

# New Mexico State Land Office

Patrick H. Lyons, Commissioner of Public Lands



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## *Land Commissioner Signs Agreement to Improve Energy Transmission Infrastructure*

CLOVIS, NM – Commissioner of Public Lands Patrick Lyons today signed an agreement that by 2014 would move renewable energy unobstructed through the South-Central United States, 14 Western states, Alberta and British Columbia, and the northern tip of Baja California, Mexico.

The flow of power, currently regulated by three regional electric transmission entities - the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) – would merge into the **Tres Amigas superstation (TASS)** located on state trust lands in eastern New Mexico.

“One of the biggest constraints on wind and solar power growth is the reduced capacity of the transmission grid to deliver energy to customers,” Lyons said. “This new transmission infrastructure will allow half of the United States to access vast wind and solar energy resources.”

The option agreement will give Tres Amigas, LLC two years to evaluate the suitability of 14,401 acres of trust lands located northeast of Clovis relative to their project planning. Over the two year period, Tres Amigas will conduct environmental analyses, geology and soil surveys, and archaeological surveys, study impact on wildlife habitat, and pursue power purchase and sales agreements, and interconnect agreements with various electric utilities in several states.

Tres Amigas will pay \$30,803 for the two year option.

The benefits of the Tres Amigas project include:

- Temporary jobs during the staggered construction phases and permanent jobs of a management/operations/maintenance nature once the superstation commences operation;
- Enhanced reliability of the grid by connecting WECC, ERCOT, and SSP electrical grids through a robust switching station;
- Improved consumer choice of three energy sources;
- Better utilization of transmission equating to lower delivery costs; and
- Increased reliability of the existing transmission system.

Commissioner Lyons and the State Land Office manage nine million acres of surface estate and 13 million acres of mineral rights held in trust, primarily for public education. Revenues earned from energy production, farming and ranching leases, and community and business development on trust lands support public schools, seven universities, the New Mexico Military Institute, the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the New Mexico School for the Deaf, along with three hospitals, correctional facilities, and water projects.

The beneficiaries of revenues earned from this project are public schools and water reservoirs.

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