NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recognizes the vital need for implementing energy efficiency measures and increasing the reliability and capacity of electrical transmission, specifically for intensive renewable energy use. Meeting those goals may require upgrading and, in some cases, expanding the nation's outdated electrical transmission systems. We believe it is possible to accomplish these goals without senselessly impacting or destroying significant historic and cultural resources. The National Trust is committed to contributing substantially to this process of renewable energy expansion and recommends the following strategies:

INVENTORY

- Conduct early and thorough consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in order to avoid impacts to properties of traditional religious and cultural significance.
- Conduct early, region-wide, integrated resource surveys of areas with high potential to be located within and near renewable energy transmission lines in order to anticipate and avoid direct, indirect, *and* cumulative impacts to significant historic and cultural resources. If impacts are unavoidable, use survey findings to help identify the best measures for first, minimizing and second, mitigating impacts.

SITING

- Support the use of smaller-scale, distributed energy generation that can utilize existing energy transmission infrastructure.
- If increased capacity is required for renewable energy distribution, upgrade existing transmission lines and infrastructures to avoid impacting additional historic and cultural resources and forever altering desert landscapes.
- If new transmission infrastructures must be built, collocate different types of renewable energy transmission lines across federal land through existing or designated corridors to reduce impacts to cultural and natural resources.
- Exclude from development lands designated or acquired by the federal government for the purpose of conserving historic or cultural resources, including, but not limited to, units of the National Park System, National Monuments, National Historic Trails, National Scenic Byways, units of the National Landscape Conservation System, National Historic Landmarks and Landmark Districts, Traditional Cultural Properties, Sacred Sites, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
- Provide adequate buffers between renewable energy transmission lines and areas excluded from development in order to minimize visual impacts, including impacts to cultural viewsheds. Bury lines when appropriate.

TECHNOLOGY

- Support the use of energy efficiency measures (e.g., energy storage; smart grid technologies) to reduce the size and number of new renewable energy transmission infrastructure.
- Include stipulations in federal public land leases that, in ecologically feasible areas, require applicants to restore landscapes to a natural state after termination of renewable energy use.

For More Information: Denise Ryan, Program Manager for Public Lands Policy, 202-588-6347 or Barbara Pahl, Director of the Mountains/Plains Office, 303-623-1504; www.preservationnation.org/issues/public-lands