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**From:** bill@billhoffman.com [mailto:bill@billhoffman.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2007 1:46 PM  
**To:** Susan Lee  
**Subject:** Re: CPUC and Sunrise info

Thank you Susan. I enjoyed talking with you too.

For your records I've attached the comment I submitted to the Department of Energy. Use my comments as you like. I've also attached the SD Union article about new-player DoE. They could be useful in many ways (e.g., national security).

Best regards,

Bill Hoffman  
760-489-2620  
[www.billhoffman.com](http://www.billhoffman.com)  
[www.wmhoffman.com](http://www.wmhoffman.com)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Susan Lee  
**To:** [bill@billhoffman.com](mailto:bill@billhoffman.com)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 25, 2007 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** CPUC and Sunrise info

Bill -

Thank you for talking with me last evening. Sorry I didn't get this out last night. Following is information on the parts of the Sunrise process that I think might be most relevant to you given your interests and concerns.

The CPUC's Proceeding website -  
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/A0608010.htm>

On this site, you will see a link to the "Service List" - this is where the list of parties to the proceeding is presented. The "Appearance" category is the official list of parties, and the "Information Only" list is for folks who just want to be kept in the loop. You should sign up as Information Only at a minimum.

CPUC's Public Advisor - they are the ones to advise you about how to participate in the Proceeding (referenced above). This site provides email and telephone numbers.  
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/aboutcpuc/divisions/csid/public+advisor/>

Other useful links:

SDG&E's project website for Sunrise

<http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/index.shtml>

SDG&E's data request/response website

<http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/discovery.shtml>

UCAN's Sunrise website

[http://www.ucan.org/energy/electricity/sunrise\\_powerlink\\_issue\\_center](http://www.ucan.org/energy/electricity/sunrise_powerlink_issue_center)

I hope this is helpful. Thank you for your interest. Susan/Aspen

**Susan Lee**

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## Comment Receipt

Thank you for your comment, Bill Hoffman. Your comment has been successfully received and entered into the comment tracking system. Please note that there is no need to send a duplicate set of comments via mail or other means. The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is **80072**. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Shortly, you should receive an email receipt at **bill@billhoffman.com** confirming your comment submittal.

Comment Date:	April 30, 2007 03:33:09PM CDT
Sec 1221(a): Congestion Study Comment:	80072
First Name:	Bill
Middle Initial:	L
Last Name:	Hoffman
Organization:	n/a
Address:	1621 Glade Place
City:	Escondido
State:	CA
Zip:	92029
Country:	USA
E-mail:	bill@billhoffman.com
Corridor(s) for Comment:	Southwest Area National Corridor

### Comment Submitted:

Below are some of my comments regarding the proposed Sunrise Powerlink in San Diego. My comments also apply to all electrical corridors throughout the US.

- 1) Supply Source: Your reports and graphics show that energy needed for San Diego must come from Imperial County. That is a false presumption. Energy can be generated in San Diego County using existing technology. For example, solar (by individuals, businesses, and others); electrical generation plants in San Diego (e.g., the existing one in Escondido); water generators such as that proposed for Lake Elsinore; wind, etc.
- 2) National security: Making San Diego County dependent on a few wires strung from Imperial County places San Diego at major risk from terrorist attacks or natural disasters (wildfires and earthquakes). Generating energy in various locations using various methods in San Diego County eliminates or minimizes this threat.
- 3) Demand Reduction: Increasing supply is only side of the energy requirement equation; the other side is reducing demand. Either side can be used to balance requirements. It's like a personal or govt budget: make more or spend less. Demand can be reduced using existing technologies plus govt mandates and incentives.
- 4) Route: Even if a Imperial to San Diego powerline was needed, there is no energy requirement to run it through our beautiful state parks (Anza-Borrego) or national forest (Cleveland). San

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Deigo Gas & Electric wants to do this so it costs them less. These lands belong to the people, not private businesses like San Diego Gas and Electric who only wants to increase shareholder profits.

These comments are jsut a summary. Please contact me if you would like further details.

Respectfully, Bill Hoffman bill@billhoffman.com

**Questions about submitting comments over the Web?** Contact us at: [NIETCwebmaster@anl.gov](mailto:NIETCwebmaster@anl.gov) or call the Sec 1221(a): Congestion Study Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

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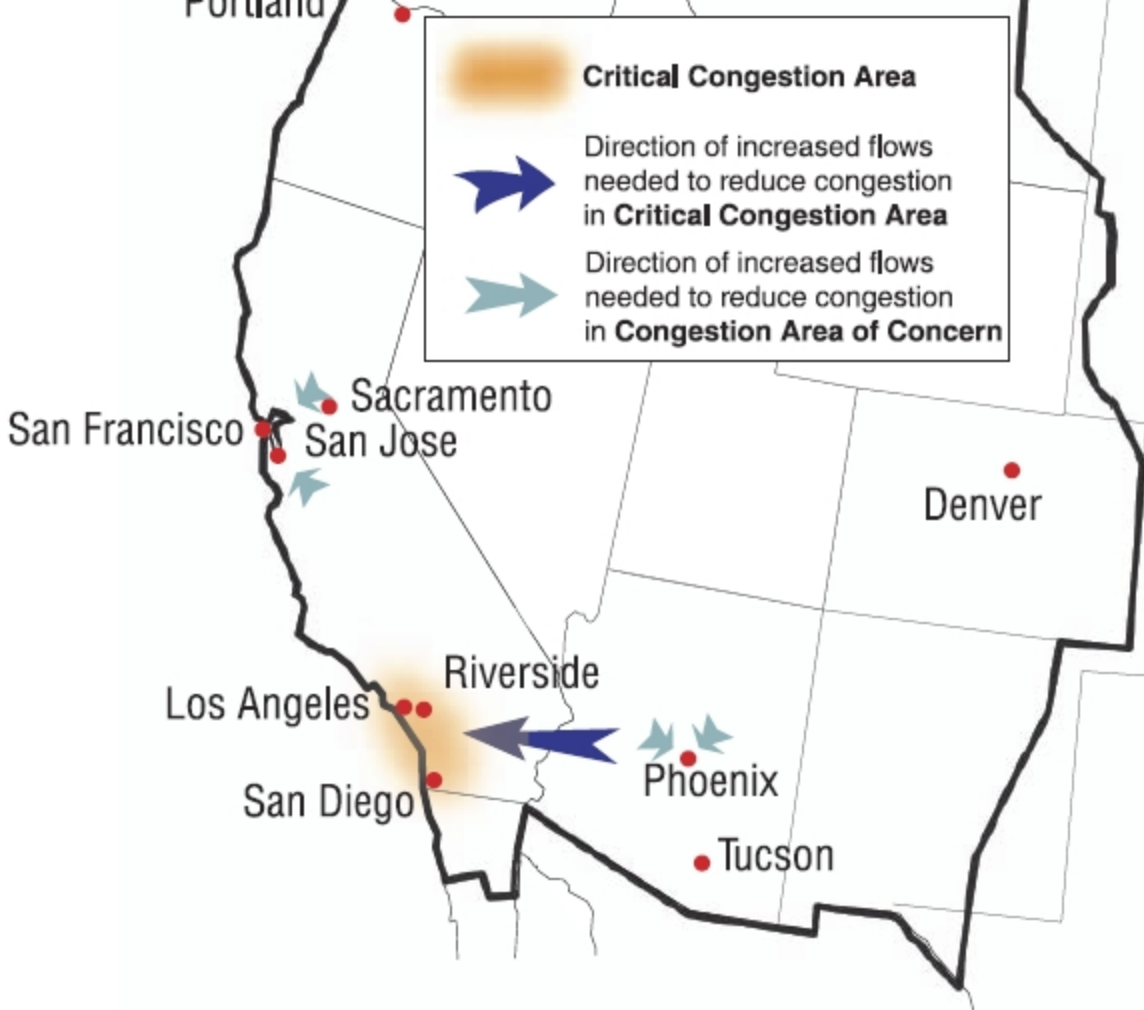
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## Powerlink OK could fall to federal agency

### County proposed as key electric corridor

**By Keith Darcé and Craig D. Rose**

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

**April 27, 2007**

The federal government could have the final say on whether to build the controversial Sunrise Powerlink power line under a proposal announced yesterday to designate San Diego County part of a key electric transmission corridor.

The corridor designations, authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, would let the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission override local and state opposition to new transmission lines if the agency deemed the lines necessary to eliminate power-grid bottlenecks.

The Department of Energy wants to designate 11 counties in Southern California, western Arizona and southern Nevada as one of two “national interest electric transmission corridors.” The other corridor unveiled yesterday would cover a wide portion of the Mid-Atlantic region, stretching from Maryland to New York and as far west as Ohio.

The two corridors, the first selected after months of study and comment, mark a major policy shift in which decisions on critical power lines could be approved by federal regulators over the objections of state officials.

“The parochial interests that shaped energy policy in the 20th century will no longer work,” Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said yesterday.

The DOE will take written comments on the proposed corridors for 60 days and hold a public hearing May 17 on the corridor that includes San Diego.

San Diego Gas & Electric has proposed the Sunrise Powerlink as a 150-mile, \$1.4 billion transmission line from Imperial County across several communities in San Diego's North County. State utility regulators are considering the project.

Under the Energy Act, utilities can ask FERC to review transmission line proposals within a designated corridor if state regulators reject them or fail to act on them within a year.

The act requires FERC to conduct environmental reviews and consider impacts on landowners and local communities in making a decision.

A federal decision on state-rejected transmission lines wouldn't come immediately. FERC would conduct a full review and consider alternatives. The review would include all documents and testimony previously gathered by state regulators, said Energy Department spokeswoman Megan Barnett.

With a permit from FERC, utilities could use eminent domain to acquire property from uncooperative landowners. However, the power wouldn't apply to public land, such as parks, held by a state or the U.S. government.

That could affect the Sunrise Powerlink proposal, whose route would cross Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

SDG&E says Sunrise Powerlink is needed to ensure reliable electricity in the region and to tap renewable energy projects it expects will be built in Imperial County.

The project is supported by business interests and the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council, a coalition of labor unions.

The line is opposed by community, environmental and consumer groups that say it is unnecessary, too expensive and that its path across the state park, as well as other sensitive areas, would be environmentally damaging.

The California Public Utilities Commission, which opposes the Energy Department's effort to intervene in transmission decisions, says that it has kept up with the demand for new transmission capacity in Southern California and that the federal agency's reports of grid congestion are exaggerated.

“The CPUC streamlined its transmission permitting process last July and has already acted on three major transmission permit applications in the first quarter of this year,” the agency said in a statement yesterday.

SDG&E said it was satisfied with the PUC timetable for considering the Sunrise project, which calls for a final decision by January.

The utility said it would not necessarily take the PUC ruling as final.

“We would have an obligation to use the federal process if the state process fails,” said SDG&E spokeswoman Stephanie Donovan. “But we hope the state process succeeds and the federal process is moot.”

Growing demand for electricity and a dearth of power line construction in recent years have strained the nation's grid to the point of failure at times, particularly in the two regions targeted by the Energy Department, Bodman said.

The DOE said Southern California's large population, growing electricity demand, cluster of military installations and limited number of transmission lines made it a candidate for corridor designation.

The Southwest electricity corridor would cover the California counties of San Diego, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.

“It is clear that grid modernization is an urgent national problem,” Bodman said. “This system is aging and stressed. Simply put, it's no longer adequate to meet the demands of the 21st century.”

Not everyone accepts Bodman's analysis.

Bill Powers, chairman of the Border Power Plant Working Group here, which opposed the national interest corridor designation, said he and many other Sunrise critics believe the region's energy future should lie in developing local electric generation – along with conservation and energy efficiency – rather than moving electricity long distances over power lines to meet regional needs.

Powers, an energy and environmental engineer, says local generation would be cheaper and less vulnerable to outages than imported power.

Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network, said the federal government's new role in transmission siting could be revisited by a Democratic-controlled Congress.

That review could look at whether the Energy Policy Act of 2005 “trampled on the long-recognized rights and obligations of states” in regard to electricity transmission environmental protection, said Shames, whose group is critical of the Sunrise Powerlink.

Scott Hempling, director of the National Regulatory Research Institute, argues that federal oversight of transmission-line siting has become essential as the nation's patchwork of power lines and generators has grown more interdependent.

FERC's new authority will prevent one state from acting in its own self-interest to the detriment of neighboring states, he said.

“To call this a federal versus state issue misunderstands its origins. It's a state versus state issue,” Hempling said. “It's inconceivable to me that with an interstate transmission system, we would leave siting decisions to individual states.”

The move isn't without precedent, he said, noting that FERC regulates the locations of natural-gas pipelines that cross state boundaries.

Harvey Payne, an attorney and member of the Rancho Peñasquitos Concerned Citizens, which opposes the Sunrise Powerlink, said federal intervention wouldn't be appropriate.

“This is an intrastate power line and it should be a California issue,” Payne said. “They are not building a line into California. SDG&E has said they are building a line out to the desert to get renewables.”

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy

AARON STECKELBERG / Union-Tribune

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