

Comment Sought on Proposed Geothermal Operations near Town of Mammoth Lakes

Mammoth Pacific, L.P. (MPLP), has submitted two plans to conduct geothermal resource operations on Federal geothermal leases previously issued to MPLP within Inyo National Forest in Mono County, California.

The first plan is the Rhyolite Plateau Geothermal Exploration Project. The purpose of this project is to locate, sample, drill, test, and monitor potential commercial geothermal resource development target zones on portions of Federal Geothermal Leases CA-14404, CA-14405, CA-14406 and CA-14407 in conformance with lease requirements. The project area is located in an area approximately 1.5 miles north of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The project will entail the drilling and monitoring of up to eleven small diameter holes from eleven identified sites in the exploration area; and the drilling, completion, and testing of up to eleven large-diameter geothermal exploration wells from these same eleven identified sites. The exact number of small diameter drill holes and geothermal exploration wells are dependant on results of the exploration program.

The second plan is the Basalt Canyon Geothermal Pipeline project. MPLP proposes to construct, operate and maintain the Basalt Canyon Geothermal Pipeline on portions of Federal Geothermal Leases CA-11667 and CA-14408 located north of State Route 203. The purpose of this project is to develop and produce up to a maximum of 4,000 gpm of geothermal fluid from two previously approved geothermal wells constructed on Federal Geothermal Lease CA-14408 located west of U.S. Highway 395 and deliver this geothermal fluid to the existing MPLP power plants located east of U.S. Highway 395 on private land at Casa Diablo. All but the eastern-most end of the project pipeline would be located on public lands within Inyo National Forest leased to MPLP.

A public field trip to the Projects locations will be conducted on Saturday, July 26. Those interested in attending should meet at the winter "chain-up area" at the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 203 at 9:00 a.m. Members of the MPLP, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (USFS) staffs will conduct the site visits and will be available to answer questions. Those unable to attend the site visit are invited to submit comments on the Projects. Comments or concerns should be sent to Bill Dunkelberger, Field Manager, BLM Bishop Field Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100 Bishop CA, 93514, or JoEllen Keil, Acting District Ranger, USFS Mammoth/Mono Lake Ranger District, P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546-0148. Comments or concerns will be most useful if received by August 11, 2003.

Please contact Cheryl Seath of the BLM at (760) 872-5024 or Lynn Oliver of the USFS at (760) 873-2424 with any questions about either proposal. More information is also available on the Bishop Bureau of Land Management web site at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/bishop>.

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