



PUEBLO OF LAGUNA  
P.O. BOX 164  
LAGUNA, NEW MEXICO 87026



(505) 552-6598  
(505) 552-6654  
(505) 552-6655

Office of:  
The Governor  
The Secretary  
The Treasurer

August 14, 2009

Mr. Dennis Rankin  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
RUS Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Mr. Rankin:

RE: Proposed San Luis Vally-Calument-Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado

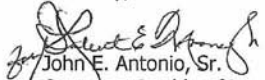
The Pueblo of Laguna appreciates your consideration to comment on the possible interest your project may have on any traditional or cultural properties.

T-001-001

The Pueblo of Laguna has determined that the undertaking WILL NOT have a significant impact at this time. However, in the event that any new archaeological sites are discovered and any new artifacts are removed, we request to be notified to review items. We also request photographs of items. According to our unpublished migration history, our ancestors journeyed from the north through that area and settled for periods of time before traveling to our present location. Therefore, the possibilities of some findings may exist.

We thank you and your staff for the information provided.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Antonio, Sr.  
Governor, Pueblo of Laguna

**T-001-001: NEPA Process (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/environ.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.



THE JICARILLA APACHE NATION

P.O. BOX 507 • DULCE, NEW MEXICO • 87528-0507

Jicarilla Apache  
Traditional  
Culture  
Committee

Wainwright Velarde  
President

Raymond Tafoya, Sr.  
Vice President

Dr. Wilhelmina Phono  
Secretary

Bryan F. Vigil  
Treasurer

*"dedicated to the  
preservation  
and  
perpetuation  
of the  
Jicarilla Apache  
culture  
and  
traditions"*

T-002-001

August 21, 2009

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
ATTN: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist  
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Re: Proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission  
Project in Southern Colorado

Dear Mr. Rankin,

Thank you for consulting the Jicarilla Apache Nation regarding the proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado. We would like to participate in the Section 106 process for this undertaking and are more than willing to work directly with Tri-State and PSCo as Section 106 review proceeds. We would like to confirm Jicarilla Apache cultural affiliation with the entire project area.

In addition to the mailing address, I can be contacted at (575) 756-8659 or jblythe@jicarilla.net.

Sincerely,

Jeff Blythe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Lorene Willis, Director, Cultural Affairs  
President Levi Pesata

**T-002-001: NEPA Process (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/environ.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.





# PUEBLO OF SANTA CLARA

P.O. Box 580, Española, New Mexico 87532  
Office - 505-753-7326 Fax - 505-753-8988

August 18, 2009

Mr. Dennis Rankin  
Environmental Protection Specialists  
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250 - 1571

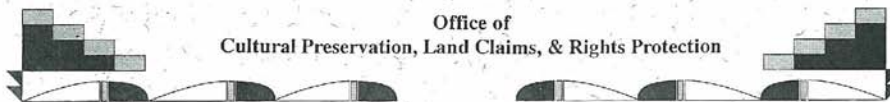
Mr. Rankin,

This letter is in regards to the letter I received on the proposed San Luis Valley Calumet Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado. The Santa Clara Pueblo has concerns on what kinds of work will actually occur and exactly what ground disturbing activities will occur? Other than Traditional Cultural Properties how will the Flora and Fauna be impacted in these proposed areas of the project and what measures has the Rural Utilities Service taken to mitigate any impacts to the cultural and natural resources in the Area of Potential Effects. This is in an area that has strong ties to the pueblo people of NM and to the Santa Clara Pueblo. The Santa Clara Pueblo would ask also that during the duration of the project if any cultural sites, remains, or artifacts are discovered that all work cease immediately and all affiliated tribes be notified. We would like in the future to have better government to government communication and consultation regarding various projects occurring on our ancestral homeland.

T-003-001  
T-003-002  
T-003-003  
T-003-004

Sincerely,

Ben Chavarria  
Land and Cultural Resources  
Rights Protection Office  
Santa Clara Pueblo



Office of  
Cultural Preservation, Land Claims, & Rights Protection

### T-003-001: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### T-003-002: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### T-003-003: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/enviro.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

late 2010 and will be available at  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

**T-003-004: NEPA Process (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/environ.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.



PUEBLO OF ISLETA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

P.O. BOX 1270, ISLETA, NM 87022

PHONE: 505-869-3111  
FAX: 505-869-4236

August 26, 2009

United States Department of Agriculture  
Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist  
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This letter is in response to your letter regarding the proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado.

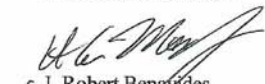
I am pleased to inform you that this project will not have an impact on religious or cultural sites affiliated with the Pueblo of Isleta.

**T-004-001** However, in the event that discoveries are found during construction, we would appreciate being advised of such findings. Please forward all environmental assessment plans to our office.

Thank you for your consideration in contacting this office to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ISLETA

  
J. Robert Benavides  
Governor

cc: files

### T-004-001: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/envIRON.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.