



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

October 6, 2010

Dr. Jerry Pell
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy,
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
OE-20
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell:

Thank you for providing a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission Line Project (DOE EIS-0414) on September 7, 2010. The EIS reviews potential environmental impacts from the construction and operation of an energy transmission line and substation. The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has reviewed the draft EIS and does not anticipate the proposed action will impact upon the projects of the USIBWC.

We do feel, however, that the cumulative impacts from the various projects being developed and current projects in place using wind farm energy production do constitute an environmental hazard to avian mortality. We understand that major migration patterns may not be present in the area but feel that the surveys performed were not adequate to document resident bird populations and alternative migration pathways. This region possesses a temperate climate year round and therefore, possesses large bird populations throughout the year. USIBWC is of the opinion that although the proposed action will be located and constructed in Mexico, the impacts require an assessment through the NEPA process and all cumulative impacts should be adequately assessed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS. We look forward to reviewing the final EIS and record of decision when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please call me at (915) 832-4749, or Mr. Wayne Belzer at (915) 832-4703.

Sincerely,

John L. Merino, P.E.

Principal Engineer