

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE TOQUOP ENERGY PROJECT**

Draft (X) Final ()

LEAD AGENCY: **U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management**

COOPERATING AGENCIES: **Nevada Department of Wildlife
Surface Transportation Board**

JURISDICTION: **Lincoln and Clark Counties, Nevada**

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EIS: December 11, 2007

ABSTRACT

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates the impacts on the environment that would result from the construction and operation of the proposed Toquop Energy Project. The proposed project would be located on public land in Lincoln County, Nevada about 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada. The Toquop Energy Project would include the construction of a 750 megawatt coal-fired generation facility and a 31-mile rail line. The location of the power plant site is the same site that was permitted by BLM in 2003 for a 1,100 megawatt, natural-gas fired power plant and associated facilities. The focus of this EIS is to articulate the impacts that would result from the shift to coal-fired generation on this site.

Several alternatives are evaluated in this EIS. The No-Action Alternative assumes that the natural-gas generation project that was permitted in 2003 would be constructed. The Proposed Action Alternative includes the coal-fired generation project, including a rail line that would be needed to deliver coal to the site.

Federal actions addressed in the accompanying document are (1) the BLM's issuance of an amendment to the right-of-way grant to authorize additional acreage and change of use for the power plant site, (2) issue a new right-of-way grant for construction, operation and maintenance of a new rail line to transport coal to the power plant, and (3) facilitate the sale of the 640-acre parcel for the power plant site. This Draft EIS satisfies the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates that federal agencies analyze the environmental consequences of major undertakings.

Official Responsible for the Environmental Impact Statement:



**John E. Ruhs
Ely Field Manager**

9/21/07
Date