



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office  
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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html)



**DEC 17 2008**

In Reply Refer To:  
2850 (NV-043)  
N-82076

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ely Energy Center, and is now distributing it for public review and comment. If you requested notification of the availability of the DEIS in order to access it electronically, please visit our website at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html) and follow the links to the DEIS.

The Ely Energy Center is a proposed 1500 MW coal-fired power plant and associated features located approximately 20 miles north of Ely in White Pine County, Nevada. Also included in the proposal are two 250-mile long 500 kV electric transmission lines, a well field and pipeline to provide 8,000 ac-ft/year of water for the power plant, a rail spur to the reconstructed Nevada Northern Railway (NNRy), and a potential 100-mile long alternate rail line, if the NNRy reconstruction were not possible. The electric transmission lines would extend south from the power plant through White Pine, Nye, Lincoln, and Clark counties to the Harry Allen Substation near Las Vegas. The alternative rail line, if needed, would extend north from the power plant to Shafter in Elko County.

The proponents of the project are Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency. The Ely District Office is the lead office for the EIS with involvement of the Elko and Southern Nevada BLM Districts. White Pine County, Great Basin National Park, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 are Cooperating Agencies.

The comment period will extend for 90 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability of this DEIS in the Federal Register on January 2, 2009. Public comments will be accepted until April 3, 2009, and may be submitted in writing to: Ely Energy Center EIS, Bureau of Land Management, 702 N. Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, Phone (775) 289-1800. Electronic comments may also be submitted to [EEC\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:EEC_EIS@blm.gov).

Public meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ely Energy Center will be scheduled, with the dates, times, and locations to be announced in the near future.

Comments received during the public comment period will be fully considered and evaluated in preparation of the Final EIS. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Joe Incardine, National Project Manager, at (801) 524-3833.

Sincerely,

John F. Ruhs  
District Manager  
Ely District Office