SCOPING REPORT

Ely Energy Center
Environmental Impact Statement

Bureau of Land Management
Ely, Nevada Field Office
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, Nevada 89301

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - Introduction 1
1.1 Purpose of Public Scoping 1
1.2 Project Description 1
1.3 Description of the Scoping Process 2
Chapter 2 - Demographic Summary 5
2.1 Demographic Analysis 5
2.2 Method of Response Collection and Analysis 5
2.3 Organized Response Summary 9
2.4 Unique Response Summary 12
Chapter 3 - Public Concern Statements 17
3.1 Alternatives to the Proposed Action 18
3.2 Air Quality Issues 26
3.3 Cultural Resources Issues 32
3.4 Cumulative Effects Issues 33
3.5 Environmental Justice Issues 41
3.6 General Ecological Effects Issues 42
3.7 Geology and Minerals Resource Issues 43
3.8 Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials Issues 43
3.9 Land Use and Access Issues 47
3.10 Miscellaneous Issues 49
3.11 Native American Concerns 50
3.12 Noise Issues 52
3.13 Paleontological Resources Issues 53
3.14 Process Issues (Scoping or NEPA) 53
3.15 Proposed Action Issues 58
3.16 Public Health and Safety Issues 66
3.17 Purpose of and Need for Project Issues 69
3.18 Range Resources Issues 72
3.19 Recreation Issues 74
3.20 Socioeconomics Issues 75
3.21 Soil Resources Issues 85
3.22 Special Designations and Sensitive Areas 86
3.23 Special Status Species Issues 87

3.24 Transportation Issues 92
3.25 Vegetation Resources Issues 94
3.26 Visual Resources Issues 96
3.27 Water Resources Issues 100
3.28 Wildlife Issues 109
Chapter 4 - Future Public Involvement 115
4.1 Continuing Opportunities for Public Involvement 115
4.2 Contact Information 115

Tables

Table 1. Publication of Legal Notices 2
Table 2. Press Release Distribution 2
Table 3. Codes used to categorize individual comments. 6
Table 4. Demographic codes used to identify geographic area. 7
Table 5. Demographic codes used to identify commenter affiliation. 8
Table 6. Demographic codes used to identify response type. 9
Table 7. Form responses identified. 10
Table 8. Responses by state. 10
Table 9. Geographic distribution of responses. 12
Table 10. Number of responses and signatures by organization type. 14
Table 11. Number of responses and signatures by response/delivery type. 15

Appendices

Appendix A: NOI, Legal Notice, Press Release & Distribution List, Scoping Letter & Enclosures, Scoping Postcard, Scoping Meeting Handouts, Scoping Meeting Posters, Website Content

Appendix B: Initial Scoping Mailing List

Appendix C: Scoping Meeting Attendance Lists

Appendix D: List of Respondents

Appendix E: Public Comments

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Scoping

The purpose of scoping is to allow the public, agencies, and interested parties to comment on the range of issues to be addressed during the environmental review process. During the scoping process, the lead agency presents the broad outlines of a project and solicits input as to issues, concerns, and opportunities that might arise as a result of project implementation. It is a process required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in the early stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Scoping is intended to encourage public participation and solicit public input on the scope and significance of the proposed action (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1501.7). Comments received during scoping help the agency identify issues and concerns, determine the level of analysis needed, and develop alternatives.

This report summarizes comments, feedback, and input received from the public, agencies, and other interested parties during the public scoping period of January 26, 2007 – February 26, 2007. All comments received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prior to March 12, 2007 were processed and included in this Scoping Report. Later comments were still accepted and read, and substantive comments advanced for consideration, though they were not able to be included in this report.

1.2 Project Description

The proposed project would include a power generation station to be known as the Ely Energy Center (EEC). The EEC would be comprised of multiple components to facilitate power generation, transmission, and communication:

1.2.1 Ely Energy Center Generating Station

Phase 1 of the EEC would consist of two coal-fired 750-MW supercritical steam turbine units with commercial operation dates of December 2011 and June 2013, respectively. This Project would take advantage of recent technological advances in efficient unit designs and environmental controls. Phase 2 would consist of two additional 500-MW integrated gasification combined cycle units or another energy-efficient technology option that would be built when the technology is determined to be commercially viable. When fully built-out, the EEC would be capable of producing 2,500 MW of generating capacity.

1.2.2 Electric Transmission Facilities

Two new 500-kV electric transmission lines, each line between 270 to 315 miles in length, would interconnect the EEC with the Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company (Companies) electric systems in northern and southern Nevada, allowing the power generated by the EEC to be efficiently transported throughout the state. The specific facilities would include two new 500-kV transmission lines, expansion of the existing 500-kV Harry Allen Switching Station, one new switching station at the EEC, and a new 500/345-kV switching station at a proposed new substation (depending on alternative), to be known as Robinson Summit.

1.2.3 Water Facilities

The proposed water supply for the project would originate near Lages Station and continue south in an underground pipeline along the proposed new rail alignment (below) to the EEC site.

1.2.4 Rail Facilities

The action would either upgrade the existing Nevada Northern Railway (NNRy) from Shafter to the proposed EEC or construct a new private rail spur that parallels the NNRy.

1.3 Description of the Scoping Process

1.3.1 Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on Friday, January 26, 2007 (72 FR 3871-3875) and is included in Appendix A. Additional legal notices (Appendix A) were published in local newspapers as follows:

Table 1. Publication of Legal Notices

Date	Publication
01/25/2007	Desert Advocate
01/26/2007	Ely Times
01/26/2007	Las Vegas Review Journal
01/26/2007	Reno Gazette Journal
02/2007	Valley Voice

In addition, a Press Release (Appendix A) was sent to the media outlets listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Press Release Distribution

Television Stations		
KCLV TV 2 (City of Las Vegas)	KLAS TV 8	KFBT TV 33
KVBC TV 3	LV 1	KVWB TV 21
CTV-TV 4 (Clark County)	KLVX TV 10	KFBT & KVWB
KVVU TV 5	KTNV TV 13	KLBC TV 2 Laughlin
Radio		
KCEP 88.1 FM	KBGO 93.1 FM	KXPT 97.1 FM
KHWY 98-99 FM	KWNR 95.5 FM	KBAD 920 AM
KNPR 89.5 FM	KMZQ 100.5 FM	KENO 1460 AM
KUNV 91.5 FM	KXTE 107.5 FM	KKLZ 96.3 FM
KNUU 970 AM	KLUC 98.5 FM	KJUL 104.3 FM
KDWN 720 AM	KSNF 1140 AM	KSTJ 102.7 FM

KLAV 1230 AM Metro Sky View Traffic KSNE 106.5 FM	KMXB 94.1 FM KXNT 840 AM KOMP 92.3 FM	KTSJ 105.5 FM KSTAR 102.7 FM KOAS 105.7 FM
Newspapers		
Las Vegas Review-Journal Las Vegas Sun The View Newspapers Associated Press LV Business Press In Business City Life Las Vegas Weekly Bullseye NAFB Boulder City News Laughlin Times LV Sentinel Voice LV Asian Journal North Las Vegas Times-Herald Henderson Home News Moapa Valley Progress	Las Vegas Tribune The Business Voice Construction Connection Las Vegas Life U.S. Asian Chronicle Las Vegas Senior Press Nevada Senior World News Senior Spectrum Construction Zone Las Vegas Chinese Daily News Philippine News Jewish Reporter Las Vegas Israelite The Beehive Home & Hearth	Nevada Development Authority High Country News Southern Nevada Home and Garden S, The Magazine of Summerlin 215 South Magazine Urban Water Report Moapa Valley Progress Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Henderson Chamber of Commerce Urban Chamber of Commerce Latin Chamber of Commerce Asian Chamber of Commerce North Las Vegas Chamber
Spanish Language Media		
Television Telemundo KBLR TV 39 Univision KINC TV 15 KYRK TV 35 KHDF 19 Azteca LV **Newspaper** El Mundo Newspaper El Tiempo Libre Latin American Press TV LV	**Radio** KLSQ 870 AM KQMR 99.3 FM KISF 103.5 FM KDOX 1280 AM KLAV 1230 AM KVBC 105.1 FM KRLV 1340 AM KWID 101.9 FM KDOX 104.7 FM	
Other Media		
Las Vegas Magazine Nevada Business Journal Nevada Magazine Sunset Magazine What's On Magazine Where Magazine of Las Vegas		

A scoping letter (Appendix A) was prepared and sent to a list of approximately 1,800 potentially interested individuals, agencies, and organizations. The BLM compiled the initial contact list (Appendix B) by using contact lists from previous projects.

In addition, a postcard (Appendix A) was mailed to the same list notifying the public of a new e-mail address set up to receive public comments.

1.3.2 Scoping Meetings

Scoping meetings were held during the week of February 5th, 2007 at the following locations:

Las Vegas
Monday, February 5, 2007
BLM Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Alamo
Tuesday, February 6, 2007
Alamo Ambulance Barn
10 Airport Rd.
Alamo, Nevada

Ely
Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Bristlecone Convention Center
150 6th St.
Ely, Nevada

Elko
Thursday, February 8, 2007
BLM Field Office
3900 Idaho St.
Elko, Nevada

Reno
Friday, February 9, 2007
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, Nevada

All attendees were asked to sign in and provide their contact information (Appendix C). The meetings were held between 5:00 – 8:00 PM, with a formal presentation at 6:00 PM. The presenting speakers at each venue were the same: Chris Hanefeld and Joe Incardine, BLM, and David Sims, Nevada Power Company. The BLM representatives discussed the meeting structure, how comments could be submitted, and provided an overview of the NEPA process. Mr. Sims presented an overview of the need for the project and a brief description of the Proposed Action.

There were nine information display stations with maps and Nevada Power personnel available to answer questions about the proposed project. Comment forms (Appendix A) were available to all attendees to provide written comments. Comments could be submitted during the meeting, mailed, or e-mailed.

All responses received by BLM were logged, analyzed, and summarized to discern issues of concern. Chapter 2 below details this process.

1.3.3 Consultation with Tribes

A meeting was held at the Goshute Tribal Council Headquarters on February 8, 2007 between representatives of the BLM, Nevada Power Company, and the Goshute Tribal Council. The BLM representatives described the environmental analysis process for this project that was beginning with the scoping of the EIS. The Nevada Power representatives described the proposed project and answered questions. The Tribal Council representatives asked questions related to air quality monitoring and impact analysis, potential impacts of the project on groundwater resources, environmental control measures being proposed for plant air emissions, and plans for dealing with socio-economic impacts. It was agreed that the parties would have further discussions about the project and the Tribal Council's interests in it.

1.3.4 Website

Information regarding the proposed action and the NEPA process is posted on the BLM's project website at:
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office/blm_programs/energy/energy_projects__transmission.html.

Chapter 2 - Demographic Summary

2.1 Demographic Analysis

Demographic analysis allows managers to form an overall picture of who is submitting comments, where they live, their general affiliation with various organizations or government agencies, and the manner in which they respond. The comment database can be used to isolate specific combinations of information about public comment. For example, reports run from the database can single out public comment from people in California or identify specific types of land users such as recreational groups, the energy industry, or businesses. Demographic coding allows managers to focus on specific areas of concern linked to respondent categories, geographic areas, and response types.

Although demographic information is captured and tracked, it is important to note that the consideration of public comment is not a vote-counting process. Every comment and suggestion has value, whether expressed by one or a thousand respondents. All input is considered, and the BLM attempts to capture all substantive public concerns in the analysis process.

2.2 Method of Response Collection and Analysis

All responses received by BLM were subject to the following procedure. All hard copy responses (from facsimile transmissions, comment forms, and letters) were copied and sent to the contractor for processing and content analysis. Originals were maintained at the Ely Field Office. E-mails were forwarded to the contractor. Responses were processed using the following general procedure.

2.2.1 Response Processing

Responses were opened, date stamped, and sorted as they were received. Organized responses (form letters—defined as five or more duplicate responses from different commenters) were separated from unique responses; counted, cataloged, and entered into a database that will later be used to generate a mailing list; and filed. A master copy of each form letter was promoted to the remainder of the content analysis process to ensure that concerns expressed by the group of form letters were captured.

All unique responses were then moved to a logging process, where names and addresses were entered into the same mailing list database. The log is used to provide the most up-to-date information on what responses have been received and from whom. The logging process was also used to identify and eliminate duplicate responses. All duplicates identified during this phase were labeled and filed with the original response document.

Each unique piece of communication that required coding was assigned a letter number, scanned, filed in soft and hard copy, and a working copy was printed out for comment coding. Implementation of this process with its embedded quality control procedures ensured that all responses were accounted for, without duplication, and transitioned to the coding phase of the process.

2.2.2 Coding

Each unique response letter and master form letter was individually read and coded twice to ensure that individual comments, concerns, and issues were captured. Coding consists of identifying discrete comments, delineating them, and assigning comment codes (Table 3). In

addition, each response was coded for demographic information to be used for later analyses (Tables 4-6).

Table 3. Codes used to categorize individual comments.

Code	General Issue Category
ALT	Alternatives to Proposed Action (development or additional)
AQ	Air Quality
CR	Cultural Resources
CUM	Cumulative Effects
ECO	General Ecological Resources
EJ	Environmental Justice
GEO	Geology and Minerals
GWR	Groundwater Resources
HAZ	Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials
INF	Request for additional information
LST	Add to mailing list
LUA	Land Use and Access
MISC	Miscellaneous
NAC	Native American Concerns
NEG	General comment, negative, non-substantive
NS	Noise
OOS	Out of scope
PA	Proposed Action
PAL	Paleontological Resources
PN	Purpose of and Need for Project
POS	General comment, positive, non-substantive
PRO	Process (comments referring to scoping or NEPA process)
REC	Recreation
RNG	Range Resources (including rangeland health, grazing, wild horses and burros)
SAF	Public Health and Safety
SD	Special Designations (including wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, DWMAs, etc.)
SOIL	Soil Resources
SOC	Socioeconomics
SSS	Special Status Species (plants and animals)
SWR	Surface Water Resources
TRAN	Transportation
VEG	Vegetation (not including listed or sensitive species)

VR	Visual Resources
WLF	Wildlife (not including listed or sensitive species) and Wildlife Habitat

Table 4. Demographic codes used to identify geographic area.

Code	Geographic Area
AL	Alabama
AK	Alaska
AZ	Arizona
AR	Arkansas
CA	California
CO	Colorado
CT	Connecticut
DE	Delaware
DC	District or Columbia
FM	Federated States of Micronesia
FL	Florida
GA	Georgia
GU	Guam
HI	Hawaii
ID	Idaho
IL	Illinois
IN	Indiana
IA	Iowa
KS	Kansas
KY	Kentucky
LA	Louisiana
ME	Maine
MD	Maryland
MA	Massachusetts
MI	Michigan
MN	Minnesota
MS	Mississippi
MO	Missouri
MT	Montana
NE	Nebraska
NV	Nevada

NH	New Hampshire
NJ	New Jersey
NM	New Mexico
NY	New York
NC	North Carolina
ND	North Dakota
OH	Ohio
OK	Oklahoma
OR	Oregon
PA	Pennsylvania
PR	Puerto Rico
RI	Rhoda Island
SC	South Carolina
SD	South Dakota
TN	Tennessee
TX	Texas
UT	Utah
VT	Vermont
VA	Virginia
WA	Washington
WV	West Virginia
WI	Wisconsin
WY	Wyoming
INT	International
ANON	Anonymous/Unknown

Table 5. Demographic codes used to identify commenter affiliation.

Code	Affiliation
AGR	Agriculture Industry/Association
BUS	Business
CIV	Civic Group
CNT	County Agency/Elected Official
CON	Conservation/Preservation Organization
ENG	Energy Industry/Association
FED	Federal Agency/Elected Official
GOV	Government Employees, Organizations, Unions

IND	Individual/Unaffiliated
LOC	Local Agency/Elected Official
MULT	Single Responses Signed by Multiple Organizations
OTH	Other
REC	Recreational Organization
STA	State Agency/Elected Official
TRB	Tribal Official/Member
UNI	University

Table 6. Demographic codes used to identify response type.

Code	Response Format
A	Action Alert
E	E-mail
F	Fax
L	Letter
P	Petition
R	Resolution

2.2.3 Data Entry

Coded comments for each response letter were then added to the project database. This means that each coded comment was linked to the response letter and to the commenter. This facilitated later statistical analysis.

2.2.4 Analysis

A database report was organized by category and generated (see Appendix E). Comment analysts read all the comments in each category and identified each distinct public concern therein. Public concern statements were written to summarize each distinct issue. One or more sample statements (i.e., direct quotes from the database which reflect that concern) were attached to each public concern statement. Each sample statement is accompanied by a response letter number and other reference material to allow the reader to trace each public concern back to the individual respondents who submitted them. These public concern and sample statements are contained in Chapter 3 of this report. A demographic and statistical summary report of organized and unique responses was generated (see Sections 2.3 and 2.4) including responses by organization affiliation, response type, and geographic distribution.

2.3 Organized Response Summary

Organized response campaigns represent 95.9 percent of the total responses received during the public comment period for the proposal (8,996 forms out of 9,374 responses).

Forms are defined as five or more responses, received separately, but containing identical text. Once a form is identified, a “form master” is entered into the database with all of the

content information. All responses with matching text are then linked to this master form within the database with a designated “form number”. If a response does not contain all of the text presented in a given form, it is entered as an individual letter. Duplicate responses from four or fewer respondents are also entered as individual letters.

Forms are designated with a number for the purpose of tracking subsequent submissions. Form numbers are assigned as each “form master” is identified.

The following table presents the number of responses and signatures associated with each form as well as brief content summaries. Only one form was identified.

Table 7. Form responses identified.

Number of Form	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures	Description of Form
1	8,996	9,133	“Oppose proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. The project would cost billions of dollars, result in outdated technologies that cause air pollution, health problems, water contamination, and more global warming. The proposed plant could threaten the air quality at Great Basin National Park and water quality in local streams. The required fuel would destroy sensitive landscapes and additional water resources. Federal land should not be used. Use cleaner and healthier options including energy efficiency and renewable energy. Health and environmental harms are too enormous. Therefore urge BLM to reject this proposal.”
Total:	**8,996**	**9,133**	

In the tables displayed below, please note that demographic figures are given for number of responses, respondents, and signatures. For the purposes of this analysis, the following definitions apply: “response” refers to a discrete piece of correspondence; “respondent” refers to each individual or organization to whom a mail identification number is assigned (e.g., a single response may represent several organizations without one primary author); and “signature” simply refers to each individual who adds his or her name to a response, endorsing the view of the primary respondent(s).

The following table presents the demographic information tracked for each form response.

Table 8. Responses by state.

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Alabama	41	41
Alaska	14	15
Arizona	234	239
Arkansas	34	34
California	2,020	2,054

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Colorado	320	325
Connecticut	125	125
District of Columbia	15	15
Delaware	24	25
Florida	460	464
Georgia	112	113
Hawaii	52	53
Idaho	52	52
Illinois	356	363
Indiana	112	113
Iowa	50	52
Kansas	54	57
Kentucky	54	54
Louisiana	29	29
Maine	67	69
Maryland	147	149
Massachusetts	305	310
Michigan	224	227
Minnesota	160	163
Mississippi	12	12
Missouri	101	103
Montana	40	40
Nebraska	14	15
Nevada	69	69
New Hampshire	66	69
New Jersey	233	233
New Mexico	99	103
New York	681	690
North Carolina	198	200

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
North Dakota	2	2
Ohio	248	250
Oklahoma	29	30
Oregon	288	295
Pennsylvania	357	364
Rhode Island	35	35
South Carolina	53	53
South Dakota	8	8
Tennessee	84	86
Texas	315	317
Utah	56	57
Vermont	47	47
Virginia	185	186
Washington	387	395
West Virginia	18	19
Wisconsin	150	152
Wyoming	16	16
APO/FPO (military)	6	6
Unknown or International	138	140
Total	**8,996**	**9,133**

2.4 Unique Response Summary

As mentioned above, BLM received 9,374 letters, e-mails, and faxes in response to the request for public comment regarding the Proposed Action. Of these, 377 represented unique responses that were individually read and coded for various issue categories. A brief statistical analysis of the unique responses is provided below.

Geographic representation is tracked for each response during the course of content analysis. Letters and e-mails were received from 42 states of the United States. There were 28 responses from international or unknown sources.

Table 9. Geographic distribution of responses.

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Alaska	1	1

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Arizona	7	8
Arkansas	1	1
California	40	41
Colorado	16	17
Connecticut	3	3
Delaware	1	1
Florida	4	4
Georgia	1	1
Hawaii	1	1
Iowa	1	1
Idaho	4	4
Illinois	8	8
Kentucky	2	2
Maryland	3	4
Massachusetts	4	4
Michigan	4	4
Minnesota	5	5
Mississippi	1	1
Missouri	2	2
Montana	2	2
Nebraska	1	2
Nevada	154	219
New Hampshire	3	3
New Jersey	2	2
New Mexico	4	4
New York	12	12
North Carolina	3	3
Ohio	5	5
Oregon	7	7

State	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Pennsylvania	5	5
Rhode Island	2	2
South Carolina	3	3
Tennessee	1	1
Texas	7	7
Utah	4	5
Vermont	1	1
Virginia	4	4
Washington	12	13
West Virginia	1	1
Wisconsin	5	5
Wyoming	1	1
Unknown or International	28	29
Total	**377**	**449**

Responses were received from various organizations and unaffiliated individuals. Respondents include businesses, preservation organizations, oil and gas industry, as well as unaffiliated individuals and others. Organization types were tracked for each letter, e-mail, or fax received.

Table 10. Number of responses and signatures by organization type.

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
Agriculture Industry/Association	2	2
Business	7	8
Civic Group	1	1
Conservation/Preservation	17	53
Federal Agency/Elected Official	7	7
Government Employees, Organizations, Unions	5	5
Individual/Unaffiliated	322	347
Local Agency/Elected Official	5	5
Single Responses Signed by Multiple Organizations	1	10
Other	3	3

State Agency/Elected Official	6	7
Tribal Officer/Member	1	1
Total	**377**	**449**

Response/Delivery types were tracked for each response received on the project. Responses were received in the form of comment forms, e-mails, faxes, and letters. Out of the 377 responses, 137 were form letters with additional comments.

Table 11. Number of responses and signatures by response/delivery type.

Response Type	Response Type	Number of Responses	Number of Signatures
C	Comment Form	69	107
E	E-mail	248	261
F	Fax	7	12
L	Letter	53	69
Total		**377**	**449**

Chapter 3 - Public Concern Statements

The following chapter contains summaries of the substantive comments that were identified in all of the unique responses mentioned previously. These comments are divided into general issue categories (see Table 3). Similar comments within these categories were combined and summarized as Public Concern Statements or suggested alternatives. Representative comments are included for each statement or alternative. In addition, all comment numbers are listed under each heading so that the reader can go to the source letter and read the comment in context if desired.

Many of the responses also contained non-substantive comments that did not speak directly to a particular concern or resource issue. Many of these were general statements of support or opposition to the proposed action. Scoping is an opportunity for the public to raise issues of concern regarding a specific project. It is not meant to simply be a “vote” for or against a proposed action. However, it is sometimes useful to look at general public sentiment regarding a project as a means to help determine context and intensity as they relate to significance and potential impacts on the human environment (40 CFR 1508.27).

Of the 377 unique responses received, there were approximately 167 non-substantive comments made that indicated a positive or negative stance, including 16 percent in favor of and 84 percent opposed to the proposed action.

Representative comments of those in favor include:

- The coal fueled power plant is a very important project. Most or almost all Nevada citizens that use electricity are in favor of this project. Please do not deny the state of Nevada a chance to be more energy independent. Please complete this project ASAP. (15-1)
- As a person that grew up in White Pine County, worked for many years in the county, met my wife and raised my kids in White Pine County before having to leave to stay employed, I am very much in favor of the Ely Energy Center. (20-1)
- There is a clear need for this power plant. (37-2)
- This is an excellent project. (39-1)
- I support this project in principal, and find the preferred location to be best suited and most practical to the benefit of Ely. (331-1)
- I am in support of this; think this will be a good economic benefit for Ely and White Pine County. (367-1)

Representative comments of those opposed include:

- We oppose the Ely Power Plant because of the terrible pollution it will cause. (22-1)
- I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. (80-1)
- I oppose the proposal for a coal-burning plant in Ely. There are cleaner alternatives than coal. The last thing our atmosphere needs is more carbon dioxide. Deserts are fragile ecosystems. Keep coal out! (96-1)
- I urge the BLM to truly examine the situation, take the mandated responsibility of stewarding our land in respectful ways seriously, make heartfelt consideration of what such proposals mean not only for our children but our children’s children, and reject this proposal. (128-1)

- Please do not allow the construction of a new, dirty, coal-fired plant in Nevada. (196-1)
- Please reject this proposal. (231-5)

3.1 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

3.1.1 Process, Purpose and Need

ALT 1: This process needs to seriously consider cleaner, healthier alternatives to the proposed action.

(94-2, 124-1, 166-1, 170-1, 188-1, 196-2, 207-2, 212-3, 222-10, 232-1, 253-2, 253-3, 266-1, 332-6, 351-7)

Several commenters questioned the need for this proposed action and stated concerns regarding the dirty, out-dated technology proposed for this project and espoused the need to seriously consider cleaner, healthier alternatives. Representative comments include:

- It is time to put an end to putting money into outdated projects, which are dangerous to the environment. There are certainly other choices nowadays. (124-1)
- There are much better ways of generating electricity than using dirty coal. Allowing this plant will pollute the environment, increase global warming and cost the people of Nevada more money in utility bills. (166-1)
- Environmental consequences of a new coal fired power plants simply cannot be justified, especially in light of existing studies demonstrating that the same amount of energy to be supplied to the proposed project could be obtained via implementation of more stringent energy conservation measures. (218-2)
- You know full well that an equal amount of energy can be generated by other means. So do it. (253-3)

ALT 2: This process needs to consider a "reasonable range" of alternatives.

(192-1, 223-144, 223-145, 313-4, 330-1, 330-5, 372-5)

Commenters suggested that the project needs a broader purpose and need statement that would allow a greater range of viable alternatives, even alternatives outside the BLM's jurisdiction. Representative comments follow:

- All reasonable alternatives that fulfill the purpose of this project's purpose and need should be evaluated in detail, including alternatives outside the legal jurisdiction of the BLM (CEQ's Fourth Questions, #2a and #2b). A robust range of alternatives will include options for avoiding significant environmental impacts. The DEIS should provide a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which are not evaluated in detail. (313-4)
- I have concerns regarding the NEPA process—I don't believe that this proposal has adequate alternatives. (330-1)

ALT 3: Quantify projected impacts and life cycle costs.

(76-4, 216-7, 225-3, 313-6, 317-5, 335-4)

Some commenters discussed the need to quantify projected environmental impacts and develop life cycle analyses that considered the full energy budget associated with the

proposed action and alternatives from extraction and transportation to end use. Comments also state that costs should be calculated for various timeframes in order to better understand cost effectiveness over the long-term for each alternative. In this way alternatives may be better compared and contrasted. All environmental and cost analyses should be presented in comparative form to provide the basis for more informed decision making. Some representative comments follow:

- The environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives should be presented in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). The potential environmental impacts of each alternative should be quantified to the greatest extent possible (e.g., acres of wetlands impacted, tons per year of emissions produced, etc.). (313-6)
- The costs associated with each alternative are dependent upon the timeframe for implementation. While the start-up costs of a coal fire plant may be cheaper initially, we suspect that renewables will prove more cost-effective in the long run. Therefore, we suggest the EIS provide costs for various timeframes for operation. For example, costs should be provided for the following operations timeframes: start-up, 20 year, 50 years, 100 years, 500 years.
- In order to perform such an evaluation, the life cycle for each technology will need to be defined, and used to calculate the costs associated with each of the alternatives for the various implementation timeframes as stated above.
- In addition to start-up costs, other costs that should be figured into the costs associated for each alternative for each implementation timeframe are operations maintenance, environmental compliance & monitoring.
- O&M costs for utilization of coal or nuclear must not only include the typical cost of operating and maintaining the facility, but also the cost of extracting the resource as well as transporting it to the EEC facility.
- The assumptions made for each of these cost comparisons must be clearly articulated in the EIS. A table of costs and assumptions should be provided for each alternative and each implementation timeframe. Costs for nuclear (if included) should include the cost for transport and disposal. (317-5)

ALT 4: The “no action” alternative should be given equal consideration.

(221-11)

- I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each. (221-11)

ALT 5: Conservation should be used to alleviate the need for additional energy plants.
(218-2, 273-1)

Commenters suggested that conservation and energy efficiency programs should be instituted to alleviate the need for additional energy generation. Comments include:

- Environmental consequences of a new coal fired power plants simply cannot be justified, especially in light of existing studies demonstrating that the same amount of energy to be supplied to [from] the proposed project could be obtained via implementation of more stringent energy conservation measures. (218-2)
- Change everyone over to CFL Lighting instead and we won't need any more of these nasty plants. (273-1)

3.1.2 Alternative Fuel Sources and Technologies

ALT 6: Explore renewable energy sources as a reasonable and viable alternative to the proposed action.
(4-3, 18-2, 25-1, 45-2, 46-3, 53-3, 53-5, 53-6, 53-9, 53-10, 57-2, 61-1, 71-3, 73-2, 78-1, 80-2, 82-1, 89-4, 92-4, 83-1, 93-2, 93-4, 93-9, 99-3, 101-1, 110-1, 113-1, 117-1, 118-1, 119-1, 121-2, 122-1, 123-1, 125-1, 129-1, 136-1, 150-1, 155-1, 156-1, 157-1, 158-1, 161-1, 171-1, 175-1, 192-2, 193-1, 195-1, 198-1, 199-2, 210-2, 216-5, 217-11, 218-8, 221-5, 222-13, 223-148, 223-149, 225-2, 225-10, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 229-2, 230-2, 231-4, 233-1, 234-1, 238-3, 240-2, 248-2, 251-2, 252-2, 258-2, 264-1, 268-1, 270-1, 271-1, 276-2, 281-1, 284-2, 287-2, 301-2, 303-26, 307-1, 308-1, 312-1, 313-5, 317-4, 320-13, 325-1, 327-3, 328-3, 329-3, 330-6, 330-13, 335-3, 336-6, 346-13, 370-3, 371-1, 376-3)

Many commenters indicated that renewable energy sources should be considered in the EIS as an alternative to a coal-fired power plant. A range of renewable energy sources, including solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, fuel cells, and hydrological, were suggested. Several reasons were cited for using renewable energy sources rather than coal, including: the abundance of readily available renewable energy sources in Nevada; mining coal elsewhere and transporting it to the proposed plant site is expensive and inefficient; consumer susceptibility to market fluctuations in the price of coal; plants which use renewable energy sources are cheaper to build and more economically viable over the long run than coal-fired power plants; and renewable energy power plants do not degrade air quality or emit greenhouse gases when compared to coal-fired plants.

Several respondents suggested coal-fired power plants use out-dated and polluting technology, while renewable energy sources use modern and clean technologies that take less time and money to build. Many commenters felt renewable energy sources provide cleaner and healthier options for meeting energy demands than building a coal-fired power plant. Representative comments include the following:

- This power should be produced using the latest, cleanest technologies, and clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro. I, therefore, urgently urge the BLM to reject this proposal. (121-2)
- Both geothermal and wind energy are available in abundance in Nevada and only require the development of infrastructure. Both of these types of power generators take less time and money to build than coal plants and could therefore meet current and future demand needs more readily. (150-1)

- We American citizens want to see cleaner, safer solutions implemented. Now. These include a real commitment to conservation in new construction and new vehicles, and the support of wind power and other carbon-neutral solutions, not more dirty coal plants. (195-1)
- I would think that a state like Nevada would be opting for solar energy considering how much sunlight that state receives. They would never have to pay for the fuel to generate the electricity and it would not pollute the air like burning coal does. (276-2)
- I am deeply concerned about the plans for a coal-fired power plant in Ely. We know that coal-fired power plants are one of the greatest culprits in global warming. A coal-fired power plant in a state that does not have coal and very little water does not make sense. We cannot waste precious water on coal liquefaction. Solar energy is abundant in Nevada and in the north of the state we have geothermal resources. (308-1)

ALT 7: Natural gas should be considered as a reasonable and viable alternative fuel.

(223-150, 223-151, 223-152, 337-4)

A few commenters indicated that natural gas should be explored as a viable alternative to the proposed coal-fired energy plant. The cited reason for this is the fact that burning natural gas emits fewer pollutants, especially carbon dioxide and mercury. One commenter suggested that production of natural gas generated electricity should be increased in Nevada and California to negate the need for the proposed coal-fired power plant in White Pine County. Some representative comments follow:

- Natural gas is clean burning, emitting fewer pollutants than other fossil fuels, especially coal. According to the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy, natural gas power generation provides emissions at approximately 50% the level of coal for carbon dioxide, 20% for both carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, 0.03% for sulfur dioxide, and 0.25% for particulates. Similarly, natural gas emits negligible quantities of mercury compared to coal usage. (223-151)
- Why not natural gas to fire the plant? (337-4)

ALT 8: Increase electricity generation from natural gas in California or Nevada.

(223-150)

- An Alternative to Constructing any New Coal-Powered Generating Station in White Pine County: Increased Generation of Electricity from Natural Gas in California or Nevada. (223-150)

ALT 9: Explore nuclear power as a reasonable and viable alternative to the proposed action.

(7-1, 74-1, 279-1, 352-2)

A few commenters asked that nuclear power be considered as an alternative to the proposed coal-fired power plant. Commenters felt the main reason to consider nuclear power was that the plants are cleaner than coal-fired power plants. Representative comments follow:

- I am for clean nuclear power instead. (279-1)

- Since there will be a lot of toxic waste (coal and water) that will be buried and stored on-site, as well as carbon and mercury discharged into the atmosphere, why not consider nuclear energy? (352-2)

ALT 10: Industrial waste from other processes could be used as fuel instead of coal.

(261-2)

- There are great alternative methods such as conversion of industrial waste like turkey parts, or wheels and plastics that can be broken down into their core materials like light oil and pure minerals. (261-2)

ALT 11: Consider the cleanest alternate coal technologies available.

(50-2, 104-19, 106-9, 109-1, 216-4, 216-7, 217-9, 219-10, 223-154, 265-2, 326-9, 347-4, 359-6)

Several commenters expressed concern about pollution created by coal-fired power plants and requested that the EEC design and build the proposed plants utilizing the cleanest technologies available. Alternatives listed included coal gasification and/or the immediate use of Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technologies to increase plant efficiency and decrease emissions of carbon, mercury particulate matter, and other hazardous compounds; use of dry-cooling vs. wet-cooling technologies to decrease water use; coal liquefaction fuels; zero-carbon and carbon sequestration to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions. Representative comments include:

- First let's build a coal-liquefaction fuels plant. We have the technology and its 80-90% cleaner than coal and would be cheaper to transport. (50-2)
- Assuming that this coal-fired power plant is permitted, there must be the most rigorous standards in place to protect the natural resources. The newest, and cleanest technologies must also be implemented. For an example, Xcel Energy in Colorado will be building a coal power plant that will capture green house gases and store them underground. (106-9)
- I request that, in addition to analyzing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative in this DEIS that you analyze two additional ones. The first would involve requiring the use of the best and most modern available technology for coal-burning power generation to reduce carbon and mercury emissions, and (second), to sequester as much carbon as possible out of the atmosphere. (216-4)
- We would like to request that the group consider proposing another alternative (in addition to IGCC) to be evaluated within the EIS for the EEC. That alternative would be a hybrid system that uses existing technologies to integrate concentrated solar and waste heat recovery with pulverized coal in a way that improves plant efficiency, significantly reduces mercury and CO2 emissions, and eliminates most other emissions as well as water consumption associated with conventional cooling. The following description was provided by Dan Stinger, CEO of WOW Energies:

    > "Off-the-shelf technologies exist to improve the efficiency and reduce the emission profile of existing coal fired power plants, including removal of CO2 greenhouse gases. The Organic Rankin Cycle (ORC) technology exists that can be integrated with existing or new PC [pulverized coal] power plants to increase efficiency through waste heat recovery. When combined with a multi-pollutant reduction technology near zero emission PC power plants are a reality. Recent testing, verified by independent testing agencies,

demonstrated the removal of nearly all the NOx, SOx, particulates, heavy metals and 85% of the Mercury in a flue gas while simultaneously removing over 35% of the CO2. The alternative ORC systems and verified flue gas cleaning technologies can also be integrated with solar energy to further increase the output/efficiency of zero emission PC power plants. Please consider this alternative." (223-154)

- A hybrid cooling system (air-cooled condenser and wet cooling tower) as proposed uses a great deal of water. In this very dry area, an alternative cooling system with reduced water consumption should be carefully evaluated. This should include either a total reliance on an air-cooled condenser, or an air-cooled condenser, which is supplemented by a small wet (mechanical) cooling tower only on the hottest days. (These are proven technology). (347-1)

3.1.3 Plant Site Location

ALT 12: The plant site should be located near Ely (the south site).

(44-1, 44-2, 77-3, 220-2, 338-4)

Some commenters wanted to locate the plant at the proposed (south site). Those in favor generally wanted the plant located closer to their towns for ease of access by plant employees, and the economic benefits that improved highways and rail lines would bring. Representative comments:

- I like the power plant site closest to Ely because it is closer to town from an employer transport reason. Also, with the EEC close to Ely; the Robinson Copper Mine could ship its concentrate out by rail instead of trucking. Fiber Optic would be shorter to the east/west line of communications and housing would be available and of better quality in Ely. Recreation (skiing and hot springs), if developed, would be better. A new highway overpass would need to be built at Currie on 93 to prevent vehicle accidents with coal trains. (44-1 and 44-2)
- Although I would rather not have any power plant in the area at all, the proposed sight in South Steptoe Valley makes the most sense. Less of a commute for workers and the fact that the area is already a somewhat industrialized area are some thoughts that come to mind. (77-3)

ALT 13: The plant should be located at the alternate site or in the northern portion of Steptoe Valley.

(38-1, 45-1, 51-1, 62-1, 62-4, 191-1, 222-18, 298-6, 299-6, 302-6, 321-4, 323-1, 339-2, 374-11, 377-4)

Commenters also expressed concern about locating the plant site too close to population centers, citing concerns with pollution, traffic, and visual impacts. Many suggested locating the plant farther north at the alternate plant site or in the northern part of Steptoe Valley. Representative comments include:

- The north Steptoe Valley site would be far preferable to the South Steptoe Valley site since it is farther north of McGill and would impact McGill less. (38-1)
- If clean energy solutions are not profitable enough for the power companies and coal power plants must be constructed they need to be much farther north, away from existing communities, sensitive natural resources, public recreation opportunities and designated Wilderness areas. (222-18)

ALT 14: The plant site should be located near the demand for power.

(66-6, 192-3, 222-12, 303-20, 322-14, 373-3)

Some commenters requested that the plants be situated closer to the population centers where most of the power would be used, citing Las Vegas and Reno as examples. Representative comments follow:

- I believe the plant should be built where the demand for power is greatest. Near Reno or Las Vegas and let them deal with the associated problems. They already have the infrastructure in place to handle these problems. (66-6)
- I find it very concerning that the power plant is to be well removed from the demand. As I understood the information at the Reno meeting roughly 80% is to go to Las Vegas and most of the remaining 20% to Reno/Sparks/Carson City. The EIS needs to evaluate alternative locations closer to the demand. (192-3)

ALT 15: The plant should be located at an alternative site.

(194-9, 217-12, 217-13, 220-4, 223-179, 272-2, 347-2, 356-8)

Commenters indicated that alternate sites to the two proposed should be considered and suggested locating the proposed power plant in a variety of locations, including:

- On the site of closed power plants (194-9)
- Butte Valley (217-12, 217-13)
- Near the Gondor Substation (220-4)
- Industrial park (220-4)
- Crawford, Texas (272-2)
- Uninhabited valley (356-8)

ALT 16: Both proposed locations will have the same impacts.

(316-4)

- The pollutants from either site will have similar impacts on both McGill and Ely (MINIMUM). The difference in locations will make a minimal difference due to the short linear distances from the populated areas. (316-4)

3.1.4 Other Alternatives

ALT 17: Alternative waste disposal sites should be considered.

(223-51, 223-184, 223-185)

One commenter requested that alternate sites be considered for waste disposal in regards to both the disposal location and transport to that location. The letter specifically noted disposal of wastewater produced during plant construction and operation, and coal ash and scrubber wastes produced during operation. Comments are:

- Please consider the amount and characteristics of any wastewater discharged from plant operation processes and during project construction. Please consider proposed and alternate discharge locations, e.g., evaporation pond, local creek, etc. (223-51)
- Please consider alternative disposal site(s) for scrubber wastes and alternative modes of transportation to the disposal site(s). (223-184)

- Please consider alternative disposal site(s) for ash and alternative modes of transportation to the disposal site(s). (223-185)

ALT 18: Alternative alignments for the proposed transmission lines should be considered.

(9-5, 102-12)

Two commenters felt that alternative alignments for transmission lines from the proposed power plant should be considered. Both commenters expressed that the proposed transmission lines should be located within existing power line corridors; one commenter mentioned locating the proposed lines south of an existing line in Smith Valley specifically. Another commenter suggested locating the proposed transmission lines within existing road corridors to reduce impacts to public lands. Comments are below:

- The solution to all the above issues is for the two new 500-kV electric lines to be placed south of the existing 345-kV line in Smith Valley. This will alleviate all these private land issues. (9-5)
- Why are no alternative routes being considered? It would seem logical (i.e., to have least impact to public land resources) to route along existing transportation corridors, such as roads, or existing power lines. Convenience or economic benefits to a power company must not outweigh costs to public values without full tradeoff analysis. (102-12)

ALT 19: Alternative routes for transporting coal and hazardous materials should be considered.

(223-191, 347-5)

Two commenters indicated that alternative routes for transporting materials should be considered in the EIS. One commenter suggested that hazardous materials should use routes that would avoid populated areas. Another commenter felt that a variety of transportation routes for all EIS alternatives should be evaluated. The comments follow:

- Please consider alternate transportation routes for all hazardous materials to avoid populated areas. (223-191)
- Alternatives Transportation Routes – alternative transportation routes for coal should be evaluated for both the base site, and alternative sites. (347-5)

ALT 20: Miscellaneous

(44-4)

- Magnesium-di-boride could be used in the buried underground power lines that would be out of sight of the environmentalist and terrorists (reduced political opposition). (44-4)

3.2 Air Quality Issues

3.2.1 Burning coal as a fuel source emits unacceptable levels of air-borne pollutants.

(4-6, 13-1, 34-3, 46-4, 66-2, 68-2, 104-3, 104-4, 104-6, 104-7, 164-1, 177-1, 184-3, 186-12, 194-5, 194-7, 210-1, 211-2, 212-2, 217-3, 221-2, 221-3, 221-11, 222-1, 222-9, 223-63, 223-65, 223-81, 223-85, 223-87, 223-90, 223-91, 223-199, 223-203, 223-206, 223-207, 223-208, 223, 210, 231-3, 252-3, 267-2, 292-2, 292-4, 292-11, 296-8, 303-47, 303-48, 305-7, 309-2, 312-5, 213-6, 313-14, 317-6, 317-7, 319-2, 320-5, 326-3, 330-11, 332-2, 335-6, 337-1, 337-2, 346-3, 346-10, 349-16, 354-2, 362-8, 365-3, 372-3, 372-4, 373-6, 374-2)

Issue Summary

Many respondents were concerned about the burning of coal releasing hazardous or unhealthy elements and compounds into the air, and the subsequent deposition of these compounds into the ground and water. Respondents listed acidic sulfur dioxide, sulfur trioxide and oxides of nitrogen; carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide (greenhouse gasses); mercury; particulates; and other metals including, but not limited to, lead, arsenic, vanadium and zinc.

A theme of most letters was that the information provided in scoping documents did not adequately explain what pollutants would be produced and what would happen to them once they were released from the proposed power plants.

Representative Comments

- What is the actual amount (ppm) of SO2, NO, CO, & Hg that the plant will emit? (68-2)
- What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists. (326-3)
- The McGill copper smelter only burned 70,000 tons a year. Expect over twice the acid rain – from just the first phase of the SPPCO plant. (346-3)
- SPPCO has no realistic plans for dealing with carbon dioxide. They have left a spot open on the property so that maybe someday, when they get around to it; they can think about what they might want to put there. At the scoping meeting they indicated that they had no plans for the pipeline, pumps, or destination for the carbon dioxide. Think about it. What difference does it make if someday they might be able to separate the carbon dioxide, if they have no place to ship it. SPPCO is not going to do a thing about carbon dioxide, and I predict (with 99% certainty) that they never will. (346-10)
- CO2 emissions the equivalent of exhaust from 2 million SUVs will be release[d] into Steptoe Valley within 4.5 miles of McGill residential areas. (365-3)

3.2.2 Emissions from all sources, including construction activities and fugitive dust, as well as meteorological patterns must be evaluated, understood, and controlled prior to and during the construction and operation phases of the power plant and its associated infrastructure.

(66-5, 217-6, 223-34, 223-64, 223-74, 223-81, 223-82, 223-89, 223-86, 292-8, 313-9, 313-10, 313-12, 313-13, 313-14, 313-15, 313-16, 313-17, 320-12, 326-1, 356-6)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that there many were other sources of air pollution besides the burning of coal that should be analyzed in the EIS. The EPA made several comments advising what and how information about pollution from these other sources should be collected and presented (letter 313).

Commenters specifically noted that the construction of the power plants, powerlines, and roads would stir up dust as heavy machinery traveled over the land resulting in increases to fugitive dust levels. An e-mail noted that some of the land to be affected was radioactive due to past nuclear testing. Coal stockpiles, coal ash, the transport of materials and coal during construction and operation phases, and the operation and maintenance of machinery, powerlines, railroads, and boilers, were also noted by commenters as sources of fugitive dust and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). A letter noted that the development of the coal plants would stimulate construction of other facilities and industries, which would be new and additional pollution sources. Commenters requested that these ancillary emissions fully identified and quantified.

Representative Comments

- There is no specification of how “fugitive dust” from the power plant site would be “controlled”, or to what extent. How much dust will there be? What toxic materials are likely to be in that dust? What would be the methods of control? (217-6)
- Please analyze the dust producing capabilities in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin if the groundwater table is lowered and determine the salt and heavy metal content of that dust. Please compare with Owens Valley/Mono Lake conditions resulting from groundwater loss. (223-82)
- An on-the-ground pre-project analysis and on-going monitoring of the dust caused by transmission and transmission road development, since radioactive plumes paralleled this line from the "events" of the Nevada Test Site of the 1950s and 60s, depositing radioactive material of a half-life of up to 10,000 years. The public does not need this lethal deposition re-activated. (292-8)
- Please provide great details on just what all is in the Wyoming coal, how that pollution will mix with gold mine or other mine pollution, cement plant pollution, and other pollution and contamination in the air. (303-48)
- The NOI lists project components as including 250 miles of high voltage transmission lines, 100 miles of new rail line, water well-fields and pipeline delivery systems, coal unloading, handling and storage facilities, evaporation pond, cooling towers, electric switchyards and substations, and support buildings. The DEIS should thoroughly describe these components and associated potential impacts to air quality. (313-12)

3.2.3 The proposed coal burning plant will create additional air pollution.

(2-2, 23-2, 42-1, 48-2, 57-1, 89-2, 95-3, 104-21, 141-1, 164-1, 184-2, 201-2, 217-7, 221-1, 223-88, 229-3, 229-5, 247-1, 269-2, 300-8, 303-13, 303-29, 326-1, 330-3, 342-2, 345-2, 345-5, 346-2). One positive comment about the project was received and is included below. (318-6)

Issue Summary

Many commenters made general observations about the air pollution that would be released from the proposed coal-fired power plants. Most appeared to be negative about pollution that would result as a result of the construction and operation of the power plants.

Representative Comments

Negative

- The proposed coal burning plant is an extremely air pollution [sic] system (57-1)
- Are you done trying to destroy the air we breathe? Do not allow this dirty plant to be built (164-1)
- Please consider the climate impact of the Companie's [sic] proposed coal plant (223-88)
- The Goshute Indian Reservation is in the windshed of this project, and will likely receive additional pollution due to the air quality. (104-21)

Positive

- Air quality devices, scrubbers, and advanced state of the art environmental controls will mitigate the impacts associated with coal-fired plants in the past (318-6)

3.2.4 The power plant will increase the amount of fog, smog, and inversions.

(13-1, 66-2, 104-6, 223-94, 326-4, 326-5, 349-17)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that there would be more inversions once the power plants began operating. Inversions create locally colder weather in winter that can cause icy road conditions for commerce; stress to wildlife, livestock, and humans due to the colder winters; and increased energy consumption due to the decreased average temperature.

Representative Comments

- In Snake Valley, we have noticed increased inversions due to the Intermountain Power Plant in Delta, which is over 90 miles away, north of Delta. The colder temperatures means that we have to go out and break ice for cattle on the range more frequently, and in addition makes it more difficult for newborn calves to survive. In Ely, where the inversion would most likely be more pronounced, how would this affect the number of people who rely on wood-burning stoves for heat due to no burn orders? (104-6)
- Please analyze the impacts to air quality as will be caused by the drawdown of the aquifer and subsequent die-off of phreatophyte (groundwater dependent) plant life in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin. Please analyze this impact in terms of downwind populations, wildlife, etc. (223-94)

3.2.5 Air pollution from power plants will cause health problems to people in surrounding communities and distant locations.

(106-5, 149-1, 223-68, 303-49, 320-7, 321-2, 361-18)

Issue Summary

Respondents noted that air pollution is associated with increased incidence of human disease including asthma, missed school and work days, heart attack lung disease and premature death.

Representative Comments

- What effects on rural communities health and safety from this air pollution? (361-18)
- With all the news about the widespread and long-lasting hazardous effects of pollution, I am aghast and amazed that the administration could even consider yet another power plant of this nature. I live downwind of the area, and we know from the atomic bomb testing in the 1950s that the wind certainly carries hazardous waste products to the millions of people living in Utah and beyond. (149-1)

3.2.6 Air pollution from the power plants will affect the economy of surrounding communities.

(13-1, 63-2, 102-1, 104-1, 186-14, 219-8, 223-74, 298-5, 300-9, 322-10, 321-1)

Issue Summary

Respondents noted that the clean air associated with eastern Nevada is a valuable asset. Tourists visit the area, and people move to the area, because of its pristine air and water quality. Respondents were concerned that degradation of the air quality would cause loss of revenue to local communities.

Representative Comments

- White Pine County is rapidly becoming a desired retirement locale. The County is collecting property taxes from many new upscale homes. The retirement home trend will be sure to cease with the new “scenic view of the Power Plant” and with pollution the Coal-fired Power Plant creates. (298-5)
- Our dark skies are a rare and precious asset. This area is much valued, visited, and used for observation both recreational and for research purposes. This air quality is prized by daylight as well, and it is unthinkable that the vistas across valleys to the next mountain range could be affected by air pollution (as occurs daily in the Delta, UT area). The EIS needs to demonstrate that our air quality will be protected, by giving realistic assessments of the possible impacts, together with specific plans for ameliorating any degradation of what may be the cleanest air to be found. (219-8)
- Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business. (63-2)

3.2.7 Air emissions from the power plants will negatively affect Great Basin National Park, nearby designated wilderness areas, and other mountain wildlands intercepting the emissions.

(90-2, 92-2, 106-5, 106-6, 221-2, 336-2, 303-31, 346-10, 348-1, 351-4, 361-6, 361-7, 376-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concern about visibility changes and effects of EEC air emissions on the ecosystems at nearby Great Basin National Park; at regional national parks such as such as Zion National Park in Utah; at nearby designated and proposed wilderness areas such as the Jarbidge, High Schells, and Ruby Mountain Wilderness Areas; and in the surrounding mountain ranges of the basin and range province

Representative Comments

- Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted. (106-6)
- How will this affect air quality in Class I airsheds, such as the Jarbridge Wilderness—especially in combination with other changes such as altered, re-aligned or increased military overflights here? (303-31)
- Air pollution impacts on Great Basin National Park and wilderness areas in Nevada. These impacts could also affect the popular tourist region of Utah, including Zion National Park and other national parks, as well as existing wilderness areas such as Pine Valley Mountain and Cedar Mountain and proposed wilderness areas. (336-2)

3.2.8 Wildlife and Special status Species (T&E, Candidate species) will be adversely impacted by air pollutants emitted from the proposed coal fired power plants.

(58-2, 218-21, 223-71,223-72, 313-11)

Issue Summary

Five respondents were concerned that fish, wildlife, and their habitats would be negatively affected by air pollutants and their deposition on land and water. All respondents requested that information be collected and provided in the EIS showing whether there would likely be affects, and how much those affects would be, to wildlife and T&E plant and animal species.

Representative Comment

- For harm to crops and the threatened or endangered species: Please also assess the harm that air pollutant emissions resulting directly and indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on any populations of any threatened or endangered species of plant or animal. (223-71)

3.2.9 The proposed coal-fired power plants should use state-of-the art technology to minimize rates of air pollution.

(102-2, 186-12, 223-89, 223-211, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 229-4, 267-2, 313-8, 313-9, 313-10, 313-13, 313-15, 320-6)

Issue Summary

The comments received expressed concern that Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) were not going to be considered or used in the construction and operation of this project. The EPA noted in their comment letter that federal regulations require the BLM to evaluate existing air quality conditions, identify new sources of air pollution, utilize BACT to prevent significant deterioration to air quality, and demonstrate that the most stringent and feasible control technology is used for each subject pollutant. This viewpoint was mirrored in other comments asking for additional information on the proposed emission control technologies.

Representative Comments

- It is our understanding that while the proposed air quality control system will be a more efficient design than most current coal-fired plants, it is still not the very most efficient design available. If so, this is an inexcusable lapse of responsibility to the public. (102-2)
- Please consider that the operational life of a coal-fueled power plant is fifty to sixty years long. Therefore, federal action on the new coal-fueled plants currently being proposed without CCS (and without technologies that facilitate implementation of CCS) will have a significant impact on the ability of the federal government to meet its stabilization commitment. Federal law requires the United States government, as a partial means of meeting that commitment, to "[t]ake climate change considerations into account" in its "social, economic and environmental policies and actions." UNFCCC, Art. 4, Para. 1, Cl. (f). As an organ of the federal government, BLM is therefore obligated to factor climate change considerations into its EIS for the EEC Project. (223-89)
- New major stationary sources of air pollution and major modifications to sources are required by the CAA [Clean Air Act] to obtain an air pollution permit before commencing construction. This process is called new source review (NSR) and is required whether the major source or modification is planned for an area where the NAAQS [National Ambient Air Quality Standards] are exceeded (nonattainment areas) or an area where air quality is acceptable (attainment and unclassifiable areas). Permits for sources in attainment areas are referred to as prevention of significant air quality deterioration (PSD) permits, while permits for sources located in nonattainment areas are referred to as nonattainment (NAA) permits. The entire program, including both PSD and NAA permit reviews, is referred to as the NSR program and is established in Parts C and D of Title I of the CAA. Based upon an area's attainment/nonattainment designations and a proposed project's anticipated criteria pollutant emission rates, a project may require both a PSD and NAA permit. As the White Pine area is in attainment for all NAAQS, only a PSD permit will be required for construction of the project. EPA granted full delegation of the PSD program to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on October 19, 2004. (313-9)

3.3 Cultural Resources Issues

3.3.1 The EIS should disclose potential impacts and mitigation measures regarding cultural resources.

(5-1, 104-22, 223-100, 303-30, 310-1, 322-6, 326-10)

Issue Summary

Commenters suggested that the EIS fully consider archaeological, cultural, and historic resources that could be impacted by project activities. One commenter suggested that the EIS should disclose how archaeological resources will be protected during plant construction. Another was concerned specifically with negative impacts to the McGill Club House.

Representative Comments

- How will archaeological resources be protected during construction? (104-22)
- Please consider the number of significant historic properties identified in the project area. (223-100)

3.3.2 The BLM should consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and project activities should comply with applicable federal laws protecting cultural resources.

(223-183, 313-42, 313-43)

Issue Summary

A few commenters requested that the BLM consult with the State Historic Preservation officer to determine impacts to cultural resources. Other comments received requested project compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13007. One commenter requested that a Cultural Resources Management Plan be developed for the project.

Representative Comments

- Please consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any Indian Tribe ascribing historic and traditional affiliation to the region regarding mitigation of impacts to significant historic properties. (223-183)
- Historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or that meet the criteria for the National Register. Section 106 of the NHPA requires a federal agency, upon determining that activities under its control could affect historic properties, consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO). (313-42)

3.4 Cumulative Effects Issues

3.4.1 The proposed action could contribute to global warming and should be addressed in the EIS.

(4-6, 45-1, 46-2, 50-1, 53-4, 56-1, 57-2, 71-2, 72-2, 80-2, 90-1, 93-7, 99-2, 99-4, 100-1, 102-4, 106-12, 135-1, 152-1, 166-1, 177-1, 181-1, 182-1, 183-1, 184-2, 189-1, 198-1, 205-2, 207-2, 208-2, 209-2, 211-2, 212-2, 216-1, 216-10, 218-1, 218-6, 218-7, 218-9, 218-10, 218-11, 219-9, 221-1, 221-4, 222-17, 223-1, 223-88, 223-89, 223-90, 225-1, 225-6, 235-1, 238-4, 242-2, 246-2, 248-1, 252-3, 260-2, 282-2, 291-1, 303-18, 303-19, 303-21, 303-22, 304-6, 308-1, 312-8, 313-14, 313-15, 317-1, 317-3, 317-8, 327-2, 328-2, 330-4, 330-16, 335-1, 335-2, 335-7, 340-1, 346-11, 347-3, 351-5, 361-14, 361-15, 370-2)

Issue Summary

Global warming was the most often addressed cumulative impact by commenters. Many respondents commented that constructing new coal-fired power plants anywhere was "irresponsible" at a time when there is increasing scientific evidence indicating that global warming, caused by increasing levels of CO_2 and other "greenhouse gases", is an acknowledged factor in current climate change and instability. While most commenters agreed that increased demand for energy was a reality, these respondents requested that the EIS consider alternative development scenarios that focused on the use of other energy sources.

Representative Comments

- It makes no sense to build such an outdated and expensive project when we have better, more long-lasting solutions that will not contribute to global warming. (207-2)
- The advent of Global Climate Change and the implications for coal-fired power installations must be addressed in this EIS. This must include not only calculations of all relevant emissions, but also economic calculations about all possible future regulatory impacts on the project's viability. (219-9)
- Please consider that the operational life of a coal-fueled power plant is fifty to sixty years long. Therefore, federal action on the new coal-fueled plants currently being proposed without CCS (and without technologies that facilitate implementation of CCS) will have a significant impact on the ability of the federal government to meet its stabilization commitment. Federal law requires the United States government, as a partial means of meeting that commitment, to "[t]ake climate change considerations into account" in its "social, economic and environmental policies and actions." UNFCCC, Art. 4, Para. 1, Cl. (f). As an organ of the federal government, BLM is therefore obligated to factor climate change considerations into its EIS for the EEC Project. (223-89)
- The EEC proposes to utilize coal as the energy source. Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and contributor of pollutants responsible for global warming. The worlds foremost climatologists and scientists agree that global warming is real and the repercussions of not curbing our current greenhouse gas emissions would be potentially devastating to life here on earth. Experts believe that we must not just halt our greenhouse gas production, but reduce it in order to avoid impending crisis. The EEC, as proposed, would likely contribute to this problem. (225-1)

3.4.2 The EIS should consider the cumulative impact of multiple projects in and near the proposed EEC on visual, air quality, water, social, wildlife and other resources.

(34-1, 59-4, 60-3, 60-5, 60-7, 65-2, 106-2, 106-3, 106-8, 149-1, 215-3, 221-3, 222-15, 223-107, 223-131, 223-212, 224-1, 224-2, 292-3, 303-4, 303-14, 303-18, 303-22, 303-23, 303-24, 303-38, 303-51, 303-53, 309-4, 313-38, 313-39, 315-22, 320-21, 322-12, 330-4, 330-10, 330-11, 330-12, 330-16, 332-3, 337-6, 346-5, 359-3, 359-12, 361-10, 361-13, 369-5, 369-13, 374-10)

Issue Summary

Many respondents were also very concerned about the impact of EEC on local and regional resources when considered cumulatively with past, current and proposed projects. Respondents were concerned about the health of the ecosystem as well as social impacts. Negative impacts could accrue to these resources from multiple sources.

Specific past, present and proposed projects noted by respondents include: the proposed Southern Nevada Water Authority Groundwater Development Project; atomic bomb testing in the 1950s; current and proposed Nevada mines (including gold); cement plants; existing coal-fired power plant at Valmy; potential development of SWIP, DOE corridors, private energy lines such as Northern Lights, Nevada Power, Idaho Power, Calpine; White Pine Energy Center (L&S Power proposal), Toquop, Holly Energy, and the Egan Wind Power Proposal; potential land disposal allowed under the White Pine County and Lincoln County Wilderness Bills; oil and gas exploration; military operations; and the potential that EEC rail lines could lead to hauling nuclear waste through White Pine County.

Some commenters also requested that the parties responsible for avoiding, minimizing or mitigating negative impacts to resources be identified.

Representative Comments

- How could the BLM permit a second power plant, when the permitting of 1) the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] water grab, and 2) the LS Power Plant appear almost imminent? (106-2)
- The draining of the aquifer for the power plant will only exacerbate the inevitable problems caused by the drainage to be performed by Southern Nevada Water Authority and, if permitted, the LS Power proposal for two power plants. How can the pumping of potentially 5 billion gallons of water per year, not affect the rangeland and agriculture fields of Steptoe Valley? How can the pumping of 5 billion gallons by Sierra Pacific, in addition to 8 billion gallons per year by LS Power not affect the drinking water of residents in White Pine County? There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable. This means that our springs and wells could dry up devastating our ranching, irrigation. Also, affected could be McGill and Crosstimber's water supply and further down the road Ely's water supply. (106-3)
- Given all of the recent proposals within close proximity to each other in White Pine County, the Environmental Impact Statement should address the cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal should all projects be implemented in addition to addressing the specific impacts solely indicative of this project. Even if the water required for the SPR Ely Energy Center are isolated from the water to be utilized by the LS Power's White Pine Energy Center and the Southern Nevada Water Authority's drinking water pipeline, the cumulative impact to these areas could be

synergistically devastating given that the ecosystems, wildlife and people who occupy these areas do not work and live solely within the boundaries of specific aquifers. (186-11)

- I am concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple coal power plants on the environment and the health of the people who live in White Pine County. Potentially, if all the plants that are proposed are built, there would be 4 plants in a 50 mile radius. The wisdom of this fails me. Why do we need so many power plants in one valley? (359-12)

3.4.3 The EIS should consider cumulative impacts of EEC on ground water and surface water quality and quantity.

(70-1, 104-9, 106-3, 197-3, 211-2, 222-15, 223-44, 223-66, 303-3, 303-4, 303-18, 303-49, 303-50, 304-5, 313-39, 321-3, 330-12, 359-3, 369-5, 369-13, 374-10)

Issue Summary

Many respondents were concerned about cumulative impacts to ground water and surface water. Specific water concerns regarding EEC water usage included: analysis of past and present impacts to springs, as well as potential future flow declines; draining of local and regional aquifers; mercury poisoning of surface and ground water; evapotranspiration rates, and other impacts to watersheds. One respondent was concerned about the feasibility of a pending habitat improvement project if EEC was approved.

Representative Comments

- We recommend that the long-term and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal on groundwater levels, spring discharge and evapotranspiration be assessed by means of an accepted regional groundwater model, and the potential impacts on the water-dependent ecological systems and their associated rare, declining or endemic species be assessed by means of ecological models or the best available science. (304-5)
- Unfortunately, several projects are already proposing to use our water and the Ely Energy Center cannot divorce itself from the cumulative effect of yet one more company using our water. (359-3)
- BLM must research any existing information on spring characteristics – flow rates, aquifer depletion, BLM's own records and project files regarding any spring or other developments, any water rights filings, any water rights surveys done by BLM, etc. BLM should also research any water rights filings by other parties on spring flows, or any waters where diversion/drilling/depletion may affect flow rates from springs in the project area (which includes other nearby lands important to special status species here, or to which springs may be linked). BLM must provide detailed descriptions of past projects – and promises made during authorizations, funding agreements, etc. and /or NEPA. This is necessary to understand all direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of actions affecting spring flows, health and hydrologic integrity. BLM must describe spring provinces/complexes/clusters, also. (369-13)

3.4.4 The EIS should evaluate cumulative impacts of EEC on air quality.

(102-4, 186-14, 204-2, 209-2, 211-2, 212-2, 223-65, 223-66, 296-8, 303-4, 303-31, 303-49, 313-39, 330-11, 336-2, 345-4)

Issue Summary

Several respondents expressed concern over negative cumulative impacts of EEC on air quality, both locally and regionally. Specific concerns included impacts to “down-winders” from air pollution, including the Greater Salt Lake region in Utah, and other people living hundreds of miles from the project area but within the same airshed. Other air quality concerns were increased inversions; visibility especially in Class I areas, including Great Basin National Park and Zion National Park; and increased pollution deposition.

Representative Comments

- What will be the impacts of the air pollutants to be released on communities downwind of the power plant? Current experiences in other communities such as the northeastern U.S. have already proven that air pollutants can have devastating effects on communities hundreds if not thousands of miles downwind from the initial sources. Have the impacts on communities downwind of these proposed facilities, such as the Greater Salt Lake region in Utah, been addressed by all interested parties? (186-14)
- Air pollution impacts on Great Basin National Park and wilderness areas in Nevada. These impacts could also affect the popular tourist region of Utah, including Zion National Park and other national parks, as well as existing wilderness areas such as Pine Valley Mountain and Cedar Mountain and proposed wilderness areas. (336-2)
- Polluted air will contribute to more inversion events in our valleys during the winter months, trapping in extreme cold temperatures for extended periods of time, stressing wildlife, flora, livestock, people, and energy consumption/bills.(345-4)

3.4.5 The EIS should evaluate cumulative impacts of EEC on wildlife, including special status species.

(104-9, 197-3, 223-66, 313-39, 315-22)

Issue Summary

Some commenters expressed concern that cumulative impacts of EEC could negatively impact wildlife. Reasons cited include less available water and deposition of harmful pollutants on wildlife (including special status species). One respondent requested that cumulative impacts on State Sensitive species and Federally-listed species be considered.

Representative Comments

- Is the amount proposed really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife? (104-9)
- For increased deposition of various pollutants: Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, (2) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States, (3) each highly agricultural region in the Western half of the United States, and (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals. (223-66)
- Additive impacts to a myriad of wildlife species including State sensitive species such as sage grouse and relict dace as well as Federally listed species such as the desert tortoise and a number of endemic fish species due to cumulative impacts from this

project in association with proposed wind energy projects, the LS Power project, and Southern Nevada Water Authority pipeline project and others. (315-22)

3.4.6 The EIS should evaluate cumulative impacts of EEC on vegetation, including special status species.

(104-9, 197-3, 222-15, 223-66)

Issue Summary

A few respondents felt that the EIS should consider the cumulative impacts of EEC on vegetation. Two concerns dealt with the potential decrease in available water for vegetation. Another commenter requested that cumulative impact analysis include analysis of pollutants on vegetation in White Pine County and threatened or endangered plants.

Representative Comments

- Is the amount proposed really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife? (104-9)
- Given the number of other proposals that may use the areas ground and surface water, cumulative impacts to vegetation, soil and potential effects from water table drop need to be addressed. (222-15)
- For increased deposition of various pollutants: Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, … (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals. (223-66)

3.4.7 The EIS should consider cumulative impacts of the proposed action on communities and economies.

(187-1, 197-3, 212-2, 223-66, 231-2, 250-3, 313-37)

Issue Summary

Some respondents expressed concern regarding the cumulative impact of EEC on communities in close proximity to the proposed project. Concerns included diminished quality of life due to air pollution, agricultural impacts, decreased available water, and other environmental concerns. Another commenter felt that tax dollars should not be funding this project. One commenter felt the EIS should consider the cumulative impact that additional power supply will have on the environment.

Representative Comments

- Think about the negative cumulative impacts to the environment, economy, and society as a whole that this proposed project will have on Ely and White Pine County. (187-1)
- Cumulative impacts should address the long term effect on not only people in the community, but also in Steptoe Valley, as well as animal, and plant life, water. (197-3)
- Profit should not be the only motivating factor in the construction of this monstrosity. The technology is available and it would behoove Ely Energy to consider the

environmental impact of their plant not only on the surrounding region but how it affects its customers. (250-3)

- As an indirect result of providing additional power, it can be anticipated that this project will allow for development and population growth to occur in those areas that receive the generated electricity. The DEIS should describe the reasonably foreseeable future land use and associated impacts that will result from the additional power supply. The document should provide an estimate of the amount of growth, its likely location, and the biological and environmental resources at risk. (313-37)

3.4.8 The EIS should consider cumulative impacts of EEC as they relate to Native American concerns.

(197-2, 197-6)

Issue Summary

One respondent requested that the EIS evaluate the cumulative impact of EEC on specific Native American concerns. These issues include the use of medicinal or food plants used by Western Shoshone people as well as how EEC would impact lands recently acquired by the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Representative Comments

- Cumulative impact needs to be addressed such as the newly acquired lands of the Ely Shoshone Tribe. (197-2)
- Medicinal or food plants used by the Western Shoshone people need to be addressed in cumulative impacts. (197-6)

3.4.9 The EIS should evaluate cumulative impacts of EEC on cultural resources.

(303-49, 313-39)

Issue Summary

Two respondents indicated that the EEC EIS should disclose all foreseeable development and the potential impact it could have on cultural resources.

Representative Comments

- Please provide detailed information on all foreseeable development (type, energy demands, energy produced, infrastructure, land disposals, impacts to … cultural [resources]; and other impacts). (303-49)

3.4.10 The EIS should evaluate cumulative impacts of hazardous and solid waste produced by EEC.

(212-2, 223-66, 303-4)

Issue Summary

Three respondents were concerned about the cumulative impacts of hazardous and solid waste produced by EEC. Commenters requested that the EIS evaluate impacts to ground and surface water, air quality, agriculture, wildlife (including special status), soil, and vegetation caused by deposition of mercury and other pollutants. In addition, regional

impacts should be evaluated as well as local impacts, and multiple sources of hazardous waste should be considered.

Representative Comments

- In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them. (212-2)
- For increased deposition of various pollutants: Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, (2) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States, (3) each highly agricultural region in the Western half of the United States, and (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals. (223-66)
- Idaho is currently receiving unprecedented amounts of mercury and other air pollution from Nevada mining and other activities. On top of the horrendous amounts of mercury already released into the air that are going to be polluting regional waters for a very long time, gold mine gold ore roasting operations will foreseeably expand in the future as gold continues to skyrocket. There is already a Nevada coal-fired power plant at Valmy that is polluting air. There are mining and cement operations, and now foreseeable new and expanded cement processors. The regional source of mercury must be fully presented—as part of this process. The potential costs of removing mercury that has fallen as pollution into waters, or will foreseeably fall as pollution, must be fully revealed. (303-4)

3.4.11 The EIS should discuss cumulative impacts to public lands as a result of increased infrastructure and industrialization.

(23-5, 222-14, 223-1, 303-3, 303-49, 303-50)

Issue Summary

A few commenters were concerned about the impact of this project as it relates to development on public lands. Specific components of the project include power lines, train tracks, wells, pipelines, diversion structures, and roads. One respondent wanted the EIS to evaluate the cumulative impact of mining coal in Wyoming and transporting it to Nevada. Another was concerned about the wind energy generating facilities this project might enable.

Representative Comments

- It is important that these cumulative effects of mining in Wyoming, and the energy to transport the coal, as well as the cumulative effects of all the infrastructure (power lines, train tracks, multiple trains rolling through the Steptoe valley, and water wells, pipelines, and diversion structures) be analyzed in the EIS. (222-14)
- There are tremendous ancillary environmental effects from actions like these—ranging from new and expanded gravel pits and quarries to new roading on public lands to introduction of new invasive species to drying out of springs in the affected aquifers. (303-50)

3.4.12 The EIS should address potential cumulative impacts to soil resources.

(222-15, 223-66, 313-39)

Issue Summary

A few commenters were concerned about cumulative impacts of EEC on soil resources. One commenter was concerned about the cumulative impacts of deposition of pollutants on soil in White Pine County and agricultural regions in the entire Western United States.

Representative Comments

- Given the number of other proposals that may use the areas ground and surface water, cumulative impacts to vegetation, soil and potential effects from water table drop need to be addressed. (222-15)
- For increased deposition of various pollutants: Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, (2) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States, (3) each highly agricultural region in the Western half of the United States, and (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals. (223-66)

3.4.13 If the project is approved, lawsuits and litigation could ensue.

(289-2)

- All of these effects could result in huge lawsuits against the power plant, the state of Nevada, and your office. Why not prevent litigation by denying this proposal now? (289-2)

3.4.14 The EIS should consider cumulative impacts of EEC on the "ecosystem".

(67-1, 207-4)

Issue Summary

Two commenters requested that the EIS examine cumulative impacts to the ecosystem.

Representative Comments

- I urge the Department of Interior to view the magnitude of the impact this analysis will have on the fragile ecosystem of this intricate place in our country. (67-1)
- Federal land should not be made available for projects with such destructive potential for health of individuals, as well as the health of our larger ecosystem. (207-4)

3.5 Environmental Justice Issues

3.5.1 The EIS does not, and needs to, address Environmental Justice considerations.

(197-4, 223-105, 223-106, 309-3, 313-44, 350-5, 378-3)

Issue Summary

The seven comments received requested that the EIS address whether communities near the proposed power plants will be disproportionately exposed to environmental health hazards, and whether the people in these communities currently have equal access to the decision making process regarding the proposed power plant regardless to their race, color, national origin, or income.

Representative Comments

- Please make a factual finding that the EEC power plant and project will or will not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations. (223-106)
- The DEIS should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. If such populations exist, the DEIS should address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations. Assessment of the project's impact on minority and low-income populations should reflect coordination with those affected populations. (313-44)

3.5.2 Communities designated as Environmental Justice Communities should be provided with training on the permitting and NEPA processes.

(223-110)

- Please provide public training on the permitting and NEPA process to all communities designated as environmental justice communities. (223-110)

3.5.3 Negative environmental impacts of the proposed power plants will be borne by local residents while the benefits of the power produced will be exported to other communities.

(236-2, 300-10, 322-15, 346-14)

Issue Summary

Four comments received from Nevada residents noted that they felt their communities were being unjustly targeted for development by the EEC.

Representative Comments

- Having grown up in Nevada, I can easily say that state has suffered enough as a "wasteland" for this country's development and experiments. Please take the opportunity to change that and stop ruining the Silver State. (236-2)
- The Ely Energy Center is a hideous idea based upon short-term thinking. SPPCO has forsaken common sense for bottom-line mentality. Residents of White Pine County don't need the power, don't want to lose the water, and resent our homeland

being polluted so that Las Vegas, Reno, and California can get cheap electricity. Some of us even realize that these areas won't be getting cheap electricity. Coal prices invariably will rise. And with only one major power line delivering the power (the Frontier Line, which will be privately owned) – it will be far too tempting to be like Enron, and pinch off supply to raise prices. (346-14)

3.5.4 The U.S. needs energy and the proposed power plants will provide financial benefits to the surrounding economically depressed area.

(331-4)

- The increased demand for energy needs in our country demands that we construct and operate such facilities. To deny the electrical energy needs is naive at best and dangerous at worst, and what better place to build than in an economically depressed area. (331-4)

3.6 General Ecological Effects Issues

3.6.1 The EEC project will have significant negative impacts on the ecological systems of the area.

(223-1, 288-1, 303-43, 304-1, 313-1)

Issue Summary

Five comments were received expressing concern that proposed power plants will negatively affect a variety of natural and biological resources and natural communities.

Representative Comments

- There are many other serious adverse ecological processes and practices occurring in the vast land area that will be affected by air pollution, water pollution, human disturbance, weeds, increased fire, habitat fragmentation etc. stemming from these plants. Livestock grazing has a huge ecological footprint on virtually the entire landscape and important and sensitive species. All direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of this proposal affected by this proposal. (303-43)

3.6.2 The EEC project will not significantly affect the ecological systems of the area.

(324-3)

- We believe this project will not have a noticeable impact upon the environment in Northeastern Nevada. (324-3)

3.7 Geology and Minerals Resource Issues

3.7.1 Locations of mineral claims, oil and gas leases, and other land survey information needs to be updated for the EIS.

(55-1, 303-41)

Issue Summary

Two comments were received that addressed geology and mineral issues. They are listed below.

Representative Comments

- Figure 1 sheet 2 shows mineral survey 1905 located in the wrong location. Please see master title plot [sic] and correspondence for more information. (55-1)
- Please provide a detailed analysis of all mining, oil and gas, geothermal and other claims, who holds them. (303-41)

3.8 Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials Issues

3.8.1 The construction and operation of the proposed power plants will release unacceptable levels of hazardous compounds into the air, ground, and water, including mercury, sulphur, and heavy metals.

(63-5, 71-1, 97-2, 210-1, 212-2, 216-3, 223-122, 222-9, 223-129, 303-4, 303-29, 317-1, 317-6, 332-2, 335-1, 335-5, 346-9, 351-3, 351-8, 365-3, 374-7)

Issue Summary

Numerous comments were received expressing concern that hazardous elements and chemicals would be released into the air, land, and water due to the burning of coal. Specifically mentioned were mercury, sulphur, carbon compounds, and heavy metals.

Representative Comments

- Oils, toxins, dust, carbon dioxide poisons, noxious odors, and industrial blight are not needed here. (63-5)
- I am particularly worried about the mercury and sulfur-acid rain that are generated from burning coal. (210-1)
- Coal-fired power plants emit mercury which is bio-accumulating in ecosystems and causing public health advisories. (216-3)
- What's been rarely mentioned by SPPCO is what will happen to all those other chemicals associated with burning coal. What about lead, arsenic, vanadium, barium, zinc, nickel, hydrogen fluoride, hydrochloric acid, selenium, and as many as 50 others? Yes, some of these chemicals may get captured and stored in the (toxic sludge) landfill. But, many of these chemicals will escape totally unhindered. Some of these pollutants will comprise of all of that particular chemical component within the 200 million tons of coal SPPCO intends to burn during the life of the first phase of the Ely Energy Center coal fired power plant. How much arsenic do you think is in

200 million tons of coal? (346-9)

- SPPCO has no plans to contain carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. CO2 emissions the equivalent of exhaust from 2 million SUVs will be release into Steptoe Valley within 4.5 miles of McGill residential areas. (365-3)

3.8.2 The proposed power plants will emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses that are a major contributor to global warming.

(106-12, 211-2, 231-3)

Issue Summary

Commenters found the proposed project unacceptable because of concerns about global warming due to the release of greenhouse gasses in air emissions.

Representative Comments

- Global warming is threatening the entire biosphere and we are the cause; especially coal-fired power plants and especially the ones that use old-fashioned technology. This is enough reason all by itself not to build this plant, not to mention mercury in our water, particulates in our air, degradation of the viewscape (211-2)

3.8.3 The EIS needs to better explain how the EEC will minimize quantities of solid and hazardous wastes produced, and the emission of air-borne hazardous wastes.

(313-27, 313-28, 313-30, 346-6, 346-7, 346-8, 372-1, 374-3, 374-8, 377-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that there would be large quantities of solid, liquid, particulate, and gaseous wastes produced. They wanted the DEIS to show how these wastes would be minimized, contained, or altered for beneficial uses.

Representative Comments

- Discussion of potential modifications to air pollution control devices/configurations in order to increase the marketability of coal fly ash and FGD [flue gas desulfurization] gypsum. Modifications could include reducing the size of coal particles entering the boiler to decrease carbon content in the ash such that it will meet the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards in Portland Cement Concrete, or installing a forced-air oxidation system in the FGD scrubber to produce gypsum. (313-28)
- What SPPCO doesn't remind us of is that the 80% of mercury that doesn't make it out of the smokestack doesn't just disappear. For every reduction they've made in air pollution, there is a concentration of toxic pollutant on the ground. Whatever doesn't go into the air ends up in the SPPCO (toxic sludge) landfill. (346-7)
- We are also concerned with the containment of ash and other toxins captured from the scrubbers and quality of the water in the cooling ponds. Liners leak. The Bassett Lake and Slough are not far from the proposed site location. What are the safeguards and plans for containment of these pollutants? (374-8)

3.8.4 The location of waste disposal sites needs to be carefully weighed and better explained in the EIS.

(217-13, 223-118, 223-209, 316-4, 348-4, 361-16, 361-17)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that the locations of disposal sites for waste water, coal ash, and other solid or liquid wastes were not adequately addressed. Commenters noted that storage and disposal locations were not identified, the effects of radioactive soil (left from atomic bomb testing in the 1950's and '60's) disturbance was not discussed, and coal ash disposal was not addressed in the scoping information.

Representative Comments

- Please make all information on the selection of waste disposal sites and alternative sites public as the material becomes available. (223-118)
- How will the coal and the fly ash be stored? Will these blow into aquatic systems or into wilderness areas? (348-4)
- What effects will the project ground disturbance activities have on the soils and the release of radioactive particles from downwind nuclear blasts to the air? (361-17)

3.8.5 The EIS should assess and list the quantities of all pollutants that will be used on the project area or emitted by any part of the proposed project under each alternative listed, and perform risk assessments on the effects of these pollutants on human and environmental health.

(223-63, 223-66, 223-102, 225-4, 303-27, 313-26, 313-29, 317-7, 319-2, 320-5, 320-12, 335-6, 337-8, 346-10, 359-5, 359-7, 359-8)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that the volumes and quantities of pollutants projected to be stored on, or released from, the proposed power plants was not included in scoping documents with adequate specificity. Commenters requested that the quantities of pollutants of all types be predicted, and the effects of these pollutants on human, plant, and animal life be quantified. Analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts was requested for inclusion in the DEIS. Alternatives for mitigating these effects should be discussed, and a commitment to re-evaluating the mitigation efforts over time was also requested.

Representative Comments

- Please perform a human health and ecological risk assessment to evaluate the impacts of the project on residents and wildlife including diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and on-site mobile equipment and all criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and precursor air pollutants. (223-102)
- Please provide a detailed analysis of all sources of water for all aspects of plant or other development over the life of this plant, and discussion of all direct, indirect, and cumulative factors affecting these waters. What will happen to waste material and waste water—how will it be disposed of? What contaminants may be in water materials generated? (303-27)
- The DEIS should address potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of

hazardous waste from construction and operation. The document should identify projected hazardous waste types and volumes, and expected storage, disposal, and management plans. The DEIS should also discuss and characterize all waste generated from both plant operations and from associated activities such as vehicle maintenance, etc. The DEIS should discuss the environmental impacts associated with management and disposal of this waste including the projected amount annually, where disposal will occur, regulatory requirements associated with storage and disposal, and whether it would be considered hazardous under Federal, or State law. Appropriate mitigation should be evaluated, including measures to minimize the generation of hazardous waste (i.e., hazardous waste minimization). Alternate industrial processes using less toxic materials should be evaluated as mitigation. This potentially reduces the volume or toxicity of hazardous materials requiring management and disposal as hazardous waste. (313-26)

- Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness. (317-7)
- The EIS should provide accurate projections of the amounts of contaminants EEC will release, especially such radioactive elements as uranium and thorium … The addition of radioactive materials on a landscape already polluted by atomic weapons testing should be remarked upon. (320-5)
- The EIS should specify what operational by-products, e.g., fly ash, will remain at the plant site, what hazards these pose to the local ecosystem in terms of contamination and distribution, their potential impacts on air and groundwater both in long and short term. (320-12)

3.8.6 The overall health of area residents will be negatively impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed power plants.

(186-13, 361-18)

Issue Summary

Two comments were concerned with threats to general public health from pollutants that would be released if the EEC were constructed. They are included below.

Representative Comments

- Once the amount and types of pollutants have been addressed, what will be the overall impacts on the health of local residents and communities downwind of this facility? The pollutants of similar facilities to the one proposed for Phase 1 of the Ely Energy Center create health hazards have created an increase in health hazards such as asthma and heart failure. In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters. (186-13)
- What effects on rural communities health and safety from this air pollution? (361-18)

3.8.7 Tourism will be negatively affected by the proposed project due to health concerns about smog in the air and mercury in the water and ground.

(105-3)

- Wouldn't pollution from the plants affect another large money maker in the area, the tourism industry? People come up here for solitude, fishing, hiking, and what some would call the "rural experience". How would that change if there was even a small amount of smog, if there was only a tiny danger of mercury in the water supply. (105-3)

3.8.8 The project will produce so much solid and hazardous waste that alternative project proposals should be considered.

(352-2)

- Since there will be a lot of toxic waste (coal and water) that will be buried and stored on-site, as well as carbon and mercury discharged into the atmosphere, why not consider nuclear energy? (352-2)

3.9 Land Use and Access Issues

3.9.1 The proposed action could impact the limited amount of private property available in the area.

(9-3, 19-1, 296-1)

Issue Summary

Three respondents expressed concerns about the effect of EEC on private lands. One was concerned about the need to develop scarce private lands needed to house EEC personnel. Another opposed placing power lines or access rights-of-way across private property. Another merely questioned whether EEC would be sited on public lands or would purchase private property.

Representative Comments

- Thinking of the community as a whole and also the construction personnel and direct workforce: they need housing. There is very little private land for development of any kind in White Pine County and our land is choice view property close to town. (9-3)
- I am against any power lines or access across private property. This area is made up of small acreages and any access creates a hardship. (19-1)
- Will the EEC be sited on purchased private property or on public lands? (296-1)

3.9.2 The EEC could negatively impact current livestock producers operating in the project area.

(296-3, 296-4, 296-9, 303-45, 349-3)

Issue Summary

Some commenters were concerned about the effect of the EEC on current grazing uses of the project area. Negative impacts to cattle from increased rail line traffic, transmission lines/utility corridors, and additional roading were cited. Some commenters requested mitigation and compensation to ranchers for losses from EEC construction, rail lines, additional roads, transmission lines and other project-related disturbance.

Representative Comments

- With increased rail traffic in the region, how will this activity affect livestock movement in an open range setting? What mitigation will be offered to compensate ranchers for livestock losses associated with the increased rail traffic? (296-4)
- It is unclear from the project description whether the proposed transmission facilities will fall within established utility corridors or establish new utility corridors. If the later occurs, what grazing allotments and/or range improvements will be impacted by these new facilities? What mitigation will be offered to offset these expected impacts? (296-9)

3.9.3 The EEC could alter current access and use around the project area.

(66-4, 223-114, 303-45)

Issue Summary

Three respondents were concerned about the impact the EEC would have on current land uses around the project area. Reasons cited included transmission lines impeding access, and additional roads providing more human access around the project area. One respondent was concerned that traditional and historic land use patterns could be impacted, possibly impacting the rural character of the area.

Representative Comments

- The transmission lines into and out of the coal fire plant will also be impeding. (66-4)
- Please consider traditional and historic land use patterns. Will this substantively change the rural character of the area? (223-114)
- We are very concerned about all the additional roading, and increased risk of fire and weed invasion here. This will not only alter soils, vegetation composition and health, but also provide travel corridors for predators, human disturbance ranging from ranching activities to hunting to OHV use and even poaching, which is on the increase in Nevada. (303-45)

3.9.4 The EIS should disclose how the EEC would impact all federal, state and local land use plans involving the project area.

(313-45)

- The DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term “land use plans” includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ’s Forty Questions, #23b). (313-45)

3.9.5 The EEC could negatively impact military uses of the project area.

(305-1, 305-3, 305-5, 305-6, 305-9, 305-10, 305-11, 305-11)

Issue Summary

Several commenters expressed concern about the impact of EEC on current military uses of the project area. Nellis Air Force Base is concerned about the impact of project facilities such as transmission lines, communication towers, and smokestacks on low altitude flying. Electromagnetic emissions could also impact flying operations. One commenter questioned if the proposed site was even available and should be reviewed by the Department of Energy.

Representative Comments

- The Ely Energy Center, along with its associated infrastructure, poses several issues of concern for Nellis Air Force Base. These issues include but are not limited to: the airspace above the proposed transmission line route from the Ely Energy Center to the Las Vegas area is designated as a Military Operations Area (MOA); Nellis Air Force Base has aircraft operating at altitudes as low as one hundred feet in the area which has been designated as a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) area; transmission towers, power lines and communications towers could pose a hazard to navigation for low flying aircraft. (305-1)
- The land near Yucca Mountain has been set aside by the BLM with the stipulations no claim/ROWs may be considered until the Yucca Rail Route (I think the legislation also had a time period) is decided. This piece of land may not be available. DOE [Department of Energy] needs to review this section and comments. (305-3)
- Electromagnetic (EM) emissions from power lines have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations. (305-10)
- The height of the transmission lines, towers, and plant smoke stacks have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations. (305-11)

3.10 Miscellaneous Issues

3.10.1 The proponents of the project should be responsible for reclamation of the project area at the conclusion of operations.

(53-8, 105-4, 115-1, 364-4)

Issue Summary

Some commenters were concerned that the proponent be held responsible for all reclamation and cleanup of the project area after the plant closes. Specific concerns included providing adequate bonding, committing to appropriate revegetation efforts and revegetation monitoring, and properly abandoning water/monitor wells and/or boreholes.

Representative Comments

- When it closes: Who would be responsible for the upkeep and remediation? Would the company simply abandon the facility as they had in the past? What sort of bonding will be required. In other words, who gets stuck with the bill? (105-4)

- If the BLM does not reject the proposal I urge them to require written and legally binding confirmation from plant operators and owners that the strictest environmental quality controls and recommendations will be implemented. Likewise they must be willing to accept 100% financial responsibility and accountability for their actions with regard to reclamation of the site. This accountability includes but is not limited to the area to pre-development conditions and the complete and functionally successful revegetation of the area to pre-development conditions. This includes monitoring of all reclamation efforts on time scales determined by the growth potential of vegetation being removed, not the financial willingness of the owners. (115-1)
- Any water or monitor wells, or boreholes that may be located on either acquired or transferred lands are the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the property at the time of the transfer and must be plugged and abandoned as required in Chapter 534 of the Nevada Administrative Code. (364-4)

3.10.2 The EIS should define "efficient" and "environmentally compliant".

(217-5)

- There is no specification of what the words "efficient" and "environmentally compliant" mean in this context. Whose standards and what criteria of "efficient" and "environmentally compliant" are being used? (217-5)

3.10.3 The EEC should have adequate engineering. Will penalties be imposed if timetables are not met?

(349-1)

- The Ely Energy Generation Station – under this heading the EEC is pushing a very tight timetable. We hope that the engineering component is more thorough then this document they have produced. Will there be penalties imposed by the BLM for time overruns on the December 2011 and June 2013 dates? (349-1)

3.11 Native American Concerns

3.11.1 The EIS should disclose potential impacts to Native American Tribes in the area, including sacred sites and Traditional Cultural Places.

(5-1, 104-20, 104-21, 197-2, 197-6, 223-101, 286-2, 313-43, 326-10)

Issue Summary

Several commenters requested that the DEIS include information on how the project could impact Native American Tribes in and around the EEC. Specific issues brought forward include: additional air pollution on the Goshute Indian Reservation; impacts to medicinal or food plants used by Western Shoshone; and impacts to newly acquired lands of the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

In addition, a few respondents requested identification of Traditional Cultural Places and other sacred sites that could be negatively impacted by EEC, and mitigation of impacts to these resources.

Representative Comments

- Medicinal or food plants used by the Western Shoshone people need to be addressed in cumulative impacts. (197-6)
- Please consult with all Native American groups claiming historic and traditional affiliation with the region on all project components in addition to identifying Traditional Cultural Places ("TCPs"). (223-101)
- How will this project affect the Native American cultures of the area? The Goshute Indian Reservation is in the windshed of this project, and will likely receive additional pollution due to the air quality. (326-10)

3.11.2 The BLM should consult with each Native American Tribal government in the project area and region.

(197-1, 223-183, 313-41, 313-43, 350-4)

Issue Summary

A few respondents requested that BLM consult with any Native American Tribes within the project area regarding any historic and traditional use of region. Most commented that Tribes should be involved in cultural resource surveys. One suggested that Tribes should be offered cooperating agency status for the project.

Representative Comments

- Cultural resource survey (pre-activity or on-going) should include Native Americans from the local Tribe (Ely) to assist in the Class I-III surveys. This process also expedites the consultation process—should there be no significant find. (197-1)
- The DEIS should describe the process and outcome of government-to-government consultation between the BLM and each of the tribal governments within the project area, issues that were raised (if any), and how those issues were addressed in the selection of the proposed alternative. (313-41)

3.11.3 The EEC project should comply with all federal laws and regulations regarding Indian Tribes and trust assets.

(313-43, 350-3, 350-5, 378-1, 378-3)

Issue Summary

A few respondents requested that the project comply with all laws (including the National Historic Preservation Act), regulations, and Executive Orders (specifically, EO 13007) as they pertain to the federal government's trust responsibility to Indian Tribes.

Representative Comments

- Please analyze Indian Trust Assets…. (350-5)
- Consider the federal government's overall trust responsibility toward Indian Tribes as espoused in various laws, regulations, Executive Orders, Secretarial Orders, etc. (378-1)

3.11.4 The EIS should evaluate environmental justice issues of the EEC on Indian Tribes in the project area and region.

(197-4, 350-5, 378-3)

Issue Summary

Three respondents asked that the EIS consider environmental justice issues related to the project on Indian tribes and other minority groups. A cumulative impact analysis regarding environmental justice should also be included. The Ely Shoshone Tribes was mentioned specifically.

Representative Comments

- Environmental Justice is not addressed in regard to the impacts or cumulative impacts to the Ely Shoshone Tribe and other minority groups. (197-4)
- Please analyze Indian Trust Assets and Environmental Justice. . (350-5)

3.12 Noise Issues

3.12.1 Noise from construction and ongoing operations sources should be predicted and compared to acceptable levels in the EIS.

(9-4, 223-119, 303-13, 347-9, 347-10, 347-11, 347-12, 347-13, 347-14, 349-5, 356-2, 356-5, 356-6, 356-7, 374-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned about potential noise caused by all aspects of construction and operation of the proposed power plants. Some of the sources noted included construction of the plants, steam blows during operation, PA systems, powerlines, train unloading, and emergency response activities.

Representative Comments

- Identify Noise Sources and any Applicable Regulations – all significant noise sources and applicable regulation should be identified. (Noise generated by each source needs to be estimated.) (347-9)
- Predict Construction and Operating Noise – noise from construction, normal operation, transportation, and emergencies should be predicted. (347-11)
- Evaluate Impacts – Impacts, if any, of all noise should be evaluated, and controls for any equipment that would cause excessive noise levels should be identified. (347-12)
- Include Assumptions and Descriptions of Controls – assumptions used should be listed, and controls planned (such as silences for PA and FD fans and steam vents) should be described. (347-13)
- We also have concerns with noise from the amount of train cars that will need to be unloaded everyday and other plant operations. (374-4)

3.13 Paleontological Resources Issues

No comments received.

3.14 Process Issues (Scoping or NEPA)

3.14.1 The NEPA process should be fully and carefully followed.

(28-1, 186-1, 186-3, 221-11, 223-10, 223-16, 313-45, 313-45, 316-5, 359-5, 364-1)

Issue Summary

Several commenters made general observations about the NEPA process including how information was disseminated to the public and its requirements regarding proper scoping, agency responsibilities and decision-making, and ensuring compliance with other plans and policies.

Representative Comments

- It is not clear if the BLM and the power companies are making these types of determinations jointly or if it is solely the power companies' decisions regarding this placement. (28-1)
- According to the project description posted by the Bureau of Land Management, any challenges met by the surrounding communities by the introduction of a large, temporary workforce would be identified and mitigated through the planning process. If any such problems have been identified, these problems and their proposed solutions have yet to be made public knowledge, preventing the public from making an informed decision as to the impacts this facility will have on the local quality of life. (186-3)
- The DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term "land use plans" includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ's Forty Questions, #23b). (313-45)

3.14.2 There should be a full spectrum of alternatives analyzed.

(192-4, 330-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concern that there were not a sufficient number of alternatives for public review and that alternatives should represent a spectrum that address all potential variables, not just site location.

Representative Comments

- All of the suggestions should be explored in tandem, not in isolation to arrive at a spectrum of possible alternatives with varying degrees of conservation, renewable development, and location. This will allow the public an opportunity to see how these various factors impact can work together to attain the overall goal. (192-4)

- I have concerns regarding the NEPA process—I don't believe that this proposal has adequate alternatives. (330-1)

3.14.3 The scoping process should allow full and meaningful public comment by providing full disclosure of information and a true public forum that encourages public comment and questions.

(67-2, 95-4, 186-2, 215-1, 215-2, 217-2, 221-6, 223-2, 223-3, 223-4, 223-194, 292-3, 303-2, 303-5, 303-6, 303-8, 316-6, 330-2, 330-7, 330-8, 330-9, 330-10, 359-1, 374-1, 374-5)

Issue Summary

There were many comments on the scoping process. Several commenters stated that the open house format of the scoping meetings was unacceptable as it did not allow attendees an opportunity to publicly ask questions or comment on the proposed action. Several comments indicated that responses to questions asked of proponent representatives were inadequate or unanswered. Some commenters questioned the fact that the proponent was the primary source of information at the scoping meetings and that it provided the proponent a forum for presenting information that could not be publicly countered or questioned. There were also several comments suggesting that the Notice of Intent contained insufficient information and that this had a direct impact on the quality of public comments. Commenters indicated that additional information on concurrent planning processes (e.g., White Pine Energy Plant EIS) should have been provided to the public. Some commenters suggested that the EEC Scoping Meetings should have been postponed until the White Pine DEIS was published.

Representative Comments

- To my knowledge, there has yet to be a true open meeting where the general population has been allowed to publicly ask and receive answers to questions. The meeting held by Sierra Pacific Resources on February 7th, 2007, was merely a presentation of the current proposal and all citizens who wished to voice their opinions were told they would have to either submit scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management or speak with a company representative in private. Questions asked of company representatives in private have yet to be answered. While Sierra Pacific Resources has scheduled another community meeting for March 3rd, 2007, this comes five days after the closing of public comments to the Bureau of Land Management, preventing members of our community from receiving answers to their questions and making an informed decision upon what concerns need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. (186-2)
- The BLM failed us to provide for a public comment period in public! (221-6)
- All of the public meetings, with the exception of the Las Vegas meeting, were conducted in an "open house" format. The "open house" format is an inadequate method of conducting meetings on the scope of the project. The "open house" format does not allow members of the public to communicate their concerns to other citizen participants. Further, there is no way to document oral public comments made by citizens. Thus, we object to the open house format of the public meetings and request that you conduct additional scoping meetings that allow a public dialog that is recorded. We request that you conduct such public meetings after re-issuing the NOI with more specific information on the project. (223-4)

- There is also a separate power plant enterprise being planned for Ely (LS), and on for Toquop, and perhaps another in Butte Valley and others elsewhere in the wings, including plants long-sought by the gold mines (to fuel the gold roasting and mercury polluting). The Scoping Notice fails to fully reveal to the public all that is underway, or how the various power lines, well fields, water pipelines, land disposals and sales, etc. may be related to all of this development. (303-5)
- I was very disappointed in the Scoping Meeting held in Ely on February 7th, 2007 because the representatives providing information were not objective speakers but rather officials from the power company. (330-2)

3.14.4 BLM should take ownership of the process and ensure that all meetings and studies avoid bias, or the appearance of bias.

(4-2, 66-7, 95-4, 330-2, 330-7)

Issue Summary

Some commenters stated that the information presented in the scoping letter and as part of the public open houses was biased as it was presented by the proponent and not the BLM. Commenters were concerned that this indicated agency weakness in leading the process and suggested that studies paid for by the proponent may not be credible.

Representative Comments

- The overview in the Project Description is not objective but judgmental. For example, “the plants would be efficient and environmentally compliant.” This is obviously a statement by the proponents and should be cited as such. (4-2)
- I also have a concern about Sierra Pacific buying their own NEPA study. How can any entity perform an unbiased study when their funding may be cut off if the results are not to their satisfaction? (66-7)
- I attended the scoping meeting on February 7, at the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely. I left the meeting very disappointed. I was shocked that officials from Sierra Pacific Power were there to tell me about the potential impacts of their project. Not only did a Sierra Pacific official give the oral briefing of the project, other officials from the company were set up at stations to discuss air quality, water usage, and the location of the plant. It is clear to me that these officials have an agenda to complete this project in a way that benefits them most and therefore cannot provide objective, unbiased information on the creation of their plant. Other attendees of the meeting felt the same way. I would much prefer that unbiased, objective representatives of the BLM or other government agency inform me of the potential impacts of the proposal on air quality, water usage, etc. (330-7)

3.14.5 The BLM should ensure that all information provided to the public is current and complete, and that the public fully understands the NEPA process and how it is to be conducted.

(4-1, 23-4, 55-1, 223-13, 223-14, 223-15, 223-36, 223-52, 223-56, 223-110, 303-1, 330-9, 378-5)

Issue Summary

Several commenters mentioned inaccurate, outdated, or incomplete information that was provided to the public as part of the scoping process. Many of the comments also asked that specific information regarding the NEPA and related permitting processes, baseline reports, and EIS preparation be made available to the public, including environmental justice communities.

Representative Comments

- The map enclosed is out of date since it does not include the new wilderness established in the White Pine County Bill which was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in December 2006. (4-1)
- Even if not specifically stated in the comment, please make all information public as it becomes available, including hard copy(ies) to local and regional libraries and at the BLM field and state offices and in electronic format to a public website. Please create a public website or FTP site separate from the blm.gov system for this purpose. "As it/they become(s) available" means prior to publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS"). (223-13)
- Please provide public training on the permitting and NEPA process to all communities designated as environmental justice communities. (223-110)

3.14.6 The BLM must provide a comprehensive, unbiased assessment of all environmental impacts in the EIS.

(59-1, 59-3, 218-5, 223-7, 223-12, 223-19, 223-20, 223-21, 223-39, 297-4, 303-10, 303-16, 303-39, 323-2, 345-8)

Issue Summary

Commenters stated that all analyses conducted as part of the planning process should be comprehensive and include direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, consider the context of the region, provide a comparative analysis between all alternatives, and consider the full lifespan of the proposed action. Further, commenters ask that all analyses be peer-reviewed by unbiased third-party scientists.

Representative Comments

- The resources that may be directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively impacted by the proposed project and that must be thoroughly identified and evaluated in the EIS include, but are not limited to, threatened and endangered species, native plants and wildlife, water resources, water quality, air quality, and global warming. (218-5)
- BLM's EIS must also assess the impacts of the project proposed by the Companies and compare them to the impacts of each reasonable alternative to the project. (223-12)
- We ask that aquifer, air, and wildlife studies be vetted by impartial outside scientists—as there is far too great a likelihood of political pressures being brought to bear on local game agencies, local or state researchers, etc. As this project (and the others that it is linked to and that are being developed in a segmented fashion), has regional and national implications. This is a necessity, as Nevada politicians have already been deeply involved in setting the stage for these plants that can poison air across the region, scientific oversight and review of all environmental effects must

come from a much broader arena. Neither Ely BLM nor Idaho BLM could even provide me with a map of the entire SWIP corridor, for goodness sake. There is no way that an agency that has already shown such purposeful ignorance can be trusted to oversee a fair and accurate scientific EIS process here. (303-16)

3.14.7 BLM should invite appropriate agencies and tribes to participate in the NEPA process as cooperating agencies.

(60-1, 350-8, 378-2, 378-6)

Issue Summary

Great Basin National Park and the Bureau of Indian Affairs requested Cooperating Agency status. The BLM should also consult with any potentially affected tribes.

Representative Comments

- Great Basin National Park (GRBA) formally requests designation as a cooperating agency to assist in the development of information and the environmental analyses relating to the proposed action. (60-1)
- Please consult with affected Tribes in the region early in the NEPA process and consider offering them Cooperating Agency status. (378-2)
- The BIA would like to request Cooperating Agency Status for this EIS process since the project may affect tribal resources. BIA Western Regional Office and our field agencies can offer special expertise to the BLM such that the project may benefit from our involvement and participation in the NEPA process. (378-6)

3.14.8 BLM should ensure compliance with applicable laws and permits.

(223-188, 313-11, 313-16, 314-12, 364-3)

Issue Summary

Commenters reminded BLM of several requirements related to other agencies' permitting processes or actions that are required by Federal law.

Representative Comments

- Title V of the CAA [Clean Air Act] requires all new major sources and some minor sources of air pollution to apply for an operating permit within 12 months of commencing operation. When granted, the permit includes all air pollution requirements that apply to the source, including emissions limits and monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements. It also requires that the source report its compliance status with respect to permit conditions to the agency that issued the permit and if the permit is issued by a state or local agency, reports should also be submitted to EPA. The DEIS should indicate which agency will issue the operating permit and should describe the permitting process, including opportunities for public involvement. (313-16)
- As a reminder, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), if BLM determines that the proposed action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat BLM must either initiate formal consultation or seek written concurrence from the Service through informal consultation. (314-12)

- Any water used on the described lands should be provided by an established utility or under permit issued by the State Engineer's Office. All waters of the State belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provision of Chapters 553 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, and not otherwise. (364-3)

3.14.9 BLM should ensure that it has sufficient resources to complete an EIS.

(349-15, 349-18)

Issue Summary

Two commenters questioned the BLM's ability to undertake this study with the limited resources it currently has.

Representative Comments

- Considering the magnitude of this project how will it effect the ability of the BLM to continue services to smaller and less important projects that are just as important to currently existing people requiring these types of services? Does the BLM, already strapped with financial concerns, have the ability and personnel to meet these requirements and stress loads? (349-15)
- Preliminary Resource Issues – does the BLM have the resources to handle the EIS process? (349-18)

3.14.10 NEPA process miscellany.

(223-8, 223-9)

Issue Summary

The following comments request specific action regarding the NEPA process.

Representative Comments

- Please require the applicant to swear under penalty of perjury that all information provided to the public is true, complete and accurate. (223-8)
- Please indicate in detail reasons for refusing each request included in these comments. (223-9)

3.15 Proposed Action Issues

3.15.1 The locations of the EEC project components need to be more fully discussed in the EIS (positive about project).

(224-2, 314-8, 349-2, 349-7, 303-9)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested that more information be provided in the EIS about the location of the power plant and related infrastructure. Respondents felt that there was not enough information provided in scoping documents to make a clear decision about the project.

Representative Comments

- The Authority would like to ensure that Proposed Action is compatible with the proposed locations for water pipelines, wells, and additional facilities associated with the GWD Project. The Federal Register notice does not indicate where the electrical transmission lines and the fiber optic telecommunication lines will be located within the LCCRDA corridor, which is 2,640 feet wide. The GWD Project is primarily located in the eastern half of the corridor, from where the Proposed Action enters the LCCRDA corridor, to the intersection of US Highway 93 and Nevada Highway 168 in Clark County, with exceptions in various locations due to topography. From Nevada Highway 168 south, to where the Proposed Action diverges from the Highway alignment, the GWD Project is immediately west of Nevada Highway 93. The proposed route of GWD Project has been identified in the conceptual plan of development and conceptual plan of development map book, both of which have been submitted to the BLM under case number N-78803. The Authority believes that coordination between the two project alignments is essential to ensure that all facilities have the appropriate space needed for operation and safety purposes. (224-2)
- Where exactly will the so-called Robison Summit switching station be located? (349-2)

3.15.2 The power plants should be located in the preferred option locations (positive about project).

(293-2, 316-1, 318-1, 318-5, 331-2, 362-7, 368-1, 368-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters approved of the location identified in the proposed action for the power plants. It was not always clear whether this support continued to all components of the project (e.g. power line corridors).

Representative Comments

- It is very important that it be located at the preferred location just north of McGill to benefit most of the people in the county. (293-2)
- I have asked and encouraged the Ely Energy Center management to locate as near to McGill and Ely as possible. Supporting businesses and workers' families would tend to locate in our cities, which would in turn enhance our population, assist our tax base, and attract new services or businesses that look for a larger population base than what we now have. The historical Nevada Northern Railroad yard in East Ely could possibly be used as a repair and maintenance facility for the power plant coal cars, thus providing a service, new jobs, and enhancing their economic future and existence.

  New enterprises would enhance shopping for our present community and also help us attract professionals and others who require a greater variety than what we now offer. (318-5)

3.15.3 The power plants should be located in the alternate location (positive about project).

(33-1, 374-2)

Issue Summary

Two comments were submitted apparently approving of the project, but objecting to the proposed location. These comments are included below.

Representative Comments

- I object to the Success Loop location for the Ely Energy Station. It is much too close to pristine, scenic outdoor recreating areas, prime grazing land, and to residential areas. (33-1)
- We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise. The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like. (374-2)

3.15.4 The DEIS should consider locating the power plants in other locations not considered in the scoping documents.

(13-3, 51-1, 58-1, 59-13, 356-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested that other locations be considered for siting of project components, including options considered earlier in the planning process.

Representative Comments

- I suggest that the deciding officer make the original LAWDWP site an option and to choose that as the preferred site for one unit. (59-13)
- If the power is to be primarily used in Las Vegas, it makes no sense to build the power plant in Northern White Pine County. (4-8)

3.15.5 The EIS should clearly describe the physical and mechanical processes that will be used at the power plant.

(93-1, 219-4, 223-84, 223-124, 223-125, 223-126, 223-127, 223-128, 223-130, 223-132, 223-134, 223-170, 223-171, 223-175, 223-176, 223-195, 223-196, 223-202, 303-125, 303-48, 305-6, 305-9, 305-11, 320-6, 320-11, 349-6, 349-9)

Issue Summary

Some commenters were concerned that not enough information was presented during the scoping process. Commenters requested more information be provided in the EIS about scrubbers, stack height, coal type to be used, maintenance scheduled to be used to assure environmental compliance. Many other questions were asked about how the plant would operate; and where and how large the ancillary facilities, such as substations, would be.

Representative Comments

- Owing to the shocking lack of information to be gleaned from the Scoping Meeting on February 5, the EIS must describe the project in detail. (219-4)
- For the coal that will be burned at the plant, please ensure data collection and consideration of each of the following and make the information public as it becomes available:

  -tons of coal burned annually by each unit of the plant;

  -type of coal to be burned;

  -heat rate of the coal burned;

  -mercury content of the coal;

  -ash content of the coal;

  -sulfur content of the coal; and

  -content of other impurities including chlorine, fluorine, selenium, and arsenic. (223-130)
- Please consider the mercury and other impurities content at maximum value. (223-130)
- Please develop a detailed maintenance schedule for the project and associated facilities. (223-170)
- We simply are not clear on how and where all phases of this project may be developed. (303-25)

3.15.6 The EIS needs to clarify that the company has sufficient capital to construct and maintain the plant, and what will happen if the project is abandoned prematurely.

(68-4, 223-140)

Issue Summary

Two comments were received addressing economic solvency. They are included below.

Representative Comments

- What happens if [the] company abandons the plant? (68-4)
- Please ensure the Companies have or will have committed sufficient capital expenditures over the next 5 to 7 years to construct the project. (223-140)

3.15.7 The EIS needs to explain in detail the projected environmental resource impacts of the proposed action and how these will be tracked and dealt with for the proposed action and any alternative actions considered.

(223-21, 223-162, 225-5, 313-7, 314-2, 361-9, 377-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested that the EIS contain more details explaining the environmental effects of the proposed project, including the projected effects of associated disturbances such as access roads, rail lines, transmission lines, water storage and treatment facilities,

wells and pumping facilities, water pipelines, and waste facilities. In addition, coal unloading, handling, and storage facilities and processes should be disclosed and evaluated in the EIS. Other pollutants should be identified and quantified. Finally, respondents felt that the EIS should include information on how these effects will be mitigated to prevent harm to the natural and human environment.

Representative Comments

- Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness. (225-5)
- The DEIS should evaluate the proposed power plant and all connected actions (40 CFR 1508.25). Connected actions are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. The construction of access roads; rail lines and spurs; transmission lines; coal unloading, handling and storage facilities; solid waste disposal facilities; water storage and treatment facilities; evaporation ponds; cooling towers; electric switchyards and substations; well fields and pumping facilities; and water pipelines should be included. The existing conditions and outputs of the source mines should be included, and any changes to accommodate the power plant should be identified. (313-7)
- What is the mitigation and monitoring that would be provided under the proposal and how will that affect both resident and natural resources within the affected areas? (361-9)
- As a former Kennecott employee who actually dumped the coal out of the cars at Kennecott for a living I have seen and do know the potential dangers of coal, and that is before you use it. Are you prepared for the coal fires when they happen, the number 1 coal bin burned continuously up at Kennecott. Water makes more fire with coal. You can’t predict nor control mother nature when they are en route with those trains loaded with coal and bring it in a dump it in an enclosed area. (377-1)

3.15.8 The EEC should use only the best available pollution control technologies (BACT) available.

(93-2, 102-2, 217-9, 222-16, 223-21, 241-2, 291-2, 291-1, 223-200, 223-204, 250-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters wanted to see that the project would utilize only the most advance pollution control devices.

Representative Comments

- I see no reason why this project should go forward before the proponents are ready to use the technology planned for Phase 2. Two newer technologies, dry cooling and dry-wet combination cooling could provide many fewer problems. (217-9)
- At the very least, this facility should be built with [cutting] edge clean coal technologies, to stand as a shining example to the rest of the country and the world. (241-2)

3.15.9 The EIS needs to address more clearly how plant wastes of all types, including fugitive dust emissions, will be dealt with and disposed of.

(93-3, 93-8, 160-1, 222-5, 223-51, 223-116, 223-117, 223-121, 223-172, 223-173, 223-181, 223-197, 223-201)

Issue Summary

Commenters wanted to know how wastes would be dealt with, and how much waste would be produced. Some of the wastes specifically mentioned were: coal ash, waste water, sulfur removed from coal, and mercury produced from burning coal. One commenter requested that the EIS develop emergency management plans as well as the emissions and wastes produced from potential emergency response efforts. One commenter was specifically concerned about the origin of coal, such as Powder River Basin, and mitigating measures that would be necessary to compensate for the high friability of the coal.

Representative Comments

- What happens to the water in waste ponds? I know a lot of sulfur is removed to the ponds, but then how do you dispose of it once there? (93-3)
- How will the coal fly ash be stored? Is there a risk of this blowing into aquatic systems, surrounding public and federal lands, or affecting adjacent communities? (222-5)
- With respect to the coal that will be burned at the plant, if it is to be Powder River Basin coal, as has been represented by the Companies, then: Please indicate what specific dust control measures will be used to account for the high friability of this coal; Please consider whether the project will conduct dust control audit(s) to assess the performance of dust collection and provide the designs for the dust control audit(s) as they become available. (223-173)
- Please develop extensive and detailed emergency management plan(s) including the amount of fuel that will be used for emergency engines, e.g., fire water pumps, emergency generators, and fuel sulfur content and any requisite air emission permits for those sources. Please include responsibility assignments for clean up efforts and inspection and oversight. (223-181)
- Please determine by what percentage mercury is to be controlled, including the basis for this value (i.e., pollution control train proposed for criteria pollutants, or are you adding carbon injections or other mercury specific control). Please specify all mercury control. (223-197)

3.15.10 Information explaining exactly where and how water will be pumped from area aquifers to use for electric generation and what legal rights the company has to this water need to be specifically discussed in the EIS.

(219-5, 223-49, 223-50, 223-55, 223-60, 223-61, 223-84, 305-8)

Issue Summary

Commenters wanted to know what water rights would be used to build the power plants and where the water wells would be located and developed.

Representative Comments

- All information about water applications, procurement, possible sources, possible

impacts on the WP County water supply at various designed modifications. Pollution of the water at every point of operation, including effects on springs, seeps, streams, and lakes, must be anticipated and described in detail. (219-5)

- Please consider whether the combined use of surface and groundwater rights counts water twice. For example, groundwater rights are limited by the perennial yield but the perennial yield depends on recharge from stream flow that may not occur because of surface flow diversions. (223-55)
- Water issues: From what water basins will the power plants be obtaining their water? Or are they planning on purchasing water from the proposed SNWA infrastructure in White Pine County? (305-8)

3.15.11 The EIS should show that the proposed action is in compliance with all other applicable federal and state requirements.

(223-21, 223-135, 223-137, 223-186, 223-198, 313-2, 313-36, 313-40)

Issue Summary

Several individuals and government agencies requested that the EIS explain how the requirements of other governmental agencies, laws, and executive orders -- such as the EPA, BIA, and Executive Order 13112 -- are addressed in the plan for the proposed power plants.

Representative Comments

- Possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local (and in the case of a reservation, Indian tribe) land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned. (223-21)
- Please ascertain whether any mercury control credits under the new EPA mercury rule will be used as an alternative to controlling mercury emissions. If yes, please consider the level of credits to be purchased. (223-198)
- Executive Order 13112 also calls for the restoration of native plants and tree species. If the proposed project will entail new landscaping, the DEIS should describe how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112. (313-36)

3.15.12 The economics of the proposed project need to be explained in more detail in the EIS.

(93-6, 217-10, 218-2, 218-9, 336-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested specific economic information be included in the DEIS, including a cost analysis of the project assuming an increasing cost over time for the coals used in the power plant, an analysis of the cost to transport raw coal from Wyoming vs. transmitting electricity generated in Wyoming, and an analysis of the environmental costs of burning coal vs. conserving energy.

Representative Comments

- If new policies, like carbon taxes, make coal production more expensive, are those costs being factored into the cost of these new plants? (93-6)

- The economics of the project are not addressed. It is quite obvious that shipping coal from Wyoming to the Ely Energy Center will be a huge ongoing cost, as well as initial cost. Transporting electricity by wire from Wyoming plants would probably be far more efficient. There hast to be a cost analysis of other ways of meeting power needs in Nevada. (217-10)
- Environmental consequences of a new coal fired power plants simply cannot be justified, especially in light of existing studies demonstrating that the same amount of energy to be supplied to the proposed project could be obtained via implementation of more stringent energy conservation measures. (218-2)

3.15.13 The EIS must explain the risk management plan that will be in place during construction and operation of the proposed plants, and how safety at the project site(s) and surrounding communities will be assured.

(223-174, 223-178, 223-182)

Issue Summary

Three commenters had concerns about risk management and safety of the EEC. One commenter requested that the EIS develop measures to prevent explosions and fires, and others asked that the Risk Management Plan developed for the EEC include worst case scenarios that could be released to the public.

Representative Comments

- Please consider whether the project will develop measures to prevent explosions and fires as have been experienced by other plants using PRB coal such as the explosion at the Sooner Power Plant on 2/16/04. (223-174)
- Please evaluate Fire Hazard Mitigation systems inside bunkers or silos, and provide the plans for such systems. (223-178)
- Please require the development of a Risk Management Plan evaluated worst case scenarios and response for environmental accidents and make that information public as soon as it becomes available. (223-182)

3.15.14 The EIS needs to include more detail about how the proposed action will mitigate changes to the surrounding communities that will occur due to increased population and traffic, and the attendant problems these changes bring.

(223-167, 223-168, 223-169, 223-180, 223-187)

Issue Summary

One respondent made several comments requesting that the EIS provide a plan for helping affected communities deal with infrastructure changes caused by the influx of people, traffic, and materials to the area.

Representative Comments

- Please develop detailed traffic control plans on local roads during construction and operation of the project. Please consider requiring the applicant to carry all cost of any local infrastructure development related to the project, e.g., curb upgrades, additional parking, additional traffic controls, additional sidewalks, and additional lanes. (223-167)

- Please consider requiring the applicant to guarantee maintenance schedules of the additional infrastructure requirements through commitment to a mitigation fund for resurfacing and repair of local roads from damage by heavy vehicles serving the project. (223-168)
- Please consider requiring the construction of an overpass of the rail tracks to allow local traffic to pass when trains are on the track. (223-169)
- Please provide for a staffed complaint hotline to address neighborhood problems, e.g., noise, odor, dust, traffic, vibration, light pollution and a plan to resolve any identified problem. (223-187)

3.15.15 The EIS should include the use of an electrostatic precipitor to control particulate material from the boiler.

(44-6)

- An electrostatic precipitor should be used to control particulate material from the boiler instead of a fabric filter. (44-6)

3.16 Public Health and Safety Issues

3.16.1 The proposed power plants will not cause health problems to area residents.

(49-1)

- I have friends living in N.E. Wyoming near coal-fired plants and they suffer no ill effects due to any pollution in that area from these plants. (49-1)

3.16.2 The EIS needs to completely and accurately evaluate challenges to human health and safety that will occur due to construction activities and the operation of the EEC.

(46-4, 223-68, 223-72, 223-102, 223-103, 223-104, 223-111, 223-166, 223-192, 223-193, 234-2, 239-1, 292-8, 303-49, 303-57, 313-25, 313-46, 319-1, 319-3, 319-4, 319-5, 320-2, 337-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested that the EIS provide information on all potential human health related impacts. The topics mentioned included impacts to drinking water systems; effects of fugitive dust (including radioactive material), power plant emissions, and increased levels of diesel exhaust on human health; effects of increased demand on healthcare workers and healthcare facilities; probability of the presence of viruses in cooling towers and wastewater ponds; and the potential impacts of electro-magnetic fields associated with transmission lines.

Representative Comments

- Please perform a human health and ecological risk assessment to evaluate the impacts of the project on residents and wildlife including diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and on-site mobile equipment and all criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and precursor air pollutants. (223-102)

- An on-the-ground pre-project analysis and on-going monitoring of the dust caused by transmission and transmission road development, since radioactive plumes paralleled this line from the "events" of the Nevada Test Site of the 1950s and 60s, depositing radioactive material of a half-life of up to 10,000 years. The public does not need this lethal deposition re-activated. (292-8)
- You must also fully consider the additional potential for West Nile virus transmission to wildlife and humans, or other diseases, from the various water uses, impoundments, well fields, leaks, etc. here. (303-57)
- The DEIS should provide information on potentially affected drinking water systems in the project area, as well as the magnitude of the cumulative impacts that may result. The information should include a list of water systems (distinguishing between public water systems regulated under the SDWA and private water systems), distance from the project area, source(s) of water for each system, type of water treatment applied, and population served. The financial and infrastructure impacts to currently existing and future water systems that may be required to find alternate water sources, drill deeper wells, provide additional treatment (due to water quality changes) or other potential impacts should be fully evaluated. (313-25)
- What are the long term studies that are being considered [regarding health risks]? (319-5)

3.16.3 Operation of the EEC will release toxic chemicals that cause health problems for area residents.

(1-1, 7-2, 57-1, 72-3, 73-3, 83-1, 89-3, 91-2, 97-2, 99-4, 102-3, 104-16, 106-11, 106-13, 144-1, 147-1, 165-1, 186-13, 194-3, 194-8, 207-3, 207-4, 208-3, 212-4, 213-3, 216-3, 221-1, 244-2, 285-2, 291-1, 291-3, 292-2, 303-37, 303-49, 310-2, 326-8, 346-6, 346-6, 354-3, 361-7, 361-18, 370-2, 377-2)

Issue Summary

Respondents were concerned that toxic chemicals released from the proposed power plants would enter the air shed, ground and surface waters, and soil and plants, would be ingested or inhaled by humans, and would be detrimental to human health. Respondents noted that there were established links between exposure to mercury, CO2 and other heavy metals that would cause asthma, heart disease, and cancer. Also noted were links between mercury and birth defects.

Representative Comments

- Long-term health effects will likely result from the pollution this plant will produce. Asthma is already one of the main illnesses to affect children, additional polluting power plants will only further exacerbate this problem. Children and the elderly in our own community will be the most directly affected. Fine particulates are directly linked to birth defects, among other health issues. (106-11)
- Once the amount and types of pollutants have been addressed, what will be the overall impacts on the health of local residents and communities downwind of this facility? The pollutants of similar facilities to the one proposed for Phase 1 of the Ely Energy Center create health hazards have created an increase in health hazards such as asthma and heart failure. In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution

alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters. (186-13)

- Coal-fired power plants emit mercury which is bio-accumulating in ecosystems and causing public health advisories. (216-3)
- It is said the Ely Energy Center will emit 12.6 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly. Is this a correct figure? If so, what are the implications of this amount of CO2 emission on our air, our lungs, our plants, our wildlife, [and] our skies? (292-2)

3.16.4 If the EEC is built, inversions will occur more frequently, resulting in more traffic accidents, more particulate matter in the air, and colder stressful temperatures.

(222-1, 326-4, 326-8, 349-17, 365-1)

Issue Summary

Five comments were received expressing concern that moisture from cooling towers would condense in the winter and cause inversions in the Steptoe Valley. Commenters noted that inversions can create foggy, hazardous driving and colder temperatures, leading to more black ice on roadways and more accidents. Inversions would also trap pollutants near the ground, further increasing the risk for air-pollution related health problems.

Representative Comments

- The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts. (222-1)
- What are the long-term socioeconomic impacts of this project? In addition to jobs, have other social costs been factored in, such as the possibility of more respiratory diseases due to air quality declines, costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversions (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures), and increased traffic on highways? (326-8)
- Great quantities of steam constantly created by the cooling process will cause extremely foggy, hazardous driving conditions on Highway 93. Nevada State Troopers have stated that 93 from McGill to Wells and Wendover is an extremely dangerous section of road. Hwy 93 is the primary route from Canada to Mexico. Consequently 18-wheelers, huge double-trailer ore cars, wide loads, motor homes, and school buses cause unusually heavy traffic, both northbound and southbound. The heavy fogs and black ice that will be produced by steam and Steptoe Valley's frigid nighttime temperatures will create a disastrous situation. White Pine County Volunteer Emergency and Nevada State Safety services will be overwhelmed. A similar situation exists between Lovelock and Winnemucca. I believe it is called "Death Row". It is not pretty. (365-1)

3.16.5 The influx of workers involved in construction and operation of the power plants will increase demand for medical and emergency care providers and facilities.

(223-103, 320-2)

Issue Summary

Two commenters were concerned about the impact of dramatically increased population EEC would cause on medical and emergency services and safety on roadways on area residents.

Representative Comments

- Please account for the lack of sufficient local medical facilities to address health impacts to workers and local residents. (223-103)
- Pedestrian and regular vehicular safety, use of commercial arteries for potentially hazardous trucks (numbers projected of these?), traffic signals, increased volume of cars caused by employees on shifts, noise (24 hours daily?) should also be treated. (320-2)

3.16.6 The cumulative effects to human health and safety due to the construction and operation of up to four coal-fired power plants within a 50-mile radius are unacceptable and unnecessary.

(359-12)

- I am concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple coal power plants on the environment and the health of the people who live in White Pine County. Potentially, if all the plants that are proposed are built, there would be 4 plants in a 50 mile radius. The wisdom of this fails me. Why do we need so many power plants in one valley? (359-12)

3.17 Purpose of and Need for Project Issues

3.17.1 There is sufficient need to warrant the proposed action.

(37-2, 121-1, 324-4, 331-4, 344-1)

Issue Summary

A few commenters agreed that the proposed action is an appropriate response to demonstrated energy needs in Nevada.

Representative Comments

- There is a clear need for this power plant. (37-2)
- The increased demand for energy needs in our country demands that we construct and operate such facilities. To deny the electrical energy needs is naive at best and dangerous at worst, and what better place to build than in an economically depressed area. (331-4)

3.17.2 The proposed action far exceeds the level of demonstrated need.

(53-1, 223-11)

Issue Summary

Commenters question the need for the proposed action as compared to energy requirements in the state. One commenter suggests that other alternatives should be proposed to better meet the more modest energy needs of Nevada.

Representative Comments

- What is the need for this project at this scale? Currently the summer energy capacity in Nevada is 8,670 MW. When fully implemented in 5 years this project will increase Nevada's energy capacity by nearly 30%. Approval of this project will add to Nevada's portfolio as much energy as the Hoover Dam and Mohave Power plant combined. (53-1)
- First, the NOI fails to specify the purpose and need for 2,500 MW of new coal-fired electricity in Nevada. This quantity of coal fired power simply is not needed and any such need could be met by other significantly less harmful means—such as energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources. We ask that you reissue the NOI to specifically identify the purpose and need for this project and explain why any such need cannot be met by other alternatives. (223-11)

3.17.3 The companies should demonstrate need for the proposed lifetime of the project.

(223-147)

- The Companies should also show that within the 50-60 year life span of the plants, that they do not become obsolete and antiquated. Their usefulness is being judged over a half century, and there must be a guarantee that they will indeed be needed for that time span.

3.17.4 Consider the purpose of and need for the proposed action in light of Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

(53-9, 53-11, 93-5)

Issue Summary

Respondents indicated that the proposed action does not contribute to meeting Nevada's statutory requirement of having 20% of the state's energy generated by renewable resources by 2015. Instead it will increase Nevada's dependence on coal and its associated power market.

Representative Comments

- In the overview of the January 19, 2007 project description, it is stated that the project will "increase companies' fuel diversity" and "reduce dependence on variable purchased power markets." It is unclear why alternatives such as wind or solar energy projects would not meet the same goals without incurring the additional potential liabilities. In fact the project will increase Nevada's dependence on coal and its associated power market. (53-9)

- Nevada law requires that renewable energy and conservation meet 20% of Nevada's energy needs by 2013. The EIS should address the concern that this project would violate Nevada law and opening the BLM to litigation. The EIS should address how alternatives, such as wind ranching, would avoid legal action and improve the cooperative working relationship between Nevada and the BLM. (53-11)
- By building these plants, you increase the amount of energy being produced by coal. How does this help our state reach its goal of 20% renewable power by 2015? What renewable projects are you considering that will be significant compared to these coal projects? (93-5)

3.17.5 The project's need should be tied to a well-defined customer base.

(76-2, 223-136, 223-145, 313-3)

Issue Summary

Commenters indicate that the need for EEC should be clearly linked to a well-defined and sufficient customer base that fully warrants the proposed action.

Representative Comments

- The Companies should produce firm power purchase contracts for the economic life of the plant to demonstrate both a need and market for the proposed electricity. If unable to do so, there will be no basis in the administrative record for concluding the project's impacts are appropriate or necessary. As such, not constructing the plant would therefore represent the least harmful alternative. Consequently, please conduct the requisite analyses and consider the no action alternative in the EIS. (223-145)

3.17.6 Consider the general need for the proposed action.

(292-5, 292-6, 292-7, 312-2, 317-2)

Issue Summary

Several commenters expressed general questions with regard to the underlying need for the project.

Representative Comments

- We, the public, must understand the "Why?" of this project before we understand anything else. (292-7)
- Where is a detailed discussion of why these units and their electrical generation are even needed in the first place? (312-2)

3.17.7 The purpose of and need for the project should be carefully developed to conform to CEQ regulations and consider the context of the larger energy market.

(313-3)

- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should clearly identify the underlying purpose and need to which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding in proposing the alternatives (40 CFR 1502.13). The purpose of the proposed action is typically the specific objectives of the activity, while the need for the proposed action may be to eliminate a broader underlying problem or take

advantage of an opportunity. The purpose and need should be a clear, objective statement of the rationale for the proposed project, as it provides the framework for identifying project alternatives.

This section of the DEIS should discuss the proposed project in the context of the larger energy market that this project would serve. It should identify the potential purchasers of power produced by the project and clearly describe how the need for the power has been determined. The DEIS should identify whether potential purchasers of power include California utilities, and if so, address the issue of compliance with the new "greenhouse gas emissions performance standard" as adopted by the California Public utilities Commission on January 25, 2007. California utilities will be barred from buying electricity from most coal-fired power plants unless specific standards are met, effective February 1, 2007. The DEIS should also discuss on-going and planned energy conservation programs undertaken by power distributors and how energy conservation may affect the need for this project. (313-3)

3.18 Range Resources Issues

3.18.1 Project elements, such as rail lines, will fragment and degrade the rangeland for livestock and wildlife, and will result in ranchers losing access to significant amounts of BLM-administered grazing allotments, to which they have legal access.

(52-1, 63-6, 194-4, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 292-10, 296-2, 296-3, 296-4, 296-9, 303-12, 303-30, 306-1, 320-9, 322-3, 322-11, 334-5, 349-3, 349-8, 355-1, 369-2, 373-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that plant construction, well drilling, pipeline construction and other activities will fragment and degrade the rangeland. Most commenters appeared to be from a ranching background and were concerned with maintaining healthy rangeland for use by livestock operations. At least one commenter appeared to feel that current range conditions are poor due to livestock grazing, and construction of power plants would only make things worse.

Comments from livestock industry noted that around 3,000 acres of quality winter grazing land would be made unavailable to livestock grazing during construction and operation of the power plant. Commenters questioned if and how ranchers would be compensated for this loss since they have leases on this land from the federal government. While some land would be made available for grazing after construction was complete, commenters were concerned that the range would be degraded. Factors noted included invasion of noxious weeds on reclaimed lands which would lower carrying capacity, difficulty accessing rangelands due to the railroad splitting certain allotments, and complete loss of access to limited seasonal rangelands.

Representative Comments

- Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread. (194-4)
- If it is sited on public lands, what allotments and permitted grazing will be impacted by this project and what mitigation will be offered to the affected permittees? (296-2)

- WWP has been very involved in grazing issues in this region, and we are gravely concerned at BLM's failure to fully reveal what is foreseeable here, including amid important sage grouse, raptor and other wildlife habitats. (303-12)
- Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project? (349-3)

3.18.2 Construction and operation of the EEC will cause significant financial loss to ranchers.

(104-17, 300-3, 322-1, 322-2, 362-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that ranchers would experience significant financial hardship if the EEC is constructed due to the loss of critical winter range, loss of access to water, increased railroad and vehicle collisions with livestock, colder temperatures due to winter inversions, and the introduction of noxious weeds on remaining rangelands.

One comment stated that 3,000 to 3,800 acres currently allotted to livestock operators would not be available for grazing access during construction of the power plants and associated facilities, including some winter range for which there is no replacement. Some acreage would be reclaimed and made available for grazing after construction, but commenters were concerned these lands would be degraded with noxious weeds.

Increased incidence of livestock losses was also a concern due to increase road and railroad traffic. Difficulty accessing water holes was also noted. One commenter stated that temperature inversions would be more frequent, which would stress animals. All these factors have monetary value, and commenters contended that the cost of these changes to land use and access would be in the millions of dollars.

Representative Comments

- Have other social costs been factored in, such as costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversion (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures)? (104-17)
- I have several concerns about the location selected by the Companies for their Ely Energy Center. The first being the loss of critical winter grazing for our cattle. You may not realize that different regions and climates have their advantages and disadvantages when it comes to raising cattle. In an area such as the Steptoe Valley where 7-9 inches of precipitation is normal, soil types are poor for high yielding crop production, high quality winter grazing is the one saving grace. Any loss or decrease in winter grazing will decrease our yearly carrying capacity (cattle numbers), decrease our annual income, increase our dependency on expensive harvested forages, and cause devaluation of our ranch. (322-1)
- The proposed site will eliminate between 3,000 and 3,800 acres (I've seen several different approximate amounts quoted) of high quality winter grazing. The site lays across two different grazing permits, one belonging to the Twitchell Ranch and the other belonging to the Steptoe Ranch, our ranch and home. The amount of grazing loss to the individuals is difficult to determine. Estimates by our Range con. are 40% to 60%. Economic loss is also difficult to determine. There are approximately 1,600

animal units per/month in the two permits combined. If a loss of this magnitude is sustained the yearly income loss would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for both ranches. Ranch values are determined by carrying capacities and would decrease by similar percentages (40%-60%). The devaluations of both ranches would reach the 3-4 million dollar range. (322-2)

3.18.3 Use of water by the EEC would decrease the amount of water available to ranching operations.

(230-3, 296-5, 300-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that use of water by the EEC would adversely affect the water rights of ranchers, and decrease the amount of surface water available to livestock and wildlife. Commenters requested that these affects be mitigated.

Representative Comments

- The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology. (230-3)

3.19 Recreation Issues

3.19.1 The open vistas, clean air and rural character of the area that bring in tourist dollars will be negatively affected by the proposed power plants.

(68-5, 102-1, 105-3, 186-9, 194-3, 217-15, 219-7, 219-11, 222-4, 222-8223-142, 292-13, 297-3, 297-6, 298-4, 299-4, 300-5, 302-4, 303-55, 320-16, 321-1, 330-14, 332-5, 361-8)

Issue Summary

Many people sent responses expressing concern that the “quality of life” available in the Ely-McGill area would be compromised by coal-fired power plants. Commenters cited clean air and water, the dark night sky, abundant wildlife, and many outdoor recreation opportunities as draws for tourists and residents alike. Commenters were concerned that each of these characteristics might be negatively impacted by the presence of two coal-fired power plants and the air, light, and other pollution types they would release.

Representative Comments

- How will the degradation of our local and neighboring landscapes affect the local tourism industry that has been so carefully cultivated by community members the past two decades? (186-9)
- Since the future of the Great Basin lies in preserving its health and beauty in response to the rapidly developing tourist, recreation, and sporting opportunities, the EIS must calculate the future economic losses involved in permanently converting Steptoe Valley to heavy industrial use. (219-11)
- A loss of Outdoor recreation revenue is sure to occur under these circumstances. (302-4)
- Ely’s distinction as a world-class glider facility should be weighed. (320-4)

- My camping experience along Duck Creek, just a mile or two east of Glenn Siding where one of the power plants is proposed, would be ruined by the Ely Energy Center proposal. I am urging you to stop it. (332-5)

- The reason I (and increasingly more individuals) enjoy living in Eastern Nevada is due to the scenic splendor and great primitive recreation opportunities that exist here. One of the best places to recreate in the State is the Schell Creek Range and Duck Creek Basin. I go to this area nearly every weekend to ski, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. Many others from Ely and everywhere do the same. It would be a great shame to degrade the recreational and visual resources of this incredible area to build a power plant. According to the power company officials, the only reason they have to place the plant at the Duck Creek Road junction is so that construction workers and employees wouldn't have to drive so far to work. That is not a good reason to degrade the visual (and ultimately recreational quality) of the High Schells and Duck Creek Basin. (330-14)

3.19.2 Construction of the EEC will cause an influx of people and uncontrolled impacts to recreation areas that would create a resource and enforcement burden for land managers.

(102-9, 102-11, 315-7)

Issue Summary

Some commenters were concerned that an influx of workers would create recreation management challenges, such as unauthorized OHV trails.

Representative Comments

- How or will the community be reimbursed for the potential expense of social services (schools, housing, police, counseling, etc.) that an influx of 1500 short duration new residents represents? Short-term residents may have little concern or value for public lands. An already burgeoning problem of "renegade" unauthorized ORV routes may be exponentially expanded. How can the overburdened public land agencies possibly manage such a situation? (102-9)

3.20 Socioeconomics Issues

3.20.1 Provide detailed economic analysis in the EIS.

(11-1, 62-5, 104-15, 105-1, 218-9, 223-108, 223-112, 223-113, 223-138, 223-139, 303-36, 320-15, 320-18)

Issue Summary

Commenters indicated several economic concerns that should be carefully analyzed in a detailed manner, including: economic cost of greenhouse gas emissions, community service costs, medical costs and loss of productivity of residents, revenue and property taxes, and housing and infrastructure costs.

Representative Comments

- The project's scope will bring unprecedented numbers of workers plus people drawn by a "boom" economy who wish to capitalize—legally or illegally—on prospects for gain. As always, both Who Makes the Decisions and Who Gets to Pay should be delineated. The EIS should address each of the following in exact detail:

  a. Law enforcement: additional officers to regulate traffic, control illegal activities, judicial necessities, housing in jails, registering company-connected vehicles, especially during construction phase.

  b. Medical: additional health care providers, adequate space at Clinic and Hospital, also EMTs and other emergency providers.

  c. Social services: juvenile and adult welfare, mental health, problems with domestic abuse, drug use, DUIs, public health needs, WIC, child care.

  d. Education: crowded classrooms, testing, ESL, children in need of special services, buses, sufficient teacher numbers, athletic facilities.

  e. Housing: EIS should also detail plans to house both construction and permanent employee workforces with minimal disruption to neighborhoods but with maximum utilization of existing infrastructure, as well as describing eventual disposition of any temporary units built. The EIS should note whether White Pine County and its cities have in place master plans, zoning, and regulations to properly manage a sudden influx of growth. Personnel to supervise erection/construction of housing? Do we have enough domestic water to serve all new residences? Sewer and landfill projections are also necessary. (320-15)

- [The EIS] should show accurate projections of the increased property and sales tax revenues, indeed all anticipated revenues, as well as costs to the County of absorbing this power plant. (320-18)

3.20.2 The proposed action will provide general socioeconomic benefits to the local communities.

(20-2, 48-3, 220-3, 293-2, 318-5, 318-7, 338-3, 338-5, 366-2)

Issue Summary

Some commenters made general comments about the perceived socioeconomic benefits that the proposed action would have on local communities. Many of these comments focused on anticipated growth and economic stability.

Representative Comments

- A power plant (or plants) such as this present almost unlimited opportunities for growth and financial prosperity to our County and the City of Ely. (220-3)

- I have asked and encouraged the Ely Energy Center management to locate as near to McGill and Ely as possible. Supporting businesses and workers' families would tend to locate in our cities, which would in turn enhance our population, assist our tax base, and attract new services or businesses that look for a larger population base than what we now have. The historical Nevada Northern Railroad yard in East Ely could possibly be used as a repair and maintenance facility for the power plant coal cars, thus providing a service, new jobs, and enhancing their economic future and

existence. New enterprises would enhance shopping for our present community and also help us attract professionals and others who require a greater variety than what we now offer. (318-5)

- In my opinion, it would be a great asset to this area, along with an economical benefit to our community. (366-2)

3.20.3 The proposed action will negatively affect general socioeconomics of the local communities.

(59-6, 95-3, 106-10, 147-1, 186-6, 221-5, 221-11, 222-2, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 229-5, 269-3, 280-1, 288-1, 290-1, 307-1, 326-8, 356-3)

Issue Summary

Some commenters made general comments about the perceived socioeconomic benefits that the proposed action would have on local communities. Many of these comments addressed general concerns that involved accommodating the influx of temporary workers and their associated needs for services and infrastructure. Other comments reflected general dismissal of any potential benefits as short-sighted or in error.

Representative Comments

- By building this plant, yes, there will be economic advantages to the community. But these will be only short-term, and will be offset by the economic hardships the community will face as a result. The power plant will only be a continuation of the boom-bust cycle these towns see.

  The short-term effects will include housing shortages. Already there is a shortage of housing in Ely and McGill, with the influx of 1300 workers, plus their families, there will be a drastic shortage. This means, of course, new housing will be built, but these are only temporary workers, who will be leaving their newly built houses empty after only a few years—leading to a depreciation of housing values overall.

  This increase in population will place additional pressure on the already over-taxed school system, hospital and other public works. For example, Head Start, which already has a waiting list, will be virtually inaccessible to many new-comers.

  In the construction phases, the number of “transient” laborers will be high; which commonly, statistically, leads to increased crime rates. The communities in the area already witness a serious drug problem—increasing numbers of transient workers will likely aggravate the problem. (106-10)

- People talk about the socio-economic boost this county and towns therein would receive. What a bunch of hogwash! (221-5)

- There are currently some perspectives touting the positive economic benefit to White Pine County. This will be short term and not significant. (222-2)

3.20.4 Consider siting of the plant as a socioeconomic issue.

(220-2, 220-4, 220-6, 318-8, 331-2, 343-2)

Issue Summary

A few commenters made general comments regarding the socioeconomic implications of various plant sites.

Representative Comments

- We would like to see it located as near to the City of Ely as possible for economic reasons. (220-2)
- I propose the plant be located near Gondor Substation between Ely and McGill. The Industrial Park may provide an alternate site, as well. These sites would provide the maximum long- and short-term benefits for the County. (220-4)
- I would also propose that if the power plan cannot be located close to Ely, the whole project should be scrapped. If the vast majority of residents in the County do not reap much benefit, why bother? (220-5)
- The greater the distance from our communities that the Ely Energy Center is located, the greater the loss of economic enhancement will be felt. (318-8)
- The preferred location is more convenient to Ely in regards to the workforce with the Ely Energy Center. (331-2)
- Let's look at who would benefit from this. (343-2)

3.20.5 Consider the impact of jobs on the local economy.

(13-2, 24-2, 223-114, 223-141, 320-17, 347-6, 359-10)

Issue Summary

Commenters focused on the need for jobs and wondered how many jobs would be available to local workers and union labor. Other comments mentioned the need to stabilize the local economy and the ability to retain workers in the area.

Representative Comments

- The area sure needs the jobs. (13-2)
- A project like this would stabilize the economy, and give young people a purpose and employment to stay in the area. It could be the driving force that would create new business and industry. (24-2)
- The EIS must document what percentages of EEC's anticipated workforce (both construction and operation) will actually be drawn from White Pine County. (320-17)

3.20.6 Consider the impacts from required additional housing in the area.

(9-3, 218-4)

- Thinking of the community as a whole and also the construction personnel and direct workforce: they need housing. There is very little private land for development of any kind in White Pine County and our land is choice view property close to town. (9-3)
- The many impacts of the sprawl development that the project will both create and support must also be considered in the EIS. (218-4)

3.20.7 Consider impacts to local services and infrastructure required to meet direct and indirect growth.

(59-5, 59-7, 102-9, 104-11, 105-2, 186-4, 186-5, 186-7, 219-2, 219-3, 223-103, 292-14, 303-32, 315-9, 337-5, 345-1, 347-8, 349-14, 359-4, 374-9)

Issue Summary

Many commenters expressed concern for the potential fiscal impacts on the local communities due to the increased need for expanded services and infrastructure to accommodate the short-term influx of construction workers. Commenters want to know how this would be paid for, how impacts would be mitigated, and what would happen when the workers leave.

Representative Comments

- Who will be paying for the social and public services, such as increased demands on health services and law enforcement, that will be required for the company's work force and how will the funds be generated? Will the county or local municipalities have to impose new taxes on the existing community in order to pay for these services? If the local governments plan on obtaining these funds from the company, how is this proposed and when will the funds begin to be generated? Will such funds be generated during or after the construction phase of the facility? If the funds will not be generated until after the construction phase, how is the community to provide for the much larger work force that will be present during the construction phase? (186-5)
- The temporary population surge poses many serious hardships on a community the size of Ely and environs. Social services, education, medical care, mental health provision, and the lack of affordable housing for all working-class people – all these fundamental components of accommodating a large, transient workforce must be carefully and realistically detailed in the EIS, and specific, concrete solution devised. (219-2)
- Social and Economic – the proposed workforce during construction would put a terrible strain on White Pine County and Ely to provide increased health, police, and social services, and schools. Mitigation measures need to be defined up front. (337-5)

What impacts will accrue to the water supply? Water demands of the power plants, the increased need for water supplying infrastructure in White Pine County communities and citizens, including deepening wells; rapidly providing new housing requirements. (345-1)

3.20.8 Consider potential socioeconomic distress to landowners, including impacts to property values.

(9-1, 9-2, 102-8, 322-8, 358-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concern that the proposed action would reduce their property value through fragmentation, proximity to industrial land use, or reduced ability to subdivide and sell parcels.

Representative Comments

- The proposed "Electric transmission Line Boundary" will essentially destroy our entire property and render it unbuildable and unlivable. (9-1)
- Evaluate the loss of property value to all land holdings likely to be impacted by the location of an industrial complex in this quiet rural location. (102-8)

- Sierra Pacific power line will run across the entire length of my property, which includes my farm ground. I will be unable to sell any more parcels of land thus cutting down considerably on the value of my property. (358-1)

3.20.9 Consider impacts to residents' quality of life.

(102-1, 104-7, 186-3, 204-1, 222-3, 298-2, 299-2, 300-7, 300-9, 302-2, 303-37, 321-1, 321-2, 322-10, 326-5, 332-4, 345-7, 346-12, 349-13)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed grave concerns that the proposed power plant would significantly affect many of the qualities that drew them to this area in the first place, and which now continue to draw others. Quality of life elements discussed include: clean air and water, scenic vistas, rural character, healthy lifestyle, abundant wildlife, and opportunities for recreation. Pollution, winter inversions, interrupted views, and industrial land uses would all threaten the quality of life so important to the residents.

Representative Comments

- Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project. (102-1)
- Who wants to live in the shadow of a coal fire power plant? It is imperative that the long term negative economic and social impacts be analyzed. (222-3)
- This location for a coal-fired Power Plant is entirely too close to inhabited, residential areas. McGill is only 4.5 miles to the south. Duck Creek Basin homes are even closer. They are only 4 miles to the east. (302-2)
- The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center. (321-2)
- For those of us who live here now, will our reasons for liking to live here dwindle? When taxes, utilities, fees increase; when we can't see the stars or the mountains across the valleys; when we feel less safe in our homes and neighborhoods, will we want to stick around to pay the bills? (345-7)
- What mitigating factors can be placed on EEC to protect the valleys and mountains to insure that the people that live here's way of life won't be changed. (349-13)

3.20.10 Consider the opportunity cost of future development as a retirement locale.

(298-5, 299-5, 300-7, 302-5)

Issue Summary

A few commenters indicated that the proposed action may negatively impact the future potential of the area to be marketed and developed as a retirement locale.

Representative Comments

- White Pine County is rapidly becoming a desired retirement locale. The County is collecting property taxes from many new upscale homes. The retirement home trend will be sure to cease with the new "scenic view of the Power Plant" and with pollution the Coal-fired Power Plant creates. (298-5)
- White Pine County will cease to be the preferred relocation site for retirees and new residents. The loss of water, pristine skies, clean air, and natural environment will destroy a desirable locale for the many leaving large cities. (300-7)

3.20.11 Consider community safety concerns resulting from the proposed action.

(303-13, 359-10)

- We spend a lot of time on the ground, examining the effects of land use practices, and we would be exposed to the pollution, noise, haze, and the contaminants it may contain, that would develop from these proposals. (303-13)
- How will Ely Energy Center manage the flow of workers – how many will be hired from White Pine County and how many will be brought in? Of the high level positions, how many will be filled by locals? How will the cost of educating, providing health care, and law enforcement be offset? How will the drop in workers effect our economy when the plant is built and there are only 100 people running it? I m concerned about an increase in crime and drunken public behavior – there are few indoor opportunities for recreation and entertainment, which means that the workers will spend time in bars and casinos. We already have a significant drug problem, how will the company work to reduce drug use so it does not further exacerbate the problem we already have. (359-10)

3.20.12 Consider potential economic impacts from the proposed rail line.

(220-5, 295-2, 316-2, 318-2, 318-3, 318-4, 324-2, 331-3)

Issue Summary

A few commented on the potential economic benefits that would accrue to McGill and Ely due to improved rail access. Commenters indicated that this access would allow other commercial and industrial interests to make use of the rail lines, subsequently fueling economic growth. It was also mentioned that this benefit decreases as the plant site moves away from the communities.

Representative Comments

- Among the obvious benefits would be the extension of the railroad tracks into the County where other industry could make use of them. (220-5)
- Allowing the Ely Energy Center to build at the preferred site would add enormously to the upgrade of the railroad track bringing it closer to the communities of McGill and Ely. The City of Ely would gain millions in upgrade and value that it could not afford on its own. With a new upgraded rail line, the City of Ely could potentially market warehousing and other freight hauling opportunities that enhance and save a tremendous amount in transportation costs for the local industries. Quadra Mining would have the potential for low cost freight as well as Foreland Oil, and Juniper Pellets (a wood palletizing operation). (318-3)

3.20.13 Consider impacts of project-related transportation on local communities.

(223-123)

- Please consider the number of coal cars needed daily to haul coal to the plant and the impacts of those cars on all communities along their route.

  Please consider whether those coal cars will pass through Ely, either inbound or outbound to the plant or both and the impacts of those trips.

  Please consider the number of daily truck trips required for both project construction and operation including a break down of that traffic by number and types of vehicles per day, including large trucks, buses, and automobiles and the impacts of those trips.

  Other than coal cars, please consider the number of daily train trips, if any, required for both project construction and operation and the impacts of those trips? (223-123)

3.20.14 Consider the impacts to local communities from the "boom and bust" economy often associated with similar projects.

(68-3, 194-2, 204-3, 217-14, 221-7, 221-8, 303-42, 345-6)

Issue Summary

Several commenters indicated that the proposed action would simply contribute to the "boom and bust" economic cycle that afflicts many small towns in the west. They stated that the surge in workers during the construction phase will create economic prosperity for a short time, followed by a depressed economy with remnant infrastructure and excess housing stock.

Representative Comments

- This won't produce a stable economy for White Pine; just continue the boom and bust. (68-3)
- Economic effects on the town of Ely and White Pine County would again be of the boom and bust nature. Who will pay for the temporary growth impacts that the infrastructure and social institutions will suffer? What will fill the void when the power plant construction workers leave, and who will clean up the mess? (204-3)
- Water demands from the power plants, increased community size and required infrastructure during the construction phase, and then the sudden decreased demands for workers, et al, when construction is completed need to be assessed. Similarly social costs and economic fluctuations of another boom-bust cycle to schools, county, state, and federal agencies responsible for mediating those impacts are important to understand. Where will we get the human and financial resources to address the socioeconomic and environmental issues? Staff shortages are already an issue. Double those demands or more within a few years' time and calculate the problems and the costs of solving them. How about the glut when the power plants are in the operations stage, among the same arenas? (345-6)

3.20.15 Consider the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed action on the local tourism and recreation industry.

(34-2, 68-5, 105-3, 186-9, 194-3, 217-8, 217-15, 219-11, 300-5, 320-16, 361-8)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concerns regarding pollution from the proposed action and how it would impact the resources that are critical to tourism and recreation, such as clean air and water, rural feel, hunting and fishing opportunities, and scenery. If these resources are adversely impacted, then commenters feel that the revenue generated by this industry will also be impacted.

Representative Comments

- How will this affect tourism and the newly designated adjacent wilderness? Who wants to fish in lakes poisoned with Hg or find solitude < 10 miles from a power plant? I think there are better ways to boost the economy of White Pine Co. that don't involve such negative impacts. (68-5)
- Wouldn't pollution from the plants affect another large money maker in the area, the tourism industry? People come up here for solitude, fishing, hiking, and what some would call the "rural experience". How would that change if there was even a small amount of smog, if there was only a tiny danger of mercury in the water supply? (105-3)
- Outdoor tourism will become non-existent. Since the Nevada Commission on Tourism was established, many volunteers have been utilizing state funds (generated by room tax) to lure fans of outdoor recreation to White Pine County and to rural Nevada. Power Generating Plants and all that they encompass are not high on an outdoor tourist's list of things to do and see. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and the benefits they bring to White Pine County will become history. (300-5)

3.20.16 Consider impacts from the proposed action on local small business, ranchers, and agriculture.

(63-2, 65-1, 102-7, 104-17, 179-1, 186-8, 223-70, 230-3, 296-4, 296-6, 320-9, 322-1, 322-2, 322-3, 334-5, 349-3, 349-8, 362-1, 362-4, 363-1, 373-1)

Issue Summary

Several commenters indicated that pollution from the proposed power plant would adversely affect crops and livestock, impacting their small businesses. Groundwater drawdown and its potential effect on drying up springs were also frequently cited as concerns that would also adversely impact small business. Proposed impacts to critical winter grazing range and existing grazing permits would create economic hardship for ranchers. Another concern was if, in addition to company-provided housing, there would be company-sponsored businesses that would detract from local business concerns.

Representative Comments

- Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business. (63-2)
- Is it legitimate to assume, given the travel time from the proposed site to McGill and Ely, that the work force will be seeking out and frequenting currently existing

businesses in local communities? If the company plans on providing housing facilities for the temporary work forces, are they also planning to provide company-sponsored businesses within the temporary housing? What effects will this have on local businesses? (186-8)

- The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology. (230-3)
- I have several concerns about the location selected by the Companies for their Ely Energy Center. The first being the loss of critical winter grazing for our cattle. You may not realize that different regions and climates have their advantages and disadvantages when it comes to raising cattle. In an area such as the Steptoe Valley where 7-9 inches of precipitation is normal, soil types are poor for high yielding crop production, high quality winter grazing is the one saving grace. Any loss or decrease in winter grazing will decrease our yearly carrying capacity (cattle numbers), decrease our annual income, increase our dependency on expensive harvested forages, and cause devaluation of our ranch. (322-1)
- Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project? (349-3)

3.20.17 The EIS should address costs associated with a potential "carbon tax."

(53-7, 93-6)

- The EIS should address what additional cost (i.e. resources unavailable for other opportunities) Nevadans will incur when carbon taxes are likely imposed on carbon emissions as well as how this will affect the "stable economics of coal" noted in the proposal. Currently, Nevadans are not susceptible to the economics of coal.

  The EIS should address what additional costs will the BLM likely incur when carbon taxes are implemented. Conversely, what carbon tax credit will the BLM forfeit in the likely case that a carbon trading system is implemented? (53-7)
- If new policies, like carbon taxes, make coal production more expensive, are those costs being factored into the cost of these new plants? (93-6)

3.20.18 Consider the impact to utility rates and economic benefits to end users.

(53-2, 180-1, 213-2, 225-9, 285-3, 317-12, 320-19, 335-9)

Issue Summary

Some commenters are concerned that the cost of the proposed action will result in increased rates for Nevadans and that less money will be available to fund other more cost-effective projects. A commenter suggested evenly distributing costs throughout the supply network, not just to end users. Another commenter suggested that a survey be conducted to determine rate-payers' willingness-to-pay for sustainable energy generation.

Representative Comments

- What is the economic benefit to Nevada electricity consumers? It is my understanding that this project will necessitate an electricity rate increase to Nevada consumers. If Nevadans pay money to fund this energy project, then that much less

money will be available to possibly more cost-effective projects in energy, water and other natural resources. (53-2)

- Perform a statistically valid survey to determine if rate-payers would pay more for renewable energies. Global warming is a hot topic of late, and we think that you would be surprised at the results of this survey. (225-9)
- This project would cost billions of dollars for the plant's construction, and the hefty price tag most likely means that Nevadans' utility bills would increase. (285-3)

3.20.19 The companies need to be responsive to community concerns about the plant and be a good neighbor.

(359-13)

- If things go wrong and the air quality is significantly affected or the water table drops will the power plant address the problems or will it take numerous law suits to get them to address the problems. Historically, once a power plant is in place it takes law suit after law suit to get them to comply with regulations and address problems as they come up. The Laughlin power plant, of which Sierra Pacific is a partner, is finally being shut down, but only after numerous law suits. It seems to me that if they would have worked with the community they are part of, and addressed concerns and keep the plant up to date, they would not be seeking another community to come into and build another plant. I want to be assured that they will be responsive to the community as problems arise and take responsibility for the damage they do. They need to be honest about the known impact they are going to have on our community and work with us to mitigate those negative impacts. I am concerned that once they have the okay to move forward they will become an entity unto themselves and totally disregard the community into which they have inserted themselves. (359-13)

3.21 Soil Resources Issues

3.21.1 Soil resources could be negatively impacted by the proposed power plant, its air and water emissions, and the excavation required to construct electric transmission lines.

(4-7, 17-1, 17-2, 60-10, 60-11, 194-6, 201-2, 222-9, 300-8, 300-9, 303-55, 346-7)

Issue Summary

Commenters had general concerns about soil resources that fit into three categories. These were soil loss due to erosion during construction activities such as power line construction, contamination by air emissions both past (Kennecott smelter) and future (EEC) projects, and contamination of soils due to waste water discharges.

Representative Comments

- Several locations along the route pass through silty soil types-construction activities and disturbance can greatly increase both wind and water erosion. Erosion prevention measures are essential. (17-1)
- The land north of McGill (including the ranch near Gallagher Gap) and the area that

burned behind (to the east) of McGill still show damage from the Kennecott smelter; neither area was able to support vegetation growth or regrowth due to the high levels of heavy metal contaminants in the soil. The proposed coal plant will be considerably larger and – even with better technology – will produce far more toxic material than the Kennecott smelter. (194-6)

- Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren't released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply. (300-8)

3.22 Special Designations and Sensitive Areas

3.22.1 The proposed action would affect the ecological integrity, scenic quality, and pristine characteristics of nearby designated wildernesses, wilderness study areas, national parks, national forests, wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, and areas of critical environmental concern.

(59-10, 59-12, 75-1, 77-2, 92-2, 106-6, 185-1, 219-7, 222-6, 222-8, 223-98, 223-107, 223-143, 223-165, 229-6, 263-2, 303-30, 303-31, 330-15, 348-1, 348-2, 348-3, 348-4, 351-4, 361-11, 362-6)

Issue Summary

Many respondents noted that the proposed plant and associated facilities sites are near designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. These areas are seen as representative of the pristine qualities of this area and commenters were concerned that pollution, fly ash, dust, and other emissions would adversely affect air quality (visibility), water quality, wildlife, and recreation opportunities. Several commenters pointed out that nearby Class 1 airsheds may also be adversely impacted by the proposed action. Commenters requested the BLM consider impacts to nearby national forests, wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, and areas of critical environmental concern.

Representative Comments

- Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted. (106-6)

- Remoteness, Solitude and Opportunities for Primitive Recreation – These are important benefits that Wilderness offers to locals and visitors to the area, which would certainly be adversely impacted with coal fire power plants and associated disturbances and emissions visible from any Wilderness areas. (222-8)

- Please consider and itemize any and all impacts to the Humboldt National Forest, Steptoe Wildlife Management Area, Great Basin National Park, Kirch Wildlife Management Area, Lake Mead National Park, Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, Overton National Wildlife Refuge, Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Desert

National Wildlife Refuge, all wilderness study areas, wilderness areas, and all areas of critical environmental concern. (223-143)

- There are four new wilderness areas in the area, within 30 miles…what else does one need to hear to know that this area is valuable and sensitive, and worth preserving. (229-6)
- There are several National Forest/Wilderness Areas close to the proposal. The High Schells Wilderness Area is only eight miles east of the project. Others nearby include the White Pine Range, Shellback, Bald Mountain, Red Mountain, and Currant Mountain to the west, Mount Moriah to the east, and Ruby Mountain and Jarbridge Wilderness Areas to the north. While Jarbridge is the only Class I airshed, I am concerned about impacts to all of the wilderness areas. (348-1)
- What will be the air emission dispersal pattern? Will there be effects to wilderness airsheds form particulates? How will the proposal affect visibility in the wildernesses? Will the smokestacks be seen from any wilderness area? (348-2)
- This pollution would threaten the air quality at Great Basin National park, Cave Lake State Park, and other natural areas as well as the water quality in the local streams. (351-4)

3.23 Special Status Species Issues

3.23.1 Many Threatened, Endangered, and/or state or federally listed Sensitive Species live or travel through lands that will be negatively affected by the EEC.

(218-12, 303-12, 303-33, 303-35, 303-37, 304-1, 313-11, 313-32, 314-2, 314-3, 314-4, 314-5, 348-5, 348-7, 348-8, 365-5, 369-16)

Issue Summary

Comments were received from the U.S. Forest Service, EPA, the State of Nevada, The Nature Conservancy, and other non-governmental organizations listing many species the commenters felt warrant specific consideration under the Proposed Action. Those comments that mention multiple species are listed in this public concern statement, while comments listing only one or two species are included in later statements. Some of the comments listed here include management recommendations. Commenters requested that the BLM include in the EIS a thorough identification and assessment of all factors that could affect the health and survival of sensitive species due to impacts cause by the proposed power plants.

Representative Comments

- What are the different populations, their trends over time, their likelihood of decline or extinction—of all important and sensitive species affected by this proposal? (303-35)
- We are also concerned that the power line would impact BLM sensitive plant species, which are also considered rare under the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program. In particular, populations of the eastwood milkweed (Asclepias eastwoodiana), meadow valley sandwort (Arenaria stenomeres), white bearpoppy (Arctomecon merriamii), white river catseye (Cryptantha welshii), and sunnyside green gentian (Frasera gypsicola) may occur in or near the vicinity of the proposed

transmission line corridor. We recommend that BLM include in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) a sensitive plant survey of areas that may be affected by the proposed action. If sensitive plant species occur within the project area, we recommend that BLM redesign the project to avoid impacts to these species. If impacts are unavoidable, we recommend that BLM minimize and provide commensurate mitigation for project impacts to sensitive species. (314-2)

- The list below includes United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Regional Forester's (R4) sensitive species (December 2003) for the Humboldt National Forest. (348-8)

  Forest Sensitive Species – Fish and Wildlife

  - Peregrine Falcon
  - Northern goshawk
  - Flammulated owl
  - Sage Grouse
  - Three-toed woodpecker
  - Spotted bat
  - Townsend's big-eared bat
  - Pygmy Rabbit
  - Bonneville cutthroat trout

  Plants

  - Eastwood milkweed
  - Scorpion milkvetch
  - Currant milkvetch
  - Upswept moonwort
  - Dainty moonwort
  - Slender moonwort
  - Mound cryptantha
  - Snake range whitlowgrass
  - Pennell draba
  - Cave Mountain fleabane
  - Holmgren buckwheat
  - Waxflower
  - Maguire bitterroot
  - Tunnel Springs beardtongue
  - Mount Moriah beardtongue
  - Marsh's bluegrass
  - Nevada primrose
  - Nachlinger catchfly
  - Jones' globemallow
  - Currant Summit clover

- BLM must assess the following threats to special status species and other important wildlife: Wells and windmills, pipelines, troughs, pipelines, roads (often linked to facilities), salting sites, weed infestations, power lines, fences, and aquifer depletion. (369-16)

3.23.2 The EEC would negatively affect the life cycle and habitat of the Bonneville Cutthroat trout, Lahontan trout, least chub, and other species associated with open water and wetlands.

(1-3, 216-9, 223-93, 336-3, 361-4, 376-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted the importance of protecting water quality and quantity, and of maintaining intact and functional aquatic habitats for listed T&E and Sensitive aquatic species. Commenters requested that the potential effects of the EEC on these species be studied in the EIS.

Representative Comments

- Aquatic species that should especially be analyzed for effects would include the Bonneville cutthroat trout (petitioned for threatened status), least chub (petitioned for endangered status), Lahontan cutthroat (threatened), spotted frog, spring snail, associated sensitive and rare non-game fishes and macro-invertebrates. (361-4)

3.23.3 The EEC would negatively affect the life cycle and habitat of the desert tortoise.

(296-10, 314-7, 314-8, 315-16)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that desert tortoise habitat would be lost or degraded by the EEC. Commenters recommended that the EIS include measures to avoid, minimize or offset impacts to the desert tortoise, and that BLM select a project alternative that is least damaging to this species.

Representative Comments

- As BLM is aware, the federally listed desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) (Mojave population) occurs within the proposed transmission line corridor. Habitat loss and degradation are major threats to the recovery of this species. Therefore, we are concerned that the proposed action would result in loss and degradation of desert tortoise habitat. We recommend that the EIS include measures to avoid, minimize or offset impacts to the desert tortoise, and that BLM select a project alternative that is the least damaging to federally listed species. (314-7)
- Transmission line development [could cause] impacts to wildlife resources and habitats including desert tortoise and sage grouse due to loss of habitat and or avoidance of habitats. (315-16)

3.23.4 The EEC would negatively affect the life cycle and habitat of sagebrush obligates such as the sage grouse and pygmy rabbit.

(104-13, 197-5, 303-33, 303-56, 314-9, 315-12, 322-5)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that sagebrush obligate species, including Sage grouse, Pygmy rabbits, and certain migratory birds, would be adversely affected by direct habitat loss, increased predation due to transmission lines providing raptor perches, disturbance to leks, and other factors. Two commenters noted specific studies and guidelines regarding sage grouse protection and management.

Representative Comments

- Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors? (104-13)
- Information from new studies conducted in Wyoming related to the impacts of energy development on sage grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species must be fully incorporated in your analysis. Energy-development studies include study of the effects of roads, developments, noise, human activity, etc. and so are very relevant to the effects of the ongoing and increased military use and disturbance of these lands. See Holloran 2005, for example and other studies available on-line at:

http://www.voiceforthewild.org/SageGrouseStudies/index.html. Please incorporate all of this information into your decisionmaking process, analysis of effects, (?) (303-56)

- We are also concerned about sagebrush obligate species including the sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) and pygmy rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis). The proposed alternate new rail spur in Elko County and most of the proposed power line corridors in White Pine County bisect habitat for the sage-grouse and potential habitat for the pygmy rabbit. Additionally, these proposed facilities bisect many known sage-grouse lek areas. The Western States Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee, under the direction of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has developed and published guidelines to manage and protect sage-grouse and their habitats in the Wildlife Society Bulletin (Connelly et al. 2000). We recommend that these guidelines be used in the planning process to provide further conservation for this species. These guidelines are available at http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov/docs/sage_grouse_guidelines.pdf. Given [U.S. Fish and Wildlife] Service concerns about the pygmy rabbit we encourage BLM to survey the proposed project areas for this species prior to any ground disturbing activities and to consider the needs of this species as project planning and implementation is completed. (314-9)

3.23.5 The EEC would negatively affect the life cycle and habitat of bald eagles.

(314-1)

- We are concerned that the proposed transmission line corridor could potentially impact wintering areas used by the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). (314-1)

3.23.6 The BLM must consider the effects of ground and surface water withdrawals for the proposed power plant on Threatened, Endangered, and state and federally listed Sensitive species.

(304-5, 361-3, 361-5)

Issue Summary

Three comments were received requesting further study and modeling of the potential effects of water withdrawals on special status species.

Representative Comments

- We recommend that the long-term and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal on groundwater levels, spring discharge and evapotranspiration be assessed by means of an accepted regional groundwater model, and the potential impacts on the water-dependent ecological systems and their associated rare, declining or endemic species be assessed by means of ecological models or the best available science.(304-5)

3.23.7 The BLM must consider the effects of air and water pollution from EEC on Threatened, Endangered, and state and federally listed Sensitive species.

(60-9, 60-11, 218-20, 223-71, 326-3)

Issue Summary

Five comments were received requesting that the effects of air pollution and the deposition of air pollutants in water, be assessed to determine, among other things, whether acidification of lakes would occur down wind of the proposed power plants.

Representative Comments

- Please also assess the harm that air pollutant emissions resulting directly and indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on any populations of any threatened or endangered species of plant or animal. (223-71)
- What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists. (326-3)

3.23.8 The BLM must consider the effects of the power plants themselves, power lines, roads, rail roads, pipelines and other infrastructure for the proposed power plants on the lifecycles and habitats of Threatened, Endangered, and state and federally listed Sensitive species.

(104-14, 223-99, 223-164, 304-4, 314-10, 326-7)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that pipelines, power lines, and the power plant itself would disturb, fragment, or eliminate habitats used by sensitive species. Potential problems noted included vegetation changes due to disturbance, such as the influx of noxious weeds; the presence of powerlines creating perches for raptors that would prey on sage grouse; the loss of access to watering holes and wetlands due to construction of roads, fences, and railroads; and the general loss of important habitat due to the construction of large structures.

Representative Comments

- Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals? (104-4)
- We note the presence of wetlands along much of the proposed power line corridor routes in White Pine County. Impacts to wetland habitat in association with the proposed projects could negatively affect a variety of species including migratory birds and sage-grouse. Effects could include fragmentation and/or removal of wetland habitat. (314-10)
- What will be the effects of additional infrastructure to the area?

  How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas? Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse

and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors? Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals? (326-7)

3.24 Transportation Issues

3.24.1 Increased traffic, noise, dust, and litter will impact local communities.

(223-123, 337-7, 356-6)

Issue Summary

Commenters stated that the proposed action will cause increased traffic, noise, dust, and litter from rail lines and roadways—both during construction and later operation and maintenance.

Representative Comments

- Please consider the number of coal cars needed daily to haul coal to the plant and the impacts of those cars on all communities along their route.

  Please consider whether those coal cars will pass through Ely, either inbound or outbound to the plant or both and the impacts of those trips.

  Please consider the number of daily truck trips required for both project construction and operation including a break down of that traffic by number and types of vehicles per day, including large trucks, buses, and automobiles and the impacts of those trips.

  Other than coal cars, please consider the number of daily train trips, if any, required for both project construction and operation and the impacts of those trips? (223-123)
- Construction would create noise, dust, and heavy traffic resulting in trash thrown out of vehicle windows and fast traffic on dirt roads. (356-6)

3.24.2 The expansion/upgrade of the rail line will impact local communities, livestock, and wildlife in both positive and negative ways.

(220-5, 318-3, 331-3, 338-2, 373-4)

Issue Summary

Comments about the railroad line included both positive and negative viewpoints. All comments noted that the expansion and/or upgrade of the rail line would have a substantial impact on McGill and Ely and the county in general. On the positive side, local communities do not have the resources to upgrade the rail line themselves. Its presence will enable additional business and industrial opportunities that will benefit the communities. On the negative side, the rail line would potentially fragment grazing land and may pose additional hazards to livestock and wildlife.

Representative Comments

- Among the obvious benefits would be the extension of the railroad tracks into the County where other industry could make use of them. (220-5)

- Allowing the Ely Energy Center to build at the preferred site would add enormously to the upgrade of the railroad track bringing it closer to the communities of McGill and Ely. The City of Ely would gain millions in upgrade and value that it could not afford on its own. With a new upgraded rail line, the City of Ely could potentially market warehousing and other freight hauling opportunities that enhance and save a tremendous amount in transportation costs for the local industries. Quadra Mining would have the potential for low cost freight as well as Foreland Oil, and Juniper Pellets (a wood palletizing operation). (318-3)
- Rail line. As it now stands the Nevada Northern tracks are in disrepair, and are unfenced. There are many livestock trails crossing the rail line. These trails are used by cattle, feral horses, elk, and antelope. If the rail line reopens, or another line is built, we will likely see a lot of death loss in animals that are hit by the trains. This is a great concern to us, and we wonder if there are plans for fair reimbursement for livestock killed in such a fashion. And has the impact upon the wildlife been evaluated. Ideally the entire rail from one end to the other would be fenced by a legal 4 wire fence. The drawback to this is that sometimes it is necessary for the animals to cross in order to get to water. Provisions would need to be made so that animals on either side had ready access to water. (373-4)

3.24.3 The EIS should consider congestion from project-related traffic and the subsequent need for new/expanded transportation infrastructure.

(104-18, 223-167, 300-9, 320-1, 320-2, 349-10, 373-5)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concern for the increased volume of traffic on highways, local roads, and unpaved access roads. These congestion issues will affect local travel and safety and will create increased demands for upgraded/expanded transportation infrastructure.

- Please develop detailed traffic control plans on local roads during construction and operation of the project. Please consider requiring the applicant to carry all cost of any local infrastructure development related to the project, e.g., curb upgrades, additional parking, additional traffic controls, additional sidewalks, and additional lanes. (223-167)
- Pedestrian and regular vehicular safety, use of commercial arteries for potentially hazardous trucks (numbers projected of these?), traffic signals, increased volume of cars caused by employees on shifts, noise (24 hours daily?) should also be treated. (320-2)
- Transportation – all the verbiage is about railways. What about the extra traffic on our highways, and through our towns of McGill and Ely. And don't forget about the added traffic to the dirt roads in our valleys and mountains, while constructing the Ely energy Centers transmission lines, pipelines, and drill sites. (349-10)

3.24.4 Consider potential effects on local air traffic.

(320-3)

- The EIS should assess impacts on air traffic in and out of Ely's Yelland Field in terms of volume, related costs, and potentially hazardous conditions created for pilots maneuvering for arrivals and departures. (320-3)

3.24.5 The proposed project will create hazardous driving conditions for local and interstate drivers.

(65-3, 337-8, 365-1)

Issue Summary

Commenters raised several transportation safety issues that would be caused by the proposed project, such as hazardous driving conditions on local roads and highways due to congestion, limited visibility from project-induced fog, increased black ice, and the transportation of hazardous materials.

Representative Comments

- Also my son rides the bus to school. The traffic will be bumper to bumper from the construction phase on. Steptoe Valley will be full of fog for the entire winter. This will be a nightmare for the kids on the bus. Huge trucks cannot stop instantly. (65-3)
- Will the plant require delivery and storage of hazardous materials? (337-8)
- Great quantities of steam constantly created by the cooling process will cause extremely foggy, hazardous driving conditions on Highway 93. Nevada State Troopers have stated that 93 from McGill to Wells and Wendover is an extremely dangerous section of road. Hwy 93 is the primary route from Canada to Mexico. Consequently 18-wheelers, huge double-trailer ore cars, wide loads, motor homes, and school buses cause unusually heavy traffic, both northbound and southbound. The heavy fogs and black ice that will be produced by steam and Steptoe Valley's frigid nighttime temperatures will create a disastrous situation. White Pine County Volunteer Emergency and Nevada State Safety services will be overwhelmed. A similar situation exists between Lovelock and Winnemucca. I believe it is called "Death Row". It is not pretty. (365-1)

3.25 Vegetation Resources Issues

3.25.1 The development of the EEC will cause undesirable changes to the make up of native plant communities, loss of valuable forage and browse species, and an increase of exotic plants.

(59-8, 104-12, 194-4, 303-44, 304-6, 313-34, 313-35, 319-6, 334-1, 369-4, 374-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that the construction and operation of the EEC would cause changes to vegetation communities, both by loss of some species due to destruction of the community by construction activities, and the increase of exotic species likely to invade after land is disturbed by construction activities.

Representative Comments

- Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread. (194-4)
- The DEIS should identify wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas that could be affected by the project. If applicable, the DEIS

should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modifications of habitat and plant/animal species composition, and include a detailed mitigation plan. (313-34)

- The DEIS should include a project design feature that calls for the development of an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds. (313-35)
- We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like. (374-2)

3.25.2 The water required to operate the EEC will decrease that available for vegetation in wetland, riparian, and upland vegetation communities.

(66-3, 223-97, 229-5, 303-22, 361-2)

Issue Summary

Comments received questioned how vegetation in a variety of communities would be affected by the appropriation of millions of gallons of ground and surface water required to run the power plant. Commenters requested that these effects be quantified and analyzed.

Representative Comments

- As the ground and surface water are used what will happen to our native vegetation? (66-3)
- Please consider impacts to wetland and riparian vegetation in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin from decreased water and increased air emissions. (223-97)

3.25.3 Air emissions from the proposed power plants may harm vegetation.

(46-4, 217-7, 222-9, 223-95, 334-1, 345-3, 365-4)

Issue Summary

Comments indicated concern that chemicals such as mercury and sulfur released from smokestacks at the power plants would be taken up by plants, which might affect their health.

Representative Comments

- Please consider the metal uptake by plants from emissions from the plant, specifically B, F, As, and Se. (223-95)
- ... Will the smoke/steam affect plants on the nearby mountains? (334-4)

3.25.4 Vegetation will be negatively impacted by the proposed power plants.

(17-2, 48-1, 219-7, 223-92, 223-120, 303-55, 313-36)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that both native vegetation and cultivated crops such as alfalfa could be impacted in many ways, and the BLM should identify, assess, and discuss these impacts in the EIS.

Representative Comments

- Please consider all impacts on vegetation, including locally grown alfalfa and native vegetation from all plant operations and project construction. (223-92)
- Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS. (303-55)

3.25.5 The EIS should disclose whether public land grazing permittees will be compensated for the loss of forage and change in vegetation caused by the proposed action.

(349-3)

- Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project? (349-3)

3.25.6 Vegetation is not a concern for this project because the species affected are common in the region.

(24-4)

- The vegetation that grows in the area is abundant throughout eastern Nevada. (24-4)

3.26 Visual Resources Issues

3.26.1 The viewscape of this expansive, beautiful, and unspoiled area of the U.S. will be negatively impacted by the power plants and pollution they create.

(9-4, 59-2, 60-3, 66-1, 77-1, 102-11, 134-1, 141-1, 194-1, 194-4, 204-4, 297-1, 297-2, 310-2, 316-3, 321-1, 322-6, 322-7, 337-9, 351-8, 374-2)

Issue Summary

Many commenters expressed strong sentiments about the scenic quality of Steptoe Valley and surrounding mountains, citing clean air, a sense of openness and expansive uninterrupted views, undeveloped land, natural beauty, and an extensive viewshed as critical elements of the visual resource. Commenters were concerned that the proposed action will destroy the current character of the viewshed.

Representative Comments

- I can't think of another place where I have traveled a highway down a valley as I have down US 93 in beautiful Steptoe Valley. I wonder if there is any other US highway like it. The open, long uninterrupted valleys, of which Steptoe Valley is representative, are special, unique places on the earth. (59-2)
- The issues I have with the Ely Energy Center are primarily with the alternate location. We purchased our Ranch a few years back because of the unspoiled beauty the area has to offer. We carefully chose an area that we though would retain those

qualities for years to come. Clean air and no sign of development is what initially attracted us to it. Our property is bordered by and located within the Goshute Canyon Wilderness. As we look across the beautiful valley toward the Becky Peak Wilderness we see what the West used to be. The thought of having a power plant right in the middle of that view makes me sick. (77-1)

- Many people choose to live in White Pine County for the region's clean air, phenomenal scenery, and undeveloped landscape. Building coal-fired power plants in eastern Nevada severely diminishes these assets. (194-1)
- The development of a power plant in Steptoe Valley with its large steam towers, buildings, sludge ponds, coal domes and trains will be visible from local valleys, wildernesses, and surrounding mountains. It is inevitable that this will drastically affect the regional view shed. (297-2)
- I just cannot imagine what this nice open valley will look like crisscrossed with power lines and full of steam and smoke. I have included a family photo overlooking the valley with the site of the power plant indicated. This picture illustrates our point of view a lot better than I can. (322-7)
- Visual – this project combined with others would create smoke stacks, tall transmission towers, and additional roads, all of which will change the beauty of the area. (337-9)

3.26.2 The proposed action will contribute to light pollution and the degradation of dark skies, which are considered a valuable resource in this area.

(59-11, 60-4, 60-5, 104-2, 106-7, 204-4, 219-8, 223-120, 297-1, 297-5, 297-6, 297-7, 297-8, 297-9, 300-9, 320-14, 322-9, 326-2, 352-1, 356-7, 359-9, 361-12)

Issue Summary

Many respondents expressed concern for the preservation of the naturally dark and starry night skies of the area. Many commented that light pollution from the plant and associated facilities would greatly impact this "rare and precious asset." Commenters questioned how such light pollution would impact the nightscape for people and nocturnal animals alike.

Representative Comments

- Our dark skies are a rare and precious asset. This area is much valued, visited, and used for observation both recreational and for research purposes. This air quality is prized by daylight as well, and it is unthinkable that the vistas across valleys to the next mountain range could be affected by air pollution (as occurs daily in the Delta, UT area). The EIS needs to demonstrate that our air quality will be protected, by giving realistic assessments of the possible impacts, together with specific plans for ameliorating any degradation of what may be the cleanest air to be found. (219-8)
- A 24 hour coal fired power plant facility - with all of its buildings and infrastructure - would undoubtedly create a significant amount of light all night. For the envious astronomers, or the average campers and backcountry hikers, this facility would be a tragic disgrace to our amazing skies. This is not something that can be mitigated, replaced, or made up for. A coal-fired facility would be an irreversible step towards the washed out and lackluster skies that already cover much of our country. This would be a crime to our future generations, who might never know the beauty of a perfectly dark landscape blanketed with billions of stars. (297-6)

- How will visibility be affected? How much will it be reduced and for how many days each year? How will the power plant affect the ability to see the brilliant night skies currently observable in this area? (326-2)
- Steptoe Valley is a dark sky area that enjoys minimal light pollution. How many lights will be burning all night? I asked this question and the response was “we want to be as invisible as possible.” That did not answer the question. The dark skies add to the quality of life in White Pine County and I am not keen on losing that. (359-9)

3.26.3 The EIS should consider visual impacts to the highly scenic Duck Creek Basin area.

(59-11, 62-2, 298-3, 299-3, 302-3, 330-3, 330-14)

Issue Summary

Several commenters specifically mentioned the high scenic quality of the Duck Creek Basin and adjacent Success Loop scenic area and were concerned by the potential visual impacts to this highly regarded resource.

Representative Comments

- Locating the power plant at the mouth of Duck Creek Basin will dramatically take away from the pristine natural beauty of that area. (62-2)
- A Carbon dioxide belching behemoth will be a disgusting Gateway to the Success Loop Scenic Area. (298-3, 299-3, 302-3)
- The reason I (and increasingly more individuals) enjoy living in Eastern Nevada is due to the scenic splendor and great primitive recreation opportunities that exist here. One of the best places to recreate in the State is the Schell Creek Range and Duck Creek Basin. I go to this area nearly every weekend to ski, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. Many others from Ely and everywhere do the same. It would be a great shame to degrade the recreational and visual resources of this incredible area to build a power plant. According to the power company officials, the only reason they have to place the plant at the Duck Creek Road junction is so that construction workers and employees wouldn’t have to drive so far to work. That is not a good reason to degrade the visual (and ultimately recreational quality) of the High Schells and Duck Creek Basin. (330-14)

3.26.4 Viewsheds of Great Basin National Park and surrounding designated wilderness areas may be adversely impacted by the proposed action.

(60-2, 106-6, 211-2, 216-8, 222-7, 336-5, 348-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters stated that the proposed facilities will adversely affect the existing viewsheds of Great Basin National Park and the various designated wildernesses adjacent to the project area. Commenters discuss the visual significance of the area.

Representative Comments

- What are the potential environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to visibility in the surrounding areas?

Unique characteristics of the geographic areas, such as proximity to parklands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers of ecologically critical areas. Optical transmissometer monitoring often reads in the 120 to 200 mile range, indicating outstanding visibility around the park and in the western Great Basin in general. According to a report by Sisler and Malm ("Spatial and Seasonal Patterns and Temporal Variability of Haze and its Constituents in the Unites States: Report III 2000"): "The highest light extinction (greater than 100 1/Mm) occurs in the eastern United States;…the lowest extinction (less than 20 1/Mm) generally occurs in the inner-mountain west in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau regions. The lowest extinction for the contiguous 48 states is at Bridger Wilderness Area and Great Basin National Park at 12 1/Mm." Visibility degradation results in diminished public enjoyment of natural scenic beauty. Visibility is considered a critical resource for interpretation of themes related to the great Basin, as stated in the park General Management Plan (1988). (60-2)

- Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted. (106-6)
- Visual pollution, including the marring of magnificent vistas visible from Great Basin NP and wilderness areas, resulting from mining, transmission lines, and power plants. (336-5)

3.26.5 General visibility in the area will degrade due to temperature inversions.

(222-1)

- The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. … During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts. (222-1)

3.26.6 Visual baseline data and impacts need to be carefully quantified.

(219-8, 223-74, 292-12, 297-3, 297-7)

Issue Summary

Respondents ask that visual impacts to the area be carefully analyzed and suggest several approaches and metrics of change that should be used in assessing baseline conditions and quantifying potential impacts.

Representative Comments

- For decreased visibility in scenic areas: Please assess the ten highest hourly visibility degradations, the ten highest daily visibility degradations, and the average annual visibility degradation that pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would cause (1) within a ten-mile radius of the facility, (2) in each Class I area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility, and (3) in each Class II area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility. (223-74)

- We request that a thorough analysis be done to identify all areas of recreation, residency and general use that will be visually impacted by the power plant. (297-3)
- We request that th[o]rough measurements of current nighttime sky conditions in Steptoe Valley as well as neighboring valleys be conducted to serve as baseline data for the measurement of future development. (297-7)

3.26.7 Consider adverse visual impacts from proposed transmission lines.

(4-7, 292-5, 349-4, 356-5)

Issue Summary

A few respondents focused specifically on adverse visual impacts from proposed transmission lines.

Representative Comments

- The building of lengthy transmission lines could have a deleterious effect on the wildlife, soils, and visual quality of Eastern Nevada. (4-7)
- Transmission lines – would be unsightly coming down from the Cherry Creek Location, are a constant fire hazard, create noise. (356-5)

3.27 Water Resources Issues

3.27.1 The project could negatively impact water quality.

(46-4, 194-3, 92-2, 141-1, 221-11, 229-3, 229-5, 303-55, 345-5, 217-7)

Issue Summary

Several respondents commented generally that there would be negative impacts to water quality both in the area surrounding the propose EEC and on a regional scale.

Representative Comments

- Will we no longer have our pristine air and water quality we are famous for? Will there be ways which are practical and cost effective, that we can recover damaged air and water quality? Secondary damage to our natural environments requires analysis of recovery measures, too. (345-5)
- The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. (229-5)
- Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to … watersheds, water quality and quantity … and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS. (303-55)

3.27.2 Water use of the proposed EEC could negatively impact surrounding communities.

(53-12, 65-1, 95-2, 102-1, 104-10, 106-3, 194-3, 201-2, 223-155, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 229-5, 230-3, 239-1, 296-5, 296-7, 300-4, 300-6, 303-17, 303-55, 313-25, 320-10, 321-2, 326-6,

342-2, 345-1, 346-12, 347-7, 349-13, 359-2, 359-4, 362-1, 363-1, 365-7, 373-1, 63-4, 223-39, 225-8, 317-10)

Issue Summary

Many commenters expressed concern about the impact the proposed EEC's use of water would have on surrounding communities and ranches. Respondents fear the 16,000 annual acre-feet of water proposed for use by EEC would negatively impact residents of the area financially and environmentally by reducing the amount of water available for current uses including municipal, agricultural, wildlife and vegetation uses.

Respondents requested that the EIS evaluate and disclose the impacts of decreasing water availability on agriculture, ranching, wildlife, rangeland vegetation, drinking water wells, and general quality of life that depends on adequate supplies of clean water. In addition, respondents were concerned about seasonal water use of the proposed plant and requested plans be provided for drought years when less water is available for all users. Respondents requested that mitigation measures be put in place to avoid negative impacts to communities and other current water users.

Many respondents requested that a thorough evaluation of all current water systems and users, as well as the impact of the proposed project, should be conducted before approval of the proposed EEC.

Representative Comments

- The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology. (230-3)
- The range and water that has been used by these folks for generations will be consumed by power generating facilities. (300-4)
- The DEIS should provide information on potentially affected drinking water systems in the project area, as well as the magnitude of the cumulative impacts that may result. The information should include a list of water systems (distinguishing between public water systems regulated under the SDWA and private water systems), distance from the project area, source(s) of water for each system, type of water treatment applied, and population served. The financial and infrastructure impacts to currently existing and future water systems that may be required to find alternate water sources, drill deeper wells, provide additional treatment (due to water quality changes) or other potential impacts should be fully evaluated. (313-25)
- [The EIS] should demonstrate conclusively that the facility will not draw down aquifers in nearby towns such as Ely. (320-10)
- We think it is only fair to inform the local community what would happen in times of drought. Would the water rights secured by the EEC mean that it would receive first opportunity to use the water? (317-10)

3.27.3 The proposed EEC could pollute both surface and groundwater.

(1-1, 60-7, 83-1, 89-2, 104-4, 212-2, 217-7, 219-5, 221-1, 221-11, 222-9, 231-3, 247-1, 291-1, 300-8, 303-27, 320-12, 345-3, 346-3, 348-3, 351-4, 361-6, 361-7, 365-4, 370-2, 376-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that fugitive dust and emissions from the proposed EEC could pollute water sources. Specific sources of pollution mentioned include deposition of

nitrogen, sulfur, mercury, carbon, other heavy metals and fly ash. Commenters requested that the EIS disclose all contaminants that will be released into the air and water and define how wastewater will be disposed of.

Some respondents were concerned about acid rain as a result of EEC operations and potential changes to the pH of surface water. Commenters stated that species dependent on contaminated water sources, including human, plant and animal life, could be negatively impacted.

Representative Comments

- Pollution of the water at every point of operation, including effects on springs, seeps, streams, and lakes, must be anticipated and described in detail. (219-5)
- Is it possible that emissions could change … water … quality, or PH of … water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter … water quality. (222-9)
- Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren't released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply. (300-8)

3.27.4 The EIS should include site-specific analyses of proposed water sources for EEC.

(58-3, 59-8, 701-1, 106-3, 219-5, 223-29, 223-31, 223-41, 223-42, 223-44, 223-156, 300-6, 303-7, 303-27, 305-8, 313-18, 320-11, 315-14, 341-2, 353-2, 362-3)

Issue Summary

Several respondents were concerned about where the proposed water for the project would come from. Some voiced concerns about specific valleys or sites being evaluated as water sources for the propose EEC. Areas mentioned specifically include: Duck Creek, Butte Valley, Steptoe Valley, Lages basin, and the Schell Creek Range.

Commenters requested that all sources of water and proposed amounts to be used by EEC be disclosed and site-specific analysis conducted to determine impacts to agriculture, rangeland vegetation, recharge rate, loss of evapotranspiration, and water levels.

Representative Comments

- All information about water applications, procurement, possible sources, possible impacts on the WP County water supply at various designed modifications. …(219-5)
- My jaw dropped when I examined EEC Map Figure 1 and I saw a water pipeline extending north towards Lages Junction. Just how much water is at this very dry site? (303-7)
- Water mining [could cause] impacts to water levels at Bassett Lake and Duck Creek below Bassett Lake with use of Duck Creek Basin water. (315-14)

3.27.5 The project area does not have the water supply necessary to support EEC operations, and current water rights could be negatively impacted.

(4-5, 13-1, 34-5, 46-2, 60-8, 63-1, 63-4, 95-2, 106-3, 194-3, 219-5, 221-11, 223-36, 223-40, 223-56, 223-57, 223-58, 223-189, 223-190, 226-1, 292-1, 296-5, 303-6, 303-22, 303-55, 312-3, 313-18, 320-11, 330-12, 337-10, 347-7, 348-6, 362-3, 372-2)

Issue Summary

Many respondents felt that the amount of water proposed for use in EEC operations is enormous for the project area. Water in White Pine County is considered a scarce and valuable resource.

Commenters requested the DEIS thoroughly evaluate the quantity proposed and its potential impacts to the water supply and how this would affect potential of future water shortages. Seven respondents were specifically concerned about how the project would impact existing water rights/permits.

In addition, respondents suggested that SPR's process of procuring water for the project should be made public and comply with state law.

Representative Comments

- Our water rights approved by the state of Nevada are threatened by this project. (63-1)
- By the figures in the comment prospectus, at full build-out the Ely Energy Center will use 5.2 billion gallons of water per year. How can the local water table afford such an outflow? Does BLM have groundwater and recharge studies that demonstrate that this amount of outflow is ecologically safe in a county that receives on average less than seven inches of precipitation per year? (292-1)
- Impacts of Growth on Water Supply and Usage – any growth in the area – from all sources, inducing the Ely Energy Center – will require additional water. The long range effects of water usage, and potential future shortages should be evaluated. There may be a more environmentally sound way to use the water currently planned for the Ely Energy Center. (347-7)
- Nevada Power/Sierra Pacific proposes to use the surface water from the impoundment at the Kennecott Ranch. This water flows from National Forest land, from three cache basins permitted by the Forest Service to Kennecott. Once the mine discontinued operation, we allowed the impoundments to continue to stabilize the waste rock. It has now been several years since the water has been stabilizing the waste piles. It has been our intention to remove those cache basins, returning the water to the stream channels, and restore the damaged fisheries and desiccated riparian habitats. If the project uses this water, this opportunity will be lost. (348-6)
- If artesian water is encountered in any well or borehole it shall be controlled as required in NRS 534.060(3). (364-5)
- Another concern is that this power plant will not be a feasible concern after it is built, and the water from northern Nevada will be sold off to Las Vegas. Provisions need to be considered to prevent this from being allowed. (373-2)

3.27.6 The EIS should fully evaluate and disclose the effect of EEC on local and regional aquifers.

(36-1, 65-1, 68-1, 76-5, 102-5, 104-8, 106-3, 223-44, 300-11, 303-15, 303-17, 303-18, 303-22, 303-28, 304-2, 313-18, 320-10, 326-6, 334-3, 337-10, 347-7, 349-12, 359-2, 361-1)

Issue Summary

Many respondents were concerned that the proposed EEC could drain local and regional aquifers. Several commenters suggested that the EIS evaluate effect of the proposed annual drawdown of 16,000 acre-feet on groundwater. The EIS should disclose whether a regenerating flow exists and how quickly aquifers would be drained.

Representative Comments

- I do not support providing water for this project until a definite test has verified that a regenerating flow actually exists. (36-1)
- …There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable… (106-3)
- What demands will be made, regionally, on the aquifers? Please provide detailed mapping and extensive scientific studies of these aquifers. (303-15)
- What is the current extent and volume of all aquifers affected by this? What are the demands on them? (303-17)
- The near-surface groundwater levels, pressure and flow in the valley could be impacted by large-scale, sustained pumping from the regional aquifer. (304-2)

3.27.7 The EIS should disclose and analyze all proposed water consumption for the project.

(36-1, 102-5, 223-45, 223-45, 223-46, 223-47, 223-48, 223-54, 223-59, 223-60, 225-8, 303-17, 303-28, 313-18, 330-3, 341-1, 374-6)

Issue Summary

Some commenters requested detailed analysis be included in the EIS that discusses: a breakdown of use of the 16,000 a-f of water requested, water demand and design on an average and peak day, water need by project component, changes to the period of use for water rights, consideration of changes to perennial yield, and number of wells to be drilled and depth.

Representative Comments

- Please consider the total water consumption for all units of the project including a break down of consumption by all individual uses including, but not limited to, cooling towers, blowdown water, and coal dust pile. (223-45)
- With regard to this last bullet item, we think it is only fair to inform the local community what would happen in times of drought. Would the water rights secured by the EEC mean that it would receive first opportunity to use the water? (225-8)
- The DEIS should estimate the quantity of water the project will require. The DEIS should describe the source of this water and potential effects on other water users and natural resources in the project's area of influence. Assuming groundwater is used, the DEIS should clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and

cumulative impacts to this resource. Specifically, the potentially-affected groundwater basin should be identified and any potential for subsidence and impacts to springs or other open water bodies and biologic resources should be analyzed. (313-18)

- How many wells will be required to supply water needs? How deep will these wells be? (341-1)

3.27.8 The EIS should consider impacts of fugitive dust production due to a lowering of water tables.

(36-1, 221-10, 223-35, 223-82, 223-94)

Issue Summary

Three letters with six comments were received requesting that the EIS consider how drawdown of groundwater resources might affect playas and seasonally wet basins, specifically, would these features dry up and release fugitive dust that would contain salts and metals?

Representative Comments

- Allowing for more ground water pumping will not only make the comparisons to Owens River Valley more of a reality but make it look like a mere footnote. (221-10)
- Please determine the amount of drawdown that will occur beneath any dry lakes and determine whether the decreased capillary flow and exfiltration will cause more particulate air pollution from winds blowing across the dry lakes. (223-35)

3.27.9 Studies and modeling should be conducted to determine and predict project impacts to surface water and ground water recharge.

(4-5, 223-27, 106-3, 223-22, 223-23, 223-24, 223-25, 223-26, 223-28, 223-30, 223-33, 223-34, 223-42, 292-1, 301-3, 303-15, 303-18, 304-5)

Issue Summary

Commenters requested that modeling of drawdown be conducted to predict how water use by the proposed power plants will affect drainage basins, stream, seeps, wells, other water projects, and commerce in the area.

Representative Comments

- The use of 8000 acre feet of water annually is enormous in this arid state, whether it is surface water or ground water. Studies must be conducted to analyze the effects on springs, seeps, and streams, which are so important to all forms of wildlife, before such diversions are permitted. (4-5)
- How can the pumping of potentially 5 billion gallons of water per year, not affect the rangeland and agriculture fields of Steptoe Valley? How can the pumping of 5 billion gallons by Sierra Pacific ... in addition to 8 billion gallons per year by LS Power not affect the drinking water of residents in White Pine County?

  There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable. This means that our springs and wells could dry up devastating our ranching, irrigation. Also, affected could be McGill and Crosstimber's water supply and further down the road Ely's water supply. (106-3)

3.27.10 All wastewater streams discharged from the proposed project during construction and operation needs to be characterized, quantified, and in compliance with federal and state law.

(225-7, 303-27, 313-19, 313-20, 313-22, 313-23, 313-24, 313-33, 317-9)

Issue Summary

Comments received noted that storm water and waste water would be released from the EEC project site. Commenters noted that, according to law, the quantity, frequency, quality, and affects of water release need to be analyzed and quantified. All aspects of the project should be incompliance with the Clean Water Act. The EPA made several specific comments about permitting and compliance standards.

Representative Comments

- Please consider the frequency, extent, and duration of flooding that could occur as a result of surface runoff and determine how that affects the estimated discharge from the groundwater. (223-32)
- What will be done with the water that is used in the cooling process? If it will be discharged into a surface water, how will the effect of the thermal pollution be mitigated? (225-7)
- The DEIS should address the potential effects of project discharges, if any, on surface water quality. Discharges may include, but are not limited to: thermal changes, suspended solids, toxicity, metals, oil and grease, chlorine, salinity, and pH. The specific discharges should be identified and potential effects of discharges on designated beneficial uses of affected waters should be analyzed. The DEIS should note that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for discharges to waters of the United States. The DEIS should address how the proposed project would be designed and operated to ensure that the facility meets Water Quality Standards (WQS) that provide for the protection and maintenance of beneficial uses downstream from the facility. (313-19)

3.27.11 Water quality in Great Basin National Park could be compromised by the proposed EEC.

(90-2, 92-2, 217-7, 351-4, 376-2)

Issue Summary

Commenters expressed concern that water quality would be affected by the proposed power plan due to air emissions and water table changes.

Representative Comments

- This pollution would threaten the air quality at Great Basin National park, Cave Lake State Park, and other natural areas as well as the water quality in the local streams. (351-4)

3.27.12 The EIS should disclose and evaluate the cumulative effects of other proposed projects in the area on water quantity and quality.

(23-3, 60-7, 76-5, 106-3, 217-4, 222-15, 223-36, 373-2, 303-6, 303-18, 303-22, 303-40, 303-55, 330-12, 356-3)

Issue Summary

Respondents were concerned about cumulative effects of this and other proposed projects in the area. Specific projects mentioned included Southern Nevada Water Authority, LS Power proposals, land disposals, and others. Respondents indicated concern over the amount of water and the potential pollution to the water supply if all proposed projects are approved.

Representative Comments

- The draining of the aquifer for the power plant will only exacerbate the inevitable problems caused by the drainage to be performed by Southern Nevada Water Authority and, if permitted, the LS Power proposal for two power plants. How can the pumping of potentially 5 billion gallons of water per year, not affect the rangeland and agriculture fields of Steptoe Valley? How can the pumping of 5 billion gallons by Sierra Pacific, in addition 8 billion gallons per year by LS Power not affect the drinking water of residents in White Pine County? There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable. This means that our springs and wells could dry up devastating our ranching, irrigation. Also, affected could be McGill and Crosstimber's water supply and further down the road Ely's water supply. (106-3)
- Given the number of other proposals that may use the areas ground and surface water, cumulative impacts to vegetation, soil and potential effects from water table drop need to be addressed. (222-15)
- …Please conduct detailed studies to provide a comprehensive baseline of information so that all impacts of the EEC, White Pine Energy Center, Las Vegas de-watering pipelines, and other likely drains on the water supply can be fully understood. (303-18)
- The EEC plant will consume too much water, especially when considered cumulatively with the LS Power proposal and the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] groundwater proposal. This water should be available for wildlife, ranchers, and recreationists. (330-12)

3.27.13 Surface water inventory, including springs/seeps, should be conducted.

(223-35, 313-21, 369-1, 369-3)

Issue Summary

Commenters wanted to see a complete inventory of surface water resources so that pontential impacts can be predicted.

Representative Comments

- BLM must conduct a full inventory and assessment of the location, condition and characteristics of all spring, seep and wet meadow areas, including historically wetted sites. (369-1)

3.27.14 Proposed groundwater pumping for EEC needs could cause surface water bodies to dry up, which would negatively impact wildlife, vegetation/rangeland, and special status species.

(1-3, 4-5, 53-12, 65-1, 70-1, 76-5, 95-2, 102-6, 104-9, 106-3, 216-9, 219-5, 223-94, 223-155, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 229-5, 292-1, 296-7, 300-11, 303-22, 303-28, 313-18, 313-33, 314-10, 315-10, 315-11, 320-9, 326-6, 329-1, 334-3, 336-3, 349-12, 359-2, 361-3, 365-6, 369-10, 369-14, 373-1, 376-2)

Issue Summary

Several respondents were concerned about the potential for surface water bodies to dry up. Commenters predicted that groundwater pumping for EEC could potentially dry up springs and other surface water bodies, eliminating important water sources for wildlife in a region with very little available surface water. Many felt that potential impacts to wildlife due to less available water should be analyzed in the EIS.

Other respondents expressed concern over potential negative impacts to vegetation, such as population decline, from dried up surface water sources. Some suggested conducting existing vegetation surveys. Others feel mitigation measures should be implemented to reduce or eliminate negative impacts to vegetation due to dried up springs.

Respondents also expressed concern over the loss of important water sources for special status species, including Bonneville cutthroat trout and migratory waterfowl.

Representative Comments

- Studies must be conducted to analyze the effects on springs, seeps, and streams, which are so important to all forms of wildlife, before such diversions are permitted. (4-5)
- Is the amount [of water] proposed [for project use] really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife? (104-9)
- Water mining [could cause] impacts to native fish and invertebrates due to draw down of valley aquifers. (315-10)
- How will the use of ground water by this project affect the quantity and quality of spring flows in the region? If the project has the potential to affect perennial spring sources, what mitigation will be offered to minimize expected impacts to existing users, including endemic species that may be afforded protection under federal and/or state law? (296-7)

3.28 Wildlife Issues

3.28.1 The construction of the EEC power plants and associated infrastructure will fragment habitat and increase wildlife mortality.

(4-7, 76-1, 102-10, 104-12, 104-14, 194-3, 204-5, 223-94, 223-120, 223-158, 223-159, 223-160, 223-163, 300-2, 303-44, 303-56, 313-33, 314-6, 315-2, 315-3, 315-4, 315-5, 315-12, 315-13, 315-15, 315-17, 315-18, 315-19, 315-20, 315-21, 373-4)

Issue Summary

Respondents expressed concern about habitat fragmentation due to construction of the power plants themselves, roads, railroads, pipelines and power lines. Concern was also expressed that wildlife mortality would increase. Noted mortality sources for birds were those due to collisions with transmission lines, electrocution, and by landing on chemical-laden cooling ponds; and big game and non-game mortality caused by collisions with heavy equipment at the mines and with increasing numbers of vehicles on area roadways.

Representative Comments

- How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas? (104-12)
- Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread. (194-4)
- Please include measures to keep wildlife away from waste ponds, disposal sites, other relevant plant operation facilities, and throughout all project construction activities. (223-158)
- Transmission line development [could cause] fragmentation of wildlife habitat due to structure development (towers/transmission lines). (315-15)
- Transmission line development [could cause] increased opportunities for predation of wildlife species throughout the year by avian predators with use of developed facilities. (315-17)
- Rail line development [could cause] disruption in big game movement patterns. (315-18)

3.28.2 Air emissions and waste water discharges will release chemicals into the environment, water sources, and habitats critical to wildlife's survival.

(89-3, 186-13, 222-9, 223-72, 223-95, 292-2, 313-33, 322-11, 326-3, 348-3, 365-4)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that wastewater and air emissions from the proposed power plants would contain sulfur, mercury, and heavy metals that are known to be hazardous to plants and animals. Commenters asked that the effects of these releases on both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, their habitats, and food sources be measured, quantified, and mitigated.

Representative Comments

- In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have

detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters. (186-13)

- Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertabrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality. (222-9)
- Please consider the metal uptake by plants from emissions from the plant, specifically B, F, As, and Se. Please consider the translocation to mammals. (223-95)
- Explain whether any ponded water associated with the project has the potential to attract wildlife, particularly migratory waterfowl. If there is potential for exposure of wildlife to contaminants in these waters, identify mitigation measures to avoid such impacts. (313-33)
- Research by a University of Florida animal scientist states that sulfur pollution from fossil fuel burning plants contaminates surface water and forages. This sulfur contamination binds copper and selenium and renders them indigestible for grazing herbivores and does it strongly. Copper and selenium are two essential minerals in reproduction and the immune systems of cattle, sheep, antelope, elk, deer, wild horses, and any other grazing animal. (322-11)

3.28.3 The large quantities of water required to run the power plants will decrease ground and surface water flows and availability.

(76-5, 95-2, 102-10, 104-5, 106-4, 219-6, 223-38, 223-155, 223-61, 229-5, 314-10, 315-10, 315-11, 326-3, 329-1, 345-3, 359-2, 361-7, 362-2, 369-11, 369-12, 369-16)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that water is a vital resource in the arid west, and that the water required to operate the power plants would cause drawdown of ground and surface water supplies, subsequently drying or limiting flows to seeps, springs, wells, and wetlands. These changes would negatively affect terrestrial species as well as aquatic species, including several candidates for Threatened status, such as the Bonneville cutthroat trout or Lahontan trout.

Another concern listed was fragmentation of wetland habitats that avian and aquatic species rely on, and isolation of wildlife from water sources due to road and rail development.

Representative Comments

- What impact will this have on ground water? What conflicts could occur with the SNWA water request? Springs will probably be impacted and cause harm to wildlife. (76-5)
- Please also go beyond determining the effects of development on flows, fluxes and water levels to translating these effects into declines to the biotic components in the environment. (223-38)
- We note the presence of wetlands along much of the proposed power line corridor routes in White Pine County. Impacts to wetland habitat in association with the proposed projects could negatively affect a variety of species including migratory

birds and sage-grouse. Effects could include fragmentation and/or removal of wetland habitat. (314-10)

- Aquatic species that should especially be analyzed for effects would include the Bonneville cutthroat trout (petitioned for threatened status, least chub (petitioned for endangered status), Lahontan cutthroat (threatened), spotted frog, spring snail, associated sensitive and rare non-game fishes and macro-invertebrates. (361-4)

3.28.4 The construction and operation of the power plants will cause direct habitat loss and changes in habitat quality due the emissions released.

(76-1, 313-34, 320-9, 321-3, 322-4, 339-1, 348-6, 374-2, 377-3, 351-2, 359-11, 365-6)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned about habitat loss due to fragmentation from roads and railroads, and direct habitat loss where the power plants and infrastructure are located. Also noted were potential decreases in habitat quality due to chemical degradation of forage and browse downwind of the plants due to acid deposition from air emissions. The U.S. Forest Service and a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation member were concerned that proposed habitat improvements on public lands would not be possible due to declines in surface water flows caused by water use at the power plants. Commenters requested that wildlife habitats be identified and a plan developed to minimize the impacts of habitat loss.

Representative Comments

- The DEIS should identify wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas that could be affected by the project. If applicable, the DEIS should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modifications of habitat and plant/animal species composition, and include a detailed mitigation plan. (313-14)
- In reading the local newspaper it looks like the water for this project is going to come from the Duck Creek pipeline. My involvement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has informed me of a proposal to improve Deer/Elk and Waterfowl Habitat at Bassett Lake. This includes the possibility of increasing the size of Bassett Lake. Increasing the Lake's size means more water. Does this project make this habitat improvement proposal unfeasible? (321-3)
- Nevada Power/Sierra Pacific proposes to use the surface water from the impoundment at the Kennecott Ranch. This water flows from National Forest land, from three cache basins permitted by the Forest Service to Kennecott. Once the mine discontinued operation, we allowed the impoundments to continue to stabilize the waste rock. It has now been several years since the water has been stabilizing the waste piles. It has been our intention to remove those cache basins, returning the water to the stream channels, and restore the damaged fisheries and desiccated riparian habitats. If the project uses this water, this opportunity will be lost. (348-6)
- I am concerned about the loss of wildlife habitat. Currently, the area outside of McGill is prime antelope grazing (and watching). Taking 3,000 acres of the land they have been grazing for hundreds of years will cause a significant disruption to our wildlife. (359-11)

3.28.5 The construction and operation of the Ely Energy Center and its associated transmission lines, rail line, and road system will be detrimental to wildlife.

(42-3, 34-4, 46-4, 48-1, 58-2, 63-3, 63-6, 91-2, 186-10, 194-3, 217-7, 219-7, 223-115, 226-1, 227-1, 228-1, 292-1, 303-12, 303-33, 303-34, 303-52, 303-55, 303-57, 303-58, 306-1, 312-5, 315-6, 315-8, 319-6, 326-7, 334-2, 334-4, 356-4)

Issue Summary

Numerous people made general negative comments and voiced general concern about the potential effects of the power plants and their infrastructure on wildlife and their habitats. Most comments were questions, asking the BLM to identify and quantify the effects to wildlife from construction and operation of the plants and their infrastructure. Commenters requested that the EIS provide more specific information about every facet of wildlife, their habitats, and their water supplies.

Representative Comments

- Our vegetation and wildlife will be harmed. (48-1)
- Have the impacts upon the surrounding ecosystems and large game animals been adequately addressed and will SPR be required to work with the local community to prevent any negative impacts? (186-10)
- What will be the effects of additional infrastructure to the area? How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas? Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors? Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals? (326-7)
- WWP has been very involved in grazing issues in this region, and we are gravely concerned at BLM's failure to fully reveal what is foreseeable here, including amid important sage grouse, raptor and other wildlife habitats. (393-12)

3.28.6 The effects of the EEC on Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, and Candidate (TESC) species must be studied and potential impacts predicted and mitigated.

(303-33, 303-35, 303-37, 361-4 365-5)

Issue Summary

Commenters were concerned that TESC species would be adversely impacted by the proposed project, and asked that the habitat needs, population trends over time, and effects of development be measured, analyzed and quantified. Commenters requested that mitigation plans be developed to prevent population declines or extirpation of these species.

Representative Comments

- What are the different populations, their trends over time, their likelihood of decline or extinction—of all important and sensitive species affected by this proposal? (303-35)
- Aquatic species that should especially be analyzed for effects would include the Bonneville cutthroat trout (petitioned for threatened status), least chub (petitioned for endangered status), Lahontan cutthroat (threatened), spotted frog, spring snail,

associated sensitive and rare non-game fishes and macro-invertebrates. (361-4)

3.28.7 The power plants and their impacts to land, air, and water resources will impact the popular and economically important area pastimes of wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing.

(300-2, 321-2, 326-3, 332-3)

Issue Summary

Commenters noted that hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing are popular activities in eastern Nevada, and are integral to the culture and the economic vitality of the area. These commenters expressed concern that the construction and operation of the power plants would negatively impact these popular and locally lucrative activities.

Representative Comments

- The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center. (321-2)
- What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists. (326-3)
- Wildlife is an integral part of the high quality of life experienced by hunters, nature enthusiasts, tourists and other visitors to White Pine County and everyday residents. (332-3)

Chapter 4 - Future Public Involvement

4.1 Continuing Opportunities for Public Involvement

Public comments will be solicited on the Draft EIS. A notice of availability will be sent to all those that provided comment during public scoping or who requested that they be kept informed of the process.

4.2 Contact Information

Contact regarding the proposed action and issues related to the EIS should be made in one of the following ways:

Mail

Doris Metcalf

Bureau of Land Management

Ely Field Office

HC 33 Box 33500

Ely, Nevada 89301

Visit

Ely Field Office

702 North Industrial Way

Ely, Nevada

Phone

775-289-1852

Fax

775-289-1910

E-mail

doris_metcalf@nv.blm.gov

APPENDIX A

Notice of Intent
Legal Notice
Scoping Letter & Enclosures
Scoping Postcard
Scoping Meeting Handouts
Scoping Meeting Posters
Website Content

NOTICE OF INTENT

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: January 23, 2007.

Ross O. Swimmer,

Special Trustee for American Indians.

[FR Doc. E7–1217 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–2W–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–040–07–5101–ER–F164; N–82076]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Coal-Fired Electric Power Plant, 250 Miles of High Voltage Transmission Line With Fiber Optic Cable, Approximately 100 Miles of New Rail Line, Substations, Water Well-Fields and Pipeline Delivery Systems, and Associated Facilities in Portions of White Pine, Lincoln, Nye, Elko, and Clark Counties, NV, and Notice of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Initiate Public Scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely, Elko, and Las Vegas Field Offices, will be directing the preparation of an EIS and conducting public scoping meetings for a proposed Ely Energy Center (EEC), rail line, 345 kV and 500 kV transmission lines with fiber optic capacity, substations, water delivery, and associated facilities.

Comment Dates: The comment period for scoping the EIS will commence with the publication of this notice. Those having concerns, issues, or alternatives they would like to see addressed in the EIS should respond with written comments by February 26, 2007. This scoping notice will be distributed by mail on or about the date of this notice. All comments received at the public scoping meetings or through written comments submitted will aid the BLM in identifying alternatives and mitigating measures and will help assure all issues are analyzed in the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Comments and issues related to the proposed EIS should be mailed to Ann Perkins, Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301. Information and a copy of this NOI can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301, visiting the Ely Field Office at 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301, or by contacting or visiting either the Las Vegas Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130 or the Elko office at 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Perkins at (775) 289–1850, e-mail *Ann_Perkins@nv.blm.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the potential impacts of initially granting rights-of-way (ROW) and subsequent conveyance for a proposed power-generating facility and granting a ROW for proposed rail lines, transmission lines with fiber optic cable, substations, water well-fields and pipeline delivery systems, and associated facilities in White Pine County, Lincoln, Nye, Elko, and Clark counties, Nevada.

The proposed project includes the EEC and additions to the Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific transmission systems. The EEC would consist of two 750 megawatt (MW) coal-fired generating units in Phase I; a future Phase II includes two 500 MW integrated gasification combined-cycle generating units (or another efficient technology option) and other related facilities, e.g., a rail loop, coal unloading, handling, and storage facilities, a solid waste disposal facility, water storage and treatment facilities, evaporation pond, cooling towers, electric switchyards and substations, and support buildings. Water requirements include well fields and pumping facilities, water pipeline(s) and related facilities in Steptoe, Butte, and Jakes Valleys, rail spurs, and access roads. The well fields would require power and relay communication connections.

The EIS will address whether to use the Nevada Northern Rail for coal delivery or, as an alternative, whether to build a new rail approximately 100 miles from Steptoe Valley to Shafter, Nevada.

The electric transmission facilities would include up to two high voltage (500 kV) transmission lines interconnecting the electric transmission systems of Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (between the proposed EEC and the existing Harry Allen substation in Clark County [Apex Valley] northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada). Each transmission alternative accommodates an interconnection of the 500-kV system to the existing 345-kV transmission system along the existing Falcon-Gonder corridor. The proposed project will include a new substation located adjacent to the plant, a new substation constructed at Robinson Summit, and expansion of the existing Harry Allen substation in Clark County.

The proposed EEC would be located in the eastern part of Nevada in White Pine County. Two potential power plant sites, South Steptoe Valley (SSV) and the North Steptoe Valley (NSV), have been identified for this project. Both proposed power plant sites would be accessible via an access road from Highway 93. The water wells, water pipeline, and related facilities would be located in mostly flat terrain within Steptoe, Butte, and Jakes Valleys. The rail spurs would be located on mostly flat terrain between the power plant site and either the existing Nevada Northern Railway rail line in Steptoe Valley or the alternate 100 mile rail line interconnecting the Union Pacific rail at Shafter. The electric transmission line ROWs would extend from the proposed new generation site in Steptoe Valley to intersect the existing Falcon-Gonder line. The 500 kV power lines may interconnect at a proposed new substation east of Robinson summit (described further below). The proposed line will intersect the previously federally-designated Southwest Intertie Project utility corridor, and will extend to the Harry Allen Substation in northeast Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.

The existing Harry Allen Substation would be expanded by approximately 40 acres. The existing ROW grant would be amended to accommodate the new substation facilities associated with the interconnection of the proposed two 500 kV lines. A proposed new substation approximately 55 acres in size may be constructed near Highway 50 west of Robinson Summit. Approximately 1/2 mile of new electric transmission line ROW would be needed to loop the existing Falcon-Gonder 345 kV electric transmission line into the Robinson Summit substation. A third new substation would require approximately 80 acres for a new ROW to accommodate the equipment to interconnect the 500 kV and 345 kV systems. This new substation would be located adjacent to the plant site.

The proposed power plant development area and ancillary facilities would encompass approximately 3,000 acres, of which approximately 1,000 acres would be required for a landfill for the combustion by-products and material collected by the pollution control equipment. Conveyance of approximately 2,500 acres via direct sale to Sierra Pacific/Nevada Power is proposed. The remaining 500 acres of the total 3,000-acre plant site will consist of a substation and other ancillary facilities; the 500 acres may be authorized by a Federal Lands Policy Management Act ROW. A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the BLM, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301, or the Elko office at 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, or the Las Vegas Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130. Lands involved in this project may include but are not limited to the following legal descriptions:

MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, WHITE PINE, LINCOLN, NYE, ELKO, AND CLARK COUNTIES, NEVADA

Power Plant Site (SSV)	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 & 30.
& Access Road (SSV)	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Section 21.
Rail Spur (SSV)	T. 35 N., R. 67 E., Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 34 N., R. 67 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 33 N., R. 67 E., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30 & 31.
	T. 33 N., R. 66 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 32 N., R. 67 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19 & 30.
	T. 32 N., R. 66 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 31 N., R. 66 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34, & 35.
	T. 30 N., R. 66 E., Sections 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 30 N., R. 65 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 29 N., R. 66 E., Section 6.
	T. 29 N., R. 65 E., Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 28 N., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 28 N., R. 64 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 27 N., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, & 32.
	T. 27 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 12 & 13.
	T. 26 N., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 25 N., R. 65 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 & 31.
	T. 25 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 33 & 34.
	T. 23 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 22 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 21 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 31, 32 & 33.
	T. 20 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 & 34.
	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 & 34.
Rail Spur (SSV)—Alternative	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 17 & 18.
	T. 19 N., R. 63 E., Section 13.
Power Plant Site (NSV)	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23.
& Access Road (NSV)	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 14 & 23.
Rail Spur (NSV)	T. 35 N., R. 67 E., Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 34 N., R. 67 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 33 N., R. 67 E., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30 & 31.
	T. 33 N., R. 66 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 32 N., R. 67 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19 & 30.
	T. 32 N., R. 66 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 31 N., R. 66 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34, & 35.
	T. 30 N., R. 66 E., Sections 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 30 N., R. 65 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 29 N., R. 66 E., Section 6.
	T. 29 N., R. 65 E., Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, 33 & 34.

MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, WHITE PINE, LINCOLN, NYE, ELKO, AND CLARK COUNTIES, NEVADA—Continued

	T. 28 N., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 28 N., R. 64 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 27 N., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, & 32.
	T. 27 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 12 & 13.
	T. 26 N., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 25 N., R. 65 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 & 31.
	T. 25 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 15 & 16.
Rail Spur (NSV)—Alternative	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 7, 16, 17 & 18.
	T. 24 N., R. 63 E., Sections 12 & 13.
Transmission Line (Segment 1)	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 19, 20, 21 & 22.
	T. 24 N., R. 63 E., Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 & 35.
	T. 23 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 26, 27, 34 & 35.
	T. 22 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 26 & 35.
	T. 21 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 11, 14, 23, 26, 27, 33, 34 & 35.
	T. 20 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18.
	T. 20 N., R. 62 E., Sections 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32 & 33.
	T. 19 N., R. 62 E., Sections 5, 6 & 7.
	T. 19 N., R. 61 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 33.
	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19 & 20.
Transmission Line (Segment 2)	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 19 & 20.
Transmission Line (Segment 3)	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 19, 20, 29 & 30.
	T. 19 N., R. 63 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 18 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 17 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 11 & 14.
Transmission Line (Segment 4)	T. 18 N., R. 62 E., Sections 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 & 35.
	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29.
	T. 17 N., R. 63 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17.
	T. 17 N., R. 62 E., Sections 1, 2, 3 & 12.
Transmission Line (Segment 5)	T. 17 N., R. 64 E., Sections 17 & 18.
	T. 17 N., R. 63 E., Sections 11, 13 & 14.
Transmission Line (Segment 6)	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 17 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 16 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 15 N., R. 61 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 & 34.
	T. 14 N., R. 61 E., Sections 3, 4, 9 16, 17, 20, 21, 29, 31 & 32.
	T. 13 N., R. 61 E., Sections 6 & 7.
	T. 13 N., R. 60 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 26, 27 & 34.
	T. 12 N., R. 60 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34 & 35.
	T. 11 N., R. 60 E., Sections 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 10 N., R. 60 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34 & 35.
	T. 9 N., R. 60 E., Sections 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28 & 33.
	T. 8 N., R. 60 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 & 34.
	T. 7 N., R. 60 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 16, 21, 28 & 33.
	T. 6 N., R. 60 E., Sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 28 & 33.
	T. 5 N., R. 63 E., Sections 31 & 32.
	T. 5 N., R. 62 E., Sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36.
	T. 5 N., R. 61 E., Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27.
	T. 5 N., R. 60 E., Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 & 24.
	T. 4 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 & 12.
	T. 4 N., R. 62 E., Section 1.
Transmission Line (Segment 7)	T. 17 N., R. 64 E., Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 16 N., R. 64 E., Sections 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 15 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25 & 36.
	T. 14 N., R. 65 E., Sections 18, 19, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 14 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 24 & 25.
	T. 13 N., R. 66 E., Sections 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 13 N., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 24.
	T. 12 N., R. 66 E., Sections 3, 4, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 & 34.
	T. 11 N., R. 66 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 29, 31 & 32.
	T. 10 N., R. 66 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 9 N., R. 66 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30 & 31.
	T. 8 N., R. 66 E., Sections 6, 7, 18 & 19.
	T. 8 N., R. 65 E., Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34 & 35.
	T. 7 N., R. 65 E., Sections 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30 & 31.
	T. 7 N., R. 64 E., Sections 25 & 36.
	T. 6 N., R. 65 E., Section 6.
	T. 6 N., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 26, 34 & 35.

MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, WHITE PINE, LINCOLN, NYE, ELKO, AND CLARK COUNTIES, NEVADA—Continued

	T. 5 N., R. 64 E., Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 4 N., R. 64 E., Sections 6 & 7.
	T. 4 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1 & 12.
Transmission Line (Segment 8)	T. 4 N, R. 64 E., Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 4 N., R. 63 E., Section 12.
	T. 3 N., R. 65 E., Section 31.
	T. 3 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 36.
	T. 2 N., R. 65 E., Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 2 N., R. 64 E., Section 1.
	T. 1 N., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30 & 32.
	T. 6 S., R. 64 E., Sections 6 & 7.
	T. 6 S., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 34 & 35.
	T. 5 S., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 29, 30 & 31.
	T. 5 S., R. 63 E., Section 36.
	T. 4 S., R. 64 E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32 & 33.
	T. 3 S., R. 65 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 & 19.
	T. 3 S., R. 64 E., Sections 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 2 S., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 31 & 32.
	T. 1 S., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
Transmission Line (Segment 9)	T. 11 S., R. 62 E., Sections 1, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25 & 26.
	T. 10 S., R. 62 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 9 S., R. 62 E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 26 & 35.
	T. 8 S., R. 63 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 18 & 19.
	T. 8 S., R. 62 E., Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34 & 35.
	T. 7 S., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 28, 29 32 & 33.
	T. 6 S., R. 63 E., Sections 34 & 35.
Transmission Line (Segment 10)	T. 11 S., R. 64 E., Sections 5, 6 & 7.
	T. 11 S., R. 63 E., Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 & 21.
	T. 11 S., R. 62 E., Section 24.
	T. 10 S., R. 65 E., Section 6.
	T. 10 S., R. 64 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 32 & 33.
	T. 9 S., R. 65 E., Sections 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31 & 32.
	T. 8 S., R. 65 E., Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 21, 28 & 33.
	T. 7 S., R. 65 E., Sections 31 & 32.
	T. 7 S., R. 64 E., Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 & 36.
	T. 7 S., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 2 & 12.
	T. 6 S., R. 63 E., Section 35.
Transmission Line (Segment 11)	T. 17 S., R. 64 E., Sections 7, 18 & 19.
	T. 17 S., R. 63 E., Sections 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 16 S., R. 63 E., Sections 3, 10, 14, 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 35 & 36.
	T. 15 S., R. 63 E., Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 27 & 34.
	T. 14 S., R. 63 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27 & 34.
	T. 13 S., R. 63 E., Sections 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 33 & 34.
	T. 13.2 S., R. 63 E., Sections 33 & 34.
	T. 12 S., R. 63 E., Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 12 S., R. 62 E., Section 1.
	T. 11 S., R. 63 E., Section 31.
	T. 11 S., R. 62 E., Sections 24, 25, 26 & 36.
Electric Substations	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Section 22.
	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 20, 21, 28 & 29.
	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Section 18, 19, & 20.
	T.17 S., R. 63 E., Sections 25,35 & 36 (Harry Allen).
& Access Roads	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 22 & 23.
	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Section 27, 28 & 29.
	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 18 & 19.
Well Field and/or Water Supply Pipeline (SSV)	T. 21 N., R. 61 E., Sections 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 20 N., R. 62 E., Sections 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 20 N., R. 61 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 24 & 25.
	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 19 & 20.
	T. 19 N., R. 63 E., Sections 24, 25 & 36.
	T. 19 N., R. 62 E., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 34.
	T. 19 N., R. 61 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 32 & 33.
	T. 18 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 30, 31, 35 & 36.
	T. 18 N., R. 62 E., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25 & 36.
	T. 18 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 & 20.
	T. 18 N., R. 60 E., Sections 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24.
	T. 17 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10.
	T. 17 N., R. 61 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 & 31.
	T. 16 N., R. 61 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 & 32.

MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, WHITE PINE, LINCOLN, NYE, ELKO, AND CLARK COUNTIES, NEVADA—Continued

	T. 15 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7 & 8.
	T. 15 N., R. 60 E., Sections 12, 13 & 14.
Well Field and/or Water Supply Pipeline (SSV)—Alternative 1	T. 21 N., R. 61 E., Sections 31 & 32.
	T. 20 N., R. 63 E., Sections 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 35 & 36.
	T. 20 N., R. 62 E., Sections 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 & 30.
	T. 20 N., R. 61 E., Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 & 24.
	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 7, 8, 17 & 18.
	T. 19 N., R. 63 E., Sections 1, 12 & 13.
Well Field and/or Water Supply Pipeline (SSV)—Alternative 2	T. 19 N., R. 64 E., Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26.
Well Field and/or Water Supply Pipeline (NSV)	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 19, 20 & 21.
	T. 24 N., R. 63 E., Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 & 35.
	T. 23 N., R. 63 E., Sections 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22.
	T. 23 N., R. 62 E., Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 27 & 34.
	T. 22 N., R. 62 E., Sections 3, 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 29, 31 & 32.
	T. 21 N., R. 62 E., Section 6.
	T. 21 N., R. 61 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33 & 34.
	T. 20 N., R. 62 E., Sections 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 20 N., R. 61 E., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 24 & 25.
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	T. 18 N., R. 60 E., Sections 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24.
	T. 17 N., R. 61 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 30 & 31.
	T. 16 N., R. 61 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 & 32.
	T. 15 N., R. 61 E., Sections 5, 6, 7 & 8.
	T. 15 N., R. 60 E., Sections 12, 13 & 14.
Well Field and/or Water Supply Pipeline (NSV)—Alternative 1	T. 24 N., R. 64 E., Sections 22, 23, 27, 33 & 34.
	T. 23 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 28 & 33.
	T. 22 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29 & 33.
	T. 21 N., R. 64 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, 20, 29 & 32.
	T. 20 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 27 & 34.
	T. 20 N., R. 64 E., Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26.

Public Scoping Meetings: Public scoping meetings are planned at four locations. The meetings will provide the public an opportunity to present comments or issues that will be addressed in the EIS. The meetings will be held in an ''open house format'' beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. Dates and locations for the public scoping meetings and will be provided through press releases.

Public Input Requested: Comments concerning the Proposed Action and EIS should address issues to be considered, feasible alternatives to examine, possible mitigation, and information relevant to or having a bearing on the Proposed Action.

Dated: January 18, 2007.

John F. Ruhs,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. E7–1175 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID–200–1120–PH]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of February Resource Advisory Council Meeting to be Held in Twin Falls District, Idaho.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intent to hold a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting in the Twin Falls District of Idaho on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. The meeting will be held at the Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Boulevard, in Twin Falls, Idaho.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council consists of the standard fifteen members residing throughout south central Idaho. Meeting agenda items will include updates on the Jarbidge Field Office RMP effort, recreation fee efforts in partnership with the Forest Service and more.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sky Buffat, Twin Falls District, Idaho, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352, (208) 732–7307.

Dated: January 18, 2007.

Howard Hedrick,

Twin Falls District Manager.

[FR Doc. E7–1223 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–GG–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[(NM–921–1310–07); (NMNM 108883)]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NMNM 108883

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reinstatement of terminated oil and gas lease.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2–3(a) and (b)(1), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease NMNM 108883 from the lessee, Coulthurst Management & Investment, Inc., for lands in Sandoval County, New Mexico. The petition was filed on time

LEGAL NOTICE

BLM sets EIS scoping meetings for Ely Energy Center

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Ely Energy Center, a coal-fired power-generating facility.

The BLM has scheduled five public scoping meetings in Nevada, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a presentation scheduled at 6 p.m. Dates and locations are: Monday, Feb. 5, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas; Tuesday, Feb. 6, Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Road, Alamo; Wednesday, Feb. 7, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 6th Street, Ely; Thursday, Feb. 8, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko; and Friday, Feb. 9, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno

The EIS will evaluate any potential impacts that two 750 megawatt (MW) coal-fired generating units, two 500 MW integrated gasification combined-cycle generating units, and other related facilities would have on human, natural and cultural resources, as well as determine what measures would be necessary to mitigate or reduce any impacts. Related facilities include, and are not limited to, a rail loop and possible new rail line, coal unloading, handling and storage facilities, a solid waste disposal facility, water storage, pipelines and treatment facilities, an evaporation pond, cooling towers, electric switchyard and substation, and support buildings. The plant and facilities would be located on 2,500 acres of public land about 30-35 miles north of Ely in White Pine County which would be sold to the proponent. Ancillary facilities would include wells, water pipeline(s) and related facilities in Steptoe, Butte, and Jakes valleys, a rail spur, and access roads.

The EIS will assess the potential impacts of granting the rights-of-way (ROW), granting a conveyance, or issuing a commercial lease for a proposed power-generating facility and granting a ROW for the proposed transmission line, substation and associated facilities in White Pine County, Lincoln, Nye, and Clark counties in Nevada.

The project would also include up to two high voltage (500-kV) transmission lines interconnecting the electric transmission systems of Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power, (between the proposed EEC and the existing Harry Allen substation in Clark County (Apex Valley) northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada) and accommodations for an interconnection of the 500-kV system to the existing 345-kV transmission system along the existing Falcon–Gonder corridor.

The proposed system may include a new substation constructed at Robinson Summit, near Ely, expansion of the existing Harry Allen substation in Clark County, and possible expansion of the Gonder substation in White Pine County.

The formal public scoping period concludes at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, 2007. Interested individuals should address all written comments to the Assistant Field Manager for Nonrenewable Resources, BLM Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ely Energy Center, a coal-fired power-generating facility.

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts that two 750 megawatt (MW) coal-fired generating units, two 500 MW integrated gasification combined-cycle generating units, and other related facilities would have on human, natural, and cultural resources, as well as determine what measures would be necessary to mitigate or reduce any impacts.

Related facilities include, and are not limited to: electric transmission lines and switchyards or substations, communications lines, water supplies and pipelines, rail lead from a rehabilitated existing rail line, coal handling facilities, heat exchangers and cooling towers, water ponds, support yards, access roads, and buildings. Various project alternatives will also be considered.

The BLM has scheduled five public scoping meetings in Nevada, to be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a presentation scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Dates and locations are:

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10 Airport Road, Alamo

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Bristlecone Convention Center
150 6th Street, Ely

Thursday, February 8, 2007
BLM Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street, Elko

Friday, February 9, 2007
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno

For more information, contact Project Manager Joe Iacardine, at (801) 539-

01-26-'07 11:35 FROM- T-098 P.002/002 F-639

REC'D FEB 26 2007

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

I, **Corinne Copelan**, Publisher of the
High Desert ADVOCATE, published weekly
at West Wendover, Nevada, do solemnly swear
that the Notice:

" PUBLIC NOTICE...
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an Environmental Inpact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ely Energy center, a coal-fired power-generating facility. ...The EIS will evaluate potential impacts... ...Monday, February 5, 2007BLM Las Vegas Field Office... ... ...Wednesday, February 7, 2007 Bristlecone Convention Center 150 6th Street, Ely... ...February 9, 2007, 2007 ..."

as per clipping attached, was published

January 25 , 2007

in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper,
not in supplement thereof , for
one (1) consecutive week(s)
commencing with the issue date **1/25/07**
and ending with the issue date **1/25/07.**

Sign

Corinne Copelan

Personally appeared before me and sworn to me
this 16th day February **, 2007.**

C. Clymens

Notary Public
In West Wendover,
Elko County,
Nevada.

C. CLYMENS
Notary Public State of Nevada
No. 04-90193-6
My appt. exp. May 19, 2008

Proof of Publication.
High Desert Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

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3900 East Idaho Street, Elko

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BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno

For more information, contact Project Manager Joe Incardine, at (801) 539-4118 or at Joe_Incardine@blm.gov.

RENO NEWSPAPERS INC
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. Jenni Price Mahoney
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. Sandy Utah 84093

1 to keep & 1 to APPROVE TW

STATE OF NEVADA
COUNTY OF WASHOE

ss: Julia Ketcham

Being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That as the legal clerk of the RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL, a daily newspaper published in Reno, Washoe County, State of Nevada, that the notice:

BLM notice

has published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper on the following dates to wit:
Jan. 26, 2007

Signed: Julia Ketcham

FEB 1 2007

Tana Ciccotti
Notary Public

TANA CICCOTTI
Notary Public - State of Nevada
Appointment Recorded in Washoe County
No: 02-75259-2 - Expires May 16, 2010

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ely Energy Center, a coal-fired power-generating facility.

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts that two 750 megawatt (MW) coal-fired generating units, two 500 MW integrated gasification combined-cycle generating units, and other related facilities would have on human, natural, and cultural resources, as well as determine what measures would be necessary to mitigate or reduce any impacts.

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Friday, February 9, 2007
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno

For more information, contact Project Manager Joe Incardine, at (801) 539-4118 or at Joe_Incardine@blm.gov.

0000193252

APPROVAL

Client Name: _____

Project #: _____

Project Mgr.: _____

Date: _____

RECD FEB 0 2 2007

Our Valley Voice

Box 673 Alamo, NV. 89001
775-725-3221

Invoice

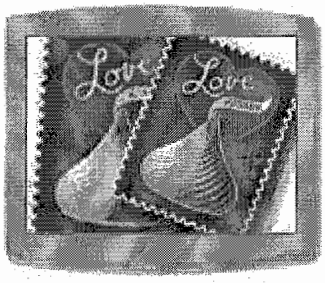
Date	Invoice #
2/6/07	1093

Bill to
JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. Attn. Jenni Prince Mahoney 8160 South Highland Drive Sandy, Utah, 84093

Description	Amount
Newspaper Ad for February 2007	$40.00
Total	$40.00

APPROVAL
Client Name: Nevada Power
Project #: 56.00373.01 PIP/Scoping
Project Mgr.: J-P-Mahoney
Date: 2/12/07

color for decades. 1962 marked the first year that Kisses were available in different colored foil wrappers: red, green, and silver-wrapped candies were manufactured that year to



New U.S. Postal Stamp honoring Hershey Kisses

coincide with the Christmas season. In 1968, pastel blue, pink, and green wrappers were introduced for Easter, and in 1986, Valentines Day-themed wrappers of red and silver were introduced. The standard silver wrappers are available year-round.

Trivia

As a sign of the popularity and company identification of Hershey's Kisses, the streetlights of Hershey, Pennsylvania, are shaped like Kisses, both wrapped in foil and as plain chocolate, dangling from the poles.

After many Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association postseason events, Hershey Kisses are tossed out onto the playing surface, signifying that the team will be going to the state finals, held at various venues in Hershey, PA, including the Giant Center and Hersheypark Stadium.

PVHS FFA Receives Greenhouse Grant

Learn and Service of America and the Nevada FFA Foundation has awarded a matching fund grant of $20,000 to Pahranagat Valley High School to build a greenhouse that will serve the community.

Principal Steve Hansen said that for every dollar awarded from the grant the school must match it with equal amounts through donated cash, products and services. PVHS school has been able to partner with many individuals and businesses in the community.

PVHS plans to hold a fund raising dinner sponsored by Rapport Executive Retreat possibly near Valentine's Day and 100 percent of the proceeds will be given to the school for the greenhouse project.

Construction has been split into five sections of development and each student has their own section. Five young men are earning their Eagle Scout merits for the project.

School FFA advisor Gary Wood said, "This greenhouse will be a great addition to not only our school FA chapter, but the community as well. It will be beneficial to the town for years to come. As we will be able to produce gardening and landscape beautification plants during the winter which will be ready for purchase in the spring."

Plants that will be grown there are to include: bedding plants, shrubs, and produce plants such as tomatoes, peppers and herbs."

The expected time for completion of the greenhouse will be sometime this spring.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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For more information, contact Project Manager Joe Incardine, at (801) 539-4118 or at Joe_Incardine@blm.gov.

High School Sports

William Vea Picks UNLV

Vea, who has helped Alamo win two straight 1A state titles and put together a 24-game winning streak, will make it official on February 7 in a signing ceremony at the school to accept a full ride football scholarship offer to UNLV.

William had been recruited by Utah State as well and did make a visit there on Jan. 12. He also met with UNLV coach Mike Sanford in Alamo Jan. 14.

"Coach Sanford did a great job during the meeting," said PVHS coach Ken Higbee, who sat in on the visit. "The Utah State coaches were great to him, (on his visit to Logan, Utah) and he was very

SCOPING LETTER AND ENCLOSURES

Scoping Letter
Project Description
Figures
Comment Form

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.nv.blm.gov/ely

TAKE PRIDE® IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer To:
2850 (NV-043)
N-82076

January 19, 2007

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko, Ely and Las Vegas Field Offices are asking for the public's input in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to develop the Ely Energy Center (EEC). Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company (the Companies) are proposing to develop the EEC which would consist of a net 2,500 MW coal-fired power-generating plant, power transmission lines, and associated facilities. Rail lines will be utilized during the construction phase and for fuel and commodities delivery to the proposed plant site. This project is more fully described in the accompanying project description.

The EIS will analyze the proposed actions/development projects to determine possible effects on the human environment and natural and cultural resources, and to determine what measures would be necessary to mitigate or reduce said impacts.

Five public scoping meetings will be between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., with a presentation at 6 p.m. at locations within proximity to the Project Area. The open houses will include displays explaining the project and a forum for commenting on the project. The meetings will be held as follows:

Las Vegas
Monday, February 5
BLM Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Alamo
Tuesday, February 6
Alamo Ambulance Barn
10 Airport Road
Alamo, Nevada

Ely
Wednesday, February 7
Bristlecone Convention Ctr.
150 6th Street
Ely, Nevada

Elko
Thursday, February 8
BLM Field Office
3900 Idaho St.
Elko, Nevada

Reno
Friday, February 9
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, Nevada

If you would like to remain on the mailing list for this project, receive a copy of the EIS when it is completed, and be notified of future public meetings, please complete the enclosed comment form and return it to the BLM address shown.

The 30 calendar-day public scoping period for this project will commence with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on January 26, 2007 and will conclude on February 26, 2007. Please send any written comments to: Doris Metcalf, Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301, Attn: EEC EIS. E-mail: Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Doris Metcalf
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301
Attn: EEC EIS

Tel: (775)289-1852
Email: Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov

Joe Incardine,
Bureau of Land Management
UT-920
PO Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155
Attn: EEC EIS

Tel: (801) 539-4118
Email: Joe_Incardine@blm.gov

Sincerely,

Stephanie Connolly

for John F. Ruhs
Field Manager
Ely Field Office

Enclosure:

Project Description

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Ely Field Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview

Nevada Power Company, in conjunction with Sierra Pacific Power Company (the Companies), have applied to the Public Utility Commission of Nevada (PUCN) for approval to expand their existing generation portfolio by developing technologically advanced, coal-fired generation units near Ely, White Pine County, Nevada (Figure 1, sheet 1 of 2). The plants would be efficient and environmentally compliant, increase the Companies' fuel diversity, allow renewable resources to be shared across the state, and further reduce dependence upon variable purchased power markets. In addition to the generation resources, the Companies are seeking permission to develop a major transmission line from northeast Nevada to the Las Vegas area, and to interconnect the electrical systems of Nevada Power Company (NPC) and Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC), allowing the two utilities to share resources and increase the diversity of power supply options (Figure 1, sheets 1 and 2). These facilities would be located primarily on federal land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Ely, Elko, and Las Vegas Field Offices. The BLM decision would initially consist of granting rights-of-way for the subject federal property followed by disposal (sale) of certain lands.

Project Components

The proposed Project would include a power generation station to be known as the Ely Energy Center (EEC). The EEC would be comprised of multiple components to facilitate power generation, transmission, and communication:

Ely Energy Center Generating Station

Phase 1 of the EEC would consist of two coal-fired 750-MW supercritical steam turbine units with commercial operation dates of December 2011 and June 2013, respectively. This Project would take advantage of the relatively stable economics of utilizing coal compared to the volatile price of competing fuels, as well as recent technological advances in efficient unit designs and environmental controls. Phase 2 would consist of two additional 500-MW integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) units or another energy-efficient technology option that would be built when the technology is determined to be commercially viable. When fully built-out, the EEC would be capable of producing 2,500 MW of generating capacity.

Transmission Facilities

Two new 500kV electric transmission lines, each line 270 to 315 miles in length, would interconnect the EEC with the SPPC and NPC electric systems in northern and southern Nevada, allowing the power generated by the EEC to be efficiently transported throughout the state. The specific facilities would include two new 500-kV transmission lines, expansion of the existing 500-kV Harry Allen Switching Station, one new 500-kV switching station at the EEC, and one new 500/345-kV switching station at a proposed new substation, to be known as Robinson Summit. Interconnection of the two electric systems would support the objective of the Nevada Public Utility Commission to connect the electric systems within the state for the first time. The electric transmission lines would include extra capacity for power generated by renewable resources, and would allow that power to be efficiently transported to demand centers for Nevada consumers.

Telecommunication Facilities
The proposed telecommunication facilities that would allow the Companies to communicate with the EEC and the electrical transmission facilities would include:

- EEC - Robinson Summit fiber optic telecommunication lines
- Robinson Summit – Harry Allen fiber optic telecommunication lines
- Electric distribution facilities required to provide power to fiber optic telecommunication facilities

Project Location

Sites for coal-fired generation have been considered in the White Pine County, Nevada area for many years. Sites selected for evaluation for this Project were based on a statewide evaluation of potential sites prepared by Lockwood-Greene (2003). This study concluded that sites evaluated for coal-fired electric generation in White Pine County would be preferred, considering a variety of engineering, environmental, and economic criteria. The Lockwood-Greene study was followed by a Burns & McDonnell (2006) constraint study that identified three potential sites in White Pine County, two in the Steptoe Valley and one in Butte Valley. These sites were compared using a number of specific engineering and natural resource constraints. The South Steptoe Valley electric generation site was identified as the preferred site for development, and the North Steptoe Valley site was selected as the best alternative. The Butte Valley site was eliminated.

Site Requirements

The total land area needed for the EEC generating station site would be approximately 3,000 acres, which includes approximately 1,000 acres for the combustion by-product storage. The preliminary layout includes (2) 750-MW supercritical pulverized coal-fired units for Phase 1, as well as the (2) 500-MW units proposed for Phase 2. Included within the layout are the steam boilers and steam turbines, emissions control equipment, a fuel handling system, an on-site rail loop and rotary dumper for coal unloading, a long-term coal pile, coal storage domes, a water treatment building, mechanical draft cooling towers, air-cooled condensers, evaporation ponds for zero liquid discharge, a water reservoir and storage tank, combustion by-product storage, plant switching station, maintenance and warehouse facilities, and office and administrative buildings.

Transportation

Railways
The fuel for the EEC, primarily low-sulfur Powder River Basin coal from Wyoming, and other major commodities would be delivered to the generation site via rail to the Union Pacific mainline, then southward approximately 100 miles by one of two “shortline” alternatives. The preferred shortline rail alternative would use the existing Nevada Northern Railway (NNRy) with a rail lead constructed within the existing NNRy right-of-way to the generation site. Originally built by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company in 1905, the NNRy line extends approximately 150 miles from the Cobre Junction near Wells, Nevada to Ely, Nevada. The NNRy also intersects the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) approximately 20 miles south of Cobre at Shafter, continues south to Ely, and terminates at the copper mines at Ruth. After numerous closures and reopening of the copper mines beginning in 1979, commercial use of the rail line ceased in the late 1990’s. Other than a 20-mile section near Ely that is maintained for operation of historic steam locomotives, the NNRy has fallen into disrepair, and is no longer safe for commercial traffic. The City of Ely and the White Pine Historic Railroad Foundation currently own the NNRy, and intend to rehabilitate the track to support economic development in the area. The Companies are supporting the City/Foundation in the permitting, design, and physical rehabilitation of the rail line under a Joint Development Agreement. In addition to reopening the rail gateway to Ely, rehabilitation of the NNRy will allow the Companies to bring large construction

equipment and heavy plant components to the EEC site by rail, rather than transporting on specially wheeled vehicles over public highways.

A secondary alternative for a rail line to the EEC consists of a separate right-of-way and construction of a new rail spur from the UPRR mainline near Shafter, approximately 100 miles in length, and a rail lead into the selected generation site. This alternative approach would be selected in the event that the NNRy railroad is not available for the Project.

Access Roads

Vehicular access to the EEC would be provided by existing U.S. Highway 93. The U.S. Highway 93 alignment is adjacent to both of the sites being evaluated for the EEC. Access roadways to EEC facilities would be developed off of U.S. Highway 93. Permanent and temporary access to the other components of the Project will be identified and included in the NEPA analysis.

Water Supply

The EEC would be designed to use approximately 8,000 acre-ft of water annually for the (2) 750-MW units constructed under Phase 1, with a peak flow rate for both units of approximately 15,000 gallons per minute (gpm). The proposed electric generation facility would significantly reduce water consumption by utilizing a hybrid cooling system that combines conventional wet cooling towers operating in parallel with either air-cooled condensers or some other dry-cooled technology. It is expected that the hybrid cooling system would reduce plant consumption of water by 50% or more. It is assumed that Phase 2 may require up to an additional 8,000 acre-ft of water annually, for a total EEC water requirement of approximately 16,000 acre-ft annually at full build-out.

The following water sources have been identified and will be evaluated: (1) groundwater from southern Butte Valley, (2) surface water from the Duck Creek impoundment near Duck Creek Road, or (3) groundwater from the area near Lages Station (Figure 1, sheet 1 of 2). Several other potential water supplies could be identified, but are not being considered at this time. The Companies have cooperatively filed applications with the State Engineer's Office to evaluate and obtain groundwater appropriations.

Socio-Economics

There would be a workforce peaking at approximately 1,200-1,500 persons during construction of Phase 1 of the EEC, which is currently scheduled between the Fall of 2008 through 2011. A direct workforce of about 150 full-time jobs at the EEC would be created by the end of Phase 1, increasing to 250 full-time jobs by the end of Phase 2. Additional direct employment is anticipated through the expected "multiplier effect", wherein additional employment opportunities are created for EEC service and support functions in the local and regional economy. Introduction of such large increases in workforce would present challenges to the City of Ely and White Pine County, which would be identified through the planning process and mitigative measures developed to the satisfaction of these local governments.

Air Quality / Air Emissions

The air emissions from the EEC would be minimized as a result of a high efficiency "supercritical" boiler design, utilization of advanced air quality control systems, and a fuel supply based on low-sulfur Powder River Basin or similar Western coals. The proposed air pollution control equipment includes a high-efficiency wet-limestone flue gas desulfurization (FGD) system for control of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and condensable particulate including sulfuric acid mist. A selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system would be combined with low nitrogen oxide (NO_x) burners to reduce the NO_x emissions. A fabric filter would be used to control emissions of both particulate matter (PM) and filterable particulate matter smaller than 10 microns (PM_{10}). Carbon monoxide (CO) would be controlled using good combustion

practices. Mercury emissions would be inherently low from this type of system burning western U.S. coal. Fugitive dust from the power plant site would be controlled.

Preliminary Resources Issues

The BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal. The EIS will address Project-induced impacts related to the following natural and human resources (not necessarily in order of importance):

- Water (including surface and groundwater; wetlands; floodplains; and riparian communities.)
- Geology and Minerals
- Paleontology
- Soils
- Vegetation
- Wildlife Species and Habitat
- Special Status Species (Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive plants and animals)
- Range Resources
- Land Use and Access
- Recreation/Wilderness
- Air Quality
- Aesthetics (noise and visual)
- Social and Economic Values
- Environmental Justice
- Cultural Resources and Historic Properties
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Traditional Cultural Properties
- Indian Trust Responsibilities
- Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials
- Reclamation
- Noxious Weeds
- Wild Horses
- Cumulative Impacts

Staying Informed and Involved

Information notices will be printed in the local newspapers and released to other news media informing the public of comment periods associated with scoping this Project and the release of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. Date, time, and location of these public meetings/open houses will be published in area newspapers.

The BLM will also develop a mailing list for this Project. Those persons and agencies on the mailing list will be contacted from time to time during the Project to provide status updates on the Project and distribute copies of the EIS. Persons wishing to be included in the mailing list may contact the Project contacts shown below.

How to Comment

Persons wishing to comment on this proposal may do so by sending comments to the following address:

Doris Metcalf
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301
Attn: EEC EIS

Tel: (775)289-1852

Persons having any questions about this project may contact the following persons:
Joe Incardine, BLM, (801) 539-4118, email: Joe_Incardine@blm.gov
Doris Metcalf, BLM, (775) 289-1852, email: Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov

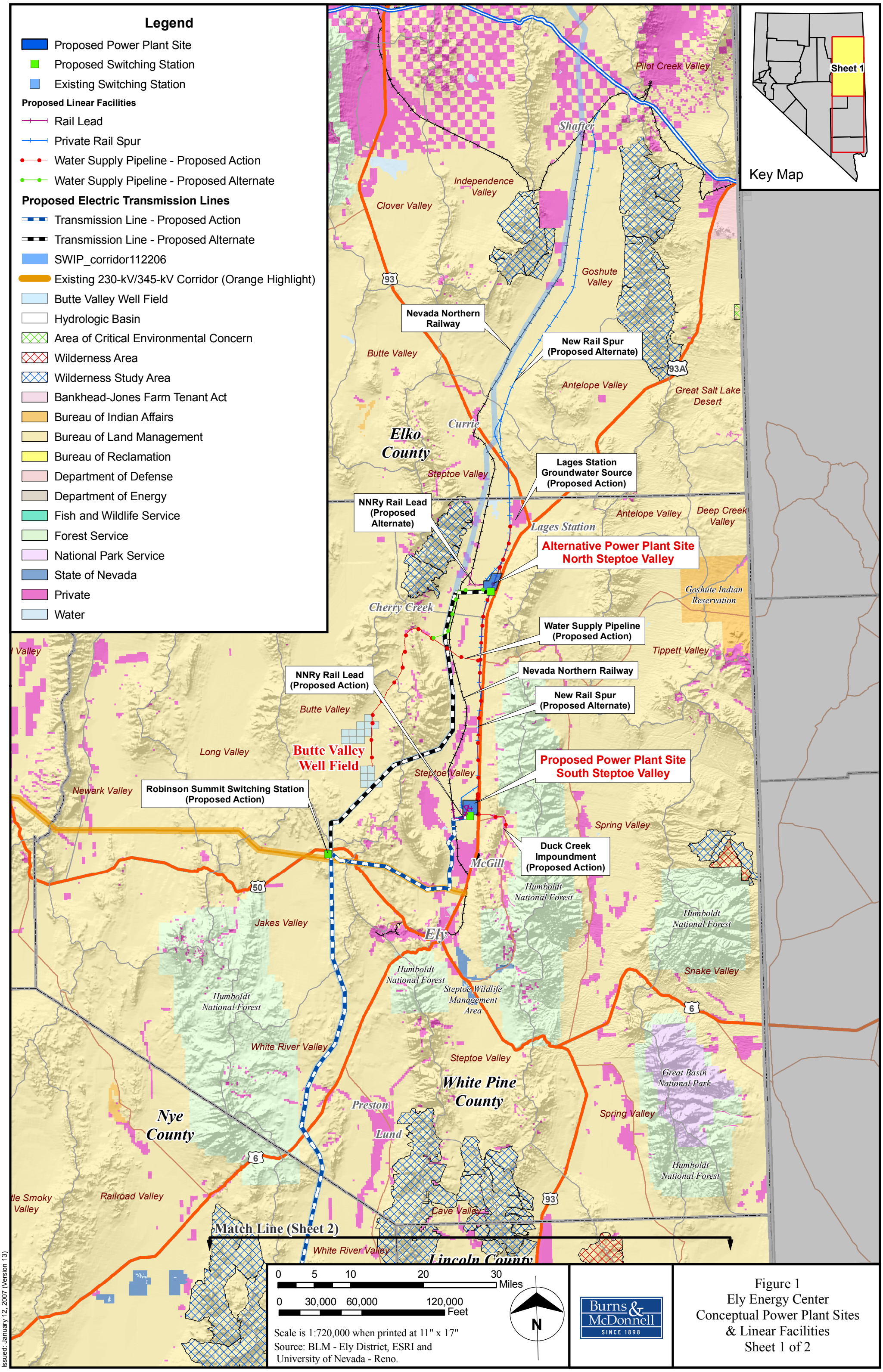

Figure 1
Ely Energy Center
Conceptual Power Plant Sites
& Linear Facilities
Sheet 1 of 2

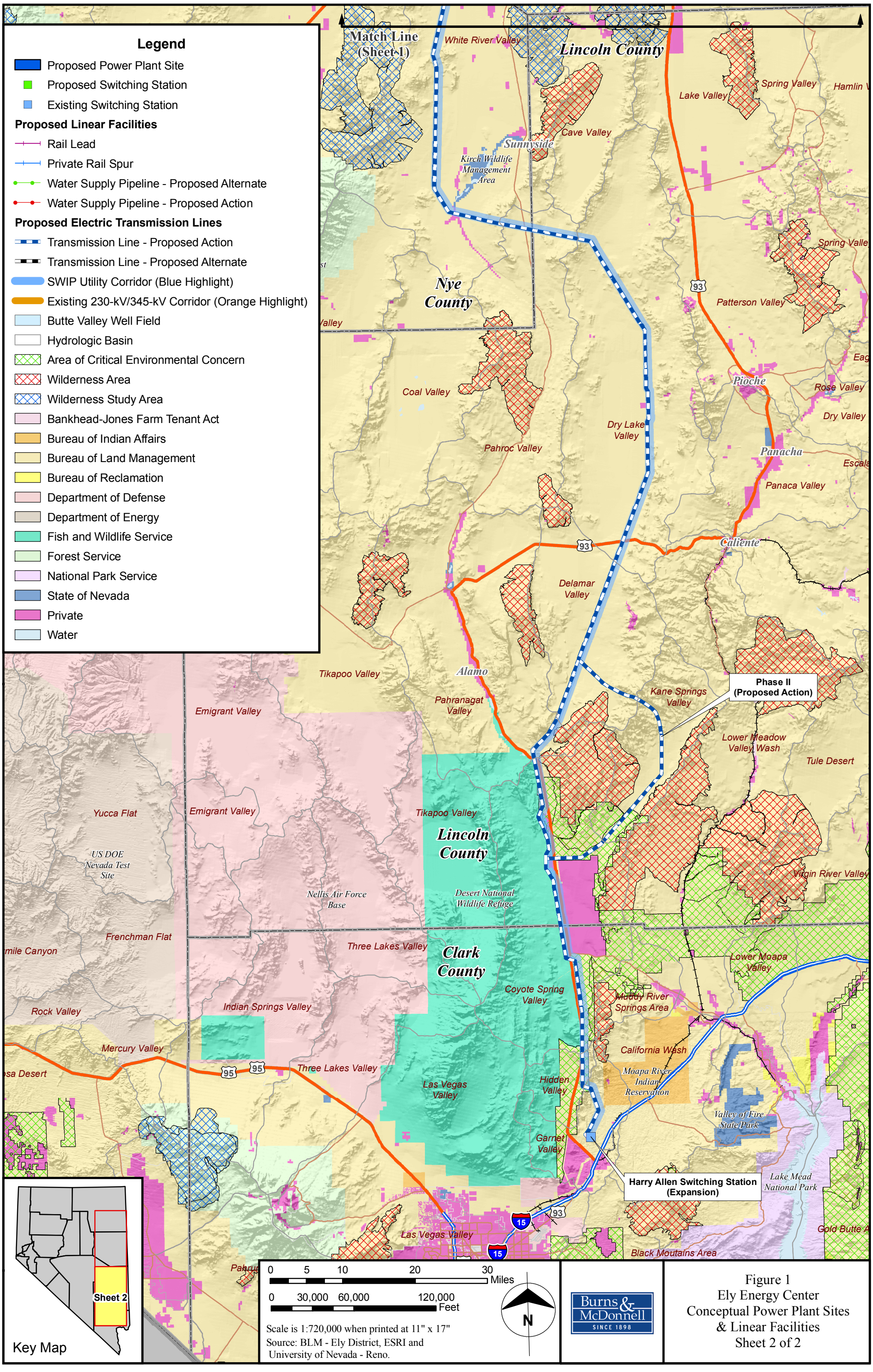

Figure 1
Ely Energy Center
Conceptual Power Plant Sites
& Linear Facilities
Sheet 2 of 2

Ely Energy Center
Environmental Impact Statement

BLM SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) believes that extensive public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where to provide comments: You can hand this form in at a public scoping meeting or mail it in using the address on reverse. ***Comments can also be provided via email to Doris Metcalf: Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov.***

Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Date _____ Meeting Location (if applicable)_____

☐ Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

☐ Please check box if you want to receive the notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT *(use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)*

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To Return via US Mail: Fold in thirds so BLM address (on reverse) is showing, add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail. ***Please have comments postmarked by February 26, 2007.***

To provide comments via email: Please email comments to Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov ***by February 26, 2007.***

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Ely Field Office and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They will be published as part of the EIS and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. *If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under FOIA, you must indicate this by checking the appropriate box above.* Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Doris Metcalf
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301
Attn: EEC EIS

Place Stamp Here

From:

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Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so BLM address (above) is showing,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.
Please postmark by: February 26, 2007

Comment continued:

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SCOPING POSTCARD

Postcard from follow-up mailing to announce email address change.

Ely EIS Email change notification postcard – Front
SAMPLE

JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.
8160 South Highland Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

ELY ENERGY CENTER EIS UPDATE

AGEE SMITH
COTTONWOOD RANCH
HC 62 BOX 1300
WELLS NV 89835

Notice to the Public
Ely Energy Center
Environmental Impact Statement

NEW PUBLIC SCOPING E-MAIL ADDRESS

The Bureau of Land Management has established a new e-mail address for receipt of scoping comments on the Ely Energy Center EIS. It is:

eec_eis@nv.blm.gov

If you have already submitted scoping comments to the previously announced e-mail address (Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov), those comments will be saved and evaluated. If you have not yet submitted your e-mail comments, please do so using the new e-mail address.

You can stay updated on the progress of this project via the Ely Field Office Web Page within the Nevada Bureau of Land Management website: www.nv.blm.gov

SCOPING MEETING HANDOUTS

NEPA Process
Project Description & Figures*
Comment Sheet for Meetings

* Copy of Project Description and Figures located in the *Scoping Letter & Enclosures Section*

Ely Energy Center
Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an environmental review of major Federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The purpose of NEPA is to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into Federal decision-making. The two primary objectives of NEPA are: (1) Agencies must have available and fully consider detailed information regarding environmental effects at the time a decision is made; and (2) Agencies must make the same information available to interested and/or affected persons, agencies and organizations before decisions are made and before actions are taken. In some instances, in order to comply with NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared in order to analyze the environmental effects of a proposed action.

Why Does NEPA apply to the Ely Energy Center Project (EEC)?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determined that approval of this proposal could have a significant impact on the surrounding environment, requiring an EIS.

What are the NEPA Process Steps for the EEC Project?

1) Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company (the Companies) submitted a draft Plan of Development for the proposed Ely Energy Center (EEC) and electric transmission support project (Project) to the BLM Ely Field Office.

2) The BLM determined that the proposed Project could have a significant impact on the environment, and an EIS must be prepared in order to comply with NEPA requirements.

3) The EIS process commenced on January 26, 2007, with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. Notifications were also published in local newspapers, and were sent via direct mailings to persons and agencies on an initial EIS mailing list.

4) The publication of the NOI began a 30-day public scoping period during which five public meetings/open houses are being held within proximity to the Project Area. The open houses include displays, a presentation explaining the project, and a forum for commenting on the project. The meetings are being held as follows: Monday, Feb. 5, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas; Tuesday, Feb. 6, Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Road, Alamo; Wednesday, Feb. 7, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 6th Street, Ely; Thursday, Feb. 8, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko; Friday, Feb. 9, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno. The public comment period will end on February 26.

5) Public scoping comments can be provided in person at one of the open houses, via U.S. Mail, or via email to the BLM. Please see the "Whom Can I Contact?" section at the end of this document for details.

6) This input will be used by the BLM to develop a range of alternatives, issues, and indicators to be used for environmental analysis. A Scoping Summary Report will be prepared describing: the public scoping input, major issues to be evaluated in the analysis, alternatives considered, and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. This document will be made available to the public via posting on the Internet. Persons who commented during scoping will be included on the EIS mailing list for future actions and notices.

7) The BLM and its contractors will conduct Baseline Environmental Studies which identify existing conditions in the Project Study Area. The BLM will evaluate potential environmental effects to a wide

range of environmental and social resources. Effects will be identified for the individual components of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives. The cumulative effects of the Project, when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, will also be evaluated. Written descriptions of the Proposed Action and alternatives, required Agency actions, baseline conditions, environmental impacts, mitigation measures to reduce impacts, and consultation and coordination efforts will be included in the Draft EIS. The BLM currently estimates the Draft EIS will be completed at the end of 2007 or early in 2008, but this is subject to change.

8) When the Draft EIS is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register to begin a 60-day public comment period on the Draft EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS will be made available through direct mailings to the EIS mailing list and via posting on the Internet. The NOA will also be published in local newspapers surrounding the proposed Project Area. During this period, public meetings will be held on the Draft EIS in the same cities and towns as the meetings held during the scoping process.

9) The BLM will review comments on the Draft EIS received from other agencies and the public during the comment period, and then prepare the Final EIS. The BLM will incorporate substantive comments, changes, corrections, and revisions into the Final EIS. The Final EIS will identify the preferred alternative selected by the BLM after consideration of all public input. The BLM currently estimates the Final EIS will be completed in the summer or fall of 2008, but this is subject to change.

10) Copies of the Final EIS will be made available through direct mailings and via posting on the Internet. A 30-day public availability period will begin with publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register and local newspapers. During the public availability period, the public can provide comments, if any, on the Final EIS.

11) The BLM and any cooperating agencies will consider information contained in the Final EIS, and public comments received during the availability period that identify any significant issues not previously addressed or introducing new significant information. The BLM Ely Field Office will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) related to approval of the Project and its components under BLM jurisdiction. The ROD will discuss the agency preferred alternative, the environmentally preferable alternative, and any monitoring and mitigation conditions required as part of the decisions. The BLM currently estimates the ROD will be completed in the fall of 2008, but this is subject to change.

12) The agency ROD will be made available to the public through direct mailings and posting on the Internet. A 30-day appeal period for the ROD will commence with publication of a NOA of the ROD in local newspapers. Members of the public aggrieved by the decisions in the ROD can file written appeal statements with the BLM within the appeal periods. Consideration of any appeals will follow specific policies and procedures of the BLM and Department of Interior.

13) Following the close of the ROD appeal period and completion of any subsequent appeal process, the BLM will take actions as appropriate on their decisions. The earliest this would likely occur is fall of 2008 but this is subject to change.

How Can I Stay Involved?

Attend a scoping meeting in your area. Be sure to add your name to the Project mailing list. Fill out a comment sheet and return it to the BLM (instructions can be found on the comment sheet).

Whom Can I Contact if I Have Any Questions?

Should you have any questions, please contact: Doris Metcalf, Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301, Attn: EEC EIS. E-mail: Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov; Tel: (775) 289-1852. Or contact Joe Incardine, Bureau of Land Management, E-mail: Joe_Incardine@blm.gov; Tel: (801) 539-4118.

Ely Energy Center
Environmental Impact Statement

BLM SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) believes that extensive public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where to provide comments: You can hand this form in at a public scoping meeting or mail it in using the address on reverse. ***Comments can also be provided via email to: eec_eis@nv.blm.gov.***

Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Date _____ Meeting Location (if applicable)_____

☐ Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

☐ Please check box if you want to receive the notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT *(use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)*

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Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers (if provided) of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Ely Field Office during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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.

Doris Metcalf
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301
Attn: EEC EIS

Place Stamp Here

From:

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Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so BLM address (above) is showing,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.
Please postmark by: February 26, 2007

Comment continued:

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SCOPING MEETING POSTERS

List of Posters:

Ely Energy Center Site Location Map
Ely Energy Center Preliminary Site Layout: South Steptoe Valley Site
Ely Energy Center Preliminary Site Layout: North Steptoe Valley Site
Ely Energy Center Railroad Routes: South Steptoe Valley Site
Ely Energy Center Railroad Routes: North Steptoe Valley Site
Electric Transmission Line Segments Near the EEC Generation Station Sites
Electric Transmission Line Segments for the EEC Project Ely Energy Center
Alternative Structure Designs Single-Circuit Ely Energy Center
Alternative Structure Design Double-Circuit Ely Energy Center
Ely Energy Center Water Supply Pipelines South Steptoe Valley Site
Ely Energy Center Water Supply Pipelines North Steptoe Valley Site
NEPA Process

WEBSITE CONTENT

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Nevada

- Programs
- Information
- Resources

- Ely Energy Center

  The BLM is asking for the public's input in the preparation of an environn impact statement (EIS) for the Ely Energy Center. Public scoping meetin scheduled in Nevada the week of February 5-9. The formal public sc period concludes at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, 2007. In brief, Sierra I Resources on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, filed an application with the BL Field Office to develop in White Pine County a coal-fired electric power and 250-mile transmission line that would connect northern and sou Nevada. The power generation facility would initially consist of two coa 750-megawatt (MW) units. The first unit would become operational in The second unit would become operational within the following three Also, two 500 MW coal gasification units would be constructed onc technology becomes commercially viable. Nevada Power, Sierra Pacific's company, would construct the gasification units. **The Bureau of Management has established a new email address for recei scoping comments on the Ely Energy Center EIS. The new e addres is: eec_eis@nv.blm.gov. If you have already submitted sc comments to the previously announced email ad (Doris_Metcalf@blm.gov), those comments will be saved evaluated. If you have not yet submitted your email comments, p do so to the new email address.**
  Scoping letter
  Project Description
  Comment sheet
- Holly Energy Partners, L.P.

  The Dallas, Texas, headquartered company announced in an April 2006 release the company's intentions to construct a new petroleum pro pipeline from near Salt Lake City, Utah, to Las Vegas, Nev. The 1 pipeline would extend approximately 400 miles across the two s generally following the Kern River gas pipeline route. The pipeline accept gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, and would have an initial capac 50,000 barrels per day. The project would include the construction c refined products bulk-loading terminals to be located near St. George, and North Las Vegas.

- Southwest Inter-tie Project (SWIP)

  The BLM in November 1994 signed a Record of Decision and Land Use amendment for the construction, operation and maintenance, and termi of a 500 kV electrical transmission line project that would run from Burley, Idaho, to Las Vegas, Nev. A right of way (ROW) was issu December 1994 with a stipulation that construction begin within five The stipulation has been extended twice for a total of ten years. LS Po completing the comprehensive Construction, Operation and Mainte

(COM) Plan that is required to begin construction of the transmissior which LS Power would construct with Idaho Power. LS Power and Idaho have also submitted to BLM an Environmental Assessment (EA) for s deviations in rights of way near Robison Summit, Coyote Springs an Harry Allen substation, near Las Vegas. The BLM would, once the EA anc are approved, issue to LS Power the notices to proceed with construction

- Toquop Energy

  Sithe Global Power, LLC, a privately-held, independent power compa proposing to construct in Lincoln County a 750-megawatt, coal-fired plant to be located near Toquop Wash, approximately 50 miles southw Caliente. The BLM Ely Field Office received the amended application from Global, LLC, on behalf of Toquop Energy, in July 2005. The am application would provide for the construction of the coal-fired plant related rail line. As a result, the BLM Ely Field Office will prepa Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM Ely Field Office in December issued a right of way to Toquop Energy to construct a natural gas-fired e power plant, as well as power lines, a pipeline and access road. The proposal has changed in response to 1) the volatility of natural gas price subsequent effects on the feasibility of natural gas-fired power gener and 2) the development of new technology that increases the efficier coal-fired power plants. The BLM has consequently determined that a ne must be completed to evaluate the components of the proposed projec vary from previously permitted technology and facilities.

- White Pine Energy Station

  White Pine Energy Associates, LLC, is proposing to construct, about 30 north of Ely, an up to 1,600-megawatt coal-fired, electric power plan could be constructed in up to three units of 520 megawatts each. The 3 public scoping period was completed in September 2004 and the BLM-se contractor (CH2MHill) is preparing the Draft Environmental Impact State scheduled for public review in March 2007.

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APPENDIX B

Initial Scoping Mailing List

Ely Energy Center EIS Scoping Mailing List

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
DON NONELLA	7 C RANCH CORPORATION	HC 31 BOX 75	ELKO, NV 89801
JACK BOWERS	7 H RANCH LLC	HC 60 BOX 710	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
	7H Ranch LCC	HC 60 Box 710	Ruby Valley, NV 89833
Mr and Mrs Jack and Terry Bowers	7H Ranch LLc	HC 60 Box 710	Ruby Valley, NV 89833
Mr Henry Brackenbury	7J Ranch	PO Box 75	Caliente, NV 89008-0075
WAYNE LISTER	8 MILE RANCH	PO BOX 402	PIOCHE, NV 89043
	ACS Facilities Community Planning Liason Office	Building No. 1160 Room 208	Camp Pendelton, CA 92055-5001
SAM LAYTON	ADOBE HILLS RANCH	MVR 296-3	ELKO NV 89801
JIM ANDRAE, IL RANCH	AGRI BEEF CO	HC 32 BOX 370	TUSCARORA NV 89834
	AGRI BEEF CO	PO BOX 6640	BOISE, ID 83707
	Agricultural Research Service	920 Valley Road	Reno, NV 89512
STEVEN ARENSON	AIR FORCE WESTERN REGIONAL ENV. OFFICE	333 MARKET ST. STE 625	SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-2196
	Albert C Biederman	PO Box 276	Overton, NV 89040
	ALLTEL	111 W FRONT ST	ELKO NV 89801
ROBIN LOHNES, Exec Director	AM HORSE PROTECT	1000 29TH ST NW STE T-100	WASHINGTON DC 20007
	Am-Arcs	PO Box 10384	Reno, NV 89510
Mr David Boyd	Amargosa RV Valley Chap Pres	PO Box 86	Amargosa Valley, NV 89020
	American Fisheries Society	5410 Grosvenor Lane Suite 110	Bethesda, MD 20814-2199
Robin C Lahnes	American Horse Protection Assoc	1000 29th St N.W. Suite T-100	Washington DC 20007
	AMERICAN HORSE PROTECTION ASSOC	1000 29TH STREET N W STE T-100	WASHINGTON DC 20007-3820
	American Legion Magazine	PO Box 1055	Indianapolis, IN 46206
	American Premier	PO Box 177	Gabbs, NV 89409
Derrick Crandell	American Recreation Coalition	1225 New York Ave NW Suite 450	Washington, DC 20005-6156
Mr David Coon	Anderson Dairy	801 Searles	Las Vegas, NV 89101
ALAN BERGER	ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE	PO BOX 22505	SACRAMENTO CA 95822
Executive Director	Animal Protection Institute of America	PO Box 22505	Sacramento, CA 95822
News Editor	Animas Publishing Inc.	PO Box J	Cortez, CO 81321
GUY VEGA	ANNIE VEGA ESTATE	HC 31 BOX 160	ELKO NV 89801
	Archaeo Nevada Society	3930 El Camino St	Las Vegas, NV 89103
	Arizona Capital Times	14 N 18th Avenue, BOX 2260	Phoenix, AZ 85007
Mr Bruce Becker	Arizona Charlies	740 S. Decatur Blvd.	Las Vegas, NV 89107
	Arizona Highways	2039 W. Lewis Ave.	Phoenix, AZ 85009
	Arizona News Service	PO Box 2260	Phoenix, AZ 85002
	Arizona Wildlife Foundation	644 N. Country Club Dr. STE E	Mesa, AZ 85201-4948
	Arizona Wildlife Views	2221 W. Greenway Road	Phoenix, AZ 85023-4399
FRANK ARREGUI	ARREGUI & ETCHEBERRY	P O BOX 510	ELKO NV 89803

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Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Jim Ainsworth	Art Images	76 Glen Carran Cir.	Sparks, NV 89431-5851
	ASSOCIATED PRESS	955 KUENZLI	RENO NV 89502
SHIRLEY MCCROSKY	AURA RESOURCES	HC 74, BOX 172	PIOCHE, NV 89043
	Backpacker Rodale Press	33 E. Minor St.	Emmaus, PA 18098
JoAnn Garrett	Baker Advisory Board	P.O. Box 130	Baker, NV 89311
	Baker Area Citizen Advisory Board	P.O. Box 140	Baker, NV 89311
TONIA HARVEY	BAKER AREA CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD	PO BOX 140	BAKER, NV 89311
Mr Dave Baker	Baker Ranches Inc	PO Box 88	Baker, NV 89311
Mr Randy Buffington	Bald Mountain Mine	PO Box 2706	Elko, NV 89801
RANDY BUFFINGTON	BALD MOUNTAIN MINE	PO BOX 2706	ELKO, NV 89801
JACK CHRISTENSEN	BAR O RANCH	P O BOX 1397	WENDOVER UT 84083
	Barbara, John and Lisa Gianoli	P.O. Box 151477	Ely, NV 89315
W B KOHLMOOS	BARIUM PRODUCTS & MINING CO	P O BOX 50300	RENO NV 89513
	BARNES RANCHES, INC	HC 30 BOX 347	ELKO NV 89801
DON MCLEAN	BAROID DRILLING FLUIDS INC	912 DUNPHY RANCH ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
	Barrick Bullfrog Corporation	136 E SOUTH TEMPLE, #1300	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84111-1141
	Barrick Gold Exploration	293 Spruce Road	Elko, NV 89801
LAND MANAGER	BARRICK GOLDSTRIKE MINES	P O BOX 29	ELKO NV 89803
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR	BATTLE MOUNTAIN BAND COUNCIL	37 MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE ENVIRONMENTAL BLDG	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
CHAIRPERSON	BATTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	37 MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE #C	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
	Beacon	2145 Graeber St. No. 211	March AFB, CA 92518-1611
	BEDKE LIVESTOCK INC	PO BOX 83	OAKLEY ID 83346
BUD BEDKE	BEDKES K-SAVY RANCH INC	1876 SOUTH 600 WEST	OAKLEY ID 83346
	Bedrock LTD	420 N. Nellis Blvd A3-234	Las Vegas, NV 89110
ARTHUR BERG	BERG LAND & LIVESTOCK	P O BOX 920	LAKE OSWEGO OR 97034
WENDY PARIS	BERT PARIS AND SONS	PO BOX 150818	ELY NV 89315
MELCHOR GRAGIRINA	BIDART BROTHERS	34741 SEVENTH STANDARD ROAD	BAKERSFIELD CA 93312-9452
Eli Abrishambi	Big Springs Ranch	P.O. Box 81624	Las Vegas, NV 89180-1624
CAL WORTHINGTON	BIG W RANCH	12565 AUTO MALL CIRCLE	FOLSOM CA 95630
	Bill Butcher	7104 West Schuler Avenue	West Valley City, UT 84128
	BILL WINES LIVESTOCK INC	HC 34 BOX 372-5	ELKO NV 89801
THOMAS TWEDT	BIOWEST INC	1063 W 1400 N	LOGAN, UT 84321
John Longinetti	BLM	HC 33 Box 33500	Ely, NV 89301
	BLM Action Center	1660 Wynkoop St Suite 850	Denver, CO 80202
CHUCK LAHR	BLM BATTLE MOUNTAIN FIELD OFFICE	50 BASTIAN ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV 89829
TOM DYER	BLM BURLEY DIST, SNAKE RIVER RESOURCES	15 EAST 200 SOUTH	BURLEY ID 83318
	Bloque Latino Americano De Prensalatin American Press	PO Box 12599	Las Vegas, NV 89112

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Blue Diamond Estates	P.O. Box 150432	Ely, NV 89315
	Blue Diamond Oil Corp	PO Box 150432	Ely, NV 89301
Louis Benezet	Board Member Citizen Alert	Prince Mine	Pioche, NV 89043
DELOYD SATTERTHWAITE	BOARD OF SHEEP COMMISSIONERS	PO BOX 281369	LAMOILLE, NV 89828
Mr. Oren Steven Boies	Boies Ranch	HC 34 Box 300	Wells, NV 89835-9810
STEVEN BOIES	BOIES RANCH	HC 34 BOX 400	WELLS NV 89835
JOE CUMMING	BOSS TANKS	P O BOX 5689	ELKO NV 89802
	Boulder City News	PO Box 60065	Boulder, NV 89006
TIM J CRAIG	BOULDER CREEK OUTFITTERS	PO BOX 119	PECK ID 83545
Mr Cal Baird	Bow and Arrow Cattle Co.	7043 N. Jones	Las Vegas, NV 89316
	Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas	2850 Lindell Rd.	Las Vegas, NV 89102
	Bruce A and Pamela G Jensen	P.O. Box 253	Lund, NV 89317-0253
	BSR ASSOCIATES LTD	535 COWPER STREET 2ND FLOOR	PALO ALTO CA 94301
Mr Matt Bulloch	Bulloch Brothers	1897 N. 4500 W.	Cedar City, UT 84720
	BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY	1351 ELM ST	ELKO NV 89801
AL TINNEY	BUREAU OF HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES	1179 FAIRVIEW DRIVE STE 201	CARSON CITY NV 89701-5405
EASTERN NEVADA AGENCY	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	1555 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELKO NV 89801
Western Nevada Agency	Bureau of Indian Affairs	311 East Washington Boulevard	Carson City, NV 89701
Mr Pierre Cantou	Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region Office	PO Box 10	Phoenix, AZ 85001-0010
	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WESTERN NEV AGENCY	311 E WASHINGTON ST	CARSON CITY, NV 897014065
CHESTER MILLS	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS EASTERN NEVADA AGENCY	1555 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELKO, NV 89801
Battle Mountain Field Office	Bureau of Land Management	50 Bastian Rd.	Battle Mountain, NV 89820-1420
CARSON CITY FIELD OFFICE	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	5665 MORGAN MILL ROAD	CARSON CITY NV 89701
DORAN SANCHEZ	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	PO BOX 12000	RENO, NV 89520-0006
ELY DISTRICT OFFICE	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	HC 33 BOX 33500	ELY NV 89301-9408
JERRY SMITH	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	50 BASTIAN ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV 89829
LAS VEGAS DISTRICT OFFICE	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	4701 N. TORREY PINES DRIVE	LAS VEGAS NV 89130-2301
NEVADA STATE OFFICE	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	P O BOX 12000	RENO NV 89520-0006
STEPHANIE CONNOLLY	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	HC 33 BOX 33500	ELY, NV 89301-9408
	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	5100 E WINNEMUCCA BLVD	WINNEMUCCA NV 89445
PAUL MCNUTT	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	P O BOX 12000	RENO NV 89520-0006
PAM JARNECKE	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OFFICE	50 BASTIAN ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
HELEN HANKINS	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ELKO FIELD OFFICE	3900 E IDAHO ST	ELKO, NV 89801
	Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office	3900 East Idaho Street	Elko, NV 89801
CHRIS COLLIS	BUREAU OF LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION	375 GRANT AVENUE	ELY, NV 89301

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DENNIS JOURNIGAN	BUREAU OF LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION	1351 ELM ST	ELKO NV 89801
ERIC BEDKE	BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	705 N PLAZA STREET RM 320	CARSON CITY NV 89701
Richard Burgess	Burgess Farms	960 E. 3200 N.	Beryl, UT 84714-5055
	Business Journal of Horse Ind.	PO Box 3039	Berea, KY 40403
Throne Butler	Butler Holdings LLC	3004 Meadows Drive	Park City, UT 84060
ROCKY CAMPBELL	C BAR OUTFITTERS	61954 BEHRENS LANE	SUMMERVILLE OR 97876
Von and Marian Sorensen	c/o Jared Sorensen	HC 60 Box 165	Wells, NV 89835
Director	CA Department of Fish & Game	PO Box 944246	Sacramento, CA 94244-2461
	CACTUS PETE'S INC	PO BOX 508	JACKPOT NV 89825
	California Camper	2712 Bautista St.	Antioch, CA 94509
	California Grange	2101 Stockton Blvd.	Sacramento, CA 95817
	California Horsemans News	PO Box 893640	Temecula, CA 92589-3640
	California Journal	2101 K St.	Sacramento, CA 95816-4920.
	California Mining Journal	PO Box 2260	Aptos, CA 95001
Sac Valley Chapter Newsletter	California Native Plant Society	6314 Moraga Drive	Carmichael, CA 95608
	California State Employee Magazine	1108 O St.	Sacramento, CA 95814
	Capt George A Armstrong	PO Box 22897	Sacramento, CA 95822-0897
JOHN PIERSON	CARIBOU INC	124 BRIDON WAY	JEROME ID 83338
DAVID C KNIGHT	CARLIN TREND MINING SUPPLIES-SERVICE	310 SILVER STREET	ELKO NV 89801
Carson River Advisory Committee	Carson City Parks and Recreation	3303 Butti Way #9	Carson City, NV 89701
Tribal Leader	Carson Colony Community Council	3311 Paiute St.	Carson City, NV 89703
PHILIP CARTER	CARTER CATTLE CO CARTER AGRI SYSTEMS	PO BOX 284	LUND, NV 89317
Mr Phillip J Carter	Carter Cattle Co Carter Agri Systems	PO Box 284	Lund, NV 89317
Mr Steven Carter	Carter Cattle Company	PO Box 27	Lund, NV 89317-0027
STEVEN CARTER	CARTER CATTLE COMPANY	PO BOX 27	LUND, NV 893170027
	Cashion Callaway Intermountain Research	PO Box Drawer A	Silver City, NV 89428-9999
TODD MOLITOR	CAT TRACK OUTFITTERS	PO BOX 714	JEROME ID 83338
	Cathedral Gold US Corporation	PO Box 549	Beatty, NV 89003
CODY TINGEY	CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK	PO BOX 176	PANACA, NV 89042
	Cattleman Magazine	1301 W 7th St. Ft.	Worth, TX 76102
	Center for Biological Diversity	P.O. Box 710	Tucson, AZ 85702-0710
	Challenge	Sierra Army Depot	Herlong, CA 96113
EVIE PINNEO	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	636 AULTMAN ST	ELY, NV 89301
	Chamber of Commerce	636 Aultman Street	Ely, NV 89301
DARRELL KIPPEN	CHARLES R KIPPEN & SONS	P O BOX 1045	MORGAN UT 84050
Barbara Hamilton Carter	Cherry Creek Egan Canyon	HCR33 Box 33660	Ely, NV 89301
Ray Birk	Cherry Creek Water	HC33 Box 33810	Ely, NV 89301
	Christopher & Karen Collis	367 Grant Ave	Ely, NV 89301

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	CITIZENS FOR MINING	PO BOX 51	BOISE ID 85325-0051
MIKE FRANZOIA	CITY OF ELKO	1751 COLLEGE AVE	ELKO NV 89801
Dan Watts	City of Ely	1264 East 15th	Ely, NV
The Honorable GEORGE CHACHAS	CITY OF ELY	P O BOX 299	ELY NV 89301
Board of City Councilmen	City of Las Vegas	Council Chambers 400 E. Stewart Ave.	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Ed Burge	City of Las Vegas	731 S. 4th Street	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Planning and Development	City of Las Vegas	731 S. 4th Street	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Real Estate and Asset Management	City of Las Vegas	400 Stewart Ave., 4th Floor	Las Vegas, NV 89101
The Honorable Oscar Goodman	City of Las Vegas	400 E. Stewart Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89101
	City of Las Vegas Flood Control	400 E. Stewart Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Planning Director	City of Yucaipa	34272 Yucaipa Blvd.	Yucaipa, CA 92399
	Clark County Commissioners	PO Box 551601	Las Vegas, NV 89155-1601
Ron Gregory	Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning	500 S. Grand Central Parkway	Las Vegas, NV 89155-1741
	Clark County Wildlife Advisory Board	1111 Santa Ynez	Henderson, NV 89015
John Barth	Clean Air Coalition	2260 Baseline Road, Suite 205	Boulder, CO 80302
	Clinton and Patricia Bentley	3360 Wynn Rd.	Las Vegas, NV 89102-0000
JIM WHITED	CLOVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	HC 60 BOX 230	WELLS NV 89835
	Clyde Andress	611 N Highland Drive	Winnemucca, NV 89445
DON WAGENET	CO NAVIGANT CONSULTING INC	3100 ZINFANDEL DR STE 600	RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 956706026
	Coeur Dalene Mines Corporation	PO Box 1057	Lovelock, NV 89419
JACK BARNETT	COLO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM	106 W 500 S STE 101	BOUNTIFUL, UT 84010
Jack Barnett	Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Foru	106 W. 500 S. STE 101	Bountiful, UT 84010
BARBARA FLORES	COLORADO WILD HORSE AND BURRO COALITION	2406 15th AVENUE COURT	GREELEY CO 80631
	Commander National Training Center	Public Affairs Fort	Irwin, CA 92310-5000
	Commanding Officer	Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant	Hawthorne, NV 89415
	COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES	885 E. LAKE BOULEVARD	CARSON CITY NV 89704
PAM MARCUM	COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S HIGH DESERT	1003 STRAWBERRY LANE	BOISE, ID 83712
	Committee for Idaho's High Desert	P.O. Box 2863	Boise, ID 83701
	COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES	885 EAST LAKE BLVD	CARSON CITY, NV 897049167
Mr Robert Baggs	Comprehensive Planning	400 E. Stewart	Las Vegas, NV 89101
LOIS PRINGLE	CONAGRA BEEF COMPANY	ONE CONAGRA DRIVE	GREELEY CO 80634-9038

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Chrissandar Bullcreek	Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation	P.O. Box 6104	Ibapah, UT 84034
ENV COORD	CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GOSHUTE	PO BOX 6104	IBAPAH UT 84034
	Congressman Gibbons District Office	400 South Virginia Suite 502	Reno, NV 89510
	Conservationist	50 Wolf Rd.	Albany, NY 12233
	Construction Notebook News	3131 Meade Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89102
Mr Jerry Baughman	Consulting Geologist	PO Box 18127	Reno, NV 89511
	Continental Lime Inc	PO Box 2520	Wendover, NV 89883
RAY CORTA	CORTA LIVESTOCK COMPANY	HC 30 BOX 151	ELKO NV 89801
JIM COLLORD	CORTEZ JOINT VENTURE	STAR ROUTE HC 66-50	BEOWAWE NV 89821
AGEE SMITH	COTTONWOOD RANCH	HC 62 BOX 1300	WELLS NV 89835
Horace Smith	Cottonwood Ranch	HC 62 Box 1300	Well, NV 89835
	Country Construction	1200 Avenue B	Ely, NV 89301
Jon L. Muller, P.E.	County Engineer/Building Inspector	953 Campton Street	Ely, NV 89301
	Coyote Springs Investments	6295 Wingfield Springs	Sparks, NV 89436
	Cross Timber Land Company	1381 Elmwood Drive	Abilene, TX 79605
	CS inc	1625 Wendy Way	Reno, NV 89509
Colin I Busby	Cultural Resource Services	724 Sylbil Ave.	San Leandro, CA 94577
	Cycle News	PO Box 5084 Costa	Mesa, CA 92628-5084
	Cycle West	1375 Industrial Ave.	Petaluma, Ca 94952-6520
DON ZERGA	D L ZERGA ASSOCIATES	PO BOX 301	CRYSTAL BAY, NV 89402
	Daisel Davis	PO Box 164	Minersville, UT 84770
VERNON DALTON	DALTON LIVESTOCK	HC 60 BOX 125	WELLS NV 89835
	Dave Bardine	PO Box 311	Pioche, NV 89043
	David & Barbara Carter Living Trust	HCR 33 Box 33660	Ely, NV 89301
HENRY C VOGLER	DBA NEED MORE SHEEP COMPANY	HCR 33 BOX 33920	ELY NV 89301
	DD Tire Incorperated	820 Main St. PO Box 888	Tonopah, NV 89049
	Delta Enviro Consultants Inc	3164 Gold Camp Dr STE 200	Rancho Cardova, CA 95670-6021
News Editor	Denver Business Journal	1700 Broadway 515	Denver, CO 80290-0501
Dr Peter F Brussard	Department of Biology MS 314	UNR Biology MS 13	Reno, NV 89557
Nevada Brand Inspector	Department of Business and Industry	350 Capitol Hill Avenue	Reno, NV 89502
P MORROS	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES	123 W NYE LANE RM 230	CARSON CITY NV 89706-0818
	DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	400 WEST KING STREET, SUITE 300	CARSON CITY, NV 89703-4204
	Department of Transportation	1263 Stewart Street	Carson City, NV 89712
Tracy Taylor	Department of Water Resources	901 So. Stewart St. #2002	Carson City, NV 89701
	Deportimundo	845 N Eastern Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89101
THOMAS FRONAPFEL	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	1263 STEWART ST	CARSON CITY, NV 89712
DR FRANK RAHEL	DEPT. OF ZOOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGY	BOX 3166 UNIV OF WYOMING	LARAMIE WY 82071

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
ZANE MILES	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY	PO BOX 190	EUREKA, NV 89316
	DESERET NEWS	P O BOX 1257	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84110
	Desert Life Magazine	PO Box 1244	Barstow, CA 92312-1244
DAVE TILFORD	DESERT MOUNTAIN REALTY INC	1060 EAST AULTMAN	ELY, NV 89301
Dr Michael Auerbach	Desert Research Institute	2215 Raggio Parkway	Reno, NV 89512-1095
John Bees	Desert Research Institute	2215 Raggio Pkwy	Reno, NV 89512-1095
John Doherty	Desert Research Institute	2215 Raggio Parkway	Reno, NV 89512-1095
	Desert Tortoise Council	Box 3273	Beaumont, CA 92223
	Desert Wing AFFTCPA	15 E. Yeager Blvd.	Edwards AFB, CA 93523-5000
LEONARD R MERKLEY	DIAMOND X BAR RANCH	400 JIGGS UNIT 14	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	Dirt Rider	6420 Wilshire Blvd.	Los Angeles, CA 90048
	Dirt Wheels	25233 Anza Drive	Valencia, CA 91355-1289
	District III Headquarters	16799 Lahontan Dam	Fallon, NV 89406
	DIVISION OF LANDS DEPT. OF LAND USE PLANNING	901 S STEWART, SUITE 5003	CARSON CITY NV 89701
BILL DURBIN	DIVISION OF MINERALS	400 WEST KINGS ST #106	CARSON CITY NV 89703
Skip Canfield	Division of State Lands	901 South Stewart STE 5003 Rm 118	Carson City, NV 89706-0857
William & Elizabeth Dickinson	DM Ranch	PO Box 877	Wells, NV 89835
WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH DICKINSON	DM RANCH	PO BOX 877	WELLS, NV 89835
	Don Floyd & Sheila Phillips Phillips Family Trust	P.O. Box 1390	McGill, NV 89318
	DONALD AND LA NAE VAN TASSEL	332 WILLOW STREET PO BOX 1090	CARLIN, NV 89822
Stuart Brown	Double Horseshoe Ranch LLC	106 E. Admas St. STE 212	Carson City, NV 89706-3081
WADE WEST	DOUBLE U LIVESTOCK LLC	HC 33 BOX 33701	ELY, NV 89301
	Double U Livestock LLC	HC 33 Box 33910	Ely, NV 89301
	Douglas County Board of Commissioners	PO Box 218	Minden, NV 89423
Dr Thomas Covault	Douglas County School District	PO Box 1888	Minden, NV 89423
	Doyle G Blades	PO Box 522	Ruth, NV 89319
Terry Gibson	Duck Valley Sho-Pai Tribes	P.O. Box 219	Owyhee NV 89832
	Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe	PO Box 219	Owyhee, NV 89832
CHAIRPERSON	DUCK VALLEY TRIBAL COUNCIL	PO BOX 219	OWYHEE NV 89832
Mr Mark Biddlecomb	Ducks Unlimited	3074 Gold Canal Dr.	Ranch Cordova, CA 95670
CHAIRPERSON	DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE	P O BOX 1400-68	DUCKWATER NV 89314
Edie Halstead	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	P.O. Box 13	Duckwater, NV 89314
ENV COORD	DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE	PO BOX 140068	DUCKWATER NV 89314
Henry M Blackeye Jr.	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	PO Box 140068	Duckwater, NV 89832
JERRY MILLETT	DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE	PO BOX 140068	DUCKWATER, NV 89314
BOYD GRAHAM	DUCKWATER TRIBAL COUNCIL	GENERAL DELIVERY	DUCKWATER NV 89314
	Dunbar Stone Co Inc	PO Box 246 Ash	Fork, AZ 86320

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GEORGE DUNCAN	DUNCAN OUTFITTERS	PO BOX 2032 2236 CASCADE DRIVE	OROFINO ID 83544
	Dune Buggies Hot VWS	PO Box 2260	Costa Mesa, CA 92628
DON DUVAL	DUVAL RANCHING CO.	HCR 60 BOX 465	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
	E. Dorothy Austin	1275 Manchester Circle	Fallon, NV 89406
	Eaglepicher Minerals Inc	640 Clark Station Rd.	Sparks, NV 89434-6610
BOYD BINGHAM	EARL BINGHAM RANCH PARTNERSHIP	3525 WEST 8000 NORTH	HONEYVILLE UT 84314
	Easy Riders	PO Box 3000	Agoura Hills, CA 91376-3000
Mr Tim Carlson	Economic Development Commission	555 E. Washington Ave STE 5400	Las Vegas, NV 89101
MARK FARMAN	EDAW	2022 J STREET	SACRAMENTO, CA 958143120
F. SCOTT EGBERT	EGBERT LIVESTOCK LLC	HC 60 BOX 135	WELLS NV 89835
	Ehni Enterprises Inc	PO Cox 4228	Carson City, NV 89702-4228
DAVID STEED	EIS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING	31 N MAIN	HELPER, UT 84526
	El Mundo Spanish News	845 N Eastern Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Mr John Bidart	El Tejon Cattle Co.	34741 7th Standard Rd.	Bakersfield, CA 93308-9235
	ELIAS GOICOECHEA FAMILY TRUST	HC 31 BOX 90	ELKO NV 89801
JOHN DITS	ELK AMENDMENT TASK FORCE GROUP	P O BOX 5370	ELKO NV 89802
	Elko Band Council	1745 Silver Eagle	Elko, NV 89801
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR	ELKO BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	511 SUNSET STREET	ELKO NV 89801
	ELKO BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	511 SUNSET ST	ELKO NV 89801
Shane Deforest	Elko BLM FO	3900 E. Idaho St.	Elko, NV 89801
	Elko Board of County Commissioners	569 Court Street	Elko, NV 89801
	ELKO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	1601 IDAHO STREET	ELKO NV 89801
Rob Stokes	Elko County	569 Court Street	Elko, NV 89801
GILBERT HERNANDEZ	ELKO COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE	1316 7TH STREET	ELKO NV 89801
CRAIG SPRATLING	ELKO COUNTY FARM BUREAU	STARR VALLEY	DEETH NV 89823
	Elko County Public Land Use Advisory Board	571 Idaho Street Courthouse	Elko, NV 89801
	ELKO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPT	569 COURT STREET	ELKO NV 89801
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	P O BOX 1012	ELKO NV 89803
EDITOR	ELKO FREE PRESS	3720 IDAHO STREET	ELKO NV 89801
ROBERT SMITH	ELKO HIGH SCHOOL	987 COLLEGE AVE	ELKO NV 89801
DAN GRALIAN	ELKO LAND AND LIVESTOCK CO, TS RANCH	901 TS RANCH RD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820-9501
BILL HALL	ELLISON RANCHING CO	HC 32 BOX 240	TUSCARORA NV 89834
Ron Cassinelli	Ely Airport Yelland Field	PO Box 150187	Ely, NV 89301
CHAIRMAN	ELY BAND OF THE WESTERN SHOSHONE	16 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELY, NV 89301
JEAN KNEESE	ELY CITY COUNCIL	1379 MILL STREET	ELY, NV 89301

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Ely City Council	1379 Mill Street	Ely, NV 89301
	ELY DAILY TIMES	P O BOX 1139	ELY NV 89301
	Ely Shoshone Council	16 Shoshone Circle	Ely, NV 89301
	ELY SHOSHONE COUNCIL	16 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELY, NV 89301
C Roy Apodaca	Ely Shoshone Tribal Council	16 Shoshone Cir.	Ely, NV 89301-2055
CHRISTINE STONES	ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE	16 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELY, NV 89301
CINDY MARQUES	ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE	400 NEWE VIEW	ELY, NV 89301
Diana Buckner	Ely Shoshone Tribe	16 Shoshone Circle	Ely, NV 89301
	Emil W. Almberg Jr.	PO Box 150501	Ely, NV 89301
BETSY MACFARLAN	ENLC	PO BOX 150266	ELY, NV 893150266
	Environmental Leadership	PO Box 10786	Reno, NV 89510-0786
CORPORATE OFFICE	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES	588 EXPLORER STREET	BREA, CA 92821-3108
WENDY LOCKWOOD	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATES	707 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1450	LOS ANGELES, CA 90017
	Environmental Specialists Ely Shoshone Tribe	400 B Newe View	Ely, NV 89301
Glenn Darrington	EPG	4350 E. Camelback Rd. St G200	Phoenix, AZ
	Equine Times	PO Box 8	Camden, MI 49232-0008
	EQUUS Fleet St. Corp	656 Quince Orchard Rd.	Gaithersburg, MD 20878
	Esmeralda County Commissioners	PO Box 517	Goldfield, NV 89013
	Eureka Co Board of Commissioners	PO Box 677	Eureka, NV 89316
PAUL SADLER	EUREKA COUNTY	P O BOX 327	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
SANDRA GREEN	EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONER	PO BOX 614	EUREKA, NV 893160614
PETE GOICOECHEA	EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	P O BOX 677	EUREKA NV 89316
	EUREKA COUNTY DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	PO BOX 682	EUREKA NV 89316
LAUREL MARSHALL	EUREKA PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE	HC 62 BOX 62114	EUREKA, NV 89316
	EUREKA SENTINEL	P O BOX 193	TONAPAH NV 89049
LAUREL ETCHEGARAY	EXECUTIVE SOCIETY	PO BOX 462	EUREKA NV 89316
Timothy K. Clark	Fabian & Clendenin	P.O. Box 510210	Salt Lake City, UT 84151-0210
Jeanni Conlan	Fallon FSA Office	111 Sheckler Road	Fallon, NV 89406
	Family Motor Coach Assoc Inc.	8291 Clough Pike	Cincinnati, OH 45244-9976
	FARM CREDIT SERVICES	P O BOX 2088	ELKO NV 89803
DARYL NEILSEN	FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF THE MOUNTAIN	PO BOX 336670	GREELEY CO 80633
General Manager	Farmers Ranchers Journal	PO Box 748	Peralta, NM 87042
	FEDERAL LAND BANK	255 WEST PECKHAM	RENO NV 89501
CANDACE WINES	FEDERAL LAND USE ADVISORY COMMISSION	569 COURT STREET	ELKO NV 89801
	Fernley Leader Courier	PO Box 387	Fernley, NV 89408
ROBERT JOYNT	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO	1 FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA SUITE 0484	CHICAGO IL 60670

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Flagstaff Live	PO Box 30128	Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0128
Mr John Barta	Florida Canyon Mining Inc	PO Box 330	Imlay, NV 89418
GEORGE FLYNN	FLYNN RANCH	HC 32 BOX 330	TUSCARORA NV 89834
Loretta Carter	Forest Service	825 Ave E.	Ely, NV 89301
BOB VAUGHT	FOREST SUPERVISOR	1200 FRANKLIN WAY	SPARKS, NV 89431
	Fort Hunter Liggett	PO Box 896	Jolon, CA 93928
DON PEITZ	FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WORLD, INC	3180 MILL STREET	RENO NV 89502
	Four Wheeler Magazine	6420 Wilshire Blvd. 10th Floor	Santa Monica, CA 90048
	Free Lance Outdoor Writer	PO Box 4339	San Rafael, CA 94913-4339
Brian Beffort	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	PO Box 9754	Reno, NV 89507
SHAARON NETHERTON	FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS	PO BOX 9754	RENO, NV 895079754
SUSAN POTTER	FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS	PO BOX 9754	RENO, NV 89507
TOM MYERS	FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS	200 BARTLETT ST	RENO, NV 89512
	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	1700 E Desert Inn Rd Suite 406	Las Vegas, NV 89109-3206
	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	P.O. Box 19777	Las Vegas, NV 89132-1977
	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	720 Brookfield	Reno, NV 89503
	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	P.O. Box 9754	Reno, NV 89507
	FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDLIFE	6205 FRANKTOWN ROAD	CARSON CITY NV 89701
	FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY	1100 AVE A	ELY, NV 89301
	Friends of the NV Northern Railway	P.O. Box 150401	East Ely, NV 89315-0401
	Frink	21 Lake Ave	Spencer, MA 01562-2859
NORMAN WILDER	FT INDEPENDENCE PAIUTE COMM COUNCIL	PO BOX 67	INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
	Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	PO Box 457	McDermitt, NV 89421
ANDREA LOCOCO	FUND FOR ANIMALS	PO BOX 11294	JACKSON WY 83002
	FUND FOR ANIMALS	200 WEST 57TH STREET	NEW YORK NY 10019
	Game Fishing Quarterly	PO Box 994	Elk Grove, CA 95624
	Gaming Today	4577 S. Industrial Rd.	Las Vegas, Na 89103
	Gene J. & Marianne Kemp	P.O Box 1207	McGill, NV 89318
GENE POE	GENE POE & J W HOFELDT	P O BOX 907	CARLIN NV 89822
	Geologists Bulletin	PO Box 979	Tulsa, OK 74101
Terry Grotbo	Geomatrix Consultants, INC.	1824 North Last Chance Gulch	Helena MT 59601-0700
	Geothermal Report	PO Box 35 K	Traceys Landing, MD 20779
	Gila Valley Visitor Guide	13175 S. Hillside Drive	Snowflake, AZ 85937
DAVE COOK	GLAMIS DEE GOLD MINING COMPANY	P O BOX 160	VALMY NV 89438
	Glamis Online	6340 Santa Fe Ave.	Huntington Park, CA 90255
ALLEN GLASER	GLASER LAND & LIVESTOCK CO		HALLECK NV 89824
	Golden Eagle	Lemoore NAS Public Affairs	Lemoore, CA 93246-5001
PENNY FRAZIER	GOODS FROM THE WOODS	14125 HIGHWAY C	LICKING MO 65542

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Gordon and Linda Soeder	3060 E. Ridgeview Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89120
MILTON HOOPER	GOSHUTE BUSINESS COUNCIL	PO BOX 6104	IBAPAH, UT 84024
	Goshute Business Council	PO Box 6104	Ibapah, UT 84034
CHAIRPERSON	GOSHUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL	PO BOX 6104	IBAPAH UT 84034-6104
JIM GIBBONS	GOVERNOR OF NEVADA	STATE CAPITOL BLDG	CARSON CITY, NV 89101
JAMES EIDEL	GREAT BASIN BIRD OBSERVATORY	4150 MEADOW WOOD RD	CARSON CITY, NV 897039459
Mr Stan Aizaai	Great Basin College	1500 College Pkwy	Elko, NV
DR. CYD McMULLEN	GREAT BASIN COLLEGE	1500 COLLEGE PARKWAY	ELKO, NV 89801
	GREAT BASIN MINE WATCH	505 S ARLINGTON AVE STE 110	RENO, NV 89509
JANILLE BAKER	GREAT BASIN NATIONAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION		BAKER, NV 89311
BETSY DUNCANCLARK	GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK		BAKER, NV 89311
KATHY BILLINGS	GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK		BAKER, NV 89311
ROBERTA MOORE	GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK	PO BOX 91	BAKER, NV 89311
	GREAT BASIN WATCH	505 SO ARLINGTON AVE SUITE 100	RENO, NV 89509
	Greeley Triune	501 8th Ave. PO Box 1138	Greeley, CO 80632
	Grefco Minerals Inc	PO Box 288	Mina, NV 89422
	GUND RANCHES	21 LEE B UNIT 8	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	Guy Gully	283 Grant Ave.	Ely, NV 89301
BOBBY HOOPER	H & L BAILING, INC.	2247 APPALOOSA ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV 89820
KAY RICHENS	H & R LIVESTOCK	BOX 188	HENEFER UT 84033
KEVEN HALL	HALL'S OUTFITTING & GUIDE SERVICE	P O BOX 399	WELLS NV 89835
ROY SCHURTZ	HAMMOND RANCHES INC	PO BOX 2148	ELKO NV 89803
President	Harold Rother Farms	PO Box 489	Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810-0484
Ira Renner	Harold Rother Farms Inc	HC 30 Box 343	Spring Creek, NV 89815
Ms Lynda M Blair	Harry Reid Center UNLV	4505 Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas, NV 89154-9900
Mr Mike Campbell	Havasu Gold Seekers	401 Norwood Lane	Las Vegas, NV 89107
	HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL	1800 SOUTH WEST TEMPLE SUITE A226-1	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84115
	HBJ Publishing	201 Sandpont Ave. No. 600	Santa Ana, CA 93707-5761
SEAN SHAE	HEADMASTER TAXIDERMY AND GUIDE SERVICE	931 BELGRAVE AVENUE	RENO NV 89502
MITCH HEGUY	HEGUY RANCHES INC	PO BOX 570	ELKO NV 89803
	Hereford Cattle Magazine	PO Box 298	Cedarville, CA 96104
	Heritage Trails Fund Magazine	5301 Pine Hollow Road	Concord, CA 94521
HENRY KRENKA	HIDDEN LAKE OUTFITTERS	HC 60 BOX 515	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
VARLIN S. HIGBEE	HIGBEE BROTHERS	PO BOX 354	ALAMO NV 89001
JOHN CHRISTENSEN	HIGH COUNTRY NEWS	6185 FRANKTOWN ROAD	CARSON CITY NV 89704
	High Country News	PO Box 1090	Paonia, CO 81428

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
DAN CRESSWELL	HIGH DESERT RACING	416 SOUTH LAWNDALE DRIVE	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	Hiitorque Publishing	25233 Anza Drive	Valencia, CA 91355-1289
WILLIAM G MYERS III	HOLLAND AND HART LLP	PO BOX 2527	BOISE ID 83701-2527
MERLIN KINGSTON	HOLTZ INC	PO BOX 87	WOODS CROSS UT 84087
	Hooved Animal Humane Society	PO Box 400	Woodstock, IL 60098-0400
Ms Sharon Decarlo	Horse Tales Pubs	1444 Glenwood Drive	Gardnerville, NV 89410
	Horse Talk News	8585 W. Verde Way	Las Vegas, NV 89129
	Horse Trails	1444 Glenwood Dr.	Garderville, NV 89410
	Horsemen of the Southwest	PO Box 2708	Taos, NM 87571
S.K. HOWARD	HOWARD RANCHES INC	HC 34 BOX 195-3	ELKO NV 89801-9417
	HRA	8544 Summer Vista Avenue	Las Vegas, NA 89128
	HTT RESOURCE ADVISORS	P.O. BOX 8010	SPRING CREEK, NV 89815-8010
	Humane Society of Southern Nevada	3401 Judson Ave.	North Las Vegas, NV 89030-2004
JOHN W GRANDY	HUMANE SOCIETY- U S-WL/HABITAT PROTECTION	2100 L STREET N W	WASHINGTON DC 20037
WILDE BROUGH	HUMBOLDT OUTFITTERS	HC 60 BOX 160	WELLS NV 89835
	Humboldt Ranches	PO Box 1216	Winnemucca, NV 89446-1216
	HUMBOLDT SUN	1022 S GRAOS VALLEY RD	WINNEMUCCA NV 89445
ED MONNIG	HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST	1200 FRANKLIN WAY	SPARKS, NV 89431
Mr Dan Collins	Humbolt Conservation Camp	PO Box 1957	Winnemucca, NV 89445
	Hycroft Resources Development Inc	PO Box 3030	Winnemucca, NV 89446
RANDALL SMITH	IDAHO FISH AND GAME	PO BOX 254	JEROME ID 83338
PAT HASENOEHRL	IDAHO POWER	PO BOX 70	BOISE, ID 83707
	Idaho Power Company	P.O. Box 70	Boise, ID 83707
MATT ANDERSON	IFLBA	978 COMMERCIAL	ELKO NV 89801
James and Vera Baumann S	Impson Creek Ranch	PO Box 308	Eureka, NV 89316
	In Gear	7245 Nonpariel Court	Paso Robles, CA 93446
SCOTT LEWIS	INDEPENDENCE MINING COMPANY INC	HC 31 BOX 78	ELKO NV 89801
	Independent Energy	1421 S. Sheridan Road	Tulsa, OK 74112-6619
KAREN TERRELL	INDEPENDENT NEWS CONTRACTOR	405 POPLAR DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
STEVE AND VICKI NYE	INDIAN CREEK RANCH	7210 S JACKSON ROAD	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445
Baker Hughes	Inteq	PO Box 277	Battle Mountain, NV 89820
J RUSSELL HOFLAND	INTERMOUNTAIN FARM CREDIT	PO BOX 2088	ELKO NV 89803
	INTERMOUNTAIN FEDERAL LAND BANK	P O BOX 2088	ELKO NV 89803
GEORGE SWALLOW	INTERMOUNTAIN RANCHES LTD	618 AULTMAN ST	ELY, NV 89301
BOB SCHWEIGERT	INTERMOUNTAIN RANGE CONSULTANTS	6760 GATTLING RD	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445-6704
	INTERMOUNTAIN RANGE CONSULTANTS	6760 GATTLING RD	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445-6704
MIKE BAUGHMAN	INTERTECH SERVICES GROUP	P O BOX 2008	CARSON CITY NV 89702
LAWRENCE ASTOR	INTERTRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA	PO BOX 7440	RENO, NV 89510

Ely Energy Center EIS Scoping Mailing List

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Mr Lawrence Astor	Intertribal Council of Nevada	PO Box 7440	Reno, NV 89510
	Intl Soc Protection of Mustangs and Burros	Highway 212 Dewey/Ziebach City Line POB 55	Lantry, SD 57636
	J D Booth California State Grange	2101 Stockton Blvd.	Sacramento, CA 95817
JAMES M SMILEY	J M & EDWARD H SMILEY		DEETH NV 89823
	J R Alcorn	200 Brigs Lane	Fallon, NV 89406
	J&M Trucking	800 Avenue O	Ely, NV 89301
	JACKPOT ADVISORY COUNCIL		JACKPOT NEVADA 89825
	JAMES J WRIGHT RANCH INC	HC 32 BOX 180	TUSCARORA NV 89834
	JDL Construction	25 Ave H	McGill, NV 89318
FRED ZAGA	JIGGS CONSERVATION DISTRICT	HCR 30 BOX 347	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	Jimmie Dale & Kay Ann Lee	HC33 Box 33585	Ely, NV 89301
DOMINIC PIERETTI	JOE PIERETTI RANCH	P O BOX 667	CARLIN NV 89822
	John O. Flemming	780 West 5600 North	Beryl, UT 84714
	John Uhalde	P.O. Box 151088	Ely, NV 89315
Mr & Mrs Joe Brown	Jones Jones Close Brown	3773 Howard Hughes Parkway	Las Vegas, NV 89109
ANN MORGAN	JONES VARGAS	PO BOX 281	RENO NV 89504-0281
	Journal of Forestry	5400 Grosvenor Lane	Bethesda, MD 20814
	Judy Kuban Etal	1625 Wendy Way	Reno, NV 89509
PETE TOMERA	JULIAN TOMERA RANCHES	P.O. BOX 276	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
	K & K TOMERA, A PARTNERSHIP	HC 30 BOX 435 #1 LSF	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
Mr K C Dendooven	K C Publications	PO Box 98118	Las Vegas, NV 89193-8118
MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER	K J EVANS	CAPITOL COMPLEX	CARSON CITY NV 89710
	KAME TV	4920 Brookside Ct	Reno, NV 89502
Phil Pikyavit	Kanosh Band of Paiutes	P.O. Box 340	Kanosh, UT 84637
	KBULKNEVKKOH Radio	595 E Plumb Lane	Reno, NV 89502
	KCBN / KRNO Radio	300 E 2 Street	Reno, NV 89501-1500
	KDSS	501 AULTMAN STREET SUITE 208	ELY, NV 89301
	KDWN	1 Main St	Las Vegas, NV 89101
	KELY	807 AVE F	ELY, NV 89301
Mr. Fred Fox	Kennecott Minerals Company	224 North 2200 West	Salt Lake City, UT 84116
	Kennecott Rawhide Mining Company	PO Box 2070	Fallon, NV 89407
KEN WELLS	KENS FIREWOOD	2580 N NELLIS BLVD	LAS VEGAS, NV 89115
	KENV Channel 10 TV	1025 Chilton Circle	Elko, NV 89801
	Kern County Farm Bureau	801 S. Mount Vernon Ave.	Bakersfield, CA 93307-2888
	KFBI FM 1075	6655 W Sahara Suite 204	Las Vegas, NV 89102
	KFBT WB 33	3840 South Jones Blvd	Las Vegas, NV 89103
	KGBM Radio	PO Box 2109	Minden, NV 89423
	KHWK	PO Box 1669	Tonopah, NV 89049

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	KILA Radio	2201 S 6th St	Las Vegas, NV 89114
	Kinross Candelaria Mining Company	PO Box 1240	Hawthorne, NV 89049
JOHN NELSON	KIRKWOOD OIL AND GAS	P O BOX 3439	CASPER WY 82602
	KJMZ	6655 W Sahara C216	Las Vegas, NV 89102
	KJULFM 1043	1455 E Tropicana Ave 800	Las Vegas, NV 89119-6507
	KKOH Radio	595 E Plumb Lane	Reno, NV 89502
	KLA Environmental Consulting Inc	3133 West Post Road	Las Vegas, NV 89103
	KLAS TV	PO Box 15047	Las Vegas, NV 89109-9097
	KLAV AM 1230	1130 E DESERT INN RD, STE 100	LAS VEGAS, NV 89109-5831
	KLSQ 780 AM	6767 W Tropicana	Las Vegas, NV 89103
	KMZQ Klassy 100	6655 W Sahara C216	Las Vegas, NV 89102
	Knight & Leavitt	3133 W Post Rd	Las Vegas, NV 89118
	Knight Leavitt Association	3133 West Post Road	Las Vegas, NV 89118
	KNIGHT PIESOLD AND COMPANY	249 THIRD STREET	ELKO NV 89801
	KNIS Radio	6363 US Hwy 50 E	Carson City, NV 89701
	KNPR Radio	1289 S Torrey Pines Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89146
News Director	KOLOTV	Box 10000	Reno, NV 89510
News Director	KONE Radio	Box 9870	Reno, NV 89507-0870
	KPAH Radio	PO Box 1669	Tonopah, NV 89049
News Director	KPTL Radio	1960 Idaho St	Carson City, NV 89701-5306
	KQZZ Radio	PO Box 9870	Reno, NV 89507
	KRJC Radio	1850 Manzanita, POB 1626	Elko, NV 89801
	KRNV	1790 Vassar	Reno, NV 89502
	KRNV TV	Box 7160	Reno, NV 89510
	KTVN Channel 2 CBS	PO Box 7220 4925 Energy Way	Reno, NV 89510-7220
	KUNR Radio	UNR 106 Education Bldg	Reno, NV 89557
Univ of NV Las Vegas	KUNV Radio	4505 S Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas, NV 89154
	KVBC TV Channel 3 NBC	Box 44169 1500 Foremaster Lane	Las Vegas, NV 89104
	KVLV	1135 Gummow Dr	Fallon, NV 89406
	KVVU Channel 5 Fox	25 TV5 Dr	Henderson, NV 89014
News Director	KWNA Radio	Box 591	Winnemucca, NV 89445
	L W PETERSON INC	P O BOX 324	HYRUM UT 84319
KEN PULVER	LAHONTAN AUDUBON	1585 WHEATGRASS DRIVE	RENO NV 89509
	Lahontan Valley News	PO Box 1297	Fallon, NV 89406
	LAHONTON CHAPTER AUDUBON SOCIETY	P O BOX 2304	RENO NV 89505
News Editor	Lamar News	PO Box 1217	Lamar, CO 81052
PETE BOTTARI	LAMOILLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT		LAMOILLE NV 89828
	Land Investment News	PO Box 440712	Aurora, CO 80044-0712

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	LANDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	P O BOX 10	AUSTIN NV 89310
	LANDER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION	315 SOUTH HUMBOLDT STREET	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
RAY H. WILLIAMS, JR.	LANDER COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	P.O. BOX 111	AUSTIN, NV 89310
RAY SALISBURY	LANDER COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USE	P.0. BOX 28	AUSTIN, NV 89310
	Lapidary Journal	PO Box 80937	San Diego, CA 92138
	Las Vegas Bugle	PO Box 14580	Las Vegas, NV 89114-4580
KENNY ANDERSON	LAS VEGAS COLONY TRIBAL COUNCIL	# 1 PAIUTE DRIVE	LAS VEGAS NV 89102
Claire Toomey	Las Vegas Distance Riders	2221 W. Sloan St.	Pahrump, NV 89060
	Las Vegas Israelite	Box 14096	Las Vegas, NV 89114
Chairperson	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	1 Paiute Dr.	Las Vegas, NV 89106
Keith Rogers	Las Vegas Review Journal	P.O. Box 70	Las Vegas, NV 89125
	LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL	P O BOX 70	LAS VEGAS NV 89101
	Las Vegas Sentinel Voice	900 E Charleston Blvd	Las Vegas, NV 89104
	Las Vegas Valley Water District	1001 South Valley View Blvd.	Las Vegas, NV 89153
MIKE LATTIN	LATTIN FAMILY TRUST	3250 SUNDANCE CIRCLE	ELKO NV 89801
GEORGE & LINDA ELDRIDGE	LAURENCE RANCH PARTNERSHIP	PO BOX 46	DEETH, NV 89823
	LAWRENCE RANCH TRUST et al	HC 35 BOX 240	MOUNTAIN CITY NV 89831
MICHAEL STEWART	LCB RESEARCH	401 SOUTH CARSON ST	CARSON CITY NV 89701-4747
	LDS ELKO RANCH	HC 30 BOX 351	ELKO NV 89801
	Lea Brooks California County	1100 K St. STE 101	Sacramento, CA 95814
ED SARMAN	LEE LIVESTOCK COMPANY	HC 30 BOX 61	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
JOHN J VASQUEZ	LEE WILSON & COMPANY	2-U RANCH	LEE NV 89829
Mr Brian Davie	Legislative Counsel Bureau	555 Washington Ave. STE 4400	Las Vegas, NV 89101
	Leo Ault	357 S. Loader Dr.	Pleasant Grove, UT 84062
	LERC Rockcrafters Psephite	1011 Lockheed Way	Palmdale, CA 93599-0001
Property Dept.	Level 3 Communications	1025 Eldorado Blvd	Broomfield, CO 80021
	Licoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife	PO Box 416	Caliente, NV 89008
	LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSION	LINCOLN COUNTY PLACE	PIOCHE, NV 89043
	Lincoln County Conservation District	PO Box 8	Caliente, NV 89008
	Lincoln County Library	PO Box 330	Pioche, NV 89043
	Lincoln County Public Lands Commission	PO Box 90	Pioche, NV 89043
	Lion Magazine	300 22nd St.	Oak Brook, IL 60570
	Livestock Weekly	PO Box 3306	San Angelo, TX 76901
Mr Ted Balash	Lockheed Martin	PO Box 1950	Fallon, NV 89407
	LOLA	PO Box 2260	Phoenix, AZ 85002
Mr. Lyle Whiteside	Longhorn Cattle Co	HC 64 Box 18	Caliente, NV 89008
	Los Angeles Magazine	5900 Wilshire BLVD 10th Floor	Los Angeles, CA 90036-5013
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR	LOVELOCK PAIUTE TRIBE	PO BOX 878	LOVELOCK, NV 894190878

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Tribal Council	Lovelock Paiute Tribe	PO Box 878	Lovelock, NV 89419-0878
	Lovelock Review Miner	PO Box 620	Lovelock, NV 89419
Eric Crawford	LS Power Develpoment LLC	400 Chesterfield Center STE 110 St.	Louis, MO 63017
	Lyon County Leader courier	PO Box 841	Yerington, NV 89447
	M. Lee Dazey	1675 The Strand	Reno, NV 89503
Mr Kyle W Bateman	Mable bates Permit	PO Box 6112	Ibapah,UT 84034
JON GRIGGS	MAGGIE CREEK RANCH	P O BOX 2010	ELKO NV 89803
	Maggie Creek Ranch Inc	PO Box 1360	Elko, NV 89803
	Margene Bullcreek	PO Box 155	Toole, UT 84074
JOAN DANCE	MARY DEAN & ASSOCIATES	2340 PASEO DEL PRADO D-202	LAS VEGAS NV 89102
Ms Joan Dance	Marydean Associates	2340 Paseo Del Prado D202	Las Vegas, NV 89102
JOHN M WRIGHT	MARYS RIVER RANCH		DEETH NV 89823
	Mason Valley News	PO Box 841	Yerington, NV 89447
DAVID MCCULLOUGH	MCCULLOUGH ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS	1018 WHITEHOLLOW AVE	NO LAS VEGAS, NV 89031
	McLeod and Reid Farms	Box 183	Lund, NV 89317
Jim Campe	Mellis Air Force 99 CES CEVN	4349 Duffer Sr. STE 1601	Nellis AFB, NV 89191
MIKE VISHER	MERIDIAN GOLD INC	9670 GATEWAY DRIVE # FLR-2	RENO NV 89511-8997
KENNY MERKLEY	MERKLEY RANCHES INC	400 JIGGS UNIT 17	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	MI Drilling Fluids Company	PO Box 370	Battle Mountain, NV 89820
	MILLER AND WOOD RANCH COMPANY	25366 WEST DORIS	COALINGA CA 93210
	Minad Inc	PO Box 39NGO Road	Winnemucca, NV 89446
	Mineral County Commissioners	PO Box 1450	Hawthorne, NV 89415
News Editor	Mineral County Independent	Box 1270	Hawthorne, NV 89415
	MINERAL POLICY CENTER	1612 K STREET NW STE 808	WASHINGTON DC 20006
DENNIS TIPPETS	MINEX RESOURCES INC	1614 GANNETT DR	RIVERTON, WY 82501
Tribal Leader	Moapa Band of Paiute Indians	PO Box 340	Moapa, NV 89025
Calvin Meyers	Moapa Band of Paiutes	P.O. Box 340	Moapa, NV 89035
Phil Swain	Moapa Band of Paiutes	P.O. Box 340	Moapa, NV 89025
ROSLYN MIKE	MOAPA BUSINESS COUNCIL	P O BOX 340	MOAPA NV 89025
	Moapa Business Council	PO Box 340	Moapa, NV 89025
CANDICE GRAYMAN	MOAPA TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL	PO BOX 340	MOAPA, NV 89025
David Bradshaw	Modoc County Board of Supervisors	PO Box 59	Lookout, CA 96054
	Modoc County Department of Agriculture	PO Box 222	Tulelake, CA 96134
	Mojave Native Plant Society	8180 Placid St.	Las Vegas, NV 89123
News Editor	Montrose Daily Press	535 S. First St.	Montrose, CO 81401
	Moose Magazine	Supreme Lodge Building	Mooseheart, IL 60539
PETER MORI	MORI RANCHES	HC-32, BOX 290	TUSCARORA, NV 89834
JOEL TWITCHELL	MORIAH RANCHES INC	HC 33 BOX 33575	ELY, NV 89301
DAVE ELDRIDGE	MORIAH RANCHES, INC	PO BOX 46	BAKER, NV 89311

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Marta Agee	MOSA RAC	HCR 61 Box 50	Alamo, NV 89001-9701
JOHN HIATT	MOSO RAC	8180 PLACID ST	LAS VEGAS, NV 89123
	Motocross Action	25233 Anza Drive	Valencia, CA 91355-1289
	Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada	3475 C Boulder Highway	Las Vegas, NV 89121
Mr & Mrs Robert C Brogan	Mr & Mrs Robert C Brogan	3276 Kitchen Dr.	Carson, NV 89701-6165
Mr & Mrs W H Boman	Mr & Mrs W H Boman	1500 Drumm Ln.	Fallon, NV 89406
	Mr John M Baal	9320 Stange Ave.	Las Vegas, NV 89129
	Mr Kirk Brotherson	PO Box 7094	Bunkerville, NV 89007
	Mr Leon Bolwer	PO Box 7	Enterprise, UT 84725
	Mr Mace Bergmann	2200 Bodega Ave	Petaluma, CA 94952
	Mr Michael Dermody	PO Box 7098	Reno, NV 89510
	Mr Monty Adams	568 N. Downs Lane	Fallon, NV 89406
	Mr Noel K Augenstein	1765 Tacoma St.	Chipley, FL 32428-3155
	Mr Patrick Caldwell	PO Box 63	Genoa, NV 89411
	Mr Paul Brunell	1290 Centerville	Gardnerville, NV 89410
	Mr Pete Delmue	PO Box 457	Pioche, NV 89043
	Mr Phillip Buck	PO Box 552	Caliente, NV 89008
	Mr Ray Coulinke	1579 Cushman Road	Fallon, NV 89406
	Mr Richard C Davis	4274 Mulligan Drive	Carson City, NV 89701
	Mr Richard Campbell	119 Baxter Street	Vallejo, CA 94590
	Mr Robert C Broadbent Jr.	8 West Pacifice Ave	Henderson, NV 89015
	Mr Robert G Carrington	PO Box 325	Virginia City, NV 89440
	Mr Robert L Allgeier	1767 Shamrock Cir.	Minden, NV 89423-4706
	Mr Roger Deilmann	5454 Arville St	Las Vegas, NV 89118
	Mr Ron Carey	250 Lemaine Road	Battle Mountain, NV 89820
	Mr Rulon B Cox	6511 W. Deer Springs Way	Las Vegas, NV 89131
	Mr S B Anpu	5091 S 4460 W	Kearns, UT 84118
	Mr Scott Anderson	6350 Bonanza Drive	Winnemucca, NV 89445
	Mr Sean Cox	1915 Peavine	Reno, NV 89503
	Mr Sherman Ball	PO Box 1208	Beatty, NV 89003
	Mr Thomas Atkinson	1019 Cleaveland St.	Woodland, CA 95695
	Mr Thomas R Baker	2320 Woodcrest Lane Suite 304	Carson City, NV 89701
	Mr Trent Crotteau	220 Carson Road	Battle Mountain, NV 89820
	Ms Ann S Carpenter	5445 Goldenrod Drive	Reno, NV 89440
	Ms Carol A Corbett	5036 N. Cimarron Road	Las Vegas, NV 89149
	Ms Constance Alexander	PO Box 364	Minden, NV 89423
	Ms Dixie Lee Busch	3000 Old Clear Creek Road	Carson City, NV 89705
	Ms Elaine Brooks	PO Box 11733	Reno, NV 89510-1733
	Ms Jane Bradshaw	HC 61 Box 27	Hiko, NV 89017-9611

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Ms Janille Baker	Great Basin National Park	Baker, NV 89311
	Ms Jennifer Allen	4780 East Third Street	Tucson, AZ 85711
	Ms Jo Ann Dawson	1897 Black Pine Dr.	Grants Pass, OR 97527-6356
	Ms Joneille Anderson	510 Grand Rapids St	Middleville, MI 49058
	Ms Julia Bosmadouglas	10686 E. Fair Ave.	Englewood, CO 80111
	Ms Lillian Darrough	HC 60 Box 56202	Round Mountain, NV 89045
	Ms Louise Bayarddevolo	Box 285	Verdi, NV 89439
	Ms Margaret Biggs	896 Bollen Circle	Gardnerville, NV 89410
	Ms Nancy Bryant	PO Box 1142	Minden, NV 89423
	Ms Sandra Bates	3690 S. Eastern Ave. #220	Las Vegas, NV 89109-3319
	MT. WHEELER POWER	1600 GREAT BASIN BLVD POB 1110	ELY, NV 89301
Jesse Murdock	Mt. Wheeler Power Co.	207 E. Grant Avenue	Ely, NV 89301
	Munger Oil Info Service Inc	PO Box 45738	Los Angeles, CA 90045-0738
Mr Jimmy Danner	Murdocks Metal Paint Inc.	201 High St	Ely, NV 89301
Don Coops	N Washoe County Cattlemens Assn	PO Box 159	Cedarville, CA 96104
Bill Davidson	N-4 Grazing Board	P.O. Box 1077	McGill, NV 89316
	NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS PRESERV	OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOC. 950 OLD TRACE ROAD	PALO ALTO CA 94306
	NATIONAL MUSTANG ASSOC INC	P O BOX 1367	CEDAR CITY UT 84721-1367
Richard Sewing	National Mustang Association	P.O. Box 1367	Cedar City, UT 84721
	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	1111 JACKSON STREET SUITE 700	OAKLAND CA 94607
Director	National Park Service Lake Mead National Recreation Area	601 Nevada Highway	Boulder, NV 89005
	National Park Service Great Basin	100 Great Basin National Park	Baker, NV 89311
CINDY NIELSEN	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK	100 GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK	BAKER, NV 89311
DEPT OF COMMERCE	NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	3720 PARADISE VALLEY ROAD	ELKO NV 89801
Lloyd Smith	National Wild Horse Association	P.O. Box 12207	Las Vegas, NV 89112-0207
	National Wild Horse Association	PO Box 12207	Las Vegas, NV 89112
Arthur Carhart	National Wilderness Training Center	32 Campus Drive	Missoula, MT 59812-0003
CATHY CARLSON	NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION	1400 16th STREET	WASHINGTON DC 20036
David Alberswerth	National Wildlife Federation	1400 16th St NW	Washington, DC 20005
	National Wildlife Federation	1400 16th St. NW	Washington, DC 20036
	NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION	1400 16TH ST NW	WASHINGTON, DC 20036
	Natural Resource Conservation Service	1365 Corporate Blvd Bldg F No 220	Reno, NV 89502
	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE	555 W SILVER STREET	ELKO, NV 898017714
JOHANNA WALD	NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL	111 SUTTER STREET, 20th FLOOR	SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104
	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE	HC 33 BOX 33451	ELY, NV 89301

Ely Energy Center EIS Scoping Mailing List

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Mr Ed Depaoli	NCA Public Lands Com	PO Box 310	Elko, NV 89803-0310
DAVE GASKIN	NDEP	901 S. STEWART STREET, #4001	CARSON CITY, NV 89701-5249
	NDOT	1404 E AULTMAN	ELY, NV 89301
	NDOT	1951 IDAHO STREET	ELKO NV 89801
Marcia Barker Browning	NE Nevada Museum	1515 Idaho St.	Elko, NV 89801-4021
DAVE BEST	NE NV CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED	PO BOX 5882	ELKO NV 89802
TED MCPHEE	NE NV CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED	215 BLUFFS AVE SUITE 300	ELKO NV 89801
HANK VOGLER	NE RAC	HCR 33 BOX 33920	ELY, NV 89301
Ms Kathy Ataman	NE RAC	PO Box 21 Silver	Silver City, NV 89428-0021
PAUL NEFF	NEFF RANCH COMPANY	HC 60 BOX 555	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
	Nellis AFB Bullseye	4370 N Washington Suite 223	Las Vegas, NV 89191-7078
Ms Connie Creech	Nevada Allstate Trail Riders	4071 Center Dr.	Carson City, NV 89701
	Nevada Appeal	PO Box 2288	Carson City, NV 89702
ROBERT LEAVITT	NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOC	1739 CARITA AVE	HENDERSON NV 89104
	Nevada Archaeological Association	PO Box 73145	Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145
	Nevada Beef Council	350 Capitol Hill	Reno, NV 89502
	NEVADA BELL/RIGHT OF WAY	PO BOX 11010 645 E PLUMB LANE ROOM C259	RENO NV 89520
	Nevada Bighorn Unlimited	Box 2308	Fallon, NV 89406
	Nevada Bighorn Unlimited	Box 2233	Elko, NV 89801
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO	NEVADA BUREAU OF MINES		RENO NV 89507
RACHEL BUZZETTI	NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION	P.O. BOX 310	ELKO, NV 89803-0310
	Nevada Cattlemen's Association	P.O Box 310	Elko, NV 89801
	Nevada Cement Company	PO Box 840	Fernlay, NV 89408
GLEN SHAW	NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM	555 E. WASHINGTON AVE STE 5600	LAS VEGAS, NV 89101
Attn: Tax Dept.	Nevada Copper Comp Kennecott	P.O Box 6001	Magna, UT 84044-6001
Tom Ballow	Nevada Department of Agriculture	350 Capitol Hill	Reno, NV 89502
	Nevada Department of Agriculture	251 Jeanell Drive, Suite 3	Carson City, NV 89703-2129
Kathleen R. Weaver	Nevada Department of Transportation	1401 East Aultman Street	Ely, NV 89301
Lori Bellis	Nevada Department of Transportation	1263 S. Stewart St. Rm 104	Carson City, NV 89712
Jason Williams	Nevada Department of Wildlife	1218 North Alpha Street	Ely, NV 89301
Steve Foree	Nevada Department of Wildlife	60 Youth Center Road	Elko, NV 89801
TERI SLATAUSKI	NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE	P O BOX 1032	TONOPAH, NV 89049
	Nevada Department of Wildlife	1100 Valley Road	Reno, NV 89512-2817
Allen Biaggi	Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	901 S. Stewart St. STE 5001	Carson City, NV 89701-5244
	NEVADA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	251 JEANELL DR STE 3	CARSON CITY, NV 897032129
RICH REYBURN	NEVADA DEPT OF MINERALS	400 W KING SUITE 106	CARSON CITY, NV 89701
KEVIN LEE	NEVADA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	1951 IDAHO STREET	ELKO, NV 89801

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Nevada Div of Forestry	123 W. Nye Ln Suite 142	Carson City, NV 89701
	Nevada Div of Agriculture	350 Capitol Hill	Reno, NV 89502-2923
JEANMARIE STONE	NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	901 SOUTH STEWART ST STE 4001	CARSON CITY NV 89706-0851
JIM SMITHERMAN	NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	901 SOUTH STEWART ST STE 4001	CARSON CITY NV 89710
AL MILLER	NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY	PO BOX 151085	ELY NV 89315
GARY ZUNINO	NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY	911 FALCON LANE	ELKO, NV 89801
Mark Hill	Nevada Division of Forestry	4747 West Vegas Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89108
SKIP CANFIELD	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE LANDS	901 SOUTH STEWART STE 5003, RM 118	CARSON CITY, NV 897060857
ALLEN NEWBERRY	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	1300 SOUTH CURRY STREET	CARSON CITY, NV 897025202
DAVID MORROW	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	1300 SOUTH CURRY STREET	CARSON CITY, NV 89703
LINDA EISSMAN	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	1300 SOUTH CURRY ST	CARSON CITY, NV 89701
RANDY MOORE	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	HC 30 419-13	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
SOUTH FORK RECREATION AREA	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	HC 30 BOX 353-8	ELKO NV 89801
WILD HORSE RECREATION AREA	NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS	HC 31 BOX 265	ELKO NV 89801
	Nevada Division of State Parks	1300 South Curry Street	Carson City, NV 89702-5202
HUGH RICCI	NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES	901 SOUTH STEWART ST. STE 2002	CARSON CITY, NV 89701
	NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES	901 S STEWART ST STE 2002	CARSON CITY, NV 897015250
CURTIS BAUGHMAN	NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE	1218 N ALPHA	ELY, NV 89301
	Nevada Division of Wildlife	1218 North Alpha	Ely, NV 89301
	NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE	60 YOUTH CENTER ROAD	ELKO NV 89801
CONNIE DAVIS	NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	333 W NYE LANE	CARSON CITY, NV 89706-3802
STEVE WEAVER	NEVADA DIVISION STATE PARKS	PO BOX 176	PANACA, NV 89042
Icyl Mulligan	Nevada Divison of Environmental Protection	Bureau of Water Pollution Control 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001	Carson City, NV 89701
	Nevada ENV Consultants Inc	2727 S. Rainbow Blvd.	Las Vegas, NV 89102
CHARLES WHITE	NEVADA FARM BUREAU	2165 GREEN VISTA DR STE 205	SPARKS, NV 89431
STEPHANIE LICHT	NEVADA FARM BUREAU	339 ROCKWOOD DR	SPRING CREEK, NV 89815
	Nevada Farm Bureau Federation	2165 Green Vista Drive, Suite 205	Sparks, NV 89431
	Nevada Farms Bureau Federation	2165 Green Vista Drive Suite 205	Sparks, NV 89431
	NEVADA FIRST CORPORATION	PO BOX 490	WINNEMUCCA NV 89446
	Nevada Fish & Game Commission	1100 Valley Road	Reno, NV 89512-2817
Paul Bottari	Nevada High Country	PO Box 135	Wells, NV 89835-0135
TODD SCHWANDT	NEVADA HIGH COUNTRY OUTFITTERS	PO BOX 281388	LAMOILLE NV 89828
PAUL BOTTARI	NEVADA HIGH COUNTRY TOURS	P O BOX 135	WELLS NV 89835
	NEVADA HIGHWAY PATROL	3920 E IDAHO STREET	ELKO NV 89801
PHILLIP EARLE	NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	1650 N VIRGINIA ST	RENO, NV 89503

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Peter Bandurrage	Nevada Histroical Society	1650 N. Virginia Street	Reno, NV 89403
Ms Susan Asher	Nevada Humane Society	PO Box Kind	Sparks, NV 89432-8610
SUSAN ASHER	NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY	P O BOX KIND	SPARKS NV 89431
NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOC	NEVADA LAND ACTION ASSOC AND	P O BOX 310	ELKO NV 89803
	Nevada Land and Resource Co LLC & VDL	704 W. Nye Ln. STE 201	Carson City, NV 89703-1542
VIDLER WATER COMPANY	NEVADA LAND AND RESOURCE CO, LLC	3480 GS RICHARDS BLVD STE 101	CARSON CITY NV 89703
	NEVADA LAND AND RESOURCE CO, LLC	3480 GS RICHARDS BLVD STE 101	CARSON CITY NV 89703
	NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COMM ON PUBLIC LANDS	LEGISLATIVE BLDG CAPITOL COMPLEX	CARSON CITY, NV 89710
RUSS FIELDS	NEVADA MINING ASSOC	9210 PROTOTYPE DRIVE STE 220	RENO, NV 89511
JONATHAN BROWN	NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION	9210 PROTOTYPE DRIVE #200	RENO NV 89511-2984
	NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION	9210 PROTOTYPE DRIVE SUITE 200	RENO NV 89511
GLENN CLEMMER	NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM	901 SOUTH STEWART ST # 5002	CARSON CITY, NV 897015245
	Nevada Natural Heritage Program	901 S Stewart Street Suite 5002	Carson City, NV 89701
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE	P O BOX 98518	LAS VEGAS NV 89193
Mr Sonia Dehart	Nevada Outdoor Recreation Assn	Box 71	Genoa, NV 89411
CHARLES WATSON	NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOC	BOX 1245	CARSON CITY NV 89702-1245
Mr Dale Barbeau	Nevada Recreation Park Society	1100 E. St Louis	Las Vegas, NV 89104
	Nevada Rock Art Foundation	305 S Arlington Ave	Reno, NV 89501
BARBRA BUCKLEY	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	5442 HOLBROOK	LAS VEGAS, NV 89103
BERNIE ANDERSON	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	747 GLEN MEADOW DR	SPARKS, NV 894341536
Bob Price	Nevada State Assembly	P.O. Box 363759	North Las Vegas, NV 89036-7759
BRIAN SANDOVAL	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	100 N CARSON ST	CARSON CITY, NV 897014717
CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	706 BRACKEN AVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89104
David Brown	Nevada State Assembly	701 North Green Valley Parkway Suite 200	Henderson, NV 89074-6178
David Parks	Nevada State Assembly	P.O. Box 71887	Las Vegas, NV 89170-1887
Dawn Gibbons	Nevada State Assembly	2535 Kinney Lane	Reno, NV 89511-6546
Debbie Smith	Nevada State Assembly	3270 Wilma Drive	Sparks, NV 89431-1173
DENNIS NOLAN	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	PO BOX 82249	LAS VEGAS, NV 891802249
Don Gustavson	Nevada State Assembly	P.O. Box 20300	Sun Valley, NV 89433-0300
DOUGLAS BACHE	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	2236 MELINDA AVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89101
Ellen M. Koivisto	Nevada State Assembly	1147 Timber Ridge Court	Las Vegas, NV 89110-2545
GENIE OHRENSCHALL	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	1124 S 15TH ST	LAS VEGAS, NV 89104
Harry Mortenson	Nevada State Assembly	3930 El Camino Road	Las Vegas, NV 89103-2221
Honorable Bernie Anderson	Nevada State Assembly	747 Glen Meadow Dr	Sparks, NV 89434-1536
JOHN CARPENTER	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	PO BOX 190	ELKO, NV 89803-0190
John Oceguera	Nevada State Assembly	4560 El Campana Way	Las Vegas, NV 89121-6510
John W. Marvel	Nevada State Assembly	P.O. Box 1270	Battle Mountain, NV 89820

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
JOSEPH DINI	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	104 N MOUNTAIN VIEW	YERINGTON, NV 89447
Kathleen A. Von Tobel	Nevada State Assembly	10610 Canon Perdido Street	Las Vegas, NV 89141-4270
LYNN HETTRICK	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	1475 GLENWOOD DR	GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
M Dennis Allard	Nevada State Assembly	5409 Langston Circle	Las Vegas, NV 89130
Mark Manendo	Nevada State Assembly	4629 Butterfly Circle	Las Vegas, NV 89122
Merle Berman	Nevada State Assembly	2012 Gray Eagle Way	Las Vegas, NV 89117-5738
MIKE MCGINNESS	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	770 WILDES RD	RENO, NV 89406
MIKE SCHNEIDER	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	6381 SANDPIPER WAY	LAS VEGAS, NV 89103
MORSE ARBERRY	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	1330 VIRGINIA CITY AVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89106
Mr Douglas A Bache	Nevada State Assembly	2236 Melinda Ave.	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Mr Morse Arberry Jr.	Nevada State Assembly	1330 Virginia City Ave.	Las Vegas, NV 89106
Ms Barbara Buckley	Nevada State Assembly	5481 Supai Dr.	Las Vegas, NV 89103
Pete Goicoechea	Nevada State Assembly	P.O. Box 97	Eureka, NV 89316
ROY NEIGHBORS	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	PO BOX 33	TONOPAH, NV 890490033
Sharron E. Angle	Nevada State Assembly	1802 Rainbow Ridge Road	Reno, NV 89523-1847
Tom Collins	Nevada State Assembly	4716 San Miguel Avenue	North Las Vegas, NV 89032-2828
VONNE CHOWNING	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	2015 CAROLL ST	NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
WENDELL P. WILLIAMS	NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY	2200 CANARY WAY	LAS VEGAS, NV 89106
Clearinghouse Coordinator/SPOC	Nevada State Budget & Planning Division	209 East Musser St Room 200	Carson City NV 89701
	Nevada State Clearing House	209 E. Musser, Rm 200	Carson City, NV 89701
Budget and Planning Division	Nevada State Clearinghouse	209 East Musser Street, Room 200	Carson City, NV 89701-4298
GOSIA SYLWESTRZAK	NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE	209 E MUSSER ST RM 200	CARSON CITY, NV 897014298
Heather K. Elliott	Nevada State Clearinghouse	209 E. Musser Street, Room 200	Carson City, NV 897109
MICHAEL STAFFORD	NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE	209 E MUSSER ST RM 200	CARSON CITY NV 89701-4298
PAUL IVERSON	NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE	350 CAPITOL HILL AVE	RENO NV 89502
	NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE	350 CAPITOL HILL AVE	RENO NV 89502-2923
DAVE MCNEIL	NEVADA STATE ENERGY OFFICE	727 FAIRVIEW DR NO G	CARSON CITY, NV 89701
	Nevada State Grazing Boards	432 Court St. PO Box 10800	Reno, NV 89510
Maggie Brown	Nevada State Museum	Capitol Complex	Carson, NV 89710
	Nevada State Museum Docents	500 North Carson Street	Carson City, NV 89701
	NEVADA STATE PARKS	PO BOX 176	PANACA, NV 89042
ANN OCONNELL	NEVADA STATE SENATE	7225 MONTECITO CIRCLE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89120
BARBRA CEGAVSKE	NEVADA STATE SENATE	6465 LAREDO ST	LAS VEGAS, NV 891465272
BERNICE MARTIN MATHEWS	NEVADA STATE SENATE	PO BOX 2032	SPARKS, NV 89432
BOB BEERS	NEVADA STATE SENATE	9428 GREENVILLE AVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 891346206
BOB COFFIN	NEVADA STATE SENATE	1139 S 5TH PL	LAS VEGAS, NV 89104
DAWN GIBBONS	NEVADA STATE SENATE	401 South Carson Street Room 4112	Carson City, NV 89701
Dean H. Rhoads	Nevada State Senate	P.O. Box 8	Tuscarora, NV 89509
DINA TITUS	NEVADA STATE SENATE	1637 TRAVOIS CIRCLE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
GREG BROWER	NEVADA STATE SENATE	PO BOX 281	RENO, NV 895040281
Honorable Erik Beyer	Nevada State Senate	1274 St. Alberts Dr.	Reno, NV 89503
JERRY CLABORN	NEVADA STATE SENATE	6617 KENNEY LANE	RENO, NV 895116546
Joseph M. Neal, Jr.	Nevada State Senate	304 Lance Avenue	North Las Vegas, NV 89030
KATHY MCCLAIN	NEVADA STATE SENATE	2457 SWAN LANE	LAS VEGAS, NV 891215242
Maggie Carlton	Nevada State Senate	5540 East Cartwright Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89110-3802
Mark Amodei	Nevada State Senate	805 West Sunset Way	Carson City, NV 89703-3751
MAURICE WASHINGTON	NEVADA STATE SENATE	PO BOX 1166	SPARKS, NV 89432
Mike A. Schneider	Nevada State Senate	6381 Sandpiper Way	Las Vegas, NV 89103
RANDOLPH J. TOWNSEND	NEVADA STATE SENATE	PO BOX 20923	RENO, NV 89515
RICHARD D. PERKINS	NEVADA STATE SENATE	328 FIFE ST	HENDERSON, NV 890152700
SHEILA LESLIE	NEVADA STATE SENATE	825 HUMBOLDT ST	RENO, NV 895052009
TERRY CARE	NEVADA STATE SENATE	4371 WOODCREST ROAD	LAS VEGAS, NV 891214946
VALARIE WIENER	NEVADA STATE SENATE	3540 W SAHARA #352	LAS VEGAS, NV 891025816
WARREN HARDY	NEVADA STATE SENATE	6536 BLUE SAPHIRE CT	LAS VEGAS, NV 891104049
WILLIAM J. RAGGIO	NEVADA STATE SENATE	PO BOX 281	RENO, NV 895040281
Ms Joy Helen Bybee	Nevada Tourism Reps	750 Park Ave	Ely, NV 89301
ERIKA POLLARD	NEVADA WILDERNESS PROJECT	8550 WHITE FIR ST	RENO, NV 89523
Mr Bill Bradley	Nevada Wildlife Commission	PO Box 1987	Reno, NV 89505-1987
	Nevada Wildlife Commission	P.O. Box 1987	Reno, NV 89505-1987
FRED WRIGHT	NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION	1122 GREENBRAE DR	SPARKS, NV 89432
Gale Dupree	Nevada Wildlife Federation	216 East Hampton Drive	Carson City, NV 89706
KEVIN CABBLE	NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION INC	P O BOX 71238	RENO NV 89570
PETE PARIS	NEVADA WOOLGROWERS	HC30, BOX 320	SPRING CREEK, NV 89815
	Nevada Woolgrowers Association	HC30 Box 320	Spring Creek, NV 89815-9705
	New Horseman	PO Box 234	Clements, CA 95227
	NEWMONT GOLD COMPANY	1700 LINCOLN STREET	DENVER CO 80203
	NEWMONT GOLD COMPANY	427 RIDGE STREET SUITE C	RENO NV 89501
Doug Barto	Newmont Mining Corp	PO Box 69	Golconda, NV 89414
JEFF WHITE	NEWMONT MINING CORP	555 FIFTH STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
	Newmont Mining Corp	PO Box 669	Carlin, NV 89822
LAND DEPARTMENT	NEWMONT MINING CORPORATION	P O BOX 669	CARLIN NV 89822
	NEWMONT MINING ENVIRONMENTAL	555 FIFTH STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
	Nexus Planning Department	880 N. Bush St.	Ukiah, CA 95482
	Nob Hill Gazette	5 3rd St. No. 222	San Francisco, CA 94103
	NORMANDY MIDAS OPERATIONS INC	HC66 BOX 125	MIDAS NV 89414
CHUCK WOLF	NORTH FORK CATTLE CO	HC 31 BOX 142	ELKO NV 89801
	Northcoast View Magazine	PO Box 1374	Euraka, CA95521
	Northeast Extension Area	901 Elm St.	Elko, NV 89801-3597

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Northeast Nevada Naturalists	556 E Charlwood Court	Elko, NV 89801
Mr & Mrs Lance Dean	Northeastern Nevada Naturalists	556 E Charlwood Ct.	Elko, NV 89801
	Northern NV Native Plant Soc.	PO Box 8965	Reno, NV 89507
H FRIESEMA	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	2040 SHERIDAN ROAD	EVANSTON, IL 602084100
Mr Leland R Campsey	NRCS	555 Silver Street	Elko, NV 89801
	NV Department of Transportation	PO Box 170	Las Vegas, NV 89125
Board of Sheep Commissioners	NV Dept of Agriculture	350 Capitol Hill	Reno, NV 89502
Mike Del Grosso	NV Division of State Lands	901 S. Stewart St STE 5003	Carson, NV 89701
	NV League of Cities	310 S. Curry St, 206 N. Carson St	Carson City, NV 89703-4613
Ms Dana R Bennett	NV Legis. Comm on Public Lands	401 S. Carson St.	Carson City, NV 89701
Mr Bob H Davis	Nye County	PO Box 763	Tonopah, NV 89049
	Nye County Administration	PO Box 153	Tonopah, NV 89049-0153
	Nye County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife	PO Box 3703	Tonopah, NV 89049
Roberta Carver	Nye County Commissioner	HCR 60 Box 5400	Round Mountain, NV 89045-9801
Mr Les W Bradshaw	Nye County Nuclear Waste Project Office	PO Box 1767	Tonopah, NV 89049
	Nye County Planning Department	PO Box 153	Tonopah, NV 89049-0153
DOI, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & COMPLIANCE	1111 JACKSON STREET OFFICE 520	OAKLAND CA 94607
Steve Robinson	Office of the Governor	State of Nevada	Carson City, NV 89710
	Oil and Gas Journal	PO Box 1260	Tulsa, OK 74101
TED REDMAN TRUSTEE	OLDMAN FAMILY 1994 LIVING TRUST	950 IDAHO STREET	ELKO NV 89801
DONALD BUCK	OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION	1158 RIBIER CT.	SUNNYVALE, CA. 94087-2412
	ORMSBY SPORTSMAN CLUB	P O BOX 847	CARSON CITY NV 89702
ROBERT OSTLUND	OSCEOLA PLACER MINE	OSCEOLA BAKER STAGE HC 64 BOX 64570	ELY, NV 89301
	Otoole Ranches	HC Box 6214	Austin, NV 89310
	Outdoor Life Magazine	286 S. 13th Ave.	Brighton, CO 80601
GARY WINES	OVERLAND LAND AND LIVESTOCK	HC 60 BOX 666	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
BERT N. AND PAUL W. SMITH	OX RANCH	HC 60 BOX 645	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833-0645
	Oxidor Corporation	1824 E Plano Parkway Suite 160	Plano, TX 75704
Editor	Pahrump Valley Times	2160 E. Calvada	Pahrump, NV 89048
	Paisano Publishing	28210 Dorothy Dr.	Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2605
GENEAL ANDERSON	PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH	440 NORTH PAIUTE DR	CEDAR CITY, UT 84720
Tara Marlowe	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	440 East Paiute Drive	Cedar City, UT 84720
Tribal Leader	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	600 North 100 East	Cedar City, UT 84720
General anderson	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	440 North Paiute Dr.	Cedar City, UT 84720
RITA STITZEL	PALISADE RANCH INC	BOX 236	CARLIN NV 89822
	Palm Springs Life	303 N. Indiana Ave.	Palm Springs, CA 92262

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Pam Bolas	PO Box 793	McGill, NV 89318
JERRY & FLORA GOODWIN	PARASOL RANCHING	PO BOX 3707	OGDEN, UT 84409
	Parasol Ranching LLC	P.O. 3707	Ogden, UT 84409
	Parasol Ranching LLC Big Springs Ranch	HC 67 Box 2039 Oasis	Wells, NV 89835
DAVID L DEISLEY	PARSONS BEHLE & LATIMER	P O BOX 45898	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84145-0898
	Patricia Arana	6426 B Salem St.	Oakland, CA 94608
	Paydirt Magazine	PO Drawer 48	Bisbee, AZ 85603
CARL PEAVEY	PEAVEY CATTLE COMPANY	P O BOX 236	WELLS NV 89835
MARTHA HOOTS	PEAVEY/SIMS PARTNERSHIP	BOX 36	DEETH NV 89823
	Peggy and Wayne Daniel	PO Box 388	Genoa, NV 89411
	Pershing County Commissioners	Drawer E	Lovelock, NV 89419
JOHN JACKSON	PETAN CO OF NEVADA INC.	HC 32 BOX 450	TUSCARORA NV 89834
	Petersons Magazine Hunting	6420 Wilshire Blvd.	Los Angeles, CA 90048
	PIC TECHNOLOGIES	1130 PENNSYLVANIA ST	DENVER CO 80203
News Editor	Pine River Times	PO Box 830	Bayfield, CO 81122
	Placer Dome US Inc	PO Box 2706	Elko, NV 89801
LOU ANN RULLER	PLANNING INFORMATION CORP	1820 E CEDAR AVE	DENVER CO 80209
ROB ROGERSON	PLEASANT VALLEY GRAZING ASSOCIATION	1239 E 900 S	EDEN ID 83325
WILFRED BAILEY	PO BOX 66	HC 62 BOX 129	EUREKA NV 89316
Jody Nartz	Pony Express Association	701 South First Street	Ely, NV 89301
Mr Lynn Askew	Power Engineers Inc	3940 Glenbrook Drive PO Box 1066	Hailey, ID 83333
Mr Steven G Barringer	Precious Metals Producers	520 South Fourth Street	Las Vegas, NV 89101-6593
RAY CONNELLY	PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION	P O BOX 2088	ELKO NV 89803
Ms Linda A Derbidge	Professional Pharmacy	PO Box 151854	Ely, NV 89301
HUDSON GLIMP	PROFESSOR	UNR MS 202	RENO, NV 89557
Mr Robert Dickenson	Prospector Hotel & Casino	1501 East Aultman St.	Ely, NV 89301
	PTI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4940 PEARL EAST CIRCLE STE 300	BOULDER CO 80301
GENE GUSTIN	PUBLIC LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION	ELKO COUNTY COURTHOUSE	ELKO NV 89801
MARTIN TROUT	PUBLIC LAND USERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	2345 CAMPTON	ELY, NV 89315
	PUBLIC LAND USERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	801 CLARK ST STE 4	ELY, NV 89301
	Public Land Users Alliance	1221 H St.	Sacramento, CA 95814
Pat Davison	Public Lands Access Network	PO Box 3105	Truckee, CA 96160-3105
Executive Director	Public Lands Council	1301 PennsylvaniaAve. NW	Washington, DC 20004
	PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION	P O BOX 7226	ARLINGTON VA 22207
	Public Resource Associates	1775 E Plumb Lane Suite 170	Reno, NV 89502
Mark Harris	PUCN	1150 East William Street, RMA	Carson City, NV 89434

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
News Editor	Pueblo Chieftain	PO Box 4040 825 W. 6th St.	Pueblo, CO 81003
Tribal Council	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	PO Box 256	Nixon, NV 89424-0256
Mr Norman Dianda	QD Construction	PO Box 10865	Reno, NV 89510
Pete Denetclaw	Quadra - Robinson Mine	PO Box 382	Ruth, NV 89319
	QUADRA MINING CO	PO BOX 382	RUTH, NV 89319
	Rainbow Ridge Opal Mines Inc	PO Box 97	Denio, NV 89404
C J HADLEY	RANGE MAGAZINE	106 EAST ADAMS STE 201	CARSON CITY NV 89706
	Raymond P. Bick	HC 33 Box 33810	Ely, NV 89301-0000
RICHARD J. HULL, TRUSTEE	READ & POWELL LLP	491 FIFTH STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
	Real Estate Div	201 E. Fall	Carson City, NV 89701
JOHN BIALECKI	RED ROCK AUDUBON	2424 STERLING HEIGHTS	LAS VEGAS NV 89134
JOHN HIATT	RED ROCK AUDUBON	PO BOX 96691	LAS VEGAS NV 89193-6691
BOB REED	REED RANCHING CO	HC 30 BOX 340	ELKO NV 89801
	Regional Planning Commission Library	85 E 5th St	Winnemucca, NV 89445-3010
	RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL	P O BOX 22000	RENO NV 89520
D Brian Burghart	Reno News and Review	708 N. Center St.	Reno, NV 89501
	Reno News Review	The Francovich Bldg 708 N. Center St.	Reno, NV 89501
	Reno Newspapers City Desk	PO Box 22000	Reno, NV 89520-2000
	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	98 Colony Road	Reno, NV 89502
ARLAN MELENDEZ	RENOSPARKS INDIAN COLONY	98 COLONY RD	RENO, NV 89520
Ms Leslie	Resource Concepts Inc	340 N. Minnesota St.	Carson City, NV 89703-4152
Rex Cleary	Resource Concepts Inc	340 N. Minnesota St	Carson City, NV 89703-4152
	RESOURCE CONCEPTS INC	340 N MINNESOTA STREET	CARSON CITY NV 89703-4152
John L. McLain	Resource Concepts, Inc	340 No. Minnesota St.	Carson City, NV 89703-4152
LYNN ZONGE	RESOURCE CONCEPTS, INC.	340 NO MINNESOTA STREET	CARSON CITY, NV 897034152
	Retirement Life	606 N. Washington St.	Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
	Richard Acton	595 Talus Way	Reno, NV 89503-1232
	Richard Bustos	PO Box 15716	Ely, NV 89315
Mr Alan Capps	Ride Magazine	728 Cherry Street	Chico, CA 95928
MIKE RIORDAN	RIORDAN FAMILY TRUST	400 JIGGS, #16	SPRING CREEK, NV 89815
	Rita Collins	3000 Ashby Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89102
Government Publications Department	Rivera Library University of CA	PO Box 5900	Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Mr James M Bryant	Riverside Municiple Museum	3580 Mission Inn	Riverside, CA 92501
	RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGY INC	2290 E PROSPECT RD	FORT COLLINS CO 80525-9768
VALERIA RANDALL	RIVERSIDE TECHONOLOGY INC	2290 E PROSPECT ROAD STE 1	FORT COLLINS CO 80525
ROBERT CHILD	ROBERT AND JON CHILD	900 CENTURY DRIVE 97	OGDEN, UT 84404
	Robert Ball	10437 Godatia Lane	Sandy, UT 89094
Chuck Geary	Robinson Nevada Mining Co.	P.O. Box 382	Ruth, NV 89319

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Pete Denetclaw	Robinson Nevada Mining Co.	P.O. Box 382	Ruth, NV 89319
Steve Lowe	Robinson Nevada Mining Co.	P.O. Box 382	Ruth, NV 89319
	Rock Gem Miller Magazines Inc	4880 Market St.	Ventura, CA 93555
	Rocketeer	NWC Public Affairs	Ridgecrest, CA 93555
	Rocky Anderson	HC 33 33690	Cherry Creek, NV 89301
BYRON DONALDSON	ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION	22900 CARRIAGE DR	RENO, NV 895117837
PAULA BRADY	RODGERS RANCH	PO BOX 643	ELKO, NV 89803
BILL V. RODRIQUEZ	RODRIQUEZ FAMILY REVOCABLE LIV. TRUST	PO BOX 626	WELLS, NV 89835
	Roger Bowers	1305 S. Bell Ave.	Ely, NV 89301
	Roger F Anderson	5921 Cameron Drive	Arlington, TX 76017-1005
LEO MOUSEL	ROTHER FARMS INC	HC 30 BOX 343	ELKO NV 89801
	Round Mountain Gold Corp	PO Box 480	Round Mountain, NV 89045
	Round Mountain Public Library	PO Box 1265	Round Mountain, NV 89045
Carol McKenzie	RPC	Box 236	Lund, NV 89317
MARTI COLLINS	RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	HC 60 BOX 860	RUBY VALLEY, NV 89833
	RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	HC 60 BOX 860	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833-9802
KIM HANSON	RUBY LAKE NWR	HC 60 BOX 860	RUBY VALLEY, NV 898339802
ANNA CHARLTON	RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL	15 WASHINGTON STREET	NEWWARK NJ 07102
	Rutherfod Day	1015 NE 38th Street	Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334
	RV News	408 E. Southern Ave.	Tempe, AZ 85282-5200
	S S Archaeological Con	255 Artesia Rd.	Wellington, NV 89444
	Sacramento Magazine	PO Box 199000	Sacramento, CA 95819-9000
Mr Robert A Bennett	SAGA Exploration Inc	PO Box 6479	Reno, NV 89513-6479
ROBERT BENNETT	SAGA EXPLORATION INC	PO BOX 6479	RENO, NV 895136479
Editor -	Sage Signals	PO Box 310	Elko, NV 89803-0310
	SALMON RIVER CATTLEMAN'S ASSOC., INC.	PO BOX 284	TWIN FALLS, ID 83303-0284
	San Diego Earth Times	PO Box 99179	San Diego, CA 92169-9179
	San Diego Magazine	1450 Front St.	San Diego, CA 92101-3411
Mr and Mrs Phillip M Allen	San Diego Off Road Coalition AMA	11410 Cacho Crt.	El Cajon, CA 92021
	SAN JACINTO RANCH	HC 34 BOX 50	JACKPOT NV 89825
Marta Agee	Sand Springs Ranch	HCR 61 Box 50	Alamo, NV 89001
	Sandpaper	Naval Air Station PA	El Centro, CA 92243-5001
	Sandra Bitton	2037 Ruby View Drive	Elko, NV 89801-2650
	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation	PO Box 388	Valmy, NV 89438
	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation	PO Box 69	Golconda, NV 89414
DON OHMAN	SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST	2647 KIMBERLY ROAD E	TWIN FALLS ID 83301-7976
Diane Callahan	SBC	PO Box 11010 645 E. Plumb Lane C259	Reno, NV 89511
	Scouting	1325 Walnut Hill Ln.	Irving, TX 75062

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
JOE WINES	SECRET PASS OUTFITTERS	HC 60 BOX 683	RUBY VALLEY, NV 89833
GREG AND DEB HOLDER	SEED INVESTMENTS	PO BOX 696	SPRINGFIELD, OR 97447
	Sempervirens Fund Mountain Echo	PO Drawer BE	Los Altos, CA 94023
	Senior American News	470 Boston Post Rd.	Weston, MA 02193
LEROY SESTANOVICH	SESTANOVICH RANCHES, INC.	HC 65 BOX 41	CARLIN, NV 89822
ALAN SHARP	SHARP RANCH	HC 60 BOX 545	RUBY VALLEY, NV 89833
ANTONE J. DAMELE	SHEEP CREEK RANCHING COMPANY	SHEEP CREEK HC 65-46	CARLIN, NV 89822
TED HOWARD	SHOSHONE PAUITE TRIBES	PO BOX 219	OWYHEE NV 89832
BILL BAKER	SHOSHONE RESOURCE AREA	400 WEST F STREET	SHOSHONE ID 83352-1522
JAMES PAIVA	SHOSHONE-PAIUTE BUSINESS COUNCIL	PO BOX 219	OWYHEE, NV 89832
Tribal Chairman	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley	PO Box 219	Owyhee, NV 89832
	SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF DUCK VALLEY	PO BOX 219	OWYHEE NV 89832
	SIERRA CLUB	408 “C” STREET	WASHINGTON DC 20002
Ms Sandy Bahr	Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter	202 E. McDowell Rd. STE 277	Phoenix, AZ 85004
	Sierra Club Public Affairs	85 2nd St. 4th Floor	San Francisco, CA 94105-3459
Dennis Ghiglien	Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter	P.O. Box 8096	Reno, NV 89507
MARJORIE SILL	SIERRA CLUB TOIYABE CHAPTER	720 BROOKFIELD DR.	RENO, NV 89503
ROSE STRICKLAND	SIERRA CLUB TOIYABE CHAPTER	P O BOX 8096	RENO NV 89507
Glen Miller	Sierra Club-Toiyabe Chapter	581 Creighton Way	Reno, NV 89503
	Sierra Magazine	85 Second St. 2nd Floor	San Francisco, CA 94105-3460
BOB EDWARDS	SIERRA PACIFIC POWER CO.	542 COMMERCIAL STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
Bill Roullier	Sierra Pacific Power Company	P.O. Box 10100	Reno, NV 89520-0024
	SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY	P O BOX 10100 S4B20	RENO NV 89520
Mr Wayne Cronister	Silver State Guides and Outfitters	4255 N. Cimarron Rd	Las Vegas, NV 89102
	Silver State Ranches	HC62 Box 62260	Eureka, NV 89316
CHARLES JONES	SIMPLOT LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY	HC 85 BOX 275	GRANDVIEW ID 83624
Ron and Frank Bachman	Simplot Livestock Co.	HC, 85 Box 275	Grandview, ID 83624
	SK Publishing	401 Santa Barbara St.	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
DAVE SLOGOWSKI	SLAGOWSKI RANCHES, INC.	HC 65 BOX 30	CARLIN, NV 89822
	Smokey Valley Common Operation	PO Box 480	Round Mountain, NV 89045
	Snadpiper Redwood Region Audubon Society	PO Box 1054	Euraka, CA 95502
Ken Albright	SNWA Resources Department	1900 E Flamingo Rd Suite 180	Las Vegas, NV 89119
LES MCKENZIE	SOCIETY OF RANGE MANAGEMENT	531 BOND DRIVE	ELKO, NV 89801
	Soroptimist International	PO Box 66	Las Vegas, NV 89125
Tribal Leader	South Fork Band Colony	PO Box B13	Lee, NV 89829
Allen Wayne Bill	South Fork Band Council	21 Lee Unit B-13	Spring Creek, NV 89815
CHAIRPERSON	SOUTH FORK BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	HC 30 B 13 - LEE	SPRING CREEK NV 89815

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
ENV COORD	SOUTH FORK BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	HC 30 B13 - LEE	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
VINCE GARCIA	SOUTH FORK LIVESTOCK PARTNERSHIP	HC 30 BOX 185	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
Jerry Helton	South Highlands Development	12055 South Industrial Road	Las Vegas, NV 89141
NORM CAVANAUGH	SOUTHERN BANDS CLINIC	515 SHOSHONE CIRCLE	ELKO NV 89801
	Southern Nevada Baptist Association	1482 East University Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89119
Conservation Chairperson	Southern Nevada Group, Sierra Club	P.O. Box 19777	Las Vegas, NV 89132
Holly Cheong	Southern Nevada Water Authority	1900 East Flamingo Road Suite 180	Las Vegas, NV 89119
	SOUTHFORK LIVESTOCK CORP.	HC 30 BOX 185	ELKO, NV 89801
	Space Sentiel	9SRWPA	Beale AFB, CA 95903-5000
News Editor	Sparks Daily Tribune	PO Box 887	Sparks, NV 89431
Gary Back	SRK Consulting	1250 Lamoille Hwy, Suite 520	Elko, NV 89801
	SRK CONSULTING	1250 LAMOILLE HWY, SUITE 520	ELKO, NV 89801
	Stablemates Magazine	5665 HWY 9 N. 103360	Alpharetta, GA 30201-2930
Mr Ron Creedon	Stagecoach VFD	9135 Santa Fa Trails	Siler Springs, NV 89429
Donrey Capitol Bureau	State Capitol Press Room	101 N St	Carson City, NV 89701-4786
Ms Kathy Agustine	State Controller	101 N Carson Ste 5	Carson City, NV 89701-4786
ALICE BALDRICA	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	100 N. STEWART STREET	CARSON CITY NV 89701
REBECCA PALMER	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	100 N STEWART STREET	CARSON CITY NV 89701
LORRAINE HUNT	STATE OF NEVADA	101 N CARSON STREET STE 5	CARSON CITY, NV 897014786
ROSS MILLER	STATE OF NEVADA	STATE CAPITOL BUILDING CAPITOL COMPLEX	CARSON CITY, NV 89710
	State of Nevada Department of Minerals	400 West King Street, Suite 100	Carson City, NV 89701
News Editor	Steamboat Pilot	PO Box 774827	Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
Dan Phillip	Steptoe Ranch	P.O. Box 1390	McGill, NV
News Editor	Sterling Journal Advocate	PO Box 1272	Sterling, CO 80751
	Sterling Wines	P.O. Box 150813	Ely, NV 89301
STEVE NEFF	STEVE NEFF COMPANY	HC 60 BOX 575	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
	Student Conservation Association	PO Box 550	Charlestown, NH 03603-0550
TRIBAL COUNCIL	SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE	655 ANDERSON ST	WINNEMUCCA, NV 894453657
C PRESTON BUTCHER	SUNDOWN LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY	101 LINCOLN CENTER DRIVE	FOSTER CITY CA 94404
	Sunset Magazine	80 Willow Road	Menlo Park, CA 94025
	T & J Holdings	645 Pineneedle Ct	Grand Junction, CO 81506
	Tailwind	60th Mawpa	Travis AFB, CA 94535-5005
TE-MOAK HOUSING AUTHORITY	TE-MOAK TRIBE OF THE WESTERN SHOSHONE	504 SUNSET STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
Tribal Leader	Temoak Tribe of Western Nevada	525 Sunset Street	Elko, NV 89801
CHAIRPERSON	TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	525 SUNSET STREET	ELKO NV 89801
ENV COORD	TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	525 SUNSET STREET	ELKO NV 89801

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
David Bats	Tetra Tech Inc	4900 Pearl East Circle 300 W.	Boulder, Co 80301
	The Arizonian	1317 S. Hillside Drive	Snowflake, AZ 85937
JIM MULHALL	THE GOVERNOR OF NEVADAS OFC	STATE CAPITOL	CARSON CITY, NV 89710
DR ALLEN RUTBERG	THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U S	2100 L ST NW	WASHINGTON DC 20037
	The Lumberjack H S R	CA State University	Arcata, CA 95521
	The McConnell Foundation	PO Box 492050	Redding, CA 96049-2050
Mr Richard A Cox	The Mule Deer Foundation	1005 Terminal Way Suite 170	Reno, NV 89502
	The Mule Deer Foundation	1005 Terminal Way Suite 170	Reno, NV 89502
Editor	The Native	835 Klein Way	Sacramento, CA 95831
AME HELLMAN	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	ONE EAST FIRST STREET SUITE 500	RENO, NV 89501
Janet Bair	The Nature Conservancy	One E. First Street Suite 1007	Reno, NV 89501-1623
	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	ONE E 1ST STREET SUITE 500	RENO NV 89501-1623
	The Nature Conservancy Newsletter	201 Mission St. 4th Floor	San Francisco, CA 94105-1831
	The Redwoodsman	College of the Redwoods	Eureka, CA 95501
	The Sagebrush	UNR	Reno, NV 89507
	The Shooters News	PO Box 236	Graton, CA 95444
KRISTEN BRENGEL	THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY	1615 M ST NW	WASHINGTON, DC 200363209
Kristen Brengel	The Wilderness Society	1615 M St. NW	Washington, DC 20036-3209
NORBERT RIEDY	THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY	P O BOX 29241	SAN FRANCISCO CA 94129-0241
Grag Aplet	The Wilderness Society	1660 Wynkoop Street Suite 850	Denver, CO 80202
	The Wildlife Society Nevada Chapter	3055 Holly Lane	Carson City, NV 89704
EUREKA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY	THEODORE BEUTEL	P O BOX 190	EUREKA NV 89316
	This and That	US Gypsum	Empire, NV 89405
ROBERT PELTIER	THOMAS THOMPSON	HC 60 BOX 180	WELLS NV 89835
	Thoroughbred of California	201 Colorado Place	Arcadia, Ca 91006-2604
LORIN MOENCH JR	THOUSAND PEAKS RANCHES INC	255 WEST 800 SOUTH	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84101
	Three Wheeling Magazine	PO Box 2260	Costa Mesa, CA 92626
	TIDE PETROLEUM	P O BOX 10350	RENO NV 89510
Mr Kent Brunson	Timberline Otfitters Guide Service	PO Box 667	McGill, NV 89318
SHIRLEY SUMMERS	TIMBISHA SHOSHONE TRIBAL OFFICE	PO BOX 786	BISHOP, CA 93515
	Time Inctime International	2 Embarkadero CTR STE 1900	San Francisco, CA 94111-3904
	Times Bonanza	PO Box 1112	Tonopah, NV 89049
	Toiyabe Trails	PO Box 8096	Reno, NV 89507
THOMAS TOMERA	TOMERA RANCHESSTONEHOUSE DIVISION	HC 65 BOX 11	CARLIN NV 89822
	TOQUOP ENERGY	3480 GS RICHARDS BLVD STE 101	CARSON CITY, NV 89703
Ms Betty Burge	Tortoise Group	5157 Poncho Circle	Las Vegas, NV 89119-4821
	Town of Pahrump	400 N HWY 160	Pahrump, NV 89048
Mr Mitch Cantrell	Toyaibe Chap Pres	PO Box 161	Austin, NV 89310

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Trail Mountain Inc	105 South 46th Street	Artesia, NM 88210
Campground Park Director	Trailer Life	2575 Vista Del Mar Drive	Ventura, CA 93001-3920
	Travel and Leisure	1120 Ave of the Americans	New York, NY 10036
CHARLES GAUVIN	TROUT UNLIMITED	1500 WILSON BUILDING STE 310	ARLINGTON VA 22209
DAVID KATZ	TROUT UNLIMITED	1120 COLLEGE AVE	SANTA ROSA CA 95404
	TROUT UNLIMITED SAGEBRUSH CHAPTER	1612 KNOX AVE	RENO NV 89509
Jim Wilkin	Trucking LLC	PO Box 828	Caliente, NV 89008
	Trust for Public Land	116 New Montgomery St 4th Floor	San Francisco, CA 94105
Linda Carriger	Tuffy Ranch Properties	PO Box 466	Panaca, NV 89042
GEORGE IRLBECK	TURNER & IRLBECK RANCH	HCR 33 BOX 33905	ELY, NV 89301
KATHY BERTRAND	TURNER & IRLBECK RANCH	HC 33 BOX 33905	ELY, NV 89301
Kathy Bertrand	Turner & Irlbeck Ranch	HC 33 Box 33905	Ely, NV 89301
	TURNER & IRLBECK RANCH	HC 33, Box 3390	Ely, NV 89301
DR NAT T MESSER IV	U OF M DEPT OF VET MEDICINE & SURGERY	CLYSDALE HALL A-367	COLUMBIA MO 65211
TOM BAKER	U. S. FOREST SERVICE	1200 FRANKLIN WAY	SPARKS, NV 89431
Mel Anderson	U.S. Department of Agriculture	1245 Alpha Street	Ely, NV 89301
	U.S. Department of Agriculture	1365 Corporate Boulevard	Reno, NV 89502
Robert D. Williams	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1340 Financial Blvd. Suite 234	Reno, NV 89502
	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	1340 FINANCIAL BLVD SUITE 234	RENO, NV 89502
Deputy Forest Supervisor	U.S. Forest Service Humboldt Toyiabe National Forest	2035 Last Chance Road	Elko, NV 89801-4808
The Honorable Shelley Berkley	U.S. House of Representatives	2430 Paseo Del Prado, Ste. D 106	Las Vegas, NV 89102
The Honorable Shelley Berkley	U.S. House of Representatives	439 Cannon House Office Building	Washington DC 20515
	U.S. House Of Representatives	2501 North Green Valley Parkway Suite 112D	Henderson, NV 89014-2158
	UNIGRAFIX	Po Box 980	Montrose, CA 91020
BRIAN MULLINS	UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA	475 SANSOME ST 12TH FLOOR	SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111
HERB MILLER	UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA	PO BOX 3123 FLOOR 4	SEATTLE WA 98114
Paul M Dannelly	Union Pacific Railroad	280 S. 400 W.	Salt Lake City, UT 84101
THE HONORABLE HARRY REID	UNITED STATES SENATE	600 E WILLIAMS ST STE 302	CARSON CITY, NV 89701
	United States Department of Post Office	301 E. Stewart Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89101
THE HONORABLE HARRY REID	UNITED STATES SENATE	528 HART SENATE OFFICE BLDG	WASHINGTON DC 20510
The Honorable John Ensign	United States Senate	356 Russell Senate Office Building	Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable John Ensign	United States Senate	333 Las Vegas Bvld., Ste. 8203	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Harry Reid Center for Environmental Study	University of Nevada	4505 Maryland Parkway	Las Vegas, NV 89154
DEPARTMENT OF RANGE WILDLIFE, AND FORESTRY	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA	1000 VALLEY ROAD	RENO NV 89512
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO	1000 VALLEY ROAD	RENO NV 89507

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Dr Jaak Daemen	University of Nevada Reno	Mining Engineering MS 173	Reno, NV 89557-0139
SUSIE DELLER	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO	BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CTR 314	RENO NV 89557
	UNLV Cooperative Extension	2345 Red Rock St. STE 100	Las Vegas, NV 89102-3156
	UNR Board of Regents College of Agriculture		Reno, NV 89557
BOB WILSON	UNR COOP EXTENSION	995 CAMPTON ST	ELY, NV 89301
Richard Knox	URS Corporation	7720 North 16th Street, Suite 100	Phoenix, AZ 85020
SHELLEY BERKLEY	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	2340 PASEO DEL PRADO SUITE D-106	LAS VEGAS, NV 891024340
Richard Birger	US Fish and Wildlife Service	4701 North Torrey Pines Dr.	Las Vegas, NV 89130
	US Fish and Wildlife Service - Las Vegas	4701 North Torrey Pines Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89130
JEFF MACKAY	US FISH WILDLIFE SERVICE	HC 60 BOX 860	RUBY VALLEY, NV 898339802
PATRICIA IRWIN	US FOREST SERVICE HUMBOLDT NATL FOREST	825 AVENUE E	ELY, NV 89301
Deputy Forest Supervisor	US Forest Service Humboldt Toiyabe NF	2035 Last Chance Road	Elko, NV 89801-4808
Mr Steve Anderson	US Forest Service Humbolt NF	2035 Last Chance Rd.	Elko, NV 89801
	US Forest Service Tonopah Ranger District	PO Box 3940	Tonopah, NV 89409
DEPUTY FOREST SUPERVISOR	US FOREST SERVICE HUMBOLDT TOYIABE NF	2035 LAST CHANCE RD	ELKO, NV 898014808
THE HONORABLE DEAN HELLER	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	100 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BLDG	Washington, DC 20510
THE HONORABLE JON PORTER	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	2501 N GREEN VALLEY PKWY SUITE 112D	HENDERSON, NV 890142158
The Honorable Jon Porter	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	218 Cannon House Office Building	Washington, DC 20510
	US Humane Society	2100 L Street NW	Washington, DC 20037
Mr William J Dickerson	US National Park Service	601 Nevada Hwy	Boulder City, NV 89005
Ms Mary Conelly	US Senator Harry Reid	600 E. William St. Suite 302	Carson City, NV 89701
Ms Mary Conelly	US Senator Harry Reid OfC	400 S. Virginia St. 902	Reno, NV 89501
	US Wild Horse and Burro Foundation	3401 Judson Ave North	Las Vegas, NV 89030-2004
Mike Andrews	USBR Lahonton Basin Area Office	705 N. Plazza Rm 320	Carson, NV 89701
Mr Mel Anderson	USDA	1245 Alpha St.	Ely, NV 89301
JAY DAVISON	USDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	111 SHECKLER ROAD	FALLON, NV 89406
KENT MCADOO	USDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	701 WALNUT STREET	ELKO NV 89801
JOHN HANEY	USDA FOREST SERVICE	PO BOX 246	WELLS, NV 89835
RUBY MOUNTAIN/JARBIDGE RANGER STATIONS	USDA FOREST SERVICE	PO BOX 246	WELLS NV 89835
Chair	USDA National Res Conservation	HC33 Box 33451	Ely, NV 89301
Susan Elliott	USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	2035 last chance road	elko nV 89801
	USFS HUMBOLDT/TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST	2035 LAST CHANCE ROAD	ELKO NV 89801
	USFW Desert National Wildlife Refuge	4701 N Torrey Pines Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89130
	USGS Water Resource Division	333 West Nye Lane	Carson City, NV 89706
JOHN NOLIN	USGS WATER RESOURCES DIVISION	333 W NYE LANE	CARSON CITY, NV 89706

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	V F Neuhaus Properties Inc	PO Box 1270 Mc	Allen, TX 78505
Stuart Twitchell	V&ST Enterprises	1604 Country Lane	Erda, UT 84074
BILL VAN NORMAN	VAN NORMAN RANCHES	HC 32 BOX 490	TUSCARORA NV 89834
Public Affairs	Vandenburg AFB 30th Space Wing	747 Nebraska Ave. Suite 7	Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-6267
	Vanderbilt Minerals Corporation	3561 E. Burgundy Dr.	Pahrump, NV 89048
RANDY STOWELL	VERLAND STOWELL TRUST	594 ELEVENTH STREET	ELKO NV 89801
	VFW Magazine	406 West 34th ST.	Kansas City, MO 64111
	Virginia City Chronicle	PO Box 530	Virginia City, NV 89440-0530
	W H GIBBS CO	HC 62 BOX 900	WELLS NV 89835
Mr Richard Black	Walker Lake Paiute Tribe	PO Box 220	Schurz, NV 89427
Tribal Leader	Walker River Paiute Tribe	PO Box 220	Schurz, NV 89427
	Walter & Ricketts Jackman Trust	P.O. Box 151537	Ely, NV 89315
IAN CAMPBELL	WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY	PO BOX 2151	RENO, NV 895052151
Chairman	Washoe Tribal Council	919 US 395 South	Gardnerville, NV 89410
Ms Hanelle Conway	Washoe Tribe	861 Crescent Drive	Carson City, NV 89701
Tribal Leader	Washoe Tribe of Nevada	919 HWY 395 S.	Gardnerville, NV 89410
Mr William Dancing Feather	Washoe Tribe of NV CA	919 HWY 395 S	Gardnerville, NV 89410
	Weekly livestock Reporter	PO Box 7655	Ft Worth, TX 76111
TRIBAL LEADER	WELLS BAND COUNCIL	PO BOX 809	WELLS, NV 89835
CHAIRPERSON	WELLS BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	P O BOX 809	WELLS NV 89835
ENV COORD	WELLS BAND OF THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE	PO BOX 809	WELLS NV 89835
SHARON MARTIN	WELLS FARGO BANK	P O BOX 40908	RENO NV 89504-4908
MELVENA TAYLOR	WELLS FARGO BANK TRUST REAL ESTATE	3800 HOWARD HUGHES PKY STE 200	LAS VEGAS NV 89109
BOB WRIGHT	WELLS RESOURCE AREA GRAZING ASSOC	1258 DOTTA DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
	Wells Rural Electric Co	PO Box 365	Wells, NV 89835
Editor	Wendover Advocate	PO Box 3190	Wendover, NV 89883
	Western City Magazine	1400 K St.	Sacramento, CA 95814
	WESTERN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	2603 W MAIN STREET SUITE B	FARMINGTON NM 87401
	Western Cultural Resource Management	PO Box 6130	Sparks, NV 89432
	Western Elite Inc.	6345 E. Bonanza	Las Vegas, NV 89110
RICHARD HANKINS	WESTERN FRONTIER ADVENTURES	PO BOX 1420HIGHWAY 93	MCGILL NV 89318
JANINE BLAELOCH	WESTERN LAND EXCHANGE PROJECT	POBOX 95545	SEATTLE, WA 98145
Janine Blaeloch	Western Land Exchange Project	PO Box 95545	Seattle, WA 98145
	WESTERN LAND EXCHANGE PROJECT	P O BOX 95545	SEATTLE WA 98145-2545
	WESTERN LAND SERVICES	P O BOX 4316	SPARKS NV 89434-4316

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
	Western Livestock Journal	PO Box 9388	Denver, Co 80209-0388
	Western Livestock Reporter	PO Box 30758	Billings, MT 59107
Tom Bath	Western Marble Inc	600 Mill St.	Ely, NV 89301
Editor	Western Outdoors	PO Box 73370	San Clemente, CA 92673-73370
	Western Outdoors Publications	185 Avenida La Pata	San Clemente, CA 92673
	Western Outdoors Publications	PO Box 1536	Placerville, CA 95667-1536
	WESTERN RANGE SERVICE	PO BOX 1328	ELKO NV 89803
	Western Shoshone Defense Project	P.O. Box 211308	Crescent Valley NV 89821
LARRY KIBBY	WESTERN SHOSHONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	1581 PINENUT CIRCLE	ELKO NV 89801-2577
Larry Berg	Western States Minerals	250 S. Rock Blvd. 130	Reno, NV 89502
JOHN MARVEL	WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT	PO BOX 1770	HAILEY, ID 83333
KATIE FITE	WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT	PO BOX 2863	BOISE, ID 837012863
	WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT	P.O. Box 2863	Boise ID 83701
	WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT	P.O. BOX 1770	HAILEY ID 83333
	Westways Magazine	2601 South Figueroa	Los Angeles, CA 90007
	Whippie	P.O. Box 791	PANACA, NV 89042
	WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	636 AULTMAN ST	ELY, NV 89301
ROBERT WILSON	WHITE PINE CO NV COOP EXTENSION	995 CAMPTON STREET	ELY, NV 89301
WADE ROBISON	WHITE PINE CO WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD	1201 AVENUE I	ELY, NV 89301
Karen Rajala	White Pine Co. Econ. Diversification Council	957 Campton	Ely, NV 89301
Gary Perea	White Pine County Commission	P.O. Box 184	Baker, NV 89311
	White Pine County Commissioners	801 Clark Street, Suite 4	Ely, NV 89301
	White Pine County Extension Service	995 Campton Street	Ely, NV 89301
LORI ROMERO	WHITE PINE COUNTY LIBRARY	950 CAMPTON ST	ELY, NV 89301
	WHITE PINE COUNTY LIBRARY	950 CAMPTON ST	ELY, NV 89301
	White Pine County Road Department	HC 33 Box 33203	Ely, NV 89301
Bob Dolezal	White Pine County School District	1135 Avenue C	Ely, NV 89301
Paul Johnson	White Pine County School District	1135 Avenue C	Ely, NV 89301
	White Pine Historical and Archaeological	PO Box 151725	Ely, NV 89315
JUNE SHAPUTIS	WHITE PINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	PO BOX 552	RUTH, NV 893190552
	White River Ranch	801 W. Colton Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89030
Mr Charles M Brown	White River Ranch LC	802 Colton N.	Las Vegas, NV 89030
Cathy Barcomb	Wild Horse Commission	885 Eastlake Blvd	Carson City, NV 89704
Patience O'Dowd	Wild Horse Observers Assoc	PO Box 932	Palcitas, NV 87043
DAWN LAPPIN	WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE	PO BOX 555	RENO, NV 89504
BONNIE AND CHUCK MATTON	WILD HORSE PRESERVATION LEAGUE	191 TERRITORY RD	DAYTON, NV 89403
	WILD HORSE SANCTUARY	PO BOX 30	SHINGLETOWN CA 96088
Bobbi Royle	Wild Horse Spirit	25 Lewis Creek Rd	Carson City, NV 89704

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
CRAIG DOWNER	WILD HORSE WILDNESS AND WILDLIFE	PO BOX 456	MINDEN, NV 89423
GARY GARAVENLA	WILD LIFE SERVICES	P O BOX 65	EUREKA NV 89316
RON DILLON	WILD ROCKIES INC	PO BOX 7075	BOISE ID 83707
GRANT GERBER	WILDERNESS IMPACT RESEARCH FOUNDATION	138 S SPRING CREEK COURT	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
	Wilderness Society	Presidio Bldg 1016, P.O. Box 29241	San Francisco, CA 94129
JOHN FRASER	WILDHORSE CATTLE COMPANY	PO BOX 758	FERNLEY NV 89408
ROBERT AND ANNE BRITTON	WILLOMONTE RANCH	HC 60 BOX 120	WELLS NV 89835
JOHN E HANSON	WILLOW CREEK RANCH	490-800 HORSE LAKE ROAD	SUSANVILLE CA 96130
	WINCHELL RANCH	P O BOX 456	WELLS NV 89835
	WINECUP INC	PO BOX 234	OAKLEY ID 83346
	Winn Exploration Co Inc	800 North Shoreline 19th Floor N Tower	Corpus Christi, TX 78401-3700
	Winnemucca Colony Council	PO Box 1370	Winnemucca, NV 89446
	Women in Natural Resources	Bowers Laboratory	Moscow, ID 83843
Ms Ruth Carraher	Womens Mining Coalition	PO Box 50754	Reno, NV 89502-2055
	Woodmen of the World Magazine	1700 Farnam St.	Omaha, NE 68102
	Wooster Environment Club	1331 E Plumb Lane	Reno, NV 89502
	WP CO ROAD DEPT	HC 33 BOX 33203	ELY, NV 89301
	WP Conservation District	HC 33 P.O. Box 33451	Ely, NV 89301
Joe Pescio	WP County Land Use Advisory Board	125 JV Walker St.	Ely, NV 89301
News Editor	Wray Gazette	PO Box 7	Wray, CO 80758-0007
SHELDON YANKE	Y-3 II RANCH	P O BOX 347	JACKPOT NV 89825
Mr and Mrs Arthur and Rae Andrae	Yellad Ranch	HCR 33 Box 33960	Ely, NV 89301
	Yellow Sheet Report	PO Box 2260	Phoenix, AZ 85002
	Yerington Tribal Council	171 Campbell Lane	Yerington, NV 89447
CHAIRPERSON	YOMBA SHOSHONE TRIBE	HC 61 BOX 6275	AUSTIN NV 89310
Dr. Bonnie Bobb	Yomba Shoshone Tribe	HC 61 Box 6275	Austin, NV 89310
MAURICE FRANK-CHURCHILL	YOMBA SHOSHONE TRIBE	HC 61 BOX 6275	AUSTIN NV 89310-9301
BONNIE BOBB	YOMBA SHOSHONE ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS	PO BOX 223	AUSTIN, NV 89310
Dr Bonnie Bobb	Yomba Shoshone/ Environmental Specialist	PO Box 223	Austin, NV 89310
News Editor	Yuma Pioneer	PO Box 326	Yuma, CO 80759
MIKE GRISWOLD	ZEDA RANCHES	UNIT 3 BOX 5	BEOWAWE NV 89821
TONY ZUNINO	ZUNINO RANCHES	HC 30 BOX 73 JIGGS	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
AL STENINGER		P O BOX 1330	ELKO NV 89803
ANDREW BOYD		2411 RODEO COURT	ELKO NV 89801
ANDY MANGUM		HC 34 BOX 34027	ELY, NV 89301
Anthony T. and Marilyn G. Zamora		HC 32 Box 32409	Ely, NV 89301
Arthur and Brenda Alexander		PO Box 150694	Ely, NV 89315

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Arthur Hexem		659 Mill Street	Ely, NV 89301
ASHLEY ROBINSON		P O BOX 287	EUREKA NV 89316
B. KIRK NICHOLES		HC 32 BOX 32311	ELY, NEVADA 89301
Barbara Agonia		3411 Frontier St.	Las Vegas, NV 89102
BARRY PERRYMAN		1777 FOX RUN ROAD	RENO, NV 89523
BEITIA FAMILY		929 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
BEN COLVIN		P O BOX 463	GOLDFIELD NV 89013
BERT AND PAULA BRACKETT		FLAT CREEK RANCH	ROGERSON ID 83328
BETTY BEAR		500 COMMERCIAL ST	ELKO NV 89801
BILL KRUEGER		P O BOX 5053	ELKO NV 89802
BILL PENNEBAKER		P O BOX 268	SCHURZ NV 89457
BILL ROULLIER		5565 GOLDENROD DR	RENO, NV 895119055
BILL W UPTON		HC 66 BOX 1250	CRESCENT VALLEY NV 89821
Bill W. and Mary Ann Jackson		3102 County Road A22	Montrose, CO 81401
BJ Almberg		2725 Mineral Drive	Ely, NV 89301
BJ Gurley		PO Box 860	Fernley, NV 89408
BOB EDWARDS		4107 TWO ROCK DRIVE	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89446
Bob Maichle		4221 West Arby Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89118
BONNIE PARNELL		804 SARATOGA WAY	CARSON CITY, NV 897033656
BOYD A WARR		HCR 63 ROUTE 6	GROUSE CREEK UT 84313
BOYD AND AUDREY SPRATLING		BOX 27	DEETH NV 89823
BRAD BOWLEN		PO BOX 127	JERMONE ID 83338-0127
BRAD DALTON		HC 60 BOX 130	WELLS NV 89835
BRANDY MANZONI		HC 34 BOX 34180	ELY NV 89301
BRENT ELDRIDGE		P O BOX 22	ELY NV 89301
Brian and Joy Bennett		P.O. Box 151396	Ely, NV 89315
BRIANNA SAYLER		P O BOX 734	EUREKA NV 89316
Bruce Arkell		PO Box 20354	Reno, NV 89515-0354
Bruce Delaney		573 E. Second Street	Reno, NV 89502
BRUCE MILLER		PO BOX 1478	ELKO NV 89803
BUD AND GRETA WEBBER		BOX 260034	JARBIDGE NV 89826
BURT SILCOCK		5902 VIEW DRIVE	MERIDIAN ID 83642
Calvin and Kehrin Thomas		10996 Cristinio Street	Las Vegas, NV 89141
CANDACE KELLY		1530 MANZANITA LANE	RENO NV 89509
CARL F. AND HERBERT M. UHLIG		BOX 484	WELLS NV 89835
CARL RANGER		HC 30 432-3 302 SHERMAN AVE.	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
CARL SLAGOWSKI		HC 65 BOX 30	CARLIN NV 89822
CAROL SHERMAN		C/O ALLEN SHERMAN HC 33 BOX 33583	ELY, NV 89301

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
CAROLINE HILTON		P O BOX 67	ELY NV 89301-0067
Caroline McIntosh		1537 Mill Street	Ely, NV 89301
CARROL AND GWEN WINES		HC 60 BOX 680	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
Cathie Parker		450 5th Street	Ely, NV 89301
Cecil Bates		HCR Box 330	Garrison, UT 84728
CHARLES M AND JOHN H YOUNG		5010 N HWY 38	BRIGHAM CITY UT 84302
CHARLOTTE LANDA		HC 30 BOX 107	ELKO NV 89801
Christopher Crookshanks		PO Box 150464	Ely, NV 89301
CLAYTON NICHOLES		P O BOX 410	EUREKA NV 89316
CLIFF AND BERTHA GARDNER		HCR 60 BOX 700	RUBY VALLEY, NV 89833
CLIFFORD THOMPSON		#22 MANNA LANE	YERINGTON, NV 89447
CONNIE TUCKER		P O BOX 448	EUREKA NV 89316
Cory Atiyeh		PO Box 330	Imlay, NV 89418
CRAIG BENSON		P O BOX 158	EUREKA NV 89316
CRAIG HOOVER		PO BOX 150822	ELY, NV 89315
DAN DALLAS		2035 LAST CHANCE ROAD	ELKO, NV 89801
Dan Heinz		5055 Wilcox Ranch Road	Reno, NV 89510
Dan Hoots		PO Box 36	DEETH, NV 89823
DAN LABARRY		BOX 155	EUREKA NV 89316
DANIEL GREEN		P O BOX 614	EUREKA NV 89316
DAVE AND DEANNA MCCALL		HC 33 BOX 33860	ELY NV 89301
DAVE FITCH		P O BOX 70547	RENO NV 89507
Dave Perkins		PO Box 95	WELLS, NV 89835
DAVE TATTAM		1616 CIVIC CENTER	N. LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
DAVID HAIGHT		545 E HIGHWAY 95A	YERINGTON NV 89447
DAVID MORRIS		HC 63 BOX 0001	PARK VALLEY UT 84329
David R. Morris and Cecil J. Weaver and Lois E.		P.O. Box 5098	Cerritos, CA 90703
DAVID STINE		PO BOX 783	EUREKA NV 89316
Delphine A. Kuechel		HC 32 Box 32404	Ely, NV 89301
DEMAR H DAHL		P O BOX 67	DEETH, NV 89823
DENISE GARDNER		8490 CURRY ROAD	FALLON NV 89406
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY		PO BOX 190	EUREKA NV 89316
DON & SHEILA PHILLIPS		PO BOX 1390	MC GILL, NV 89318
Don Bailey		14695 Rim Rock Drive	Reno, NV 89511-6309
Don Connolly		P.O. Box 151023	Ely, NV 89301
Don Graham		3543 Haverhill Street	Las Vegas, NV 89121
DON LEMONS		205 WALNUT	ELKO NV 89801
DONALD AND LINDA OMAN		1180 GALENA DRIVE	TWIN FALLS ID 83301

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Donald Mary Carter		19 W. Center St.	Fallon, NV 89406
DONALD PRUNTY		4720 Clay Peak Dr	Las Vegas, NV 89129-2221
Donna and Thad Spear		HC 32 Box 32408	Ely, NV 89301
Donna Bath		801 Clark St. STE 4 570 First St.	Ely, NV 8901
DOUG AND LAREA JOSES		STAR ROUTE 8861 FRISKY SLIDE ROAD	MOUNTAIN RANCH CA 95246
DOUG CARRIGER		PO BOX 685	PIOCHE, NV 89043
DR CALTON LEWIS		197 WESTERN HILLS UNIT 1	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
Dr Frank Bayham		9624 Cohasset Rd.	Chico, CA 95973-9085
Dr. Colleen Beck		10171 West Azure Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89149
DUILIO AND ELLA MAY BOTTARI		P O BOX 281234	LAMOILLE NV 89828
EARL OLIVER		BOX 529	EUREKA NV 89316
ERIC L DANIELS		P O BOX 49	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820
Ernest E. Alder		412 N. Division St.	Carson City, NV 89703-41668
EUGENE BUZZETTI		P O BOX 1197	LAMOILLE NV 89828
FERNANDO MENDIVE		1058 PANORAMA DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
FERRIS T BROUGH		HC 60 BOX 185	WELLS NV 89835
FRANCIS & LOUISE WOOD		ELBURZ BOX 192-13	ELKO NV 89801
Frank and Carol Rykovich		HCR 32 Box 32403	Ely, NV 89301
Frank Jeffery Bell		HC Box 32419	Ely, NV 89301
FRANK OR PHYLLIS HOOPER		P O BOX 1133	ELKO NV 89803
FRED ETCHEBERRY		P O BOX 427	EUREKA NV 89316
FRED HOWELL		PO BOX 130	WELLS NV 89835
Fred M. and Theresa L. Hansen		HC 32 Box 32410	Ely, NV 89301
G. ERNIE DEMPSEY		P O BOX 35	EUREKA NV 89316
GAIL PHILLIPS		P O BOX 5519	ELKO NV 89802
GALE DUPREE		PO BOX 428	LOYALTON, CA 961180428
Gary Bennett		PO Box 923	McGill, NV 89318
GARY McCUIN		251 JEANELL DRIVE	CARSON CITY, NV 89703
GARY PRUNTY		2016 ELLIS WAY	ELKO NV 89801
GARY ZUPANIC		771 SANDRA DRIVE	BOULDER CITY NV 89005
GENE KAPLAN		PO BOX 187	WELLS NV 89835
George and Maria Alderete		HC 32 Box 32414	Ely, NV 89301
George and Mildred Bell		HC 32 Box 3246	Ely, NV 89301
GEORGE AND TONI DEE SCHWIN		475 REGAN PLACE	FALLON NV 89406
George Andrus		59 South 500 East	St. George, UT 84770
George Chachas		570 Aultman	Ely, NV 89301
GEORGE DAUM		BOX 2560	WENDOVER NV 89883
George Farber		2451 Opal Drive	Ely, NV 89301

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
George L. and Tsuneko T. Irlbeck		HCR 33, Box 33905	Ely, Nevada 89301
GEORGE PARMAN		BOX 58	EUREKA NV 89316
Gerald Bates		HCR Box 340	Garrison, UT 84728
GERALD D BYERS		PO BOX 28-1258	LAMOILLE NV 89828
GERALD R BROWN		P O BOX 5774	RENO NV 89513
GILBERT MINORU ASHIKAWA		BOX 727	KEALAKEKUA HI 96750
Gordon Foppiano		HC 33 Box 33750	Ely, NV 89301
GORDON FOPPIANO		PO BOX 150691	ELY, NV 89315
GRACIAN UHALDE		PO BOX 151088	ELY, NV 89315
Greg Bennick		PO Box 31012	Seattle, WA 98103
Gretchen Burris		259 S. E St.	Lakeview, OR 97630
Hal and Cris Ann Bybee		371 E. Madison	Ely, NV 89301
HAL CANNON		STAR ROUTE BOX 87	DEETH NV 89823
HALE BAILEY		HC 65 BOX 20	CARLIN NV 89822
Harry C. Franke		P.O. Box 151824	Ely, NV 89301
HARRY PETERS		400 JIGGS BOX 12	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
HAZEL TOWEILL		P O BOX 484	JOHN DAY OR 97845
HENRY HAUG		PO BOX 233	LUND, NV 89317
Herb Stathes		HC 33 Box 33910	Ely, NV 89301
HERB STATHES		HC 33 BOX 33910	ELY, NV 89301
Howard Bunn		909 Avenue G	Ely, NV 89301
HUDSON A GLIMP		2617 CHAPPARAL DRIVE	RENO NV 89509
Jack & Irene Walther		HC 36 Box 560	Lamoille, NV 89828
Jack and Larue Bennett		HC32 Box 32400	Ely, NV 89301
Jack Norcross		P.O. Box 150515	Ely, NV 89315
JACK PRIER		197-9 LSF ROAD	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
JAKE REED		P O BOX 226	ELKO NV 89801
JAMES R MATHEUS		2271 MULESHOE ROAD	BATTLE MOUNTAIN NV 89820-1738
JAMIE OR JENNIFER KROSP		1638 SAN REMO DRIVE	PACIFIC PALISADES CA 90272-2741
JASON WATSON		P O BOX 140073	DUCKWATER NV 89314
JEB ROWLEY		P O BOX 238	EUREKA NV 89316
JEFF HUNNEWILL		195 HUNNEWILL LANE	WELLINGTON NV 81444
JEREMY AUCH		P O BOX 303	EUREKA NV 89316
Jerri Lynn Barlese		PO Box 6054	Sparks, NV 89432
Jerry Baker		PO Box 71	Lund, NV 89317
JERRY BAKER		P O BOX 71	LUND, NV 89317
Jerry Jones		5905 150 E	Ely, NV 89301
JERRY TODD		P O BOX 73	EUREKA NV 89316
JERRY WHITE		P O BOX 309	EUREKA NV 89316

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
JESS SUSTACHA		P O BOX 281214	LAMOILLE NV 89828
JIM BAUMANN		P O BOX 308	EUREKA NV 89316
JIM CHAMPIE		BOX 202	AUSTIN NV 89310
Jim Cooksly		4810 Alta Mason	Redding, CA 96002
JIM GALLAGHER		HC 62 BOX 143	EUREKA NV 89316
JIM HUMPHREY		BOX 751	EUREKA NV 89316
JIM OR CLAUDINE JOHNSTON		5940 SEDUM WAY	BOISE ID 83716
JIM TURNER		PO BOX 54	BRAWLEY, CA 92227
Jimmy H. and Joan M. Bell		HC 32 Box 32411	Ely, NV 89301
Jimmy Tallerico		P.O. Box 933	McGill, NV 89318
JODY BRADSHAW		BRADSHAW RANCH	DUCKWATER NV 89314
JOE SUSTACHA JR & SON		P O BOX 28- 1227	LAMOILLE NV 89828
JOEL TWITCHELL		2502 MELCHRIS COURT	FREDRICKSBURG, VA 22408
JOHN & TERRIE LUNDY		P O BOX 78	WELLS NV 89835
John and Irene Chachas		P.O. Box 151171	Ely, NV 89315
JOHN BLETHEN		HC 33 BOX 33572	ELY, NV 89301
John Blethen		HC 33 Box 33572	Ely, NV 89301
JOHN C ROSE III		PO BOX 1602	ELKO NV 89803
John Caviglio		701 South 1st Street	Ely, NV 89301
John Delahunt		35 La Posada Ct.	Sparks, NV 89436-9257
John E. Hiatt		8180 Placid Street	Las Vegas, NV 89123
JOHN EADE		4760 SANTA ANA VALLEY ROAD	HOLLISTER CA 95023
JOHN ETCHEGARAY		4225 S HARMON ROAD	FALLON NV 89406-8192
JOHN F SCHWEBLE, SR		P O BOX 602	EUREKA NV 89316
John J Davis Jr		10859 Racetrack Rd.	Sonora, CA 95370
JOHN L ARTZ		2581 WESTVILLE TRAIL	COOL CA 95614
JOHN M LASGOITY		2310 CAMDEN WAY	MADERA CA 93637
John Neff		HC 60 Box 587	Ruby Valley, NV 89833
John R Allen		PO Box 93	Panaca, NV 89042
JOHN TYBO		P O BOX 68	MONTELLO NV 89830
JOLENE GOICOECHEA		BOX 65	EUREKA NV 89316
JON HUTCHINGS		P.O. BOX 682	EUREKA, NV 89316
Jonathan Wall		HC 33 Box 33600	Ely, NV 89301
JOSEPH & PATRICE MARVEL		HC 36 193-8	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
JOSEPH A LARAVIE		135 FLORA PLACE	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
JOSEPH B KEY		8555 DOUBLE R BLVD., STE. 109	RENO NV 89511
JOSEPH LEGARZA		PO BOX 2448	ELKO, NV 89803
JOSEPH R PAYNE		BOX 5	MONTELLO NV 89830
Joshua Abbey		18 Cerchio Alto	Henderson, NV 89011-3606

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Joy A Brandt		PO Box 116	Austin, NV 89310
Juan and Maria Apeceche		9 Carson Court	Ely, NV 89301
Judi Bourbeau		PO Box 1473 Mc	Gill, NV 89318
JULIA BOSMADOUGLAS		10686 E FAIR AVE	ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111
JULIAN C SMITH, JR		502 N DIVISION STREET	CARSON CITY NV 89703
JULIE M BRIGGS		P O BOX 74	INDIAN VALLEY ID 83632-0074
Julio Costello		24 Conners Ct.	Ely, NV 89301
Karen A Sussman		Hwy 212 Dewey/Ziebach Cty Line	Lantry, SD 57636
Karen Boeger		5055 Wilcox Ranch Rd.	Reno, NV 89510-9392
KAREN KLITZ		1622 62nd STREET	BERKELY, CA 94703
KARL E LIND		3920 SOUTH 1100 EAST #150	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84124
Karri Bath		1155 Mountain View Dr.	Ely, NV 89301
Katherine Blossom		1925 Circle Way	Elko, NV 89801
KATHRYN ATAMAN		P O BOX 21	SILVER CITY NV 89428
Kathryn M. Cushman		PO Box 26	Canterbury, NH 03224
KAY AND MARY LEAR		HC 33 BOX 33865	ELY, NV 89301
Kaye Allison		HCR 61 Box 30	Alamo, NV 89001-9706
KELY		807 Avenue F	Ely, NV 89301
KEN CONLEY		PO BOX 111	EUREKA NV 89316
KEN DEWITT		335 CORTEZ COURT	SPARKS NV 89436
KEN WASHBURN		P O BOX 8	EUREKA, NV 89316
KENNETH JOHNS		PO BOX 866	WELLS NV 89835-0886
KENNETH JONES		HC 30 BOX 530	LAMOILLE, NV 89828
KENNETH MARRUJO		1155 AVENUE F	ELY NV 89301
KENNETH R BUCKINGHAM		P O BOX 10	PARADISE VALLEY NV 98426
Kevin Kirkeby		600 East William Street, #304	Carson City, NV 89701
KEVIN KIRKEBY		600 E WILLIAMS, STE 304	CARSON CITY NV 89701
KEVIN SMITH		PO BOX 19	WELLS NV 89835
KIMMY DRAYTON		BOX 34223	CURRENT CREEK NV 89301
KIRK AND RAMONA DAHL		HC 60 BOX 470	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
LANCE AND PARTICIA PAUL		PO BOX 211115	CRESCENT VALLEY NV 89821
LARRY BARNGROVER		428 S. LAWNDALE DRIVE	SPRING CREEK, NV 89815
LARRY GORELL		P O BOX 3471	CARSON CITY NV 89702
LARRY SKINNER		10 ARCHER CT	SPARKS NV 89436-7267
LAURA ETTER		PO BOX 634	EUREKA NV 89316
LEE TAYLOR		P O BOX 606	CARLIN NV 89822
LENNY AND NECIE FIORENZI		PO BOX 193	EUREKA NV 89316
LEO G DAMELE		HC 62 BOX 310	EUREKA NV 89316
Leona Rawley		Box 40	Eureka, NV 89316

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
LES HANSEN		3245 SHIRLEY LANE	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445
LINDA L BROWN		P O BOX 533	EUREKA NV 89316
LINDA MASTERS		990 5TH STREET	ELKO NV 89801-3202
LISA ERIKSEN		248 S HOLYOKE PLACE	ELKO NV 89801
LISA HOEHNE		P O BOX 733	EUREKA NV 89316
LOIS SNEDDEN		6093 CARRIAGE HOUSE WAY	RENO, NV 895097323
LOUISE LEAR		HC 33 BOX 33865	ELY NV 89301
LUKE AND JAYME HALPIN		P O BOX 186	EUREKA NV 89316
LUKE BACA		P O BOX 26	DUCKWATER NV 89314
MARCIA DEBRAGA		11050 FITZ LANE	FALLON, NV 89406
MARGE KAISER		PO BOX 2164	NEVADA CITY CA 95959
Marion Green		HC33 Box 33840	Ely, NV 89301
MARJORIE PRUNTY		HC 35 BOX 280	MOUNTAIN CITY NV 89831
Mark N. Ioli		681 Sierra Rose Drive, Suite B	Reno, NV 89511
MARY BRANSCOMB		BOX 281270	LAMOILLE NV 89828
MARY LOU GRIFFIN		5 JV WALKER ST	ELY, NV 89301
Maurice Frank – Churchill		HC 61 Box 6208	Austin, NV 89310
MAYNARD ALVES		16301 N W ONEIL HWY	REDMOND OR 97756
Mayor George Chachas		570 Aultman St.	Ely, NV 89301
MICHAEL & CHERI HOWELL		P O BOX 220	WELLS NV 89835
MICHAEL BOYKEN		705 AULTMAN ST #2	ELY, NV 89301
Michael J. Sr. and Renee Baker		HC 32 Box 32423	Ely, NV 89301
MICHAEL LEWIS		PO BIX 474	RUTH, NV 89319
Mike Couch		PO Box 334	Ruth, NV 89319
Mike Hasty		P.O. Box 73	Genoa, NV 89411
MIKE MORRISON		PO BOX 824	WELLS NV 89835
MITCH SMITH		PO BOX 395	WELLS NV 89835
Mountie Morris		HC 32 Box 32417	Ely, NV 89301
Mr & Mrs Duane Carpenter		181 Clear Creek Road	Carson, NV 89705
Mr & Mrs Frank Delmue		HC 74 Box 415	Pioche, NV 89043
Mr & Mrs George Buettner		PO Box 192	Pioche, NV 89043-0000
Mr & Mrs Hiton Covington		86 Pioneer Circle	Brookside, UT 84782
Mr & Mrs Joe Dahl		PO Box 2391	Fallon, NV 89406
Mr & Mrs Owen Bolstad		2460 Piping Rock Dr.	Reno, NV 89502
Mr and Mrs Ed Bundy		1985 E. 2300 S.	St. Georgge, UT 84790
Mr and Mrs Ray Alcorn		PO Box 8000	Mesquite, NV 89024
Mr and Mrs Ron Barrett		PO Box 3450	Carson City, NV 89702
Mr Bob Britton		HC 60 Box 120	Clover Valley, NV 89835
Mr Brad Dalton		HC 60 Box 130	Wells, NV 89835

Ely Energy Center EIS Scoping Mailing List

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
Mr Brent Boyer		2385 Fireside Circle	Reno, NV 89509-3514
Mr Carry B Baker		PO Box 12	Placerville, CA 95667
Mr Charles Beasley		143 Bret Harte	Reno, NV 89509
Mr Charles Cannady		1190 Sharrow Way	Carson City, NV 89703-4843
Mr Charles Culverwell		PO Box 147	Calienta, NV 89008
Mr Chester Davis		PO Box 154	Caliente, NV 89008
Mr Dan Barrett		6330 Sandi Drive 181	Winnemucca, N 89445
Mr David Adams		917 Laguna Avenue	Burlinggame, CA 94010
Mr David Dicmiara		956 Amico Dr.	Sparks, NV 89434
Mr David E. Bacon		1606 Canyon Terrace Drive	Sparks, NV 89436
Mr Dean Carter		PO Box 245	Minersville, UT 84752
Mr Dewayne Brown		250 Ruby Mountain Rd.	Elko, NV 89801
Mr Donald M Deines		365 Sunrise Terrace	Fallon, NV 89406
Mr Dwight E Dannelly		PO Box 215	Enterprise, UT 84725
Mr Edmund Cain		3710 Clover Way	Reno, NV 89509
Mr Evam S Baker		12324 Obrad Dr.	Saratoga, CA 95070
Mr Fenton Bowler		825 W. Veyo Gunlock	Veyo, UT 84782-4146
Mr Fernando Carrillo		PO Box 713	Winnemucca, NV 89446
Mr Frank Barkanyi		2101 Mount Charleston Drive	Pahrump, NV 89048
Mr James Anderson		1000 Edgewater Lane	Fallon, NV 89406-7901
Mr James Bateman		PO Box 308	Eureka, NV 89316
Mr James Burton		HC 30 Box A10	Lee, NV 89801
Mr John Bowler		1301 Bigelow Ranch RD	Veyo, UT 89833
Mr John D Bernt		PO Box	Jarbidge, NV 89826
Mr John E Crow		PO Box 394	Pioche, NV 89043-0394
Mr John E. Beck		23 Bryan Circle	Carson City, NV 89706
Mr John G Breitrick		PO Box 151615	Ely, NV 89315
NANCY PHELPS		4330 SWANSON LANE	RENO NV 89509
NECIE FREOIENZI		P O BOX 193	EUREKA NV 89316
NEIL AND KRISTIN McQUEARY		HC 60 BOX 677	RUBY VALLEY, NV 89833
NICHOLE SUMMERS		HC 34 BOX 275	ELY NV 89301
OPAL ADAMS		9484 SPEARHEAD WAY	RENO, NV 89506-9757
PAM BOLAS		PO BOX 793	MC GILL, NV 89318
PAT DAVISON		P O BOX 3105	TRUCKEE CA 96160
Patricia and Lana Paul		PC 521514	Big Lake, AK 99652
PETE SEGULJA III AND BROUGH PARTNERSHIP		HC 60 BOX 300	WELLS NV 89835
PETER SCOTT		HC 30 TWIN BRIDGES 152	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
PHIL DAVIS		16789 THORNGATE ROAD	EAST LANSING MI 48823-9772

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
PHILIP BLAGG		PO BOX 260036	JARBIDGE NV 89826
PHILIP R BROWN		P O BOX 478	EUREKA NV 89316
PHYLLIS JO DEAN		556 E CHARLWOOD COURT	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
R B STEPHENSON		BOX 269	EUREKA NV 89316
R C McCLYMONDS		3848 HOLISTER AVE	CARMICHAEL CA 95608
R. HAWKS		8366 PEGRAM RD.	MONTPELIER, NV 83254
Ralph Semmes II ET AL Gordon		821 Guadalupe Avenue	Coronado, CA 92118
RANDY B STUCK		BOX 326	EUREKA NV 89316
RAY SALISBURY		BOX 28	AUSTIN NV 89310
RC McClymonds		3848 Hollister Ave	Carmichael, CA 95608
Reed Radosevich		8625 Cremona Drive	Las Vegas, NV 89117
REESE AND LISA MARSHALL		HC 62 BOX 186	EUREKA NV 89316
RENE P DEMEULE		2907 9TH AVE	TWIN FALLS ID 83301
REX MOORE		BOX 574	EUREKA NV 89316
REX STENINGER & JOESPH MCMULLEN		PO BOX 281570	LAMOILLE, NV 89828
Richard and Angela Falge		HC 32 Box 32406	Ely, NV 89301
RICHARD BROWN		HC 65 BOX 5	CARLIN NV 89822
RICHARD CARVER		HCR-60 BOX 5400	ROUND MOUNTAIN, NV 89045
RICK SORENSON		600 ORANGE ST	CHICO CA 95928
Robert and Stacy Holt		1501 Ely Street	Ely, NV 89301
ROBERT D SHAW		P O BOX 225	EUREKA NV 89316
ROBERT E. DIGRAZIA, DDS		900 N. LIBERTY ST. SUITE 202	BOISE, ID 83704-8707
ROBERT McGINTY		3154 MIDLAND DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
ROBERT STEPHENSON, JR		P O BOX 192	EUREKA NV 89316
Robert Tranko		Box 1274	McGill, NV 89318
ROBERT TURNER		68 ISLEWORTH DR.	HENDERSON, NV 89052-6467
Robert W. Maichle		4221 West Arby Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89118-5107
ROBERT WRIGHT		1258 DOTTA DR	ELKO NV 89801
ROD MCELWAIN		211 MICHAEL GROVE APT A	BIZEMAN, MT 597181808
Rodney C. and Robin R. Peterson		HC 32 Box 32407	Ely, NV 89301
RODNEY TORRELL		HC 31-372 # 3	ELKO NV 89801
ROGER HUBBARD		P O BOX 61	EUREKA NV 89316
ROGER SCHOLL		4870 HILTON COURT	RENO, NV 89509
Ronald E. and Margaret N. Taylor		9620 Homestead Road	Las Vegas, NV 89143
RUSSELL CONLEY		HCR 66-76	BEOWAWE NV 89821
SALLY HUMMEL		2140 GREENTREE LANE	RENO NV 89511
Sally McLeod		P.O. Box 151566	Ely, NV 89301
SAM HENROID		HC 33 BOX 33895	ELY, NV 89301

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
SAMUEL E. KING		1150 ALLEN RD 143-12	BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV 89820
SANDRA SHARP		HC 60 BOX 495	RUBY VALLEY NV 89833
SCOTT, MARK, KIRK HOOPER; LILI WOLF; AND JENNIFER GARRETT		BOX 1133	ELKO, NV 89801
Shane Boren		HC 34 Box 34030	Ely, NV 89301
SHERI EKLUND-BROWN		569 COURT STREET	ELKO, NV 89801
SHERIE RAE GORING		9940 NORTH HIGHWAY 38	DEWEYVILLE, UT 84309
Smith Tony U and Josephine		3070 Kennedy Drive Apt 509	Salt Lake City, UT 84108-2280
STEPHEN P. RICHINS		PO BOX 223	HENEFER UT 84033
STERLING WINES		PO BOX 150813	ELY, NV 89301
STEVE AND VICKI NYE		3491 STUART STREET	WINNEMUCCA, NV 89445
STEVE AUCH		BOX 303	EUREKA NV 89316
Steve Mellington		7300 Lake Farm Avenue	Las Vegas, NV 89131
STEVE RICH		1343 NORMANDIE CIRCLE	SALT LAKE CITY UT 84105
STEVEN FULSTONE		31 RIVERS ROAD	SMITH NV 89430
STUART TAYLOR		PO BOX 400	WELLS, NV 89835-0400
T M THOMPSON		295 SKYLINE DRIVE	ELKO NV 89801
Ted Bendure		2257 Carson River Rd.	Carson City, NV 89701-9360
Ted Daskas		PO Box 98	Pioche, NV 89043
Teresa Adams		15 Reno Rd.	Ely, NV 89301
Terry and Tilda Dewolfe		PO Box 1032	Round Mountain, NV 89045
Terry Bolander		8308 Hidden Crossing Lane	Las Vegas, NV 89129
THAD BALLARD		HC 60 BOX 155	WELLS NV 89835
The Honorable James Gibson		State Capitol Building	Carson City, NV 89710
The Lears		HC 33 Box 33865	Ely, NV 89301
THERESA MINOLETTI		P O BOX 85	EUREKA, NV 89316
Thomas Anderson		PO Box 56	Empire, NV 89405
THOMAS BUHL		BUHL CATTLE RANCH	GROUSE CREEK NV 84313
THOMAS E LEUBBEN ESQ		211 12TH ST N W	ALBUQUERQUE NM 87102
THOMAS S ATKINSON		1019 CLEVELAND ST	WOODLAND CA 95695
TIFFANY JENSEN		HG 62 BOX 166	EUREKA NV 89316
TIM SCHERREBLE		P O BOX 602	EUREKA NV 89316
TIM VOGT		9033 SANDY SHORES DRIVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89117
TINA NAPPE		615 ROBINSON COURT	RENO NV 89503
TODD DYER		P O BOX 738	EUREKA NV 89316
Tom Bath		600 Mill Street	Ely, NV 89301
TOMMIE MARTIN		PO BOX 147	PAYSON AZ 85547
TONY SESTANOVICH		HC 65 BOX 41	CARLIN NV 89822
TRISSY McKAY		P O BOX 327	EUREKA NV 89316

Ely Energy Center EIS Scoping Mailing List

Name/Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State, Zip
U S POST OFFICE		FEDERAL BUILDING	ELKO NV 89801
VAUGHN HIGBEE		PO BOX 303	ALAMO NV 89001
Vicki and Steve Nye		7210 South Jackson Road	Winnemucca, NV 89445
Vittorio Carrara		Box 1903	Jacksonville, OR 97530
VIVIAN FREEMAN		2530 EASTSHORE PLACE APT D	RENO, NV 895094315
W RUSSEL		HC 34 BOX 34050	ELY, NV 89301
Waldron H Decker		HC 10 Box 10085	Ely, NV 89301
Walter Barbuck		4050 Palos Verdes 19	Las Vegas, NV 89119
Walter Wilson		PO Box 55	Denio, NV 89404
WARREN ROBISON		PO BOX 151108	ELY, NV 89315
WAYNE PRUNTY SR. AND EVA D WILLIAMS		1235 RADWICK DRIVE	LAS VEGAS NV 89110
WAYNE TESTOLIN		HC 30 BOX 352-2 4TH AND MARSHALL	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
WESLEY BOWLEN		PO BOX 276	WELLS NV 89835
WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE		P O BOX 555	RENO NV 89504
Wiley Brooks		HC33 Box 33760	Ely, NV
WILFORD & BARBARA BAILEY		PO BOX 66HC 62 BOX 129	EUREKA NV 89316
William A. ET AL, Ward		HCR 32 Box 32402	Ely, NV 89301
WILLIAM AND JEAN SPRATLING		PO BOX 37	DEETH NV 89823
William Connor		2775 E. Thurman Ave	Las Vegas, NV 89120
William Cowan		90 Sunbeam Ln.	Reno, NV 89511
William D Devlin		PO Box 243	Pioche, NV 89043
WILLIAM GIBSON		HC 30 BOX 197 # 13 LSF	SPRING CREEK NV 89815
William J Connor		PO Box 384	Pioche, NV 89043
WILLIAM KITT LEAR		PO BOX 92	UNITY OR 89301
WILLIAM PECK		9910 GERBER ROAD	SACRAMENTO CA 95529
William R. and Carol A. Bass		HC32 Box 32405	Ely, NV 89301

APPENDIX C

Scoping Meeting Attendance Lists

ID	First	Last	Organization	City	State
A01	Joe	Incardine	BLM - UTSO	Salt Lake City	UT
A02	Rick	Spilsbury		Ely	NV
A03	Delaine	Spilsbury		McGill	NV
A04	Darrell	Soyars	Sierra Pacific Resources		
A05	Pete	Samuolis		Las Vegas	NV
A06	Greg	Brown	JBR	Sandy	UT
A07	Douglas	Miller		Hiko	NV
A08	Steph	Connolly	BLM-Ely Field Office	Ely	NV
A09	John	Bedrow	SPCC	Reno	NV
A10	Brenda	Shank	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
A11	Laurelle	Hughes		Alamo	NV
A12	Nitin	Luhar	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
A13	Richard	Whipple		Hiko	NV
A14	Michelle	Whipple		Hiko	NV
A15	Alan	Pritcher		Alamo	NV
A16	Wade	Poulser		Alamo	NV
A17	Curtiss	Trehmu		Alamo	NV
A18	John	Lovelady	Lincoln County Manager	Pioche	NV
EL01	Jim	Saevedre	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
EL02	Darrell	Soyars	SPCC		
EL03	David	Sims	SPCC		
EL04	Richard	Waite		Elko	NV
EL05	John	Bedrow	SPCC	Reno	NV
EL06	Pete	Samuolis		Las Vegas	NV
EL07	Faye	Anderson	SPCC		
EL08	Greg	Brorby	SPCC		
EL09	Cathie	Jensen	BLM Elko	Elko	NV
EL10	Greg	Brown	JBR	Sandy	UT
EL11	Steve	Foree	NDOW - Elko	Elko	NV
EL12	Tom	Morte?	Elko Free Press	Elko	NV
EL13	Danielle	Yroz	BLM Elko	Elko	NV
EL14	Nitin	Luhar	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
EL15	Joe	Incardine	BLM - UTSO	Salt Lake City	UT
EL16	Dr. Thomas	Ghallagher		Elko	NV
EL17	Dorothy	Gallagher		Elko	NV
EL18	Bobby	Hooper		Battle Mountain	NV
EL19	Jack	Prier		Spring Creek	NV
EL20	Terri	Tharp	JBR Elko	Elko	NV
EL21	Terry	Chute	USFS	Wells	NV
EL22	Richard	Weber	JBR Elko	Elko	NV
EL23	James	Muth		Elko	NV
EL24	Marti & Dan	Hoots		Deeth	NV
EL25	Dan	Johnson		Spring Creek	NV
EL26	Christy	Morris	NDOM	Carson City	NV
EL27	Michael	Tyler		Ely	NV
EL28	Richard	Hoops	???		
EL29	Richard	Perry		Elko	NV
EL30	Kenneth	Jones		Lamoille	NV
EL31	Steve	Donder	AFM Nonrenewable Resourc	Elko	NV
EL32	Marlow	Bahl		Ruby Valley	NV

EL33	Dennis	Corn		Elko	NV
EL34	Donna	Ortiz		Spring Creek	NV
ELY01	Nitin	Luhar	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
ELY02	Starla	Lacy			
ELY03	Rudy	Herndon	Ely Times		
ELY04	Ronald	Montoya	Kennecott Minerals	E. Ely	NV
ELY05	Neil & Nicole	Marchington		Ely	NV
ELY06	Sue	Morris		Ely	NV
ELY07	Robin & Cindy	Bell		Ely	NV
ELY08	Ray & Catherine	Moser		McGill	NV
ELY09	Cindy	Marques	Ely Shoshone Tribe	McGill	NV
ELY10	Greg	Seymour	Far Western	Las Vegas	NV
ELY100	Julie Ann	Fishel	Western Shoshone Defense	Crescent Valley	NV
ELY101	Caroline	McIntosh		Ely	NV
ELY102	Kurt	Ovelerson		Ely	NV
ELY103	Jill	Atkinson		McGill	NV
ELY104	Callan	Barett		Ely	NV
ELY105	Jonathan	Wall		Ely	NV
ELY106	Nana	Swallow		Ely	NV
ELY107	Virginia	Hays		Ely	NV
ELY108	Larson	Bill	Western Shoshone	Spring Creek	NV
ELY11	Bill	Wolf		Ely	NV
ELY12	Joan	Bassett		Ely	NV
ELY13	Ashley	Rohde		Ely	NV
ELY14	Mark	Bassett		Ely	NV
ELY15	Harry	Franke		Ely	NV
ELY16	Kelly	Hislop		Newman	CA
ELY17	Bonnie	Waggoner		McGill	NV
ELY18	Donald	???		Ely	NV
ELY19	Terry	Fackrell		Ely	NV
ELY20	Clay	West		Ely	NV
ELY21	Jon	Muller	County Engineer	Ely	NV
ELY22	Jim	Hollingsworth		Ely	NV
ELY23	Hank	Blair		Ely	NV
ELY24	Sam	Henriod		Ely	NV
ELY25	Mark	Lowrie		Ely	NV
ELY26	Randy	Ewell		Ely	NV
ELY27	Richard	Nilson		Ely	NV
ELY28	Tara	Forbis		Ely	NV
ELY29	Pat	Irwin		Ely	NV
ELY30	Alan	de Queiroz		Ely	NV
ELY31	Marc	Gara		Ely	NV
ELY32	Steve	Leith		Ely	NV
ELY33	Stuart	Taylor		Wells	NV
ELY34	Natalie	Martinez		Ely	NV
ELY35	Jamie	Fields		Ely	NV
ELY36	Robert	Pratt		McGill	NV
ELY37	Holly	Wilson		E. Ely	NV
ELY38	Steph	Connolly	BLM-Ely Field Office	Ely	NV
ELY39	Harlan	Arnold		Ely	NV
ELY40	William	Butts		Ely	NV

ELY41	Raleene	Makley		Ely	NV
ELY42	Mildred	Bell		Ely	NV
ELY43	Neil	Frakes		Ely	NV
ELY44	Dave	Tilford		Ely	NV
ELY45	JoAnne	Garrett		Baker	NV
ELY46	Tim	Lewis		Ely	NV
ELY47	Julie	Thompson		Ely	NV
ELY48	Justin	Morning		McGill	NV
ELY49	Bruno	Bowles		Ely	NV
ELY50	Clinton	Henriod		Ely	NV
ELY51	May	Arnold		Ely	NV
ELY52	Mike	Zyrgich		Ely	NV
ELY53	Kaye & Erin	Keckley		Ely	NV
ELY54	Tenille & Kalem	Lenord		Ely	NV
ELY55	Joshua	Simpson		Ely	NV
ELY56	Scott & Hillary	Giles		Ely	NV
ELY57	Jim	Soavedra			
ELY58	Judi & David	Broubeau		McGill	NV
ELY59	Keith & Paula	Carsa		Ely	NV
ELY60	Bob	Stever		Ely	NV
ELY61	Lyle	Papez		Reno	NV
ELY62	Stuart	Twitchell		McGill	NV
ELY63	Lance	Moore	Steptoe Ranch	McGill	NV
ELY64	Ron	Taylor		Ely	NV
ELY65	Roger	Bowers		Ely	NV
ELY66	Daniel	Morris		Ely	NV
ELY67	Bill & Maryann	Jackson		Montrose	CO
ELY68	Jim	Bath		Ely	NV
ELY69	Charles	Basso	Ely Energy Center	Ely	NV
ELY70	Ernie	Flangos		Ely	NV
ELY71	Fred & Laura	Carpenter		Ely	NV
ELY72	Pete	Haraden		Ely	NV
ELY73	Rod	McKenzie		Lund	NV
ELY74	Trisn	Mann		Ely	NV
ELY75	Robert	Timko		McGill	NV
ELY76	Karen	Ragala		Ely	NV
ELY77	Claudette	Christiansen		Ely	NV
ELY78	John	Gay		Ely	NV
ELY79	Glenn & Virginian	Terry		Ely	NV
ELY80	Joe	Pescio		McGill	NV
ELY81	Emily	Harris		Ely	NV
ELY82	Suzie	Gordon		Ely	NV
ELY83	Todd	Kimin		Ely	NV
ELY84	Karie	Wilshire		Ely	NV
ELY85	Jim	Assuro		McGill	NV
ELY86	Nana	Workman		McGill	NV
ELY87	Jason	Williams		Ely	NV
ELY88	Paul	Podborny	BLM Ely Field Office	Ely	NV
ELY89	Ben	Roberts	Great Basin National Park	Baker	NV
ELY90	Curt	Baughman	NDOW	Ely	NV
ELY91	John	Lampros		Ely	NV

ELY92	Joe	Incardini	BLM - UTSO	Salt Lake City	UT
ELY93	???	???	Nevada Power Company		
ELY94	Mark	Warren	Warren & Schiffmochov, LLC		
ELY95	Claude	Rose		Ely	NV
ELY96	Chris	Crookshanks		Ely	NV
ELY97	Francee	Ricketts		Ely	NV
ELY98	George	Panappoulos		Ely	NV
ELY99	Jerry	Meyer		Ely	NV
LV01	Robert	Agnew		Las Vegas	NV
LV02	Brenda	Lennell		McGill	NV
LV03	Robert	Linnell		McGill	NV
LV04	Leilani	Takano	USFWS	Las Vegas	NV
LV05	Henrik	Christensen	ENSR	Henderson	NV
LV06	Barbara	McNeil		Las Vegas	NV
LV07	David	Jones	IBEW #357	Las Vegas	NV
LV08	Roberto	Dennis	Nevada Power Company		
LV09	Lloyd	Phillips		Ely	NV
LV10	Deborah	Gaglione		Las Vegas	NV
LV11	Barbara	McKinnan		Henderson	NV
LV12	Lamore	Jones	IBEW #357	Las Vegas	NV
LV13	Barbara	Lake		Las Vegas	NV
LV14	Joe	Incardine	BLM - UTSO	Salt Lake City	UT
LV15	John	Torok		Reno	NV
LV16	Stu	Hirsh	BLM LV Field Office		
LV17	Pete	Samuolis		Las Vegas	NV
LV18	Jeff	Weeks	BLM	Ely	NV
LV19	John	Berdrow		Reno	NV
LV20	Brenda	Shank	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
LV21	John	Baiett		Las Vegas	NV
LV22	Steve	Rypka		Henderson	NV
LV23	Shonna	Dooman	BLM Field Office		
LV24	Maggie	Estrada		North Las Vegas	NV
LV25	Steve	Marcus	Las Vegas Sun	Henderson	NV
LV26	Bill	Samko		Las Vegas	NV
LV27	Jim	Saevedre	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
LV28	Darrell	Soyars	SPCC	Las Vegas	NV
LV29	Greg	Brown	JBR	Sandy	UT
LV30	Nitin	Luhar	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
LV31	Starla	Lacy			
LV32	Jerry	McNeish			
LV33	Eileen	Wynkoop	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
LV34	Phoebe	Sweet		Henderson	NV
LV35	Joseph	Pescio		Henderson	NV
LV36	Isis	Hall		Las Vegas	NV
LV37	Janeen	Ball		Las Vegas	NV
LV38	Matt	Van Norte		Las Vegas	NV
LV39	Ron	Mahood		Las Vegas	NV
LV40	Tod	Oppenbordn		Las Vegas	NV
LV41	Marc	Magard	BLM	Las Vegas	NV
LV42	Lisa	Ortega		Las Vegas	NV
LV43	Jackie	Gratton	BLM LV Field Office	Las Vegas	NV

LV44	Dennis	Raatz		Las Vegas	NV
LV45	David	Ribdon		Las Vegas	NV
LV46	Jane	Feldman	Sierra Club	Las Vegas	NV
LV47	Chales	Pottey		Las Vegas	NV
LV48	John	Hiatt		Las Vegas	NV
LV49	Ellis	Greene		Las Vegas	NV
LV50	Christy	Meze		Las Vegas	NV
LV51	Craig	Bentley		Henderson	NV
LV52	Lydia	Ball		Las Vegas	NV
LV53	Tim	Vogt		Las Vegas	NV
LV54	Rita	Ransom		Las Vegas	NV
LV55	Eric	Blumenstaadt		Henderson	NV
LV56	Kimberly	Reinhart		Las Vegas	NV
LV57	Lt. Jeff	Henderson	99 CES/CER		
LV58	Teresa	Crawford		Henderson	NV
LV59	Melissa	Mezgar		Las Vegas	NV
LV60	Sheila	Lehman		Las vegas	NV
LV61	John	Edwards	Las Vegas Review Journal	Las Vegas	NV
LV62	Tricia	Mynster		Las Vegas	NV
LV63	Andrea	Redmond		Las vegas	NV
LV64	Steffen	Schneider		Las Vegas	NV
LV65	Osheen	Tayal		Las Vegas	NV
LV66	Terry	Kozlowski		McGill	NV
LV67	Danny	Rakestraw		Las Vegas	NV
LV68	Mario	Ferrutine		Las Vegas	NV
LV69	Alfreda	Mitre	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	Las Vegas	NV
LV70	William	Rogers		Las Vegas	NV
LV71	James	Sloane		Las Vegas	NV
R01	David	Sims	SPCC		
R02	Pete	Samuolis		Las Vegas	NV
R03	Greg	Brown	JBR	Sandy	UT
R04	Tina	Nappe		Reno	NV
R05	Nitin	Luhar	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
R06	Faye	Anderson	SPCC		
R07	Mehrdad	Mogh		Reno	NV
R08	Sandra	Fairchild	Arcadis G & M	Phoenix	AZ
R09	Kevin	Kritz	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Reno	NV
R10	Gary	Gray	Kennedy Jenks	Reno	NV
R11	Roger	Jacobson		Reno	NV
R12	Terry	Wolverton		Reno	NV
R13	Frank	Brittain		Reno	NV
R14	Joe	Incardine	BLM - UTSO	Salt Lake City	UT
R15	Larry	Butcher	Opus Environmental	Reno	NV
R16	Joshua	Kantor		Reno	NV
R17	Aaron	Mann		Reno	NV
R18	Carl	Herdd		Ely	NV
R19	Kimberly	Dow	BLM - NVSO, Groundwater Projects		
R20	Gale	Dupree	National Wildlife Federation	Loyalton	CA
R21	Michael	Hastie		Genoa	NV
R22	David & Nancy	Cencula		Sparks	NV
R23	Mark	Harris	PUCN	Carson City	NV

R24	Paul	McKenzie		Sun Valley	NV
R25	Rose	Strickland	Sierra Club	Reno	NV
R26	Jeff	Carlton		Reno	NV
R27	Brenda	Shank	Nevada Power Company	Las Vegas	NV
R28	John	Bedrow	SPCC	Reno	NV
R29	Bill	Bennett	SPCC	Reno	NV
R30	Susan	Lynn	Great Basin Water Network	Reno	NV
R31	Jackie	Gratton	BLM LV Field Office	Las Vegas	NV
R32	Richard	Houts		Sparks	NV
R33	Dennis	Ghiglieri		Reno	NV
R34	R.	Denis		Las Vegas	NV
R35	Dave	Decker	Desert Ranch Institute	Reno	NV
R36	Danielle	Henderson		Reno	NV
R36	Tim	McGough	IBEW	Reno	NV
R37	John	Webster Brown		Reno	NV
R38	John	Hadder	HOME	Reno	NV
R39	??	??		Las Vegas	NV
R40	Jason	Kuchnicki		Carson City	NV
R41	Rick	Niswong		Carson City	NV
R42	Charles	Benjamin	Western Resource Advocate	Carson City	NV
R43	Erik	Holland		Reno	NV
R44	Amy-Louise	Mazza		Reno	NV

APPENDIX D

List of Respondents

Letter	First Name	Last Name	Organization/Affiliation
1	Dawn	Odams	
2	David	Moore	
3	Rick	Frechette	
4	Marjorie	Sill	
5			Basin Research Associates
6			Tetra Tech
7	Charles	Brown	
8	Don	Duff	Nevada Division of State Parks
8	Jenny	Scanland	Nevada Division of State Parks
9	Bill & Mary Ann	Jackson	
10	Karen	Jones	
11	Richard	Bustos	
12	Muriel	Smith	
13	Pam	Bolaz	
14	Jimmie Dale	Lee	
15	John	Baietti	
16	Name withheld by request		
17	Name withheld by request		
18	Name withheld by request		
19	Delphine	Kuechel	
20	Spike	H.	
21	Name withheld by request		
22	Eugene & Sally	Simard	
23	Katie	Fite	Western Watershed Project
24	George	Panagopoulos	
25	Sandra	Schwab	
26	Kathleen	Krust	Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
26	Alex	Levinson	Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
27	Jeff	McCreary	Ducks Unlimited, Inc
28	Bill & Mary Ann	Jackson	
29	Terry	Mcintosh	
30	Peter	Ford	
31	Delaine	Spilsbury	Duck Creek Basin Homeowners
32	Janine	Blaeloch	Western Land Exchange Project
33	Judi & David	Bourbeau	
33		Danielson	

33	Lance	Moore	
33		Resident	
33		Resident	
33	Daniel	Spilsbury	
33	Delaine	Spilsbury	
33	Rick	Spilsbury	
33	Bert	Woywood	
34	Delaine	Spilsbury	The Friends of the Shell Creek Range
35			California Native Plant Society
36	Name withheld by request		
37	Adam	Knight	
38	John	Blethen	
39	Wesley	Bowlen	
40	Peter	Hummel	
41	Steve	Schoen	
42	Name withheld by request		
43	Jack & Irene	Walther	
44	Name withheld by request		
45	Name withheld by request		
46	Name withheld by request		
47	Robert	Ostlund	
48	Name withheld by request		
49	Macy	Arnold	
50	Robert	Hamilton	
51	Harlan	Arnold	
52	Steven	Carter	
53	Bennett	Kottler	
54	Icyl	Mulligan	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water pollution Control
55	Tim	Vogt	
56	Diane	Crowne	
57	Betsy	Darr	
58	Donna	Bath	
59	Glen	Terry	
60	Cindy	Nielsen	Great Basin National Park
61	Marion	Barritt	
62	James	Bath	

63	Dan	Mahony	
64	Kevin	Doyle	
65	Hank	Vogler	
66	Name withheld by request		
67	Lyal	Davidson	
68	Deanna	Stever	U.S. Forest Service
69	Michael	Tyler	Bureau of Land Management
70	Lisa	Ortega	Nevada Division of Forestry
71	Isis	Hall	
72	Name withheld by request		
73	Matt	Vannote	
74	James	Muth	
75	Gregory	R	
76	Gale	Dupree	
77	Michael	Hastie	
78	Mark	Harris	
79	Ronald	Montoya	Kennecott Minerals
80	Damon	Lane	
81	Claire	O'conner	
82	Carolyn	Kohler	
83	Carla	Meyer	
84	Brian	Prosser	
85	Robert	Robbins	
86	Bill	Guiffre	
87	Betty	Taylor	
88	Beau	Anderson	
89	Barb	Noon	
90	Anne	McMillin	
91	Alison	Milliman	
92	Rebekah	Thompson	
93	No name provided; only email address.		
94	Joan	Howard	
95	Todd	Kimm	
96	Shannon	Mclaughlin	
97	Melissa	Montalto	
98	Suzanne	Jacobs	
99	Hank	Saxe	

100	Gail	Bell
101	Elanne	Palcich
102	Karen Boeger & Dan	Heinz
103	Bob	Shattuck
104	Tom & Janille	Baker
105	Eric	Stever
106	Emily	Harris
107	Angela	Schroeder
108	A.	Bigelow
109	Alistair	Funge
110	Ann	Saunders
111	Hope	French
112	Anne	Rhodes
113	Arline	Granberg
114	Charmian	Larke
115	Robert	Magill
116	Barbara	Broderick
117	David	Beale
118	Benjamin	Pignatelli
119	Robert	Mazairz
120	JC	Bower
121	Brian	Howard
122	Bruce	Allen
123	Bruce	Scott
124	Bridget	Butlin
125	Nick	Bartol
126	Carol	Ampel
127	Katie	Thomas
128	Martha	Hill
129	Holly	Homes
130	Douglas	Gibson
131	Jonathan	Coker
132	Cathy	Wyatt
133	Gene	Wedge
134	Charles	Bufe
135	Jackie	Pomies
136	Gina	Blus

137	Glenn	Clayton
138	Loretta	Wolfrom
139	Lou	Denison
140	Lara	Bonn
141	Judith	Galbraith
142	Laurie	Saggan
143	Jeff	Byers
144	Leah	Vasquez
145	Barbara	Grover
146	Gretchen	Smurr
147	Guerry	Mcconnell
148	Lindon	Schultz
149	Nancy	Garbett
150	Neil	Bertrando
151	Larry	Lambeth
152	Lillia	Langreck
153	Linda	Hanson
154	Linda	Livingston
155	Larry	Lawton
156	L.	Dixon
157	Susan	Loscalzo
158	Julie	Foucart
159	Jim	Steitz
160	John	Munden
161	Jody	Wolfe
162	J.	Anderson
163	John	Hope
164	Carla	Meyer
165	Cindy	Owen
166	Clark	Andelin
167	Carol	Fuhrer
168	Christina	Kriedeman
169	Clare	Pelkey
170	Cynthia	Thackston
171	Cathy	Shiner
172	Cynthia	Piper
173	Cynthia	Hardin

174	Christophe	Vota	
175	Dan	O'connell	
176	Ruth	Stambaugh	
177	Deane	Lavender	
178	Dean	Cobb	
179	Donna	Miller	
180	Christopher	Lish	
181	Catherine	Betances	
182	Bryan	Wyberg	
183	B. Aaron	Parker	B. Aaron Parker & Associates
184	Richard	Artley	
185	Leslie	Gosejohan	
186	Jennifer	Brickey	
187	Jennifer	Donovan	
188	Jerome	Bos	
189	Jessica	Clark	
190	Richard	Spotts	
191	John & Becky	Countryman	
192	John	Hadder	
193	Lynne	Burley	
194	Maria	Gara	
195	Mark	Lackey	
196	Matthew	Haskett	
197	Maurice	Frank-churchill	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
198	Charles	Repath	
199	Rhonda	Killough	
200	Melinda	Clarke	
201	Richard	Steele	
202	Renee	Majour	
203	Ron	Stout	
204	Julie	Thompson	
205	June	Satterfield	
206	Tom	Treat	
207	Katja	Biesanz	
208	Shawn	Shafner	
209	Justin	Perry	
210	Kendra	Zamzow	

211	Kirk	Robinson	
212	Sterling	Kinnell	
213	Miles	Garfinkel	
214	Kristin	De Han	
215	Tonia	Harvey	
216	Richard	Spotts	
217	Tonia	Harvey	
218	Lisa	Belenky	Center for Biological Diversity
219	Jo Anne	Garrett	
220	Katherine C & Jon	Muller	
221	Joshua	Simpson	
222	Daniel	Morris	
223	Jean	Arnold	Western Resource Advocates
223	Charles	Benjamin	Western Resource Advocates
223	Roger	Clark	Western Resource Advocates
223	Jane	Feldman	Western Resource Advocates
223	Bob	Fulkerson	Western Resource Advocates
223	Emily	Hall	Western Resource Advocates
223	Peggy	Johnson	Western Resource Advocates
223	Jim	Kennon	Western Resource Advocates
223	Dan	Miller	Western Resource Advocates
223	Scot	Rutledge	Western Resource Advocates
223	Tim	Wagner	Western Resource Advocates
224	Kenneth	Albright	Southern Nevada Water Authority
225	Marek	Hajek	Concerned Citizens and Friends of Nevada
226	Christa	Bitner	
227	Christopher	McHenry	
228	Heidi	Hopkins	
229	Morgan	Lange	
230	Kristen	Brown	
231	Nathaniel	Scoble	
232	Penny	Schaber	
233	Daniel	Constable	
234	Jeff	Fishman	
235	Michael	Frazier	
236	Eve	Miller	
237	Diana	Parker	

238	Susan	Cooper
239	Steve	Coyne
240	Suzy	Lawrence
241	Ryan	Easton
242	Susan	Stantejsky
243	Richard & Ingeborg	Calabro
244	Susan	Goldin
245	Ruth	Fink-winter
246	Kelly	McConnell
247	Ari	Warren
248	Karen	Marcus
249	Sharon	Grimm
250	Margaret	Peyou
251	Isabel	De Sena
252	George	Seel
253	Mark	McKennon
254	Sarah	Manno
255	Sandy	Carrubba
256	Joseph	Siry
257	Michael	Mullarkey
258	Michelle	Piotrowski
259	Mike	Linvill
260	Vita	Miller
261	Chad	Ryan
262	Lorene	Powell
263	Lyn	Henri
264	Julia	Garretson
265	Nicholas	Rigas
266	Estelle	Silverstein
267	Mary	Hebblewhite
268	Nancy	Langevin
269	Laroy & Mary	Seaver
270	Joyce	Duncan
271	Y.	York
272	Mierritt	Tilley III
273	Rick	Flory
274	Rick	Lamplugh

275	R.	Harrington	
276	Robert	Thomas	
277	Roger	Adams	
278	Robert	Davenport	
279	Sally	Kaiser	
280	Tobey	Crockett	
281	Martha	Hyde	
282	Teri	Travis	
283	Stephanie	Smith	
284	Michael	Potts	
285	J.	Capozzelli	
286	Wren	Smith	
287	Chris	Reaser	
288	Wallace	Chan	
289	Wally	Bubelis	
290	Karl	Winkler	
291	Terri	Reed	
292	Peter	Ford	
293	Karl	Lee	
294	No name provided; only email address.		
295	Jennifer	Lee	
296	John	McLain	Resource Concepts, Inc.
297	Carson	Baughman	
298	Clifton & Linda	Kemp	
299	Delaine	Spilsbury	
300	Delaine	Spilsbury	
301	Delaine	Spilsbury	
302	Judi & David	Bourbeau	
303	Katie	Fite	Western Watersheds Project
304	Kathryn	Landreth	The Nature Conservancy
305	Col. Michael	Bartley	Department of U.S. Air Force
306	Delaine	Spilsbury	Friends of the Schell Creek Range
307	Kathy	Rusco	Nevada Green Party
308	Lisa	Kershaw	
309	Lynn	Ricci	
310	Kristin	Kocurek	
311	Penny	Frazier	Goods from the Woods

312	Joe	Ratliff	
313	Nova	Blazej	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
314	Robert	Williams	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315	Steve	Foree	State of Nevada Department of Wildlife
316	Stephen	Marich	City of Ely
317	Jason	Kuchnicki	Concerned Citizens and Friends of Nevada
318	George	Chachas	City of Ely
319	George	Farber	
320	Holly	Wilson	
321	Gary and Kathy	Johnson	
322	Lance	Moore	
323	Brent	Eldridge	White Pine County
324	John	Ellison	Elko County
325	Barbara	Correro	
326	Craig	Baker	
327	Autumn	Kelar	
328	Jill	Baxter	League of Women Voters
329	Joseph	Williams	
330	Neil	Frakes	
331	Stephen	Leith	White Pine Historical Rail Foundation
332	Robert	Fleming	
333	Ione	Jackman	
334	Mary Susan	Rhea	
335			Concerned Citizens and Friends of Nevada
336	George & Frances	Alderson	
337	Name withheld by request		
338	Jim	Northness	City of Ely
339	Virginia	Terry	
340	David	Vonseggern	
341	Bobby	Hooper	
342	Anthony	Delfante	
343	Matt	Griffith	
344	Lawrence	Monroe	
345	Sylvia	Baker	
346	Richard	Spilsbury	
347	Frank	Brittain	
348	Patricia	Irwin	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

349	Gracian	Uhalde	
350	Amy	Heuslein	Bureau of Indian Affairs
351	Theodore	Cochrane	
352	Jonathan R. & Anne H.	Wall	
353	John	Carpenter	Nevada State Legislature
354	Name withheld by request		
355	Kenneth	Jones	Ti Ranches
356	Robert & Drusilla	Service	
357	Thomas H. & Dorothy S.	Gallagher	
358	Gracyne	Backus	
359	Name withheld by request		
360	Cathy	Barcomb	Wild Horse Commission
361	Don	Duff	Trout Unlimited, Great Basin Chapter
362	Name withheld by request		
363	Name withheld by request		
364	Gosia	Sylwestrzak	Nevada State Clearinghouse
365	Delaine	Spilsbury	
366	Eric	Lawrence	
367	Kurt	Lee	
368	Kathy	Marich	
369	Katie	Fite	Western Watersheds Project
370	Amy	Brown	
371	John M.	Mitchell	
372	James	Moth	
373	Kay & Mary	Lear	
374	Scott & Hillary	Giles	
Letter 375 was a BLM internal communication and was excluded.			
376	Basey	Klopp	
377	Darrel	Assay	
377	Joni	Drahos	
377	Uarda	Jensen	
377	John	Laird	
377	Stacy	Laird	
377	John	Wood	
378	Allan	Anspach	Bureau of Indian Affairs

APPENDIX E

Public Comments

Chapter 1: Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	5	1	NV	IND	E

We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

4	3	1	NV	IND	E

Importing coal from Wyoming into Nevada to build coal-fired power plants is a bad idea. Nevada is probably the state with the greatest potential for alternative energy-solar, geothermal and wind. These renewable resources should be developed and utilized, which is certainly possible by the dates when Phase I of the coal-fired plants are supposed to come into existence.

7	1	1	NV	BUS	C

I believe these plants should be nuclear type plants

9	5	2	CO	IND	E

The solution to all the above issues is for the two new 500-kV electric lines to be placed south of the existing 345-kV line in Smith Valley. This will alleviate all these private land issues.

18	1	1	NV	IND	C

Facility needs to do more to reduce the carbon load from emission, including utilizing zero-carbon emissions approach used by BP in the UK.

18	2	1	NV	IND	C

The facility should be required to incorporate research into renewables as part of its total package.

25	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose construction of coal plant. Use 3.8 billion dollars for renewable energy conservation.

38	1	1	NV	IND	C

The north Steptoe Valley site would be far preferable to the South Steptoe Valley site since it is farther north of McGill and would impact McGill less.

44	1	1	MT	IND	C

I like the power plant site closest to Ely because it is closer to town from an employee transport reason.

44	2	1	MT	IND	C

Also with the EEC close to Ely; the Robinson Copper Mine could ship its concentrate out by rail instead of trucking. Fiber Optic would be shorter to the east/west line of communications and housing would be available and of better quality in Ely. Recreation (skiing and hot springs), if developed, would be better. A new highway overpass would need to be built at Currie on 93 to prevent vehicle accidents with coal trains.

44	4	1	MT	IND	C

Magnesium-di-boride could be used in the buried underground power lines that would be out of sight of the environmentalist and terrorists (reduced political opposition).

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

45 1 1 NV IND C
Burning fossil fuels causes global warming and placing this coal burner so close to McGill and Ely is crazy. Build it at the alternate location or better yet don't build it at all.

45 2 1 NV IND C
Nevada should develop solar, thermal and wind energy sources first. We have no control over the price of coal.

46 3 1 NV IND C
Some of these impacts could be mitigated by mandating 20% renewables be included in the project, and requiring a closure of an older fossil fuel plan on a basis of 25M watts shutdown for every 100M watts of new fossil fuel plants brought online.

50 2 1 AZ IND L
First let's build a coal-lique-faction fuels plant. We have the technology and its 80-90 % cleaner than coal and would be cheaper to transport.

51 1 1 NV IND C
On the whole favorable to this project. I have two suggestions; use the present northern Nevada RR line as improved and upgraded. Consider moving the proposed power site (near 93 duck creek road) north 2 miles to help air quality at McGill.

53 3 1 NV IND E
As per 42 USC SS 4332 Sec. 102 (C) the EIS should address alternatives to the proposed action. i.e. What would be the costs and benefits of pursuing different energy production such as large scale wind "ranches" in Ely or other location in Nevada?

53 5 1 NV IND E
How would this project compare to an alternative such as wind ranching projects in Ely and other location in Nevada?

53 6 1 NV IND E
How would this project compare to an alternative such as a distributed solar energy system on the some 90 million square feet of built roof space available on Nevada homes?

53 9 1 NV IND E
In the overview of the January 19, 2007 project description, it is stated that the project will "increase companies' fuel diversity" and "reduce dependence on variable purchased power markets." It is unclear why alternatives such as wind or solar energy projects would not meet the same goals without incurring the additional potential liabilities. In fact the project will increase Nevada's dependence on coal and its associated power market.

53 10 1 NV IND E
The footprint of the project is an estimated 3,000 acres. Would alternatives, such as wind ranching reduce the footprint. Thereby keeping more BLM land available for other opportunities such as conservation and grazing?

57 2 1 NV IND C
The effects (such as global warming) of CO2 and other emissions from this plant compared with alternative energy sources available in Nevada, such as solar wind, geothermal, and conservation.

61 1 1 NV IND C
Nevada shouldn't be importing more coal, nor should it be burning it. Even "clean coal" isn't clean enough. Let's promote and utilize our state's renewables – geothermal, solar, wind, and biomass.

62 1 1 NV IND L
I am opposed to the proposed power plant site in South Steptoe Valley by Sierra Pacific Power Co., but not the concept of them locating a power plant in Steptoe Valley.

62 4 1 NV IND L
Location of their power plant to the alternative site in North Steptoe Valley would seem to be a good choice. For one, if the LS Power Plant is completed the pollutants from these two plants would not be concentrated in one area. Another good point would be that there would not have to be any more large power lines constructed in the Cross Timbers and Smith Valley residential area.

66 6 1 NV IND E
I believe the plant should be built where the demand for power is greatest. Near Reno or Las Vegas and let them deal with the associated problems. They already have the infrastructure in place to handle these problems.

71 3 1 NV IND C
Consider wind, solar, and geothermic plants in its [coal's] place.

73 2 1 NV IND C
What I don't understand is why we should lock ourselves into such an antiquated system of producing power. Solar, for instance, offers an opportunity to build power producing infrastructure as it is needed.

74 1 1 ANON IND L
[Consider nuclear power as an alternative to the proposed coal-fired power plant (inferred from submitted tables)].

76 4 1 CA IND C
Provide comparisons of various methods (cleanliness v. pollution). What are projected costs of various fuels and life of plants? Coal v. natural gas/renewable

77 3 1 NV IND C
Although I would rather not have any power plant in the area at all, the proposed sight in South Steptoe Valley makes the most sense. Less of a commute for workers and the fact that the area is already a somewhat industrialized area are some thoughts that come to mind.

78 1 1 NV IND C
[I] want to receive the notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Possible option in the design of the EEC to allow interconnection at the plant site. For a small biomass generator to utilize Forest thinning in a large area in and around Ely that is in the BLM management plans.

80 2 1 CT IND E
Literally, any other choice than building this plant would be a better idea. Please do so, and concentrate on renewables that will protect the local and regional environment, and help reduce America's disproportionately high global warming contribution.

82 1 1 AR IND E
Please don't use federal land in Nevada to build another dirty coal power plant. We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs, including energy efficiency and renewable energy (sun, sun, sun!).

89 4 1 IL IND E
Use an alternative that is suggested by the Center for Resource Solutions.

92 4 1 CO IND F
The Center for Resource Solutions has concluded that Nevada possesses enough economically viable renewable energy to provide an alternative to the Ely Energy Center proposal.

93 1 1 ANON IND E
Please explain how the capacity of a transmission line works. If several hundred megawatts of capacity are reserved for renewable resources, won't they be used for coal power until those resources are in place? If it is being used, will the power production from the coal plants be scaled back for power production from renewable?

93 2 1 ANON IND E
The second phase will be built when commercially viable, meaning when the technology has been proven to be reliable as well as cost efficient. If cleaner technologies that are not dependent on fossil fuels and water are also commercially viable at that point, will you invest in then instead? Wouldn't that renewable power production be considered the best technology available?

93 4 1 ANON IND E
Instead of building a rail line from Wyoming to bring us coal, why not just build a transmission line from there wind turbines?

93 9 1 ANON IND E
Wouldn't the amount of land that the plant will take up plus the amount of string mining being done in Wyoming be less than the amount of land it would to take to put up solar panels and windmills to produce the same amount of power for Nevada that the plant will give?

94 2 1 OH IND E
Demand cleaner, healthier, more environmentally friendly energy for the public! Otherwise, no public land, no public funds, no public help of any sort.

95 1 1 NV IND E
I ask the BLM to study seriously and carefully the environmental impacts of these huge projects that will draw water from the area as well as burden it with waste products for centuries to come.

99 3 1 NM IND E
We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

101 1 1 ANON IND E
The money put into constructing new coal plants would be far better used to promote and build wind, solar, and fuel cell technology.

102 12 2 ANON IND E
Why are no alternative routes being considered? It would seem logical (i.e., to have least impact to public land resources) to route along existing transportation corridors, such as roads, or existing power lines. Convenience or economic benefits to a power company must not outweigh costs to public values without full tradeoff analysis.

104 19 2 NV IND E
What alternatives exist to making this coal-fired power plant project cleaner and more friendly to the environment and the people? Are cleaner technologies such as more advanced scrubbers available?

106 9 1 NV IND E
Assuming that this coal-fired power plant is permitted, there must be the most rigorous standards in place to protect the natural resources. The newest, and cleanest technologies must also be implemented. For an example, Xcel Energy in Colorado will be building a coal power plant that will capture green house gases and store them underground.

Carbon capture is a must for Sierra Pacific Resource's power plant proposals. These proposals are at such initial stages that it is imperative to require the best possible processes and technologies at the beginning.

109 1 1 NM IND E
Tight emissions control technologies [should be] applied to all emissions from the plant.

110 1 1 CO IND E
Ely is perfect for wind and solar. Please consider the myriad of alternatives and do not harm the wilderness any more.

113 1 1 CO IND E
As long as we have wind farm technology and other means, this country should no longer build any more coal burning plants.

117 1 1 CO IND E
Now is the time to focus our resources on the energy sources of the future, such as solar and wind power.

118 1 1 NH IND E
The Great Basin should be evaluated for solar and wind power futures.

119 1 1 MA IND E
No new dirty coal projects. Only clean coal, wind, solar, or alternative energy projects should be permitted.

121 2 1 CA IND E
This power should be produced using the latest, cleanest technologies, and clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro. I, therefore, urgently urge the BLM to reject this proposal.

122 1 1 CA IND E
All this for lack of any vision to use the newest technologies; or, better, to invest in renewable energy sources. I maintain that we should use our finite supply of oil and coal not to "burn" for energy and transportation, but to "produce" advanced products like solar cells.

123 1 1 WA IND E
Have you not noticed that there are cleaner and better ways to generate electricity? Sun, wind, tide… Not to mention cutting the requirements by ensuring better designed homes and appliances – and more efficient vehicles.

124 1 1 RI IND E
It is time to put an end to putting money into outdated projects, which are dangerous to the environment. There are certainly other choices nowadays.

125 1 1 CO IND E
There is no question that our country needs more energy; however, with wind energy now competitive with coal on a dollars and cents basis (not including the essentially non-existent pollution and need to increase defense budgets because of the instability in the Middle East), we can now afford to start shifting the electrical generation capacity in this country to better sources. Given the huge coal electrical generation infrastructure in place, we will not need to build another coal plant for at least 10 years.

129 1 1 CT IND E
Enough dirty, polluting plants. Start investing in clean and renewable energy. For the future of our children and grandchildren.

135 1 1 CA IND E
At a time when world leaders are finally realizing the seriousness of global warming, this certainly isn't the time to promote an outdated coal-fired power plant.

136 1 1 CA IND E
The time for fossil-burning technologies is past, and the time for clean, renewable energies is now.

150 1 1 NV IND E
Both geothermal and wind energy are available in abundance in Nevada and only require the development of infrastructure. Both of these types of power generators take less time and money to build than coal plants and could therefore meet current and future demand needs more readily.

155 1 1 WA IND E
We should not be building any new dirty power plants. We should be replacing the existing ones with clean alternative energy production, or using the most modern clean technology for fossil fuel plants that already exist, until they can be replaced.

156 1 1 NY IND E
We do not need more dirty coal plants – we need more renewable energy!

157 1 1 NC IND E
If we are to continue to live on this planet we must develop sustainable, non-polluting methods of creating energy, and also reduce our energy use.

158 1 1 FL IND E
We must conserve energy not use more. We cannot spew more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at this critical point. We have only a matter of years before we reach the tipping point. If we must create new power plants, they must be of renewable energy.

161 1 1 OH IND E
We need to support and subsidize clean and sustainable energy, not more dirty coal plants.

166 1 1 IL IND E
There are much better ways of generating electricity than using dirty coal. Allowing this plant will pollute the environment, increase global warming and cost the people of Nevada more money in utility bills.

170 1 1 PA IND E
Please stop this proposal so we can utilize healthier and cleaner options to meet our energy needs.

171 1 1 PA IND E
[Y]ou are supposed to be looking for alternative energy!

175 1 1 MI IND E
There is no purpose to build a new coal plant. It would be much smarter, cheaper, and more responsible to build a wind farm instead.

188 1 1 NV IND E
Let's not build a power plant based on old pollutive technology.

191 1 2 NV IND E
Please, please strongly recommend that this facility be moved farther north, away from McGill. Our homes, businesses, and our elementary school would benefit.

Even if it's only an additional 10 miles. That would make it 15 miles north of McGill and the environmental impact would be minimized with the increase of the 'buffer zone'.

I realize Sierra Pacific has indicated they want it convenient to their employees based in Ely. This would only add about 8 minutes of travel time using the 70 mph posted speed limit. It would greatly minimize the impact on McGill.

This small change in the location of the EEC has been suggested and recommended by several groups, including the White Pine County commissioners.

192 1 1 NV IND E
The Environmental Impact Statement must address alternative to the proposed action. Sierra Pacific had made a case for the "need" to generate more energy in state. While I support in-state generation, I think that there is more that can be done in terms of conservation and energy efficiency. As an alternative to building greater in- state generation the EIS needs to explore various levels of conservation and efficiency measures from the current programs to far more aggressive programs and policies. The current status quo that was mentioned during the Reno Scoping Meeting by Sierra pacific was around 5%, which is allowed to be incorporated into the 20% proposed for renewable

energy production. Alternatives should be explored in conservation and efficiency that would allow a leveling of demand in the near term (5 years), and then explore long term prospects. In these times alternative to more generation especially using a dirty source like coal is essential.

192 2 1 NV IND E
The EIS also need to fully explore renewable energy in Nevada very aggressively. A full analysis of how to get the renewable energy on line to fill in for "needed" energy demands. It is vital that the public get a complete break down of what is needed to move aggressively to a renewable energy strategy including cost analysis. Although, the initial costs maybe high the public may also be willing to pay it for cleaner non-polluting electrical/energy generation. Nevada has what seems like enormous potential for renewable resource use; this should be fully explored before moving down the road to importing a dirty energy source. The EIS should also contain an employment analysis of using renewables: what is the labor profile for renewables versus the proposed action?

192 3 1 NV IND E
I find it very concerning that the power plant is to be well removed from the demand. As I understood the information at the Reno meeting roughly 80% is to go to Las Vegas and most of the remaining 20% to Reno/Sparks/Carson City. The EIS needs to evaluate alternative locations closer to the demand.

193 1 1 SC IND E
Please do not allow even one more dirty coal mine. There is enough wind there to use that as an energy source ŕ la the windmill farms located in southern California.

194 9 1 NV IND E
Why can't the proposed power plants be built on the sites of Nevada's closed-down power plants?

195 1 1 MD IND E
We American citizens want to see cleaner, safer solutions implemented. Now. These include a real commitment to conservation in new construction and new vehicles, and the support of wind power and other carbon-neutral solutions, not more dirty coal plants.

196 2 1 CA IND E
We need alternative, cleaner energy solutions.

198 1 1 MT IND E
I am amazed that you or anybody, for that matter, would have the lack of wisdom to support a new dirty coal plant in Nevada. With the cold hard, proven fact of global warming, and the proven cost effectiveness of solar power and other alternative forms of energy, I am simply amazed.

199 2 1 ANON IND E
Having lived here long enough to see the weather patterns, I have noticed that there is more than ample wind in this state on a regular occasion to support wind generated power, and there is more than ample space to make such a wind plant operable. Why not choose the high road, and use the energy that is cleaner than any other? We have more than enough wind here, let's get blowing in the right direction with energy production. Go wind!

207 2 1 OR IND E
It makes no sense to build such an outdated and expensive project when we have better, more long-lasting solutions that will not contribute to global warming.

210 2 1 NV IND E
I would be proud to see BLM reject this power plant, and encourage alternative energy development in this state, which has so much potential.

212 3 1 CA IND E
Nevada, like the rest of the nation, needs new sources of energy, but there are much better alternatives to coal burning.

216 4 1 UT IND E
I request that, in addition to analyzing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative in this DEIS, that you analyze two additional ones. The first would involve requiring the use of the best and most modern available technology for coal-burning power generation to reduce carbon and mercury emissions, and [second], to sequester as much carbon as possible out of the atmosphere.

216 5 1 UT IND E
The second added alternative would analyze the potential for development of a combination of new solar, wind, and geothermal energy sources on BLM administered lands in this region.

216 7 1 UT IND E
I recommend that each DEIS alternative be fully analyzed to determine to what extent it would contribute to or help reduce the fossil fuel emissions that cause global warming. This analysis should include the full energy budget of each alternative, including extraction, processing, transportation, and use.

217 9 1 NV IND E
I see no reason why this project should go forward before the proponents are ready to use the technology planned for Phase 2. Two newer technologies, dry cooling and dry-wet combination cooling could provide many fewer problems.

217 11 1 NV IND E
The promised renewable energy projects (i.e., solar and wind in the White Pine County areas) are not addressed at all. They would make far more sense in addressing environmental and economic concerns.

217 12 1 NV IND E
No reason is given for why the Butte Valley site was eliminated. There is also no reason given for why the South Steptoe Valley site is preferred, when it seems to be in the worst spot for spreading air pollution to both Great Basin National Park and the Ely-McGill area.

217 13 1 NV IND E
The problems of hazardous and solid waste disposal, as well as air quality deterioration from construction and operation, would have less impact on Ely, McGill, and Great Basin National park if the site were in Butte Valley.

218 2 1 CA CON E
Environmental consequences of a new coal fired power plants simply cannot be justified, especially in light of existing studies demonstrating that the same amount of energy to be supplied to the proposed project could be obtained via implementation of more stringent energy conservation measures.

218 8 1 CA CON E
Alternatives which reduce or eliminate the proposed project's total impacts must be proposed, including the adoption of energy conservation measures instead of the development of additional fossil fuel resources, and the development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar instead of fossil fuels.

219 10 1 NV IND E
The merits of alternative designs, such as coal gasification, must be considered and described in full, to assure that our invaluable resources are not sacrificed on an unnecessary dirty, outmoded technology.

220 2 2 NV IND E
We would like to see it located as near to the City of Ely as possible for economic reasons.

220 4 2 NV IND E
I propose the plant be located near Gondor Substation between Ely and McGill. The Industrial Park may provide an alternate site, as well. These sites would provide the maximum long- and short-term benefits for the County.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

222 10 1 NV IND E
It is 2007 and the technology to utilize less destructive energy alternatives exists. It is important to ask the questions, should destructive and hazardous coal energy even be an option?

222 12 1 NV IND E
The energy produced from these power plants will be utilized in Population centers hundreds of miles away. Why not build the power plants there?

222 13 1 NV IND E
Why not use solar power that will be far less destructive and more economically feasible in the long run?

222 18 1 NV IND E
If clean energy solutions are not profitable enough for the power companies and coal power plants must be constructed they need to be much further north, away from existing communities, sensitive natural resources, public recreation opportunities and designated Wilderness areas, and also need to incorporate the latest technologies to reduce emissions and mitigate environmental and social impacts. New technologies need to be utilized as they become viable, and power companies need to move toward using 100 percent clean energy.

223 51 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount and characteristics of any wastewater discharged from plant operation processes and during project construction. Please consider proposed and alternate discharge locations, e.g., evaporation pond, local creek, etc.

223 144 2 NV CON E
An EIS must “inform decision makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.” 40 C.F.R. [section] 1502.1. To that end, the range of alternatives considered in an EIS must include (1) no action, (2) all other reasonable courses of action, and (3) mitigation measures. Id. [section] 1508.25(b). BLM must “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives.” Id. [section] 1502.14(a) (emphasis added). It therefore must “[[i]]nclude reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency” as well as “appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives.” Id. [section] 1502.14(c), (f). Accordingly, we request that the EIS consider each of the following reasonable alternatives and appropriate mitigation measures and, for each of the options, please assess direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

223 145 2 NV CON E
The Companies should produce firm power purchase contracts for the economic life of the plant to demonstrate both a need and market for the proposed electricity. If unable to do so, there will be no basis in the administrative record for concluding the project's impacts are appropriate or necessary. As such, not constructing the plant would therefore represent the least harmful alternative. Consequently, please conduct the requisite analyses and consider the no action alternative in the EIS.

223 148 2 NV CON E
An Alternative to Constructing any Large New Fossil Fuel-Powered Generating Station in White Pine County: Develop Renewable Sources of Energy for Electricity Generation in Nevada and California, Combined With More Efficient Electricity Use in Nevada and California

223 149 2 NV CON E
Data from the study show that over 800 megawatts of geothermal resources and over 1000 megawatts for wind resources are economically developable in Northern Nevada. Please rigorously explore and objectively evaluate this and other reasonable and viable renewable alternatives to the EEC project. And if the EEC project is built, determine if it will strand these renewable resources thereby blocking the means to market this clean renewable power.

223 150 2 NV CON E
An Alternative to Constructing any New Coal-Powered Generating Station in White Pine County: Increased Generation of Electricity from Natural Gas in California

223 151 2 NV CON E
Natural gas is clean burning, emitting fewer pollutants than other fossil fuels, especially coal. According to the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy, natural gas power generation provides emissions at approximately 50% the level of coal for carbon dioxide, 20% for both carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, 0.03% for sulfur dioxide, and 0.25% for particulates. Similarly, natural gas emits negligible quantities of mercury compared to coal usage.

223 152 2 NV CON E
Please rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all other reasonable and viable natural gas alternatives to the EEC project.

223 153 2 NV CON E
In light of the climate impact discussed above, we request that BLM include the following two alternatives among those considered in the EIS: (1) a coal-fueled, integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plant with CCS in a Western State not White Pine County, and (2) a coal-fueled IGCC power plant without CCS in a Western State not White Pine County. An IGCC plant with CCS would emit none of the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, and would stimulate the use of IGCC and CCS at other new coal-fueled power plants. An IGCC plant without CCS at least could be retrofit with CCS later at much lower cost than a conventional coal combustion plant could, and it would stimulate the use of IGCC at other new coal-fueled plants.

223 154 2 NV CON E
We would like to request that the group consider proposing another alternative (in addition to IGCC) to be evaluated within the EIS for the EEC. That alternative would be a hybrid system that uses existing technologies to integrate concentrated solar and waste heat recovery with pulverized coal in a way that improves plant efficiency, significantly reduces mercury and CO2 emissions, and eliminates most other emissions as well as water consumption associated with conventional cooling.

The following description was provided by Dan Stinger, CEO of WOW Energies:

Off-the-shelf technologies exist to improve the efficiency and reduce the emission profile of existing coal fired power plants, including removal of CO2 greenhouse gases. The Organic Rankin Cycle (ORC) technology exists that can be integrated with existing or new PC power plants to increase efficiency through waste heat recovery. When combined with a multi-pollutant reduction technology near zero emission PC power plants are a reality. Recent testing, verified by independent testing agencies, demonstrated the removal of nearly all the NOx, SOx, particulates, heavy metals and 85% of the Mercury in a flue gas while simultaneously removing over 35% of the CO2. The alternative ORC systems and verified flue gas cleaning technologies can also be integrated with solar energy to further increase the output/efficiency of zero emission PC power plants. Please consider this alternative.

223 157 2 NV CON E
Please consider proposed and alternative water consumption rates and amounts and include an analysis of proposed and alternative recycling methods.

223 179 2 NV CON E
Please consider alternative sites and/or energy generation options and provide all documentation of BLM consideration of those alternatives in the EIS.

223 184 2 NV CON E
Please consider alternative disposal site(s) for scrubber wastes and alternative modes of transportation to the disposal site(s).

223 185 2 NV CON E
Please consider alternative disposal site(s) for ash and alternative modes of transportation to the disposal site(s).

223 191 2 NV CON E
Please consider alternate transportation routes for all hazardous materials to avoid populated areas.

225 2 1 NV CON E
However, regardless of whether you believe in global warming or not, Nevada offers an abundance of clean, renewable energies. These energy sources are guaranteed not to contribute to this (potential) problem.

Thus, the opportunity exists to design the EEC such that it meets our energy needs utilizing these resources. Therefore, we suggest that the following alternatives be included in the EIS:

- Geothermal
- Solar
- Wind
- Hybrid of the three above alternatives, optimized for cost versus energy production.

We are also not opposed to including nuclear energy as an alternative, however if it is included then disposal of the waste material must be addressed.

225 3 1 NV CON E
The costs associated with each alternative are dependent upon the timeframe for implementation. While the start-up costs of a coal fire plant may be cheaper initially, we suspect that renewables will prove more cost-effective in the long run. Therefore, we suggest the EIS provide costs for various timeframes for operation. For example, costs should be provided for the following operations timeframes: start-up, 20 year, 50 years, 100 years, and 500 years.

In order to perform such an evaluation, the life cycle for each technology will need to be defined, and used to calculate the costs associated with each of the alternatives for the various implementation timeframes as stated above.

In addition to start-up costs, other costs that should be figured into the costs associated for each alternative for each implementation timeframe are operations maintenance, environmental compliance [and] monitoring.

O & M costs for utilization of coal or nuclear must not only include the typical cost of operating and maintaining the facility, but also the cost of the resource.

The assumptions made for each of these cost comparisons must be clearly articulated in the EIS. A table of costs and assumptions should be provided for each alternative and each implementation timeframe.

Costs for nuclear (if included) should include the cost for transport and disposal.

225 10 1 NV CON E
Although the energy plant is supplying power to Nevada residents only, look into the feasibility of distributing costs throughout the supply network. In other words, you would be raising the costs of rates for those rate-payers who are not receiving their power directly from the EEC. However, this is justified because we know that we need to implement more renewable plants in order to decrease emissions that contribute to global warming – which is of concern to everyone.

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and

community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

229 2 1 ANON IND E
We need to pursue renewable technologies.

230 2 1 ANON IND E
We should be focusing on renewable technologies, not relying on coal-based power.

231 4 1 CA IND E
Recent studies show that the energy it would supply can be far more efficiently and safely supplied from Nevada's renewable-energy resources and from more-efficient use of the energy now being generated.

232 1 1 WI IND E
We have the technology to use now to slow down and possible stop global warming and mercury poisoning. Do not build any more power plants that will burn coal in a dirty way.

233 1 1 CA IND E
The BLM should consider alternative energy options when deciding whether or not to approve the Ely Energy Center. Nevada receives plenty of sun for solar power to be economically viable.

234 1 1 HI IND E
We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs.

238 3 1 TX IND E
Nevada has clean energy options, plenty of wind and solar power, and the entire State will gain from using clean energy as opposed to filthy coal energy.

240 2 1 NC IND E
If there is a good amount of wind in that area, have a windmill electrical generation farm instead.

248 2 1 VA GOV E
With all the data available, one must seriously question why your department is not seeking alternatives to such heinous pollution generators.

251 2 1 NY IND E
As it is, the U.S. is falling woefully behind in the march towards cleaner energy solutions; far behind countries we glibly label "third world".

252 2 1 MI GOV E
This is not the time to construct a dirty coal fired power plant but to focus our resources to clean technologies for production and reclaiming "lost energy" through conservation.

253 2 1 NY IND E
Move away from these monstrous, dirty, expensive eyesore installations.

253 3 1 NY IND E
You know full well that an equal amount of energy can be generated by other means. So do it.

258 2 1 MN IND E
I urge you to follow other states' and companies' positive steps with renewable, such as Excel Energy here in Minnesota. Excel recently committed to building a large new wind farm here to safely generate electricity and not further our pollution problems. Nevada has such as vast array of renewable energy options.

261 2 1 CA IND E
There are great alternative methods such as conversion of industrial waste like turkey parts, or wheels and plastics that can be broken down into their core materials like light oil and pure minerals.

264 1 1 OR IND E
Please invest in wind, solar, and biofuel energy sources instead.

265 2 1 SC IND E
The Bush Administration should consider using clean coal technology being developed by the DOE or other alternative clean energy technology instead of using outdated dirty coal technology.

266 1 1 TX IND E
Please use the alternative for the sake of our generation and all generations to follow.

268 1 1 CA IND E
Go renewable and go lean.

270 1 1 NY IND E
With our new technologies, we can produce clean, renewable energy. Nevada has rich wind and solar potential. This is clean energy, provides supplemental income for ranchers, and has no value as a terrorist target so saves millions in security costs.

271 1 1 CO IND E
It is time to promote new energy technologies and conservation to make our country more secure.

272 2 1 TX IND E
May I suggest building this plant in Crawford, Texas, instead?

273 1 1 ANON IND E
Change everyone over to CFL Lighting instead and we won't need any more of these nasty plants.

276 2 1 CO IND E
I would think that a state like Nevada would be opting for solar energy considering how much sunlight that state receives. They would never have to pay for the fuel to generate the electricity and it would not pollute the air like burning coal does.

279 1 1 UT IND E
I am for clean nuclear power instead.

281 1 1 TX IND E
There are far better ways to extract energy in Nevada than to go the coal mining route. It has sun and lots of it. It has wind and lots of it, thus it is ludicrous to consider digging to get what comes naturally on the surface.

284 2 1 CA IND E
We should be using this area's abundant sunlight and open space more creatively; we should be employing the best and latest technologies here, not the oldest, dirtiest, and most damaging in the long term.

287 2 1 CA IND E
If it were a solar or wind program, I would support it.

298 6 2 NV IND L
The BLM controls a multitude of acreage in White Pine County. There are better locations for the Power Project. Even SPPCO states that there is an alternate location. For the benefit of White Pine County and future generations, use the alternate location.

299 6 1 NV IND L
The BLM controls a multitude of acreage in White Pine County. There are better locations for the Power Project. Even SPPCO states that there is an alternate location. For the benefit of White Pine County and future generations, use the alternate location.

301 2 1 NV IND L
Much cleaner and profitable ways to generate electricity are available today and costs are constantly diminishing.

302 6 2 NV IND L
There are better locations for the Power Project. Even SPPCO states that there is an alternate location that is near the intersection of Highway 93 and Alternate 93. That location is a very sparsely populated area, much more suited tot his proposed dreadful eyesore. For the benefit of White Pine County and future generations, use the alternate location.

303 20 1 ID CON L
How much energy will be lost from transmission lines for this and other projects linked to the infrastructure development here? Why have you not considered very viable alternatives of siting these plants closer to Las Vegas, or other urban area so that much less energy is lost in the process? Now that Las Vegas has gotten its water-sucking pipelines authorized in a Wilderness Bill, there is no need to develop a plant here. Instead, it can readily be developed in Las Vegas, where abundant infrastructure already exists.

303 26 1 ID CON L
Please provide a range of alternatives based on solar collection arrays, and other renewable energy actions that could occur in the general region.

303 46 1 ID CON L
We ask that you consider a broad range of alternatives—like focusing on a range of distributive generation actions.

305 4 1 NV FED L
The buffer that enters the withdrawn sections Creech to R63: I would ask them to move the buffer west of Highway 95 (aligned with the existing 95) to completely miss the withdrawn lands and to keep the liens below 100 feet.

306 1 35 NV CON C
I object to the Success Loop location for the Ely Energy Station. It is right in the middle of prime grazing area for both wildlife and livestock. It is also much too close to pristine, scenic outdoor recreating areas and to residential areas.

307 1 1 NV OTH E
In a state like ours with abundant opportunities for solar, wind, and even geothermal, all of which are more sustainable and less polluting than coal, it makes one wonder who's palms are being greased here. Seriously, it seems to me that solar, wind, geothermal would be more economic and sensible and provide as many jobs, too.

308 1 1 ANON IND L
I am deeply concerned about the plans for a coal-fired power plant in Ely. We know that coal-fired power plants are one of the greatest culprits in global warming. A coal-fired power plant in a state that does not have coal and very little water does not make sense. We cannot waste precious water on coal liquefaction. Solar energy is abundant in Nevada and in the north of the state we have geothermal resources.

312 1 1 ANON IND E
Has your office requested proposals from Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power describing alternatives to fossil fueled (in this case, coal) power plants (e.g., solar, wind turbines) in these locations? And if not, why?

313 4 1 CA FED L
All reasonable alternatives that fulfill the purpose of this project's purpose and need should be evaluated in detail, including alternatives outside the legal jurisdiction of the BLM (CEQ's Forth Questions, #2a and #2b). A robust range of alternatives will include options for avoiding significant environmental impacts. The DEIS should provide a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which are not evaluated in detail.

313 5 1 CA FED L
Reasonable alternatives should include, but are not necessarily limited to, alternative sites, capacity, and technologies such as solar power plants or wind farms. Alternative power and water transmission line routes should also be evaluated, as well as alternative sites and configurations for the rail lines, waste disposal facilities, and access roads. The alternatives analysis should not be limited to the applicant's proposal for a coal-fired power plant, but should address a full range of reasonable alternatives to meet anticipated energy needs. This discussion should cover conservation and efficiency, as well as other potential technologies for generating electricity. For a particular technology, variations of that technology should also be addressed and/or analyzed in the DEIS. For example, the coal-fired power plant technologies of pulverized coal and circulating fluidized bed (CFB) combustion could be evaluated in the alternatives analysis, as well as integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) technology, which is under consideration for Phase II implementation. Alternatives for the proposed action (with the exception of the no action alternative) should correspond to the basic project purpose and need.

313 6 1 CA FED L
The environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives should be presented in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). The potential environmental impacts of each alternative should be quantified to the greatest extent possible (e.g., acres of wetlands impacted, tons per year of emissions produced, etc.).

316 4 1 NV LOC L
The pollutants from either site will have similar impacts on both McGill and Ely (MINIMUM). The difference in locations will make a minimal difference due to the short linear distances from the populated areas.

317 4 1 ANON CON L
Nevada offers an abundance of clean, renewable energies. These energy sources are guaranteed not to contribute to this (potential) problem. Thus, the opportunity exists to design the EEC such that it meets our energy needs utilizing these resources. Therefore, we suggest that the following alternatives be included in the EIS:

- Geothermal
- Solar
- Wind
- Hybrid of the three above alternatives, optimized for cost versus energy production

We are also not opposed to including nuclear energy as an alternative, however if it is included then disposal of the waste material must be addressed.

317 5 1 ANON CON L
The costs associated with each alternative are dependent upon the timeframe for implementation. While the start-up costs of a coal fire plant may be cheaper initially, we suspect that renewables will prove more cost-effective in the long run. Therefore, we suggest the EIS provide costs for various timeframes for operation. For example, costs should be provided for the following operations timeframes: start-up, 20 year, 50 years, 100 years, and 500 years.

In order to perform such an evaluation, the life cycle for each technology will need to be defined, and used to calculate the costs associated with each of the alternatives for the various implementation timeframes as stated above.

In addition to start-up costs, other costs that should be figured into the costs associated for each alternative for each implementation timeframe are operations maintenance, environmental compliance & monitoring.

O&M costs for utilization of coal or nuclear must not only include the typical cost of operating and maintaining the facility, but also the cost of extracting the resource as well as transporting it to the EEC facility.

The assumptions made for each of these cost comparisons must be clearly articulated in the EIS. A table of costs and assumptions should be provided for each alternative and each implementation timeframe.

Costs for nuclear (if included) should include the cost for transport and disposal.

320 13 1 NV IND C
The EIS should provide detailed specifics/outcomes of EEC's renewable energy plans, as well as addressing the impacts of these generational components; for example, if water must be piped in from Jakes Valley or Butte Valley to assist with solar arrays or additional Mt. Wheeler Power lines must be erected to service wind-generated motors, will separate EISs be required, or will these be part of this master EIS? What about public input regarding those renewable types chosen?

321 4 2 NV IND L
We might be able to support the project at a different location (farther north toward Cherry Creek and Lages Junction).

322 14 1 NV IND C
If the power is so desperately needed in the Clark County area, build the power plants where the demand lies.

323 1 1 NV LOC L
Preference for siting the project north of the preferred alternative at the Duck Creek Basin turnoff.

325 1 1 MS IND L
We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the country's energy needs with no loss of comfort or convenience and without ruining the environment and endangering our health in the process.

326 9 1 NV IND L
What alternatives exist to making this coal-fired power plant project cleaner and more friendly to the environment and people? Are cleaner technologies such as more advanced scrubbers available?

327 3 1 NV IND L
Solar energy is abundant in Nevada and in the north of the State we have geothermal resources.

328 3 1 ANON CIV L
Solar energy is abundant in Nevada and in the north of the State we have geothermal resources.

329 3 2 WA IND L
Nevada renewable energy could be used as an alternative.

330 1 1 NV IND L
I have concerns regarding the NEPA process—I don't believe that this proposal has adequate alternatives.

330 5 1 NV IND L
Following the National Environmental Policy Act (Sec 102(E)) and CEQ Regulations (Part 1501.2(c)) the agency should "study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives." Merely changing the location of a rail spur and changing the project location to a site within the same valley are not appropriate alternatives. This is merely a mild variation of the same project. Appropriate alternatives follow naturally when a better project objective and need for the proposed action are developed. For the EEC project, the objective is to build a coal-fired power plant, etc. A better project objective would be to provide increased supply of energy to meet an increased demand. With this objective, true alternatives are possible. How can we provide this increased supply of energy? How much energy is really needed?

330 6 1 NV IND L

I would like to see alternatives developed for more renewable energy sources, such as wind power and solar power. I am aware that Eastern Nevada also has some geothermal energy potential. Renewable energy sources are the future of energy production; we should be evaluating their potential here in Eastern Nevada rather than coal-fired power.

330 13 1 NV IND L

Other methods of generating energy such as wind power and solar power use far less water.

332 6 1 CA IND L

There are better alternatives to addressing Southern Nevada's water and power needs that do not have such catastrophic results as building coal-fired power plants and the costly infrastructure attached to such cumbersome, outdated operations.

335 3 1 NV CON L

Nevada has an abundance of clean, renewable energies. We have the opportunity to design the EEC such that it meets our energy needs utilizing these resources. Therefore, we suggest that the following alternatives be included in the EIS:

- geothermal
- solar
- wind
- hybrid of the three above alternatives, optimized for cost versus energy production

335 4 1 NV CON L

The costs associated with each alternative are dependent upon the timeframe for implementation. While the startup costs of a coal fire plant may be cheaper initially, we suspect that renewables will prove more cost-effective in the long run. Therefore, we suggest the EIS provide costs for various timeframes for operation. For example, costs should be provided for the following operation timeframes: startup, 20 year, 50 year, 100 year, and 500 year.

In order to perform such an evaluation, the life cycle for each technology will need to be defined, and used to calculate the costs associated with each of the alternatives for the various implementation timeframes as stated above.

In addition to startup costs, other costs that should be figured into the costs associated for each alternative for each implementation timeframe are operations maintenance, environmental compliance, and monitoring.

Operations costs for utilization of coal must not only include the cost of operating the facility but also the cost of extracting the coal and transporting it to the EEC facility.

The assumptions made for each of these cost comparisons must be clearly articulated in the EIS. A table of costs and assumptions should be provided for each alternative and each implementation timeframe.

335 5 1 NV CON L

The Project Description paper provided for the public meetings states that mercury emissions would be "inherently low" from this type of [[coal burning]] system. The EIS needs to provide quantitative estimates of the loading of all pollutant constituents, including but not limited to mercury and carbon monoxide.

336 6 2 MD IND L

Alternatives in the EIS should include healthier approaches such as renewable energy, of which Nevada has plentiful resources. The EIS should include the findings of the Center for Resource Solutions, which has analyzed renewable energy available in Nevada.

337 3 2 NV BUS C

Owning property down-wind from the plant, we have health concerns about breathing air filled with nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and mercury.

337 4 2 NV BUS C
Why not natural gas to fire the plant?

338 4 1 NV LOC L
The moving of Ely Energy Center to the alternate site will benefit only the wishes of a few.

339 2 1 NV IND C
I support moving the proposal plant to the North site, combining with the LS plant so Steptoe Valley is not compromised with 4-6 plants.

340 3 1 NV IND C
The EIS must offer as an alternative the capability to generate an equal amount of power on public land through …[sentence left unfinished]

346 13 1 NV IND L
All of this is completely avoidable. Other forms of profitable power generation exist that leave no pollutants behind and use no water. The winds in Spring Valley are strong. The coal energy in White Pine County is better than average. The technology to utilize the kinetic energy of the Earth improves every year. Don't believe the coal salesmen. Don't take advice from those who wish to take our wealth. Clean energy is practical. Dams have been generating electricity for decades.

SPPCO has better alternatives. Maybe not quite as profitable in the short term, but why should we be so concerned about maximizing their quarterly profits if they're not concerned about our lives.

347 1 1 NV IND E
Alternative Cooling System To Reduce Water Consumption – a hybrid cooling system (air-cooled condenser and wet cooling tower) as proposed uses a great deal of water. In this very dry area, an alternative cooling system with reduced water consumption should be carefully evaluated. This should include either a total reliance on an air-cooled condenser, or an air-cooled condenser, which is supplemented by a small wet (mechanical) cooling tower only on the hottest days. (These are proven technology.) Certainly, the capital costs should be included in the evaluation.

347 2 1 NV IND E
Alternative Sites – it appears that only two sites are being considered, and these are reasonably close to each other. I believe additional sites should be considered.

347 4 1 NV IND E
As a reasonable alternative, I recommend that clean-coal technology represented by IGCC by fully evaluated for all power generated at the Ely Energy Center – even if the project were to be delayed. (While I think this question needs to be evaluated, I do not know if IGCC is realistic at this time. Part of this evaluation in the EIS should include determining the "cost" of a delay in generating power from the Ely Energy.

347 5 1 NV IND E
Alternatives Transportation Routes – alternative transportation routes for coal should be evaluated for both the base site, and alternative sites.

349 7 1 NV IND L
What are the exact coordinates of the primary and alternate sites?

351 7 1 WI IND L
Surely there are less environmentally destructive, cleaner, healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs.

352 2 2 NV IND L
Since there will be a lot of toxic waste (coal and water) that will be buried and stored on-site, as well as carbon and mercury discharged into the atmosphere, why not consider nuclear energy?

356 8 2 NV IND C
We believe this plant should be located in an uninhabited valley so as not to disturb the life of existing resources and ranches.

359 6 1 NV IND C
There are in fact cleaner sources of energy that are being used all over the country, yet the Ely Energy Center states these are not reliable enough yet. If other states and countries can use gasification and other lean energy sources then why can't the Ely Energy Center.

370 3 1 NY IND L
Cleaner and healthier options for meeting energy needs exist, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

371 1 1 NV IND F
Since the invention of solar power plants and wind farms there is now no reason to burn dirty coal to produce the energy we need. Why ravage the land, pollute the water and foul the air with more mining and burning of coal when non-polluting solar and wind power facilities a true non-polluting alternative to coal?

372 5 1 NV IND F
I am fully aware that the proposed plant would be "state of the art" and therefore, more efficient than Valmy. Someone mentioned 15% more efficient. Considering the phenomenal numbers above, 15% is almost negligible.

In contrast, a 2500 mw nuclear power plant would use only approximately 65 tons of fuel annually which is recyclable. It would exude no harmful contaminant.

373 3 2 NV IND E
We actually feel that if the coal is going to be brought in (expense), and the water pumped (expense) and the power shipped out via overhead lines (expense), that it makes more sense to build the plant near the coal, or the destination for the power.

374 11 2 NV IND E
However if SPPC is granted a site, we feel it should be the alternative site up north in the valley.

374 12 2 NV IND E
If SPPC is worried about the commute for their employees take a lesson from the mining companies and bus them out. The commute would be 30 minutes from McGill and 40 minutes from Ely (plus or minus based on where one lives).

376 3 1 CA IND L
We have cleaner and healthier options for meeting the region's energy needs, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

377 4 6 NV IND F
It would in our opinion behoove your organization to re-consider your first choice site and move it to the Lages/Cherry Creek area. Advantages for you: Less train track replace/repair/maintain. Closer to main line out there. Less wildlife at that end of the Valley. Further away from our front and back door for our town and our beautiful "Clean Air" scenery.

Chapter 2: Air Quality Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

1	2	1	NV	IND	E

The proposed plant could threaten the air quality at Great Basin National Park.

2	2	1	NV	IND	C

It will degrade air quality in the county, no matter what claims are made about the new clean technology is guaranteed. Each previous coal generator in the country made these claims. These counties all have degraded air quality.

4	6	1	NV	IND	E

The paragraph on air quality/air emissions does not take into consideration the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. At a time when world attention is turned to global warming and the devastating effects of temperature rise on all creatures, including human beings, it is irresponsible to build coal-fired plants, which release large quantities of carbon dioxide, no matter how the air quality is monitored for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, mercury, and particulate matter.

13	1	1	NV	IND	C

I did not move here to have smog in my air.

23	2	1	ID	CON	E

It will facilitate the pollution of air over the Great Basin, as well as the air of “down winders” in Idaho and Utah and other portions of the region.

34	3	1	NV	CON	L

Air quality issues from the additive effects of burning large amounts of coal.

42	1	1	NV	IND	C

We don’t have much pollution as of now, but when the plan goes we will have air pollution from the coal-fired plant.

I like the air as it is.

46	4	1	NV	IND	C

In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

48	2	1	NV	IND	C

The proposed coal burning plant is an extremely air polluting system.

57	1	1	NV	IND	C

Air quality and attendant health effects near the plant and at all distances.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

58 2 1 NV IND C
I am a property owner in Duck Creek and have many concerns regarding the impact on the air quality within the basin and the effect on wildlife and the environment within Duck Creek Basin.

63 2 1 NV IND E
Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business.

66 2 1 NV IND E
When the groundwater and surface water is released into the air as steam this will create a weather inversion. Much like the Salt Lake area gets, the results being fog.

66 5 1 NV IND E
Coal dust is also an issue as it is loaded from the railroad cars and the stockpiles at the plant itself.

68 2 1 NV GOV C
What is the actual amount (ppm) of SO2, NO, CO, and Hg that the plant will emit?

76 1 1 CA IND C
What will be the impact on clean air? Wildlife and sage-grouse? How many leks will be [within] 2 miles of all infrastructure - railroad, facilities, waterlines, and power transmission lines?

89 2 1 IL IND E
There is no excuse for another coal power plant that spews poisons into our air and water.

90 2 1 NV IND E
Great Basin National Park would have its air and water contaminated.

92 2 1 CO IND F
It's concerning to me as well that this would affect the local air quality at Great Basin National park and water quality.

95 3 1 NV IND E
Such a heavy contamination of industrial activity can't be good for such an environmentally pristine and fragile area.

102 1 2 ANON IND E
Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

102 2 2 ANON IND E
It is our understanding that while the proposed air quality control system will be a more efficient design than most current coal-fired plants, it is still not the very most efficient design available. If so, this is an inexcusable lapse of responsibility to the public.

104 1 2 NV IND E
The air quality in the near vicinity is likely to be affected, as well as further away. Currently we have some of the best air quality in the nation. How far will the effects go? How many days per year will the air quality be affected in Steptoe, Spring, and Snake Valleys? What will be those effects?

104 3 2 NV IND E
What will be the effects of increased particulates in the air and the deposition of those particulates?

104 4 2 NV IND E
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted?

104 6 2 NV IND E
How many days of inversion are expected due to the power plant? Inversions not only drastically change the temperature, but also provide a health hazard. In Snake Valley, we have noticed increased inversions due to the Intermountain Power Plant in Delta, which is over 90 miles away, north of Delta. The colder temperatures means that we have to go out and break ice for cattle on the range more frequently, and in addition makes it more difficult for newborn calves to survive.

104 7 2 NV IND E
In Ely, where the inversion would most likely be more pronounced, how would this affect the number of people who rely on wood-burning stoves for heat due to no burn orders?

104 21 2 NV IND E
The Goshute Indian Reservation is in the windshed of this project, and will likely receive additional pollution due to the air quality.

106 5 1 NV IND E
Outside the impacts related to nearby community residents, poorer air quality would affect the air quality of Nevada's one and only National Park. Further, air quality as far away as Salt Lake City will definitely be affected.

106 6 1 NV IND E
Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted.

141 1 1 PA IND E
I live in the heart of coal country – southwestern Pennsylvania – where the beautiful environment is marred by coal extraction and burning processes. It destroys groundwater and fouls the land and air. Please do not allow this blight to spread to other untainted areas such as eastern Nevada. I have also lived there and remember the great beauty of that unmarred (except for the Dugway poison gas disaster) landscape.

149 1 1 UT IND E
With all the news about the widespread and long-lasting hazardous effects of pollution, I am aghast and amazed that the administration could even consider yet another power plant of this nature. I live downwind of the area, and we know from the atomic bomb testing in the 1950s that the wind certainly carries hazardous waste product to the millions of people living in Utah and beyond.

164 1 1 IL IND E
Are you done trying to destroy the air we breathe? Do not allow this dirty plant to be built.

165 1 1 WI IND E
I live in Wisconsin and today there were air pollution alerts for the southeastern part of the state. It has finally warmed up after three weeks of below zero temperatures. With the warm weather has come particulates in the air that cause health problems. Please do not add to this problem by building another coal fired plant in such a beautiful part of the country.

177 1 1 PA IND E
We cannot afford yet another polluting, coal-burning generating plant in this country! Quite apart from the particulate pollution, such a plant would add yet more greenhouse gases to an already warming planet.

184 2 1 ID IND E
This insane project will cause the same air pollution that exacerbates global warming.

184 3 1 ID IND E
Without a doubt, the facility will violate the clean air act for many scores of miles around the plant.

This is public land and communal air you are proposing to ruin!

186 12 1 NV IND E
What pollutants and how much of these pollutants, in tonnage, will be emitted by these power plants? The type of plant to be built during Phase 1 of the SPR Ely Energy Center already exists in the U.S. However, representatives from SPR and the BLM have yet to publicly specify the levels of the pollutants that will be emitted.

Given the enormity of the power plant that SPR is proposing to build, even reducing emissions by 95% could mean that many thousands of tons of heavy metals and greenhouse gas pollutants could be released into the atmosphere.

186 14 1 NV IND E
What will be the impacts of the air pollutants to be released on communities downwind of the power plant? Current experiences in other communities such as the northeastern U.S. have already proven that air pollutants can have devastating effects on communities hundreds if not thousands of miles downwind from the initial sources. Have the impacts on communities downwind of these proposed facilities, such as the Greater Salt Lake region in Utah, been addressed by all interested parties?

194 5 1 NV IND E
The sheer size of the proposed power plant – even if it is the "cleanest coal burning plant in the West" - will spew considerable amounts of toxic material into the air (far more than the Kennecott smelter).

194 7 1 NV IND E
How much and what contaminants/materials will pass through the smoke stack? How far will these materials disperse?

201 2 1 ANON IND E
The air we breathe needs to be as clean as possible, the water we drink as pure as possible, the food we eat from as toxin-free soils as possible.

210 1 1 NV IND E
I am particularly worried about the mercury and sulfur-acid rain that are generated from burning coal.

211 2 1 UT IND E
Global warming is threatening the entire biosphere and we are the cause; especially coal-fired power plants and especially the ones that use old-fashioned technology. This is enough reason all by itself not to build this plant, not to mention mercury in our water, particulates in our air, degradation of the viewscape in our national parks.

212 2 1 CA IND E
In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them.

217 3 1 NV IND E
There is no specification of the levels of pollutants expect to be emitted.

217 6 1 NV IND E
There is no specification of how "fugitive dust" from the power plan site would be "controlled", or to what extent. How much dust will there be? What toxic materials are likely to be in that dust? What would be the methods of

control? If the method of control is to be water, how much water will be needed? How much will it add to the 2.6 billion gallons already estimated to be added yearly?

217 7 1 NV IND E
Considering the winds in either of the proposed sties, both "fugitive dusts" and "arid emissions' would be certainly impacted the air quality at Great Basin National Park and its vicinity, as well as Ely, McGill, and Steptoe, Spring and Snake Valleys. This is obviously a very real problem for the environment – air quality, water quality, and consequent damage to flora and fauna.

218 21 1 CA CON E
The proposed project may impact species listed under the Endangered Species Act in other ways as well, including from nitrogen deposition and other impacts of air pollution generated by the combustion [of] coal.

219 8 1 NV IND E
Our dark skies are a rare and precious asset. This area is much valued, visited, and used for observation both recreational and for research purposes. This air quality is prized by daylight as well, and it is unthinkable that the vistas across valleys to the next mountain range could be affected by air pollution (as occurs daily in the Delta, UT area). The EIS needs to demonstrate that our air quality will be protected, by giving realistic assessments of the possible impacts, together with specific plans for ameliorating any degradation of what may be the cleanest air to be found.

221 2 1 NV IND E
The emissions that this facility alone should be the reason for not allowing it to proceed.

221 3 1 NV IND E
Even though measures are being taken to reduce the amount of various particulates, heavy metals, and other greenhouse gases; when multiplied by four plants we see a tremendous amount of pollutant entering this utterly pristine country.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

222 1 1 NV IND E
The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts.

222 9 1 NV IND E
Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertabrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

223 34 2 NV CON E
Please determine the amount of drawdown that will occur beneath any dry lakes and determine whether the decreased capillary flow and exfiltration will cause more particulate air pollution from winds blowing across the dry lakes.

223 63 2 NV CON E
Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would increase the emissions in White Pine County of each hazardous air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant precursor, and all greenhouse gases.

223 64 2 NV CON E
Please assess both the amount by which each option would directly increase those emissions in White Pine County, and the amount by which each option would indirectly increase those emissions in White Pine County. Ways in which an option may indirectly increase emissions include, but are not limited to, (1) necessitating the construction and operation of ancillary air pollution sources in White Pine County and (2) stimulating the construction and operation of new air pollution sources in White Pine County.

223 65 2 NV CON E
Please assess the amount by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the concentration, in the ambient air, of each hazardous air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant (including the impact of criteria air pollutant precursors) in (1) each county in Nevada, (2) each nonattainment, maintenance, or unclassifiable area in the Western half of the United States, and (3) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States.

Please perform an additional, cumulative version of this assessment that accounts for the emissions increases that would result directly or indirectly from the other new fossil fuel-fired power plants currently proposed for construction in the Western half of the United States.

223 68 2 NV CON E
For increased incidence of human disease and other impairment:

Please assess the number-per-year by which air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would increase the incidence of negative human health impacts – including asthma attacks, missed school or work days, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, cancer cases, heart attacks, lung disease, and premature deaths – within (1) five miles of the facility, (2) fifty miles of the facility, (3) 100 miles of the facility, and (4) 500 miles of the facility.

Please provide separate counts for (1) all humans, (2) children, and (3) humans aged sixty-five years and over.

223 70 2 NV CON E
For harm to crops and to threatened or endangered species:

Please assess the harm, in terms of the aggregate of lost value-per-year and remediation cost-per-year, that air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on crops and cultivated soil within 500 miles of the facility.

223 71 2 NV CON E
Please also assess the harm that air pollutant emissions resulting directly and indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on any populations of any threatened or endangered species of plant or animal.

223 72 2 NV CON E
For increased toxicity of fish eaten by humans:

Please assess the amount by which air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would directly or indirectly increase the concentrations of various toxic chemicals, including mercury and dioxin, in the flesh of freshwater fish caught and eaten by humans within 500 miles of the facility.

223 74 2 NV CON E
For decreased visibility in scenic areas:

Please assess the ten highest hourly visibility degradations, the ten highest daily visibility degradations, and the average annual visibility degradation that pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would cause (1) within a ten-mile radius of the facility, (2) in each Class I area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility, and (3) in each Class II area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility.

223 81 2 NV CON E

Please make all analyses of impacts to Class I air quality related values consistent with the Federal Land Managers' Air Quality Related Values Workgroup (FLAG) Phase I Report, December 2000. Further, please ensure all modeling assessments are based on common practice and procedure for proper air quality analyses as detailed in EPA's Guidelines on Air Quality Modeling in 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W. These standards include the following:

The modeling of maximum emission rates (i.e., potential to emit considering federally enforceable controls) of each pollutant to be emitted by the power plant and associated emission sources, as well as from other reasonably foreseeable sources, that could occur over the averaging time of the standard with which compliance is being assessed. For visibility modeling, please model the maximum hourly average emissions and maximum 24-hour average emissions. Further, please model existing sources at the maximum actual emission rates occurring over the averaging time of the standard with which compliance is being assessed. See section 9.1.2. of 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W.

Please ensure the analyses are based on an adequate and thorough meteorological record pursuant to 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W, section 9.3.1. If available, please use one year of on-site meteorological data in any near-field analysis. Please base any on-site meteorological data on monitoring that is consistent with EPA requirements discussed in section 9.3.3. of 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W for proper location and operation of the meteorological monitoring system. If adequate on-site meteorological data is not available, then five years of National Weather Service data should be used. (See section 9.3.1.2 of 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W). For far-field assessments, at least three years of mesoscale meteorological data or at least five years of National Weather Service data should be used. (See section 9.3.1.2.d. of 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W). It is imperative that an adequate record of meteorological data be used to represent worst case meteorological conditions. EPA's guidance indicates that the variability in the model estimates due to meteorology is adequately reduced if at least five years of meteorological data are used. (Section 9.3.1.1. of appendix W, 40 C.F.R. part 51).

Please add representative background concentrations to the modeling results in NAAQS analyses. See section 9.2. of 40 C.F.R. part 51, appendix W. Please base any on-site monitoring data used for background concentration on properly sited ambient monitoring systems (pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §58.12) and complete, quality-assured monitoring data (pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §52.21(m)(3) and part 58, appendix B).

223 82 2 NV CON E

Please analyze the dust producing capabilities in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin if the groundwater table is lowered and determine the salt and heavy metal content of that dust. Please compare with Owens Valley/Mono Lake conditions resulting from groundwater loss.

223 83 2 NV CON E

Please provide an electronic copy of all of the meteorology and ambient air quality monitoring data collected thus far, and please provide all future air quality monitoring data. Please include data from the site and any other monitoring stations in the area.

223 85 2 NV CON E

Please ascertain the SO2 to SO3 conversion rate of the SCR catalyst.

223 86 2 NV CON E

Please consider estimated construction emissions and operational emissions for all criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants ("HAPs"), criteria precursor pollutants and all greenhouse gases from all sources and project components including the pulverized coal ("PC") boilers, emergency generator, fire water pump, auxiliary boiler, material handling equipment, storage piles, and ancillary linear water or electrical transmission / interconnect lines.

223 87 2 NV CON E
Please consider emissions during startup and shutdown. Please identify the control equipment that will not be operational during startup and the load at which it becomes 100% effective.

223 88 2 NV CON E
Please consider the climate impact of the Companies' proposed coal plant.

223 89 2 NV CON E
Please consider that the operational life of a coal-fueled power plant is fifty to sixty years long. Therefore, federal action on the new coal-fueled plants currently being proposed without CCS (and without technologies that facilitate implementation of CCS) will have a significant impact on the ability of the federal government to meet its stabilization commitment. Federal law requires the United States government, as a partial means of meeting that commitment, to "[t]ake climate change considerations into account" in its "social, economic and environmental policies and actions." UNFCCC, Art. 4, Para. 1, Cl. (f). As an organ of the federal government, BLM is therefore obligated to factor climate change considerations into its EIS for the EEC Project.

223 90 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount of greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2 that will be released from the plant, and how will it affect global warming.

223 91 2 NV CON E
Please analyze the impacts of atmospheric sulphur dioxide producing sulphuric acid and the resultant formation of atmospheric fog/haze during time of winter air inversions in the regional valleys. Please determine the impacts of long-term haze/fog to the regional climate.

223 94 2 NV CON E
Please analyze the impacts to air quality as will be caused by the drawdown of the aquifer and subsequent die-off of phreatophyte (groundwater dependent) plant life in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin. Please analyze this impact in terms of downwind populations, wildlife, etc.

223 96 2 NV CON E
Please consider revegetation, dust control, and weed infestation of stripped agricultural lands due to decreased water availability and air emissions impacts.

223 199 2 NV CON E
Please consider the proposed BACT limits for NOx, SO2, PM/PM10, sulfuric acid mist, and fluorides for the PC boilers including the proposed emission rates and the associated averaging time, e.g., 0.06 lb/MMBtu NOx based on a 24-hour average.

223 203 2 NV CON E
Please determine whether the project will require emission offsets for criteria pollutant for which the area is in non-attainment. If offsets are required, please determine the source of the offsets.

223 205 2 NV CON E
Please require an air quality permit to construct and a permit to operate from NDEP and/or U.S. EPA.

223 206 2 NV CON E
Please develop plans to prevent significant deterioration of air quality in the vicinity of the plant.

223 207 2 NV CON E
Please consider the applicant's proposed mercury emission control technology to be used in the plant and all viable alternative mercury emission control technologies.

223 208 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount of mercury per year to be emitted into the air and the amount of mercury to remain as residual in fly ash or other plant waste material.

223 210 2 NV CON E
Please determine whether the project trigger MACT. If so, please determine which constituents and what MACT controls apply. If not, please analyze and provide the supporting HAP emission calculations.

223 211 2 NV CON E
Please provide all supporting documentation to substantiate the Companies' claim that the ECC coal plant will use state-of-the-art emission control technologies.

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227 1 1 ANON IND E
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228 1 1 NV IND E
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229 3 1 ANON IND E
The effects on local and then global air and water quality are certain to be extremely detrimental.

229 4 1 ANON IND E
The "Clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those of the past, but not by much.

229 5 1 ANON IND E
The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. People, plants and animals will be very negatively affected!

231 3 1 CA IND E
The fact that this proposed plant would emit millions of tons of global-warming CO2 per year and dump huge amounts of mercury and other heavy metals into the water table and air should immediately disqualify it from consideration.

239 1 1 WA IND E
We need to apply strict environmental standards to projects like this proposed power plant. The standards need to be real and enforceable and designed to protect land, air, water and the publics' health.

247 1 1 CA IND E
It is an expensive proposition that would result in water and air pollution including more green house gases.

252 3 1 MI GOV E
This plant and its CO2 and other green house gas emissions will be with us for another generation, don't increase the already tremendous cost to address our CO2, methane and other greenhouse emissions.

267 2 1 GA IND E
It is now widely known by voters that coal power plants are a major source of CO2 emissions. It is way past time to stop funding plants that are not cutting edge in pollution control. CO2 emission clean-up technologies should be the target for taxpayer money, not old style coal plants.

269 2 2 NE IND E
Protecting our air for all citizens needs to come ahead of supporting a corporate proposal to benefit some.

292 2 1 ANON IND E
It is said the Ely Energy Center will emit 12.6 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly. Is this a correct figure? If so, what are the implications of this amount of CO2 emission on our air, our lungs, our plants, our wildlife, [and] our skies?

292 4 1 ANON IND E
I wish to see a prevailing wind map of the general power plant area. I'd like to see how the plants' emissions are likely to disperse.

292 5 1 ANON IND E
I've not seen an electric power projection for the Ely Energy Center. How do we, whose land the hundreds of miles of transmission line will visually and physically impact, and whose air the 24/7 pumping of toxic coal by-products will impact also - for the next 40+ years -know that this project is necessary at all?

292 8 1 ANON IND E
An on-the-ground pre-project analysis and on-going monitoring of the dust caused by transmission and transmission road development, since radioactive plumes paralleled this line from the "events" of the Nevada Test Site of the 1950s and 60s, depositing radioactive material of a half-life of up to 10,000 years. The public does not need this lethal deposition re-activated.

292 11 1 ANON IND E
A thorough consideration of the impact of this project on airshed

296 8 1 NV AGR E
The project will result in new air quality emissions to the region. How will these new emissions affect public health, vegetation, aesthetics and wilderness values.

298 5 2 NV IND L
White Pine County is rapidly becoming a desired retirement locale. The County is collecting property taxes from many new upscale homes. The retirement home trend will be sure to cease with the new "scenic view of the Power Plant" and will pollution the Coal-fired Power Plant creates.

300 8 1 NV IND E
Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren't released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply.

300 9 1 NV IND E
Quality of Life in White Pine County will be but a memory. Water, soil, light, and air pollution will affect White Pine County in many negative ways. Traffic pollution during construction will be a nightmare and will require expensive upgrades of our streets and highways. Safety and Medical Departments will need an extreme upgrade. How will we fund these projects?

303 13 1 ID CON L
We spend a lot of time on the ground, examining the effects of land use practices, and we would be exposed to the pollution, noise, haze, and the contaminants it may contain, that would develop from these proposals.

303 29 1 ID CON L
What will happen to all water, and pollutants, that may be associated with this plant?

303 31 1 ID CON L
How will this affect air quality in Class I airsheds, such as the Jarbridge Wilderness—especially in combination with other changes such as altered, re-aligned or increased military overflights here?

303 47 1 ID CON L
Local news reports say that the plant will be built in various stages, and it sounds like the latter phases are critical for less dirty air. Is that the case?

303 48 1 ID CON L
Please provide great details on just what all is in the Wyoming coal, how that pollution will mix with gold mine or other mine pollution, cement plant pollution, and other pollution and contamination in the air.

303 49 1 ID CON L
What is the added human health cost of these plants—and other development that they will cause, including to people suffering from asthma, or other health conditions? Also, more pollution worsens inversions conditions—with local and regional effects. Inversions and cooler temperatures elevate traffic accidents in fog and ice, with cooler temperatures in the valleys which are the areas inhabited by humans in this region. It is at times like these winter air inversions when conditions may greatly affect human health. In any study here, you must not "average" effects over time, but must look at effects—pollution, water depletion, haze (local and regional), etc. over a full spectrum of weather and other environmental conditions (droughts, inversion, various temperatures)—and always with the full range of industrialization and development from these undertakings fully in mind.

305 7 1 NV FED L
How will emissions impact air quality in the Northern NTTR?

309 2 1 NV IND E
Air Quality – What emissions are expected, how much, how often, what will they look like, smell like, etc.?

312 4 1 ANON IND E
How many millions of tons of coal ash will be produced and what will become of it?

312 5 1 ANON IND E
The removal of sulfur dioxide from the emissions is discussed, but nothing is mentioned of sulfur trioxide? SO3 is a highly acidic oxidant and known to be dangerous to plants and animals.

312 6 1 ANON IND E
Oxides of nitrogen are equally acidic and dangerous. What will be the level of emission reductions for NOx?

313 8 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should provide a detailed discussion of ambient air conditions (baseline or existing conditions), National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), criteria pollutant nonattainment areas, and potential air quality impacts of the project (including cumulative and indirect impacts) for each fully evaluated alternative. Construction related

impacts should also be discussed. BLM should coordinate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Air Quality Planning and the Bureau of Air Pollution Control (BAPC) in evaluating permitting requirements and potential impacts of the project to air quality.

313 9 1 CA FED L

New major stationary sources of air pollution and major modifications to sources are required by the CAA [Clean Air Act] to obtain an air pollution permit before commencing construction. This process is called new source review (NSR) and is required whether the major source or modification is planned for an area where the NAAQS [National Ambient Air Quality Standards] are exceeded (nonattainment areas) or an area where air quality is acceptable (attainment and unclassifiable areas).

Permits for sources in attainment areas are referred to as prevention of significant air quality deterioration (PSD) permits, while permits for sources located in nonattainment areas are referred to as nonattainment (NAA) permits. The entire program, including both PSD and NAA permit reviews, is referred to as the NSR program and is established in Parts C and D of Title I of the CAA. Based upon an area's attainment/nonattainment designations and a proposed project's anticipated criteria pollutant emission rates, a project may require both a PSD and NAA permit. As the White Pine area is in attainment for all NAAQS, only a PSD permit will be required for construction of the project. EPA granted full delegation of the PSD program to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on October 19, 2004.

313 10 1 CA FED L

The following issues related to the PSD [prevention of significant deterioration] permit should be addressed in the DEIS:

- For a major new source, the PSD regulations (40 CFR 52.21) require application of Best Available Control Technology (BACT). The CAA [Clean Air Act] defines BACT as "an emissions limitation (including a visible emissions standard) based on the maximum degree of reduction of each pollutant subject to a regulation under this Act … which the Administrator, on a case by case basis, taking into account energy, environmental and economic impacts, and other costs, determines is achievable for such source …" For purposes of obtaining a PSD permit, BLM should demonstrate that the most stringent, feasible control technology is applied for each subject pollutant. The DEIS should address the range of emission control technologies that will be evaluated for use at the facility in order to achieve BACT, and discuss the factors and process that will be used to select the appropriate technology.
- PSD increment in the amount of pollution an area is allowed to increase. The DEIS should discuss the PSD increments applicable to air quality in the project area. PSD increments exist for sulfur dioxide, particulates (PM10), and oxides of nitrogen. The DEIS should discuss impacts to air quality and PSD increments from estimated emissions, considering the cumulative effects from all aspects of the project.
- PSD increments are highly protective of air quality in Class I areas such as wilderness areas and national parks. The DEIS should identify any Class I areas located within 100 kilometers of the proposed project site, and by conducting appropriate modeling, show potential impacts to such areas. Class I areas farther away (greater than 100 kilometers) could potentially be affected as well through pollution transport. BLM should consult with the National Park Service, Forest Service, and other federal land management agencies, as appropriate, for a determination of any Class I area(s) potentially affected by the proposal. Potential impacts to Class I areas, including visibility impacts, should be discussed. To the extent that air emissions associated with the proposal may affect Class I areas, BLM should consult with the federal agency with jurisdiction over the area in question to identify appropriate mitigation.

313 11 1 CA FED L

EPA assumes the DEIS will include a biological assessment to determine if consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The PSD [prevention of significant deterioration] permit cannot be issued until ESA requirements are met.

313 12 1 CA FED L

The NOI lists project components as including 250 miles of high voltage transmission lines, 100 miles of new rail line, water well-fields and pipeline delivery systems, coal unloading, handling and storage facilities, evaporation

pond, cooling towers, electric switchyards and substations, and support buildings. The DEIS should thoroughly describe these components and associated potential impacts to air quality.

313 13 1 CA FED L
At least one year of air monitoring data may be needed for the air quality analysis portion of the PSD [prevention of significant deterioration] permit. The DEIS should discuss the reasonableness and feasibility of an air quality monitoring program to ensure project compliance with applicable air quality standards, permits and other requirements.

313 14 1 CA FED L
EPA requests that the DEIS quantify and disclose greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed project.

313 15 1 CA FED L
EPA recommends that the DEIS address the issue of compliance with the new "greenhouse gas emissions performance standard" as adopted by California Public Utilities Commission. The DEIS should quantify and disclose the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the Ely Energy Center, evaluate the emissions performance level (pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt hour), and compare gas emissions from the Ely Energy Center to gas emissions from a combined cycle natural gas turbine.

313 16 1 CA FED L
Title V of the CAA [Clean Air Act] requires all new major sources and some minor sources of air pollution to apply for an operating permit within 12 months of commencing operation. When granted, the permit includes all air pollution requirements that apply to the source, including emissions limits and monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements. It also requires that the source report its compliance status with respect to permit conditions to the agency that issued the permit and if the permit is issued by a state or local agency, reports should also be submitted to EPA. The DEIS should indicate which agency will issue the operating permit and should describe the permitting process, including opportunities for public involvement.

313 17 1 CA FED L
EPA recommends an evaluation of the following measures to reduce construction emissions of criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants (air toxics). The DEIS should address the use of these measures during construction.

- Reducing emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM) and other air pollutants by using particle traps and other technological or operational methods. Control technologies such as traps control approximately 80 percent of DPM. Specialized catalytic converters (oxidation catalysts) control approximately 20 percent of DPM, 40 percent of carbon monoxide emissions, and 50 percent of hydrocarbon emissions.
- Ensuring that diesel-powered construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained, and shut off when not in direct use.
- Prohibiting engine tampering to increase horsepower.
- Locating diesel engines, motors, and equipment as far as possible from residential areas and sensitive receptors (schools, daycare centers, and hospitals).
- Requiring low sulfur diesel fuel (<15 parts per million), if available.
- Reducing construction-related trips of workers and equipment, including trucks.
- Leasing or buying newer, cleaner equipment (1996 or newer model), using a minimum of 75 percent of the equipment's total horsepower.
- Using engine types such as electric, liquefied gas, hydrogen fuel cells, and/or alternative diesel formulations.
- Adopting a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan to reduce construction emissions.
- Working with the local air pollution control district(s) to implement the strongest mitigation for reducing construction emissions.

317 6 1 ANON CON L
The Project Description paper provided for the public meetings states that mercury emissions would be "inherently low" from this type of [[coal burning]] system.

The EIS needs to provide quantitative estimates of the loading of all pollutant constituents, including but not limited to mercury and carbon monoxide.

317 7 1 ANON CON L
Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness.

318 6 1 NV LOC C
Air quality devices, scrubbers, and advanced state of the art environmental controls will mitigate the impacts associated with coal-fired power plants in the past.

319 2 1 NV IND C
What and how much

a. Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide
b. Carbon Dioxide
c. Mercury and other heavy metals
d. Particulates including the fine particles

320 5 1 NV IND C
The EIS should provide accurate projections of the amounts of contaminants EEC will release, especially such radioactive elements as uranium and thorium that (according to Wikipedia sources) could, e.g., in the operation of a 1000MW facility, release as much as 5.2 tons of uranium yearly (74 pounds of it being U-235) as well as 12.8 tons of thorium, a slightly less dynamic element which has been considered for use in nuclear reactors. The addition of radioactive materials on a landscape already polluted by atomic weapons testing should be remarked upon.

320 6 1 NV IND C
The EIS for the EEC should describe what equipment the company plans to install to scrub out pollutants and justify its spending any less than current state-of-the-art technology allows (that's technology, not state and federal politically-produced air quality guidelines).

320 7 1 NV IND C
The EIS should describe how EEC intends to mitigate local "down wind" effects visited upon the residents of McGill and Ely when north winds blow towards these communities that lie in close proximity to the plant site.

320 12 1 NV IND C
The EIS should specify what operational by-products, e.g., fly ash, will remain at the plant site, what hazards these pose to the local ecosystem in terms of contamination and distribution, their potential impacts on air and groundwater both in long and short term.

321 1 2 NV IND L
We wanted to raise our children in a small town with many outdoor activities and opportunities. We wanted our children to have clean air to breathe and mountain vistas to view. We wanted to be able to walk outside and see "wide open spaces" with very little manmade structures in our line of sight. If this proposal is approved as it is now, we see little opportunity for these positive elements, i.e., views and clean air, to continue.

321 2 2 NV IND L
The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center.

322 10 1 NV IND C
Pollution is another concern. This plant will create an unhealthy environment for the residents of this area. I don't think 4-5 miles from McGill is a good location for the largest power generation facility in Nevada's history. People move to communities such as McGill to escape the pollution of big city industry. Don't contaminate the clean air we have sought.

326 1 1 NV IND L
The air quality in the near vicinity is likely to be affected, as well as further away. Currently we have some of the best air quality in the nation. How far will the effects go? How many days per year will the air quality be affected in Steptoe, Spring, and Snake Valleys? What will be those effects?

326 3 1 NV IND L
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists.

326 4 1 NV IND L
How many days of inversion are expected due to the power plant? Inversions not only drastically change the temperature, but also provide a health hazard.

326 5 1 NV IND L
In Snake Valley, we have noticed increased inversions due to the Intermountain Power Plant in Delta, which is over 90 miles away, north of Delta. The colder temperatures means that we have to go out and break ice for cattle on the range more frequently, and in addition makes it more difficult for newborn calves to survive. In Ely, where the inversion would most likely be more pronounced, how would this affect the number of people who rely on wood-burning stoves for heat due to no burn orders?

330 3 1 NV IND L
I have concerns about several environmental impacts that the power plant will create here in Eastern Nevada, where I reside. These impacts include degradation of air quality, the large consumption of water, and visual impacts to one of the most scenic places in Nevada—Duck Creek Basin.

330 11 1 NV IND L
I am very concerned about the impacts to air quality due to sulfur, nitrate, and carbon dioxide emissions that the proposed plant would emit. I am even more concerned since another plant is proposed for the area. Even though the EEC plant's technology would remove many of these pollutants, the sheer volume of such a large plant will have an accordingly large impact. The air is currently very clean in Eastern Nevada and the air quality is one of the main attractive features of the area. It would be a disappointment to degrade the air quality of our area just so that Las Vegas and Northwestern Nevada can be connected to the grid.

332 2 1 CA IND L
Coal-fired power plants produce tons of noxious emissions, such as Nitrates, Sulfates, Mercury, Lead, Arsenic, Vanadium, Barium, Zinc, Nickel, Hydrogen Fluoride, Hydrochloric acid, Selenium, and others.

335 6 1 NV CON L
Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness.

336 2 2 MD IND L
Air pollution impacts on Great Basin National Park and wilderness areas in Nevada. These impacts could also affect the popular tourist region of Utah, including Zion National Park and other national parks, as well as existing wilderness areas such as Pine Valley Mountain and Cedar Mountain and proposed wilderness areas.

337 2 NV BUS C
EEC should be required to have complete air quality monitoring systems in place and comply with federal and state emission levels per air quality permits.

337 1 2 NV BUS C
Air Quality – although EEC proposes using low-sulfur Powder river Basin or similar Western coals, what guarantees do the public have that these coals would be used? Typical power companies purchase coal based on the market conditions and the least expensive. What federal or state agency would ensure this type of coal (low-sulfur) would be used?

337 2 2 NV BUS C
EEC should be required to have complete air quality monitoring systems in place and comply with federal and state emission levels per air quality permits.

342 2 1 NV IND C
I feel that it will negatively impact the water on our property and add to air pollution in the valley.

345 2 1 NV IND L
Water quality may also be affected consequent to detrimental air quality effects.

345 4 1 NV IND L
Polluted air will contribute to more inversion events in our valleys during the winter months, trapping in extreme cold temperatures for extended periods of time, stressing wildlife, flora, livestock, people, and energy consumption/bills.

345 5 1 NV IND L
Will we no longer have our pristine air and water quality we are famous for? Will there be ways which are practical and cost effective, that we can recover damaged air and water quality? Secondary damage to our natural environments requires analysis of recovery measures, too.

346 2 1 NV IND L
These coal-fired monstrosities are going to turn our pristine valleys into polluted dust bowls.

346 3 1 NV IND L
The McGill copper smelter only burned 70,000 tons a year. Expect over twice the acid rain – from just the first phase of the SPPCO plant.

346 4 1 NV IND L
The story is essentially the same for Nitrates. Even if they find a way to reduce Nitrates by 98%, that still amounts to burning 80,000 tons of coal per year unabated – more than the McGill copper smelter – before it utilized any pollution controls.

346 10 1 NV IND L
Over the life of the first phase of the Ely Energy Center coal fired power plant, 700 million tons of carbon dioxide will be released. (Carbon's atomic weight is 12, plus 2 oxygen atoms, atomic weight 16, results in 3.6 times the mass of the carbon in the coal burned to carbon dioxide). This is the equivalent of 2 million SUVs running on White Pine County's roads for the next 50 years. SPPCO has no realistic plans for dealing with carbon dioxide. They have left a spot open on the property so that maybe someday, when they get around to it; they can think about what they might want to put there. At the scoping meeting they indicated that they had no plans for the pipeline, pumps, or destination for the carbon dioxide. Think about it. What difference does it make if someday they might be able to separate the carbon dioxide, if they have no place to ship it. SPPCO is not going to do a thing about carbon dioxide, and I predict (with 99% certainty) that they never will.

348 1 1 NV FED L
There are several National Forest/Wilderness Areas close to the proposal. The High Schells Wilderness Area is only eight miles east of the project. Others nearby include the White Pine Range, Shellback, Bald Mountain, Red Mountain, and Currant Mountain to the west, Mount Moriah to the east, and Ruby Mountain and Jarbridge Wilderness Areas to the north. While Jarbridge is the only Class I airshed, I am concerned about impacts to all of the wilderness areas.

348 2 1 NV FED L
What will be the air emission dispersal pattern? Will there be effects to wilderness airsheds from particulates? How will the proposal affect visibility in the wildernesses? Will the smokestacks be seen from any wilderness area?

349 16 1 NV IND L
Air Quality and Air Emissions – where is the real data? Perhaps the common individual cannot comprehend the complexity of the emission, however, without the figures there are no standard baseline calculations to go by.

349 17 1 NV IND L
What about fog and freezing highways in the winter?

351 4 1 WI IND L
This pollution would threaten the air quality at Great Basin National park, Cave Lake State Park, and other natural areas as well as the water quality in the local streams.

354 2 1 NV IND C
The air pollution alone is reason enough.

356 6 2 NV IND C
Construction would create noise, dust, and heavy traffic resulting in trash thrown out of vehicle windows and fast traffic on dirt roads.

359 7 1 NV IND C
The coal and other materials needed to operate the plant will be brought in via diesel trains. I would like to know the amount of carbon and toxins the trains will add to our environment. How will any train accidents that result in a hazardous materials spill be handled and what will be their response time for a spill.

361 6 1 NV CON L
What effect will the air/particulate emissions from the plants have on surface waters, in both valley waters and mountain headwaters (springs, ponds, perennial streams) in the affected areas especially in the associated mountain ranges, i.e., Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek?

361 7 1 NV CON L
What effect will the power plant emissions have on air quality in the above mentioned valleys [Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek] from an health and human safety aspect as well as acidification effects on perennial surface waters and their associated dependent species, i.e., animal and plant?

361 18 1 NV CON L
What effects on rural communities health and safety from this air pollution?

362 8 1 NV IND C
There is concern about the pollution caused by the coal affecting the air quality.

365 3 1 NV IND L
SPPCO has no plans to contain carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. CO2 emissions the equivalent of exhaust from 2 million SUVs will be release into Steptoe Valley within 4.5 miles of McGill residential areas.

370 2 1 NY IND L
A coal-fired plant in the long run is not feasible: it costs billions of dollars to build a plant that would use out-dated technology that causes air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease; water contamination; and an increase in global warming.

372 3 1 NV IND F
More than 26 million tons of oxygen annually would be lost from our atmosphere.

372 4 1 NV IND F
More than thirty six million (36,000,000) tons of CO2 and other green house gases would be released, annually, into the atmosphere.

373 6 2 NV IND E
Air Quality. We don't believe it is possible to burn coal and maintain the good air quality we are accustomed to in this area.

374 2 2 NV IND E
We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise.

The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like.

376 2 1 CA IND L
The proposed plant could threaten the air quality at Great Basin National Park and the water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. In addition, the coal mining required to fuel this plant would destroy sensitive landscapes and contaminate additional water sources.

Chapter 3: Cultural Resources Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
5	1	1	CA	BUS	C

Appreciate info on cultural resources or Native American concerns.

104	22	2	NV	IND	E

How will archaeological resources be protected during construction?

197	1	1	NV	TRB	E

Cultural resource survey (pre-activity or on-going) should include Native Americans from the local Tribe (Ely) to assist in the Class I-III surveys. This process also expedites the consultation process—should there be no significant find.

223	100	2	NV	CON	E

Please consider the number of significant historic properties identified in the project area.

223	101	2	NV	CON	E

Please consult with all Native American groups claiming historic and traditional affiliation with the region on all project components in addition to identifying Traditional Cultural Places (“TCPs”).

223	183	2	NV	CON	E

Please consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any Indian Tribe ascribing historic and traditional affiliation to the region regarding mitigation of impacts to significant historic properties.

303	30	1	ID	CON	L

How will this affect important cultural sites, wild horse herd areas, wilderness areas, and WSA [wilderness study areas]?

310	1	1	NV	IND	L

My personal interest in the town of McGill is the McGill Club House, described by Nevada Historian Russell Elliott as the most historically significant building in the town of McGill. In the past 4 years I have spent countless hours researching the history of the Club House and have invested innumerable sums in cleaning the grounds and stabilizing the structure in preparation for restoration. Efforts are presently underway to have the McGill Club House designated as a Historic Building on both the state and National levels. Beyond the copper industry the McGill Club House has confirmed historical links to the YMCA Industrial Movement, American Red Cross Society, Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Lincoln Highway. A key element in my decision to undertake this project was the unspoiled beauty of White Pine County and the views from the McGill of Steptoe Valley. A coal-fired power plant in such close proximity to McGill would adversely affect my decision to restore the Club House.

313	42	1	CA	FED	L

Historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or that meet the criteria for the National Register. Section 106 of the NHPA requires a federal agency, upon determining that activities under its control could affect historic properties, consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO).

313	43	1	CA	FED	L

The DEIS should address the existence of Indian sacred sites in the project area. It should address Executive Order 13007, distinguish it from Section 106 of the NHPA [National Historic Preservation Act], discuss how the BLM will

* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites, if they exist, and address other requirements of the Order. The DEIS should provide a summary of all coordination with Tribes and with the SHPO/THPO [State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer], including identification of NRHP [National Register of Historic Places] eligible sites, and development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

322 6 1 NV IND C
Cultural resources and historic aesthetics is a concern.

Chapter 4: Cumulative Effects Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

4	6	1	NV	IND	E

The paragraph on air quality/air emissions does not take into consideration the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. At a time when world attention is turned to global warming and the devastating effects of temperature rise on all creatures, including human beings, it is irresponsible to build coal-fired plants, which release large quantities of carbon dioxide, no matter how the air quality is monitored for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, mercury, and particulate matter.

23	5	1	ID	CON	E

We are also deeply concerned about the tremendously damaging potential of mountain-top blasting wind energy facilities that this may enable.

34	1	1	NV	CON	L

Concerned that EEC would have additive cumulative effects to LS power's proposed plant. Doesn't want two power plants in the valley.

45	1	1	NV	IND	C

Burning fossil fuels causes global warming and placing this coal burner so close to McGill and Ely is crazy. Build it at the alternate location or better yet don't build it at all.

46	2	1	NV	IND	C

As proposed the project would continue our nation's use of fossil fuels, contribute to global warming, degradation of air quality and increase the use of very scarce water in White Pine County by more than 10%.

50	1	1	AZ	IND	L

This proposed 2500 megawatt coal-fired power plant in eastern Nevada using low sulfur coal from Wyoming is a very poor approach in solving the global warming and high pollution in our Americas.

53	4	1	NV	IND	E

It is impossible to ignore that carbon intensive projects contribute to global climate change. As per 42 USC SS 4332 Sec. 102 (C), (E), and (F) the EIS should address the project's contribution to global climate change from the carbon dioxide emissions from the plant itself as well as transportation of the fuel.

53	7	1	NV	IND	E

The EIS should address what additional cost (i.e. resources unavailable for other opportunities) Nevadans will incur when carbon taxes are likely imposed on carbon emissions as well as how this will affect the "stable economics of coal" noted in the proposal. Currently, Nevadans are not susceptible to the economics of coal.

The EIS should address what additional costs will the BLM likely incur when carbon taxes are implemented? Conversely, what carbon tax credit will the BLM forfeit in the likely case that a carbon trading system is implemented?

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

56 1 1 NV IND C
The USA leads the world in CO2 emissions released into the air. That makes us also the leaders in promoting global warming…not a leadership role we can be proud of. Please reconsider plans to allow building a coal-fired power plant in Ely. We have global threat of epic proportions pending and we need to use every measure within our power to reverse the danger to the world's citizenry.

57 2 1 NV IND C
The effects (such as global warming) of CO2 and other emissions from this plant compared with alternative energy sources available in Nevada, such as solar wind, geothermal, and conservation.

59 4 1 NV IND L
It is necessary to consider the impacts of both the LS project and the Ely Energy Center project when commenting. They are not mutually exclusive when looking at cumulative impacts.

60 3 1 NV FED L
With the potential construction and operation of the White Pine Energy center, the associated railroad traffic and the potential startup of Phase Three of the Intermountain Power Project, visibility in the area may be compromised by multiple sources.

60 5 1 NV FED L
Increased urban growth associated with the proposed action, the construction and operation of the White Pine Energy Center and the re-opening of the Robinson copper and gold mine will exacerbate existing light pollution.

60 7 1 NV FED L
With the potential construction and operation of the White Pine Energy Station and the potential construction and operation of Phase Three of the Intermountain Power Project, water quality changes associated with the deposition of nitrogen and sulfur compounds in the area may be affected by multiple sources.

65 2 1 NV IND E
I run in Spring Valley on the Schell Creek Mountains, and in Steptoe Valley. What base line data will be compiled? In my case, how do you determine the offending water user in the event that the springs are lost?

67 1 1 VA IND E
I urge the Department of Interior to view the magnitude of the impact this analysis will have on the fragile ecosystem of this intricate place in our country.

70 1 1 NV GOV C
Cumulative impacts associated with water pull in Butte Valley? How do we address drying the environment (springs)?

71 2 1 NV IND C
Coal heat increases the risk of global warming and will adversely affect the air, land, and water of Nevada.

72 2 1 NV IND C
This plant, if built, will significantly contribute to global warming, creating huge quantities of greenhouse gases.

80 2 1 CT IND E
Literally, any other choice than building this plant would be a better idea. Please do so, and concentrate on renewables that will protect the local and regional environment, and help reduce America's disproportionately high global warming contribution.

90 1 1 NV IND E
There are much more appropriate ways to create the energy needed that would not contribute so heavily to global warming or have such a negative effect on the area.

92 3 1 CO IND F
More fuel for global warming.

93 7 1 ANON IND E
Are the environmental costs of global warming being considered for this energy center since it is expected to be the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the southwest?

99 2 1 NM IND E
We now know collectively that global warming is a dire threat, and it makes no sense to be permitting new coal-fired plant construction.

99 4 1 NM IND E
BLM must reject the proposal for the health and safety of the local region. To keep worldwide atmospheric carbon buildup at the lowest possible levels, which will still be catastrophically high, new coal-fired pollution sources must not be added.

100 1 1 CO IND E
We do not need any dirty coal-fired plants in Nevada. It would be irresponsible to build such a plant, particularly, in light of the recent report on global warming.

102 4 2 ANON IND E
Even the most efficient air quality control system does not eliminate emissions of grave health air quality control system does not eliminate emissions of grave health, and climate concerns to humans, wildlife and vegetation. Given past history, it should be incumbent upon a federal agency to take responsibility for "down winders". Impacts on those who must live with the pollution and all of us who will be impacted by global warming must be evaluated and displayed.

104 9 2 NV IND E
Is the amount proposed really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife?

106 2 1 NV IND E
How could the BLM permit a second power plant, when the permitting of 1) the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] water grab, and 2) the LS Power Plant appear almost imminent?

106 3 1 NV IND E
The draining of the aquifer for the power plant will only exacerbate the inevitable problems caused by the drainage to be performed by Southern Nevada Water Authority and, if permitted, the LS Power proposal for two power plants.

How can the pumping of potentially 5 billion gallons of water per year, not affect the rangeland and agriculture fields of Steptoe Valley? How can the pumping of 5 billion gallons by Sierra Pacific, in addition to 8 billion gallons per year by LS Power not affect the drinking water of residents in White Pine County?

There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable. This means that our springs and wells could dry up devastating our ranching, irrigation. Also, affected could be McGill and Crosstimber's water supply and further down the road Ely's water supply.

106 8 1 NV IND E
How can the BLM permit a second power plant in the same valley as a similarly proposed plant, without first witnessing and evaluating the impacts of one plant upon the ecosystem?

106 12 1 NV IND E
Carbon dioxide is thought by many scientists to be a major contributor to global warming. Sulfur and nitrogen oxides contribute to acid rain. Nitrogen oxides react with sunlight to form ozone.

135 1 1 CA IND E
At a time when world leaders are finally realizing the seriousness of global warming, this certainly isn't the time to promote an outdated coal-fired power plant.

149 1 1 UT IND E
With all the news about the widespread and long-lasting hazardous effects of pollution, I am aghast and amazed that the administration could even consider yet another power plant of this nature. I live downwind of the area, and we know from the atomic bomb testing in the 1950s that the wind certainly carries hazardous waste product to the millions of people living in Utah and beyond.

152 1 1 WI IND E
It's hard to believe that anyone would even consider further polluting our planet earth and hastening global warming?

166 1 1 IL IND E
There are much better ways of generating electricity than using dirty coal. Allowing this plant will pollute the environment, increase global warming and cost the people of Nevada more money in utility bills.

177 1 1 PA IND E
We cannot afford yet another polluting, coal-burning generating plant in this country! Quite apart from the particulate pollution, such a plant would add yet more greenhouse gases to an already warming planet.

181 1 1 NJ IND E
As you probably already know, there is a huge crisis that faces the nation and the entire world – global warming. Nevertheless, this plan to build a new coal-fired power plant in Nevada is not only adding to the astronomical problem.

182 1 1 MN IND E
The proposal to build a giant coal fired power plant should be a non-starter. The last thing we need is another giant emitter of carbon dioxide adding to our climate problems. The BLM should not take any action that promotes the feasibility of this bad idea.

183 1 1 MN BUS E
If $3.8 billion dollars are invested now on a technology that, even by Sierra Pacific Resources statements, contributes to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, we will have committed ourselves to a polluting plant with a service life that extends decades beyond the critical tipping point for reversing global warming.

There's an epigram from the sixties: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem". This plant, as proposed, is part of the problem. Every summer, my neighbors and I are graced with beautiful sunsets over my lake (Lake Calhoun) courtesy of the particulates drifting to us from forest fires out in your "neck of the woods", as we say around here. So, I know my children will be the direct recipients of the benefits or damages of your decision. Please base your decision on "the big picture". I urge the BLM to reject this proposal.

184 2 1 ID IND E
This insane project will cause the same air pollution that exacerbates global warming.

186 11 1 NV IND E
Given all of the recent proposals within close proximity to each other in White Pine County, the Environmental Impact Statement should address the cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal should all projects be implemented in addition to addressing the specific impacts solely indicative of this project. Even if the water required for the SPR Ely Energy Center are isolated from the water to be utilized by the LS Power's White Pine Energy Center and the Southern Nevada Water Authority's drinking water pipeline, the cumulative impact to these areas could be synergistically devastating given that the ecosystems, wildlife and people who occupy these areas do not work and live solely within the boundaries of specific aquifers.

186 14 1 NV IND E
What will be the impacts of the air pollutants to be released on communities downwind of the power plant? Current experiences in other communities such as the northeastern U.S. have already proven that air pollutants can have devastating effects on communities hundreds if not thousands of miles downwind from the initial sources. Have the impacts on communities downwind of these proposed facilities, such as the Greater Salt Lake region in Utah, been addressed by all interested parties?

187 1 1 ANON IND E
Think about the negative cumulative impacts to the environment, economy, and society as a whole that this proposed project will have on Ely and White Pine County.

189 1 1 ANON IND E
Putting a coal plant in Nevada, no matter where it is, is allowing more damage to the earth and its Ozone Layer.

197 2 1 NV TRB E
Cumulative impact needs to be addressed such as the newly acquired lands of the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

197 3 1 NV TRB E
Cumulative impacts should address the long term effect on not only people in the community, but also in Steptoe Valley, as well as animal, and plant life, water.

197 6 1 NV TRB E
Medicinal or food plants used by the Western Shoshone people need to be addressed in cumulative impacts.

198 1 1 MT IND E
I am amazed that you or anybody, for that matter, would have the lack of wisdom to support a new dirty coal plant in Nevada. With the cold hard, proven fact of global warming, and the proven cost effectiveness of solar power and other alternative forms of energy, I am simply amazed.

204 2 1 NV IND E
There should be no new coal-fired power plants built without proof that emissions will be [or] will not be harmful to the environment, locally and globally.

205 2 1 DE IND E
All the carbon contained in the world's coal should stay right where it is … in the ground. That would be effective, efficient, clean, free carbon sequestration.

207 2 1 OR IND E
It makes no sense to build such an outdated and expensive project when we have better, more long-lasting solutions that will not contribute to global warming.

207 4 1 OR IND E
Federal land should not be made available for projects with such destructive potential for health of individuals, as well as the health of our larger ecosystem.

208 2 1 NY IND E
My priorities are global warming.

209 2 1 OH IND E
More dirty coal plants will harm our air quality and worsen global warming.

211 2 1 UT IND E
Global warming is threatening the entire biosphere and we are the cause; especially coal-fired power plants and especially the ones that use old-fashioned technology. This is enough reason all by itself not to build this plant, not to mention mercury in our water, particulates in our air, degradation of the viewscape in our national parks.

212 2 1 CA IND E
In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them.

215 3 1 NV IND E
The cumulative environmental impacts of potentially three power projects in one relatively small valley may be huge.

216 1 1 UT IND E
I am deeply concerned about our nation's continued reliance on fossil fuels and how emissions from burning these fuels contribute to global warming.

218 1 1 CA CON E
The project Notice did not include the proposed project's contribution to greenhouse gas pollution and global warming on the list of Preliminary Resource Issues. However, these impacts must be included in the EIS. The Ely Energy Center's direct, indirect, and cumulative greenhouse gas pollution impacts must be fully disclosed and analyzed.

218 6 1 CA CON E
The EIS for the proposed project must fully disclose and evaluate the project's greenhouse gas and global warming implications.

218 7 1 CA CON E
The greenhouse gas emissions of each leasing and development alternative must be quantified and disclosed. These greenhouse gas emissions would include but not be limited to: (1) the greenhouse gas emissions from burning the total fuel produced from the proposed project; (2) the greenhouse gas emissions from development and production of the fuel; (3) the greenhouse gas emissions from transporting the fuel to the proposed project site.

218 9 1 CA CON E
The EIS should also disclose an estimate of the economic cost of the proposed project's greenhouse gas emissions.

218 10 1 CA CON E
The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change, a comprehensive report commissioned by the British government, recently concluded that allowing current emissions trajectories to continue unabated would cost the global economy between 5 to 20 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) each year within a decade, or up to $7 trillion per year, and warned that these figures should be considered conservative estimates (Stern 2006). By contrast, measures to mitigate global warming by reducing emissions were estimated to cost about one percent of global GDP each year, and could save the world up to $2.5 trillion per year (Stern 2006). If we take no action to control emissions, each ton of carbon dioxide emitted today is causing societal damage worth at least $85 (Stern 2006). These costs are often not considered by investors and decision-makers but they must be disclosed and analyzed under NEPA and other applicable laws. We suggest using $85 per ton of carbon dioxide, multiplied by the total number of tons of carbon dioxide equivalent gases that would be produced by the proposed project, to estimate the cost of the project's greenhouse gas pollution. If other values from the literature are used, their selection should be justified.

218 11 1 CA CON E
Congress passed the Global Change Research Act in 1990. 15 USC 2931(a)(2). The purpose of the GCRA is "to provide for development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change." This scientific assessment (hereinafter "National Assessment") is to be used by "all Federal agencies and departments" in "responding to human-induced and natural processes of global change pursuant to other statutory responsibilities." 15 USC 2938(b)(2). The BLM has a clear duty to use the National Assessment in its evaluation of the proposed project.

The last National Assessment was transmitted to Congress in November 2000. This 600-page report entitled "Climate Change Impacts on the United States: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change" and its associated 154-page summary sought to identify the key climatic vulnerabilities of particular regions and economic sectors of the country in the context of the changes in the nation's environment, resources, and economy. While the CCSP has missed the deadline of November 2004 for completion of the updated National Assessment, this does not excuse the BLM from using the available version supplemented by the best available scientific information. Key publications since the November 2000 National Assessment include IPCC (2001), ACIA (2004), Epstein and Mills (2005), Shellnhuber (2006), and NAS (2006). At a bare minimum, these major synthesis reports (full citations below in Literature Cited section) must be considered along with the National Assessment in the EIS for the proposed project.

219 9 1 NV IND E
The advent of Global Climate Change and the implications for coal-fired power installations must be addressed in this EIS. This must include not only calculations of all relevant emissions, but also economic calculations about all possible future regulatory impacts on the project's viability.

221 3 1 NV IND E
Even though measures are being taken to reduce the amount of various particulates, heavy metals, and other greenhouse gases; when multiplied by four plants we see a tremendous amount of pollutant entering this utterly pristine country.

221 4 1 NV IND E
In a day when Global Warming is more palatable than ever and the call for renewable energy is ever present and growing, why are we being courted to build antiquated, non-renewable energy generation plants?

222 14 1 NV IND E
It is important that these cumulative effects of mining in Wyoming, and the energy to transport the coal, as well as the cumulative effects of all the infrastructure (power lines, train tracks, multiple trains rolling through the Steptoe valley, and water wells, pipelines, and diversion structures) be analyzed in the EIS.

222 15 1 NV IND E
Given the number of other proposals that may use the areas ground and surface water, cumulative impacts to vegetation, soil and potential effects from water table drop need to be addressed.

222 17 1 NV IND E
It is backwards to build more coal power plants that will contribute to global warming. I know this is a difficult effect to address but it is important none the less and needs to be mitigated before allowing this project to continue.

223 1 2 NV CON E
Accordingly, this proposed project has the potential to adversely impact human health and the environment by causing significant air pollution, climate change, visibility impairment, noise pollution, light pollution, depletion of water resources, wildlife ecosystem segmentation, loss of historic and cultural resources and industrialization of public lands.

223 44 2 NV CON E
Please analyze impacts to adjacent water basins, if water is overdrafted from the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin.

223 65 2 NV CON E
Please assess the amount by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the concentration, in the ambient air, of each hazardous air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant (including the impact of criteria air pollutant precursors) in (1) each county in Nevada, (2) each nonattainment, maintenance, or unclassifiable area in the Western half of the United States, and (3) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States.

Please perform an additional, cumulative version of this assessment that accounts for the emissions increases that would result directly or indirectly from the other new fossil fuel-fired power plants currently proposed for construction in the Western half of the United States.

223 66 2 NV CON E
For increased deposition of various pollutants:

Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, (2) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States, (3) each highly agricultural region in the Western half of the United States, and (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals.

223 88 2 NV CON E
Please consider the climate impact of the Companies' proposed coal plant.

223 89 2 NV CON E
Please consider that the operational life of a coal-fueled power plant is fifty to sixty years long. Therefore, federal action on the new coal-fueled plants currently being proposed without CCS (and without technologies that facilitate implementation of CCS) will have a significant impact on the ability of the federal government to meet its stabilization commitment. Federal law requires the United States government, as a partial means of meeting that commitment, to "[t]ake climate change considerations into account" in its "social, economic and environmental policies and actions." UNFCCC, Art. 4, Para. 1, Cl. (f). As an organ of the federal government, BLM is therefore obligated to factor climate change considerations into its EIS for the EEC Project.

223 90 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount of greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2 that will be released from the plant, and how will it affect global warming.

223 107 2 NV CON E
Please address future projects in the area and the effect the EEC project may or may not have on those developments including but not limited to wilderness study areas and other BLM proposed activities.

223 131 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to specific mines in the Powder River Basin ("PRB") that would supply the coal. Please consider also contractual and supply stability by including in the EIS specific mines from which coal is to be acquired and completed contracts for coal acquisition.

223 212 2 NV CON E
Please assess and itemize the cumulative impact of the EEC when combined with other proposed power plants on climate, air emissions, water impacts wildlife, and plants. These other proposed power plants include, but are not limited to: Toquop Power Plant (Mesquite, Nevada); White Pine Associates Power Plant (Ely, Nevada); Desert Rock Power Plant (near Grants, New Mexico); Mustang Power Plant (near Grants, New Mexico); Intermountain Power Plant Unit 3 (Delta, Utah); Bonanza Power Plant (Bonanza, Utah), and Nevco Power Plant (Sigurd, Utah).

224 1 1 NV STA E
The Authority asks that the BLM take into account the Authority has applied for rights-of-way for development of the Authority's Groundwater Development Project (GWD), within the LCCRDA corridor as well. The Authority applied to the BLM on August 1, 2004, for rights-of-way to build wells, pipelines, and associated facilities in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties (N-78803). The BLM is currently preparing an EIS for the GWD Project.

224 2 1 NV STA E
The Authority would like to ensure that Proposed Action is compatible with the proposed locations for water pipelines, wells, and additional facilities associated with the GWD Project. The Federal Register notice does not indicate where the electrical transmission lines and the fiber optic telecommunication lines will be located within the LCCRDA corridor, which is 2,640 feet wide. The GWD Project is primarily located in the eastern half of the

corridor, from where the Proposed Action enters the LCCRDA corridor, to the intersection of US Highway 93 and Nevada Highway 168 in Clark County, with exceptions in various locations due to topography. From Nevada Highway 168 south, to where the Proposed Action diverges from the Highway alignment, the GWD Project is immediately west of Nevada Highway 93. The proposed route of GWD Project has been identified in the conceptual plan of development and conceptual plan of development map book, both of which have been submitted to the BLM under case number N-78803. The Authority believes that coordination between the two project alignments is essential to ensure that all facilities have the appropriate space needed for operation and safety purposes.

225 1 1 NV CON E
The EEC proposes to utilize coal as the energy source.

Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and contributor of pollutants responsible for global warming. The worlds foremost climatologists and scientists agree that global warming is real and the repercussions of not curbing our current greenhouse gas emissions would be potentially devastating to life here on earth.

Experts believe that we must not just halt our greenhouse gas production, but reduce it in order to avoid impending crisis. The EEC, as proposed, would likely contribute to this problem.

225 6 1 NV CON E
Global warming is an issue that should be addressed as a resource issue. Although the current administration will not concede that global warming is a real phenomenon that we are experiencing, many of the leading scientists and climatologists agree that it is. Because the administration will turnover before the EIS is scheduled to be completed (or at least the EEC is implemented), the EIS should address how the coal-fired plant will not contribute to the effects of global warming or how the pollutants would be mitigated (see first bullet this section).

231 2 1 CA IND E
Federal land and billions of taxpayer dollars should not be used to find this high-polluting project using outdated coal-burning technology.

235 1 1 OR IND E
Please drop this huge step backwards in controlling global warming.

238 4 1 TX IND E
Global warming is the greatest environmental threat that has ever come to our planet. We all have a moral obligation to curb global warming.

242 2 1 CO IND E
The proposed coal plant would emit millions of tons of carbons dioxide, the primary cause of global warming.

246 2 1 OR IND E
We are now at a point where even the most skeptical among us has to admit that global warming is a serious issue that must be addressed. There is no more time to debate; there is no more room for adding pollutants and greenhouse gases. The very idea of adding an enormously polluting power plant like this is insane.

248 1 1 VA GOV E
Opening the Ely Energy Center would be a backward step when we need to be working to reduce carbon emissions.

250 3 1 WA IND E
Profit should not be the only motivating factor in the construction of this monstrosity. The technology is available and it would behoove Ely Energy to consider the environmental impact of their plant not only on the surrounding region but how it affects its customers.

252 3 1 MI GOV E
This plant and its CO2 and other green house gas emissions will be with us for another generation, don’t increase the already tremendous cost to address our CO2, methane and other greenhouse emissions.

260 2 1 CA IND E
Global warming is a real threat to future generations. Please do not add to this threat.

282 2 1 WA IND E
The Ely Energy Center proposal is a direct contradiction to the great strides and examples of leadership in other US cities and a growing number in the international community are making towards curtailing global warming.

289 2 1 WA IND E
All of these effects could result in huge lawsuits against the power plant, the state of Nevada, and your office. Why not prevent litigation by denying this proposal now?

291 1 1 TX IND E
We need to strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficient technology to not only urgently reduce the global warming problems and the contaminated water problems, but to also help lessen serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease.

292 3 1 ANON IND E
Why, then, are you (BLM) requesting comments on this project before the results of the L&S Power EIS are available? These two projects are quite duplicative - in fact, they will probably merge before either gets built.

The public's comments of the Ely Energy Center would be far more informed if that public had the advantage of studying the very comparable L&S EIS first.

296 8 1 NV AGR E
The project will result in new air quality emissions to the region. How will these new emissions affect public health, vegetation, aesthetics and wilderness values?

303 3 1 ID CON L
We are deeply concerned about the impacts of these coal-fired power plant, power line corridors/rights-of-way, and aquifer de-watering proposal on the entire region.

303 4 1 ID CON L
Idaho is currently receiving unprecedented amounts of mercury and other air pollution from Nevada mining and other activities. On top of the horrendous amounts of mercury already released into the air that are going to be polluting regional waters for a very long time, gold mine gold ore roasting operations will foreseeably expand in the future as gold continues to skyrocket. There is already a Nevada coal-fired power plant at Valmy that is polluting air. There are mining and cement operations, and now foreseeable new and expanded cement processors. The regional source of mercury must be fully presented—as part of this process. The potential costs of removing mercury that has fallen as pollution into waters, or will foreseeably fall as pollution, must be fully revealed.

303 14 1 ID CON L
To the north, across I-80 and off the map lies the Thousands Springs Valley, where there have long been water and power plant schemes. The relationship between any foreseeable extensions of SWIP, DOE [Department of Energy] corridors, private energy lines like Northern Lights, both AC and DC lines or other infrastructure and associated development (there have been recurring rumors of coal or other power plants in the Montello region, or further to the west in association with gold mines—all must be examined for environmental effects and consequences. The total direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of these developments on lands, air, water, native biota, human health, and quality of life must be fully assessed.

303 18 1 ID CON L
How will global warming and elevated temperatures affect aquifer processes? How much more water is being removed (and foreseeably will be removed) over the life of this project – and how much will this exceed recharge rates? Please conduct detailed studies to provide a comprehensive baseline of information so that all impacts of the EEC, White Pine Energy Center, Las Vegas de-watering pipelines, and other likely drains on the water supply can be fully understood.

303 19 1 ID CON L
What is the global warming "footprint" of the pollution, land alteration, and development associated with all aspects of this plant—for renovation of a railway to mining the coal in Wyoming, to building materials for the plant, to heat and all emissions generated?

303 21 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed cost-comparison and development and global warming footprint of plant (and infrastructure development – including much less need for infrastructure development) in alternative sitting locations. Please also provide analysis of a range of conservation actions that . . . [respondent does not complete this sentence]

303 22 1 ID CON L
Of great alarm is an activity that may further alter and desertify the climate in much of the area to be impacted by energy development and corridors here, is the potential for increased deforestation of the pinyon-juniper and other wildlands under various "Healthy Forests" or other type projects. This would be enabled by provisions of the recent White Pine Wilderness Bill that elevates the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, with ties to the livestock industry and plans to deforest pinyon and juniper, as well as "thin" mow or alter sagebrush to enhance "forage", and under the myth that killing woody vegetation may increase water volumes. All the many provisions of the Lincoln and White Pine County Bills, and the Lincoln County Land Act and other recent legislation must be examined so that a full understanding of potential demands (on aquifers if 100,000 acres in Lincoln County are privatized, and >45,000 acres in White Pine County are privatized). Please be sure to assess impacts of all the foreseeable development on aquifers, watersheds, ecosystems, wild lands, air quality, sensitive and important species, and quality of life in this region.

303 23 1 ID CON L
Please be sure to fully assess all the impacts of foreseeable oil and gas, geothermal, mining, and other energy development in this region, along with its demands on the aquifers.

303 24 1 ID CON L
Please describe in full detail all the relationships or foreseeable impacts of LS Power, White Pine Energy Center, Sierra Pacific, Nevada Power, Idaho Power, Calpine, Northern Lights, SWIP, and all other development underway or foreseeable in this region.

303 31 1 ID CON L
How will this affect air quality in Class I airsheds, such as the Jarbridge Wilderness—especially in combination with other changes such as altered, re-aligned or increased military overflights here?

303 38 1 ID CON L
Please provide detailed information on all foreseeable development (type, energy demands, energy produced, infrastructure, land disposals, impacts to soils, vegetation, waters; air quality, water quality and quantity, especially perenniality of flows and surface expression of waters; watersheds; native vegetation; risks of exotic species invasions; alterations of fire occurrence and cycles; expansion or spread; habitat fragmentation; sensitive and T&E [threatened and endangered] species—occurrence, habitat composition, and population viability impacts; recreational; cultural; and other impacts).

303 49 1 ID CON L
What is the added human health cost of these plants—and other development that they will cause, including to people suffering from asthma, or other health conditions? Also, more pollution worsens inversions conditions—with local and regional effects. Inversions and cooler temperatures elevate traffic accidents in fog and ice, with cooler temperatures in the valleys which are the areas inhabited by humans in this region. It is at times like these winter air inversions when conditions may greatly affect human health. In any study here, you must not "average" effects over time, but must look at effects—pollution, water depletion, haze (local and regional), etc. over a full spectrum of weather and other environmental conditions (droughts, inversion, various temperatures)—and always with the full range of industrialization and development from these undertakings fully in mind.

303 50 1 ID CON L
There are tremendous ancillary environmental effects from actions like these—ranging from new and expanded gravel pits and quarries to new roading on public lands to introduction of new invasive species to drying out of springs in the affected aquifers.

303 51 1 ID CON L
You must closely detail all the spring systems potentially affected by the water use both for these and other coal plants and land disposal outcomes and development (industrial, other) that is foreseeable in the affected area—especially in light of the disposal of vast tracts of public lands enabled by the White Pine and Lincoln County Wilderness Bills.

303 53 1 ID CON L
Concerns about military activities in the affected lands have are only heightened by recent wildfire events in northern Nevada and across the West that have seriously affected the native ranges for wildlife. These wildfires have resulted in decreased plant diversity and abundance, affecting overall carrying capacity of the habitats and the wildlife that depend on them, and incremental reduction in potential nesting and foraging habitats. There has been significant sagebrush die-off and habitat loss, including in Bruneau lands amid the Air Force's emitter sites, and across the West. Mining and oil and gas exploration and development have exploded across the sagebrush biome, further altering, fragmenting and reducing sagebrush species habitats and populations.

304 5 1 NV CON L
We recommend that the long-term and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal on groundwater levels, spring discharge and evapotranspiration be assessed by means of an accepted regional groundwater model, and the potential impacts on the water-dependent ecological systems and their associated rare, declining or endemic species be assessed by means of ecological models or the best available science.

304 6 1 NV CON L
We suggest that the EIS consider the potential impact of the climate change that could be expected as a consequence of the proposed facility's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases over its anticipated operating life. Large-scale environmental impacts could include changes in snowpack and precipitation patters, changes in the availability of water resources, changes in temperature, ocean acidity, and sea levels—and associated effects on ecological systems and species, including the potential for irreversible loss of some species. For example, the sagebrush ecosystem throughout much of the Great Basin, including Steptoe Valley, is currently under threat from two immediate sources: invasion of nonnative annual grasses (also altering the fire cycle), and expansion of native tree species. Scientists are concerned that climate change could add additional risk to the sagebrush ecosystem. First, Great Basin scientists have shown that increased CO2 to levels predicted in the near future favors the growth and geographic expansion of nonnative annual grasses and native woody species, but not that of perennial native grasses species. Second, future climate scenarios predict two prominent outcomes in the western sagebrush: increases in temperature and increases in precipitation (Bachelet et al. 2001; Nielson et al. 2005) that will cause a widespread contraction of the sagebrush ecosystem to only its highest elevations. Furthermore, the increased precipitation could produce a significant increase in woody expansion, at the expense of sagebrush shrubland, and a corresponding increase in fire, due to the increased fuel load.

308 1 1 ANON IND L
I am deeply concerned about the plans for a coal-fired power plant in Ely. We know that coal-fired power plants are one of the greatest culprits in global warming. A coal-fired power plant in a state that does not have coal and very little water does not make sense. We cannot waste precious water on coal liquefaction. Solar energy is abundant in Nevada and in the north of the state we have geothermal resources.

309 4 1 NV IND E
Cumulative Impacts – There are numerous large scale projects in various stages of permitting for the Ely area – Toquop, Holly Energy, White Pine Energy, Egan Wind Power Proposal, and water transport proposals. These projects need to be addressed relative to this proposal in the cumulative impacts analysis – especially in terms of VRM [visual resources management], air quality, wildlife, habitat fragmentation, water quality, the list goes on. . .

312 8 1 ANON IND E
One of the most important which I alluded to but forgot to discuss would be the affects on global warming by the significant amounts of CO2 gases given off by the coal burning plants.

313 14 1 CA FED L
EPA requests that the DEIS quantify and disclose greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed project.

313 15 1 CA FED L
EPA recommends that the DEIS address the issue of compliance with the new "greenhouse gas emissions performance standard" as adopted by California Public Utilities Commission. The DEIS should quantify and disclose the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the Ely Energy Center, evaluate the emissions performance level (pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt hour), and compare gas emissions from the Ely Energy Center to gas emissions from a combined cycle natural gas turbine.

313 37 1 CA FED L
As an indirect result of providing additional power, it can be anticipated that this project will allow for development and population growth to occur in those areas that receive the generated electricity. The DEIS should describe the reasonably foreseeable future land use and associated impacts that will result from the additional power supply. The document should provide an estimate of the amount of growth, its likely location, and the biological and environmental resources at risk.

313 38 1 CA FED L
The definition of cumulative impact is "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions" (40 CFR Part 1508.7). Per guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the cumulative impacts analysis should provide the context for understanding the magnitude of the impacts of the alternatives by analyzing the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or actions and then considering those cumulative impacts in their entirety (CEQ's Forty Questions, #18). Where adverse cumulative impacts may exist, the DEIS should disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.

313 39 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should focus on resources of concern—those resources that are "at risk" and/or are significantly impacted by the proposed project, before mitigation. In the introduction to the Cumulative Impacts section, identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why. The analysis for this project should include air quality, groundwater, hydrology, soils, biological resources, and cultural resources. For each resource analyzed, the DEIS should:

-Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of species habitat lost to date. Include a baseline for the resources of concern with an explanation as to why that baseline was selected.

-Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts. For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or in stasis.

-Identify all other on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area that may contribute to cumulative impacts. Where studies exist on the environmental impacts of these other projects, use these studies as a source for quantifying cumulative impacts. For example, the proposed White Pine project (LS Power) is located near the proposed Ely Energy Center; consequently, potential environmental impacts from this project should be included in the cumulative impacts analysis in the DEIS.

-Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends.

-Assess the cumulative impacts contribution of the proposed alternatives to the long-term health of the resource, and provide a specific measure for the projected impact from the proposed alternatives.

-Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.

315 22 1 NV STA L
Additive impacts to a myriad of wildlife species including State sensitive species such as sage grouse and relict dace as well as Federally listed species such as the desert tortoise and a number of endemic fish species due to cumulative impacts from this project in association with proposed wind energy projects, the LS Power project, and Southern Nevada Water Authority pipeline project and others.

317 1 1 ANON CON L
The EEC proposed to utilize coal as the energy source. Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and contributor of pollutants responsible for global warming.

317 3 1 ANON CON L
Experts believe that we must not just halt our greenhouse gas production, but reduce it in order to avoid impending crisis. The EEC, as proposed, would likely contribute to this problem.

317 8 1 ANON CON L
Global warming is an issue that should be addressed as a resource issue. Although the current administration will not concede that global warming is a real phenomena that we are experiencing, many of the leading scientists and climatologists agree that it is. Because the administration will turnover before the EIS is scheduled to be completed (or at least the EEC is implemented), the EIS should address how the coal-fired plant will not contribute to the effects of global warming or how the pollutants would be mitigated.

320 21 1 NV IND C
The EIS should make its evaluations giving full weight to the possibility of two coal-fired plants in Steptoe Valley which means all impacts will be compounded. Impacts of construction of a 250-mile transmission line must also be considered as subject to every consideration listed above.

321 3 2 NV IND L
In reading the local newspaper it looks like the water for this project is going to come from the Duck Creek pipeline. My involvement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has informed me of a proposal to improve Deer/Elk and Waterfowl Habitat at Bassett Lake. This includes the possibility of increasing the size of Bassett Lake. Increasing the Lake's size means more water. Does this project make this habitat improvement proposal unfeasible?

322 12 1 NV IND C
It is my understanding that another site for the LS power plant has already been approved 27 miles north of McGill, if this is the case, it is of grave concern to me that the negative effects would be multiplied by two. The cumulative effects of two power plants in the same valley are huge. The demand for water, the pollution, and impact on the ecosystem would be severe. I can think of nowhere that has two power plants in such a close proximity with their adverse effects combining on one relatively small area.

327 2 1 NV IND L
We know that coal-fired power plants are one of the greatest culprits in global warming.

328 2 1 ANON CIV L
We know that coal-fired power plants are one of the greatest culprits in global warming.

330 4 1 NV IND L
I have concerns about the cumulative impacts of having a second coal-fired power plant project in Steptoe Valley and additional water usage given the large amount of water already being proposed for the Southern Nevada Water Authority Project, in addition to the LS Power proposal. Adding another project that will contribute to further degradation in air quality, increased water consumption, and ultimately contributes to increased climate change and global warming is not a smart idea for our public lands in Eastern Nevada.

330 10 1 NV IND L
The fact that another coal-fired power plant (LS Power) is proposed in the vicinity was not brought up at the scoping meeting. This is a serious concern due to the cumulative impact that both plants will cause. Concerned citizens may not be aware of this other plant and the lack of this information may alter their opinion about the EEC proposal.

330 11 1 NV IND L
I am very concerned about the impacts to air quality due to sulfur, nitrate, and carbon dioxide emissions that the proposed plant would emit. I am even more concerned since another plant is proposed for the area. Even though the EEC plant's technology would remove many of these pollutants, the sheer volume of such a large plant will have an accordingly large impact. The air is currently very clean in Eastern Nevada and the air quality is one of the main attractive features of the area. It would be a disappointment to degrade the air quality of our area just so that Las Vegas and Northwestern Nevada can be connected to the grid.

330 12 1 NV IND L
The EEC plant will consume too much water, especially when considered cumulatively with the LS Power proposal and the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] groundwater proposal. This water should be available for wildlife, ranchers, and recreationists.

330 16 1 NV IND L
I am very concerned about the cumulative impact of having two coal-fired power plant proposals and another large project (the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] groundwater project) in the same area. Furthermore, I am concerned about the global impacts of having two new coal-fired power plants. Every day on the radio and in news periodicals, there are stories about climate change and global warming. It is currently well accepted that climate change is real and that carbon emissions from human activities are leading to a greenhouse effect. I think that the BLM should include climate change as an issue. Climate change is currently thought of as the biggest environmental problem. These plants, in concert with other human activities, will accelerate the greenhouse effect and climate change. While they individually may play a small role in the greenhouse effect, each added component counts, and the BLM should consider climate change when evaluating alternatives; it is more than just air quality.

332 3 1 CA IND L
The proposed sites in the Steptoe Valley are habitat to antelope, elk, and deer. These animals will disappear if the Southern Nevada Water Authority is allowed to drill for 200,000 acre feet of water per year, pipe the water for 250 miles and power the operations with these polluting coal-power plants. Wildlife is an integral part of the high quality of life experienced by hunters, nature enthusiasts, tourists and other visitors to White Pine County and everyday residents.

335 1 1 NV CON L
The Ely Energy Plant proposes to utilize coal as the energy source. Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and large contributor to pollutants responsible for global warming.

335 2 1 NV CON L
The EEC as proposed would only act to exacerbate the problem in that it would be increasing the loading of constituents that contribute to global warming.

335 7 1 NV CON L
Global warming is an issue that should be included as a resource issue. The EIS must address how the coal-fired plant or mitigation measures would mean that emissions will not contribute to the effects of global warming.

336 2 2 MD IND L
Air pollution impacts on Great Basin National Park and wilderness areas in Nevada. These impacts could also affect the popular tourist region of Utah, including Zion National Park and other national parks, as well as existing wilderness areas such as Pine Valley Mountain and Cedar Mountain and proposed wilderness areas.

337 6 2 NV BUS C
Combined Project Impacts in the Steptoe Valley – based on this proposal (White Pine Energy Station) and other pending proposals, including LS Power plans for another coal-fired power plant, BLM needs to consider all of these proposals and the combined impacts to resources in the valley. Impacts from two power plants in the valley would have combined substantial impacts, which the public needs to be informed about.

340 1 1 NV IND C
The EIS must address the additional CO2 load to our atmosphere due to this coal power plant over its full lifetime because anthropomorphic CO2 generation is now firmly implicated in climate change.

345 4 1 NV IND L
Polluted air will contribute to more inversion events in our valleys during the winter months, trapping in extreme cold temperatures for extended periods of time, stressing wildlife, flora, livestock, people, and energy consumption/bills.

346 5 1 NV IND L
Let me remind you that the Ely Energy Center is not the only coal-fired game in town. LS Power already plans to burn just as much, if not significantly more coal.

If one were to add up all of the coal that LS Power and SPPCO intend to burn eventually, it will amount to approximately 12 to 15 million tons per year. That's about 500 rail cars of coal a day! Literally mountains of coal will be burned here. This is insane!

346 11 1 NV IND L
In case you weren't paying attention, [global warming] is a very serious matter. We're not talking about a few jobs here. We're talking about the near future economic health of the planet. We're not just talking about a possible economic recession. We're talking about billions suffering. We're even talking about the possibility of the collapse of our civilization, maybe even the possibility of the extinction of humanity.

347 3 1 NV IND E
Since it is acknowledged that the global climate is warming, and it is widely accepted that greenhouse gases contribute, the US needs to address the issue of whether to allow new coal-fired plants. That is probably too global an issue to consider here.

351 5 1 WI IND L
The proposed coal plant would emit millions of tons of carbon dioxide, the primary cause of global warming.

359 3 1 NV IND C
Unfortunately, several projects are already proposing to use our water and the Ely Energy Center cannot divorce itself from the cumulative effect of yet one more company using our water.

359 12 1 NV IND C
I am concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple coal power plants on the environment and the health of the people who live in White Pine County. Potentially, if all the plants that are proposed are built, there would be 4 plants in a 50 mile radius. The wisdom of this fails me. Why do we need so many power plants in one valley?

361 10 1 NV CON L
What will be the cumulative effects of this project and other planned projects within the project area, i.e. the Southern Nevada Water Authority Groundwater Pumping Project?

361 13 1 NV CON L
The IPP Project, Delta, Utah has had a most detrimental effect on visual air quality and health problems since its completion.

361 14 1 NV CON L
Will the project effects hasten desertification of our already desert environment?

361 15 1 NV CON L
Will the project hasten the already noticeable "global warming" effect in relation to hastening desertification?

362 5 1 NV IND C
If the proposed alternate power spur is used, it will have cumulative impacts on many additional acres, such as vegetation, noxious weeds, grazing and wildlife.

365 2 1 NV IND L
(SPPCO) plans to rebuild 100 miles of railroad tracks. This could be disastrous for White Pine County. It will make hauling waste into rural Nevada a much simpler process. Nuclear and toxic waste likely will pass through Steptoe Valley and Ely on its way to the Nevada Test Site on a regular basis. (A route from Ely, through Cave Valley, over Bothwick or a nearby pass, then south through White River Valley, and continuing southerly through Garden Valley to the Nevada Test Site would require less than 150 miles of fairly level new track. Will the nuclear "Hot rod Express" be part of our future?

369 5 1 ID CON L
BLM's own data must be collected to provide evidence of the failure of past structural or excavational developments and its failed riparian management actions – especially accompanied by high livestock stocking rates – to protect public land values. Despite the damage it has caused in the past, BLM's alternatives will allow it to develop and irreversibly alter even more fragile springs without a necessary inventory of current impacts.

369 13 1 ID CON L
BLM must research any existing information on spring characteristics – flow rates, aquifer depletion, BLM's own records and project files regarding any spring or other developments, any water rights filings, any water rights surveys done by BLM, etc. BLM should also research any water rights filings by other parties on spring flows, or any waters where diversion/drilling/depletion may affect flow rates from springs in the project area (which includes other nearby lands important to special status species here, or to which springs may be linked). BLM must provide detailed descriptions of past projects – and promises made during authorizations, funding agreements, etc. and /or NEPA. This is necessary to understand all direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of actions affecting spring flows, health and hydrologic integrity. BLM must describe spring provinces/complexes/clusters, also.

370 2 1 NY IND L
A coal-fired plant in the long run is not feasible: it costs billions of dollars to build a plant that would use out-dated technology that causes air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease; water contamination; and an increase in global warming.

374 10 2 NV IND E
We do not feel the Steptoe Valley can handle two large 2000 plus megawatt plants. We do not feel the valley has sufficient water to feed the plants along with existing users and maintain the quality of habitat and quality of life we have here.

Chapter 5: Environmental Justice Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
197	4	1	NV	TRB	E

Environmental Justice is not addressed in regard to the impacts or cumulative impacts to the Ely Shoshone Tribe and other minority groups.

223	105	2	NV	CON	E

Please make a factual finding that the following communities do or do not fit the definition of an environmental justice community:

a. Ely;
b. McGill;
c. Currie;
d. Shafter;
e. Preston;
f. Lund;
g. the Goshute Indian Reservation and all associated communities;
h. the Moapa River Indian Reservation and all associated communities; and any other affected community not listed here.

223	106	2	NV	CON	E

Please make a factual finding that the EEC power plant and project will or will not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations.

223	110	2	NV	CON	E

Please provide public training on the permitting and NEPA process to all communities designated as environmental justice communities.

236	2	1	CA	IND	E

Having grown up in Nevada, I can easily say that state has suffered enough as a "wasteland" for this country's development and experiments. Please take the opportunity to change that and stop ruining the Silver State.

300	10	1	NV	IND	E

White Pine County and adjacent region will become an industrial waste belt.

309	3	1	NV	IND	E

Environmental Justice – Specifically in terms of location and siting considerations. You referenced a 2003 and a 2006 siting report. What were the environmental constraints that were considered?

313	44	1	CA	FED	L

The DEIS should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. If such populations exist, the DEIS should address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations. Assessment of the project's impact on minority and low-income populations should reflect coordination with those affected populations.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

322 15 1 NV IND C
The power problems of Las Vegas are not the problems of the Steptoe Valley.

331 4 1 NV OTH C
The increased demand for energy needs in our country demands that we construct and operate such facilities. To deny the electrical energy needs is naive at best and dangerous at worst, and what better place to build than in an economically depressed area.

346 14 1 NV IND L
The Ely Energy Center is a hideous idea based upon short-term thinking. SPPCO has forsaken common sense for bottom-line mentality. Residents of White Pine County don't need the power, don't want to lose the water, and resent our homeland being polluted so that Las Vegas, Reno, and California can get cheap electricity. Some of us even realize that these areas won't be getting cheap electricity. Coal prices invariably will rise. And with only one major power line delivering the power (the Frontier Line, which will be privately owned) – it will be far too tempting to be like Enron, and pinch off supply to raise prices.

350 5 1 AZ FED F
Please analyze Indian Trust Assets and Environmental Justice.

378 3 1 AZ FED F
Please analyze Indian Trust Assets and Environmental Justice.

Chapter 6: General Ecological Effects Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
223	1	2	NV	CON	E

Accordingly, this proposed project has the potential to adversely impact human health and the environment by causing significant air pollution, climate change, visibility impairment, noise pollution, light pollution, depletion of water resources, wildlife ecosystem segmentation, loss of historic and cultural resources and industrialization of public lands.

288	1	1	IL	IND	E

This is just a sneaky way to get this thing pushed through before more stringent regulations come into being, primarily for the benefit of the developers at the expense of the people and environment.

303	43	1	ID	CON	L

There are many other serious adverse ecological processes and practices occurring in the vast land area that will be affected by air pollution, water pollution, human disturbance, weeds, increased fire, habitat fragmentation etc. stemming from these plants. Livestock grazing has a huge ecological footprint on virtually the entire landscape and important and sensitive species. All direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of this proposal affected by this proposal.

304	1	1	NV	CON	L

The Steptoe Valley functional landscape is characterized by its array of classic Great Basin plant communities occurring throughout a range of elevations, as well as significant occurrences of aquatic, riparian or wetland ecosystems. The water-dependent ecological systems include freshwater marsh, desert riparian shrubland and woodland, ephemeral and perennial standing waters, and a variety of small-sized streams, freshwater and thermal springs and springbrooks. The [Nature] Conservancy's Great Basin ecoregional assessment (2001) also identified many rare, declining and/or endemic species in Steptoe Valley & the Schell Creek Range—including five invertebrates, eight mollusks, eleven plants, two fishes and three mammals. Seventeen of these species were identified as globally imperiled. Seven of the mollusks, including six springsnails, are endemic to Steptoe Valley, thus occurring nowhere else in the world.

One of the most biologically important sites in Steptoe Valley is Monte Neva Hot Springs, The Monte Neva site provides habitat for one of only two known populations in the world of a rare plant species, the Monte Neva paintbrush (Castilleja salsuginosa), one of only a handful of occurrences of three different butterfly species, and one of Nevada's endemic fishes, the relict dace (Relictus solitarius).

313	1	1	CA	FED	L

To assist in the scoping process for the project, we have identified several issues for your attention in the preparation of the EIS. We are most concerned about the following issues: air quality, water resources, hazardous materials and hazardous waste, biological resources, and indirect and cumulative impacts.

324	3	1	NV	LOC	L

We believe this project will not have a noticeable impact upon the environment in Northeastern Nevada.

* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

Chapter 7: Geology and Minerals Resource Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
55	1	1	NV	IND	C

Figure 1 sheet 2 shows mineral survey 1905 located in the wrong location. Please see master title plot and correspondence for more information.

303	41	1	ID	CON	L

Please provide a detailed analysis of all mining, oil and gas, geothermal and other claims, who holds them.

* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

Chapter 8: Hazardous and Solid Waste Materials Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
63	5	1	NV	IND	E

Oils, toxins, dust, carbon dioxide poisons, noxious odors, and industrial blight are not needed here.

71	1	1	NV	IND	C

There are no safe, clean, or efficient by-products from the use of coal as fuel.

97	2	1	CA	IND	E

The release of toxic chemicals into the air, water, and earth, such as mercury, would be detrimental to plant and animal life. There is so much research out there regarding the affects of mercury on humans, such as neurological disorders and possible cancer.

105	3	1	NV	IND	E

Wouldn't pollution from the plants affect another large money maker in the area, the tourism industry? People come up here for solitude, fishing, hiking, and what some would call the "rural experience". How would that change if there was even a small amount of smog, if there was only a tiny danger of mercury in the water supply?

106	12	1	NV	IND	E

Carbon dioxide is thought by many scientists to be a major contributor to global warming. Sulfur and nitrogen oxides contribute to acid rain. Nitrogen oxides react with sunlight to form ozone.

186	13	1	NV	IND	E

Once the amount and types of pollutants have been addressed, what will be the overall impacts on the health of local residents and communities downwind of this facility? The pollutants of similar facilities to the one proposed for Phase 1 of the Ely Energy Center create health hazards have created an increase in health hazards such as asthma and heart failure. In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters.

210	1	1	NV	IND	E

I am particularly worried about the mercury and sulfur-acid rain that are generated from burning coal.

211	2	1	UT	IND	E

Global warming is threatening the entire biosphere and we are the cause; especially coal-fired power plants and especially the ones that use old-fashioned technology. This is enough reason all by itself not to build this plant, not to mention mercury in our water, particulates in our air, degradation of the viewscape in our national parks.

212	2	1	CA	IND	E

In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them.

216	3	1	UT	IND	E

Coal-fired power plants emit mercury which is bio-accumulating in ecosystems and causing public health advisories.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

217 13 1 NV IND E
The problems of hazardous and solid waste disposal, as well as air quality deterioration from construction and operation, would have less impact on Ely, McGill, and Great Basin National park if the site were in Butte Valley.

222 9 1 NV IND E
Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

223 63 2 NV CON E
Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would increase the emissions in White Pine County of each hazardous air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant, each criteria air pollutant precursor, and all greenhouse gases.

223 66 2 NV CON E
For increased deposition of various pollutants:

Please assess the amount, in tons-per-year or pounds-per-year, by which each option would directly or indirectly increase the deposition – on (1) the soils, waters, and vegetation of White Pine County, (2) each Class I area in the Western half of the United States, (3) each highly agricultural region in the Western half of the United States, and (4) the habitats of threatened or endangered species – of each chemical, including but not limited to mercury and dioxin, known to harm soil, vegetation, or animals.

223 102 2 NV CON E
Please perform a human health and ecological risk assessment to evaluate the impacts of the project on residents and wildlife including diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and on-site mobile equipment and all criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and precursor air pollutants.

223 118 2 NV CON E
Please make all information on the selection of waste disposal sites and alternative sites public as the material becomes available.

223 122 2 NV CON E
Please consider acid deposition, especially H2SO4, HCI, and HF.

223 129 2 NV CON E
Please consider the percent of the feed coal sulfur that is: (1) removed in feed preparation prior to the boilers and (2) removed with the ash.

223 209 2 NV CON E
Please consider the applicant's proposed disposal method and all viable alternative disposal methods. Please consider the applicant's proposed disposal location(s) and alternative location(s).

225 4 1 NV CON E
The Project Description paper provided for the public meetings states that mercury emissions would be "inherently low" from this type of [[coal burning]] system. The EIS needs to provide quantitative estimates of the loading of all pollutant constituents, including but not limited to mercury and carbon monoxide.

231 3 1 CA IND E
The fact that this proposed plant would emit millions of tons of global-warming CO2 per year and dump huge amounts of mercury and other heavy metals into the water table and air should immediately disqualify it from consideration.

303 4 1 ID CON L
Idaho is currently receiving unprecedented amounts of mercury and other air pollution from Nevada mining and other activities. On top of the horrendous amounts of mercury already released into the air that are going to be

polluting regional waters for a very long time, gold mine gold ore roasting operations will foreseeably expand in the future as gold continues to skyrocket. There is already a Nevada coal-fired power plant at Valmy that is polluting air. There are mining and cement operations, and now foreseeable new and expanded cement processors. The regional source of mercury must be fully presented—as part of this process. The potential costs of removing mercury that has fallen as pollution into waters, or will foreseeably fall as pollution, must be fully revealed.

303 27 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed analysis of all sources of water for all aspects of plant or other development over the life of this plant, and discussion of all direct, indirect, and cumulative factors affecting these waters. What will happen to waste material and waste water—how will it be disposed of? What contaminants may be in water materials generated?

303 29 1 ID CON L
What will happen to all water, and pollutants, that may be associated with this plant?

313 26 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should address potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of hazardous waste from construction and operation. The document should identify projected hazardous waste types and volumes, and expected storage, disposal, and management plans. The DEIS should also discuss and characterize all waste generated from both plant operations and from associated activities such as vehicle maintenance, etc. The DEIS should discuss the environmental impacts associated with management and disposal of this waste including the projected amount annually, where disposal will occur, regulatory requirements associated with storage and disposal, and whether it would be considered hazardous under Federal, or State law. Appropriate mitigation should be evaluated, including measures to minimize the generation of hazardous waste (i.e., hazardous waste minimization). Alternate industrial processes using less toxic materials should be evaluated as mitigation. This potentially reduces the volume or toxicity of hazardous materials requiring management and disposal as hazardous waste.

313 27 1 CA FED L
Specifically, we recommend the following items for inclusion in the EIS:

-Discussion of reuse options for coal fly ash and flue gas desulferization gypsum products. These CCPs [coal combustion products] are widely utilized in commercial applications and there are industry specifications regarding their reuse.

313 28 1 CA FED L
-Discussion of potential modifications to air pollution control devices/configurations in order to increase the marketability of coal fly ash and FGD [flue gas desulfurization] gypsum. Modifications could include reducing the size of coal particles entering the boiler to decrease carbon content in the ash such that it will meet the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards in Portland Cement Concrete, or installing a forced-air oxidation system in the FGD scrubber to produce gypsum.

313 29 1 CA FED L
-Sampling plan to test CCPs according to standard ASTM and EPA methods once generation has begun.

313 30 1 CA FED L
-Marketing and research plan designed to identify potential end-users of the CCPs, including an exploration of potential transportation options.

313 31 1 CA FED L
EPA would like to take this opportunity to encourage in the C2P2 program. For more information on CCP reuse and partnership opportunities, please contact Elise Hunter (415-972-3290) in the EPA Region 9 Waste Management Division.

316 4 1 NV LOC L
The pollutants from either site will have similar impacts on both McGill and Ely (MINIMUM). The difference in locations will make a minimal difference due to the short linear distances from the populated areas.

317 1 1 ANON CON L
The EEC proposed to utilize coal as the energy source. Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and contributor of pollutants responsible for global warming.

317 6 1 ANON CON L
The Project Description paper provided for the public meetings states that mercury emissions would be "inherently low" from this type of [[coal burning]] system. The EIS needs to provide quantitative estimates of the loading of all pollutant constituents, including but not limited to mercury and carbon monoxide.

317 7 1 ANON CON L
Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness.

319 2 1 NV IND C
What and how much

a. Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide
b. Carbon Dioxide
c. Mercury and other heavy metals
d. Particulates including the fine particles

320 5 1 NV IND C
The EIS should provide accurate projections of the amounts of contaminants EEC will release, especially such radioactive elements as uranium and thorium that (according to Wikipedia sources) could, e.g., in the operation of a 1000MW facility, release as much as 5.2 tons of uranium yearly (74 pounds of it being U-235) as well as 12.8 tons of thorium, a slightly less dynamic element which has been considered for use in nuclear reactors. The addition of radioactive materials on a landscape already polluted by atomic weapons testing should be remarked upon.

320 12 1 NV IND C
The EIS should specify what operational by-products, e.g., fly ash, will remain at the plant site, what hazards these pose to the local ecosystem in terms of contamination and distribution, their potential impacts on air and groundwater both in long and short term.

332 2 1 CA IND L
Coal-fired power plants produce tons of noxious emissions, such as Nitrates, Sulfates, Mercury, Lead, Arsenic, Vanadium, Barium, Zinc, Nickel, Hydrogen Fluoride, Hydrochloric acid, Selenium, and others.

335 1 1 NV CON L
The Ely Energy Plant proposes to utilize coal as the energy source. Coal is a known polluter of toxic mercury and large contributor to pollutants responsible for global warming.

335 5 1 NV CON L
The Project Description paper provided for the public meetings states that mercury emissions would be "inherently low" from this type of [[coal burning]] system. The EIS needs to provide quantitative estimates of the loading of all pollutant constituents, including but not limited to mercury and carbon monoxide.

335 6 1 NV CON L
Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness.

337 8 2 NV BUS C
Will the plant require delivery and storage of hazardous materials?

346 6 1 NV IND L
20% of that 500 rail cars a day won't get cleaned up. What this means is that approximately 100 rail cars of coal a day will spew out mercury unabated! This is practically guaranteeing serious health and environmental problems in the Ely area. Even a 700 foot tall smokestack will only send some of this smog into the next valleys … to damage their health too. Mercury is a very serious health risk.

346 7 1 NV IND L
What SPPCO doesn't remind us of is that the 80% of mercury that doesn't' make it out of the smokestack doesn't just disappear. For every reduction they've made in air pollution, there is a concentration of toxic pollutant on the ground. Whatever doesn't go into the air ends up in the SPPCO (toxic sludge) landfill.

346 8 1 NV IND L
By the time SPPCO has retired their coal fired power plant, they will have effectively contaminated over half of the power plant property – resulting in up to a 3000 acre no man's land – toxic for essentially … ever. Unlike radioactive waste, these chemicals don't have half lives. If SPPCO could keep this landfill contained, some of the toxic chemicals would remain for millions of years. But of course, SPPCO won't be able to keep them contained. Perfect containment simply isn't physically possible. The barriers will actually begin to leak as soon as material is put in the landfill. It will take a while before the leaks gets completely past the barriers, but they will. It's just straight forward basic physics. The real question about leaks in any containment system is not when. It is how much and how fast. There is no way that SPPCO can guarantee that they will be around when the inevitable leaks do occur. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised to find out that's actually what their betting on – that substantial leaks won't occur before they exploit the area for all the money they can get, and then get out before the cleanup.

346 9 1 NV IND L
What's been rarely mentioned by SPPCO is what will happen to all those other chemicals associated with burning coal. What about lead, arsenic, vanadium, barium, zinc, nickel, hydrogen fluoride, hydrochloric acid, selenium, and as many as 50 others? Yes, some of these chemicals may get captured and stored in the (toxic sludge) landfill. But, many of these chemicals will escape totally unhindered. Some of these pollutants will comprise of all of that particular chemical component within the 200 million tons of coal SPPCO intends to burn during the life of the first phase of the Ely Energy Center coal fired power plant. How much arsenic do you think is in 200 million tons of coal?

346 10 1 NV IND L
Over the life of the first phase of the Ely Energy Center coal fired power plant, 700 million tons of carbon dioxide will be released. (Carbon's atomic weight is 12, plus 2 oxygen atoms, atomic weight 16, results in 3.6 times the mass of the carbon in the coal burned to carbon dioxide). This is the equivalent of 2 million SUVs running on White Pine County's roads for the next 50 years. SPPCO has no realistic plans for dealing with carbon dioxide. They have left a spot open on the property so that maybe someday, when they get around to it; they can think about what they might want to put there. At the scoping meeting they indicated that they had no plans for the pipeline, pumps, or destination for the carbon dioxide. Think about it. What difference does it make if someday they might be able to separate the carbon dioxide, if they have no place to ship it. SPPCO is not going to do a thing about carbon dioxide, and I predict (with 99% certainty) that they never will.

348 4 1 NV FED L
How will the coal and the fly ash be stored? Will these blow into aquatic systems or into wilderness areas?

351 3 1 WI IND L
Such a plant would use outdated technologies that cause smog, soot, and mercury pollution, which in turn can result in health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease.

351 8 1 WI IND L
A power plant and its attendant problems would affect the area – the physical blights on the landscape, the pollutants and toxins, the reduced visibility.

352 2 2 NV IND L
Since there will be a lot of toxic waste (coal and water) that will be buried and stored on-site, as well as carbon and mercury discharged into the atmosphere, why not consider nuclear energy?

359 5 1 NV IND C
While the Ely Energy Center would like us to believe that the amount of toxins release into our air is minimal and that super-critical coal pulverization is the cleanest of the coal plants, they will not specify exactly how much of each toxin will be released and the potential impact on our air quality that these will have. The levels are known as this type of coal plant has been in use in other areas, yet the Ely Energy Center cannot seem to produce any hard numbers. It is problematic that these types of coal plants are being shut down and opposed in other states, yet White Pine County is entertaining the proposals to put more than one here.

359 7 1 NV IND C
The coal and other materials needed to operate the plant will be brought in via diesel trains. I would like to know the amount of carbon and toxins the trains will add to our environment. How will any train accidents that result in a hazardous materials spill be handled and what will be their response time for a spill.

359 8 1 NV IND C
I would like to know how they will store the materials they need to operate the plant, such as ammonia and other hazardous materials. What will be their plan to manage any leaks or spills?

361 16 1 NV CON L
Will the project hasten the possible reduction in water quality and possibly increase and/or persistence of accumulated enviro-toxins in waters (culinary/irrigation, human and wildlife, fish, livestock food chains)?

361 17 1 NV CON L
What effects will the project ground disturbance activities have on the soils and the release of radioactive particles from downwind nuclear blasts to the air?

361 18 1 NV CON L
What effects on rural communities health and safety from this air pollution?

365 3 1 NV IND L
SPPCO has no plans to contain carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. CO2 emissions the equivalent of exhaust from 2 million SUVs will be release into Steptoe Valley within 4.5 miles of McGill residential areas.

365 4 1 NV IND L
Sulfur and other wastes from the Power Generating Stations will create acid rain and snowfall. Both plant and animal life will be negatively affected.

372 1 1 NV IND F
I strongly oppose construction of the 2500 mw coal fired power plant in White Pine Co., NV for the following reasons:

A coal fired plant similar to Valmy would produce 1.1 million tons of waste annually. Part of that amount (approximately ″) of the fly ash could be sold to a cement company.

374 3 2 NV IND E
We have concerns with the fly ash waste piles along with toxic materials collected from the scrubbers blowing into McGill and surrounding areas. On a good north wind day that material will reach Ely without a problem.

374 7 2 NV IND E
The Steptoe Valley already has mercury problems in area waters. A large power plant that would capture 95% still leaves 5%. That number can seem small however when talking about burning hundreds of thousands of tons of coal a year a toxic cloud will always be coming from the plant and falling out into our watersheds. What are the long

term i.e. 20 years plus effects of those pollutants raining down on the surrounding valleys bottoms and mountain tops not to mention the local communities?

374 8 2 NV IND E

We are also concerned with the containment of ash and other toxins captured from the scrubbers and quality of the water in the cooling ponds. Liners leak. The Bassett Lake and Slough are not far from the proposed site location. What are the safeguards and plans for containment of these pollutants?

377 2 6 NV IND F

We have hawks and owls and if you lived here through the Kennecott days we now have spiders and mice and things too. The plant over here pretty much kept all living things down or dead. That includes the vegetation on the mountain behind us. We are just now seeing cedars starting to grow back. Not to mention how many people in White Pine survive with oxygen tanks by their sides.

Chapter 9: Land Use and Access Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
9	3	2	CO	IND	E

Thinking of the community as a whole and also the construction personnel and direct workforce: they need housing. There is very little private land for development of any kind in White Pine County and our land is choice view property close to town.

19	1	1	NV	IND	C

I am against any power lines or access across private property. This area is made up of small acreages and any access create a hardship.

66	4	1	NV	IND	E

The transmission lines into and out of the coal fire plant will also be impeding.

223	99	2	NV	CON	E

Please analyze effects to endangered, threatened and state sensitive species caused because of habitat fragmentation as a result of the rights of ways.

223	114	2	NV	CON	E

Please consider traditional and historic land use patterns. Will this substantively change the rural character of the area? How many residents and jobs will be added? How many services, jobs, people and acres of development will be required to support those new jobs and residents? Will all of the impacts of additional jobs and people be positive impacts?

296	1	1	NV	AGR	E

Will the EEC be sited on purchased private property or on public lands?

296	3	1	NV	AGR	E

What existing grazing allotments and range improvements will be impacted by these rail lines and what mitigation will be offered to minimize these impacts to insignificant levels?

296	4	1	NV	AGR	E

With increased rail traffic in the region, how will this activity affect livestock movement in an open range setting? What mitigation will be offered to compensate ranchers for livestock losses associated with the increased rail traffic?

296	9	1	NV	AGR	E

It is unclear from the project description whether the proposed transmission facilities will fall within established utility corridors or establish new utility corridors. If the later occurs, what grazing allotments and/or range improvements will be impacted by these new facilities? What mitigation will be offered to offset these expected impacts?

303	45	1	ID	CON	L

We are very concerned about all the additional roading, and increased risk of fire and weed invasion here. This will not only alter soils, vegetation composition and health, but also provide travel corridors for predators, human disturbance ranging from ranching activities to hunting to OHV use and even poaching, which is on the increase in Nevada.

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305 1 1 NV FED L
The Ely Energy Center, along with its associated infrastructure, poses several issues of concern for Nellis Air Force Base. These issues include but are not limited to: the airspace above the proposed transmission line route from the Ely Energy Center to the Las Vegas area is designated as a Military Operations Area (MOA); Nellis Air Force Base has aircraft operating at altitudes as low as one hundred feet in the area which has been designated as a Low Altitude Tactical Navigation (LATN) area; transmission towers, power lines and communications towers could pose a hazard to navigation for low flying aircraft.

305 3 1 NV FED L
The land near Yucca Mountain has been set aside by the BLM with the stipulations no claim/ROWs may be considered until the Yucca Rail Route (I think the legislation also had a time period) is decided. This piece of land may not be available. DOE [Department of Energy] needs to review this section and comments.

305 5 1 NV FED L
The transmission lines will be running through the MOA [Military Operations Area] (North Reveille, Caliente East & West, Sally Corridor, and X-Ray). Will they be within the proposed energy corridor?

305 6 1 NV FED L
What will be the height of the towers? Could impact flying missions.

305 9 1 NV FED L
The height of the communications towers, associated with the transmission lines have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations.

305 11 1 NV FED L
The height of the transmission lines, towers, and plant smoke stacks have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations.

313 45 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term “land use plans” includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ’s Forty Questions, #23b).

349 3 1 NV IND L
Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project?

Chapter 10: Miscellaneous Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
53	8	1	NV	IND	E

Currently, the BLM finds itself with under funded bonding to cleanup mining operations on its land. The EIS should address the concern that the BLM may find itself in a similar situation if inadequate bonding is available to mitigate the carbon emissions from the project.

105	4	1	NV	IND	E

When it closes:

Who would be responsible for the upkeep and remediation? Would the company simply abandon the facility as they had in the past? What sort of bonding will be required? In other words, who gets stuck with the bill?

115	1	1	CO	IND	E

If the BLM does not reject the proposal I urge them to require written and legally binding confirmation from plant operators and owners that the strictest environmental quality controls and recommendations will be implemented.

Likewise they must be willing to accept 100% financial responsibility and accountability for their actions with regard to reclamation of the site. This accountability includes but is not limited to the area to pre-development conditions and the complete and functionally successful revegetation of the area to pre-development conditions. This includes monitoring of all reclamation efforts on time scales determined by the growth potential of vegetation being removed, not the financial willingness of the owners.

216	10	1	UT	IND	E

In the context of BLM's mission under FLPMA [Federal Lands Policy Management Act], climate change is likely to impact virtually all "multiple uses" of these public lands and resources, and jeopardize opportunities to maintain them for "sustained yield".

217	5	1	NV	IND	E

There is no specification of what the words "efficient" and "environmentally compliant" mean in this context. Whose standards and what criteria of "efficient" and "environmentally compliant" are being used?

305	10	1	NV	FED	L

Electromagnetic (EM) emissions from power lines have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations.

349	1	1	NV	IND	L

The Ely Energy Generation Station – under this heading the EEC is pushing a very tight timetable. We hope that the engineering component is more thorough then this document they have produced. Will there be penalties imposed by the BLM for time overruns on the December 2011 and June 2013 dates?

350	7	1	AZ	FED	F

Please add a map of the project to any future public scoping distributions.

359	13	1	NV	IND	C

If things go wrong and the air quality is significantly affected or the water table drops will the power plant address the problems or will it take numerous law suits to get them to address the problems. Historically, once a power plant is in place it takes law suit after law suit to get them to comply with regulations and address problems as they come up. The Laughlin power plant, of which Sierra Pacific is a partner, is finally being shut down, but only after numerous law suits. It seems to me that if they would have worked with the community they are part of, and

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addressed concerns and keep the plant up to date, they would not be seeking another community to come into and build another plant. I want to be assured that they will be responsive to the community as problems arise and take responsibility for the damage they do. They need to be honest about the known impact they are going to have on our community and work with us to mitigate those negative impacts. I am concerned that once they have the okay to move forward they will become an entity unto themselves and totally disregard the community into which they have inserted themselves.

364 4 1 NV STA L

Any water or monitor wells, or boreholes that may be located on either acquired or transferred lands are the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the property at the time of the transfer and must be plugged and abandoned as required in Chapter 534 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

Chapter 11: Native American Concerns

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
5	1	1	CA	BUS	C

Appreciate info on cultural resources or Native American concerns.

104	20	2	NV	IND	E

How will this project affect the Native American cultures of the area?

104	21	2	NV	IND	E

The Goshute Indian Reservation is in the windshed of this project, and will likely receive additional pollution due to the air quality.

197	1	1	NV	TRB	E

Cultural resource survey (pre-activity or on-going) should include Native Americans from the local Tribe (Ely) to assist in the Class I-III surveys. This process also expedites the consultation process—should there be no significant find.

197	2	1	NV	TRB	E

Cumulative impact needs to be addressed such as the newly acquired lands of the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

197	4	1	NV	TRB	E

Environmental Justice is not addressed in regard to the impacts or cumulative impacts to the Ely Shoshone Tribe and other minority groups.

197	6	1	NV	TRB	E

Medicinal or food plants used by the Western Shoshone people need to be addressed in cumulative impacts.

223	101	2	NV	CON	E

Please consult with all Native American groups claiming historic and traditional affiliation with the region on all project components in addition to identifying Traditional Cultural Places (“TCPs”).

223	183	2	NV	CON	E

Please consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any Indian Tribe ascribing historic and traditional affiliation to the region regarding mitigation of impacts to significant historic properties.

286	2	1	CT	IND	E

This and nearby sites are sacred to certain Native American Tribes.

313	41	1	CA	FED	L

The DEIS should describe the process and outcome of government-to-government consultation between the BLM and each of the tribal governments within the project area, issues that were raised (if any), and how those issues were addressed in the selection of the proposed alternative.

313	43	1	CA	FED	L

The DEIS should address the existence of Indian sacred sites in the project area. It should address Executive Order 13007, distinguish it from Section 106 of the NHPA [National Historic Preservation Act], discuss how the BLM will avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites, if they exist, and address other requirements of the Order. The DEIS should provide a summary of all coordination with Tribes and with the SHPO/THPO [State

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Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer], including identification of NRHP [National Register of Historic Places] eligible sites, and development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

326 10 1 NV IND L
How will this project affect the Native American cultures of the area? The Goshute Indian Reservation is in the windshed of this project, and will likely receive additional pollution due to the air quality. How will archaeological resources be protected during construction?

350 3 1 AZ FED F
Consider the federal government's overall trust responsibility toward Indian Tribes as espoused in various laws, regulations, Executive Orders, Secretarial Orders, etc.

350 4 1 AZ FED F
Please consult with affected Tribes in the region early in the NEPA process and consider offering them Cooperating Agency status.

350 5 1 AZ FED F
Please analyze Indian Trust Assets and Environmental Justice.

378 1 1 AZ FED F
Consider the federal government's overall trust responsibility toward Indian Tribes as espoused in various laws, regulations, Executive Orders, Secretarial Orders, etc.

378 3 1 AZ FED F
Please analyze Indian Trust Assets and Environmental Justice.

Chapter 12: Noise Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
9	4	2	CO	IND	E

These concerns influence the following Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) impacts:

Aesthetics (noise and visual)

223	119	2	NV	CON	E

Please consider the projected peak and 1-hour average and maximum noise levels at the fence line in noise analyses.

Please consider noise levels of steam blows and proposed and alternative noise reduction control measures.

Please conduct baseline noise monitoring through a permanent noise monitoring station that continuously collects and records noise data.

303	13	1	ID	CON	L

We spend a lot of time on the ground, examining the effects of land use practices, and we would be exposed to the pollution, noise, haze, and the contaminants it may contain, that would develop from these proposals.

347	9	1	NV	IND	E

Identify Noise Sources and any Applicable Regulations – all significant noise sources and applicable regulation should be identified. (Noise generated by each source needs to be estimated.)

347	10	1	NV	IND	E

Noise Prediction Model – a noise prediction model should be developed that includes contributions from each significant noise source. (Modeling is far more difficult and tricky than it first appears to be.)

347	11	1	NV	IND	E

Predict Construction and Operating Noise – noise from construction, normal operation, transportation, and emergencies should be predicted.

347	12	1	NV	IND	E

Evaluate Impacts – Impacts, if any, of all noise should be evaluated, and controls for any equipment that would cause excessive noise levels should be identified.

347	13	1	NV	IND	E

Include Assumptions and Descriptions of Controls – assumptions used should be listed, and controls planned (such as silences for PA and FD fans and steam vents) should be described.

347	14	1	NV	IND	E

Identify Optional Noise Controls – alternative noise controls that would, if deemed necessary, be available should be identified.

349	5	1	NV	IND	L

The noise disturbance from the buzzing of the power lines?

356	2	2	NV	IND	C

All traffic for both construction and operation should be limited to daylight hours only to prevent noise pollution at night.

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356 5 2 NV IND C
Transmission lines – would be unsightly coming down from the Cherry Creek Location, are a constant fire hazard, create noise.

356 6 2 NV IND C
Construction would create noise, dust, and heavy traffic resulting in trash thrown out of vehicle windows and fast traffic on dirt roads.

356 7 2 NV IND C
Power plant – light pollution at night, noise from operation.

374 4 2 NV IND E
We also have concerns with noise from the amount of train cars that will need to be unloaded everyday and other plant operations.

Chapter 13: Process Issues (Scoping or NEPA)

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
4	1	1	NV	IND	E

The map enclosed is out of date since it does not include the new wilderness established in the White Pine County Bill which was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in December 2006.

4	2	1	NV	IND	E

The overview in the Project Description is not objective but judgmental. For example, "the plants would be efficient and environmentally compliant." This is obviously a statement by the proponents and should be cited as such.

23	4	1	ID	CON	E

We are very concerned that BLM does not have a map of this project posted- and the only reason we know anything at all about this massive infrastructure being proposed is because received a hard copy in the mail of a map. Many members of the public will not have received such information. BLM can not expect legitimate public comment on this whole process until it posts maps and informs the public, and extends the comment period.

We can also find no maps of the Idaho portion of this, or really what happens when the SWIP line crosses I-80.

28	1	2	NV	IND	E

It is not clear if the BLM and the power companies are making these types of determinations jointly or if it is solely the power companies' decisions regarding this placement.

55	1	1	NV	IND	C

Figure 1 sheet 2 shows mineral survey 1905 located in the wrong location.

Please see master title plot and correspondence for more information.

59	1	1	NV	IND	L

The Great Basin is so unique as to require significant study as to the effects of projects which may have long-standing negative impacts.

59	3	1	NV	IND	L

It is a requirement of NEPA to consider the impacts to the custom and culture of a community or location when making decisions about a project. The culture of most of the Steptoe Valley for the past 140 years has been raising cattle and crops. When things were blackest in White Pine County from about 1979 through the 80s it was the tax revenue from White Pine's ranches which kept the County operating. There is a debt to be paid to the ranching community and the bill is due.

60	1	1	NV	FED	L

Great Basin National Park (GRBA) formally requests designation as a cooperating agency to assist in the development of information and the environmental analyses relating to the proposed action.

66	7	1	NV	IND	E

I also have a concern about Sierra Pacific buying their own NEPA study. How can any entity perform an unbiased study when their funding may be cut off if the results are not to their satisfaction?

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

67 2 1 VA IND E
I ask you to please convey my deepest concern for proper scoping of this project to the Ely Field Office Manager.

95 4 1 NV IND E
It would also be nice if in the future, info sessions didn't so resemble a company public relations even where input from the public is squelched by not allowing it to be presented before the full group. Please don't kowtow to these companies. You are supposed to be our advocate.

186 1 1 NV IND E
To my knowledge, Sierra Pacific Resources (SPR) has not been completely open with disclosing the location of all infrastructures that would be required for the facilities proposed at Glenn Siding, Nevada, the company's preferred locale. In addition, the public was only recently made aware of the general locations of the preferred and alternative sites at a presentation held by SPR.

186 2 1 NV IND E
To my knowledge, there has yet to be a true open meeting where the general population has been allowed to publicly ask and receive answers to questions. The meeting held by Sierra Pacific Resources on February 7th, 2007, was merely a presentation of the current proposal and all citizens who wished to voice their opinions were told they would have to either submit scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management or speak with a company representative in private. Questions asked of company representatives in private have yet to be answered. While Sierra Pacific Resources has scheduled another community meeting for March 3rd, 2007, this comes five days after the closing of public comments to the Bureau of Land Management, preventing members of our community from receiving answers to their questions and making an informed decision upon what concerns need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

186 3 1 NV IND E
According to the project description posted by the Bureau of Land Management, any challenges met by the surrounding communities by the introduction of a large, temporary workforce would be identified and mitigated through the planning process. If any such problems have been identified, these problems and their proposed solutions have yet to be made public knowledge, preventing the public from making an informed decision as to the impacts this facility will have on the local quality of life.

192 4 1 NV IND E
All of the suggestions should be explored in tandem, not in isolation to arrive at a spectrum of possible alternatives with varying degrees of conservation, renewable development, and location. This will allow the public an opportunity to see how these various factors impact can work together to attain the overall goal.

215 1 1 NV IND E
I understand that the L&S White Pine Energy Center draft EIS is actually fairly close to completion. Or is it the completed EIS? Why have you put today's date as the close of comments on the Ely Energy Center EIS when the L&S EIS is not available for further information?

215 2 1 NV IND E
The public cannot make will thought out comments without knowing where the L&S project stands, and what its environmental impacts are going to be.

217 2 1 NV IND E
Comment time has been too short because of the BLM's errors in mismatching names and mailing addresses which affected the lists of concerned citizens. This problem must be rectified by having the deadline extended, in order to receive comments from all citizens who wish to comment.

218 5 1 CA CON E
The resources that may be directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively impacted by the proposed project and that must be thoroughly identified and evaluated in the EIS include, but are not limited to, threatened and endangered species, native plants and wildlife, water resources, water quality, air quality, and global warming.

221 6 1 NV IND E
The BLM failed us to provide for a public comment period in public!

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

223 2 2 NV CON E
The NOI fails to contain any compelling statement of purpose or need for this project despite the significant human and environmental impacts. Finally, the NOI fails to list any less harmful alternatives that DOI may consider in scoping the impacts of this project. Therefore, the Coalition believes that the NOI is a grossly inadequate starting point for scoping the impacts of the EEC.

223 3 2 NV CON E
The BLM's NOI lacks the requisite specificity to allow the public to submit sufficient comments on the scope of the project. For example, the NOI fails to describe with particularity the size of the ROWs needed for the facility. The NOI also fails to identify any possible alternatives to the project. The NOI also fails to identify any mitigation measures that could be employed to minimize impacts to the environment. For these reasons, the NOI should be re-published identifying with specificity all aspects of the project and all possible alternatives.

223 4 2 NV CON E
All of the public meetings, with the exception of the Las Vegas meeting, were conducted in an "open house" format. The "open house" format is an inadequate method of conducting meetings on the scope of the project. The "open house" format does not allow members of the public to communicate their concerns to other citizen participants. Further, there is no way to document oral public comments made by citizens. Thus, we object to the open house format of the public meetings and request that you conduct additional scoping meetings that allow a public dialog that is recorded. We request that you conduct such public meetings after re-issuing the NOI with more specific information on the project.

223 7 2 NV CON E
Please include a peer oversight process of DEIS environmental reports independent of the Companies' funding.

223 8 2 NV CON E
Please require the applicant to swear under penalty of perjury that all information provided to the public is true, complete and accurate.

223 9 2 NV CON E
Please indicate in detail reasons for refusing each request included in these comments.

223 10 2 NV CON E
Please postpone full development and studies contributing to the DEIS until the Ely District (or other lead agency) has approved a new Resource Management Plan ("RMP") or other management plans for all federal lands that may be affected by the project.

223 12 2 NV CON E
BLM's EIS must also assess the impacts of the project proposed by the Companies and compare them to the impacts of each reasonable alternative to the project.

223 13 2 NV CON E
Even if not specifically stated in the comment, please make all information public as it becomes available, including hard copy(ies) to local and regional libraries and at the BLM field and state offices and in electronic format to a public website. Please create a public website or FTP site separate from the blm.gov system for this purpose. "As it/they become(s) available" means prior to publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS").

223 14 2 NV CON E
Please make all correspondence on all permits submitted to any local, state or federal agency public as the materials become available.

223 15 2 NV CON E
Please publicize the names, titles, addresses, phone numbers, and job descriptions of all employees, and outside consultants and contractors who are currently performing any work on the EEC coal plant project in Nevada or who are anticipated to perform such work throughout the development of the EIS.

223 16 2 NV CON E
Please make all studies and supporting documentation, including all third-party prepared environmental and cultural resources technical and evaluative reports available to all affected communities, including the Goshute Indian Reservation and Moapa River Indian Reservation, as they are completed and throughout the preparation of the DEIS and when the DEIS is published.

223 19 2 NV CON E
Please consider all impacts relative to the maximum anticipated project life, e.g. if project were to operate at maximum capacity for 50+ years.

223 20 2 NV CON E
Please conduct at least a 0.25 mile survey corridor for all rights-of-way and a 0.25 mile radius survey beyond the main plant site for all environmental, natural resource, and cultural resource investigations.

223 21 2 NV CON E
The EIS must consider:

[[E]]nvironmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, the relationship between short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposal should it be implemented.

Possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local (and in the case of a reservation, Indian tribe) land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned.

Energy requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

Natural or depletable resource requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

. . . [[H]]istoric and cultural resources, and the design of the built environment, including the reuse and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

223 36 2 NV CON E
Please make public the permit/proof number or legal description of each POD to be used as the information becomes available. Please also consider any Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for any impacted springs.

223 39 2 NV CON E
Please consider the seasonal water demand of the project.

223 52 2 NV CON E
Please obtain all Clean Water Act discharge or fill permits and make public the nature of the discharge and/or fill and all permit applications as they become available.

223 56 2 NV CON E
Please make public the water EEC claims to hold under option for the proposed project, including the name of the current water user, the current water rights amounts, type of use, and place of use as they become available.

223 110 2 NV CON E
Please provide public training on the permitting and NEPA process to all communities designated as environmental justice communities.

223 188 2 NV CON E
Please require subordination agreement(s) with White Pine County regarding any senior ground water applications in the Steptoe Valley for each new appropriation of surface and ground water to support the project.

223 194 2 NV CON E
Neither the BLM's January 27, 2007 "Notice of Intent" nor the materials made available at the public scoping meetings identified all air pollution control measures that the Companies have committed to implement at its proposed power station in White Pine County. It is thus impossible, at this stage, for any member of the public to identify the appropriate air pollution mitigation measures that are "not already included in the proposed action." 40 C.F.R. [section] 1502.14(f).

292 3 1 ANON IND E
Why, then, are you (BLM) requesting comments on this project before the results of the L&S Power EIS are available? These two projects are quite duplicative - in fact, they will probably merge before either gets built.

The public's comments of the Ely Energy Center would be far more informed if that public had the advantage of studying the very comparable L&S EIS first.

297 4 1 NV IND E
It is important to adequately measure all potential impacts to existing resources before simply sacrificing them for the sake of new development.

303 1 1 ID CON L
Following our discussion with your office about what the ultimate route of SWIP will be, we contacted Idaho BLM (who your Ely staff would have info) and have so far been unable to obtain any maps or information. This is unacceptable. This is supposed to be public Scoping for a Project that is linked to other projects, and with many foreseeable power line and development corridors created, and it appears purposefully segmented by power companies and federal agencies.

303 2 1 ID CON L
How can an agency have a scoping period that includes consideration of a massive new energy corridor, that may be linked to Northern Lights, DOE [Department of Energy], or other corridors, and not provide the public with sufficient information to understand what is going on? Including the path of a utility corridor it has twice "reauthorized" a ready-to-lapse permit for?

303 5 1 ID CON L
There is also a separate power plant enterprise being planned for Ely (LS), and on for Toquop, and perhaps another in Butte Valley and others elsewhere in the wings, including plants long-sought by the gold mines (to fuel the gold roasting and mercury polluting). The Scoping Notice fails to fully reveal to the public all that is underway, or how the various power lines, well fields, water pipelines, land disposals and sales, etc. may be related to all of this development.

303 6 1 ID CON L
The Scoping Notice fails to reveal the critical water shortage in this part of the Great Basin, and the fact that recent development and quid pro quo wilderness bills mandated water pipeline corridors to tap into Great Basin aquifers in some of the same areas where the power line infrastructure would occur, and the potential linkages between water and power or other corridors associated with these bills and land disposals.

303 8 1 ID CON L
We are greatly concerned that you are not showing where pipelines may really be headed.

303 10 1 ID CON L
Please inform us who commissioned the various Consulting studies you discuss, potential biases, and the parameter and constraints. Just because those studies picked these sites (rock bottom wages, clean air to pollute, some local people willing to do almost anything to the land) does not mean that the rest of the American people supports these power plant locations—as they are extraordinarily wasteful of energy and resources—and maximize destruction of public wild land, and important and sensitive species habitats.

303 16 1 ID CON L
We ask that aquifer, air, and wildlife studies be vetted by impartial outside scientists—as there is far too great a likelihood of political pressures being brought to bear on local game agencies, local or state researchers, etc. As this project (and the others that it is linked to and that are being developed in a segmented fashion), has regional and national implications. This is a necessity, as Nevada politicians have already been deeply involved in setting the stage for these plants that can poison air across the region, scientific oversight and review of all environmental effects must come from a much broader arena. Neither Ely BLM nor Idaho BLM could even provide me with a map of the entire SWIP corridor, for goodness sake. There is no way that an agency that has already shown such purposeful ignorance can be trusted to oversee a fair and accurate scientific EIS process here.

303 39 1 ID CON L
Comprehensive baseline studies and inventories must be conducted for all components of the environment. For native plant and animal species, these current systematic surveys must be conducted in a thorough and rigorous manner, to establish a comprehensive understanding of species occurrence, condition and composition of habitats, and populations and their viability.

313 11 1 CA FED L
EPA assumes the DEIS will include a biological assessment to determine if consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The PSD [prevention of significant deterioration] permit cannot be issued until ESA requirements are met.

313 16 1 CA FED L
Title V of the CAA [Clean Air Act] requires all new major sources and some minor sources of air pollution to apply for an operating permit within 12 months of commencing operation. When granted, the permit includes all air pollution requirements that apply to the source, including emissions limits and monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements. It also requires that the source report its compliance status with respect to permit conditions to the agency that issued the permit and if the permit is issued by a state or local agency, reports should also be submitted to EPA. The DEIS should indicate which agency will issue the operating permit and should describe the permitting process, including opportunities for public involvement.

313 45 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term “land use plans” includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ’s Forty Questions, #23b).

314 12 1 NV FED L
As a reminder, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), if BLM determines that the proposed action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat BLM must either initiate formal consultation or seek written concurrence from the Service through informal consultation.

316 5 1 NV LOC L
We cannot let the vocal few who attend meetings and send letters to the local media speak for the silent majority.

316 6 1 NV LOC L
Please consider all comments equally while remaining mindful that the small public opposition doesn't speak for our community as a whole. I would hope that a lack of negative comments would be considered as an endorsement of their preferred site.

323 2 1 NV LOC L
Through the NEPA process, the [White Pine County] Commission and its advisory groups need more information and consideration of the impacts of the project will have on water resources, air quality, grazing, and wildlife.

330 1 1 NV IND L
I have concerns regarding the NEPA process—I don't believe that this proposal has adequate alternatives.

330 2 1 NV IND L
I was very disappointed in the Scoping Meeting held in Ely on February 7th, 2007 because the representatives providing information were not objective speakers but rather officials from the power company.

330 7 1 NV IND L
I attended the scoping meeting on February 7, at the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely. I left the meeting very disappointed. I was shocked that officials from Sierra Pacific Power were there to tell me about the potential impacts of their project. Not only did a Sierra Pacific official give the oral briefing of the project, other officials from the company were set up at stations to discuss air quality, water usage, and the location of the plant. It is clear to me that these officials have an agenda to complete this project in a way that benefits them most and therefore cannot provide objective, unbiased information on the creation of their plant. Other attendees of the meeting felt the same way. I would much prefer that unbiased, objective representatives of the BLM or other government agency inform me of the potential impacts of the proposal on air quality, water usage, etc.

330 8 1 NV IND L
According to CEQ regulations (Part 1501.7(a)), the scoping process should "invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons (including those who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds). From my observations, the scoping meeting did not solicit the participation of anyone except the proponent. Other groups, such as environmental groups, or even concerned citizens, were not given the ability to speak.

330 9 1 NV IND L
The maps at the [scoping] meeting were misleading since the maps did not include the newly designated wilderness areas or any of the forest wilderness areas, even the ones designated over 20 years ago, including Mount Moriah, and the Currant Mountains. Furthermore, no one from the public was permitted to talk in an open forum when everyone could hear their comments.

330 10 1 NV IND L
The fact that another coal-fired power plant (LS Power) is proposed in the vicinity was not brought up at the scoping meeting. This is a serious concern due to the cumulative impact that both plants will cause. Concerned citizens may not be aware of this other plant and the lack of this information may alter their opinion about the EEC proposal.

345 8 1 NV IND L
Please be thorough and realistic in your environment impact statement processes.

349 15 1 NV IND L
Considering the magnitude of this project how will it effect the ability of the BLM to continue services to smaller and less important projects that are just as important to currently existing people requiring these types of services? Does the BLM, already strapped with financial concerns, have the ability and personnel to meet these requirements and stress loads?

349 18 1 NV IND L
Preliminary Resource Issues – does the BLM have the resources to handle the EIS process?

350 8 1 AZ FED F

The BIA would like to request Cooperating Agency status for this EIS process since the project may affect tribal resources. BIA Western Regional Office and our field agencies can offer special expertise to the BLM such that the project may benefit from our involvement and participation in the NEPA process. We look forward to receiving additional information regarding this project and the opportunity to comment on future documents.

The primary BIA point of contact for this project will be Ms. Amy Heuslein, BIA Regional Environmental Protection Officer. Also, please include the following individuals as contacts:

- Mr. Robert Hunter, Acting Superintendent from our Eastern Nevada Agency; 775-738-5165
- Ms. Kellie Youngbear, Superintendent from our Southern Paiute Agency; 435-674-9720
- Mr. Robert Hunter, Superintendent from our Western Nevada Agency; 775-887-3500. Please send correspondence to Mr. Robert Hunter at both agencies.

359 1 1 NV IND C

I attended the public scoping meeting in Ely and was disappointed by the lack of information and full disclosure representatives at that meeting.

359 5 1 NV IND C

While the Ely Energy Center would like us to believe that the amount of toxins release into our air is minimal and that super-critical coal pulverization is the cleanest of the coal plants, they will not specify exactly how much of each toxin will be released and the potential impact on our air quality that these will have. The levels are known as this type of coal plant has been in use in other areas, yet the Ely Energy Center cannot seem to produce any hard numbers. It is problematic that these types of coal plants are being shut down and opposed in other states, yet White Pine County is entertaining the proposals to put more than one here.

364 1 1 NV STA L

The following agencies support the above referenced document [SAI NV # E2007-211] as written:

-Division of Water Resources. This constitutes the State Clearinghouse review of this proposal as per Executive Order 12372.

364 3 1 NV STA L

Any water used on the described lands should be provided by an established utility or under permit issued by the State Engineer's Office. All waters of the State belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provision of Chapters 553 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, and not otherwise.

374 1 2 NV IND E

We were disappointed in the way the scoping meeting was held. The brief overview given by the SPPC was basically what had been written in brochure along with a fear that their employees were going to be driving to the site "at -10F whiteout." There were numerous people in the audience who came to that meeting to try and figure out what was going to be built and how it was going to affect them and the surrounding area. If you don't know what to ask, one could leave that meeting and think 'well this will be OK.' A town hall meeting with questions from the audience would have been much better. People would have been able to hear questions from others along with the response from the BLM and SPPC. Turning in comments without much knowledge of the project is difficult. We would hope and request in the future the BLM and SPPC will have town hall style meetings.

374 5 2 NV IND E

While speaking to the water resource individuals from SPPC, they could not answer questions on well locations in either Butte Valley or Steptoe Valley. They could not answer questions on depression cones from their pumps. They could not answer questions about if the depression cones from their pumps affected spring outputs or other wells that they would shut their pump off. The talk was of surface industrial water and water rights from willing sellers however they would not state who/where that water was coming from. Common knowledge would say from Kennecott in the Duck Creek Basin and the map by Burns & McDonnell in the brochure backs this up. This leads to trust issues when we could not get a straight answer. The only answer we received is that their pipelines transporting

the water would be buried. We were not impressed with the information the SPPC water individuals were giving out.

378 2 1 AZ FED F
Please consult with affected Tribes in the region early in the NEPA process and consider offering them Cooperating Agency status.

378 5 1 AZ FED F
Please add a map of the project to any future public scoping distributions.

378 6 1 AZ FED F
The BIA would like to request Cooperating Agency Status for this EIS process since the project may affect tribal resources. BIA Western Regional Office and our field agencies can offer special expertise to the BLM such that the project may benefit from our involvement and participation in the NEPA process.

Chapter 14: Proposed Action Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
4	4	1	NV	IND	E

Phase II of the proposed project is totally unachievable since no technology exists to build coal gasification plants at the elevation of White Pine Country. According to what I have read, this technology may never be developed.

4	8	1	NV	IND	E

If the power is to be primarily used in Las Vegas, it makes no sense to build the power plant in Northern White Pine County.

13	3	1	NV	IND	C

I like the idea that railroad is getting upgraded (that offers so many more options).

33	1	10	NV	MULT	L

I object to the Success Loop location for the Ely Energy Station. It is much too close to pristine, scenic outdoor recreating areas, prime grazing land, and to residential areas.

44	6	1	MT	IND	C

An electrostatic precipitor should be used to control particulate material from the boiler instead of a fabric filter.

46	1	1	NV	IND	C

This power project would move Sierra Pacific Power Co. further from the 20% renewable resources goal by 2015

51	1	1	NV	IND	C

On the whole favorable to this project. I have two suggestions; use the present northern Nevada RR line as improved and upgraded. Consider moving the proposed power site (near 93 duck creek road) north 2 miles to help air quality at McGill.

58	1	1	NV	IND	C

While I support the concept of the power plant, I oppose the location at the entrance to Duck Creek Basin.

59	9	1	NV	IND	L

I personally oppose the power line route and absolutely oppose pumping water and piping it from Butte Valley.

59	13	1	NV	IND	L

I suggest that the deciding officer make the original LAWDWP site an option and to choose that as the preferred site for one unit.

68	4	1	NV	GOV	C

What happens if [the] company abandons the plant?

93	1	1	ANON	IND	E

Please explain how the capacity of a transmission line works. If several hundred megawatts of capacity are reserved for renewable resources, won't they be used for coal power until those resources are in place? If it is being used, will the power production from the coal plants be scaled back for power production from renewable?

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type.

93 2 1 ANON IND E
The second phase will be built when commercially viable, meaning when the technology has been proven to be reliable as well as cost efficient. If cleaner technologies that are not dependent on fossil fuels and water are also commercially viable at that point, will you invest in then instead? Wouldn't that renewable power production be considered the best technology available?

93 3 1 ANON IND E
What happens to the water in waste ponds? I know a lot of sulfur is removed to the ponds, but then how do you dispose of it once there?

93 6 1 ANON IND E
If new policies, like carbon taxes, make coal production more expensive, are those costs being factored into the cost of these new plants?

93 8 1 ANON IND E
How will this plant keep your slug and pollution from going downstream to Las Vegas?

102 2 2 ANON IND E
It is our understanding that while the proposed air quality control system will be a more efficient design than most current coal-fired plants, it is still not the very most efficient design available. If so, this is an inexcusable lapse of responsibility to the public.

160 1 1 AZ IND E
Be sure that the plant installs all of the latest and very best equipment to preclude further contamination of our fragile planet.

217 9 1 NV IND E
I see no reason why this project should go forward before the proponents are ready to use the technology planned for Phase 2. Two newer technologies, dry cooling and dry-wet combination cooling could provide many fewer problems.

217 10 1 NV IND E
The economics of the project are not addressed. It is quite obvious that shipping coal from Wyoming to the Ely Energy Center will be a huge ongoing cost, as well as initial cost. Transporting electricity by wire from Wyoming plants would probably be far more efficient. There has to be a cost analysis of other ways of meeting power needs in Nevada.

218 2 1 CA CON E
Environmental consequences of a new coal fired power plants simply cannot be justified, especially in light of existing studies demonstrating that the same amount of energy to be supplied to the proposed project could be obtained via implementation of more stringent energy conservation measures.

218 9 1 CA CON E
The EIS should also disclose an estimate of the economic cost of the proposed project's greenhouse gas emissions.

219 4 1 NV IND E
Owing to the shocking lack of information to be gleaned from the Scoping Meeting on February 5, the EIS must describe the project in detail.

219 5 1 NV IND E
All information about water applications, procurement, possible sources, possible impacts on the WP County water supply at various designed modifications. Pollution of the water at every point of operation, including effects on springs, seeps, streams, and lakes, must be anticipated and described in detail.

222 5 1 NV IND E
How will the coal fly ash be stored? Is there a risk of this blowing into aquatic systems, surrounding public and federal lands, or affecting adjacent communities?

222 16 1 NV IND E
The power company needs to be required to use the latest and most effective technologies to reduce emissions, not just the minimal legal requirements.

223 21 2 NV CON E
The EIS must consider:

[[E]]nvironmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, the relationship between short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposal should it be implemented.

Possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local (and in the case of a reservation, Indian tribe) land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned.

Energy requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

Natural or depletable resource requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

. . . [[H]]istoric and cultural resources, and the design of the built environment, including the reuse and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures.

223 49 2 NV CON E
Please consider the "plumbing" of EEC's proposed system, including well field locations, surface water POD's, location of spreading basins/injection wells, pipeline routing, etc.

223 50 2 NV CON E
Please consider proposed and alternative pumping rates for individual wells or well fields.

223 51 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount and characteristics of any wastewater discharged from plant operation processes and during project construction. Please consider proposed and alternate discharge locations, e.g., evaporation pond, local creek, etc.

223 55 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the combined use of surface and groundwater rights counts water twice. For example, groundwater rights are limited by the perennial yield but the perennial yield depends on recharge from stream flow that may not occur because of surface flow diversions.

223 60 2 NV CON E
Please consider any anticipated changes to the 16,000 AF perennial yield. Please make any preliminary numbers public as they become available.

223 61 2 NV CON E
Please consider any applicant plans to capture water that is evapotranspired from dry lakes or phreatophytes by lowering the water table in those areas.

223 62 2 NV CON E
Please consider any plans to pipe water from any other basin to support the need for water for the project and make public all information regarding those plans as it becomes available.

223 84 2 NV CON E
Please consider the source and the amount of lime, limestone, or other sorbent to be used in the SO2 scrubber.

223 116 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount of scrubber wastes, proposed disposal site(s) and modes of transportation to the sites. If waste is to be transported to the disposal site(s) by truck, please consider how many trucks per day will be required to transport material from the plant.

223 117 2 NV CON E
Please consider the amount of ash, proposed disposal site(s) and modes of transportation to the sites. If waste is to be transported to the disposal site(s) by truck, please consider how many trucks per day will be required to transport material from the plant.

223 121 2 NV CON E
Please identify all hazardous materials that will be used at the site, the amount that is used and stored, and the mode of transport to the site.

Please consider how the ammonia will be transported to the site. If it is transported by truck, please consider the number of trucks per day that will be required to transport the ammonia to site and consider precautions to be taken to protect neighbors from accidental releases during transport, unloading, storage and use.

223 124 2 NV CON E
For each unit of the plant, please ensure, consider the impacts of, and make the information public regarding:

- the megawatt size of each unit;
- the number of units to be constructed;
- the summer and winter megawatt rating of each;
- the type of burner technology to be used in each unit; and
- the type of emission controls to be used by each unit.

223 125 2 NV CON E
Please consider the quantity and source of energy needed to construct the project including specific details of how this energy will be obtained and all associated environmental impacts.

223 126 2 NV CON E
Please consider the projected average plant capacity factor.

Please consider number, duration, and type of startups (hot, cold, warm) to occur each year.

223 127 2 NV CON E
Please consider all mobile equipment that will be used on site, e.g., cranes, dozers, front-end loads and annual fuel use for each and make that information public as it becomes available.

223 128 2 NV CON E
Please consider the anticipated frequency of soot blowing to keep boiler tubes clean and to keep selective catalytic reduction ("SCR") catalyst clean.

223 130 2 NV CON E
For the coal that will be burned at the plant, please ensure data collection and consideration of each of the following and make the information public as it becomes available:

- tons of coal burned annually by each unit of the plant;
- type of coal to be burned;
- heat rate of the coal burned;
- mercury content of the coal;
- ash content of the coal;
- sulfur content of the coal; and

- content of other impurities including chlorine, fluorine, selenium, and arsenic.

Please consider the mercury and other impurities content at maximum value.

223 132 2 NV CON E
Please consider the number, location, and purpose of any coal or other material storage piles including precise dimensions and the amount of material that will be stored.

223 133 2 NV CON E
Please consider plans to construct AC lines from the plant to interconnection with Sierra Pacific or other lines, including all studies regarding the route of such line(s) and the proposed construction plans.

223 134 2 NV CON E
Please consider the quantity of renewable energy to be developed by the Companies including the megawatts, megawatts hours, and the types of renewables, construction dates, locations, and operational timelines.

223 135 2 NV CON E
Please ensure EEC has filed and has obtained approval for all requisite FERC certificate(s) for this tap facility, if any.

223 137 2 NV CON E
Please include any plans for construction and operator work force housing and any permit applications necessary.

223 140 2 NV CON E
Please ensure the Companies have or will have committed sufficient capital expenditures over the next 5 to 7 years to construct the project.

223 162 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether any pre-treatment of water will be required before it is used at the plant.

223 167 2 NV CON E
Please develop detailed traffic control plans on local roads during construction and operation of the project. Please consider requiring the applicant to carry all cost of any local infrastructure development related to the project, e.g., curb upgrades, additional parking, additional traffic controls, additional sidewalks, and additional lanes.

223 168 2 NV CON E
Please consider requiring the applicant to guarantee maintenance schedules of the additional infrastructure requirements through commitment to a mitigation fund for resurfacing and repair of local roads from damage by heavy vehicles serving the project.

223 169 2 NV CON E
Please consider requiring the construction of an overpass of the rail tracks to allow local traffic to pass when trains are on the track.

223 170 2 NV CON E
Please develop a detailed maintenance schedule for the project and associated facilities.

223 171 2 NV CON E
Please require site fencing and make public the plot plan showing the fenced boundary as it becomes available.

223 172 2 NV CON E
Please consider EEC's proposed methods that will be used to control dust from storage piles, conveyors, crushers, pulverizers, and storage bins and their control efficiency.

223 173 2 NV CON E
With respect to the coal that will be burned at the plant, if it is to be Powder River Basin coal, as has been represented by the Companies, then:

Please indicate what specific dust control measures will be used to account for the high friability of this coal;

Please consider whether the project will conduct dust control audit(s) to assess the performance of dust collection and provide the designs for the dust control audit(s) as they become available.

223 174 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the project will develop measures to prevent explosions and fires as have been experienced by other plants using PRB coal such as the explosion at the Sooner Power Plant on 2/16/04.

223 175 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the project will include a permanent wash down system in the plant design and make public that design and the amount of water the system will use annually.

223 176 2 NV CON E
Please evaluate the number of access ports contained in the applicant's present design plan and the levels at which these access ports will be installed.

223 177 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the plant's coal handling facilities will use CO, Thermal and Infrared scanning monitoring equipment and provide the plans for such monitoring equipment.

223 178 2 NV CON E
Please evaluate Fire Hazard Mitigation systems inside bunkers or silos, and provide the plans for such systems.

223 180 2 NV CON E
Please provide plans to assist local agencies with infrastructure issues related to the work force of the project construction and plant operation, e.g., water, sewerage, fire fighting, hospitals, schools, roads, etc. Please include cost estimates associated with these infrastructure additions or estimates of those infrastructure addition requirements.

223 181 2 NV CON E
Please develop extensive and detailed emergency management plan(s) including the amount of fuel that will be used for emergency engines, e.g., fire water pumps, emergency generators, and fuel sulfur content and any requisite air emission permits for those sources. Please include responsibility assignments for clean up efforts and inspection and oversight.

223 182 2 NV CON E
Please require the development of a Risk Management Plan evaluated worst case scenarios and response for environmental accidents and make that information public as soon as it becomes available.

223 186 2 NV CON E
Please analyze any proposed use of Adaptive Resource Management (ARM).

223 187 2 NV CON E
Please provide for a staffed complaint hotline to address neighborhood problems, e.g., noise, odor, dust, traffic, vibration, light pollution and a plan to resolve any identified problem.

223 195 2 NV CON E
We request that BLM include them as "appropriate mitigation measures" in the EIS:

continuous operation, all year, of those add-on pollution control devices that the Companies do propose to implement; activated carbon injection, operated continuously and all year to remove mercury emissions to the maximum extent possible; fabric filters with FGD control, operated continuously and all year to remove particulate

matter emissions to the maximum extent possible; circulating dry scrubbers, operated continuously and all year to remove SO2 emissions to the maximum extent possible; selective catalytic reduction, operated continuously and all year to remove Nox emissions to the maximum extent possible; and circulating fluidized bed technology.

223 196 2 NV CON E
Please consider the pollution controls that would be used at the plant and their inlet and outlet emission levels in lb/hr or lb/MMBtu for each pollution control device.

223 197 2 NV CON E
Please determine by what percentage mercury is to be controlled, including the basis for this value (i.e., pollution control train proposed for criteria pollutants, or are you adding carbon injections or other mercury specific control). Please specify all mercury control.

223 198 2 NV CON E
Please ascertain whether any mercury control credits under the new EPA mercury rule will be used as an alternative to controlling mercury emissions. If yes, please consider the level of credits to be purchased.

223 200 2 NV CON E
Please ascertain whether the Companies are willing to accept the same BACT limits proposed for the Desert Rock, NM coal plant project.

223 201 2 NV CON E
Please consider the type of drift eliminators on cooling towers that will be used and evaluate their drift efficiency.

223 202 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the proposed control equipment design includes bypasses of the pollution control system, and, if so, under what conditions bypass will occur.

223 204 2 NV CON E
Please consider the use of coal washing to minimize SO2, PM/PM10 emissions, and HAP emissions.

224 2 1 NV STA E
The Authority would like to ensure that Proposed Action is compatible with the proposed locations for water pipelines, wells, and additional facilities associated with the GWD Project. The Federal Register notice does not indicate where the electrical transmission lines and the fiber optic telecommunication lines will be located within the LCCRDA corridor, which is 2,640 feet wide. The GWD Project is primarily located in the eastern half of the corridor, from where the Proposed Action enters the LCCRDA corridor, to the intersection of US Highway 93 and Nevada Highway 168 in Clark County, with exceptions in various locations due to topography. From Nevada Highway 168 south, to where the Proposed Action diverges from the Highway alignment, the GWD Project is immediately west of Nevada Highway 93. The proposed route of GWD Project has been identified in the conceptual plan of development and conceptual plan of development map book, both of which have been submitted to the BLM under case number N-78803. The Authority believes that coordination between the two project alignments is essential to ensure that all facilities have the appropriate space needed for operation and safety purposes.

225 5 1 NV CON E
Detailed mitigation programs and/or measures for these pollutants must be included in the EIS. Moreover, reasonable assurance that the mitigation measures/programs will work effectively must be provided through a quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness.

241 2 1 KY IND E
At the very least, this facility should be built with [cutting] edge clean coal technologies, to stand as a shining example to the rest of the country and the world.

245 2 1 IL IND E
If they want to build a dirty coal plant, let them do it on private property.

250 1 1 WA IND E
Until Ely Energy promises to include state-of-the-art emission control equipment throughout their proposal coal-fired power plant.

291 1 1 TX IND E
We need to strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficient technology to not only urgently reduce the global warming problems and the contaminated water problems, but to also help lessen serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease.

291 2 1 TX IND E
Federal land should not be made available for any coal-fired units that don't strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficiency than the older technology. Our standards must be set high to set a standard for approving state government agencies.

293 3 1 NV IND E
It is very important that it be located at the preferred location just north of McGill to benefit most of the people in the county.

303 9 1 ID CON L
We also do not understand why you would consider a whole separate railroad spur- is this in any way associated with more power development, or nuclear or other waste. And what is the route.

303 25 1 ID CON L
We simply are not clear on how and where all phases of this project may be developed.

303 48 1 ID CON L
Please provide great details on just what all is in the Wyoming coal, how that pollution will mix with gold mine or other mine pollution, cement plant pollution, and other pollution and contamination in the air.

305 6 1 NV FED L
What will be the height of the towers? Could impact flying missions.

305 8 1 NV FED L
Water issues: From what water basins will the power plants be obtaining their water? Or are they planning on purchasing water from the proposed SNWA infrastructure in White Pine County?

305 9 1 NV FED L
The height of the communications towers, associated with the transmission lines have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations.

305 11 1 NV FED L
The height of the transmission lines, towers, and plant smoke stacks have the potential to adversely impact military flying operations.

309 3 1 NV IND E
Environmental Justice – Specifically in terms of location and siting considerations. You referenced a 2003 and a 2006 siting report. What were the environmental constraints that were considered?

313 2 1 CA FED L
EPA would like to see a timeline for the different phases of the project.

313 7 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should evaluate the proposed power plant and all connected actions (40 CFR 1508.25). Connected actions are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. The construction of access roads; rail lines and spurs; transmission lines; coal unloading, handling and storage facilities; solid waste

disposal facilities; water storage and treatment facilities; evaporation ponds; cooling towers; electric switchyards and substations; well fields and pumping facilities; and water pipelines should be included. The existing conditions and outputs of the source mines should be included, and any changes to accommodate the power plant should be identified.

313 36 1 CA FED L

Executive Order 13112 also calls for the restoration of native plants and tree species. If the proposed project will entail new landscaping, the DEIS should describe how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112.

313 40 1 CA FED L

The DEIS should evaluate the feasibility of adopting mitigation to avoid, reduce or compensate for adverse environmental impacts from construction and operation. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not require that an impact be "significant" before mitigation can be presented in an EIS. "All relevant, reasonable mitigation measures that could improve the project are to be identified … Mitigation measures must be considered even for impacts that by themselves would not be considered 'significant.' Once the proposal itself is considered as a whole to have significant effects … mitigation measures must be developed where it is feasible to do so." (CEQ's Forty Questions, #19a)

CEQ also issued guidance on integrating pollution prevention measures in NEPA documents. Many strategies can reduce pollution and protect resources, including using fewer toxic inputs, altering manufacturing and facility maintenance processes, and conserving energy. Consistent with CEQ's guidance, we recommend presenting all reasonable mitigation and pollution prevention measures. Pollution prevention opportunities are discussed in Chapter V of the Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation Industry "Sector Notebook" available at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/assistance/sectors/notebooks/fossil.html.

314 2 1 NV FED L

We are concerned that the power line would impact BLM sensitive plant species, which are also considered rare under the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program. In particular, populations of the eastwood milkweed (Asclepias eastwoodiana), meadow valley sandwort (Arenaria stenomeres), white bearpoppy (Arctomecon merriamii), white river catseye (Cryptantha welshii), and sunnyside green gentian (Frasera gypsicola) may occur in or near the vicinity of the proposed transmission line corridor. We recommend that BLM include in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) a sensitive plant survey of areas that may be affected by the proposed action. If sensitive plant species occur within the project area, we recommend that BLM redesign the project to avoid impacts to these species. If impacts are unavoidable, we recommend that BLM minimize and provide commensurate mitigation for project impacts to sensitive species.

314 8 1 NV FED L

We understand that the proposed project would include two phases. We are very concerned about Phase II of the transmission line corridor which would occur within the Mormon Mesa desert tortoise critical habitat unit. Critical habitat essential to the conservation of the species that has certain physical characteristics requiring special management considerations or protection. Therefore, we recommend that BLM design the transmission line corridor to avoid desert tortoise critical habitat.

316 1 1 NV LOC L

I feel that it is imperative that their Preferred Site be selected to optimize the benefits to our local economy.

318 1 1 NV LOC C

I would like to support the preferred site as proposed by the Ely Energy Center. Historically it has been the wish of our communities located in White Pine County to establish some sort of power plant along the present railroad line running north to Cobre.

318 5 1 NV LOC C

I have asked and encouraged the Ely Energy Center management to locate as near to McGill and Ely as possible. Supporting businesses and workers' families would tend to locate in our cities, which would in turn enhance our population, assist our tax base, and attract new services or businesses that look for a larger population base than

what we now have. The historical Nevada Northern Railroad yard in East Ely could possibly be used as a repair and maintenance facility for the power plant coal cars, thus providing a service, new jobs, and enhancing their economic future and existence.

New enterprises would enhance shopping for our present community and also help us attract professionals and others who require a greater variety than what we now offer.

318 6 1 NV LOC C
Air quality devices, scrubbers, and advanced state of the art environmental controls will mitigate the impacts associated with coal-fired power plants in the past.

320 6 1 NV IND C
The EIS for the EEC should describe what equipment the company plans to install to scrub out pollutants and justify its spending any less than current state-of-the-art technology allows (that's technology, not state and federal politically-produced air quality guidelines).

320 11 1 NV IND C
The EIS should list specifically all bodies of water that will supply the power plant (acre feet needed, too), how officials plan to ensure the continuing viability of these sources, and explain what becomes of water rights should the plant close or never become operational at all.

331 2 1 NV OTH C
The preferred location is more convenient to Ely in regards to the workforce with the Ely Energy Center.

336 4 2 MD IND L
Coal mining that could destroy great landscapes and cause further air and water pollution. These must be analyzed in the EIS.

349 2 1 NV IND L
Where exactly will the so-called Robison Summit switching station be located?

349 6 1 NV IND L
What about telecommunication construction? What will that construction be like?

349 7 1 NV IND L
What are the exact coordinates of the primary and alternate sites?

349 9 1 NV IND L
Site Requirements – does the approximated 3,000 acres include the Robison Summit switching station and the land used in building roads to construct and maintain the transmission lines?

356 1 2 NV IND C
Railroad – existing line should be used.

361 9 1 NV CON L
What is the mitigation and monitoring that would be provided under the proposal and how will that affect both resident and natural resources within the affected areas?

362 7 1 NV IND C
The preferred site would have less impact on the power companies as it would be closer to housing, supplies, etc.

367 2 1 NV IND E
Economically, it is very important that it be located at the preferred location just north of McGill to benefit most of the people in the county.

368 1 1 NV IND E

I am submitting my comments on the Sierra Pacific resource power plant to be located five miles north of McGill. I feel that we need the economic support a lot more than what adverse affects it will have on the environment and the people. Also the location near McGill would help our community tremendously.

374 2 2 NV IND E

We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise. The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like.

377 1 6 NV IND F

As a former Kennecott employee who actually dumped the coal out of the cars at Kennecott for a living I have seen and do know the potential dangers of coal, and that is before you use it. Are you prepared for the coal fires when they happen, the number 1 coal bin burned continuously up at Kennecott. Water makes more fire with coal. You can’t predict nor control mother nature when they are en route with those trains loaded with coal and bring it in a dump it in an enclosed area.

Chapter 15: Public Health and Safety Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

7	2	1	NV	BUS	C

Coal fired plants cause much cancer with their trying to mask the black smoke with limestone.

46	4	1	NV	IND	C

In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

49	1	1	NV	IND	C

I have friends living in N.E. Wyoming near coal-fired plants and they suffer no ill effects due to any pollution in that area from these plants.

57	1	1	NV	IND	C

Air quality and attendant health effects near the plant and at all distances.

72	3	1	NV	IND	C

Think of the impacts on human health and the environment which have already been proven from yet another dirty coal plant and continued dependence on fossil fuel.

73	3	1	NV	IND	C

Explore options, no matter what the cost. If you don't, I assure you that you will pay more in the end in health problems.

83	1	1	ANON	IND	E

The Ely Energy Center is a dirty plant. It will cause any number of breathing problems, poison the water, and make it so warm when we are trying to cool it down.

89	3	1	IL	IND	E

The fish don't need the mercury and neither do we.

91	2	1	RI	IND	E

There is nothing sustainable about burning coal – it is a non-renewable resource, it causes major health problems for humans, animals, and the overall environment.

97	2	1	CA	IND	E

The release of toxic chemicals into the air, water, and earth, such as mercury, would be detrimental to plant and animal life. There is so much research out there regarding the affects of mercury on humans, such as neurological disorders and possible cancer.

* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

99 4 1 NM IND E
BLM must reject the proposal for the health and safety of the local region. To keep worldwide atmospheric carbon buildup at the lowest possible levels, which will still be catastrophically high, new coal-fired pollution sources must not be added.

102 3 2 ANON IND E
Even the most efficient air quality control system does not eliminate emissions of grave health air quality control system does not eliminate emissions of grave health.

104 16 2 NV IND E
Have other social costs been factored in, such as the possibility of more respiratory diseases due to air quality declines?

106 11 1 NV IND E
Long-term health effects will likely result from the pollution this plant will produce. Asthma is already one of the main illnesses to affect children, additional polluting power plants will only further exacerbate this problem. Children and the elderly in our own community will be the most directly affected. Fine particulates are directly linked to birth defects, among other health issues.

106 13 1 NV IND E
Power plants also emit tiny ash particles which can cause health problems when inhaled, and mercury, which can impair development.

144 1 1 CA IND E
Isn't there enough evidence and pressure on health care to take every precaution when developing power systems?

147 1 1 TN IND E
The costs, negative environmental and health hazards impact are the rewards this outdated energy solution energy would bring.

165 1 1 WI IND E
I live in Wisconsin and today there were air pollution alerts for the southeastern part of the state. It has finally warmed up after three weeks of below zero temperatures. With the warm weather has come particulates in the air that cause health problems. Please do not add to this problem by building another coal fired plant in such a beautiful part of the country.

186 13 1 NV IND E
Once the amount and types of pollutants have been addressed, what will be the overall impacts on the health of local residents and communities downwind of this facility? The pollutants of similar facilities to the one proposed for Phase 1 of the Ely Energy Center create health hazards have created an increase in health hazards such as asthma and heart failure. In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters.

186 14 1 NV IND E
What will be the impacts of the air pollutants to be released on communities downwind of the power plant? Current experiences in other communities such as the northeastern U.S. have already proven that air pollutants can have devastating effects on communities hundreds if not thousands of miles downwind from the initial sources. Have the impacts on communities downwind of these proposed facilities, such as the Greater Salt Lake region in Utah, been addressed by all interested parties?

194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to

tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

194 8 1 NV IND E
What are the health risks for people living in the vicinity of power plants of the size proposed?

207 3 1 OR IND E
Coal plants contribute to deteriorating air quality, which threatens health.

207 4 1 OR IND E
Federal land should not be made available for projects with such destructive potential for health of individuals, as well as the health of our larger ecosystem.

208 3 1 NY IND E
The potential health and environmental harms from the proposed Ely Energy Center are too enormous.

212 4 1 CA IND E
The damage to human and environmental health that would be caused by the proposed Ely Energy Center is too great for ethical consideration.

213 3 1 NY IND E
The smoke will only threaten the health of Nevadans, especially children, the ill, and the elderly.

216 3 1 UT IND E
Coal-fired power plants emit mercury which is bio-accumulating in ecosystems and causing public health advisories.

221 1 1 NV IND E
Some of this proposed technology isn't yet proven and is still a huge emitter of pollutants found to be unhealthy and ultimately deadly in quantities over time.

222 1 1 NV IND E
The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts.

223 68 2 NV CON E
For increased incidence of human disease and other impairment:

Please assess the number-per-year by which air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would increase the incidence of negative human health impacts – including asthma attacks, missed school or work days, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, cancer cases, heart attacks, lung disease, and premature deaths – within (1) five miles of the facility, (2) fifty miles of the facility, (3) 100 miles of the facility, and (4) 500 miles of the facility.

Please provide separate counts for (1) all humans, (2) children, and (3) humans aged sixty-five years and over.

223 72 2 NV CON E
For increased toxicity of fish eaten by humans:

Please assess the amount by which air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would directly or indirectly increase the concentrations of various toxic chemicals, including mercury and dioxin, in the flesh of freshwater fish caught and eaten by humans within 500 miles of the facility.

223 102 2 NV CON E
Please perform a human health and ecological risk assessment to evaluate the impacts of the project on residents and wildlife including diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and on-site mobile equipment and all criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and precursor air pollutants.

223 103 2 NV CON E
Please account for the lack of sufficient local medical facilities to address health impacts to workers and local residents.

223 104 2 NV CON E
Please consider the cancer and noncancer health impacts from emissions and discharge.

223 111 2 NV CON E
Please conduct epidemiological and clinical studies and other environmental human health analyses related to cumulative and synergistic exposure to all hazardous and criteria pollutants emitted from the plant.

223 166 2 NV CON E
Please develop specific measures to minimize Legionella outbreaks from cooling tower emissions.

223 192 2 NV CON E
Please develop plans to control the cancer and noncancer health impacts from emissions and discharge.

223 193 2 NV CON E
Please attach environmental health funds to permits and/or otherwise make funding available to all communities.

234 2 1 HI IND E
Potential health and environmental harms from the proposed Ely Energy Center are unreasonable and promote a toxic danger.

239 1 1 WA IND E
We need to apply strict environmental standards to projects like this proposed power plant. The standards need to be real and enforceable and designed to protect land, air, water and the publics' health.

244 2 1 NY IND E
It will pollute and damage the lives the people in it are supposed to provide energy too.

285 2 1 NY IND E
Mercury is particularly hazardous for developing fetuses and small children, and soot causes asthma attacks, heart disease and other health problems.

291 1 1 TX IND E
We need to strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficient technology to not only urgently reduce the global warming problems and the contaminated water problems, but to also help lessen serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease.

291 3 1 TX IND E
The low standards set by approving this project and the potential health and environmental harms from the proposed Ely Energy Center are too detrimental to the next generation.

292 2 1 ANON IND E
It is said the Ely Energy Center will emit 12.6 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly. Is this a correct figure? If so, what are the implications of this amount of CO2 emission on our air, our lungs, our plants, our wildlife, [and] our skies?

292 8 1 ANON IND E
An on-the-ground pre-project analysis and on-going monitoring of the dust caused by transmission and transmission road development, since radioactive plumes paralleled this line from the "events" of the Nevada Test Site of the 1950s and 60s, depositing radioactive material of a half-life of up to 10,000 years. The public does not need this lethal deposition re-activated.

303 37 1 ID CON L
This must be contrasted with the very serious adverse impacts to quality of life, public health (across the region), connectivity of habitats and viability of populations of important ad sensitive species across the zone of project impact.

303 49 1 ID CON L
What is the added human health cost of these plants—and other development that they will cause, including to people suffering from asthma, or other health conditions? Also, more pollution worsens inversions conditions—with local and regional effects. Inversions and cooler temperatures elevate traffic accidents in fog and ice, with cooler temperatures in the valleys which are the areas inhabited by humans in this region. It is at times like these winter air inversions when conditions may greatly affect human health. In any study here, you must not “average” effects over time, but must look at effects—pollution, water depletion, haze (local and regional), etc. over a full spectrum of weather and other environmental conditions (droughts, inversion, various temperatures)—and always with the full range of industrialization and development from these undertakings fully in mind.

303 57 1 ID CON L
You must also fully consider the additional potential for West Nile virus transmission to wildlife and humans, or other diseases, from the various water uses, impoundments, well fields, leaks, etc. here.

310 2 1 NV IND L
A coal-fired power plant in such close proximity to the town of McGill would be unsightly to the residents of McGill and detrimental to the health of the residents of both Ely and McGill.

313 25 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should provide information on potentially affected drinking water systems in the project area, as well as the magnitude of the cumulative impacts that may result. The information should include a list of water systems (distinguishing between public water systems regulated under the SDWA and private water systems), distance from the project area, source(s) of water for each system, type of water treatment applied, and population served. The financial and infrastructure impacts to currently existing and future water systems that may be required to find alternate water sources, drill deeper wells, provide additional treatment (due to water quality changes) or other potential impacts should be fully evaluated.

313 46 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should discuss potential impacts of electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) associated with transmission lines and substations, and analyze potential health impacts of the project due to increased EMFs. Include a summary of existing evidence that may be relevant to evaluating the reasonably foreseeable impacts associated with EMFs (40 CFR 1502.22) to disclose this information to the public under NEPA.

319 1 1 NV IND C
My main concerns are about what effect this power plant will have on the health of our children and grandchildren. I would like to know what will be introduced in the environment, what health risks are known, and if long term health expenses have been calculated and how.

319 3 1 NV IND C
What are the expected increases in breathing disorders our children and grandchildren may suffer?

319 4 1 NV IND C
Are there added risks to the heart and other organs?

319 5 1 NV IND C
What are the long term studies that are being considered [regarding health risks]?

320 2 1 NV IND C
Pedestrian and regular vehicular safety, use of commercial arteries for potentially hazardous trucks (numbers projected of these?), traffic signals, increased volume of cars caused by employees on shifts, noise (24 hours daily?) should also be treated.

326 4 1 NV IND L
How many days of inversion are expected due to the power plant? Inversions not only drastically change the temperature, but also provide a health hazard.

326 8 1 NV IND L
What are the long-term socioeconomic impacts of this project?

In addition to jobs, have other social costs been factored in, such as the possibility of more respiratory diseases due to air quality declines, costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversions (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures), and increased traffic on highways?

337 2 2 NV BUS C
EEC should be required to have complete air quality monitoring systems in place and comply with federal and state emission levels per air quality permits.

346 6 1 NV IND L
20% of that 500 rail cars a day won't get cleaned up. What this means is that approximately 100 rail cars of coal a day will spew out mercury unabated! This is practically guaranteeing serious health and environmental problems in the Ely area. Even a 700 foot tall smokestack will only send some of this smog into the next valleys … to damage their health too. Mercury is a very serious health risk.

349 17 1 NV IND L
What about fog and freezing highways in the winter?

351 3 1 WI IND L
Such a plant would use outdated technologies that cause smog, soot, and mercury pollution, which in turn can result in health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease.

354 3 1 NV IND C
What about the health of future generations?

359 12 1 NV IND C
I am concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple coal power plants on the environment and the health of the people who live in White Pine County. Potentially, if all the plants that are proposed are built, there would be 4 plants in a 50 mile radius. The wisdom of this fails me. Why do we need so many power plants in one valley?

361 7 1 NV CON L
What effect will the power plant emissions have on air quality in the above mentioned valleys [Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek] from an health and human safety aspect as well as acidification effects on perennial surface waters and their associated dependent species, i.e., animal and plant?

361 18 1 NV CON L
What effects on rural communities health and safety from this air pollution?

365 1 1 NV IND L
Great quantities of steam constantly created by the cooling process will cause extremely foggy, hazardous driving conditions on Highway 93. Nevada State Troopers have stated that 93 from McGill to Wells and Wendover is an

extremely dangerous section of road. Hwy 93 is the primary route from Canada to Mexico. Consequently 18-wheelers, huge double-trailer ore cars, wide loads, motor homes, and school buses cause unusually heavy traffic, both northbound and southbound. The heavy fogs and black ice that will be produced by steam and Steptoe Valley's frigid nighttime temperatures will create a disastrous situation. White Pine County Volunteer Emergency and Nevada State Safety services will be overwhelmed. A similar situation exists between Lovelock and Winnemucca. I believe it is called "Death Row". It is not pretty.

370 2 1 NY IND L

A coal-fired plant in the long run is not feasible: it costs billions of dollars to build a plant that would use out-dated technology that causes air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease; water contamination; and an increase in global warming.

377 2 6 NV IND F

We have hawks and owls and if you lived here through the Kennecott days we now have spiders and mice and things too. The plant over here pretty much kept all living things down or dead. That includes the vegetation on the mountain behind us. We are just now seeing cedars starting to grow back. Not to mention how many people in White Pine survive with oxygen tanks by their sides.

Chapter 16: Purpose of and Need for Project Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
37	2	1	NV	IND	C

There is a clear need for this power plant.

53	1	1	NV	IND	E

What is the need for this project at this scale? Currently the summer energy capacity in Nevada is 8,670 MW. When fully implemented in 5 years this project will increase Nevada's energy capacity by nearly 30%. Approval of this project will add to Nevada's portfolio as much energy as the Hoover Dam and Mohave Power plant combined.

53	9	1	NV	IND	E

In the overview of the January 19, 2007 project description, it is stated that the project will "increase companies' fuel diversity" and "reduce dependence on variable purchased power markets." It is unclear why alternatives such as wind or solar energy projects would not meet the same goals without incurring the additional potential liabilities. In fact the project will increase Nevada's dependence on coal and its associated power market.

53	11	1	NV	IND	E

Nevada law requires that renewable energy and conservation meet 20% of Nevada's energy needs by 2013. The EIS should address the concern that this project would violate Nevada law and opening the BLM to litigation. The EIS should address how alternatives, such as wind ranching, would avoid legal action and improve the cooperative working relationship between Nevada and the BLM.

76	2	1	CA	IND	C

Who are the customers?

93	5	1	ANON	IND	E

By building these plants, you increase the amount of energy being produced by coal. How does this help our state reach its goal of 20% renewable power by 2015? What renewable projects are you considering that will be significant compared to these coal projects?

121	1	1	CA	IND	E

Those of us in California would probably be major consumers of power from Nevada, so I know that we need to generate more electric power in this region.

223	11	2	NV	CON	E

First, the NOI fails to specify the purpose and need for 2,500 MW of new coal-fired electricity in Nevada. This quantity of coal fired power simply is not needed and any such need could be met by other significantly less harmful means—such as energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources. We ask that you reissue the NOI to specifically identify the purpose and need for this project and explain why any such need cannot be met by other alternatives.

223	136	2	NV	CON	E

Please consider public necessity of the plant through an analysis of all entities contracted to purchase power from the EEC plant.

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223 145 2 NV CON E
The Companies should produce firm power purchase contracts for the economic life of the plant to demonstrate both a need and market for the proposed electricity. If unable to do so, there will be no basis in the administrative record for concluding the project's impacts are appropriate or necessary. As such, not constructing the plant would therefore represent the least harmful alternative. Consequently, please conduct the requisite analyses and consider the no action alternative in the EIS.

223 146 2 NV CON E
The Companies should provide analyses that prove conclusively that power loads cannot be solved in any other way other than coal power plants. They would have to show that demand side management and renewables are inadequate to the requirement.

223 147 2 NV CON E
The Companies should also show that within the 50-60 year life span of the plants, that they do not become obsolete and antiquated. Their usefulness is being judged over a half century, and there must be a guarantee that they will indeed be needed for that time span.

292 5 1 ANON IND E
I've not seen an electric power projection for the Ely Energy Center. How do we, whose land the hundreds of miles of transmission line will visually and physically impact, and whose air the 24/7 pumping of toxic coal by-products will impact also - for the next 40+ years -know that this project is necessary at all?

292 6 1 ANON IND E
Is this power determination based on Las Vegas growth projections? If so, who made these projections, on what are they based, and who sees so infallibly into the future to guarantee that they won't change downward?

(Who would have anticipated that LADWP and the State of California itself would have outlawed power from coal from anywhere?)

292 7 1 ANON IND E
We, the public, must understand the "Why?" of this project before we understand anything else.

312 2 1 ANON IND E
Where is a detailed discussion of why these units and their electrical generation are even needed in the first place?

313 3 1 CA FED L
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should clearly identify the underlying purpose and need to which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding in proposing the alternatives (40 CFR 1502.13). The purpose of the proposed action is typically the specific objectives of the activity, while the need for the proposed action may be to eliminate a broader underlying problem or take advantage of an opportunity. The purpose and need should be a clear, objective statement of the rationale for the proposed project, as it provides the framework for identifying project alternatives.

This section of the DEIS should discuss the proposed project in the context of the larger energy market that this project would serve. It should identify the potential purchasers of power produced by the project and clearly describe how the need for the power has been determined. The DEIS should identify whether potential purchasers of power include California utilities, and if so, address the issue of compliance with the new “greenhouse gas emissions performance standard” as adopted by the California Public utilities Commission on January 25, 2007. California utilities will be barred from buying electricity from most coal-fired power plants unless specific standards are met, effective February 1, 2007. The DEIS should also discuss on-going and planned energy conservation programs undertaken by power distributors and how energy conservation may affect the need for this project.

317 2 1 ANON CON L
Please provide a breakdown of the current and predicted energy consumption for the next 50 to 100 years.

324 4 1 NV LOC L
Elko County believes this project is appropriate for Eastern Nevada and that it will benefit electric power production needs in our State.

329 2 2 WA IND L
We do not believe that our Federal lands should be used in this manner.

331 4 1 NV OTH C
The increased demand for energy needs in our country demands that we construct and operate such facilities. To deny the electrical energy needs is naive at best and dangerous at worst, and what better place to build than in an economically depressed area.

344 1 1 NV IND C
It will supply much needed electrical energy to the region.

Chapter 17: Range Resources Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
52	1	1	NV	IND	C

Concern: rumor of closing livestock grazing along transmission route particularly through white sage areas in white river valley T9 and 10N Range 60 E.

63	6	1	NV	IND	E

Wild deer, antelope, rabbits, wild and tame horses, cattle, burros, and all creatures need protection.

104	17	2	NV	IND	E

Have other social costs been factored in, such as costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversion (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures)?

194	4	1	NV	IND	E

Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread.

226	1	1	ANON	IND	E

I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227	1	1	ANON	IND	E

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228	1	1	NV	IND	E

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need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

230	3	1	ANON	IND	E

The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology.

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239 1 1 WA IND E
We need to apply strict environmental standards to projects like this proposed power plant. The standards need to be real and enforceable and designed to protect land, air, water and the publics' health.

292 10 1 ANON IND E
A thorough consideration of the impact of this project on grazing and domestic animals.

296 2 1 NV AGR E
If it is sited on public lands, what allotments and permitted grazing will be impacted by this project and what mitigation will be offered to the affected permittees?

296 3 1 NV AGR E
What existing grazing allotments and range improvements will be impacted by these rail lines and what mitigation will be offered to minimize these impacts to insignificant levels?

296 4 1 NV AGR E
With increased rail traffic in the region, how will this activity affect livestock movement in an open range setting? What mitigation will be offered to compensate ranchers for livestock losses associated with the increased rail traffic?

296 5 1 NV AGR E
The EEC and the generation of power will require a substantial amount of water; up to 16,000 acre-feet annually upon build out. If approved by the State Water Engineer, how will this new water appropriation affect existing surface and ground water rights and the agricultural production associated with these existing permits? How will these impacts be mitigated to insignificant levels?

296 9 1 NV AGR E
It is unclear from the project description whether the proposed transmission facilities will fall within established utility corridors or establish new utility corridors. If the later occurs, what grazing allotments and/or range improvements will be impacted by these new facilities? What mitigation will be offered to offset these expected impacts?

300 3 1 NV IND E
Steptoe Valley's Ranching Industry, a supporter of White Pine County in many ways, for many years will be eliminated by this project.

300 4 1 NV IND E
The range and water that has been used by these folks for generations will be consumed by power generating facilities.

303 12 1 ID CON L
WWP has been very involved in grazing issues in this region, and we are gravely concerned at BLM's failure to fully reveal what is foreseeable here, including amid important sage grouse, raptor and other wildlife habitats.

303 30 1 ID CON L
How will this affect important cultural sites, wild horse herd areas, wilderness areas, and WSA [wilderness study areas]?

306 1 35 NV CON C
I object to the Success Loop location for the Ely Energy Station. It is right in the middle of prime grazing area for both wildlife and livestock. It is also much too close to pristine, scenic outdoor recreating areas and to residential areas.

320 9 1 NV IND C
The EIS should describe potential impacts to the riparian habitats and waters adjoining McGill, both short and long term, and how these will affect wildlife and vegetation, as well as agrarian enterprise.

322 1 1 NV IND C
I have several concerns about the location selected by the Companies for their Ely Energy Center. The first being the loss of critical winter grazing for our cattle. You may not realize that different regions and climates have their advantages and disadvantages when it comes to raising cattle. In an area such as the Steptoe Valley where 7-9 inches of precipitation is normal, soil types are poor for high yielding crop production, high quality winter grazing is the one saving grace. Any loss or decrease in winter grazing will decrease our yearly carrying capacity (cattle numbers), decrease our annual income, increase our dependency on expensive harvested forages, and cause devaluation of our ranch.

322 2 1 NV IND C
The proposed site will eliminate between 3,000 and 3,800 acres (I've seen several different approximate amounts quoted) of high quality winter grazing. The site lays across two different grazing permits, one belonging to the Twitchell Ranch and the other belonging to the Steptoe Ranch, our ranch and home. The amount of grazing loss to the individuals is difficult to determine. Estimates by our Range con. are 40% to 60%. Economic loss is also difficult to determine. There are approximately 1,600 animal units per/month in the two permits combined. If a loss of this magnitude is sustained the yearly income loss would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for both ranches. Ranch values are determined by carrying capacities and would decrease by similar percentages (40%-60%). The devaluations of both ranches would reach the 3-4 million dollar range.

322 3 1 NV IND C
The individual ranches own the grazing permits and grazing rights to the land which you intend to sell to the companies. The railroad expansion and fencing of the right of ways would further the detriment. I would like to know who intends to compensate us for our losses and for grazing rights that are not for sale in the first place.

322 11 1 NV IND C
Research by a University of Florida animal scientist states that sulfur pollution from fossil fuel burning plants contaminates surface water and forages. This sulfur contamination binds copper and selenium and renders them indigestible for grazing herbivores and does it strongly. Copper and selenium are two essential minerals in reproduction and the immune systems of cattle, sheep, antelope, elk, deer, wild horses, and any other grazing animal.

334 5 1 NV IND L
Will the ranchers' prime grazing areas be affected?

349 3 1 NV IND L
Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project?

349 8 1 NV IND L
Again, will livestock permittees be compensated?

355 1 1 NV AGR C
We winter cattle north of Currie. If a coal train is to run through the middle of our winter allotment. We would strongly hope and recommend that the existing railroad grade route be used. We would also strongly request that the railroad grade be fenced on both sides through our allotments to minimize the hazard to ourselves, our employees, and to our livestock. At least two sets of gates would be needed for access from one side of the railroad to the other.

362 2 1 NV IND C
The other springs, riparian areas and wetlands would also dry up affecting the wildlife, horses, and cattle.

362 4 1 NV IND C

The alternative power plant site in North Steptoe Valley would affect several grazing permittees (several more than the preferred site), and the permittees should be compensated for the loss of 3000 acres out of the allotment.

369 2 1 ID CON L

BLM must study the role of historic and ongoing livestock grazing and trampling activity (and other disturbances such as roads, mining, wild horse use, etc.) in altering, degrading or desiccation of these scarce sites.

373 4 2 NV IND E

Rail line. As it now stands the Nevada Northern tracks are in disrepair, and are unfenced. There are many livestock trails crossing the rail line. These trails are used by cattle, feral horses, elk, and antelope. If the rail line reopens, or another line is built, we will likely see a lot of death loss in animals that are hit by the trains. This is a great concern to us, and we wonder if there are plans for fair reimbursement for livestock killed in such a fashion. And has the impact upon the wildlife been evaluated. Ideally the entire rail from one end to the other would be fenced by a legal 4 wire fence. The drawback to this is that sometimes it is necessary for the animals to cross in order to get to water. Provisions would need to be made so that animals on either side had ready access to water.

Chapter 18: Recreation Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
11	2	1	NV	IND	C

A mitigative effort by NPC and SPPC (the companies), to negotiate with water right holders in Duck Creek Basin to allow a certain amount of creek waters to flow down the natural channels for recreation purposes, in conjunction with funding and co-planning with the appropriate land management agency, for as many camping and picnicking sites as possible for the future enjoyment of the EEC workforce and the general public, would be greatly appreciated.

68	5	1	NV	GOV	C

How will this affect tourism and the newly designated adjacent wilderness? Who wants to fish in lakes poisoned with Hg or find solitude < 10 miles from a power plant? I think there are better ways to boost the economy of White Pine Co. that don't involve such negative impacts.

102	1	2	ANON	IND	E

Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

102	9	2	ANON	IND	E

How or will the community be reimbursed for the potential expense of social services (schools, housing, police, counseling, etc.) that an influx of 1500 short duration new residents represents? Short-term residents may have little concern or value for public lands. An already burgeoning problem of "renegade" unauthorized ORV routes may be exponentially expanded. How can the overburdened public land agencies possibly manage such a situation?

102	11	2	ANON	IND	E

What will be the aesthetic impact on traditional backcountry recreation?

104	4	2	NV	IND	E

What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted?

105	3	1	NV	IND	E

Wouldn't pollution from the plants affect another large money maker in the area, the tourism industry? People come up here for solitude, fishing, hiking, and what some would call the "rural experience". How would that change if there was even a small amount of smog, if there was only a tiny danger of mercury in the water supply?

106	4	1	NV	IND	E

Wildlife would have much less water accessible thereby reducing their numbers. And as a result hunting, an extremely popular recreational activity in White Pine County, would be negatively affected.

186	9	1	NV	IND	E

How will the degradation of our local and neighboring landscapes affect the local tourism industry that has been so carefully cultivated by community members the past two decades?

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194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

217 15 1 NV IND E
This is a very large number of high costs to White Pine County and Ely, for a project which makes the area far less desirable to both the current and the hoped for new residents (such as retirees and others looking for clean air and interesting small towns), as well as of far less interest to tourists and other visitors.

219 7 1 NV IND E
The Great Basin scenery, the Great Basin National Park, all the designated Wilderness Areas, all the undesignated recreational resources (which comprise most of the County), and the huge population of fauna and flora that are part of the landscape and which are interdependent with it: all these parts of the whole must be taken into account.

219 11 1 NV IND E
Since the future of the Great Basin lies in preserving its health and beauty in response to the rapidly developing tourist, recreation, and sporting opportunities, the EIS must calculate the future economic losses involved in permanently converting Steptoe Valley to heavy industrial use.

221 9 1 NV IND E
The main tourist attraction in this area is the world class Elk hunting. With growing demand for recreation on public lands White Pine County is poised to become a tourist destination and the inclusion of a power plant industrial complex would seriously retard this more beneficial and sustainable economic source.

222 4 1 NV IND E
Ely is a rare place where the air is clean and there are abundant outdoor recreation activities. This is the real economic future of this area, and this potential could be significantly reduced if these power plants are constructed.

222 8 1 NV IND E
Remoteness, Solitude and Opportunities for Primitive Recreation – These are important benefits that Wilderness offers to locals and visitors to the area, which would certainly be adversely impacted with coal fire power plants and associated disturbances and emissions visible from any Wilderness areas.

223 142 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to local and regional recreation.

292 13 1 ANON IND E
A thorough consideration of the impact of this project on recreation.

297 3 1 NV IND E
We request that a thorough analysis be done to identify all areas of recreation, residency and general use that will be visually impacted by the power plant.

297 6 1 NV IND E
A 24 hour coal fired power plant facility - with all of its buildings and infrastructure - would undoubtedly create a significant amount of light all night. For the envious astronomers, or the average campers and backcountry hikers, this facility would be a tragic disgrace to our amazing skies. This is not something that can be mitigated, replaced, or made up for. A coal-fired facility would be an irreversible step towards the washed out and lackluster skies that already cover much of our country. This would be a crime to our future generations, who might never know the beauty of a perfectly dark landscape blanketed with billions of stars.

298 4 2 NV IND L
A loss of Outdoor recreation revenue is sure to occur under these circumstances.

299 4 1 NV IND L
A loss of Outdoor recreation revenue is sure to occur under these circumstances.

300 5 1 NV IND E
Outdoor tourism will become non-existent. Since the Nevada Commission on Tourism was established, many volunteers have been utilizing state funds (generated by room tax) to lure fans of outdoor recreation to White Pine County and to rural Nevada. Power Generating Plants and all that they encompass are not high on an outdoor tourist's list of things to do and see. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and the benefits they bring to White Pine County will become history.

300 11 1 NV IND E
Groundwater that now sustains wildlife, native plant life, and the hunting and fishing that many of us enjoy will disappear. The water that isn't pumped away will be utilized to facilitate the Power Generating Stations.

302 4 2 NV IND L
A loss of Outdoor recreation revenue is sure to occur under these circumstances.

303 55 1 ID CON L
Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

315 7 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] additional human induced pressure on recreation areas.

320 4 1 NV IND C
Ely's distinction as a world-class glider facility should be weighed.

320 16 1 NV IND C
Recreation: EEC's impact on the tourist-friendly, natural beauty image of White Pine County's so carefully cultivated in an effort to draw visitors here? Will revenues from these sources dry up? Measure impacts of sudden population influx of OHV and other outdoor sports use on fragile landscapes. Include NDOW's concerns, also U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation.

321 1 2 NV IND L
We wanted to raise our children in a small town with many outdoor activities and opportunities. We wanted our children to have clean air to breathe and mountain vistas to view. We wanted to be able to walk outside and see "wide open spaces" with very little manmade structures in our line of sight. If this proposal is approved as it is now, we see little opportunity for these positive elements, i.e., views and clean air, to continue.

326 3 1 NV IND L
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists.

330 14 1 NV IND L
The reason I (and increasingly more individuals) enjoy living in Eastern Nevada is due to the scenic splendor and great primitive recreation opportunities that exist here. One of the best places to recreate in the State is the Schell Creek Range and Duck Creek Basin. I go to this area nearly every weekend to ski, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. Many others from Ely and everywhere do the same. It would be a great shame to degrade the recreational and visual resources of this incredible area to build a power plant. According to the power company officials, the only reason

they have to place the plant at the Duck Creek Road junction is so that construction workers and employees wouldn't have to drive so far to work. That is not a good reason to degrade the visual (and ultimately recreational quality) of the High Schells and Duck Creek Basin.

332 5 1 CA IND L

My camping experience along Duck Creek, just a mile or two east of Glenn Siding where one of the power plants is proposed, would be ruined by the Ely Energy Center proposal. I am urging you to stop it.

361 8 1 NV CON L

What will be the socioeconomic, including recreation, effects on the livelihood of citizens/ranchers in the west desert communities of eastern Nevada and western Utah?

Chapter 19: Socioeconomics Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
9	1	2	CO	IND	E

The proposed "Electric transmission Line Boundary" will essentially destroy our entire property and render it unbuildable and unlivable.

9	2	2	CO	IND	E

There are also homes and families living in this corridor who will be displaced and/or distressed.

9	3	2	CO	IND	E

Thinking of the community as a whole and also the construction personnel and direct workforce: they need housing. There is very little private land for development of any kind in White Pine County and our land is choice view property close to town.

11	1	1	NV	IND	C

The Socio-Economic category may be in need of certain mitigative measures prior to the proposed arrival of the projected large construction workforce.

13	2	1	NV	IND	C

The area sure needs the jobs.

20	2	1	ANON	IND	E

This will create stable and environmentally friendly employment in a community that has relied on the ups and downs of mining for many years.

The local economy will benefit greatly by the stability of the project for the long period of time. The construction time will be a boom. It's a win win for White Pine County and Clark County as well as the rest of the state.

24	2	1	NH	IND	C

A project like this would stabilize the economy, and give young people a purpose and employment to stay in the area. It could be the driving force that would create new business and industry.

34	2	1	NV	CON	L

The proximity of EEC to both the towns of Ely and McGill would be a concern for the tourism trade and its economics.

48	3	1	NV	IND	C

The merchants in Ely will benefit from the workers who come to do construction.

53	2	1	NV	IND	E

What is the economic benefit to Nevada electricity consumers? It is my understanding that this project will necessitate an electricity rate increase to Nevada consumers. If Nevadans pay money to fund this energy project, then that much less money will be available to possibly more cost-effective projects in energy, water and other natural resources.

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53 7 1 NV IND E
The EIS should address what additional cost (i.e. resources unavailable for other opportunities) Nevadans will incur when carbon taxes are likely imposed on carbon emissions as well as how this will affect the "stable economics of coal" noted in the proposal. Currently, Nevadans are not susceptible to the economics of coal.

The EIS should address what additional costs will the BLM likely incur when carbon taxes are implemented? Conversely, what carbon tax credit will the BLM forfeit in the likely case that a carbon trading system is implemented?

59 5 1 NV IND L
From the presentation we learned that construction phases may last as long as 2018 or 2020, depending on the technology available for upgrades. When looking at construction impacts that mean if LS break ground this calendar year as planned, there could be construction impacts for the next 13 year. To mitigate the impacts the power companies should be required to pay to increase the infrastructure costs to the county by the percentage of population increase. There will need to be increased medical services, law enforcement, housing, utilities and school classrooms as well as teaching and support staff for all of the above. The present infrastructure is inadequate and the ability to pay for the planning and implementation of these impacts is not legally available under the current legislated tax cap.

59 6 1 NV IND L
[The] local labor pool is a problem.

59 7 1 NV IND L
With the new No Child Left Behind legislation schools are held legally accountable for the annual academic growth of their students. White Pine County School District has been fortunate to be able to cope with the transience that we encounter on an annual basis and has been recognized as a very successful school system. The impacts of a potential 13-year heavy transience could be devastating to the system and to the students who are "native' to the district. There will need to be a mitigation plan laid out with the companies and the District to plan for numbers, provide classrooms and teachers as well as specialists to deal with this special population. Money is not available from the state ahead of the impact so numbers of students must be predetermined and teachers hired and possibly classrooms constructed. Currently we are told that the life expectancy of a school facility is 50 years. 13 years of a construction period constitutes a transient impact during 26% of the life of a school building. I'm sure that school construction needs will be discussed.

62 3 1 NV IND L
This would also affect the value of public and private land in the basin. We have already seen a down turn in the building of high-end retirement and semi-retirement homes because of the on-going water issues and don't want to put up another road block.

62 5 1 NV IND L
I thank Sierra Pacific Power for considering Steptoe Valley for a power plant site as the economy of [the] White Pine County is in great need of a stable and increased tax base.

63 2 1 NV IND E
Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business.

65 1 1 NV IND E
If the underground aquifers are mined for water and the springs dry up, it will put me out of business.

68 3 1 NV GOV C
This won't produce a stable economy for White Pine; just continue the boom and bust.

68 5 1 NV GOV C
How will this affect tourism and the newly designated adjacent wilderness? Who want to fish in lakes poisoned with Hg or find solitude 40 miles from a power plant? I think there are better ways to boost the economy of White Pine Co. that don't involve such negative impacts.

93 6 1 ANON IND E
If new policies, like carbon taxes, make coal production more expensive, are those costs being factored into the cost of these new plants?

95 3 1 NV IND E
Such a heavy contamination of industrial activity can't be good for such an environmentally pristine and fragile area.

102 1 2 ANON IND E
Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

102 7 2 ANON IND E
Will the traditional agricultural base economy be affected by the drawdown?

102 8 2 ANON IND E
Evaluate the loss of property value to all land holdings likely to be impacted by the location of an industrial complex in this quiet rural location.

102 9 2 ANON IND E
How or will the community be reimbursed for the potential expense of social services (schools, housing, police, counseling, etc.) that an influx of 1500 short duration new residents represents? Short-term residents may have little concern or value for public lands. An already burgeoning problem of "renegade" unauthorized ORV routes may be exponentially expanded. How can the overburdened public land agencies possibly manage such a situation?

104 7 2 NV IND E
In Ely, where the inversion would most likely be more pronounced, how would this affect the number of people who rely on wood-burning stoves for heat due to no burn orders?

104 11 2 NV IND E
What will be the effects of additional infrastructure to the area?

104 15 2 NV IND E
What are the long-term socioeconomic impacts of this project?

104 17 2 NV IND E
Have other social costs been factored in, such as costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversion (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures)?

105 1 1 NV IND E
How much will White Pine economically benefit from the power plant? How much will the Power Plant pay initially, and over the long term? What will be White Pine County's costs in terms of support for the temporary employees, the long term employees, and the loss of tourism?

I would like to see actual dollar figures and some in-depth economic forecasting for the long term.

105 2 1 NV IND E
How much money will be coming in immediately, before they start building? Will it cover the cost of police, hospitals, firefighting and schools for these people? Where will the initial money come from to provide these services? Where will the transient workers live, if there are almost no places to rent now? 1500 more people is a lot of people for much a small town. It will have huge impacts, some positive, some negative.

105 3 1 NV IND E
Wouldn't pollution from the plants affect another large money maker in the area, the tourism industry? People come up here for solitude, fishing, hiking, and what some would call the "rural experience". How would that change if there was even a small amount of smog, if there was only a tiny danger of mercury in the water supply?

106 10 1 NV IND E
By building this plant, yes, there will be economic advantages to the community. But these will be only short-term, and will be offset by the economic hardships the community will face as a result. The power plant will only be a continuation of the boom-bust cycle these towns see.

The short-term effects will include housing shortages. Already there is a shortage of housing in Ely and McGill, with the influx of 1300 workers, plus their families, there will be a drastic shortage. This means, of course, new housing will be built, but these are only temporary workers, who will be leaving their newly built houses empty after only a few years—leading to a depreciation of housing values overall.

This increase in population will place additional pressure on the already over-taxed school system, hospital and other public works. For example, Head Start, which already has a waiting list, will be virtually inaccessible to many new-comers.

In the construction phases, the number of "transient" laborers will be high; which commonly, statistically, leads to increased crime rates. The communities in the area already witness a serious drug problem—increasing numbers of transient workers will likely aggravate the problem.

147 1 1 TN IND E
The costs, negative environmental and health hazards impact are the rewards this outdated energy solution energy would bring.

179 1 1 CO IND E
My husband is a nature photographer. He would certainly like to visit and photograph Great Basin National Park. If you build this plant, it will damage a potential source of his business.

180 1 1 CA IND E
Coal is the largest source of global warming pollution in the United States, and coal mining destroys fragile landscapes and contaminates streams and ponds. Adding insult to injury, the hefty price tag for the plant's construction most likely means that Nevadans' utility bills would increase.

186 3 1 NV IND E
According to the project description posted by the Bureau of Land Management, any challenges met by the surrounding communities by the introduction of a large, temporary workforce would be identified and mitigated through the planning process. If any such problems have been identified, these problems and their proposed solutions have yet to be made public knowledge, preventing the public from making an informed decision as to the impacts this facility will have on the local quality of life.

186 4 1 NV IND E
Who will be providing the financial means for creating new infrastructure and improving existing infrastructure for this facility? Specifically, who will be burdened with the financial costs of improving existing roads and creating new roads? Who will be required to pay for renovative improvements to the railroad the company plans to utilize?

186 5 1 NV IND E
Who will be paying for the social and public services, such as increased demands on health services and law enforcement, that will be required for the company's work force and how will the funds be generated? Will the county or local municipalities have to impose new taxes on the existing community in order to pay for these services? If the local governments plan on obtaining these funds from the company, how is this proposed and when will the funds begin to be generated? Will such funds be generated during or after the construction phase of the facility? If the funds will not be generated until after the construction phase, how is the community to provide for the much larger work force that will be present during the construction phase?

186 6 1 NV IND E
Given that the proposal calls for 1,200-1,500 temporary workers during the construction phase, most of whom will have to be recruited from outside the county, and the retention of only 150 full-time workers once Phase 1 of the facility is operational, how do the company and the local communities propose to accommodate such a short-term work force? Have the involved parties addressed the problems associated with such a population oscillation in the local communities? Is this community truly capable of absorbing such a short-term surge of temporary employees and then meet the demands of the permanent employees for tangibles such as housing accommodations, quality schools, and desired businesses?

186 7 1 NV IND E
At the community meeting held on February 7, 2007, a company representative stated that SPR intends on building temporary housing on-site during the construction phase. Who will be providing the infrastructure and utilities for these facilities? Once the construction crews are no longer needed, what will become of these facilities?

186 8 1 NV IND E
Is it legitimate to assume, given the travel time from the proposed site to McGill and Ely, that the work force will be seeking out and frequenting currently existing businesses in local communities? If the company plans on providing housing facilities for the temporary work forces, are they also planning to provide company-sponsored businesses within the temporary housing? What effects will this have on local businesses?

186 9 1 NV IND E
How will the degradation of our local and neighboring landscapes affect the local tourism industry that has been so carefully cultivated by community members the past two decades?

194 2 1 NV IND E
The economic gain from building the proposed power stations will be short-term. Many Ely residents remember the great influx of construction workers that came to build the mine and prison. While many local businesses prospered, the economic gain from the population increase was short-term and crime increased. There will be fewer long-term jobs for the power plants than either the mine or prison, but many more construction workers will be needed to build the facilities.

194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

204 1 1 NV IND E
The construction and operation of the Ely Energy Center and transmission lines significantly detract from the well-being of the citizens of White Pine County.

204 3 1 NV IND E
Economic effects on the town of Ely and White Pine County would again be of the boom and bust nature. Who will pay for the temporary growth impacts that the infrastructure and social institutions will suffer? What will fill the void when the power plant construction workers leave, and who will clean up the mess?

213 2 1 NY IND E
It will cost so much that it may actually increase energy bills for Nevada citizens.

217 8 1 NV IND E
Tourism visitation and the growing number of retirees attracted to the areas both face risks of their numbers diminishing with diminishing air quality.

217 14 1 NV IND E
The building of the Ely Energy Center will present many "challenges" to Ely and White Pine County including the short term but large increases in the workforce of 1,200 to 1,500 persons. The 3 year period of construction will not only require temporary and longer term housing construction which will at the end of construction become uninhabited; it will also require temporary increases in school enrollment, law enforcement, courts, and infrastructure (roads, water and sewer, etc). This will leave Ely and White Pine County in the same sort of depressed condition as when Kennecott closed down. A 150-200 person permanent workforce will not solve that problem.

217 15 1 NV IND E
This is a very large number of high costs to White Pine County and Ely, for a project which makes the area far less desirable to both the current and the hoped for new residents (such as retirees and others looking for clean air and interesting small towns), as well as of far less interest to tourists and other visitors.

218 4 1 CA CON E
The many impacts of the sprawl development that the project will both create and support must also be considered in the EIS.

218 9 1 CA CON E
The EIS should also disclose an estimate of the economic cost of the proposed project's greenhouse gas emissions.

219 2 1 NV IND E
The temporary population surge poses many serious hardships on a community the size of Ely and environs. Social services, education, medical care, mental health provision, and the lack of affordable housing for all working-class people – all these fundamental components of accommodating a large, transient workforce must be carefully and realistically detailed in the EIS, and specific, concrete solution devised.

219 3 1 NV IND E
The EIS needs to set forth a thorough assessment of the current shortfalls in extent and maintenance of the entire infrastructure. Then the EIS should prescribe both the remedial work necessary to provide an adequate infrastructure, and in addition the extraordinary provision that will be necessary to properly accommodate the influx of workers.

219 11 1 NV IND E
Since the future of the Great Basin lies in preserving its health and beauty in response to the rapidly developing tourist, recreation, and sporting opportunities, the EIS must calculate the future economic losses involved in permanently converting Steptoe Valley to heavy industrial use.

220 2 2 NV IND E
We would like to see it located as near to the City of Ely as possible for economic reasons.

220 3 2 NV IND E
A power plant (or plants) such as this present almost unlimited opportunities for growth and financial prosperity to our County and the City of Ely.

220 4 2 NV IND E
I propose the plant be located near Gondor Substation between Ely and McGill. The Industrial Park may provide an alternate site, as well. These sites would provide the maximum long- and short-term benefits for the County.

220 5 2 NV IND E
Among the obvious benefits would be the extension of the railroad tracks into the County where other industry could make use of them.

220 6 2 NV IND E
I would also propose that if the power plant cannot be located close to Ely, the whole project should be scrapped. If the vast majority of residents in the County do not reap much benefit, why bother?

221 5 1 NV IND E
People talk about the socio-economic boost this county and towns therein would receive. What a bunch of hogwash!

221 7 1 NV IND E
In fact, the socio-economic boost is a reality. However, it is only a boost. It isn't sustaining for the long haul, the plant is only good for 30-40 years, and who's to say that the best renewable technologies out there today will be available in the next 5 years?

221 8 1 NV IND E
Temporary workforces living on site to ease the housing burden in Ely and McGill will only make matters worse. The community health services are already meager and can hardly keep up with the current population demand on them. Adding to this 1200-1500 temporary residents will overrun our services. The crime rates and drug abuse will only continue to worsen. This same thing happened with the Ely State Prison. Economic prosperity while it is built with a decline once built. Boom and bust, the same old thing in this part of the country.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

222 2 1 NV IND E
There are currently some perspectives touting the positive economic benefit to White Pine County. This will be short term and not significant.

222 3 1 NV IND E
Who wants to live in the shadow of a coal fire power plant? It is imperative that the long term negative economic and social impacts be analyzed.

223 70 2 NV CON E
For harm to crops and to threatened or endangered species:

Please assess the harm, in terms of the aggregate of lost value-per-year and remediation cost-per-year, that air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on crops and cultivated soil within 500 miles of the facility.

223 103 2 NV CON E
Please account for the lack of sufficient local medical facilities to address health impacts to workers and local residents.

223 108 2 NV CON E
Please conduct and make public a detailed report of environmental and cultural impacts from the point of view of the communities in the immediate vicinity and within an 80 mile radius of the proposed plant location.

223 112 2 NV CON E
Please assess the economic burden of medical costs and lost productivity on the members of all impacted communities.

223 113 2 NV CON E
Please use health-based statistics in permit evaluation.

223 114 2 NV CON E
Please consider traditional and historic land use patterns. Will this substantively change the rural character of the area? How many residents and jobs will be added? How many services, jobs, people and acres of development will be required to support those new jobs and residents? Will all of the impacts of additional jobs and people be positive impacts?

223 123 2 NV CON E
Please consider the number of coal cars needed daily to haul coal to the plant and the impacts of those cars on all communities along their route.

Please consider whether those coal cars will pass through Ely, either inbound or outbound to the plant, or both and the impacts of those trips.

Please consider the number of daily truck trips required for both project construction and operation including a break down of that traffic by number and types of vehicles per day, including large trucks, buses, and automobiles and the impacts of those trips.

Other than coal cars, please consider the number of daily train trips, if any, required for both project construction and operation and the impacts of those trips?

223 138 2 NV CON E
Please determine what plans, if any, exist for subdivisions in and around the EEC (or designed to serve the EEC) and make copies of those plans public as they become available and include in the EIS scope.

223 139 2 NV CON E
Please conduct economic and/or socio-economic studies regarding the project and provide those studies as they become available.

223 141 2 NV CON E
Please consider any and all applicant plans to build and construct with union labor.

225 9 1 NV CON E
Perform a statistically valid survey to determine if rate-payers would pay more for renewable energies. Global warming is a hot topic of late, and we think that you would be surprised at the results of this survey.

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

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community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

229 5 1 ANON IND E
The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. People, plants and animals will be very negatively affected!

230 3 1 ANON IND E
The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology.

244 3 1 NY IND E
How about letting Nevadans decide what sort of power plant they want?

269 3 2 NE IND E
Our federal lands should not be sacrificed for the profit of corporations whose first concern is profit.

280 1 1 CA IND E
It will cost more in the long run to mitigate the nasty impacts from the proposed coal burning power plant than it will generate in terms of revenue.

285 3 1 NY IND E
This project would cost billions of dollars for the plant's construction, and the hefty price tag most likely means that Nevadans' utility bills would increase.

288 1 1 IL IND E
This is just a sneaky way to get this thing pushed through before more stringent regulations come into being, primarily for the benefit of the developers at the expense of the people and environment.

290 1 1 AZ IND E
The Ely Plant will be way too costly to the environment and future generations.

292 14 1 ANON IND E
What happens to personnel infrastructure - law enforcement officers, teachers, emergency workers, hospital personnel, - after the construction workers leave, and the Energy Center workforce diminishes to one tenth its size?

293 2 1 NV IND E
[I] think it will be a good economic benefit for Ely and White Pine Co.

295 2 1 NV IND E
Its presence will stabilize other businesses due to the rail line which will be built to service it.

296 4 1 NV AGR E
With increased rail traffic in the region, how will this activity affect livestock movement in an open range setting? What mitigation will be offered to compensate ranchers for livestock losses associated with the increased rail traffic?

296 6 1 NV AGR E
How will this potential water allocation affect future development of agricultural production within the region?

298 2 2 NV IND L
This location for a coal-fired Power Plant is entirely too close to inhabited, residential areas.

298 5 2 NV IND L
White Pine County is rapidly becoming a desired retirement locale. The County is collecting property taxes from many new upscale homes. The retirement home trend will be sure to cease with the new "scenic view of the Power Plant" and with pollution the Coal-fired Power Plant creates.

299 2 1 NV IND L
This location for a coal-fired Power Plant is entirely too close to inhabited, residential areas. McGill is only 4.5 miles to the south. Duck Creek Basin homes are even closer. They are only 4 miles to the east.

299 5 1 NV IND L
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300 5 1 NV IND E
Outdoor tourism will become non-existent. Since the Nevada Commission on Tourism was established, many volunteers have been utilizing state funds (generated by room tax) to lure fans of outdoor recreation to White Pine County and to rural Nevada. Power Generating Plants and all that they encompass are not high on an outdoor tourist's list of things to do and see. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and the benefits they bring to White Pine County will become history.

300 7 1 NV IND E
White Pine County will cease to be the preferred relocation site for retirees and new residents. The loss of water, pristine skies, clean air, and natural environment will destroy a desirable locale for the many leaving large cities.

300 9 1 NV IND E
Quality of Life in White Pine County will be but a memory. Water, soil, light, and air pollution will affect White Pine County in many negative ways. Traffic pollution during construction will be a nightmare and will require expensive upgrades of our streets and highways. Safety and Medical Departments will need an extreme upgrade. How will we fund these projects?

302 2 2 NV IND L
This location for a coal-fired Power Plant is entirely too close to inhabited, residential areas. McGill is only 4.5 miles to the south. Duck Creek Basin homes are even closer. They are only 4 miles to the east.

302 5 2 NV IND L
White Pine County is rapidly becoming a desired retirement locale. A reason my husband and I built our home here. The County is collecting property taxes from many new upscale homes in this area. The retirement home trend will be sure to cease with the new "scenic view of the Power Plant" and with pollution the Coal-fired Power Plant will create.

303 13 1 ID CON L
We spend a lot of time on the ground, examining the effects of land use practices, and we would be exposed to the pollution, noise, haze, and the contaminants it may contain, that would develop from these proposals.

303 32 1 ID CON L
What is the significance—in terms of a larger grid or energy system and enabling or causing other development, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the new power and water corridors, pipelines, here? Who benefits and who or what loses?

303 36 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed economic analysis, of all aspects of this proposal. This includes a detailed analysis of the finances, financial involvement of various business parties, entities in this.

303 37 1 ID CON L
This must be contrasted with the very serious adverse impacts to quality of life, public health (across the region), connectivity of habitats and viability of populations of important ad sensitive species across the zone of project impact.

303 42 1 ID CON L
While the Scoping Notice boasts of an inflated work force during construction, this will certainly not be a permanent work force. This is part of the boom and bust cycle that promoters of these efforts make. This will have significant harmful impacts on quality of life, drug use such as methamphetamine, and all manner of abuses tied to such development in rural-type areas.

307 1 1 NV OTH E
In a state like ours with abundant opportunities for solar, wind, and even geothermal, all of which are more sustainable and less polluting than coal, it makes one wonder who's palms are being greased here. Seriously, it seems to me that solar, wind, geothermal would be more economic and sensible and provide as many jobs, too.

315 9 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] increased burden on law enforcement and those that manage natural resources for the public's benefit.

316 2 1 NV LOC L
The further the site is located north of McGill, the less likely the railroad will become a viable commercial operation for our community.

317 12 1 ANON CON L
Although the energy plant is supplying power to Nevada residents only, look into the feasibility of distributing costs throughout the supply network. In other words, you would be raising the costs of rates for those rate-payers who are not receiving their power directly from the EEC. However, this is justified because we know that we need to implement more renewable plants in order to decrease emissions that contribute to global warming—which is of concern to everyone.

318 2 1 NV LOC C
The possible siting along the rail line would allow not only for the power generation plant, but also for economic spin offs to our surrounding cities.

318 3 1 NV LOC C
Allowing the Ely Energy Center to build at the preferred site would add enormously to the upgrade of the railroad track bringing it closer to the communities of McGill and Ely. The City of Ely would gain millions in upgrade and value that it could not afford on its own. With a new upgraded rail line, the City of Ely could potentially market warehousing and other freight hauling opportunities that enhance and save a tremendous amount in transportation costs for the local industries. Quadra Mining would have the potential for low cost freight as well as Foreland Oil, and Juniper Pellets (a wood palletizing operation).

318 4 1 NV LOC C
The historical Nevada Northern Railroad could market another scenic route to the historical mining community of Cherry Creek.

318 5 1 NV LOC C
I have asked and encouraged the Ely Energy Center management to locate as near to McGill and Ely as possible. Supporting businesses and workers' families would tend to locate in our cities, which would in turn enhance our population, assist our tax base, and attract new services or businesses that look for a larger population base than what we now have. The historical Nevada Northern Railroad yard in East Ely could possibly be used as a repair and maintenance facility for the power plant coal cars, thus providing a service, new jobs, and enhancing their economic future and existence. New enterprises would enhance shopping for our present community and also help us attract professionals and others who require a greater variety than what we now offer.

318 7 1 NV LOC C
Ely and White Pine County's economy has been cyclical and the power plants contemplated now offer stability over a greater period of time and may attract other industry needing inexpensive energy, thus creating new and alternate opportunities for our citizens.

318 8 1 NV LOC C
The greater the distance from our communities that the Ely Energy Center is located, the greater the loss of economic enhancement will be felt.

320 9 1 NV IND C
The EIS should describe potential impacts to the riparian habitats and waters adjoining McGill, both short and long term, and how these will affect wildlife and vegetation, as well as agrarian enterprise.

320 15 1 NV IND C
The project's scope will bring unprecedented numbers of workers plus people drawn by a "boom" economy who wish to capitalize—legally or illegally—on prospects for gain. As always, both Who Makes the Decisions and Who Gets to Pay should be delineated. The EIS should address each of the following in exact detail:

a. Law enforcement: additional officers to regulate traffic, control illegal activities, judicial necessities, housing in jails, registering company-connected vehicles, especially during construction phase.
b. Medical: additional health care providers, adequate space at Clinic and Hospital, also EMTs and other emergency providers.
c. Social services: juvenile and adult welfare, mental health, problems with domestic abuse, drug use, DUIs, public health needs, WIC, child care.
d. Education: crowded classrooms, testing, ESL, children in need of special services, buses, sufficient teacher numbers, athletic facilities.
e. Housing: EIS should also detail plans to house both construction and permanent employee workforces with minimal disruption to neighborhoods but with maximum utilization of existing infrastructure, as well as describing eventual disposition of any temporary units built. The EIS should note whether White Pine County and its cities have in place master plans, zoning, and regulations to properly manage a sudden influx of growth. Personnel to supervise erection/construction of housing? Do we have enough domestic water to serve all new residences? Sewer and landfill projections are also necessary.

320 16 1 NV IND C
Recreation: EEC's impact on the tourist-friendly, natural beauty image of White Pine County's so carefully cultivated in an effort to draw visitors here? Will revenues from these sources dry up? Measure impacts of sudden population influx of OHV and other outdoor sports use on fragile landscapes. Include NDOW's concerns, also U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation.

320 17 1 NV IND C
The EIS must document what percentages of EEC's anticipated workforce (both construction and operation) will actually be drawn from White Pine County.

320 18 1 NV IND C
[The EIS] should show accurate projections of the increased property and sales tax revenues, indeed all anticipated revenues, as well as costs to the County of absorbing this power plant.

320 19 1 NV IND C
[The EIS] should show costs to Nevada Power/Sierra Pacific utility users in increased rates charged to construct this plant, as well as anticipated company profits paid to both shareholders and employees.

321 1 2 NV IND L
We wanted to raise our children in a small town with many outdoor activities and opportunities. We wanted our children to have clean air to breathe and mountain vistas to view. We wanted to be able to walk outside and see

"wide open spaces" with very little manmade structures in our line of sight. If this proposal is approved as it is now, we see little opportunity for these positive elements, i.e., views and clean air, to continue.

321 2 2 NV IND L
The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center.

322 1 1 NV IND C
I have several concerns about the location selected by the Companies for their Ely Energy Center. The first being the loss of critical winter grazing for our cattle. You may not realize that different regions and climates have their advantages and disadvantages when it comes to raising cattle. In an area such as the Steptoe Valley where 7-9 inches of precipitation is normal, soil types are poor for high yielding crop production, high quality winter grazing is the one saving grace. Any loss or decrease in winter grazing will decrease our yearly carrying capacity (cattle numbers), decrease our annual income, increase our dependency on expensive harvested forages, and cause devaluation of our ranch.

322 2 1 NV IND C
The proposed site will eliminate between 3,000 and 3,800 acres (I've seen several different approximate amounts quoted) of high quality winter grazing. The site lays across two different grazing permits, one belonging to the Twitchell Ranch and the other belonging to the Steptoe Ranch, our ranch and home. The amount of grazing loss to the individuals is difficult to determine. Estimates by our Range con. are 40% to 60%. Economic loss is also difficult to determine. There are approximately 1,600 animal units per/month in the two permits combined. If a loss of this magnitude is sustained the yearly income loss would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for both ranches. Ranch values are determined by carrying capacities and would decrease by similar percentages (40%-60%). The devaluations of both ranches would reach the 3-4 million dollar range.

322 3 1 NV IND C
The individual ranches own the grazing permits and grazing rights to the land which you intend to sell to the companies. The railroad expansion and fencing of the right of ways would further the detriment. I would like to know who intends to compensate us for our losses and for grazing rights that are not for sale in the first place.

322 8 1 NV IND C
The power plant would decrease the value of my home.

322 10 1 NV IND C
Pollution is another concern. This plant will create an unhealthy environment for the residents of this area. I don't think 4-5 miles from McGill is a good location for the largest power generation facility in Nevada's history. People move to communities such as McGill to escape the pollution of big city industry. Don't contaminate the clean air we have sought.

324 2 1 NV LOC L
Approval of the proposed project will benefit both the local White Pine County and Elko County economies. We also feel that the rail improvements will have a positive economic impact on the Northeastern Nevada Regional Railport facility that will be in operation in the future.

326 5 1 NV IND L
In Snake Valley, we have noticed increased inversions due to the Intermountain Power Plant in Delta, which is over 90 miles away, north of Delta. The colder temperatures means that we have to go out and break ice for cattle on the range more frequently, and in addition makes it more difficult for newborn calves to survive. In Ely, where the inversion would most likely be more pronounced, how would this affect the number of people who rely on wood-burning stoves for heat due to no burn orders?

326 8 1 NV IND L
What are the long-term socioeconomic impacts of this project?

In addition to jobs, have other social costs been factored in, such as the possibility of more respiratory diseases due to air quality declines, costs for additional cold-weather activities due to inversions (such as breaking ice on the range and increased calf mortality due to unnaturally cold temperatures), and increased traffic on highways?

331 2 1 NV OTH C
The preferred location is more convenient to Ely in regards to the workforce with the Ely Energy Center.

331 3 1 NV OTH C
The rail line will be rebuilt much closer to Ely which will reduce the distance and the cost of rebuilding that part of the line into Ely. This cost will be shared by the City of Ely and the White Pine Rail Foundation. The project, itself, will be one more step in diversification of Ely's economic dependence on mining.

332 4 1 CA IND L
The proposed Ely Energy Center would seriously harm and ultimately eliminate the healthy rural lifestyle of a community that shows great potential as a retreat from overpopulated and over-polluted mega-cities.

334 5 1 NV IND L
Will the ranchers' prime grazing areas be affected?

335 9 1 NV CON L
Although the energy plant is supplying power to Nevada residents only, look into the feasibility of distributing costs throughout the supply network. In other words, you would be raising the costs of rates for those rate-payers who are not receiving their power directly from the EEC. However, this is justified because we know that we need to implement more renewable plants in order to decrease emissions that contribute to global warming – which is of concern to everyone.

337 5 2 NV BUS C
Social and Economic – the proposed workforce during construction would put a terrible strain on White Pine County and Ely to provide increased health, police, and social services, and schools. Mitigation measures need to be defined up front.

338 3 1 NV LOC L
With the economic benefits stemming from Employment, Construction, increased population and Taxes, White Pine County and Ely may put their Economic woes behind them and no longer be a burden to the State of Nevada.

338 5 1 NV LOC L
The majority of the public in White Pine County and Ely will benefit from locating the Power Plant at the preferred site.

343 2 1 NV IND C
Let's look at who would benefit from this.

345 1 1 NV IND L
What impacts will accrue to the water supply? Water demands of the power plants, the increased need for water supplying infrastructure in White Pine County communities and citizens, including deepening wells; rapidly providing new housing requirements.

345 6 1 NV IND L
Water demands from the power plants, increased community size and required infrastructure during the construction phase, and then the sudden decreased demands for workers, et al, when construction is completed need to be assessed. Similarly social costs and economic fluctuations of another boom-bust cycle to schools, county, state, and federal agencies responsible for mediating those impacts are important to understand. Where will we get the human and financial resources to address the socioeconomic and environmental issues? Staff shortages are already an issue. Double those demands or more within a few years' time and calculate the problems and the costs of solving them. How about the glut when the power plants are in the operations stage, among the same arenas?

345 7 1 NV IND L
For those of us who live here now, will our reasons for liking to live here dwindle? When taxes, utilities, fees increase; when we can't see the stars or the mountains across the valleys; when we feel less safe in our homes and neighborhoods, will we want to stick around to pay the bills?

346 12 1 NV IND L
As if all this pollution isn't enough, SPPCO intends to take 8,000 acre feet of water too. That's enough water to supply 40,000 people. Those people may not be here now, but they will never have the opportunity to be here if that water gets used up. It's as if there is a conspiracy to keep White Pine county weak, so that outsiders can take what they want, and leave us their waste.

347 6 1 NV IND E
Growth Inducing Proposal – the effect of the Ely Energy Center on inducing growth in the general area should be carefully investigated. Not only will the Ely Energy Center provide jobs in the area, but worker incomes and plant expenditures will affect the local economy, and tend to induce growth.

347 7 1 NV IND E
Impacts of Growth on Water Supply and Usage – any growth in the area – from all sources, inducing the Ely Energy Center – will require additional water. The long range effects of water usage, and potential future shortages should be evaluated. There may be a more environmentally sound way to use the water currently planned for the Ely Energy Center.

347 8 1 NV IND E
Impacts of Growth on Schools, Public Services, and Housing – the effects of both construction workers, and long-term growth on schools, public services, and housing should be evaluated. (Problems that occurred in Rock Springs, Wyoming during construction of the nearby Jim Bridger Power Plant are a classic example of what can happen when there is inadequate planning.)

349 3 1 NV IND L
Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project?

349 8 1 NV IND L
Again, will livestock permittees be compensated?

349 13 1 NV IND L
What mitigating factors can be placed on EEC to protect the valleys and mountains to insure that the people that live here's way of life won't be changed.

349 14 1 NV IND L
In the event of an influx of 1200 to 1500 persons during the construction of the two phases, how can White Pine County handle this in terms of law enforcement, hospitals, schools welfare, ambulance services, etc.?

356 3 2 NV IND C
Water – at present, Clark County is attempting to obtain water from White Pine County, if the power plant takes another 16,000 [?]. what is the impact on wildlife, ranching, and residential life.

358 1 1 NV IND C
Sierra Pacific power line will run across the entire length of my property, which includes my farm ground. I will be unable to sell any more parcels of land thus cutting down considerably on the value of my property.

359 4 1 NV IND C
When asked about what they will do if our wells start to run dry, the response was focused on natural drops in water levels. Well, once they are here and using the water, who can differentiate "natural drops in water" from the impact

of these companies using our water. I am concerned that the citizens will have to incur the expense of accessing water because the power company will claim it is a natural drop in water levels.

359 10 1 NV IND C
How will Ely Energy Center manage the flow of workers – how many will be hired from White Pine County and how many will be brought in? Of the high level positions, how many will be filled by locals? How will the cost of educating, providing health care, and law enforcement be offset? How will the drop in workers affect our economy when the plant is built and there are only 100 people running it? I am concerned about an increase in crime and drunken public behavior – there are few indoor opportunities for recreation and entertainment, which means that the workers will spend time in bars and casinos. We already have a significant drug problem, how will the company work to reduce drug use so it does not further exacerbate the problem we already have.

361 8 1 NV CON L
What will be the socioeconomic, including recreation, effects on the livelihood of citizens/ranchers in the west desert communities of eastern Nevada and western Utah?

362 1 1 NV IND C
The drop in the surface and groundwater tables would affect the ranches which use spring water as their sole water supply.

362 3 1 NV IND C
The use of the Duck Creek would affect the existing water permits which exist from north of McGill down the valley.

362 4 1 NV IND C
The alternative power plant site in North Steptoe Valley would affect several grazing permittees (several more than the preferred site), and the permittees should be compensated for the loss of 3000 acres out of the allotment.

366 2 1 NV IND E
In my opinion, it would be a great asset to this area, along with an economical benefit to our community.

373 1 2 NV IND E
Water. Our ranching operation is almost entirely dependent upon vested water rights from springs. A drop in these waters caused by the proposed drilling of multiple wells, and a large number of acre feet drawn from the aquifer would effectively put us out of business, and destroy the value of the properties as well. Our concern is depletion of the underground waters, and the drying up or dropping of water coming from our springs.

374 9 2 NV IND E
We are concerned with the construction impact of the plant. During this construction phase we could easily have two large plants being built from scratch. The local area from law enforcement and EMS to housing and social services will not be able to adequately handle the influx of people. At the scoping meeting little was mentioned of construction related problems on the local communities and what plans were going to be in effect to mitigate those problems.

Chapter 20: Soil Resources Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
4	7	1	NV	IND	E

The building of lengthy transmission lines could have a deleterious effect on the wildlife, soils, and visual quality of Eastern Nevada.

17	1	1	NV	IND	C

Several locations along the route pass through silty soil types-construction activities and disturbance can greatly increase both wind and water erosion. Erosion prevention measures are essential.

17	2	1	NV	IND	C

These same soils are hard to revegetate due to their limited moisture regime and due to their type of vegetation that grows on these sites-winterfat for example. Site restoration and invasive plant control are essential.

60	10	1	NV	FED	L

Changes in soil chemistry can affect forest and alpine ecosystems through soil nutrient leaching, base cation leaching, vegetative species composition, and winter hardiness of plants and trees. These changes can result in higher food chain impacts to mammals, reptiles, and birds.

60	11	1	NV	FED	L

All species listed as endangered, threatened, or considered for listing have the possibility to be adversely affected by changes in soil chemistry and associated ecological responses.

194	6	1	NV	IND	E

The land north of McGill (including the ranch near Gallagher Gap) and the area that burned behind (to the east) of McGill still show damage from the Kennecott smelter; neither area was able to support vegetation growth or regrowth due to the high levels of heavy metal contaminants in the soil. The proposed coal plant will be considerably larger and – even with better technology – will produce far more toxic material than the Kennecott smelter.

201	2	1	ANON	IND	E

The air we breathe needs to be as clean as possible, the water we drink as pure as possible, the food we eat from as toxin-free soils as possible.

222	9	1	NV	IND	E

Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertabrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

300	8	1	NV	IND	E

Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren't released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply.

300	9	1	NV	IND	E

Quality of Life in White Pine County will be but a memory. Water, soil, light, and air pollution will affect White Pine County in many negative ways. Traffic pollution during construction will be a nightmare and will require

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expensive upgrades of our streets and highways. Safety and Medical Departments will need an extreme upgrade. How will we fund these projects?

303 55 1 ID CON L

Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

346 7 1 NV IND L

What SPPCO doesn't remind us of is that the 80% of mercury that doesn't' make it out of the smokestack doesn't just disappear. For every reduction they've made in air pollution, there is a concentration of toxic pollutant on the ground. Whatever doesn't go into the air ends up in the SPPCO (toxic sludge) landfill.

Chapter 21: Special Designations and Sensitive Areas

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
59	10	1	NV	IND	L

Regarding the preferred location: There could not be worse location. The Schellcreek range has just been designated a Wilderness area.

59	12	1	NV	IND	L

Another impact during the construction period will be the expected need for federal law enforcement on the wilderness as there will undoubtedly be unusually heavy use for a number of years.

75	1	1	NV	IND	C

[There are wilderness areas near proposed plant sites (inferred from map submitted by commentor)].

77	2	1	NV	IND	C

To put a power plant right between two newly designated wilderness areas doesn't make any sense for anybody, especially those that have put so much effort to make it come about including BLM.

92	2	1	CO	IND	F

It's concerning to me as well that this would affect the local air quality at Great Basin National park and water quality.

106	6	1	NV	IND	E

Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted.

185	1	1	NV	IND	E

I come to Ely purely for its pristine wilderness and I would hate to see it put in jeopardy.

219	7	1	NV	IND	E

The Great Basin scenery, the Great Basin National Park, all the designated Wilderness Areas, all the undesignated recreational resources (which comprise most of the County), and the huge population of fauna and flora that are part of the landscape and which are interdependent with it: all these parts of the whole must be taken into account.

222	6	1	NV	IND	E

Natural Integrity – Emissions and fly ash transported by wind, and dust during construction would likely blow toward one or all of the surrounding Wilderness areas degrading the Natural Integrity.

222	8	1	NV	IND	E

Remoteness, Solitude and Opportunities for Primitive Recreation – These are important benefits that Wilderness offers to locals and visitors to the area, which would certainly be adversely impacted with coal fire power plants and associated disturbances and emissions visible from any Wilderness areas.

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223 98 2 NV CON E
Please analyze impacts to existing wilderness study areas.

223 107 2 NV CON E
Please address future projects in the area and the effect the EEC project may or may not have on those developments including but not limited to wilderness study areas and other BLM proposed activities.

223 143 2 NV CON E
Please consider and itemize any and all impacts to the Humboldt National Forest, Steptoe Wildlife Management Area, Great Basin National Park, Kirch Wildlife Management Area, Lake Mead National Park, Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, Overton National Wildlife Refuge, Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, all wilderness study areas, wilderness areas, and all areas of critical environmental concern.

223 165 2 NV CON E
Please develop plans to manage wilderness study areas so as to ensure they retain wilderness characteristics.

229 6 1 ANON IND E
There are four new wilderness areas in the area, within 30 miles…what else does one need to hear to know that this area is valuable and sensitive, and worth preserving.

263 2 1 WA IND E
Ruining a national park in Nevada?

303 30 1 ID CON L
How will this affect important cultural sites, wild horse herd areas, wilderness areas, and WSA [wilderness study areas]?

303 31 1 ID CON L
How will this affect air quality in Class I airsheds, such as the Jarbridge Wilderness—especially in combination with other changes such as altered, re-aligned or increased military overflights here?

330 15 1 NV IND L
Two newly designated wilderness areas (the High Schells and the Bristelcone Wilderness) exist within five or so miles of the proposed Duck Creek Road location of the plant. Two newly designated wilderness areas (Becky Peak and Goshute Canyon) are also found very close to the Lages Junction location. The proposed plant would impact the naturalness and primitiveness of wilderness by affecting the air quality, water flow, and visual resources of wilderness (since the plant would be highly visible to these areas).

348 1 1 NV FED L
There are several National Forest/Wilderness Areas close to the proposal. The High Schells Wilderness Area is only eight miles east of the project. Others nearby include the White Pine Range, Shellback, Bald Mountain, Red Mountain, and Currant Mountain to the west, Mount Moriah to the east, and Ruby Mountain and Jarbridge Wilderness Areas to the north. While Jarbridge is the only Class I airshed, I am concerned about impacts to all of the wilderness areas.

348 2 1 NV FED L
What will be the air emission dispersal pattern? Will there be effects to wilderness airsheds from particulates? How will the proposal affect visibility in the wildernesses? Will the smokestacks be seen from any wilderness area?

348 3 1 NV FED L
In wilderness areas and in surrounding non-wilderness lands, will the emissions change water quality characteristic in streams and lakes? Emissions containing nitrogen and mercury can seriously affect aquatic species. Will emissions create a change in pH; amphibians and macro-invertebrates are very sensitive to changes in water pH.

348 4 1 NV FED L
How will the coal and the fly ash be stored? Will these blow into aquatic systems or into wilderness areas?

351 4 1 WI IND L
This pollution would threaten the air quality at Great Basin National park, Cave Lake State Park, and other natural areas as well as the water quality in the local streams.

361 11 1 NV CON L
What will be the effect of the power plant emissions, groundwater pumping, and plant site locations on the Great Basin National Park visitor use and natural resources protection?

362 6 1 NV IND C
The alternative power plant side in North Steptoe Valley is too close and approximately five miles from the Goshute wilderness Study Area.

Chapter 22: Special Status Species Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	3	1	NV	IND	E

The proposed plant could threaten the water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout.

60	9	1	NV	FED	L

All species listed as endangered, threatened, or considered for listing have the possibility to be adversely affected by changes in water quality and quantity and associated ecological responses.

60	11	1	NV	FED	L

All species listed as endangered, threatened, or considered for listing have the possibility to be adversely affected by changes in soil chemistry and associated ecological responses.

104	13	2	NV	IND	E

Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors?

104	14	2	NV	IND	E

Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals?

197	5	1	NV	TRB	E

Critical habitat for sage grouse may be impacted.

216	9	1	UT	IND	E

How would emissions affect water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout?

218	12	1	CA	CON	E

Because the proposed project will impact species listed as threatened and endangered, the BLM will need to initiate the required Section 7 consultations with the Services on its impacts. In the absence of complete and lawful take authority from the Services, the project proponent may be liable for take of listed species from the proposed project. Among the listed species that are found in or near the project area are: the desert tortoise, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Big Spring spinedace, Railroad Valley springfish, Hiko White River springfish, Pharanagat roundtail chub, Pahrump poolfish, White River springdace, White River springfish, and Ute ladies' tresses. There are also many other special status species that may be impacted by the project including the Sunnyside green gentian (species of concern), the Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species) and more than 54 other BLM sensitive mammal, bird, fish, and invertebrate species, and 32 other sensitive plant species.

218	20	1	CA	CON	E

The BLM must consider the impact of the proposed project's direct, indirect, and cumulative greenhouse gas pollution on species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act both in the DEIS and in the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation.

218	21	1	CA	CON	E

The proposed project may impact species listed under the Endangered Species Act in other ways as well, including from nitrogen deposition and other impacts of air pollution generated by the combustion [of] coal.

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223 71 2 NV CON E
Please also assess the harm that air pollutant emissions resulting directly and indirectly from each option would inflict or cause to be inflicted on any populations of any threatened or endangered species of plant or animal.

223 93 2 NV CON E
Please consider threatened & endangered species on and around the plant site and all related project components, including but not limited to the Bonneville cutthroat trout.

223 99 2 NV CON E
Please analyze effects to endangered, threatened and state sensitive species caused because of habitat fragmentation as a result of the rights of ways.

223 164 2 NV CON E
Please consider the impacts cause by habitat fragmentation to endangered, threatened and state sensitive species, both plant and animal species, caused by the power plant footprint and the rights of way.

296 10 1 NV AGR E
The construction of new transmission lines is known to increase avian predation on desert tortoise. With much of the proposed utility corridor passing through desert tortoise habitat, what will the project impacts be to this federally listed species and what mitigation will be offered to minimize these impacts?

303 12 1 ID CON L
WWP has been very involved in grazing issues in this region, and we are gravely concerned at BLM's failure to fully reveal what is foreseeable here, including amid important sage grouse, raptor and other wildlife habitats.

303 33 1 ID CON L
We are particularly alarmed at the potential for renewal energy development here to wreak havoc with migrating birds, raptors, sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, bats, and other important and sensitive species.

303 35 1 ID CON L
What are the different populations, their trends over time, their likelihood of decline or extinction—of all important and sensitive species affected by this proposal?

303 37 1 ID CON L
This must be contrasted with the very serious adverse impacts to quality of life, public health (across the region), connectivity of habitats and viability of populations of important ad sensitive species across the zone of project impact.

303 56 1 ID CON L
Information from new studies conducted in Wyoming related to the impacts of energy development on sage grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species must be fully incorporated in your analysis. Energy-development studies include study of the effects of roads, developments, noise, human activity, etc. and so are very relevant to the effects of the ongoing and increased military use and disturbance of these lands. See Holloran 2005, for example and other studies available on-line at: http://www.voiceforthewild.org/SageGrouseStudies/index.html. Please incorporate all of this information into your decisionmaking process, analysis of effects, and development of appropriate mitigation.

304 1 1 NV CON L
The Steptoe Valley functional landscape is characterized by its array of classic Great Basin plant communities occurring throughout a range of elevations, as well as significant occurrences of aquatic, riparian or wetland ecosystems. The water-dependent ecological systems include freshwater marsh, desert riparian shrubland and woodland, ephemeral and perennial standing waters, and a variety of small-sized streams, freshwater and thermal springs and springbrooks. The [Nature] Conservancy's Great Basin ecoregional assessment (2001) also identified many rare, declining and/or endemic species in Steptoe Valley & the Schell Creek Range—including five invertebrates, eight mollusks, eleven plants, two fishes and three mammals. Seventeen of these species were

identified as globally imperiled. Seven of the mollusks, including six springsnails, are endemic to Steptoe Valley, thus occurring nowhere else in the world.

One of the most biologically important sites in Steptoe Valley is Monte Neva Hot Springs, The Monte Neva site provides habitat for one of only two known populations in the world of a rare plant species, the Monte Neva paintbrush (Castilleja salsuginosa), one of only a handful of occurrences of three different butterfly species, and one of Nevada's endemic fishes, the relict dace (Relictus solitarius).

304 4 1 NV CON L

Given the above considerations, the [Nature] Conservancy recommends that BLM's scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Ely Energy Center include an assessment of any potential direct or indirect impacts on occurrences of significant ecological systems and rare, declining or endemic species that may occur from the siting of any EEC facilities as well as from the proposed groundwater withdrawal.

304 5 1 NV CON L

We recommend that the long-term and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal on groundwater levels, spring discharge and evapotranspiration be assessed by means of an accepted regional groundwater model, and the potential impacts on the water-dependent ecological systems and their associated rare, declining or endemic species be assessed by means of ecological models or the best available science.

313 11 1 CA FED L

EPA assumes the DEIS will include a biological assessment to determine if consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The PSD [prevention of significant deterioration] permit cannot be issued until ESA requirements are met.

313 32 1 CA FED L

The DEIS should identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species and critical habitat that might occur within the project area. The document should identify and quantify which species or critical habitat might be directly or indirectly affected by each alternative. We recommend that the DEIS include a biological assessment, as well as a description of the outcome of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

314 1 1 NV FED L

We are concerned that the proposed transmission line corridor could potentially impact wintering areas used by the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus).

314 2 1 NV FED L

We are concerned that the power line would impact BLM sensitive plant species, which are also considered rare under the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program. In particular, populations of the eastwood milkweed (Asclepias eastwoodiana), meadow valley sandwort (Arenaria stenomeres), white bearpoppy (Arctomecon merriamii), white river catseye (Cryptantha welshii), and sunnyside green gentian (Frasera gypsicola) may occur in or near the vicinity of the proposed transmission line corridor. We recommend that BLM include in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) a sensitive plant survey of areas that may be affected by the proposed action. If sensitive plant species occur within the project area, we recommend that BLM redesign the project to avoid impacts to these species. If impacts are unavoidable, we recommend that BLM minimize and provide commensurate mitigation for project impacts to sensitive species.

314 3 1 NV FED L

Sunnyside green gentian is listed as critically endangered by the State of Nevada under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 527.260-.300. For this species, no member of its kind may be removed or destroyed at any time by any means except under special permit issued by the State Forester (NRS 527.270). Requests for permits should be directed to the State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry at 2525 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701, (775) 684-2500.

314 4 1 NV FED L
It should be noted that many of the plant species on the State's critically endangered list are not federally listed by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife] Service because of the protection afforded to them under the State law. Consideration of this species during project planning and early coordination with the State is very important to assist with species conservation efforts and to prevent the need for Federal listing actions in the future.

314 5 1 NV FED L
Under the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), Clark County is expected to provide for "no net unmitigated loss or fragmentation" of white bearpoppy and to "maintain stable or increasing population numbers" in Clark County. As mentioned, the white bearpoppy may occur in the project area and we are concerned that implementation of the proposed action may preclude Clark County from meeting the biological goals presented in their MSHCP. We recommend that BLM include in the EIS an analysis on how implementation of the proposed action will be consistent with the biological goals for white bearpoppy that were identified in the Clark County MSHCP.

314 7 1 NV FED L
As BLM is aware, the federally listed desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) (Mojave population) occurs within the proposed transmission line corridor. Habitat loss and degradation are major threats to the recovery of this species. Therefore, we are concerned that the proposed action would result in loss and degradation of desert tortoise habitat. We recommend that the EIS include measures to avoid, minimize or offset impacts to the desert tortoise, and that BLM select a project alternative that is the least damaging to federally listed species.

314 8 1 NV FED L
We understand that the proposed project would include two phases. We are very concerned about Phase II of the transmission line corridor which would occur within the Mormon Mesa desert tortoise critical habitat unit. Critical habitat essential to the conservation of the species that has certain physical characteristics requiring special management considerations or protection. Therefore, we recommend that BLM design the transmission line corridor to avoid desert tortoise critical habitat.

314 9 1 NV FED L
We are also concerned about sagebrush obligate species including the sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) and pygmy rabbit (Brachylagus idahoensis). The proposed alternate new rail spur in Elko County and most of the proposed power line corridors in White Pine County bisect habitat for the sage-grouse and potential habitat for the pygmy rabbit. Additionally, these proposed facilities bisect many known sage-grouse lek areas. The Western States Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee, under the direction of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has developed and published guidelines to manage and protect sage-grouse and their habitats in the Wildlife Society Bulletin (Connelly et al. 2000). We recommend that these guidelines be used in the planning process to provide further conservation for this species. These guidelines are available at http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov/docs/sage_grouse_guidelines.pdf. Given [U.S. Fish and Wildlife] Service concerns about the pygmy rabbit we encourage BLM to survey the proposed project areas for this species prior to any ground disturbing activities and to consider the needs of this species as project planning and implementation is completed.

314 10 1 NV FED L
We note the presence of wetlands along much of the proposed power line corridor routes in White Pine County. Impacts to wetland habitat in association with the proposed projects could negatively affect a variety of species including migratory birds and sage-grouse. Effects could include fragmentation and/or removal of wetland habitat.

315 12 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to wildlife species including sage grouse with development of above ground electrical transmission lines to well sites.

315 16 1 NV STA L
Transmission line development [could cause] impacts to wildlife resources and habitats including desert tortoise and sage grouse due to loss of habitat and or avoidance of habitats.

322 5 1 NV IND C
The additions of the power lines will be very detrimental to sage grouse populations.

326 3 1 NV IND L
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists.

326 7 1 NV IND L
What will be the effects of additional infrastructure to the area?

How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas? Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors? Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals?

336 3 2 MD IND L
Water pollution in streams affecting the Bonneville cutthroat trout and other species.

348 5 1 NV FED L
The Forest Service manages sensitive species to ensure these species do not become threatened or endangered. I have included our regional list of sensitive species so that you may include them in your effects analysis.

348 7 1 NV FED L
The White River spinedace is not currently in the area. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the Forest Service is considering reintroducing them in Ellison Creek in the White Pine Range, along with the unlisted White River desert sucker. What effect would this proposal have on the habitat for these two species?

348 8 1 NV FED L
The list below includes United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Regional Forester's (R4) sensitive species (December 2003) for the Humboldt National Forest.

Forest Sensitive Species – Fish and Wildlife

- Peregrine Falcon
- Northern goshawk
- Flammulated owl
- Sage Grouse
- Threetoed woodpecker
- Spotted bat
- Townsend's bigeared bat
- Pygmy Rabbit
- Bonneville cutthroat trout
- Plants
- Eastwood milkweed
- Scorpion milkvetch
- Currant milkvetch
- Upswept moonwort
- Dainty moonwort
- Slender moonwort
- Mound cryptantha

- Snake range whitlowgrass
- Pennell draba
- Cave Mountain fleabane
- Holmgren buckwheat
- Waxflower
- Maguire bitterroot
- Tunnel Springs beardtongue
- Mount Moriah beardtongue
- Marsh's bluegrass
- Nevada primrose
- Nachlinger catchfly
- Jones' globemallow
- Currant Summit clover

361 3 1 NV CON L
What effect will the groundwater pumping (depletion) have on both Nevada and Utah's native and species of special concern, and Federal sensitive, threatened, and endangered species? (Re: the Federal Endangered Species Act and those species that have been petitioned for listing under the Act).

361 4 1 NV CON L
Aquatic species that should especially be analyzed for effects would include the Bonneville cutthroat trout (petitioned for threatened status, least chub (petitioned for endangered status), Lahontan cutthroat (threatened), spotted frog, spring snail, associated sensitive and rare non-game fishes and macro-invertebrates.

361 5 1 NV CON L
Will the groundwater pumping and power plant effects lead to the re-petitioning of species to be listed under the ESA on Federal/BLM public lands?

365 5 1 NV IND L
Now abundant wildlife, plus endangered and threatened species, will be at great risk of disease and loss of habitat. In some cases, loss of habitat will not only mean loss of life but in some case, loss of the species.

369 16 1 ID CON L
BLM must assess the following threats to special status species and other important wildlife:

Wells and windmills, pipelines, troughs, pipelines, roads (often linked to facilities), salting sites, weed infestations, power lines, fences, and aquifer depletion.

376 2 1 CA IND L
The proposed plant could threaten the air quality at Great Basin National Park and the water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. In addition, the coal mining required to fuel this plant would destroy sensitive landscapes and contaminate additional water sources.

Chapter 23: Transportation Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
65	3	1	NV	IND	E

Also my son rides the bus to school. The traffic will be bumper to bumper from the construction phase on. Steptoe Valley will be full of fog for the entire winter. This will be a nightmare for the kids on the bus. Huge trucks cannot stop instantly.

104	18	2	NV	IND	E

Have other social costs been factored in, such as increased traffic on highways?

220	5	2	NV	IND	E

Among the obvious benefits would be the extension of the railroad tracks into the County where other industry could make use of them.

223	123	2	NV	CON	E

Please consider the number of coal cars needed daily to haul coal to the plant and the impacts of those cars on all communities along their route.

Please consider whether those coal cars will pass through Ely, either inbound or outbound to the plant, or both and the impacts of those trips.

Please consider the number of daily truck trips required for both project construction and operation including a break down of that traffic by number and types of vehicles per day, including large trucks, buses, and automobiles and the impacts of those trips.

Other than coal cars, please consider the number of daily train trips, if any, required for both project construction and operation and the impacts of those trips?

223	167	2	NV	CON	E

Please develop detailed traffic control plans on local roads during construction and operation of the project. Please consider requiring the applicant to carry all cost of any local infrastructure development related to the project, e.g., curb upgrades, additional parking, additional traffic controls, additional sidewalks, and additional lanes.

300	9	1	NV	IND	E

Quality of Life in White Pine County will be but a memory. Water, soil, light, and air pollution will affect White Pine County in many negative ways. Traffic pollution during construction will be a nightmare and will require expensive upgrades of our streets and highways. Safety and Medical Departments will need an extreme upgrade. How will we fund these projects?

318	3	1	NV	LOC	C

Allowing the Ely Energy Center to build at the preferred site would add enormously to the upgrade of the railroad track bringing it closer to the communities of McGill and Ely. The City of Ely would gain millions in upgrade and value that it could not afford on its own. With a new upgraded rail line, the City of Ely could potentially market warehousing and other freight hauling opportunities that enhance and save a tremendous amount in transportation costs for the local industries. Quadra Mining would have the potential for low cost freight as well as Foreland Oil, and Juniper Pellets (a wood palletizing operation).

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320 1 1 NV IND C
The EIS should address the construction and paving of roads, including dust mitigation and noxious weed control, as well as the possible widening of roads, traffic delays, impacts of heavy vehicles during construction of the plant and its operation, which parties will bear fiscal responsibilities for maintenance of such roads in the short and long term.

320 2 1 NV IND C
Pedestrian and regular vehicular safety, use of commercial arteries for potentially hazardous trucks (numbers projected of these?), traffic signals, increased volume of cars caused by employees on shifts, noise (24 hours daily?) should also be treated.

320 3 1 NV IND C
The EIS should assess impacts on air traffic in and out of Ely's Yelland Field in terms of volume, related costs, and potentially hazardous conditions created for pilots maneuvering for arrivals and departures.

331 3 1 NV OTH C
The rail line will be rebuilt much closer to Ely which will reduce the distance and the cost of rebuilding that part of the line into Ely. This cost will be shared by the City of Ely and the White Pine Rail Foundation. The project, itself, will be one more step in diversification of Ely's economic dependence on mining.

337 7 2 NV BUS C
Transportation – how many trainloads of coal would be delivered per day or week? We have concerns about traffic, noise, and dust pollution during transit.

337 8 2 NV BUS C
Will the plant require delivery and storage of hazardous materials?

338 2 1 NV LOC L
Presently, the Power Company will aide in rehabilitation of the Railroad to the site the Power Plant will be built on. Ely would never be able to rehabilitate the Railroad from the alternate site Ely Energy center has proposed. At least in transportation, Ely with a modern Railroad will no longer be as isolated from the rest of the country.

349 10 1 NV IND L
Transportation – all the verbiage is about railways. What about the extra traffic on our highways, and through our towns of McGill and Ely. And don't forget about the added traffic to the dirt roads in our valleys and mountains, while constructing the Ely energy Centers transmission lines, pipelines, and drill sites.

356 6 2 NV IND C
Construction would create noise, dust, and heavy traffic resulting in trash thrown out of vehicle windows and fast traffic on dirt roads.

365 1 1 NV IND L
Great quantities of steam constantly created by the cooling process will cause extremely foggy, hazardous driving conditions on Highway 93. Nevada State Troopers have stated that 93 from McGill to Wells and Wendover is an extremely dangerous section of road. Hwy 93 is the primary route from Canada to Mexico. Consequently 18-wheelers, huge double-trailer ore cars, wide loads, motor homes, and school buses cause unusually heavy traffic, both northbound and southbound. The heavy fogs and black ice that will be produced by steam and Steptoe Valley's frigid nighttime temperatures will create a disastrous situation. White Pine County Volunteer Emergency and Nevada State Safety services will be overwhelmed. A similar situation exists between Lovelock and Winnemucca. I believe it is called "Death Row". It is not pretty.

373 4 2 NV IND E
Rail line. As it now stands the Nevada Northern tracks are in disrepair, and are unfenced. There are many livestock trails crossing the rail line. These trails are used by cattle, feral horses, elk, and antelope. If the rail line reopens, or another line is built, we will likely see a lot of death loss in animals that are hit by the trains. This is a great concern to us, and we wonder if there are plans for fair reimbursement for livestock killed in such a fashion. And has the

impact upon the wildlife been evaluated. Ideally the entire rail from one end to the other would be fenced by a legal 4 wire fence. The drawback to this is that sometimes it is necessary for the animals to cross in order to get to water. Provisions would need to be made so that animals on either side had ready access to water.

373 5 2 NV IND E

Traffic. The third concern is the amount of traffic increase on U.S. 93. This road is already overworked. Serious thought needs to go into widening the portion of the road between the plant and Ely. Does the state have the funding to do this project?

Chapter 24: Vegetation Resources Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
17	2	1	NV	IND	C

These same soils are hard to revegetate due to their limited moisture regime and due to their type of vegetation that grows on these sites-winterfat for example. Site restoration and invasive plant control are essential.

24	4	1	NH	IND	C

The vegetation that grows in the area is abundant throughout eastern Nevada.

46	4	1	NV	IND	C

In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

48	1	1	NV	IND	C

Our vegetation and wildlife will be harmed.

59	8	1	NV	IND	L

Another very special place is Butte Valley. To consider corrupting another valley and impacting the environment there is wrong. The map shows that the well fields are in precious white sage and there is no way to drill wells in those locations without a devastating environmental effect.

66	3	1	NV	IND	E

As the ground and surface water are used what will happen to our native vegetation?

104	12	2	NV	IND	E

How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas?

194	4	1	NV	IND	E

Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread.

217	7	1	NV	IND	E

Considering the winds in either of the proposed sties, both “fugitive dusts” and “arid emissions’ would be certainly impacted the air quality at Great Basin National Park and its vicinity, as well as Ely, McGill, and Steptoe, Spring and Snake Valleys. This is obviously a very real problem for the environment – air quality, water quality, and consequent damage to flora and fauna.

219	7	1	NV	IND	E

The Great Basin scenery, the Great Basin National Park, all the designated Wilderness Areas, all the undesignated recreational resources (which comprise most of the County), and the huge population of fauna and flora that are part of the landscape and which are interdependent with it: all these parts of the whole must be taken into account.

222	9	1	NV	IND	E

Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

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223 38 2 NV CON E
Please also go beyond determining the effects of development on flows, fluxes and water levels to translating these effects into declines to the biotic components in the environment.

223 92 2 NV CON E
Please consider all impacts on vegetation, including locally grown alfalfa and native vegetation from all plant operations and project construction.

223 95 2 NV CON E
Please consider the metal uptake by plants from emissions from the plant, specifically B, F, As, and Se. Please consider the translocation to mammals.

223 96 2 NV CON E
Please consider revegetation, dust control, and weed infestation of stripped agricultural lands due to decreased water availability and air emissions impacts.

223 97 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to wetland and riparian vegetation in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin from decreased water and increased air emissions.

223 120 2 NV CON E
Light pollution and proliferation. How will lighted facilities change the nightscapes for people, plants and animals? How will summer and winter hibernators be disturbed? How will night pollinators be affected? How will night predators be affected?

229 5 1 ANON IND E
The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. People, plants and animals will be very negatively affected!

292 2 1 ANON IND E
It is said the Ely Energy Center will emit 12.6 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly. Is this a correct figure? If so, what are the implications of this amount of CO2 emission on our air, our lungs, our plants, our wildlife, [and] our skies?

303 22 1 ID CON L
Of great alarm is an activity that may further alter and desertify the climate in much of the area to be impacted by energy development and corridors here, is the potential for increased deforestation of the pinyon-juniper and other wildlands under various “Healthy Forests” or other type projects. This would be enabled by provisions of the recent White Pine Wilderness Bill that elevates the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, with ties to the livestock industry and plans to deforest pinyon and juniper, as well as “thin” mow or alter sagebrush to enhance “forage”, and under the myth that killing woody vegetation may increase water volumes. All the many provisions of the Lincoln and White Pine County Bills, and the Lincoln County Land Act and other recent legislation must be examined so that a full understanding of potential demands (on aquifers if 100,000 acres in Lincoln County are privatized, and >45,000 acres in White Pine County are privatized). Please be sure to assess impacts of all the foreseeable development on aquifers, watersheds, ecosystems, wild lands, air quality, sensitive and important species, and quality of life in this region.

303 44 1 ID CON L
We have often observed raptors perching on power lines that are supposed to have anti-perch devices. Example:

Raptor electrocutions are increasing causes of wild land fires—as cheatgrass and other weeds have increased. This will be even a greater concern with all the ancillary development and lines that are being proposed.

303 55 1 ID CON L
Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

304 6 1 NV CON L
We suggest that the EIS consider the potential impact of the climate change that could be expected as a consequence of the proposed facility's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases over its anticipated operating life. Large-scale environmental impacts could include changes in snowpack and precipitation patters, changes in the availability of water resources, changes in temperature, ocean acidity, and sea levels—and associated effects on ecological systems and species, including the potential for irreversible loss of some species. For example, the sagebrush ecosystem throughout much of the Great Basin, including Steptoe Valley, is currently under threat from two immediate sources: invasion of nonnative annual grasses (also altering the fire cycle), and expansion of native tree species. Scientists are concerned that climate change could add additional risk to the sagebrush ecosystem. First, Great Basin scientists have shown that increased CO2 to levels predicted in the near future favors the growth and geographic expansion of nonnative annual grasses and native woody species, but not that of perennial native grasses species. Second, future climate scenarios predict two prominent outcomes in the western sagebrush: increases in temperature and increases in precipitation (Bachelet et al. 2001; Nielson et al. 2005) that will cause a widespread contraction of the sagebrush ecosystem to only its highest elevations. Furthermore, the increased precipitation could produce a significant increase in woody expansion, at the expense of sagebrush shrubland, and a corresponding increase in fire, due to the increased fuel load.

313 34 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should identify wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas that could be affected by the project. If applicable, the DEIS should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modifications of habitat and plant/animal species composition, and include a detailed mitigation plan.

313 35 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should include a project design feature that calls for the development of an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds.

313 36 1 CA FED L
Executive Order 13112 also calls for the restoration of native plants and tree species. If the proposed project will entail new landscaping, the DEIS should describe how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112.

319 6 1 NV IND C
What are the risks to the ancient bristlecone pines, wildlife, fish, and other treasured habitats in the environment?

334 1 1 NV IND L
Possible consequences of construction of all three [power plants] include but are not limited to the introduction of noxious weeds due to amount of traffic in and out.

334 2 1 NV IND L
In the case of power lines in wilderness areas this could be devastating to the native plants and possibly to riparian areas and wildlife. In the construction of the power plants what species of native plants exist, do they exist in similar concentrations elsewhere, will noxious weeds destroy them? Will the presence of the plants affect wildlife, their grazing areas and migratory patterns?

334 4 1 NV IND L
Will the smoke/steam and lights affect the wildlife? Will the smoke/steam affect plants on the nearby mountains?

345 3 1 NV IND L
What effects will there be on bodies of water in the lakes and marshes, which are so vital to native flora and fauna in the region, perhaps from acid rain, and increased polluting particulates.

349 3 1 NV IND L
Will grazing permittees be compensated for disturbances to their operations during construction and operation of transmission lines, and for the total life of the project? For roads and invasive plants that will be brought in? And other disturbances to grazing lands that are linked to this project?

356 5 2 NV IND C
Transmission lines – would be unsightly coming down from the Cherry Creek Location, are a constant fire hazard, create noise.

361 2 1 NV CON L
What effect will the pumping have on the wetlands and riparian vegetation in the short and long tem (5-10 years to 30-50+)?

361 7 1 NV CON L
What effect will the power plant emissions have on air quality in the above mentioned valleys [Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek] from an health and human safety aspect as well as acidification effects on perennial surface waters and their associated dependent species, i.e., animal and plant?

365 4 1 NV IND L
Sulfur and other wastes from the Power Generating Stations will create acid rain and snowfall. Both plant and animal life will be negatively affected.

369 4 1 ID CON L
A full suite of restoration action for damaged, degraded or diverted riparian areas must be assessed under all alternatives – including an array of passive treatments, such as stubble heights, rest to jump start recovery, or until recovery, then limited, if an grazing.

374 2 2 NV IND E
We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise. The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like.

Chapter 25: Visual Resources Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
4	7	1	NV	IND	E

The building of lengthy transmission lines could have a deleterious effect on the wildlife, soils, and visual quality of Eastern Nevada.

9	4	2	CO	IND	E

These concerns influence the following Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) impacts:

Aesthetics (noise and visual)

59	2	1	NV	IND	L

I can't think of another place where I have traveled a highway down a valley as I have down US 93 in beautiful Steptoe Valley. I wonder if there is any other US highway like it. The open, long uninterrupted valleys, of which Steptoe Valley is representative, are special, unique places on the earth.

59	11	1	NV	IND	L

There will be light pollution so that the campers and backpackers camping to enjoy our beautiful night sky will no longer enjoy the intensity of the night sky experience that we have now. A current buzzword is view shed. From the tops of these wilderness mountains we will look out of beautiful Duck Creek Basin across Steptoe Valley and see coal trains, smoke, steam, and power plants. The inversions that we hardly notice now will be strongly impacted by the steam and particulate laying down and creeping up the valley and through the Gallagher Gap into the Duck Creek Basin and Schellcreek Wilderness.

60	2	1	NV	FED	L

What are the potential environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives to visibility in the surrounding areas?

-Unique characteristics of the geographic areas, such as proximity to parklands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers of ecologically critical areas. Optical transmissometer monitoring often reads in the 120 to 200 mile range, indicating outstanding visibility around the park and in the western Great Basin in general. According to a report by Sisler and Malm ("Spatial and Seasonal Patterns and Temporal Variability of Haze and its Constituents in the Unites States: Report III 2000"): "The highest light extinction (greater than 100 1/Mm) occurs in the eastern United States;…the lowest extinction (less than 20 1/Mm) generally occurs in the inner-mountain west in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau regions. The lowest extinction for the contiguous 48 states is at Bridger Wilderness Area and Great Basin National Park at 12 1/Mm." Visibility degradation results in diminished public enjoyment of natural scenic beauty. Visibility is considered a critical resource for interpretation of themes related to the Great Basin, as stated in the park General Management Plan (1988).

60	3	1	NV	FED	L

With the potential construction and operation of the White Pine Energy center, the associated railroad traffic and the potential startup of Phase Three of the Intermountain Power Project, visibility in the area may be compromised by multiple sources.

60	4	1	NV	FED	L

Dark night skies are an endangered resource. Public interest in the night sky and concern over light pollution is growing sharply. National Park units and wilderness areas represent most of the last remnant of dark skies in this nation. The NPS Management Policies state that "the NPS will cooperate with park neighbors and local government

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agencies to seek to minimize the intrusion of artificial light into the night scene in parks with natural dark, recognizing the part that darkness and night sky play in the overall visitor experience.

60 5 1 NV FED L
Increased urban growth associated with the proposed action, the construction and operation of the White Pine Energy Center and the re-opening of the Robinson copper and gold mine will exacerbate existing light pollution.

62 2 1 NV IND L
Locating the power plant at the mouth of Duck Creek Basin will dramatically take away from the pristine natural beauty of that area.

66 1 1 NV IND E
I have serious concerns about the changes a coal-fired plant will make to the area. It will directly affect our open space issue. We were drawn to this area because of the openness of it. And I believe others were drawn here for the same reason.

77 1 1 NV IND C
The issues I have with the Ely Energy Center are primarily with the alternate location. We purchased our Ranch a few years back because of the unspoiled beauty the area has to offer. We carefully chose an area that we though would retain those qualities for years to come. Clean air and no sign of development is what initially attracted us to it. Our property is bordered by and located within the Goshute Canyon Wilderness. As we look across the beautiful valley toward the Becky Peak Wilderness we see what the West used to be. The thought of having a power plant right in the middle of that view makes me sick.

102 11 2 ANON IND E
What will be the aesthetic impact on traditional backcountry recreation?

104 2 2 NV IND E
How will visibility be affected? How much will it be reduced and for how many days each year? How will the power plant affect the ability to see the brilliant night skies currently observable in this area?

106 6 1 NV IND E
Several newly designated Wilderness Areas surround the location of this proposed power plant: High Schells Wilderness Area, Bristlecone Wilderness Area, Goshute Canyon Wilderness Area, and Becky Peak Wilderness Area. These four wilderness areas are within 30 miles of the proposed power plant locations and border Steptoe Valley. The air quality and visibility will most assuredly be affected by the emissions from this power plant as it now is drafted.

106 7 1 NV IND E
Light pollution from the plant will also be high. What was once a glorious retreat for stargazers, Steptoe Valley will appear as another perpetually illuminated streak on the map.

134 1 1 CO IND E
This remote, but spectacularly beautiful region should not be the site of a polluting coal plant.

141 1 1 PA IND E
I live in the heart of coal country – southwestern Pennsylvania – where the beautiful environment is marred by coal extraction and burning processes. It destroys groundwater and fouls the land and air. Please do not allow this blight to spread to other untainted areas such as eastern Nevada. I have also lived there and remember the great beauty of that unmarred (except for the Dugway poison gas disaster) landscape.

194 1 1 NV IND E
Many people choose to live in White Pine County for the region's clean air, phenomenal scenery, and undeveloped landscape. Building coal-fired power plants in eastern Nevada severely diminishes these assets.

194 4 1 NV IND E
Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread.

204 4 1 NV IND E
Quality of life in Ely will forever be changed. The raw beauty, broad uninterrupted vistas up and down Steptoe Valley; the dark, starry night skies; the clear, brilliant Nevada blue daytime skies; the feeling of peacefulness and sanctity when enjoying the wilderness of the Schell Mountains and the other vast high peaks in the area will be gone.

211 2 1 UT IND E
Global warming is threatening the entire biosphere and we are the cause; especially coal-fired power plants and especially the ones that use old-fashioned technology. This is enough reason all by itself not to build this plant, not to mention mercury in our water, particulates in our air, degradation of the viewscape in our national parks.

216 8 1 UT IND E
How would any emissions affect air quality and visibility of scenic features in Great Basin National Park?

219 8 1 NV IND E
Our dark skies are a rare and precious asset. This area is much valued, visited, and used for observation both recreational and for research purposes. This air quality is prized by daylight as well, and it is unthinkable that the vistas across valleys to the next mountain range could be affected by air pollution (as occurs daily in the Delta, UT area). The EIS needs to demonstrate that our air quality will be protected, by giving realistic assessments of the possible impacts, together with specific plans for ameliorating any degradation of what may be the cleanest air to be found.

222 1 1 NV IND E
The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts.

222 7 1 NV IND E
Apparent Naturalness – The large power plant complex and smoke would be visible for many of the Wilderness areas and take away from this quality. In addition adverse affects to vegetation, wildlife, air quality and water quality would degrade the apparent naturalness.

223 74 2 NV CON E
For decreased visibility in scenic areas: Please assess the ten highest hourly visibility degradations, the ten highest daily visibility degradations, and the average annual visibility degradation that pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would cause (1) within a ten-mile radius of the facility, (2) in each Class I area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility, and (3) in each Class II area containing land that lies within 300 kilometers of the facility.

223 120 2 NV CON E
Light pollution and proliferation. How will lighted facilities change the nightscapes for people, plants and animals? How will summer and winter hibernators be disturbed? How will night pollinators be affected? How will night predators be affected?

292 5 1 ANON IND E
I've not seen an electric power projection for the Ely Energy Center. How do we, whose land the hundreds of miles of transmission line will visually and physically impact, and whose air the 24/7 pumping of toxic coal by-products will impact also - for the next 40+ years -know that this project is necessary at all?

292 12 1 ANON IND E
A thorough consideration of the impact of this project on viewscape.

297 1 1 NV IND E
Our largest concerns about the Ely Energy Center are the visual impacts and light pollution the facility will create.

297 2 1 NV IND E
The development of a power plant in Steptoe Valley with its large steam towers, buildings, sludge ponds, coal domes and trains will be visible from local valleys, wildernesses, and surrounding mountains. It is inevitable that this will drastically affect the regional viewshed.

297 3 1 NV IND E
We request that a thorough analysis be done to identify all areas of recreation, residency and general use that will be visually impacted by the power plant.

297 5 1 NV IND E
The facility would be a significant source of night-time light pollution.

297 6 1 NV IND E
A 24 hour coal fired power plant facility - with all of its buildings and infrastructure - would undoubtedly create a significant amount of light all night. For the envious astronomers, or the average campers and backcountry hikers, this facility would be a tragic disgrace to our amazing skies. This is not something that can be mitigated, replaced, or made up for. A coal-fired facility would be an irreversible step towards the washed out and lackluster skies that already cover much of our country. This would be a crime to our future generations, who might never know the beauty of a perfectly dark landscape blanketed with billions of stars.

297 7 1 NV IND E
We request that through measurements of current nighttime sky conditions in Steptoe Valley as well as neighboring valleys be conducted to serve as baseline data for the measurement of future development.

297 8 1 NV IND E
We request that Sierra Pacific provide clear and concise data on the amount of light output that will be produced.

297 9 1 NV IND E
Ideally, with the intent of preserving the night skies, upper limits of light pollution should be identified and enforced.

298 3 2 NV IND L
A Carbon dioxide belching behemoth will be a disgusting Gateway to the Success Loop Scenic Area.

299 3 1 NV IND L
A Carbon dioxide belching behemoth will be a disgusting Gateway to the Success Loop Scenic Area.

300 9 1 NV IND E
Quality of Life in White Pine County will be but a memory. Water, soil, light, and air pollution will affect White Pine County in many negative ways. Traffic pollution during construction will be a nightmare and will require expensive upgrades of our streets and highways. Safety and Medical Departments will need an extreme upgrade. How will we fund these projects?

302 3 2 NV IND L
A Carbon dioxide belching behemoth will be a disgusting Gateway to the Success Loop Scenic Area.

309 1 1 NV IND E
VRM [visual resources management] – Potential light pollution and mitigation. What will the facilities and emissions look like from KOPS?

310 2 1 NV IND L
A coal-fired power plant in such close proximity to the town of McGill would be unsightly to the residents of McGill and detrimental to the health of the residents of both Ely and McGill.

316 3 1 NV LOC L
The "Visual Pollution" from their Preferred Site will only be visible from Gallagher Gap due to the terrain and topography of their Preferred Site.

320 14 1 NV IND C
The size of such a facility will affect Steptoe Valley's viewscape and scenic beauty. This factor should be addressed. We currently enjoy excellent star-gazing in our skies. How will the light and air pollution alter this?

321 1 2 NV IND L
We wanted to raise our children in a small town with many outdoor activities and opportunities. We wanted our children to have clean air to breathe and mountain vistas to view. We wanted to be able to walk outside and see "wide open spaces" with very little manmade structures in our line of sight. If this proposal is approved as it is now, we see little opportunity for these positive elements, i.e., views and clean air, to continue.

322 6 1 NV IND C
Cultural resources and historic aesthetics is a concern.

322 7 1 NV IND C
I just cannot imagine what this nice open valley will look like crisscrossed with power lines and full of steam and smoke. I have included a family photo overlooking the valley with the site of the power plant indicated. This picture illustrates our point of view a lot better than I can.

322 9 1 NV IND C
I would not want to live here, staring out my windows at a power plant lit up 24 hours a day and raise my kids in a valley full of pollution.

326 2 1 NV IND L
How will visibility be affected? How much will it be reduced and for how many days each year? How will the power plant affect the ability to see the brilliant night skies currently observable in this area?

330 3 1 NV IND L
I have concerns about several environmental impacts that the power plant will create here in Eastern Nevada, where I reside. These impacts include degradation of air quality, the large consumption of water, and visual impacts to one of the most scenic places in Nevada—Duck Creek Basin.

330 14 1 NV IND L
The reason I (and increasingly more individuals) enjoy living in Eastern Nevada is due to the scenic splendor and great primitive recreation opportunities that exist here. One of the best places to recreate in the State is the Schell Creek Range and Duck Creek Basin. I go to this area nearly every weekend to ski, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. Many others from Ely and everywhere do the same. It would be a great shame to degrade the recreational and visual resources of this incredible area to build a power plant. According to the power company officials, the only reason they have to place the plant at the Duck Creek Road junction is so that construction workers and employees wouldn't have to drive so far to work. That is not a good reason to degrade the visual (and ultimately recreational quality) of the High Schells and Duck Creek Basin.

336 5 2 MD IND L
Visual pollution, including the marring of magnificent vistas visible from Great Basin NP and wilderness areas, resulting from mining, transmission lines, and power plants.

337 9 2 NV BUS C
Visual – this project combined with others would create smoke stacks, tall transmission towers, and additional roads, all of which will change the beauty of the area.

348 2 1 NV FED L
What will be the air emission dispersal pattern? Will there be effects to wilderness airsheds from particulates? How will the proposal affect visibility in the wildernesses? Will the smokestacks be seen from any wilderness area?

349 4 1 NV IND L
What will be done about the unsightliness of the transmission lines and towers?

351 8 1 WI IND L
A power plant and its attendant problems would affect the area – the physical blights on the landscape, the pollutants and toxins, the reduced visibility.

352 1 2 NV IND L
Night lighting – we request all lights be Sharp Cutoff so as not to pollute the night sky.

356 5 2 NV IND C
Transmission lines – would be unsightly coming down from the Cherry Creek Location, are a constant fire hazard, create noise.

356 7 2 NV IND C
Power plant – light pollution at night, noise from operation.

359 9 1 NV IND C
Steptoe Valley is a dark sky area that enjoys minimal light pollution. How many lights will be burning all night? I asked this question and the response was "we want to be as invisible as possible." That did not answer the question. The dark skies add to the quality of life in White Pine County and I am not keen on losing that.

361 12 1 NV CON L
What will be the effect of emissions and resulting deteriorating air quality on our "dark sky" quality and astronomy, as the project area is one of the last remaining two areas in the United States with excellent air quality and dark sky?

374 2 2 NV IND E
We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise. The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like.

Chapter 26: Water Resources Issues

Groundwater Resources

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

4	5	1	NV	IND	E

The use of 8000 acre feet of water annually is enormous in this arid state, whether it is surface water or ground water. Studies must be conducted to analyze the effects on springs, seeps, and streams, which are so important to all forms of wildlife, before such diversions are permitted.

13	4	1	NV	IND	C

The water issue needs to be addressed also as this is a desert.

34	5	1	NV	CON	L

Because of the amount of water to be used in the power plant, concerned about ground water shortage issues, because of the desert location of the project.

36	1	1	NV	IND	C

I do not support providing water for this project until a definite test has verified that a regenerating flow actually exists.

46	2	1	NV	IND	C

As proposed the project would continue our nation's use of fossil fuels, contribute to global warming, degradation of air quality and increase the use of very scarce water in White Pine County by more than 10%.

46	4	1	NV	IND	C

In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

53	12	1	NV	IND	E

The EIS should address the impacts of the required 16,000 acre-feet of water by the completed project. Will this project adversely affect the surrounding communities financially and environmentally?

58	3	1	NV	IND	C

I am also concerned with the Duck Creek ground water as the source of water for the project.

59	8	1	NV	IND	L

Another very special place is Butte Valley. To consider corrupting another valley and impacting the environment there is wrong. The map shows that the well fields are in precious white sage and there is no way to drill wells in those locations without a devastating environmental effect.

60	8	1	NV	FED	L

Water quantity issues resulting from large ground water withdrawals needs to be thoroughly evaluated.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

63 1 1 NV IND E
Our water rights approved by the state of Nevada are threatened by this project.

Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business.

63 4 1 NV IND E
The project will take our water and pollute our environment.

65 1 1 NV IND E
If the underground aquifers are mined for water and the springs dry up, it will put me out of business.

66 2 1 NV IND E
When the groundwater and surface water is released into the air as steam this will create a weather inversion. Much like the Salt Lake area gets, the results being fog.

68 1 1 NV GOV C
How will this affect our aquifers?

69 1 1 NV GOV C
There are two and perhaps more oil wells that now produce only water. The water is potable. One well now produces 2000 bbls/day. Second well tested at 60,000 bbls/day. Potable.

70 1 1 NV GOV C
Cumulative impacts associated with water pull in Butte Valley? How do we address drying the environment (springs)?

76 5 1 CA IND C
What impact will this have on ground water? What conflicts could occur with the SNWA water request? Springs will probably be impacted and cause harm to wildlife.

83 1 1 ANON IND E
The Ely Energy Center is a dirty plant. It will cause any number of breathing problems, poison the water, and make it so warm when we are trying to cool it down.

89 2 1 IL IND E
There is no excuse for another coal power plant that spews poisons into our air and water.

90 2 1 NV IND E
Great Basin National Park would have its air and water contaminated.

92 2 1 CO IND F
It's concerning to me as well that this would affect the local air quality at Great Basin National park and water quality.

95 2 1 NV IND E
Please study carefully the impacts on the water supply in the area as well as on wildlife, current Ag activity and especially the human being living in the area.

102 1 2 ANON IND E
Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

102 5 2 ANON IND E
The potential effect of an annual drawdown of 16,000 acre-feet of water must be assessed.

102 6 2 ANON IND E
How can the public be assured that local springs will not be affected and thus wildlife (an immensely valuable resource) be impacted?

104 8 2 NV IND E
What will be the effects of using so much groundwater for the proposed power plants? A delicate balance exists in the water in each valley.

104 9 2 NV IND E
Is the amount proposed really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife?

104 10 2 NV IND E
Will the water tables drop in the area making the need for residents to dig deeper wells? Are there any trigger points so that the water table can not be lowered below a certain level?

106 3 1 NV IND E
The draining of the aquifer for the power plant will only exacerbate the inevitable problems caused by the drainage to be performed by Southern Nevada Water Authority and, if permitted, the LS Power proposal for two power plants.

How can the pumping of potentially 5 billion gallons of water per year, not affect the rangeland and agriculture fields of Steptoe Valley? How can the pumping of 5 billion gallons by Sierra Pacific, in addition to 8 billion gallons per year by LS Power not affect the drinking water of residents in White Pine County?

There have been no adequate hydrological studies relating the aquifer recharge rates to prove this groundwater pumping is sustainable. This means that our springs and wells could dry up devastating our ranching, irrigation. Also, affected could be McGill and Crosstimber's water supply and further down the road Ely's water supply.

141 1 1 PA IND E
I live in the heart of coal country – southwestern Pennsylvania – where the beautiful environment is marred by coal extraction and burning processes. It destroys groundwater and fouls the land and air. Please do not allow this blight to spread to other untainted areas such as eastern Nevada. I have also lived there and remember the great beauty of that unmarred (except for the Dugway poison gas disaster) landscape.

186 11 1 NV IND E
Given all of the recent proposals within close proximity to each other in White Pine County, the Environmental Impact Statement should address the cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal should all projects be implemented in addition to addressing the specific impacts solely indicative of this project. Even if the water required for the SPR Ely Energy Center are isolated from the water to be utilized by the LS Power's White Pine Energy Center and the Southern Nevada Water Authority's drinking water pipeline, the cumulative impact to these areas could be synergistically devastating given that the ecosystems, wildlife and people who occupy these areas do not work and live solely within the boundaries of specific aquifers.

194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

201 2 1 ANON IND E
The air we breathe needs to be as clean as possible, the water we drink as pure as possible, the food we eat from as toxin-free soils as possible.

212 2 1 CA IND E
In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them.

217 4 1 NV IND E
There is no specification of the cumulative effects of both the ground and surface water withdrawals when the power project is added to SNWA proposed withdrawals.

219 5 1 NV IND E
All information about water applications, procurement, possible sources, possible impacts on the WP County water supply at various designed modifications.

Pollution of the water at every point of operation, including effects on springs, seeps, streams, and lakes, must e anticipated and described in detail.

221 10 1 NV IND E
Allowing for more ground water pumping will not only make the comparisons to Owens River Valley more of a reality but make it look like a mere footnote.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

222 1 1 NV IND E
The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts.

222 9 1 NV IND E
Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

222 15 1 NV IND E
Given the number of other proposals that may use the areas ground and surface water, cumulative impacts to vegetation, soil and potential effects from water table drop need to be addressed.

223 22 2 NV CON E
Please model evapotranspiration ("ET") for both the steady state and developed conditions. It is not necessary for the water table to drop a certain level for effects to occur. The impacts occur even if just the gradient of the water table changes.

223 23 2 NV CON E
Please ensure the groundwater model developed for the basin adequately models the various fluxes such as spring flow and total ET loss from the basin. Please include at least two years of detailed study data.

223 24 2 NV CON E
Please model the actual points of recharge. Please evenly spread recharge across the basin or distribute according to the elevation zones from the Maxey-Eakin ("M-E") method. The M-E method does not consider the hydraulic conductivity of the lithology in each of the zones. Additionally, most recharge occurs at canyon mouths due to runoff and recharge into alluvial fans. Because the effects of this project will be concentrated, please consider localized effects.

223 25 2 NV CON E
Please impose the transient simulations of the project on the seasonal changes in the basin. Please consider seasonal water demand and recharge and seasonal head levels in boundaries. Because of the magnitude of this project and because drought will maximize the impacts, please consider multi-year dry periods in the monitoring.

223 26 2 NV CON E
Please simulate groundwater flow and examine the fluxes against reality. Please consider flux from the rock to the basin fill aquifer both temporally and spatially.

223 27 2 NV CON E
Please provide a detailed map showing all points of study including, but not limited to, test holes, production wells, monitor wells/piezometers, ET measurement sites, stream/spring flow measurement locations, weather measurements, geophysical measurement locations, etc. as they become available.

223 28 2 NV CON E
Please consider any interbasin flow prior to completing the DEIS. If a connection is found or assumed, please consider changes that will lower the flow into or out of any basin.

223 29 2 NV CON E
Please determine whether development in the Butte Valley Well Field, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin or alternative site will impact the water basin and adjacent basins.

223 31 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts of decreased recharge near the Butte Valley Well Field, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin and assess whether flow will infiltrate as intended or whether proposed recovery, if any, of recharge water will actually pump groundwater.

223 32 2 NV CON E
Please consider the frequency, extent, and duration of flooding that could occur as a result of surface runoff and determine how that affects the estimated discharge from the groundwater.

223 33 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the basins are at equilibrium or discharging remnant water from prehistoric lakes. The analysis should include a transient, unsaturated flow model using reasonable parameters and initial conditions of a just dried lake bed with saturated soil conditions.

223 34 2 NV CON E
Please determine the amount of drawdown that will occur beneath any dry lakes and determine whether the decreased capillary flow and exfiltration will cause more particulate air pollution from winds blowing across the dry lakes.

223 36 2 NV CON E
Please make public the permit/proof number or legal description of each POD to be used as the information becomes available. Please also consider any Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for any impacted springs.

223 39 2 NV CON E
Please consider the seasonal water demand of the project.

223 40 2 NV CON E
Please complete and make public comprehensive water resource stud(ies) for the project and associated facilities.

223 42 2 NV CON E
Please include simulated water level draw-down contour maps for the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin at time steps of 6 months and years 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, project life in the EIS analysis. Please also include water level contour maps for these time steps and direction of ground water flow. Please make these maps public as they become available.

223 43 2 NV CON E
Please consider basin surface & ground water balance with respect to any proposed conjunctive use of surface/ground water.

223 44 2 NV CON E
Please analyze impacts to adjacent water basins, if water is overdrafted from the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin.

223 45 2 NV CON E
Please consider the total water consumption for all units of the project including a break down of consumption by all individual uses including, but not limited to, cooling towers, blowdown water, and coal dust pile.

223 46 2 NV CON E
Please consider water demand as both annual average and peak day.

223 47 2 NV CON E
Please consider design conditions for the peak day, e.g., dry bulb and wet bulb temperature, humidity, and site elevation.

223 48 2 NV CON E
Please consider water consumption by individual source, e.g., evaporation at cooling tower, scrubber, makeup to boilers, dust control, sanitary uses, and all others not listed here.

223 53 2 NV CON E
Please consider all water quality impacts of the project.

223 54 2 NV CON E
Please consider the impacts of changing the period of use of the water rights which may decrease or eliminate the natural recovery period.

223 56 2 NV CON E
Please make public the water EEC claims to hold under option for the proposed project, including the name of the current water user, the current water rights amounts, type of use, and place of use as they become available.

223 57 2 NV CON E
Please perform a detailed water right abstract of the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin to identify the existing and supplemental nature of surface, groundwater, and spring water rights. Please validate any vested or BLM reserved claims through adjudication as it appears the vested acreages claimed in the Companies' applications filed to date with the State Engineer may exceed historically irrigated acreages.

223 58 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the project is dependent upon acquisition of all existing water rights in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin, and, if not, what percentage EEC will need to acquire.

223 59 2 NV CON E
Please analyze a detailed breakdown of the 16,000 acre-feet ("AF") water demand including how much will be used for each process of the project operation and construction and any proposed or anticipated AF demand changes throughout the course of plant operation and maintenance.

223 60 2 NV CON E
Please consider any anticipated changes to the 16,000 AF perennial yield. Please make any preliminary numbers public as they become available.

223 82 2 NV CON E
Please analyze the dust producing capabilities in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin if the groundwater table is lowered and determine the salt and heavy metal content of that dust. Please compare with Owens Valley/Mono Lake conditions resulting from groundwater loss.

223 94 2 NV CON E
Please analyze the impacts to air quality as will be caused by the drawdown of the aquifer and subsequent die-off of phreatophyte (groundwater dependent) plant life in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin. Please analyze this impact in terms of downwind populations, wildlife, etc.

223 155 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to existing wells, springs, wetlands, wildlife, etc., including a detailed mitigation plan that includes avoidance as a mitigation strategy. Please make that information public as it becomes available.

223 156 2 NV CON E
Please define goals for the Steptoe Valley. This project takes a significant amount of the water projected to recharge in the basin. Eventually, steady state will be re-achieved and there will be no evapotranspiration from the basin. From an ecological perspective, it is not a sustainable situation. Please evaluate BLM's definition of sustainable groundwater development in this basin even without consideration of a proposed project.

223 189 2 NV CON E
Please make all water rights filings with the State Engineer public as they are filed, including all supporting data submitted under NRC 533.372.

223 190 2 NV CON E
Please require adjudication of all water rights prior to issuance of DEIS.

225 8 1 NV CON E
With regard to this last bullet item, we think it is only fair to inform the local community what would happen in times of drought. Would the water rights secured by the EEC mean that it would receive first opportunity to use the water?

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping

billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

228 1 1 NV IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

229 3 1 ANON IND E
The effects on local and then global air and water quality are certain to be extremely detrimental.

229 5 1 ANON IND E
The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. People, plants and animals will be very negatively affected!

230 3 1 ANON IND E
The use of billions of gallons of groundwater each year will prove to be detrimental to the entire community, including ranching, agriculture, and the local ecology.

231 3 1 CA IND E
The fact that this proposed plant would emit millions of tons of global-warming CO2 per year and dump huge amounts of mercury and other heavy metals into the water table and air should immediately disqualify it from consideration.

239 1 1 WA IND E
We need to apply strict environmental standards to projects like this proposed power plant. The standards need to be real and enforceable and designed to protect land, air, water and the publics' health.

247 1 1 CA IND E
It is an expensive proposition that would result in water and air pollution including more green house gases.

291 1 1 TX IND E
We need to strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficient technology to not only urgently reduce the global warming problems and the contaminated water problems, but to also help lessen serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease.

292 1 1 ANON IND E
By the figures in the comment prospectus, at full build-out the Ely Energy Center will use 5.2 billion gallons of water per year. How can the local water table afford such an outflow? Does BLM have groundwater and recharge studies that demonstrate that this amount of outflow is ecologically safe in a county that receives on average less than seven inches of precipitation per year? Can the BLM demonstrate that this amount of outflow will do no harm to those niche species that exist within this county's fragile ecosystem?

296 5 1 NV AGR E
The EEC and the generation of power will require a substantial amount of water; up to 16,000 acre-feet annually upon build out. If approved by the State Water Engineer, how will this new water appropriation affect existing surface and ground water rights and the agricultural production associated with these existing permits? How will these impacts be mitigated to insignificant levels?

296 7 1 NV AGR E
How will the use of ground water by this project affect the quantity and quality of spring flows in the region? If the project has the potential to affect perennial spring sources, what mitigation will be offered to minimize expected impacts to existing users, including endemic species that may be afforded protection under federal and/or state law?

300 4 1 NV IND E
The range and water that has been used by these folks for generations will be consumed by power generating facilities.

300 6 1 NV IND E
Our very precious water supplies will be swallowed up by the Ely Energy Project. Great quantities of water will be utilized. (Enough to supply 20,000 persons for each of the four units planned). The Project's plan to exploit Duck Creek Basin surface (and probably) groundwater is unacceptable. The probabilities are that it will grossly affect the entire Schell Creek Range drainage that flows to Duck Creek Basin.

300 8 1 NV IND E
Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren't released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply.

300 11 1 NV IND E
Groundwater that now sustains wildlife, native plant life, and the hunting and fishing that many of us enjoy will disappear. The water that isn't pumped away will be utilized to facilitate the Power Generating Stations.

303 6 1 ID CON L
The Scoping Notice fails to reveal the critical water shortage in this part of the Great Basin, and the fact that recent development and quid pro quo wilderness bills mandated water pipeline corridors to tap into Great Basin aquifers in some of the same areas where the power line infrastructure would occur, and the potential linkages between water and power or other corridors associated with these bills and land disposals.

303 7 1 ID CON L
My jaw dropped when I examined EEC Map Figure 1 and I saw a water pipeline extending north towards Lages Junction. Just how much water is at this very dry site?

303 15 1 ID CON L
What demands will be made, regionally, on the aquifers? Please provide detailed mapping and extensive scientific studies of these aquifers.

303 17 1 ID CON L
What is the current extent and volume of all aquifers affected by this? What are the demands on them?

303 18 1 ID CON L
How will global warming and elevated temperatures affect aquifer processes? How much more water is being removed (and foreseeably will be removed) over the life of this project – and how much will this exceed recharge rates? Please conduct detailed studies to provide a comprehensive baseline of information so that all impacts of the EEC, White Pine Energy Center, Las Vegas de-watering pipelines, and other likely drains on the water supply can be fully understood.

303 22 1 ID CON L
Of great alarm is an activity that may further alter and desertify the climate in much of the area to be impacted by energy development and corridors here, is the potential for increased deforestation of the pinyon-juniper and other wildlands under various "Healthy Forests" or other type projects. This would be enabled by provisions of the recent White Pine Wilderness Bill that elevates the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, with ties to the livestock industry and plans to deforest pinyon and juniper, as well as "thin" mow or alter sagebrush to enhance "forage", and under

the myth that killing woody vegetation may increase water volumes. All the many provisions of the Lincoln and White Pine County Bills, and the Lincoln County Land Act and other recent legislation must be examined so that a full understanding of potential demands (on aquifers if 100,000 acres in Lincoln County are privatized, and >45,000 acres in White Pine County are privatized). Please be sure to assess impacts of all the foreseeable development on aquifers, watersheds, ecosystems, wild lands, air quality, sensitive and important species, and quality of life in this region.

303 27 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed analysis of all sources of water for all aspects of plant or other development over the life of this plant, and discussion of all direct, indirect, and cumulative factors affecting these waters. What will happen to waste material and waste water—how will it be disposed of? What contaminants may be in water materials generated?

303 28 1 ID CON L
How quickly will aquifers be drained? What springs, streams, wetlands, habitats, or water uses will be affected?

303 40 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed analysis of who holds, and where they are located, all water rights and the allocations, that may be affected by the range of foreseeable development here.

303 51 1 ID CON L
You must closely detail all the spring systems potentially affected by the water use both for these and other coal plants and land disposal outcomes and development (industrial, other) that is foreseeable in the affected area—especially in light of the disposal of vast tracts of public lands enabled by the White Pine and Lincoln County Wilderness Bills.

303 55 1 ID CON L
Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

304 2 1 NV CON L
The near-surface groundwater levels, pressure and flow in the valley could be impacted by large-scale, sustained pumping from the regional aquifer.

304 3 1 NV CON L
Regional groundwater modeling is an accepted way to predict the impacts of large-scale pumping over time and to compare various pumping scenarios. In 1995 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) applied a regional groundwater model to assess the potential effects of large scale pumping then proposed by the Las Vegas Valley Water District. This model application by Schaefer and Harrill predicted the impacts on groundwater levels, regional spring flows and evapotranspiration (loss of water from plants) over large areas and long periods of time.

Based upon the Schaefer and Harrill groundwater modeling approach, the [Nature] Conservancy independently and preliminarily examined the potential effects of proposed large-scale groundwater withdrawals within neighboring Spring Valley by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. That inquiry coarsely confirmed that the proposed groundwater withdrawal would cause significant declines in groundwater levels not only within Spring Valley, but also within adjoining Steptoe Valley.

Although a regional groundwater model can effectively demonstrate how the fixed amount of water in the aquifer system will be re-allocated over time, the biological impacts on the water-dependent ecosystems and species can now only be inferred. Some amount of sustained groundwater withdrawal may stress these ecosystems and species and leading to serious degradation or extirpation. Springsnails, for example, are highly sensitive to water levels, flows and temperatures.

304 5 1 NV CON L
We recommend that the long-term and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawal on groundwater levels, spring discharge and evapotranspiration be assessed by means of an accepted regional groundwater model, and the potential impacts on the water-dependent ecological systems and their associated rare, declining or endemic species be assessed by means of ecological models or the best available science.

305 8 1 NV FED L
Water issues: From what water basins will the power plants be obtaining their water? Or are they planning on purchasing water from the proposed SNWA infrastructure in White Pine County?

312 3 1 ANON IND E
16,000 acre feet of water per year is a lot of precipitation/groundwater. Can the affected hydrographic basins even provide this amount of water, in light of the water acquisitions (in nearby hydrographic basins) and the proposed pipeline to send enormous quantities of water to Vegas?

313 18 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should estimate the quantity of water the project will require. The DEIS should describe the source of this water and potential effects on other water users and natural resources in the project's area of influence. Assuming groundwater is used, the DEIS should clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to this resource. Specifically, the potentially-affected groundwater basin should be identified and any potential for subsidence and impacts to springs or other open water bodies and biologic resources should be analyzed.

313 25 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should provide information on potentially affected drinking water systems in the project area, as well as the magnitude of the cumulative impacts that may result. The information should include a list of water systems (distinguishing between public water systems regulated under the SDWA and private water systems), distance from the project area, source(s) of water for each system, type of water treatment applied, and population served. The financial and infrastructure impacts to currently existing and future water systems that may be required to find alternate water sources, drill deeper wells, provide additional treatment (due to water quality changes) or other potential impacts should be fully evaluated.

314 11 1 NV FED L
We are concerned that pumping of groundwater, to supply the water needs of the proposed action, could potentially affect wetlands and riparian areas within the project area.

315 10 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to native fish and invertebrates due to draw down of valley aquifers.

315 11 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to avian and terrestrial wildlife with draw down of spring sources/valley aquifers.

320 10 1 NV IND C
[The EIS] should demonstrate conclusively that the facility will not draw down aquifers in nearby towns such as Ely.

320 11 1 NV IND C
The EIS should list specifically all bodies of water that will supply the power plant (acre feet needed, too), how officials plan to ensure the continuing viability of these sources, and explain what becomes of water rights should the plant close or never become operational at all.

320 12 1 NV IND C
The EIS should specify what operational by-products, e.g., fly ash, will remain at the plant site, what hazards these pose to the local ecosystem in terms of contamination and distribution, their potential impacts on air and groundwater both in long and short term.

321 2 2 NV IND L
The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center.

326 6 1 NV IND L
What will be the effects of using so much groundwater for the proposed power plants? A delicate balance exists in the water in each valley. Is the amount proposed really sustainable, or will we start seeing a decrease in springs, water-dependent vegetation, and eventually wildlife? Will the water tables drop in the area making the need for residents to dig deeper wells? Are there any trigger points so that the water table cannot be lowered below a certain level?

330 3 1 NV IND L
I have concerns about several environmental impacts that the power plant will create here in Eastern Nevada, where I reside. These impacts include degradation of air quality, the large consumption of water, and visual impacts to one of the most scenic places in Nevada—Duck Creek Basin.

330 12 1 NV IND L
The EEC plant will consume too much water, especially when considered cumulatively with the LS Power proposal and the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] groundwater proposal. This water should be available for wildlife, ranchers, and recreationists.

334 3 1 NV IND L
Will the amount of water used lower the groundwater table causing some of the same problems mentioned above [impacts on vegetation and wildlife]?

337 10 2 NV BUS C
Water – does the valley have enough un-appropriated water to support this and other pending projects? Will continuous pumping for the power plants cause groundwater levels of other users to be lowered?

341 1 1 NV IND C
How many wells will be required to supply water needs? How deep will these wells be?

341 2 1 NV IND C
Which way does underground water flow in Steptoe Valley? Could this information be available?

342 2 1 NV IND C
I feel that it will negatively impact the water on our property and add to air pollution in the valley.

345 1 1 NV IND L
What impacts will accrue to the water supply? Water demands of the power plants, the increased need for water supplying infrastructure in White Pine County communities and citizens, including deepening wells; rapidly providing new housing requirements.

345 5 1 NV IND L
Will we no longer have our pristine air and water quality we are famous for? Will there be ways which are practical and cost effective, that we can recover damaged air and water quality? Secondary damage to our natural environments requires analysis of recovery measures, too.

346 12 1 NV IND L
As if all this pollution isn't enough, SPPCO intends to take 8,000 acre feet of water too. That's enough water to supply 40,000 people. Those people may not be here now, but they will never have the opportunity to be here if that water gets used up. It's as if there is a conspiracy to keep White Pine county weak, so that outsiders can take what they want, and leave us their waste.

347 7 1 NV IND E
Impacts of Growth on Water Supply and Usage – any growth in the area – from all sources, inducing the Ely Energy Center – will require additional water. The long range effects of water usage, and potential future shortages should be evaluated. There may be a more environmentally sound way to use the water currently planned for the Ely Energy Center.

349 12 1 NV IND L
What triggers would be in place to insure that no springs, riparian areas, streams or exiting wells be dried up during any of these processes in these water basins?

349 13 1 NV IND L
What mitigating factors can be placed on EEC to protect the valleys and mountains to insure that the people that live here's way of life won't be changed.

350 6 1 AZ FED F
Please carefully analyze water resources, and any impacts that may occur outside of facility footprints.

353 2 1 NV STA C
I am wondering about the Duck Creek improvement and where the water will come from.

356 3 2 NV IND C
Water – at present, Clark County is attempting to obtain water from White Pine County, if the power plant takes another 16,000 [?]. What is the impact on wildlife, ranching, and residential life.

359 2 1 NV IND C
The amount of water that is proposed to be used and the potential impact on wells, availability of water for wildlife, and the depletion of the existing aquifers.

359 4 1 NV IND C
When asked about what they will do if our wells start to run dry, the response was focused on natural drops in water levels. Well, once they are here and using the water, who can differentiate "natural drops in water" from the impact of these companies using our water. I am concerned that the citizens will have to incur the expense of accessing water because the power company will claim it is a natural drop in water levels.

361 1 1 NV CON L
What will be the geographic scope of groundwater pumping effects on the aquifer in Steptoe/Spring/Snake Valleys and on our wells, springs, and perennial streams (in Millard, Juab, Tooele (UT) and White Pine (NV) counties) for water used in the power plants?

361 3 1 NV CON L
What effect will the groundwater pumping (depletion) have on both Nevada and Utah's native and species of special concern, and Federal sensitive, threatened, and endangered species? (Re: the Federal Endangered Species Act and those species that have been petitioned for listing under the Act).

362 1 1 NV IND C
The drop in the surface and groundwater tables would affect the ranches which use spring water as their sole water supply.

362 3 1 NV IND C
The use of the Duck Creek would affect the existing water permits which exist from north of McGill down the valley.

364 5 1 NV STA L
If artesian water is encountered in any well or borehole it shall be controlled as required in NRS 534.060(3).

365 6 1 NV IND L
Cooling towers, scrubbers and the like will use groundwater that now creates sustainable habitat. The habitat will disappear with the draw down of groundwater.

365 7 1 NV IND L
Wells that now have a substantial flow will also be negatively affected.

369 10 1 ID CON L
54 percent of aquatic species endemic to the Great Basin springs have suffered population losses and 62 percent have suffered major decreases because of channelization, impoundment, removing water and the introduction of non-natives. Removing water from springs through diversion reduces habitat for vegetation and aquatic biota by decreasing springbrook length, water width, water depth, and quantity of decreased and dried up many springs and springbrooks in the Great Basin, causing loss of populations ad extinctions.

369 14 1 ID CON L
Macro-invertebrate and vegetation surveys should be conducted prior to implementing management actions that my adversely affect spring biota (Sada and Herbst 2001 at 14).

370 2 1 NY IND L
A coal-fired plant in the long run is not feasible: it costs billions of dollars to build a plant that would use out-dated technology that causes air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease; water contamination; and an increase in global warming.

372 2 1 NV IND F
The other half, approximately 550,000 tons annually would have to be watered down ad infinitum. An enormous waste of water.

373 1 2 NV IND E
Water. Our ranching operation is almost entirely dependent upon vested water rights from springs. A drop in these waters caused by the proposed drilling of multiple wells, and a large number of acre feet drawn from the aquifer would effectively put us out of business, and destroy the value of the properties as well. Our concern is depletion of the underground waters, and the drying up or dropping of water coming from our springs.

373 2 2 NV IND E
Another concern is that this power plant will not be a feasible concern after it is built, and the water from northern Nevada will be sold off to Las Vegas. Provisions need to be considered to prevent this from being allowed.

374 6 2 NV IND E
More concrete data needs to be released to the public for where this water is coming from and what impacts it will have on the valley.

378 4 1 AZ FED F
Please carefully analyze Water Resources, and any impacts that may occur outside of facility footprints.

Surface Water Resources

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org Type	Resp Type
1	1	1	NV	INDE	

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

1 3 1 NV IND E
The proposed plant could threaten the water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout.

4 5 1 NV IND E
The use of 8000 acre feet of water annually is enormous in this arid state, whether it is surface water or ground water. Studies must be conducted to analyze the effects on springs, seeps, and streams, which are so important to all forms of wildlife, before such diversions are permitted.

13 4 1 NV IND C
The water issue needs to be addressed also as this is a desert.

19 2 1 NV IND C
There is also a flood plain in the bottom of this little valley and it should not be disturbed.

23 3 1 ID CON E
Plus, we are very concerned that the corridor may also be used for transport of water-such as from the Big Springs area where Vidler sold to developers and investors (Korogli and others), and which is located right along this route. SWIP runs right by here.

36 1 1 NV IND C
I do not support providing water for this project until a definite test has verified that a regenerating flow actually exists.

46 2 1 NV IND C
As proposed the project would continue our nation's use of fossil fuels, contribute to global warming, degradation of air quality and increase the use of very scarce water in White Pine County by more than 10%.

46 4 1 NV IND C
In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

53 12 1 NV IND E
The EIS should address the impacts of the required 16,000 acre-feet of water by the completed project. Will this project adversely affect the surrounding communities financially and environmentally?

60 6 1 NV FED L
The effects of deposition of nitrogen and sulfur compounds are of particular concern to the NPS because of their effects of freshwater lakes, streams, ponds, and watersheds. Such effects include changes in water chemistry that affect algae, fish, submerged vegetation, and amphibian and aquatic invertebrate communities.

60 7 1 NV FED L
With the potential construction and operation of the White Pine Energy Station and the potential construction and operation of Phase Three of the Intermountain Power Project, water quality changes associated with the deposition of nitrogen and sulfur compounds in the area may be affected by multiple sources.

63 1 1 NV IND E
Our water rights approved by the state of Nevada are threatened by this project.

Pollution fallout will adversely affect our crops grown and animals we raise as part of our small business.

63 4 1 NV IND E
The project will take our water and pollute our environment.

66 2 1 NV IND E
When the groundwater and surface water is released into the air as steam this will create a weather inversion. Much like the Salt Lake area gets, the results being fog.

83 1 1 ANON IND E
The Ely Energy Center is a dirty plant. It will cause any number of breathing problems, poison the water, and make it so warm when we are trying to cool it down.

89 2 1 IL IND E
There is no excuse for another coal power plant that spews poisons into our air and water.

90 2 1 NV IND E
Great Basin National Park would have its air and water contaminated.

92 2 1 CO IND F
It's concerning to me as well that this would affect the local air quality at Great Basin National park and water quality.

95 2 1 NV IND E
Please study carefully the impacts on the water supply in the area as well as on wildlife, current Ag activity and especially the human being living in the area.

102 1 2 ANON IND E
Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

104 4 2 NV IND E
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted?

194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

201 2 1 ANON IND E
The air we breathe needs to be as clean as possible, the water we drink as pure as possible, the food we eat from as toxin-free soils as possible.

212 2 1 CA IND E
In light of all that we now know about global warming, coal-burning plants represent one of the worst sources of energy production. They not only emit great quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming, but they also poison ground water and water sheds, produce huge amounts of toxic waste including mercury, and degrade air quality for people who live within hundreds of square miles of them.

216 9 1 UT IND E
How would emissions affect water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout?

217 4 1 NV IND E
There is no specification of the cumulative effects of both the ground and surface water withdrawals when the power project is added to SNWA proposed withdrawals.

217 7 1 NV IND E
Considering the winds in either of the proposed sties, both "fugitive dusts" and "arid emissions' would be certainly impacted the air quality at Great Basin National Park and its vicinity, as well as Ely, McGill, and Steptoe, Spring and Snake Valleys. This is obviously a very real problem for the environment – air quality, water quality, and consequent damage to flora and fauna.

219 5 1 NV IND E
All information about water applications, procurement, possible sources, possible impacts on the WP County water supply at various designed modifications. Pollution of the water at every point of operation, including effects on springs, seeps, streams, and lakes, must be anticipated and described in detail.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

222 1 1 NV IND E
The Proposed location is very close to the communities of Ely and McGill. It would certainly be visible from both communities and potentially have adverse impacts to air quality, water quality, and public health. Prevailing winds are out of the Southwest which would blow particulates and any emissions away from the population centers; however it is common to receive winds from all directions. During the winter we often have winds out of the North which would blow emissions toward the two towns, and there are also periods of cold high pressure and temperature inversions which could trap pollutants near the ground causing public health issues, poor air quality, and visual impacts.

222 9 1 NV IND E
Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

223 22 2 NV CON E
Please model evapotranspiration ("ET") for both the steady state and developed conditions. It is not necessary for the water table to drop a certain level for effects to occur. The impacts occur even if just the gradient of the water table changes.

223 27 2 NV CON E
Please provide a detailed map showing all points of study including, but not limited to, test holes, production wells, monitor wells/piezometers, ET measurement sites, stream/spring flow measurement locations, weather measurements, geophysical measurement locations, etc. as they become available.

223 30 2 NV CON E
Please reassess recharge accounting for losses to interbasin flow and evaporation from the riparian areas of some of the tributaries.

223 32 2 NV CON E
Please consider the frequency, extent, and duration of flooding that could occur as a result of surface runoff and determine how that affects the estimated discharge from the groundwater.

223 33 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the basins are at equilibrium or discharging remnant water from prehistoric lakes. The analysis should include a transient, unsaturated flow model using reasonable parameters and initial conditions of a just dried lake bed with saturated soil conditions.

223 35 2 NV CON E
Please conduct an inventory of seeps and springs impacted or utilized by the proposed project.

223 36 2 NV CON E
Please make public the permit/proof number or legal description of each POD to be used as the information becomes available. Please also consider any Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds for any impacted springs.

223 37 2 NV CON E
Because this project will take water from wetlands, springs, seeps and streams to use for power plant cooling, please analyze the impacts of losing these ecological resources.

223 39 2 NV CON E
Please consider the seasonal water demand of the project.

223 40 2 NV CON E
Please complete and make public comprehensive water resource stud(ies) for the project and associated facilities.

223 41 2 NV CON E
Please consider site-specific precipitation measurement modifications.

223 43 2 NV CON E
Please consider basin surface & ground water balance with respect to any proposed conjunctive use of surface/ground water.

223 46 2 NV CON E
Please consider water demand as both annual average and peak day.

223 47 2 NV CON E
Please consider design conditions for the peak day, e.g., dry bulb and wet bulb temperature, humidity, and site elevation.

223 48 2 NV CON E
Please consider water consumption by individual source, e.g., evaporation at cooling tower, scrubber, makeup to boilers, dust control, sanitary uses, and all others not listed here.

223 53 2 NV CON E
Please consider all water quality impacts of the project.

223 54 2 NV CON E
Please consider the impacts of changing the period of use of the water rights which may decrease or eliminate the natural recovery period.

223 56 2 NV CON E
Please make public the water EEC claims to hold under option for the proposed project, including the name of the current water user, the current water rights amounts, type of use, and place of use as they become available.

223 57 2 NV CON E
Please perform a detailed water right abstract of the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, Lages basin, or any alternative basin to identify the existing and supplemental nature of surface, groundwater, and spring water rights.

Please validate any vested or BLM reserved claims through adjudication as it appears the vested acreages claimed in the Companies' applications filed to date with the State Engineer may exceed historically irrigated acreages.

223 58 2 NV CON E
Please consider whether the project is dependent upon acquisition of all existing water rights in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin, and, if not, what percentage EEC will need to acquire.

223 59 2 NV CON E
Please analyze a detailed breakdown of the 16,000 acre-feet ("AF") water demand including how much will be used for each process of the project operation and construction and any proposed or anticipated AF demand changes throughout the course of plant operation and maintenance.

223 60 2 NV CON E
Please consider any anticipated changes to the 16,000 AF perennial yield. Please make any preliminary numbers public as they become available.

223 155 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to existing wells, springs, wetlands, wildlife, etc., including a detailed mitigation plan that includes avoidance as a mitigation strategy. Please make that information public as it becomes available.

223 189 2 NV CON E
Please make all water rights filings with the State Engineer public as they are filed, including all supporting data submitted under NRC 533.372.

223 190 2 NV CON E
Please require adjudication of all water rights prior to issuance of DEIS.

225 7 1 NV CON E
What will be done with the water that is used in the cooling process? If it will be discharged into a surface water, how will the effect of the thermal pollution be mitigated?

225 8 1 NV CON E
With regard to this last bullet item, we think it is only fair to inform the local community what would happen in times of drought. Would the water rights secured by the EEC mean that it would receive first opportunity to use the water?

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

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228 1 1 NV IND E
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229 3 1 ANON IND E
The effects on local and then global air and water quality are certain to be extremely detrimental.

239 1 1 WA IND E
We need to apply strict environmental standards to projects like this proposed power plant. The standards need to be real and enforceable and designed to protect land, air, water and the publics' health.

247 1 1 CA IND E
It is an expensive proposition that would result in water and air pollution including more green house gases.

291 1 1 TX IND E
We need to strive for 25 to 50 percent more efficient technology to not only urgently reduce the global warming problems and the contaminated water problems, but to also help lessen serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease.

296 5 1 NV AGR E
The EEC and the generation of power will require a substantial amount of water; up to 16,000 acre-feet annually upon build out. If approved by the State Water Engineer, how will this new water appropriation affect existing surface and ground water rights and the agricultural production associated with these existing permits? How will these impacts be mitigated to insignificant levels?

296 7 1 NV AGR E
How will the use of ground water by this project affect the quantity and quality of spring flows in the region? If the project has the potential to affect perennial spring sources, what mitigation will be offered to minimize expected impacts to existing users, including endemic species that may be afforded protection under federal and/or state law?

300 4 1 NV IND E
The range and water that has been used by these folks for generations will be consumed by power generating facilities.

300 6 1 NV IND E
Our very precious water supplies will be swallowed up by the Ely Energy Project. Great quantities of water will be utilized. (Enough to supply 20,000 persons for each of the four units planned). The Project’s plan to exploit Duck Creek Basin surface (and probably) groundwater is unacceptable. The probabilities are that it will grossly affect the entire Schell Creek Range drainage that flows to Duck Creek Basin.

300 8 1 NV IND E
Dumping of the generating waste will not only pollute our skies but also our soil and water. The scrubbing process, using extreme amounts of pure water, releases less pollution to the air. However, the water polluted by scrubbing, and the chemical wastes that aren’t released into the air will be dumped on the ground into sludge ponds, resulting in the eventual pollution of the soil and our pure water supply.

300 11 1 NV IND E
Groundwater that now sustains wildlife, native plant life, and the hunting and fishing that many of us enjoy will disappear. The water that isn’t pumped away will be utilized to facilitate the Power Generating Stations.

303 27 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed analysis of all sources of water for all aspects of plant or other development over the life of this plant, and discussion of all direct, indirect, and cumulative factors affecting these waters. What will happen to

waste material and waste water—how will it be disposed of? What contaminants may be in water materials generated?

303 28 1 ID CON L
How quickly will aquifers be drained? What springs, streams, wetlands, habitats, or water uses will be affected?

303 29 1 ID CON L
What will happen to all water, and pollutants, that may be associated with this plant?

303 40 1 ID CON L
Please provide a detailed analysis of who holds, and where they are located, all water rights and the allocations, that may be affected by the range of foreseeable development here.

303 55 1 ID CON L
Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

305 8 1 NV FED L
Water issues: From what water basins will the power plants be obtaining their water? Or are they planning on purchasing water from the proposed SNWA infrastructure in White Pine County?

312 3 1 ANON IND E
16,000 acre feet of water per year is a lot of precipitation/groundwater. Can the affected hydrographic basins even provide this amount of water, in light of the water acquisitions (in nearby hydrographic basins) and the proposed pipeline to send enormous quantities of water to Vegas?

313 18 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should estimate the quantity of water the project will require. The DEIS should describe the source of this water and potential effects on other water users and natural resources in the project's area of influence. Assuming groundwater is used, the DEIS should clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to this resource. Specifically, the potentially-affected groundwater basin should be identified and any potential for subsidence and impacts to springs or other open water bodies and biologic resources should be analyzed.

313 19 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should address the potential effects of project discharges, if any, on surface water quality. Discharges may include, but are not limited to: thermal changes, suspended solids, toxicity, metals, oil and grease, chlorine, salinity, and pH. The specific discharges should be identified and potential effects of discharges on designated beneficial uses of affected waters should be analyzed. The DEIS should note that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for discharges to waters of the United States. The DEIS should address how the proposed project would be designed and operated to ensure that the facility meets Water Quality Standards (WQS) that provide for the protection and maintenance of beneficial uses downstream from the facility.

313 20 1 CA FED L
If the facility is a zero discharge facility, the DEIS should disclose the amount of process water that would be disposed of onsite and explain methods of onsite containment. If evaporation ponds will be used for disposal of power plant condensate or other process water, identify chemical characteristics of the pond water and how seepage into groundwater will be prevented. Identify the storm design containment capacity of ponds, explain how overflow in larger storm events will be managed, and discuss potential environmental impacts (drainage channels affected, water quality, biological resources) in the event of overflow.

313 21 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should describe the original (natural) drainage patterns in the project locale, as well as the drainage patterns of the area during project operations. Also, the DEIS should identify whether any components of the proposed project are within a 50 or 100-year floodplain.

313 22 1 CA FED L

The DEIS should note that, under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), any construction project disturbing a land area of one or more acres requires a construction storm water discharge permit. The DEIS should document the project's consistency with applicable storm water permitting requirements. Requirements of a storm water pollution prevention plan should be reflected as appropriate in the DEIS. The DEIS should discuss specific mitigation measures that may be necessary or beneficial in reducing adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic resources. BLM and the project applicant should coordinate the NDEP [Nevada Division of Environmental Protection] on all required permits.

313 23 1 CA FED L

The project applicant should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed project requires a Section 404 permit under the CWA [Clean Water Act]. Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands and other special aquatic sites. The DEIS should describe all waters of the U.S. that could be affected by the project alternatives, and include maps that clearly identify all water within the project area. The discussion should include acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters.

If a permit is required, EPA will review the project for compliance with Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials (40 CFR 230), promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA ("404(b)(1) Guidelines"). Pursuant to 40 CFR 230, any permitted discharge into waters of the U.S. must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative available to achieve the project purpose. The DEIS should include an evaluation of the project alternatives in this context in order to demonstrate the project's compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. If, under the proposed project, dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the U.S., the DEIS should discuss alternatives to avoid those discharges. EPA strongly encourages early coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Information on waters of the U.S. is best disclosed at the DEIS stage so that the appropriateness of the proposed alternative can be evaluated in the context of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and relevant comments can receive responses and effect appropriate modifications in the final EIS.

If a discharge to waters of the U.S. is anticipated, the DEIS should discuss how potential impacts would be minimized and mitigated. This discussion should include: (a) acreage and habitat type of waters of the U.S. that would be created or restored; (b) water sources to maintain the mitigation area; (c) the revegetation plans, including the numbers and age of each species to be planted, as well as special techniques that may be necessary for planting; (d) maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success; (e) the size and location of mitigation zones; (f) the parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success; and (g) contingency plans that would be enacted if the original plan fails. Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation.

313 24 1 CA FED L

The CWA [Clean Water Act] requires States to develop a list of impaired waters that do not meet water quality standards, establish priority rankings, and develop action plans, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), to improve water quality. The DEIS should provide information on CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in the project area, if any, and efforts to develop and revise TMDLs. It should describe existing restoration and enhancement efforts for those waters, how the proposed project will coordinate with on-going protection efforts, and any mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid further degradation of impaired waters.

313 25 1 CA FED L

The DEIS should provide information on potentially affected drinking water systems in the project area, as well as the magnitude of the cumulative impacts that may result. The information should include a list of water systems (distinguishing between public water systems regulated under the SDWA and private water systems), distance from the project area, source(s) of water for each system, type of water treatment applied, and population served. The financial and infrastructure impacts to currently existing and future water systems that may be required to find alternate water sources, drill deeper wells, provide additional treatment (due to water quality changes) or other potential impacts should be fully evaluated.

313 33 1 CA FED L
Since the project includes transmission lines, cooling towers, and an evaporation pond, potential hazards and impacts to humans and wildlife, especially birds, should be discussed. Explain whether any ponded water associated with the project has the potential to attract wildlife, particularly migratory waterfowl. If there is potential for exposure of wildlife to contaminants in these waters, identify mitigation measures to avoid such impacts.

314 10 1 NV FED L
We note the presence of wetlands along much of the proposed power line corridor routes in White Pine County. Impacts to wetland habitat in association with the proposed projects could negatively affect a variety of species including migratory birds and sage-grouse. Effects could include fragmentation and/or removal of wetland habitat.

314 11 1 NV FED L
We are concerned that pumping of groundwater, to supply the water needs of the proposed action, could potentially affect wetlands and riparian areas within the project area.

315 10 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to native fish and invertebrates due to draw down of valley aquifers.

315 11 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to avian and terrestrial wildlife with draw down of spring sources/valley aquifers.

315 14 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to water levels at Bassett Lake and Duck Creek below Bassett Lake with use of Duck Creek Basin water.

317 9 1 ANON CON L
What will be done with the water that is used in the cooling process? If it will be discharged into a surface water, how will the effect of the thermal pollution be mitigated?

317 10 1 ANON CON L
We think it is only fair to inform the local community what would happen in times of drought. Would the water rights secured by the EEC mean that it would receive first opportunity to use the water?

320 9 1 NV IND C
The EIS should describe potential impacts to the riparian habitats and waters adjoining McGill, both short and long term, and how these will affect wildlife and vegetation, as well as agrarian enterprise.

320 11 1 NV IND C
The EIS should list specifically all bodies of water that will supply the power plant (acre feet needed, too), how officials plan to ensure the continuing viability of these sources, and explain what becomes of water rights should the plant close or never become operational at all.

329 1 2 WA IND L
The water quality of local streams that support trout would be at great risk.

330 3 1 NV IND L
I have concerns about several environmental impacts that the power plant will create here in Eastern Nevada, where I reside. These impacts include degradation of air quality, the large consumption of water, and visual impacts to one of the most scenic places in Nevada—Duck Creek Basin.

330 12 1 NV IND L
The EEC plant will consume too much water, especially when considered cumulatively with the LS Power proposal and the SNWA [Southern Nevada Water Authority] groundwater proposal. This water should be available for wildlife, ranchers, and recreationists.

334 3 1 NV IND L
Will the amount of water used lower the groundwater table causing some of the same problems mentioned above [impacts on vegetation and wildlife]?

336 3 2 MD IND L
Water pollution in streams affecting the Bonneville cutthroat trout and other species.

337 10 2 NV BUS C
Water – does the valley have enough un-appropriated water to support this and other pending projects? Will continuous pumping for the power plants cause groundwater levels of other users to be lowered?

342 2 1 NV IND C
I feel that it will negatively impact the water on our property and add to air pollution in the valley.

345 3 1 NV IND L
What effects will there be on bodies of water in the lakes and marshes, which are so vital to native flora and fauna in the region, perhaps from acid rain, and increased polluting particulates.

345 5 1 NV IND L
Will we no longer have our pristine air and water quality we are famous for? Will there be ways which are practical and cost effective, that we can recover damaged air and water quality? Secondary damage to our natural environments requires analysis of recovery measures, too.

346 3 1 NV IND L
The McGill copper smelter only burned 70,000 tons a year. Expect over twice the acid rain – from just the first phase of the SPPCO plant.

346 12 1 NV IND L
As if all this pollution isn't enough, SPPCO intends to take 8,000 acre feet of water too. That's enough water to supply 40,000 people. Those people may not be here now, but they will never have the opportunity to be here if that water gets used up. It's as if there is a conspiracy to keep White Pine county weak, so that outsiders can take what they want, and leave us their waste.

347 7 1 NV IND E
Impacts of Growth on Water Supply and Usage – any growth in the area – from all sources, inducing the Ely Energy Center – will require additional water. The long range effects of water usage, and potential future shortages should be evaluated. There may be a more environmentally sound way to use the water currently planned for the Ely Energy Center.

348 3 1 NV FED L
In wilderness areas and in surrounding non-wilderness lands, will the emissions change water quality characteristic in streams and lakes? Emissions containing nitrogen and mercury can seriously affect aquatic species. Will emissions create a change in pH; amphibians and macro-invertebrates are very sensitive to changes in water pH.

348 4 1 NV FED L
How will the coal and the fly ash be stored? Will these blow into aquatic systems or into wilderness areas?

348 6 1 NV FED L
Nevada Power/Sierra Pacific proposes to use the surface water from the impoundment at the Kennecott Ranch. This water flows from National Forest land, from three cache basins permitted by the Forest Service to Kennecott. Once the mine discontinued operation, we allowed the impoundments to continue to stabilize the waste rock. It has now been several years since the water has been stabilizing the waste piles. It has been our intention to remove those cache basins, returning the water to the stream channels, and restore the damaged fisheries and desiccated riparian habitats. If the project uses this water, this opportunity will be lost.

349 12 1 NV IND L
What triggers would be in place to insure that no springs, riparian areas, streams or exiting wells be dried up during any of these processes in these water basins?

349 13 1 NV IND L
What mitigating factors can be placed on EEC to protect the valleys and mountains to insure that the people that live here's way of life won't be changed.

350 6 1 AZ FED F
Please carefully analyze water resources, and any impacts that may occur outside of facility footprints.

351 4 1 WI IND L
This pollution would threaten the air quality at Great Basin National park, Cave Lake State Park, and other natural areas as well as the water quality in the local streams.

353 2 1 NV STA C
I am wondering about the Duck creek improvement and where the water will come from.

356 3 2 NV IND C
Water – at present, Clark County is attempting to obtain water from White Pine County, if the power plant takes another 16,000 [?]. what is the impact on wildlife, ranching, and residential life.

361 1 1 NV CON L
What will be the geographic scope of groundwater pumping effects on the aquifer in Steptoe/Spring/Snake Valleys and on our wells, springs, and perennial streams (in Millard, Juab, Tooele (UT) and White Pine (NV) counties) for water used in the power plants?

361 2 1 NV CON L
What effect will the pumping have on the wetlands and riparian vegetation in the short and long tem (5-10 years to 30-50+)?

361 6 1 NV CON L
What effect will the air/particulate emissions from the plants have on surface waters, in both valley waters and mountain headwaters (springs, ponds, perennial streams) in the affected areas especially in the associated mountain ranges, i.e., Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek?

361 7 1 NV CON L
What effect will the power plant emissions have on air quality in the above mentioned valleys [Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring, Snake, and Deep Creek] from an health and human safety aspect as well as acidification effects on perennial surface waters and their associated dependent species, i.e., animal and plant?

362 1 1 NV IND C
The drop in the surface and groundwater tables would affect the ranches which use spring water as their sole water supply.

362 3 1 NV IND C
The use of the Duck Creek would affect the existing water permits which exist from north of McGill down the valley.

365 4 1 NV IND L
Sulfur and other wastes from the Power Generating Stations will create acid rain and snowfall. Both plant and animal life will be negatively affected.

369 1 1 ID CON L
BLM must conduct a full inventory and assessment of the location, condition and characteristics of all spring, seep and wet meadow areas, including historically wetted sites.

369 3 1 ID CON L
The inextricable link between the health of springs, seeps and wet meadows and watersheds must be addressed.

369 4 1 ID CON L
A full suite of restoration action for damaged, degraded or diverted riparian areas must be assessed under all alternatives – including an array of passive treatments, such as stubble heights, rest to jump start recovery, or until recovery, then limited, if an grazing.

369 10 1 ID CON L
54 percent of aquatic species endemic to the Great Basin springs have suffered population losses and 62 percent have suffered major decreases because of channelization, impoundment, removing water and the introduction of non-natives. Removing water from springs through diversion reduces habitat for vegetation and aquatic biota by decreasing springbrook length, water width, water depth, and quantity of decreased and dried up many springs and springbrooks in the Great Basin, causing loss of populations and extinctions.

369 11 1 ID CON L
Aquatic biota must also be assessed. Sampling for invertebrates must include collection from all habitat types within a spring (spring, springbrook, degraded reaches, any un-degraded reaches). All springs within the project area must be sampled for invertebrates.

369 12 1 ID CON L
The link between the condition (health) of the watershed and the functionality springs and springbrooks must also be assessed.

369 14 1 ID CON L
Macro-invertebrate and vegetation surveys should be conducted prior to implementing management actions that my adversely affect spring biota (Sada and Herbst 2001 at 14).

370 2 1 NY IND L
A coal-fired plant in the long run is not feasible: it costs billions of dollars to build a plant that would use out-dated technology that causes air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks, and heart disease; water contamination; and an increase in global warming.

372 2 1 NV IND F
The other half, approximately 550,000 tons annually would have to be watered down ad infinitum. An enormous waste of water.

373 1 2 NV IND E
Water. Our ranching operation is almost entirely dependent upon vested water rights from springs. A drop in these waters caused by the proposed drilling of multiple wells, and a large number of acre feet drawn from the aquifer would effectively put us out of business, and destroy the value of the properties as well. Our concern is depletion of the underground waters, and the drying up or dropping of water coming from our springs.

374 6 2 NV IND E
More concrete data needs to be released to the public for where this water is coming from and what impacts it will have on the valley.

376 2 1 CA IND L
The proposed plant could threaten the air quality at Great Basin National Park and the water quality in local streams that are critical for the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. In addition, the coal mining required to fuel this plant would destroy sensitive landscapes and contaminate additional water sources.

378 4 1 AZ FED F

Please carefully analyze Water Resources, and any impacts that may occur outside of facility footprints.

Chapter 27: Wildlife Issues

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
4	7	1	NV	IND	E

The building of lengthy transmission lines could have a deleterious effect on the wildlife, soils, and visual quality of Eastern Nevada.

24	3	1	NH	IND	C

Where this construction is planned it will not destroy the environment nor devastate the natural quality of animal life.

34	4	1	NV	CON	L

Habitat lost for both wildlife and domestic animals from the power plant.

46	4	1	NV	IND	C

In its study I would like the BLM to address the long-term impacts on air, land, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation including mercury emissions over the life of the plant.

48	1	1	NV	IND	C

Our vegetation and wildlife will be harmed.

58	2	1	NV	IND	C

I am a property owner in Duck Creek and have many concerns regarding the impact on the air quality within the basin and the effect on wildlife and the environment within Duck Creek Basin.

63	3	1	NV	IND	E

The wildlife taking advantage of our water and crops will be threatened by this project.

63	6	1	NV	IND	E

Wild deer, antelope, rabbits, wild and tame horses, cattle, burros, and all creatures need protection.

76	1	1	CA	IND	C

What will be the impact on clean air? Wildlife and sage-grouse? How many leks will be [within] 2 miles of all infrastructure - railroad, facilities, waterlines, and power transmission lines?

76	5	1	CA	IND	C

What impact will this have on ground water? What conflicts could occur with the SNWA water request? Springs will probably be impacted and cause harm to wildlife.

89	3	1	IL	IND	E

The fish don't need the mercury and neither do we.

91	2	1	RI	IND	E

There is nothing sustainable about burning coal – it is a non-renewable resource, it causes major health problems for humans, animals, and the overall environment.

95	2	1	NV	IND	E

Please study carefully the impacts on the water supply in the area as well as on wildlife, current Ag activity and especially the human being living in the area.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

102 1 2 ANON IND E
Ely is a community whose most valuable resource it the tremendous "quality of life" for current and potential new residents. The benefits reside in such amenities as clean air and water, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation. Each one of those amenities would potentially be seriously impacted, if not completely eliminated, by the construction of this project.

102 6 2 ANON IND E
How can the public be assured that local springs will not be affected and thus wildlife (an immensely valuable resource) be impacted?

102 10 2 ANON IND E
The two proposed new transmission lines present an entire other set of concerns. Most of the proposed routes, over 200 miles (!!) will be through primarily undisturbed wild lands and important wildlife habitat. What will be the resulting impact on wildlife (sage grouse, deer, elk and other critical species)?

104 5 2 NV IND E
What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms?

104 12 2 NV IND E
How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas?

104 14 2 NV IND E
Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals?

106 4 1 NV IND E
Wildlife would have much less water accessible thereby reducing their numbers. And as a result hunting, an extremely popular recreational activity in White Pine County, would be negatively affected.

186 10 1 NV IND E
Have the impacts upon the surrounding ecosystems and large game animals been adequately addressed and will SPR be required to work with the local community to prevent any negative impacts?

186 13 1 NV IND E
Once the amount and types of pollutants have been addressed, what will be the overall impacts on the health of local residents and communities downwind of this facility? The pollutants of similar facilities to the one proposed for Phase 1 of the Ely Energy Center create health hazards have created an increase in health hazards such as asthma and heart failure. In addition, the release of even small quantities of heavy metals can have detrimental effects on both humans and wildlife. In many areas downwind of currently existing coal-burning power plants, mercury pollution alone has forced communities to impose mercury consumption warnings for fish caught in local waters.

194 3 1 NV IND E
The long-term effects of the power plants will devastate surrounding communities, Ely and McGill most dramatically because of the great increase in human health risks, fouled air, unknown impacts to local water and land quality, unknown damage to local wildlife, unknown economic losses associated with being less attractive to tourists and out-of-town recreationists and sportsmen, and unknown effects from using such huge quantities of water.

194 4 1 NV IND E
Construction of all the facilities – well sites, pipelines, the plants themselves – destroys precious wildlife habitat, ranchland, and the aesthetic quality of the area as well as opening up large avenues for noxious weed spread.

204 5 1 NV IND E
Water, rail, and transmission line development will diminish wildlife habitat, not just in the Ely area, but for hundreds of miles in all directions.

217 7 1 NV IND E
Considering the winds in either of the proposed sties, both “fugitive dusts” and “arid emissions’ would be certainly impacted the air quality at Great Basin National Park and its vicinity, as well as Ely, McGill, and Steptoe, Spring and Snake Valleys. This is obviously a very real problem for the environment – air quality, water quality, and consequent damage to flora and fauna.

219 6 1 NV IND E
Fish habitat must be included in these investigation and reports.

219 7 1 NV IND E
The Great Basin scenery, the Great Basin National Park, all the designated Wilderness Areas, all the undesignated recreational resources (which comprise most of the County), and the huge population of fauna and flora that are part of the landscape and which are interdependent with it: all these parts of the whole must be taken into account.

222 9 1 NV IND E
Is it possible that emissions could change air, water or soil quality, or PH of soil or water? Vegetation, amphibians, and macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to PH change. Emissions containing nitrogen, mercury, sulfur, or carbon can be very harmful to many species and can alter air, soil or water quality.

223 38 2 NV CON E
Please also go beyond determining the effects of development on flows, fluxes and water levels to translating these effects into declines to the biotic components in the environment.

223 72 2 NV CON E
For increased toxicity of fish eaten by humans: Please assess the amount by which air pollutant emissions resulting directly or indirectly from each option would directly or indirectly increase the concentrations of various toxic chemicals, including mercury and dioxin, in the flesh of freshwater fish caught and eaten by humans within 500 miles of the facility.

223 94 2 NV CON E
Please analyze the impacts to air quality as will be caused by the drawdown of the aquifer and subsequent die-off of phreatophyte (groundwater dependent) plant life in the Butte Valley basin, Duck Creek basin, or Lages basin. Please analyze this impact in terms of downwind populations, wildlife, etc.

223 95 2 NV CON E
Please consider the metal uptake by plants from emissions from the plant, specifically B, F, As, and Se. Please consider the translocation to mammals.

223 115 2 NV CON E
Please collect and consider all information related to consumption patterns of fish and wildlife within the impact zone(s) of the project.

223 120 2 NV CON E
Light pollution and proliferation. How will lighted facilities change the nightscapes for people, plants and animals? How will summer and winter hibernators be disturbed? How will night pollinators be affected? How will night predators be affected?

223 155 2 NV CON E
Please consider impacts to existing wells, springs, wetlands, wildlife, etc., including a detailed mitigation plan that includes avoidance as a mitigation strategy. Please make that information public as it becomes available.

223 158 2 NV CON E
Please include measures to keep wildlife away from waste ponds, disposal sites, other relevant plant operation facilities, and throughout all project construction activities.

223 159 2 NV CON E
Please develop measures to prevent bird collisions with transmission lines.

223 160 2 NV CON E
Please develop precautionary measures to keep birds safe from the evaporation pond(s) and all other facilities.

223 161 2 NV CON E
Please consider measures for protecting water at the source for use by wildlife.

223 163 2 NV CON E
Please consider proposed and alternate plans to prevent interference with wildlife migration routes.

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227 1 1 ANON IND E
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228 1 1 NV IND E
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229 5 1 ANON IND E
The local ecosystem is sure to collapse, and quickly, once the pumping of billions of gallons of groundwater per year (of which there is little) begins, on top of the devastated air and water quality. People, plants and animals will be very negatively affected!

292 2 1 ANON IND E
It is said the Ely Energy Center will emit 12.6 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly. Is this a correct figure? If so, what are the implications of this amount of CO2 emission on our air, our lungs, our plants, our wildlife, [and] our skies?

292 9 1 ANON IND E
A thorough consideration of the impact of this project on wildlife.

300 2 1 NV IND E
It will be detrimental to wildlife. The proposed location of the generating Station is in the very heart of prime winter range. Large herds of elk and antelope are viewed there daily.

303 12 1 ID CON L
WWP has been very involved in grazing issues in this region, and we are gravely concerned at BLM's failure to fully reveal what is foreseeable here, including amid important sage grouse, raptor and other wildlife habitats.

303 33 1 ID CON L
We are particularly alarmed at the potential for renewal energy development here to wreak havoc with migrating birds, raptors, sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, bats, and other important and sensitive species.

303 34 1 ID CON L
Large-scale multi-year radar studies, ground census and other studies must be conducted year-round in all the areas and ranges of significance to resident and migrating birds and other important species here.

303 35 1 ID CON L
What are the different populations, their trends over time, their likelihood of decline or extinction—of all important and sensitive species affected by this proposal?

303 37 1 ID CON L
This must be contrasted with the very serious adverse impacts to quality of life, public health (across the region), connectivity of habitats and viability of populations of important ad sensitive species across the zone of project impact.

303 44 1 ID CON L
We have often observed raptors perching on power lines that are supposed to have anti-perch devices. Example:

Raptor electrocutions are increasing causes of wild land fires—as cheatgrass and other weeds have increased. This will be even a greater concern with all the ancillary development and lines that are being proposed.

303 52 1 ID CON L
The proposed action will have serious adverse effects to terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic wildlife linked to scarce desert waters to be depleted or altered in this process. These include:

- Loss of breeding, foraging and cover habitats
- Increased animal displacement and loss
- Reduction in pretty availability
- Reduction in overall biodiversity
- Loss of genetic diversity
- Reduction in regional carrying capacity
- Possible population declines

The end result of this process is incremental habitat loss and incremental extirpation of native species. Please see Connelly et al. 2004, Dobkin and Sauder 2004, Knick et al. 2003 to understand the significance and irreversible nature of the habitat alteration through fire, weed invasion, and other disturbance that you will cause with the Singapore Bed-down. These effects must be openly and honestly analyzed in an EIS.

303 55 1 ID CON L
Your action will lead to accelerated and increased rates of loss – and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to soils, vegetation, watersheds, water quality and quantity, microbiotic crusts, native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats and populations, recreational and scientific uses of these lands must be fully assessed in an EIS.

303 56 1 ID CON L
Information from new studies conducted in Wyoming related to the impacts of energy development on sage grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species must be fully incorporated in your analysis. Energy-development studies include study of the effects of roads, developments, noise, human activity, etc. and so are very relevant to the effects of the ongoing and increased military use and disturbance of these lands. See Holloran 2005, for example and other

studies available on-line at: http://www.voiceforthewild.org/SageGrouseStudies/index.html. Please incorporate all of this information into your decisionmaking process, analysis of effects, and development of appropriate mitigation.

303 57 1 ID CON L
You must also fully consider the additional potential for West Nile virus transmission to wildlife and humans, or other diseases, from the various water uses, impoundments, well fields, leaks, etc. here.

303 58 1 ID CON L
We are very concerned about the disturbance to remote areas of the Goshute Valley and other sites where SWIP or other lines will ultimately run here—these areas, including seasonally inundated playas in the center of the valley may be used by migratory birds.

306 1 35 NV CON C
I object to the Success Loop location for the Ely Energy Station. It is right in the middle of prime grazing area for both wildlife and livestock. It is also much too close to pristine, scenic outdoor recreating areas and to residential areas.

312 5 1 ANON IND E
The removal of sulfur dioxide from the emissions is discussed, but nothing is mentioned of sulfur trioxide? SO3 is a highly acidic oxidant and known to be dangerous to plants and animals.

312 6 1 ANON IND E
Oxides of nitrogen are equally acidic and dangerous. What will be the level of emission reductions for NOx?

313 33 1 CA FED L
Since the project includes transmission lines, cooling towers, and an evaporation pond, potential hazards and impacts to humans and wildlife, especially birds, should be discussed. Explain whether any ponded water associated with the project has the potential to attract wildlife, particularly migratory waterfowl. If there is potential for exposure of wildlife to contaminants in these waters, identify mitigation measures to avoid such impacts.

313 34 1 CA FED L
The DEIS should identify wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas that could be affected by the project. If applicable, the DEIS should discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modifications of habitat and plant/animal species composition, and include a detailed mitigation plan.

314 6 1 NV FED L
Another concern with the proposed construction of new power line corridors is migratory birds, especially raptors, based on the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife] Service's conservation responsibilities and management authority for migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 et. seq.). Construction of new transmission lines increases the likelihood of additional bird strikes and electrocutions. More generally, the construction of new facilities could potentially remove and/or fragment habitat for migratory birds. Given these concerns, we recommend that any land clearing or other disturbance associated with proposed actions within the project area be conducted outside the avian breeding season. Further, we recommend that the EIS for the proposed project specifically address impacts to migratory birds and ways that these impacts will be avoided or minimized.

314 10 1 NV FED L
We note the presence of wetlands along much of the proposed power line corridor routes in White Pine County. Impacts to wetland habitat in association with the proposed projects could negatively affect a variety of species including migratory birds and sage-grouse. Effects could include fragmentation and/or removal of wetland habitat.

315 1 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] permanent loss of wildlife habitat and wildlife resources.

315 2 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] fragmentation of wildlife habitat.

315 3 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] disruption of antelope movement patterns and use areas.

315 4 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] avoidance of wildlife to adjacent intact habitat due to human disturbance/activities/noise.

315 5 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] impacts to avian and terrestrial wildlife species with establishment of evaporation ponds (potential for ingestion of deleterious substances/drowning).

315 6 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause] poaching impacts to wildlife.

315 8 1 NV STA L
Site development [could cause impacts on] resources including wildlife resources with influx of construction workers.

315 10 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to native fish and invertebrates due to draw down of valley aquifers.

315 11 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to avian and terrestrial wildlife with draw down of spring sources/valley aquifers.

315 12 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] impacts to wildlife species including sage grouse with development of above ground electrical transmission lines to well sites.

315 13 1 NV STA L
Water mining [could cause] wildlife habitat fragmentation due to roads, human activity and structure development associated with well field development.

315 15 1 NV STA L
Transmission line development [could cause] fragmentation of wildlife habitat due to structure development (towers/transmission lines).

315 17 1 NV STA L
Transmission line development [could cause] increased opportunities for predation of wildlife species throughout the year by avian predators with use of developed facilities.

315 18 1 NV STA L
Rail line development [could cause] disruption in big game movement patterns.

315 19 1 NV STA L
Rail line development [could cause] impacts to wildlife due to noise and activity during and following rail line development.

315 20 1 NV STA L
Rail line development [could cause] increased wildlife mortality with train collisions.

315 21 1 NV STA L
Rail line development [could cause] disruption of antelope, mule deer, elk seasonal movements if rail corridor fenced.

319 6 1 NV IND C
What are the risks to the ancient bristlecone pines, wildlife, fish, and other treasured habitats in the environment?

320 9 1 NV IND C
The EIS should describe potential impacts to the riparian habitats and waters adjoining McGill, both short and long term, and how these will affect wildlife and vegetation, as well as agrarian enterprise.

321 2 2 NV IND L
The thing about this area that will cause people to want to move here is the small town atmosphere, wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities, clean and tasty water, and clean air. All these will be placed in jeopardy with the Proposed Ely Energy Center.

321 3 2 NV IND L
In reading the local newspaper it looks like the water for this project is going to come from the Duck Creek pipeline. My involvement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has informed me of a proposal to improve Deer/Elk and Waterfowl Habitat at Bassett Lake. This includes the possibility of increasing the size of Bassett Lake. Increasing the Lake's size means more water. Does this project make this habitat improvement proposal unfeasible?

322 4 1 NV IND C
The high quality winter range is also essential to other wildlife, namely antelope. Further fragmenting of their range and loss of winter feed will be very detrimental.

322 11 1 NV IND C
Research by a University of Florida animal scientist states that sulfur pollution from fossil fuel burning plants contaminates surface water and forages. This sulfur contamination binds copper and selenium and renders them indigestible for grazing herbivores and does it strongly. Copper and selenium are two essential minerals in reproduction and the immune systems of cattle, sheep, antelope, elk, deer, wild horses, and any other grazing animal.

326 3 1 NV IND L
What is the likelihood of receiving acid rain or having water bodies become more acidic? Are favorite fishing places like Baker Lake going to be impacted? What will be the effects on fish, aquatic insects, and other aquatic organisms? Water plays a vital role in the Great Basin desert, and since we have so little of it, we must strive to protect the quantity and quality of all that exists.

326 7 1 NV IND L
What will be the effects of additional infrastructure to the area?

How will the disruption of the land increase non-native plants, fire cycles, and animal migration and breeding areas? Will additional transmission lines impact sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by increasing perching locations for raptors? Will additional water pipelines impact burrowing animals such as kit fox, pygmy rabbits, burrowing owls, Townsend's ground squirrel, snakes, and other animals?

329 1 2 WA IND L
The water quality of local streams that support trout would be at great risk.

332 3 1 CA IND L
The proposed sites in the Steptoe Valley are habitat to antelope, elk, and deer. These animals will disappear if the Southern Nevada Water Authority is allowed to drill for 200,000 acre feet of water per year, pipe the water for 250 miles and power the operations with these polluting coal-power plants. Wildlife is an integral part of the high quality of life experienced by hunters, nature enthusiasts, tourists and other visitors to White Pine County and everyday residents.

334 2 1 NV IND L
In the case of power lines in wilderness areas this could be devastating to the native plants and possibly to riparian areas and wildlife. In the construction of the power plants what species of native plants exist, do they exist in similar concentrations elsewhere, will noxious weeds destroy them? Will the presence of the plants affect wildlife, their grazing areas and migratory patterns?

334 4 1 NV IND L
Will the smoke/steam and lights affect the wildlife? Will the smoke/steam affect plants on the nearby mountains?

339 1 1 NV IND C
Right at the proposed site, antelope winter and the mountain right in front is home to wintering deer and elk. Any smoke residue would be undesirable to this habitat.

345 3 1 NV IND L
What effects will there be on bodies of water in the lakes and marshes, which are so vital to native flora and fauna in the region, perhaps from acid rain, and increased polluting particulates.

348 3 1 NV FED L
In wilderness areas and in surrounding non-wilderness lands, will the emissions change water quality characteristic in streams and lakes? Emissions containing nitrogen and mercury can seriously affect aquatic species. Will emissions create a change in pH; amphibians and macro-invertebrates are very sensitive to changes in water pH.

348 6 1 NV FED L
Nevada Power/Sierra Pacific proposes to use the surface water from the impoundment at the Kennecott Ranch. This water flows from National Forest land, from three cache basins permitted by the Forest Service to Kennecott. Once the mine discontinued operation, we allowed the impoundments to continue to stabilize the waste rock. It has now been several years since the water has been stabilizing the waste piles. It has been our intention to remove those cache basins, returning the water to the stream channels, and restore the damaged fisheries and desiccated riparian habitats. If the project uses this water, this opportunity will be lost.

351 2 1 WI IND L
In the first place, it would result in the destruction of a huge amount of habitat.

356 4 2 NV IND C
Wildlife – there is a large herd of antelope, also deer and elk above Duck Creek in the Steptoe Valley. How will a power plant in this area impact them?

359 2 1 NV IND C
The amount of water that is proposed to be used and the potential impact on wells, availability of water for wildlife, and the depletion of the existing aquifers.

359 11 1 NV IND C
I am concerned about the loss of wildlife habitat. Currently, the area outside of McGill is prime antelope grazing (and watching). Taking 3,000 acres of the land they have been grazing for hundreds of years will cause a significant disruption to our wildlife.

361 4 1 NV CON L
Aquatic species that should especially be analyzed for effects would include the Bonneville cutthroat trout (petitioned for threatened status, least chub (petitioned for endangered status), Lahontan cutthroat (threatened), spotted frog, spring snail, associated sensitive and rare non-game fishes and macro-invertebrates.

361 7 1 NV CON L
What effect will the power plant emissions have on air quality in the above mentioned valleys [Schell Range, North and South Snake Range, and the Deep Creek Mountain range and valleys in Nevada and Utah, i.e., Steptoe, Spring,

Snake, and Deep Creek] from an health and human safety aspect as well as acidification effects on perennial surface waters and their associated dependent species, i.e., animal and plant?

362 2 1 NV IND C
The other springs, riparian areas and wetlands would also dry up affecting the wildlife, horses, and cattle.

365 4 1 NV IND L
Sulfur and other wastes from the Power Generating Stations will create acid rain and snowfall. Both plant and animal life will be negatively affected.

365 5 1 NV IND L
Now abundant wildlife, plus endangered and threatened species, will be at great risk of disease and loss of habitat. In some cases, loss of habitat will not only mean loss of life but in some case, loss of the species.

365 6 1 NV IND L
Cooling towers, scrubbers and the like will use groundwater that now creates sustainable habitat. The habitat will disappear with the draw down of groundwater.

369 11 1 ID CON L
Aquatic biota must also be assessed. Sampling for invertebrates must include collection from all habitat types within a spring (spring, springbrook, degraded reaches, any un-degraded reaches). All springs within the project area must be sampled for invertebrates.

369 12 1 ID CON L
The link between the condition (health) of the watershed and the functionality springs and springbrooks must also be assessed.

369 16 1 ID CON L
BLM must assess the following threats to special status species and other important wildlife:

Wells and windmills, pipelines, troughs, pipelines, roads (often linked to facilities), salting sites, weed infestations, power lines, fences, and aquifer depletion.

373 4 2 NV IND E
Rail line. As it now stands the Nevada Northern tracks are in disrepair, and are unfenced. There are many livestock trails crossing the rail line. These trails are used by cattle, feral horses, elk, and antelope. If the rail line reopens, or another line is built, we will likely see a lot of death loss in animals that are hit by the trains. This is a great concern to us, and we wonder if there are plans for fair reimbursement for livestock killed in such a fashion. And has the impact upon the wildlife been evaluated. Ideally the entire rail from one end to the other would be fenced by a legal 4 wire fence. The drawback to this is that sometimes it is necessary for the animals to cross in order to get to water. Provisions would need to be made so that animals on either side had ready access to water.

374 2 2 NV IND E
We have a problem with the preferred site just north of McGill. The site is extremely close to the community affecting the viewshed north, air quality and noise. The ground that has been chosen holds a large population of Pronghorn Antelope especially in the winter. The area, even with livestock grazing, is fairly native with Wyoming sagebrush, white sage, black sage and associated upland grasses. The weeds are few allowing for a glimpse of what sagebrush steppe valley bottoms should look like.

377 3 6 NV IND F
Why just the other side of McGill where you intend to place this thing is the Migratory Path for the Mule Deer, Spring and Fall. We have a large herd of Elk that our people can drive less than 10 minutes from their homes and go look at. Right where you plan on placing the Power Plant! Duck Creek Turnoff. There are over 300 Antelope who call this Steptoe Valley home as well.

Chapter 28: General Comment, Positive, Non-Substantive

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
15	1	1	NV	IND	C

The coal fueled power plant is a very important project. Most or almost all Nevada citizens that use electricity are in favor of this project. Please do not deny the state of Nevada a chance to be more energy independent. Please complete this project ASAP.

20	1	1	ANON	IND	E

As a person that grew up in White Pine County, worked for many years in the county, met my wife and raised my kids in White Pine County before having to leave to stay employed, I am very much in favor of the Ely Energy Center.

21	1	1	NV	IND	C

All of my questions were answered most satisfactorily and I approve of the project most heartily.

24	1	1	NH	IND	C

I believe that this power project will be good for Ely, McGill and White Pine County.

37	1	1	NV	IND	C

The proposed project would use available resources in a responsible and economically effective manner.

37	2	1	NV	IND	C

There is a clear need for this power plant.

39	1	1	NV	IND	C

This is an excellent project.

51	1	1	NV	IND	C

On the whole favorable to this project. I have two suggestions; use the present northern Nevada RR line as improved and upgraded. Consider moving the proposed power site (near 93 duck creek road) north 2 miles to help air quality at McGill.

58	1	1	NV	IND	C

While I support the concept of the power plant, I oppose the location at the entrance to Duck Creek Basin.

62	6	1	NV	IND	L

I feel that the proposed power plant located in the right area would be a great asset to White Pine County.

79	1	1	NV	BUS	L

Kennecott would like to go on record in support of the construction of a power plant in the Ely area because of the benefits it will bring to the local community and the local economy.

220	1	2	NV	IND	E

We support the proposed Power Plant in White Pine County.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

293 1 1 NV IND E
I am in support of this.

294 1 1 ANON IND E
I am writing to show my support for the Sierra pacific Resources power plant to be located just north of McGill by the Duck Creek turn off.

295 1 1 NV IND E
This power plant [is] a clean and quiet industry coming into White Pine County.

318 1 1 NV LOC C
I would like to support the preferred site as proposed by the Ely Energy Center. Historically it has been the wish of our communities located in White Pine County to establish some sort of power plant along the present railroad line running north to Cobre.

324 1 1 NV LOC L
The Elko County Board of Commissioners supports a favorable EIS to allow Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company to construct the Ely Energy Center to be located in White Pine County, Nevada.

331 1 1 NV OTH C
I support this project in principal, and find the preferred location to be best suited and most practical to the benefit of Ely.

333 1 1 NV IND L
I hereby support the Ely Energy Center Power Plant Project. I also strongly support the preferred plant site near the Duck Creek turnoff.

338 1 1 NV LOC L
I am in favor of the preferred site of Sierra Power/ Nevada Power Company.

338 5 1 NV LOC L
The majority of the public in White Pine County and Ely will benefit from locating the Power Plant at the preferred site.

344 2 1 NV IND C
Hopefully it can proceed without a lot of opposition.

353 1 1 NV STA C
I am in favor of this project.

357 1 2 NV IND C
We hope you will be able to proceed with it. We are 100% in favor.

364 2 1 NV STA L
Proposal supported as written.

366 1 1 NV IND E
I would like to show some support for the Sierra Pacific Resources power plant that is in planning to be built at the Duck Creek turn off.

367 1 1 NV IND E
I am in support of this; think this will be a good economic benefit for Ely and White Pine County.

368 1 1 NV IND E

I am submitting my comments on the Sierra Pacific resource power plant to be located five miles north of McGill. I feel that we need the economic support a lot more than what adverse affects it will have on the environment and the people. Also the location near McGill would help our community tremendously.

Chapter 29: General Comment, Negative, Non-Substantive

Ltr #	Cmt #	Sig	Dist	Org	Resp*
1	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. This project would cost billions of dollars and result in a giant power plant using outdated technologies that cause air pollution; serious health problems like mercury poisoning, asthma attacks and heart disease; water contamination; and more global warming.

2	1	1	NV	IND	C

I believe it is a mistake, a big mistake to construct coal fired generation units in White Pine County, Nevada.

11	1	1	NV	IND	L

Do not build that coal plant.

14	1	1	NV	IND	C

They can take their power plant and shove it where the sun don't shine.

16	1	1	NV	IND	C

No, I do not want the line in my backyard.

19	3	1	NV	IND	C

I am against any use of this area.

22	1	2	NV	IND	L

We oppose the Ely Power Plant because of the terrible pollution it will cause.

25	1	1	NV	IND	E

I oppose construction of coal plant. Use 3.8 billion dollars for renewable energy conservation.

45	1	1	NV	IND	C

Burning fossil fuels causes global warming and placing this coal burner so close to McGill and Ely is crazy. Build it at the alternate location or better yet don't build it at all.

48	4	1	NV	IND	C

No power plant.

72	1	1	NV	IND	C

This proposed coal-fired power plant in Ely is a terrible idea!

73	1	1	NV	IND	C

Please do not build this plant (EEC).

76	3	1	CA	IND	C

We do not approve of this project.

80	1	1	CT	IND	E

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

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* Preceding each comment is a list of numbers and abbreviations identifying the letter and comment numbers, as well as demographic information. More information on demographics can be found in Appendix A. Ltr # = letter #, Cmt # = comment #, Sig = number of signatures, Dist = district, Org = organization type, and Resp = response type

81 1 1 MN IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

84 1 1 ANON IND E
Please register my comment of lack of support for the proposed new coal mining project.

85 1 MN IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

86 1 1 SC IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

87 1 1 ANON IND E
Please do no allow this coal plant to be built in your beautiful country.

88 1 1 ANON IND E
I am completely against any more coal plants.

89 1 1 IL IND E
I am a citizen opposed to the proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

90 3 1 NV IND E
Please reject the proposal and consider a more friendly approach to energy.

91 1 1 RI IND E
It's time we focused on using more sustainable energy sources – not coal! I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

92 1 1 CO IND F
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

94 1 1 OH IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. The way I see it, this is just another sell out to the coal/energy industry. Do not allow the deal to go through!

96 1 1 FL IND E
I oppose the proposal for a coal-burning plant in Ely. There are cleaner alternatives than coal. The last thing our atmosphere needs is more carbon dioxide. Deserts are fragile ecosystems. Keep coal out!

97 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

98 1 1 CA IND E
Say "no" to the Ely Energy Center in Nevada. Let's use modern technology to solve our problems.

99 1 1 NM IND E
I'm writing in opposition to the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

100 1 1 CO IND E
We do not need any dirty coal-fired plants in Nevada. It would be irresponsible to build such a plant, particularly, in light of the recent report on global warming.

103 1 1 CA IND E
Stop more or any coal mining in Nevada.

106 1 1 NV IND E
I, for one, am whole-heartedly against this proposal.

107 1 1 TX IND E
We gave you your job. Now do your job and keep our lungs and land clean. Start making decisions for future generations, and stop building polluting power plants.

119 1 1 MA IND E
No new dirty coal projects. Only clean coal, wind, solar, or alternative energy projects should be permitted.

121 2 1 CA IND E
This power should be produced using the latest, cleanest technologies, and clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro. I, therefore, urgently urge the BLM to reject this proposal.

124 2 1 RI IND E
Please take to heart the warnings of environmental issues for the health of all of us now, but perhaps more importantly for our children. Please oppose this Ely Energy Center proposal.

128 1 1 MI IND E
I urge the BLM to truly examine the situation, take the mandated responsibility of stewarding our land in respectful ways seriously, make heartfelt consideration of what such proposals mean not only for our children but our children's children, and reject this proposal.

184 1 1 ID IND E
I very strongly oppose the BLM's proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

187 2 1 ANON IND E
Please do not approve this project.

195 2 1 MD IND E
I urge the BLM to act responsibly. Reject the Ely proposal.

196 1 1 CA IND E
Please do not allow the construction of a new, dirty, coal-fired plant in Nevada.

198 2 1 MT IND E
I pray that you make the right decision and not support dirty coal.

199 1 1 ANON IND E
The last thing we need in Nevada is another polluting coal plant. The dangers of coal fired power plants are well documented and deadly poisonous. I strongly urge you to keep this awful decision from gaining ground. Protect the people of Nevada-- no coal fired power plants!

200 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

201 1 1 ANON IND E
Don't allow it.

202 1 1 WA IND E
Please stop the coal mine in Nevada.

203 1 1 ANON IND E
The Administration's plan to develop a coal burning plant on my (public) land infuriates me to no end.

204 1 1 NV IND E
The construction and operation of the Ely Energy Center and transmission lines significantly detract from the well-being of the citizens of White Pine County.

205 1 1 DE IND E
[I] register my total and complete objection to the construction of a coal-fired plant in Nevada.

206 1 1 MA IND E
But really now, coal? In one of the sunniest states in the country and on federal land? Please, we can do better.

207 1 1 OR IND E
I am in opposition [to] the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

208 1 1 NY IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

209 1 1 OH IND E
I oppose the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

210 2 1 NV IND E
I would be proud to see BLM reject this power plant, and encourage alternative energy development in this state, which has so much potential.

211 1 1 UT IND E
I say no to the proposed huge, new coal-fired power generating plant near Ely.

212 1 1 CA IND E
[I] oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

213 1 1 NY IND E
I am very concerned that construction of the Ely Energy Center will be a step backward.

214 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

215 4 1 NV IND E
It seems to me irresponsible of the BLM to have let this situation occur.

217 1 1 NV IND E
My concerns about and objections to the development of coal-fired generation units near Ely, White Pine County, Nevada as shown in the project description.

218 3 1 CA CON E
While the proposed project has a stated commitment to high efficiency design and advanced air quality control emissions systems, and asserts that Phase II of the project will incorporate integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) or “another energy-efficient technology option that would be built when the technology is determined to be commercially viable”, this is insufficient to justify an additional 2,500 MW [megawatt] of coal-fired electricity generation.

219 1 1 NV IND E
The EEC Coal-Fired Power Plant is by far the most egregious threat to date. I will list only a few of the serious problems associated with this irresponsible proposal.

221 11 1 NV IND E
I am opposed to the Ely Energy Center in all of its phases and proposal. There needs to be a lot more information sharing on the part of Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Power Company, more public discussion of the impacts related to this project in all aspects, different alternatives need to be discussed, such as having NO Ely Energy Center, when White Pine Energy Center is moving forward at this time. Water sources and amounts need to be shared openly at public meetings, the socio economic mitigative measures proposed need to be outlined in greater detail, the amount of pollutants not being captured but being permitted into the air, ground, and water need to be given in solid numbers as parts per billion per year each.

226 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

227 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

228 1 1 NV IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal for the following reasons:

need to pursue renewable technologies -seriously detrimental effects upon the air and water quality -the "clean" power plant proposed is simply "cleaner" than those built 30 years ago, and not much cleaner at that -pumping billions of gallons of groundwater per year, can only be detrimental to wildlife, ranching, agriculture, and community needs, in other words the ecosystem as a whole -four new wilderness areas in the immediate area (within 30 miles).

229 1 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant.

230 1 1 ANON IND E
I firmly oppose the Sierra Pacific Power Plant proposal.

231 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Center in Nevada.

231 5 1 CA IND E
Please reject this proposal.

232 2 1 WI IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

233 2 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

235 2 1 OR IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

236 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

237 1 1 VA IND E
Speaking from a county with the worst Coal Fired Power Plant in VA, I can tell you the pollution affects mercury pollution of our waters, hospitalizations from COPD and asthma, and heating of our waters from discharge. This should not be done on BLM National lands.

237 2 1 VA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

238 1 1 TX IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

238 2 1 TX IND E
As a person with a chronic respiratory problem, I adamantly oppose coal-fired power plants.

239 2 1 WA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

240 1 1 NC IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

241 1 1 KY IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

242 1 1 CO IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

243 1 2 AZ IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

244 1 1 NY IND E
I very much oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

245 1 1 IL IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

246 1 1 OR IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

249 1 1 IL IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

250 2 1 WA IND E
I vehemently oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

251 1 1 NY IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

252 1 1 MI GOV E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

253 1 1 NY IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

257 1 1 AZ IND E
As a co-owner of America's federal land, I don't want to see it used for destructive purposes.

258 1 1 MN IND E
I do not support the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

260 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

261 1 1 CA IND E
Give me a break, you can't seriously be considering this!

263 1 1 WA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

265 1 1 SC IND E
I voice my opposition to the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

267 1 1 GA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

268 2 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

269 1 2 NE IND E
We oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

270 2 1 NY IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

272 1 1 TX IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

273 2 1 ANON IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

274 1 1 OR IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

275 1 1 CO IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

276 1 1 CO IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

277 1 1 WV IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

278 1 1 MA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

280 2 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

281 2 1 TX IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

282 1 1 WA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

284 1 1 CA IND E
I strongly oppose this cynical, corrupt, and discredited proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

285 1 1 NY IND E
I am writing because I am deeply concerned that the Bush administration is considering allowing a huge new coal-fired power plant complex to be built on 2,800 acres of federal land in eastern Nevada.

286 1 1 CT IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

287 1 1 CA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

289 1 1 WA IND E
I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

290 1 1 AZ IND E
The Ely Plant will be way too costly to the environment and future generations.

297 10 1 NV IND E
We oppose this project.

298 1 2 NV IND L
I am requesting a denial of the request by SPPCO for approx. 6 sections of land in T19NS, R64E, MDB & M (near Glen Siding).

298 7 2 NV IND L
Please do not approve the McGill location for the SPPCO Coal-fired Power Generation Station construction.

299 1 1 NV IND L
I am requesting a denial of the request by SPPCO for approx. 6 sections of land in T19NS, R64E, MDB & M (near Glen Siding).

299 7 1 NV IND L
Please do not approve the McGill location for the SPPCO Coal-fired Power Generation Station construction.

300 1 1 NV IND E
I object to the Sierra Pacific Power CO. (SPPCO) plan for the Ely Energy Center in its entirety.

301 1 1 NV IND L
I object the coal-fired power plant.

302 1 2 NV IND L
I am requesting a denial of the request by SPPCO for approx. 6 sections of land in T19NS, R64E, MDB & M (near Glen Siding).

302 7 2 NV IND L
Please do not approve the McGill location for the SPPCO Coal-fired Power Generation Station construction.

321 5 2 NV IND L
As it is currently being proposed this is one family in WPC [White Pine County] that does not support the Ely Energy Center Proposal.

322 13 1 NV IND C
We are not in favor of another power plant anywhere in the Steptoe Valley. One is too many, and no matter what the location, the impacts are not worth the short term financial band-aid for this county.

327 1 1 NV IND L
I am deeply concerned about the plans for a coal-fired power plant in Ely.

328 1 1 ANON CIV L
The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned about the plans for a coal-fired power plant in Ely.

329 4 2 WA IND L
We hope to learn that the Bureau of Land Management has voted "no" on this proposal.

332 1 1 CA IND L
I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of the Ely Energy Center.

336 1 2 MD IND L
We are opposed to the EEC project.

342 1 1 NV IND C
I am opposed to the alternative power plant site North Steptoe Valley.

343 1 1 NV IND C
If the power plant is built, my heart will be broken.

346 1 1 NV IND L
The coal-fired power plant at the Ely Energy Center planned by the Sierra Pacific Power/Nevada Power (SPPCO) is an outrage.

346 15 1 NV IND L
I see this as a project failing on all counts.

351 1 1 WI IND L
I oppose the idea of this plant for several reasons.

354 1 1 NV IND C
I am vehemently opposed to any coal-fired plants in Steptoe Valley.

370 1 1 NY IND L
I oppose the proposed Ely Energy Center in Nevada.

371 2 1 NV IND F
Please refuse to proceed with the building of the 2500 Megawatt coal fired Ely Energy Center electricity generating facility which the polluting of the environment coal industry is trying to foist upon our delicate planet earth.

372 1 1 NV IND F
I strongly oppose construction of the 2500 mw coal fired power plant in White Pine Co., NV for the following reasons:

A coal fired plant similar to Valmy would produce 1.1 million tons of waste annually. Part of that amount (approximately ″) of the fly ash could be sold to a cement company.

376 1 1 CA IND L

I oppose the current proposal for the Ely Energy Center in Nevada.