



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah Field Office

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

N-90168

DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2011-0142-EA

2800 (NVB0200)

NOV 22 2011

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts from a proposed Right-of-Way application for the Town of Tonopah, Tonopah Public Utilities (TPU), to provide an adequate, reliable water supply to its service areas that is compliant with all federal and state drinking water standards. The existing water system would be improved with construction of the proposed project.

The proposed project includes constructing new groundwater wells, an underground water pipeline, a gravel access road, and extending a new 24.9-kilovolt overhead power line to the proposed wells. The proposed project also includes rehabilitating 4 existing wells and deactivating 4 others, decommissioning and abandoning Booster Pump Station #1, and decommissioning and abandoning segments of existing pipeline. New, larger and upgraded pipeline would be constructed adjacent to the abandoned segments. The overhead power line would provide power to the proposed new wells, and therefore is essential for the proposed project. However, the power line would be constructed by NV Energy within a separate right-of-way grant that NV Energy has submitted. The right-of-way for the power line would be no wider than, or extend beyond the boundaries of the proposed action right-of-way.

The proposed action is also for BLM to consolidate all rights-of-way that were previously granted for the existing water system into the proposed new right-of-way grant.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the EA identifies, describes, and evaluates resource impacts from the proposed project.

Copies of the EA may be obtained by notifying the Tonopah Field Office at the letterhead address above or, from the internet address below.

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/national_environmental.html

Written comments on the EA will be accepted at the above letterhead address, until 4:30 p.m., December 21, 2011. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at

any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hartley, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (775) 482-7800.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Seley
Field Manager