BLM and WAPA each distributed press releases on April 11, 2014, and paid notices were published in newspapers of record regarding the Draft EIS. Both the press release and notices informed the public of the availability of the Draft EIS, the beginning of the 90-day comment period, and public open house/hearing dates, times, and locations. The open houses were held to provide information on the proposed Project, answer questions about the analysis in the Draft EIS, and encourage public comments on the Draft EIS. Dates and locations of the Arizona open houses/hearings were:

**Table J-5.** Locations of Public Open House/Hearings and Agency Meetings Held in Arizona for Draft EIS (2014)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>
<b>Public Open House/Hearings</b>				
May 20, 2014	5:30 p.m.	Benson, Arizona	Benson Community Center 705 West Union Street	27
May 21, 2014	5:30 p.m.	Willcox, Arizona	Willcox Community Center 312 West Stewart Street	13
May 22, 2014	5:30 p.m.	Tucson, Arizona	El Rio Neighborhood Center 1390 West Speedway Boulevard	31

Date	Time	City/State	Address	No. of Attendees
<b>Agency Meetings</b>				
May 22, 2014	1:00 p.m.	Tucson, Arizona	El Rio Neighborhood Center 1390 West Speedway Boulevard	30

A total of 87 comment submittals (letters, emails, commenters at hearings) were provided to the BLM and WAPA during the 90-day Draft EIS comment period; within the 87 letters, there were 797 individual comments. Chapter 8 of the Final EIS includes all Draft EIS comments and agency responses to these comments in tabular format (*see* Exhibit B-1).

**Table J-6.** Summary of Substantive Draft EIS Comments Received by Issue

Issue Category	Comments Received	Percentage of Total
Air Quality	37	4.7%
Biological Resources	73	9.2%
Cultural Resources	36	4.5%
Hazardous Materials	0	0.0%
Intentional Destructive Acts	0	0.0%
Land Use/Military/Farm and Range	114	14.3%
Noise	1	0.1%
Public Health and Safety	6	0.8%
Recreation	1	0.1%
Socioeconomics	27	3.4%
Soils and Geology	2	0.3%
Special Designations	10	1.3%
Transportation	3	0.4%
Trails	11	1.4%
Visual Resources	62	7.8%
Water Resources	22	2.8%
Wilderness	5	0.6%

<b>Issue Category</b>	<b>Comments Received</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Miscellaneous	31	3.9%
NEPA/Process	333	41.9%
Requests for information—not substantive	21	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **ROUTE VARIATION OUTREACH**

In December 2014, the BLM and WAPA sent outreach letters to property owners in the vicinity east of Willcox Playa in Cochise County. The purpose of these letters was to notify the property owners of the new route variations that were added to this EIS analysis. These comments and agency responses to those outreach letters are included in Table 8-1 and were considered in the Final EIS, along with all the comments received on the Draft EIS. A total of 35 inquiries and comment submittals (letters, emails, phone calls) were submitted.

### **PROJECT STATUS**

The Project website as well as email was used to provide information regarding Project status to agencies, stakeholders, and other interested parties. There were no direct mailings; however, a copy of the Project newsletter with flyers advertising scoping meetings was sent to libraries, community centers, city and town halls, and senior centers, as well as to the BLM State, District, and Field Offices.

In addition, a toll-free information line (800-356-0805) was provided on written Project material. The information line was maintained and updated by the BLM with deadlines, important comment dates, and publication notification information. Also included were meeting details of upcoming meetings and Project contacts.

### **RECORDS OF DECISION**

The BLM and WAPA each issued separate decisions. The BLM issued a Record of Decision (“ROD”) approving the issuance of a ROW grant for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommission of the Project on public land administered by the BLM with all terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the BLM (see Exhibit B-3).

The BLM ROD was issued and distributed to cooperating agencies, tribes, interested organizations, and individuals. An NOA was published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2016 and advertised in the newspapers used to advertise public meetings. The ROD was also made available to everyone who requested a copy of the Final EIS and was posted on the Project website.

WAPA issued a ROD on April 5, 2016 to announce its decision pursuant to Section 1222 of the EAct of 2005 (*see* Exhibit B-4). The ROD described WAPA's decision on selecting the Agency Preferred Alternative as described in the Final EIS as the route for the proposed Project and described any conditions, such as mitigation commitments, that would need to be met. A subsequent ROD by WAPA will determine the nature and extent of its participation in the Project.

## EXHIBIT J-3 – Relocation of Crane Lake

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A portion of the CEC New Build Route east of Willcox Playa (Segment P7) will pass northwest of Crane Lake and through the AGFD-managed Willcox Playa Wildlife Area (see Exhibit F, Figure F-1). As described in Exhibit J-2 above (Consultation and Coordination), during the EIS process the AGFD provided mitigation requests to offset impacts to the Willcox Playa Wildlife Area. Their requested mitigation includes (1) funding the relocation of Crane Lake away from P7, (2) funding riparian emergent wetlands along Kansas Settlement Road, and (3) funding the management of non-native vegetation. This mitigation was incorporated into the Proponent committed environmental measures outlined in the Final EIS and is a condition of the BLM and WAPA RODs.

Southline and the AGFD negotiated a September 1, 2015 Memorandum of Agreement<sup>1</sup> under which Southline agreed to relocate the lake and make other improvements. Southline agreed to present the Work Plan included in the Memorandum of Agreement to the Siting Committee as the joint recommendation of Southline and the AGFD as conditions to the CEC requested by this Application. Southline has also agreed to address concerns by a group of Arizona wine producers that would have been impacted by Crane Lake mitigation routing adjustments. A final plan addressing these concerns is expected to be completed by the end of this year

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<sup>1</sup> The draft Memorandum of Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit J-3a. As agreed therein, Southline recommends the Work Plan be included as conditions to its CEC. While the parties are still negotiating the Work Plan, it will be finalized prior to the hearing on November 29, 2016, so the Siting Committee can incorporate the Work Plan as conditions to Southline's CEC.