



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm

In Reply Refer To:

2800 (L0310)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to participate in a public process to gather input regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a right-of-way application for a proposed new water well pump house, water transmission pipeline, and electric power line to the Water Well Pump House building in Sierra County, New Mexico (see enclosed map). The proposed EA will analyze the potential effects from the construction and operation of the new pump house, pipeline and power line and its associated infrastructure. The BLM has determined that preparation of an EA is necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations in 40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508.

On September 12, 2012, the BLM granted a right-of-way for an exploratory water well to the Village of Hatch for the purpose of providing a redundant supply of clean, safe domestic water to the community of Hatch. The BLM received an amended right-of-way application from the Village of Hatch on April 16, 2013, to construct, operate, and maintain a new domestic water well approximately 750 feet deep with a 12-inch steel casing, including a 10 by 16-foot concrete masonry unit well house structure, blow off pond, and fence around the well site. The well house would be constructed out of split-face concrete masonry unit block. The well house piping would be 6-inch ductile iron, and the well piping would be 6-inch galvanized steel piping.

The water transmission line would be 8-inch PVC C900 piping, buried 4 feet below the nearest grade, and traverse south from the well site for approximately 2,420 feet on BLM land, then 3,223 feet on State trust land, then approximately 350 feet more on BLM land before it turns sharply east-northeastward along State Highway 26 for 2,760 feet in a New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) right-of-way on BLM land. Total length of proposed water transmission line is 8,753 feet. The new water transmission line would connect to existing piping that runs parallel to NM Highway 26 within the NMDOT right-of-way.

The project would require a distribution power line to supply electricity to the proposed well house. The power line would be constructed by El Paso Electric Company, and the design would be for above ground structures. The proposed power line would be 2,500 feet in length by 15 feet wide and would be designed and constructed to current standards of the Avian Power Line

Interaction Committee's Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines (Ref. 7 CFR Part 1724 System Design, §1724.52(a) Structures for Raptor Protection).

The proposed infrastructure would run parallel to an existing road. Access for future maintenance and repair would be provided through this same road. If granted, use of the right-of-way would be year round, and include maintenance, replacement of equipment, and operation.

Public participation and scoping is now underway for this project. We are inviting you to comment on the proposed project in accordance with NEPA. Your input is important to us, and we would like to hear about your issues and concerns.

You may submit comments at any time during the preparation of the EA; however, if you would like to have your comments considered for inclusion in the Draft EA, they must be submitted by January 20, 2014. There are several ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- File your comments electronically by sending them to: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov. Please include "Village of Hatch EA Comments" in the subject line of your email.
- Mail your comments to: "Village of Hatch Water Well Pump House Facility EA Project", BLM Las Cruces District Office, ATTN: Virginia Morales, 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
- Submit your comments on the enclosed postage-paid Comment Form

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 about this Project, please contact Virginia Morales, Project Lead, at (575) 525-4414. We appreciate your participation in this proposed Project.

Sincerely,

/s/ David Wallace

David L. Wallace
Assistant District Manager
Division of Multi-Resources

2 Enclosures