



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/ely>



In Reply Refer To:
2850 (NV040)
N-78091

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the White Pine Energy Station Project. The EIS evaluates the environmental effects that would result from constructing and operating the White Pine Energy electric power generating plant proposed by White Pine Energy Associates, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of LS Power in St. Louis, Missouri. This approximately 1,590-megawatt coal-fired power plant and associated features would be located on public lands in White Pine County, eastern Nevada, that are presently managed by the Ely Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The power plant site for the Proposed Action is in the Steptoe Valley Hydrographic Basin, approximately 34 miles north of Ely, 22 miles north of McGill, and 1 mile west of U.S. 93.

Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of this Draft EIS will be accepted until June 19, 2007, and must be submitted in writing to:

Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
Jeffrey A. Weeks
HC 33, Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Public meetings to accept verbal and written comments have also been scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 8, 2007	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 6th St. Ely, Nevada
May 9, 2007	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Airport Plaza Hotel 1981 Terminal Way Reno, Nevada

Both written and oral comments received during the public comment period will be fully considered and evaluated for preparation of the Final EIS. If you would like any additional information, please contact Doris Metcalf, Ely Field Office at (775) 289-1852.

Sincerely,

John F. Ruhs
Field Manager

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the White Pine Energy Station Project

(X) Draft

() Final

Lead Agency: United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating Agencies: National Park Service
Nevada Department of Wildlife
White Pine County, Nevada

Counties Directly Affected: White Pine County, Nevada

Environmental Impact Statement Contact: Correspondence on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) should be directed to:

Doris Metcalf
Ely Field Office

Jeffrey A. Weeks
Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Date Draft EIS was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: April 20, 2007

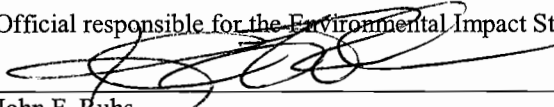
Date by which comments on this Draft EIS must be received to be considered in the Final EIS: June 19, 2007

Abstract

The Draft EIS evaluates the environmental effects that would result from constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed White Pine Energy electric power generating plant. This approximately 1,590-megawatt coal-fired power plant and associated features would be located on public lands in White Pine County, eastern Nevada, that are presently managed by the Ely Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 include the following project actions and features: issue ROWs for White Pine Energy Station construction and operation and subsequently arrange for the sale of the power plant site to WPEA; construct, operate, and maintain an approximately 1,590-MW (maximum) coal-fired electric power generating plant using hybrid cooling systems that has an expected commercial life of 40 years or longer; develop a wellfield in the Steptoe Valley Hydrographic Basin to meet the water needs of the power plant; construct a new rail spur from the Nevada Northern Railway to the power plant site to supply coal; develop the linear infrastructure necessary to connect the power plant to the new water source, to existing electric transmission lines serving the region, and to provide site access; and implement a seeding project to enhance the grazing and wildlife value of 700 to 900 acres. The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 differ primarily in the location of the power plant site, wellfield, and transmission line alignment (northern vs. southern). The power plant site for the Proposed Action is in the Steptoe Valley Hydrographic Basin, approximately 34 miles north of Ely, 22 miles north of McGill, and 1 mile west of U.S. 93.

Federal actions addressed in the accompanying document are the BLM's issuance of rights-of-way needed to construct and operate the White Pine Energy Station Project and facilitate the ultimate sale of land 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 F. Ruhs
Field Manager, Ely Field Office

4/6/07

Date