



# State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez  
*Governor*

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to you concerning the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Department of Defense (DOD) review of the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. As you are aware, this project has been under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for several years, and they completed their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in June, 2013. Prior to the publication of the FEIS, there had been several multi-agency meetings regarding proposed routing for the transmission lines (two AC lines, or one AC line and one DC line), though the meetings seemed to fall short of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements pertaining to cooperating agency involvement.

The objective of the project is to pull wind energy from Central New Mexico and move the energy to a site in Arizona. The BLM Preferred Alternate Route is planned across the Northern Extension Area of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). This planned route poses an unacceptable negative impact to critical test and evaluation missions at WSMR. As I understand it, there are two good alternatives which would both support the project's objectives and WSMR's mission—the DOD preferred route north of the Northern Extension Area, or burying the line for approximately 35 miles along the BLM preferred route. I strongly support either one of these alternatives.

I was briefed recently on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory Review of the BLM Preferred Alternative Route, and I understand the review validates DOD concerns. My Administration fully supports our national goals regarding development of renewable energy, but not at the expense of military missions. We have followed closely the evolution of our National Security Strategy—White Sands Missile Range will continue to play a significant role as the Defense Department continues development of long-range capability against emerging threats, particularly those that might arise in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

With respect to the FEIS, and as provided for in 43 CFR 1610, I provided a Consistency Review statement to BLM on August 16, 2013. I have not received a response. This statement fully described several inconsistencies between the FEIS and our state's plans, policies, and programs with regards to our support for military missions in New Mexico.

Secretary Jewell, I urgently ask for your support of an alternative which avoids a negative impact to WSMR. Secretary Hagel, please let me know how we can further demonstrate our support for WSMR—it is an invaluable resource to our nation and to our great State of New Mexico.

My staff point of contact for this issue is Hanson Scott, [hanson.scott@state.nm.us](mailto:hanson.scott@state.nm.us). Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martinez", with a stylized initial "S" that loops around the first letter.

Susana Martinez  
Governor