

DECISION RECORD
TGP COYOTE CANYON UTILIZATION PROJECT
IN CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0001-EA
Dixie Valley Participating Area NVN-43282X
and Geothermal Lease NVN-86892

1. INTRODUCTION

TGP Dixie Development Company LLC (TGP) proposed to construct a 70 MW geothermal power plant and associated production/injections wells, pipelines, and support facilities in Dixie Valley in Churchill County, Nevada. Their utilization plan involves the Dixie Valley Participating Area NVN-43282X comprised of the following federal leases: NVN-17283A, NVN-17282, NVN-61705, NVN-61707, and an adjacent federal lease NVN-86892. This Coyote Canyon utilization plan area is entirely on federal leases managed by the BLM Carson City Stillwater Field Office. Power generated by the plant would be delivered to the existing transmission line via a short tie-in line from the power plant.

The purpose of the proposed action is to develop the geothermal resource within the TGP Coyote Canyon lease area in response to EO 13212, which directs the BLM in a timely manner to support efforts to increase energy production from federal minerals, while preserving the health of public lands.

This EA, DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0001-EA, evaluates the impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from implementation of this geothermal development project on federal land. The impact analysis in the EA characterizes the potential for impacts for each resource in the project area. The determination of environmental risk is resource-specific and is based on a number of factors, including the presence and extent of resources within the proposed lease section, the extent of resources in the surrounding area, and the quality of existing data.

2. DECISION

I approve the proposed construction of a 70 MW geothermal power plant and associated production/injections wells, pipelines, and support facilities as describe in the Proposed Action of DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0001-EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all lease stipulations, conditions of the geothermal drilling permits, and conditions/mitigation identified in the EA for electrical generation facilities. The Conditions of Approval for utilization of the geothermal resources are attached to this Decision Record. As referenced in the EA, before starting to prepare the facility site a BLM geothermal site license agreement and construction permit must be obtained by TGP. An approved commercial use permit is necessary prior to commencing commercial operations from the facility. Conditions may be identified in those authorizations.

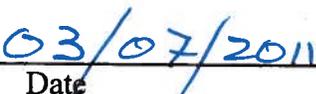
3. RATIONALE

The Proposed Action and COAs meets the criteria described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of public land; the 43

CFR 3200, 3250 and 3260. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) which states that the BLM desired outcome is to encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses. The action must comply with the conditions of permit for the Nevada Division of Minerals Geothermal Resource Development Permit Application and with applicable rules and regulation of other local, state, and federal agencies



Teresa J. Knutson, Manager
Stillwater Field Office
Carson City District Office



Date

Attachment: Exhibit B Conditions of Approval