United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer to:
2850 (NV-040)
N-85210
N-85211

Dear Reader:

Great Basin Transmission, LLC is seeking an amendment to existing right-of-way grants NVN-85210, and NVN-85211, for the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) to accommodate two minor modifications in Clark and White Pine Counties in Nevada. In 1994, a Record of Decision and Approved Land Use Plan Amendment (ROD/ALUPA) were issued by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the SWIP (FR Doc. 94-30678, Filed 12-13-94), following the preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The SWIP is a single-circuit, overhead, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project. These two modifications include: (1) an extension of the right-of-way for approximately 4 miles from the originally approved southern terminus, which was to be at the Dry Lake 500kV Substation (which was never constructed), to the now existing Harry Allen 500 kV Substation in Clark County, and (2) a modification of the right-of-way grant in the Robinson Summit area northwest of Ely, which would shift the location of the Robinson Summit Substation from its currently approved location, to a site immediately adjacent to the approved SWIP corridor, approximately ¾ mile to the northwest of the currently approved site (the relocated site is referred to as the Thirtymile Substation).

The BLM prepared the enclosed SWIP - Southern Portion Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts and identify mitigation measures associated with the proposed right-of-way grant amendments. The SWIP-Southern Portion EA that was made available to the public and agencies in August 2007 for review and comment.

Using information developed during the environmental assessment, the BLM has determined that the proposed amendment of the existing right-of-way grant will not result in significant impacts. Mitigation measures identified within the EA, in the Biological Assessment (BA) and in the Biological Opinion (BO), will be made conditions of the approval of the right-of-grant amendments,

The SWIP - Southern Portion EA also assessed the impacts of the relocation of the SWIP right-of-way within the Aerojet Corridor/Coyote Spring Valley area. Relocation of the right-of-way in this area was mandated by Congress in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004, and thus is not part of the Proposed Action. However, the BLM determined that assessment of the impacts of the relocated right-of-way in the EA would provide value in developing the terms and conditions that will be incorporated into the Construction, Operation and Maintenance Plan that will apply to the SWIP activities in the relocation area.

Lastly, the EA assessed policy and resource updates enacted or adopted after the issuance of the right-of-way grant in 1994 with implications for the SWIP.

The revised EA (#NV-040-07-048) is now available on our website and you can access it at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html. Hard copy and electronic versions are also available at the BLM offices in Ely, and Las Vegas.

If you have any questions; please contact Brenda Linnell, Realty Specialist, at (775) 289-1808.

Sincerely,

John F. Ruhs
District Manager
Ely District Office