

**Environmental Assessment
Environmental Review Agreement Template
September 2013**

The following are general terms and conditions typically used by Western in an “Environmental Review Agreement” for an Environmental Assessment (EA). These clauses will be used in addition to those required under Western’s Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT), and specifically Attachment J to the OATT.

As indicated below, not all clauses are applicable to each project and other clauses may require a choice of the appropriate clause (e.g., A or B). Western has attempted to provide a broad example of the provisions required in an Environmental Review Agreement. The following is a template and may be modified based on the unique needs of a specific project.

In addition, Western is required to comply with federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and, if Western determines specific steps and/or provisions are required that are not addressed in the template, Western may add those provisions necessary to comply with federal law. The scoping process could result in a determination that a higher level of environmental review is required and, in that situation, Western will need to re-negotiate the terms of the environmental review document. Finally, additional costs and delay may occur if the Customer proposes changes to the project after the initiation of the environmental review.

1. Western, at the Customer’s sole expense, shall:

1.1 **A.** Provide a statement of work that the Customer may use to issue a request for proposals for an environmental contractor for the preparation of the EA and related studies. The Customer shall be responsible for all costs associated with procurement, and preparation of the EA, related studies, and Administrative Record in accordance with the scope of work and any subsequent change orders.

OR

B. Procure an environmental contractor to prepare the EA and related studies in accordance with the scope of work and any subsequent change orders. The Customer shall be responsible for all costs associated with procurement and preparation of the EA, related studies, and Administrative Record in accordance with the scope of work and any subsequent change orders

1.2 Provide technical direction to Customer’s environmental contractor, selected under 1.1A. Review and approve survey results, draft and final reports, and draft and final EA.

- 1.3 Follow the Department of Energy and Council on Environmental Quality regulations in 10 CFR 1021 and 40 CFR 1500-1508 and associated guidance in providing direction in completion of the EA under 1.1.
 - 1.4 Consult in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and ensure compliance with appropriate cultural and historic preservation requirements.
 - 1.5 Consult in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and ensure compliance with appropriate endangered species requirements.
 - 1.6 Consult with affected American Indian Tribes to comply with applicable requirements to ensure that Federal trust responsibilities are met.
 - 1.7 Ensure that applicable provisions of the Clean Water Act, Wetlands Protection Act, Floodplains Management Act, and the DOE Floodplain/Wetland environmental review requirements (10 CFR 1022) are followed.
 - 1.8 Attend meetings with local, state and appropriate Federal agencies as needed where matters of Western's policy and environmental review requirements are discussed.
 - 1.9 Based on studies conducted under the EA, independently determine if mitigation measures committed to by the Customer are adequate to reduce significant adverse environmental impacts caused by the Customer's Project. As needed, provide direction on preparing a mitigation action plan, including a schedule and associated costs for mitigation actions to be completed by Western.
 - 1.10 Prepare a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) if appropriate or determine that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. If an EIS is required, Western and the Customer will then discuss and evaluate steps to proceed.
 - 1.11 Review and make additions or deletions to the Administrative Record and/or documents provided by Customer under 2.11. Western shall approve the contents of the Administrative Record.
2. The Customer at its sole expense, shall:
- 2.1 Within 30 calendar days of signing this Letter Agreement:

- 2.1.1 Advance the funds identified in Section ____.
 - 2.1.2 Provide a Customer contact for the environmental review, including name, address and phone number.
 - 2.1.3 Provide a proposed project timetable for submitting required environmental studies, documents and other information to Western.
 - 2.1.4 Implement periodic coordination meetings or teleconferences with Western for the purposes of discussing progress on the environmental review, identify issues, and ensure timely information exchanges.
 - 2.1.5 Provide a proposed layout of the project on a map base of U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle or equivalent; that includes but is not limited to: locations of generation facility, location of access roads for construction and maintenance; location of meteorological towers; support buildings, transmission lines, substations and other associated facilities.
 - 2.1.6 Provide a detailed description of the project including, but not limited to: nameplate generation capacity, purpose and need for generation, generation technology employed, any alternative technology or alternative sites considered, transmission line voltages, lengths and structure type, square footage of buildings, substations and other associated structures, location of access roads and underlying landownership.
 - 2.1.7 Provide a copy of all public notification and correspondence completed to date.
- 2.2 **A.** Under 1.1A, the Customer shall enter into a contract with an environmental contractor to prepare the EA. Identify to Western the name of a single individual as the Customer's designated representative for the environmental contract. Customer shall hire the environmental contractor no later than 120 days after execution of environmental agreement.
- OR**
- B.** Under 1.1B provide funding for Western procurement of environmental contractor.
- 2.3 Coordinate planning and design with Western for work related to Western's involvement in the Project.

- 2.4 Perform (under 1.1A) or fund (under 1.1B) all required surveys and studies required for the EA and other environmental review and approval requirements (e.g., cultural resource surveys, biological monitoring, wetland delineation etc.
- 2.5 Provide a description of the Customer's best management practices, standard operating procedures, standard construction practices, and any other proposed measures used to reduce impacts from the Customer's project.
- 2.6 Customer shall identify any additional measures it will commit to implement that may be identified by Western or the EA contractor as part of the environmental impact analysis.
- 2.7 Fund the mitigation measures developed in the EA and adopted in the FONSI for Western's action.
- 2.8 As applicable, implement the measures listed in Section 2.5 and 2.6.
- 2.9 Notify Western at least 90 days before taking any action that may have a material adverse environmental impact (e.g. ground disturbing activities) or that may limit the choices of reasonable alternatives so that Western may consider the applicability of interim action approval as required by DOE regulations at 10 CFR 1021.211.
- 2.10 Acquire licenses, permits, clearances, and right(s)-of-way required for all parts of the Customer's Project.
- 2.11 Administrative Record

A. Under 1.1A, provide Western with an Administrative Record that documents all correspondence related to the review, meetings and meeting summaries, copies of all information provided to stakeholders, copies of correspondence received, copies of reports, data and other information produced by the Customer to support the environmental reviews, oral and written comments received from stakeholders; results of coordination with local, state, and appropriate Federal agencies, landowners and other interested citizens or groups (e.g. environmental groups).

OR

B. Under 1.1B, provide Western with all documents, including but not limited to all correspondence related to the review, meetings and meeting

summaries, copies of all information provided to stakeholders, copies of correspondence received, copies of reports, data and other information produced by the Customer to support the environmental reviews, oral and written comments received from stakeholders; results of coordination with local, state, and appropriate Federal agencies, landowners and other interested citizens or groups (e.g. environmental groups) so that Western may complete an Administrative Record, at the Customer's sole expense.

- 2.12 Provide Western with progress reports at least monthly that describe ongoing studies and work; completed studies and tasks; correspondence between the Customer and local, state and federal agencies with interest in or jurisdiction over the project; identified issues; project schedule changes; and other information relevant to accomplishing the environmental review.
- 2.13 Continually work toward accomplishing the environmental review or Western will delay its decision on the Customer's <Interconnection Request **OR** transmission service request> and may, in its discretion, deem the Customer's <Interconnection Request **OR** transmission service request> withdrawn.
- 2.14 If Western notifies the Customer in writing (including e-mail) that specific information or action relevant to the environmental review is required from the Customer by a specific date and, in Western's judgment, that information is not received, or the action not completed, on the date required by Western, Western then will provide the Customer a "Notice of Suspension." The Notice of Suspension will notify the Customer in writing that, from that date forward, Western is suspending all activity on the environmental review until Western receives written notification from the Customer to re-commence environmental review (referred to as "Written Notice to Re-Commence"). Once Western receives the Written Notice to Re-Commence, Western then will have sixty days to prepare a revised schedule. The revised schedule will delay any prior schedule for the duration of the "on hold period" which is the date of Western's Notice of Suspension until the Written Notice to Re-Commence was received by Western plus sixty days. By executing this agreement, the Customer is aware that delay can result from the Customer's non-responsiveness during the environmental process and the Customer acknowledges that Western is under no obligation to expedite the environmental review once Western receives the Notice to Re-Commence. Following the Notice of Suspension, Western also may, in its discretion, deem the Customer's Interconnection Request withdrawn.
- 2.15 Customer understands Western's environmental review and NEPA process and NEPA and other environmental decisions could be subject to litigation. As part of that litigation, a court could take an action including but not limited

to, issuing an injunction enjoining Western's actions and enjoining any commitment of resources associated with Western's actions or ordering Western to conduct additional environmental review. Customer understands such court orders could be issued after Western executes its Finding of No Significant Impact and that the court orders, including but not limited to injunctions, could result in delay. Customer agrees it is responsible for any and all monetary damages, including any and all costs and expenses, the Customer may incur as a result of any such court orders, including delay resulting from such court orders. Customer agrees it is responsible for all of Western's costs and expenses, including Western's attorneys' fees and costs, arising from such litigation.