



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain Field Office

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Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

<http://www.nv.blm.gov/battlemountain/>

In Reply Refer To:
NV 063-EIS00-27
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Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and information is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Falcon to Gonder 345 kV Transmission Project and proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments. The Final EIS analyzes the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with construction, operation and maintenance of a 345 kV transmission line that would cross public and private lands in north central Nevada. The project applicant, Sierra Pacific Power Company, has applied for a right-of-way grant for the portion of the transmission line that would traverse public lands managed by the BLM. The Final EIS also analyzes related amendments being proposed for the BLM's Shoshone-Eureka, Elko and Egan Resource Management Plans.

A draft version of this EIS was distributed for a 90-day public and agency review period from May 25 through August 23, 2001. Public meetings were held in local communities on June 19, 20 and 21 to solicit input on the Draft EIS. Comments received during this public review period and responses to the comments are provided in Chapter 6. Minor text changes and corrections have been incorporated into this full-text Final EIS as appropriate in response to some of the comments.

In accordance with federal regulations, this Final EIS is being made available to the public and agencies for a 30-day review period. Written comments on the Final EIS must be delivered or postmarked by January 22, 2002, and sent to: Mary Craggett, Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820. As this document contains proposed amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans, federal regulations also provide up to 60 days for the Governor to review the consistency of the amendments with State planning goals.

Once the 30-day public review period and Governor's consistency review is complete, the BLM will consider any comments received and issue a Record of Decision (ROD) on the proposed action. The ROD will be published in local newspapers. Implementation of the proposed action would follow the ROD and would consist of issuing the right-of-way grant and approving the proposed Resource Management Plan amendments.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Mary Craggett, BLM Team Leader, at (775) 635-4060. We appreciate your interest and involvement in this project.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Smith
Field Manager