

# Chapter 6

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# Chapter 6 Consultation and Coordination

## 6.1 Public Participation Summary

### 6.1.1 Public Scoping Period

The public was provided a 30-day scoping period at the beginning of the EIS process to identify potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. The Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Ely Energy Center Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on January 26, 2007. A copy of this NOI is included in the Ely Energy Center Scoping Report dated April 30, 2007 (BLM-JBR 2007). A legal notice was published in local newspapers as follows:

<i>High Desert Advocate</i>	West Wendover, NV	January 25, 2007
<i>Ely Times</i>	Ely, Nevada	January 26, 2007
<i>Las Vegas Review Journal</i>	Las Vegas, NV	January 26, 2007
<i>Reno Gazette Journal</i>	Reno, NV	January 26, 2007
<i>Valley Voice</i>	Alamo, NV	February 2007

A press release was sent to media outlets as follows in **Table 6.1-1**.

**TABLE 6.1-1. SCOPING PRESS RELEASE DISTRIBUTION**

<b>Television Stations</b>		
KCLV TV 2 (City of Las Vegas) KVBC TV 3 CTV-TV 4 (Clark County) KVVU TV 5	KLAS TV 8 LV 1 KLVX TV 10 KTNV TV 13	KFBT TV 33 KVWB TV 21 KFBT & KVWB KLBC TV 2 Laughlin
<b>Radio</b>		
KCEP 88.1 FM KHwy 98-99 FM KNPR 89.5 FM KUNV 91.5 FM KNUU 970 AM KDWN 720 AM KLAV 1230 AM Metro Sky View Traffic KSNE 106.5 FM	KBGO 93.1 FM KWNR 95.5 FM KMZQ 100.5 FM KXTE 107.5 FM KLUC 98.5 FM KSNF 1140 AM KMXB 94.1 FM KXNT 840 AM KOMP 92.3 FM	KXPT 97.1 FM KBAD 920 AM KENO 1460 AM KKLZ 96.3 FM KJUL 104.3 FM KSTJ 102.7 FM KTSJ 105.5 FM KSTAR 102.7 FM KOAS 105.7 FM
<b>Newspapers</b>		
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	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 Moapa Valley Progress

<b>Spanish Language Media</b>		
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	
<b>Other Media</b>		
Las Vegas Magazine Nevada Business Journal Nevada Magazine Sunset Magazine What's On Magazine Where Magazine of Las Vegas		

A scoping letter was prepared and sent to a list of approximately 1,800 potentially interested individuals, agencies, and organizations. The BLM compiled the initial contact list by using contact lists from previous projects. The initial scoping mailing list is included in the Scoping Report (BLM-JBR 2007).

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

### **6.1.2 Scoping Meetings**

Five scoping meetings were held at locations around the State of Nevada:

- Las Vegas, Nevada      February 5, 2007
- Alamo, Nevada          February 6, 2007
- Ely, Nevada              February 7, 2007
- Elko, Nevada            February 8, 2007
- Reno, Nevada            February 9, 2007

All attendees of scoping meetings were asked to sign in and provide their contact information. Lists of individuals who signed attendance sheets at the public meetings are included in the Scoping Summary Report (BLM-JBR 2007). The meetings began each evening at 5:00 PM and continued until 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 set up at each scoping meeting, with BLM and Nevada Power personnel available to answer questions from the public about the EIS analysis and proposed project, respectively.

Attendees at the scoping meetings were provided with handouts describing the Proposed Action as well as the NEPA process. Comment forms were also provided to all attendees to facilitate submission of written scoping comments. The public was given the option to provide comments during the meeting, using regular mail, or e-mail.

In addition, 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](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office/blm_programs/energy/energy_projects__transmission.html).

### **6.1.3 Scoping Response**

The 30-day scoping period, during which comments were received, was from January 26 through February 26, 2007. All responses received by BLM were logged, analyzed, and summarized to discern issues of concern. A total of 9,374 letters, emails and faxes were received in response to the request for public comment regarding the Proposed Action. Of those responses, 8,996, or approximately 96%, were a form letter opposing the proposed project. The letter indicates that the signatories for the most part oppose the project on the grounds that the project would use outdated technologies that result in unacceptable health and environmental impacts from pollution and destruction of sensitive landscapes.

In addition to the form letter, 377 unique responses were received from various organizations and individuals. Respondents included businesses, preservation organizations, oil and gas industry, as well as unaffiliated individuals and others. Of the 377 unique responses received, there were approximately 167 non-substantive comment letters that indicated a positive or negative stance, including 16 percent in favor of and 84 percent opposed to the proposed action. Respondents favoring the project generally cited the need for power, energy independence, and economic benefits of the project. Those opposing the project expressed concerns mostly over pollution, impacts to fragile desert environs, and carbon dioxide emissions.

Comments received in response to solicitations, including names and addresses of those who commented, are considered part of the public record on this EIS and are available for public inspection at the BLM Ely District Office.

### **6.1.4 EIS Mailing List**

An EIS mailing list of interested persons was initially assembled from the scoping mailing list with the addition of persons who expressed interest in being added to the mailing list during and subsequent to scoping. The mailing list for the Project was revised to add those persons who provided comments in response to scoping, requested to be on the mailing list, or signed a scoping meeting attendance list. Respondents that provided more than one comment letter are listed only once in the mailing list.

On January 16, 2008, a newsletter was sent out to the 9,128 persons on the current mailing list. The newsletter mailing was multi-purpose, as it provided an update on the project schedule, summarized scoping, presented the Mt. Wheeler Powerline component, and requested information as to who wanted to remain on the mailing list.

### **6.1.5 Distribution of the Draft EIS**

The Draft EIS review period was initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The Draft EIS was distributed as follows:

- A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register specifying dates for the comment period and the date, time, and location of the public comment meetings.
- A news release was provided by the agencies at the beginning of the comment period on the Draft EIS. The news release was submitted to the same news organizations as for the initial public scoping announcement.
- The Draft EIS was distributed to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list, as described above, and also made available via the internet.

### **6.1.6 Final EIS Distribution**

The Final EIS distribution will be completed after consideration is given to comments received on the Draft EIS. A 30-day Final EIS availability period will be initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS in the Federal Register. The Final EIS will be released as follows:

- Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register.
- Copies of the Final EIS will be sent to addresses on the updated mailing list and made available via the internet.
- A news release will be issued to the same newspapers used for previous Project announcements.

### **6.1.7 Record of Decision**

Subsequent to the 30-day availability period for the Final EIS, the BLM will prepare a Record of Decision. The BLM Record of Decision will be distributed to individuals and organizations identified on the updated Project mailing list. A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register. A news release will be made to the same newspapers used for previous Project announcements.

## **6.2 Criteria and Methods by Which Public Input will be Evaluated**

Letters and oral comments received on the Draft EIS will be reviewed and evaluated. Responses will be prepared for substantive comments and modifications or corrections will be made to the EIS as determined necessary in response to these comments. Copies of these comments, along with responses to them, will be included in the Final EIS.

### **Consultation with Others**

The following federal, state, and local agencies have continued to participate as cooperating agencies:

- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- White Pine County
- The Confederated Bands of the Goshute Tribe (invited)

In addition, the following state and federal agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Air Force
- Nevada Division of State Parks
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control
- Nevada Division of Forestry

As part of Government-to-Government consultation, Native American consultation letters were sent out by the BLM, Ely District Office on July 23, 2007 to the Tribes and tribal organizations listed in **Table 3.11-1**. Consultation with Tribes is on-going. See **Section 4.11** for details regarding Native American Consultation.

### 6.3 List of Preparers and Reviewers

**Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely District Office**

**Cooperating Agencies:**

- Region IX Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Great Basin National Park
- White Pine County
- The Confederated Bands of the Goshute Tribe (invited)

**Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and Technical Specialists:** See **Table 6.3-1** below.

**TABLE 6.3-1. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM (IDT) AND TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS**

<b>BLM National Project Manager – Joe Incardine, Utah State Office</b>			
<b>BLM Nevada State Office Project Lead - Jacqueline Gratton</b>			
<b>Resource</b>	<b>Ely District Office</b>	<b>Elko District Office</b>	<b>Southern Nevada District Office</b>
District Office Project Lead	Jane Peterson	Allen Mariluch	Beth Domowicz
Water Resources	Kari Harrison Tom Olsen	Mark Dean	Sara Peterson
Geology/Minerals	Dave Davis	Deb McFarlane	David Fanning
Paleontological Resources	Shawn Gibson	Tim Murphy	Susanne Rowe
Soils	Kari Harrison	Mark Dean	Lisa Christianson
Air Quality	Susan Caplan (NOC) Scott Archer (NOC)	Mark Dean	Lisa Christianson
Vegetation/Noxious and Invasive Weeds	Bonnie Million Mindy Seal Marian Lichtler	Mark Coca	Christina Lund Everett Bartz
Wildlife and Habitat	Marian Lichtler	Nycole Burton Wendy Fuell	Marc Maynard
Special Status Species	Marian Lichtler	Nycole Burton Wendy Fuell	Marc Maynard
Range Resources/ Wild Horses (WH)	Mindy Seal Ben Noyes (WH)	Karl Scheetz Bruce Thompson Jeff Moore Bryan Fuell (WH)	Everett Bartz Jerri Bertola
Cultural Resources	Shawn Gibson	Tim Murphy	Susanne Rowe

<b>BLM National Project Manager – Joe Incardine, Utah State Office</b>			
<b>BLM Nevada State Office Project Lead - Jacqueline Gratton</b>			
<b>Resource</b>	<b>Ely District Office</b>	<b>Elko District Office</b>	<b>Southern Nevada District Office</b>
Native American Concerns	Elvis Wall	Gerald Dixon	Susanne Rowe
Land Use/Access	Doris Metcalf	Allen Mariluch	Beth Domowicz
Special Designations	Dave Jacobson	Steve Dondero	Beth Domowicz
Recreation	Kalem Lenard	Steve Dondero	Robert Wandel
Visual Resources	Sheri Wysong , Kalem Lenard	Steve Dondero	Michael Johnson
Noise	Jane Peterson Sheri Wysong	Joe Incardine	Joe Incardine
Socioeconomics	Karen Rajala	Allen Mariluch	Beth Domowicz
Environmental Justice	Karen Rajala	Allen Mariluch	Beth Domowicz
Hazardous and Solid Waste	Melanie Peterson	Deb McFarlane	Michael Moran
Transportation	Karen Rajala		
Climate Change/ Global Warming	Sheri Wysong Susan Caplan (NOC) Scott Archer (NOC)		

**TABLE 6.3-2. THIRD PARTY CONTRACTOR – JBR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC**

<b>Role / Resource</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Experience</b>
<b>Project Manager</b> Ground Water Hazardous & Solid Waste Public Health & Safety	Brian Buck, PG JBR Salt Lake City	MS Geological Engineering BS Geology 32 Years Experience
<b>Assistant Project Manager</b> Wildlife & Habitat	Greg Brown JBR Salt Lake City	BS Natural Resources 13 Years Experience
Socioeconomics Environmental Justice	Linda Matthews JBR Salt Lake City  Jon Schulman JBR Salt Lake City  Allan Isaacson (Deceased) University of Utah Salt Lake City  Jan Crispin University of Utah Salt Lake City	BS Environmental Studies 22 Years Experience  MS Environmental Engineering MA Journalism BA English 13 Years Experience  BS Mechanical Engineering MBA 17 Years Experience  BA Business Management MBA 22 Years Experience

Role / Resource	Staff	Experience
Cultural Resources Native American Concerns Paleontological Resources Transportation	Jenni Prince Mahoney JBR Salt Lake City	BS Anthropology MC NEPA 14 Years Experience
Visual Resources	Richard Duncan JBR Reno, NV	BA Economics MS Biology 11 Years Experience
Water Resources	Ryan Clerico JBR Salt Lake City  Alan Mayo, PhD Alan Mayo Associates Orem, UT  EMS-i South Jordan, UT	BS Biology 10 Years Experience  MS Geology BS Geology PhD Hydrogeology 28 Years Experience
Vegetation Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species Fire management	Ryan Clerico JBR Salt Lake City	BS Biology 10 Years Experience
Air Quality Noise	Dan Heiser PE JBR Boise, ID  Chris Johnson JBR Boise, ID	BS Chemical Engineering MBA 25 Years Experience  BS Math & Earth Sciences 29 Years Experience
Geology Minerals	Jim Sage JBR Salt Lake City	BS Geology 9 Years Experience
Special Status Species	John Curl JBR Salt Lake City	BS Public Lands Policy 8 Years Experience
Range Resources Wild Horses Specials Designations	Marit Sawyer JBR Salt Lake City	BS Range Science 10 Years Experience
Soils Prime & Unique Farmland	Karen Kinsella JBR Elko, NV	BS Resource Management, Soils AS Biology/Computer 8 Years Experience
Land Use & Access Recreation	Tom Hale JBR Salt Lake City	MS Park and Recreation Management MLA Environmental Planning BLA Landscape Architecture 17 Years Experience
Cumulative Effects	Schelle Davis JBR Salt Lake City  Jon Schulman JBR Salt Lake City	BA Environmental Studies 18 Years Experience  MS Environmental Engineering MA Journalism BA English 13 Years Experience

## 6.4 Mailing Lists

An important part of the NEPA process is to invite public comment (CEQ §1503.1) by actively soliciting comments from those persons, organizations, or agencies who may be interested or affected by the proposed project. BLM is required to submit the EIS to several agencies and the proponent; these constitute the mandatory mailing list (**Table 6.4-1**). Other agencies (federal,

state, local), organizations, and individuals who may be affected by the project, may be stakeholders, or may simply be interested constitute the interested parties mailing list.

### 6.4.1 Mandatory Mailing List

The following mandatory mailing list was compiled using the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 mandatory distribution list. The number in parenthesis is the number of hardcopies required.

**TABLE 6.4-1. MANDATORY MAILING LIST**

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION (*) DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REVIEW 1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW, STE. 809 WASHINGTON D.C. 20004	NATIONAL PARK SERVICES (4) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION 1201 EYE STREET NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20005	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR (3) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM NATIONAL CENTER (423) RESTON, VA 20192
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (2) SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION CHIEF, PLANNING DIVISION 1455 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103	NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTER (2) P.O. BOX 25047 BUILDING 50, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER DENVER, CO 80225-0047	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR (3) DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND COMPLIANCE 1849 C STREET, NW 2342-MIB WASHINGTON D.C. 20240
BLM PLANNING OFFICE (2) MAIL STOP 850 LS 1849 C ST. NW WASHINGTON DC, 20240	NEVADA POWER (1) P.O. BOX 98910 LAS VEGAS, NV 89151	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR (3) NATURAL RESOURCES LIBRARY 1849 C. STREET NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20240
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (2) DENVER FEDERAL CENTER BLDG. 67 (D-5000) P.O. BOX 25007 DENVER, CO 80225-0007	OFFICE OF DEPUTY A/S OF THE USAF (1) ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SAF/RQ ROOM 4C916, PENTAGON WASHINGTON D.C. 20330-0001	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR (1) OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS 1849 C STREET NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20240
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (5) OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITIES, EIS FILING STATION AIREL RIOS BLDG (S OVAL LOBBY) RM 7220 1200 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20004	SIERRA PACIFIC POWER (1) P.O. BOX 10100 RENO, NV 89520-0024	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (3) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ENDANGERED SPECIES 1849 C ST. NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20240
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (2) REGION 9 75 HAWTHORNE STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	US DEPT OF ENERGY (2) OFFICE OF NEPA 1000 INDEPENDENCE AVE. SW MAIL CODE EH-42, ROOM 3E094 WASHINGTON D.C. 20585	
HQ-USAF/LEEV (2) ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION BOLLING AFB, BLDG. 516 WASHINGTON D.C. 20330-5000	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR (3) MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHIEF, ENVIRONMENT OPS AND ANALYSIS BRANCH 381 ELDON STREET HERNDON, VA 20170-4817	(*) - no hardcopy needed, will access from the web

### 6.4.2 Interested Parties Mailing List

The Interested Parties mailing list includes persons, organizations, and agencies that were included in the initial scoping mailing list, those who attended scoping meetings, those that commented during the scoping process, respondents to the January 2008 newsletter, and those who in some other way expressed interest in the project. This mailing list currently includes 9,128 interested parties. **Table 6.4-2** includes the federal agencies, state agencies, local

agencies, government officials, tribal governments, and other organizations. The entire list of interested parties is part of the project record and available upon request. This list will continue to be updated throughout the NEPA process.

**TABLE 6.4-2. AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON CURRENT MAILING LIST**

<b>FEDERAL AGENCIES</b>	<b>STATE AGENCIES</b>
Army Corps of Engineers, Reno Regulatory Office	Nevada Department of Wildlife, Ely, Elko, & Reno, NV
BLM Oil and Gas Inspector	NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Carson City, NV
Department of USAF Commander	Nevada Division of Environ. Protection, Carson City, NV
Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV	Nevada Division of Forestry, Las Vegas, NV
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely, NV	Nevada Division of State Parks, Baker, NV
National Park Service, Boulder, NV	Nevada Division of State Parks, Carson City, NV
US Department of the Interior	Nevada State Clearinghouse, Carson City, NV
USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, St. George, UT	Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Reno, NV
USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Elko, NV	Nevada State Legislature, Elko, NV
USDI Park Services	
US EPA Region IX	
US Forest Service, McGill, NV	
US Fish and Wildlife, Reno, NV	
US Fish and Wildlife, Las Vegas, NV	
<b>LOCAL AGENCIES</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS</b>
Bear River Watershed Council, Richmond, UT	City of Ely Mayor, George Chachas
Elko County Board of Commissioners, Elko, NV	
Lincoln County Commissioners, Pioche, NV	
Southern Nevada Water Authority, Las Vegas, NV	
White Pine County Board of Commissioners, Ely, NV	
<b>TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b>OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</b>
Colorado River Indian Tribes, AZ	Basin Research Associates
Kaibab Paiute Tribe, AZ	California Native Plant Society
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, CA	Citizen Alert, Las Vegas
Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, NV	Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, CA
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, NV	Duck Creek Basin Homeowners, McGill, NV
Ely Shoshone Tribe, NV	Ducks Unlimited, Rancho Cordova, CA
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, NV	Friends of the Schell Creek Range, McGill, NV
Moapa Band of Paiutes, NV	Grand Canyon Trust, Flagstaff, AZ
Pahrump Paiute Tribe, NV	Great Basin Chapter, Trout Unlimited, Baker, NV
Shudahai / Western Shoshone, NV	Nature Conservancy, Reno, NV
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, NV	Nevada Conservation League, Las Vegas, NV
Battle Mountain Band	Nevada Grn Property, Reno, NV
Elko Band	Post Carb Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT
South Fork Band	Progress Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Reno, NV
Wells Band	Resource Concepts, Inc.
Yomba Shoshone Tribe, NV	Sevier Citizens for Clean Air and Water, Richfield, UT
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, UT	Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, SF, CA
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, UT	Sierra Club, Reno, NV
Cedar Band	Sierra Club, Utah Chapter, Salt Lake City, UT
Indian Peaks Band	Wasatch Clean Air Coalition, SLC, UT
Kanosh Band	Western Lands Project, Seattle, WA
Western Shoshone Defense Council, NV	Western Research Advocates, Carson City, NV
	Western Watershed Project, Boise, ID