



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)  
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

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

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your information is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the White Pine Energy Station Project. The EIS evaluates the environmental effects that would result from granting rights-of-way requested by White Pine Energy Associates, LLC (WPEA) for the purpose of constructing and operating the White Pine Energy electric power generating plant and ancillary facilities. 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 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 one mile west of U.S. 93.

The BLM compiled a Draft EIS that analyzed the environmental impacts of granting the rights-of-way requested by WPEA to construct and operate the White Pine Energy Station. The Draft EIS was released to the public on April 20, 2007 with publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The NOA initiated a 60-day public comment period ending on June 19, 2007. Public meetings on the Draft EIS were held May 8, 2007, in Ely, Nevada, and May 9, 2007, in Reno, Nevada. The BLM received 95 sets of written comments to the Draft EIS. BLM reviewed the comments and has provided written responses in this Final EIS. Some comments resulted in modifications to the text in the EIS.

The BLM may issue one or more records of decision (ROD) based on this Final EIS. The ROD(s) will not be issued until at least 30 days following the date on which the NOA announcing the availability of this Final EIS was published in the *Federal Register*. Persons wishing to provide BLM with comments to this Final EIS, which will be considered in formulating any resulting ROD, may do so within 30 days by providing said comments in writing to:

Doris Metcalf  
Bureau of Land Management  
Ely Field Office  
HC 33, Box 33500  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

If you have questions concerning the document, please contact Jane Peterson, Energy Projects Manager, at (775) 289-1800.

Sincerely,

John F. Ruhs  
District Manager  
Ely District Office

# Final Environmental Impact Statement for the White Pine Energy Station Project

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 Final Environmental Impact  
Statement (Final EIS) should be directed to:

Jane Peterson  
Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

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

Date this Final EIS made available to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the public: October 3, 2008

## Abstract

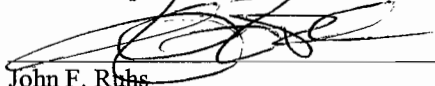
This Final EIS evaluates the environmental effects that would result from constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed White Pine Energy Station electric power generating plant. This approximately 1,590-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant and associated features would be located on public lands in White Pine County, eastern Nevada, that are presently managed by the Ely District Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 include the following project actions and features: issue Rights-of-Way for White Pine Energy Station construction and operation and subsequently arrange for the sale of the power plant site to White Pine Energy Associates, LLC; construct, operate, and maintain an approximately 1,590-MW (maximum) coal-fired electric power generating plant using a hybrid cooling system 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; construct and operate an off-site mineral material sale area to supply earth and rock for project construction; implement a seeding project to enhance the grazing and wildlife value of 700 to 900 acres; and implement best management practices and mitigation measures during construction, operation, and maintenance of the White Pine Energy Station to avoid or prevent the occurrence of impacts and, where possible, to minimize the magnitude, extent, and duration of those impacts when their occurrence cannot be prevented.

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. The power plant site for Alternative 1 is approximately 12 miles south of the Proposed Action

power plant site and 1 mile west of U.S. 93. The BLM has selected the Proposed Action as the environmentally preferred alternative.

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 and facilitate the ultimate sale of land for the power plant site. This Final 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:

  
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John F. Ruhs  
District Manager, Ely District Office

9/17/08  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date