



### The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is Ready for Review!

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Toquop Energy Project will be available for public review and comment from Oct. 12, 2007 through Dec. 11, 2007. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 12, 2007. The Draft EIS and the NOA, which include the dates of the public review period, and public meeting dates and commenting opportunities, can be found on the project web site at [www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop](http://www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop) (see note on back of newsletter regarding the project website).

A paper or CD copy of the Draft EIS will be provided upon request by contacting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Project Manager (listed under "For More Information"). Those who returned the request form included with the December 2006 newsletter also will receive a copy of the document.

The BLM has scheduled a series of five public meetings in Caliente, Mesquite, Las Vegas, and Reno, Nevada and in St. George, Utah. At these meetings the public will be able to gather information on the Draft EIS, ask questions of

technical experts and learn about commenting on the document. Meeting dates, times and locations can be found on the back of this newsletter.

### Project Summary

The EIS is being prepared by the BLM, Ely Field Office to evaluate a proposed 750 megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in southeastern Lincoln County, Nevada. An EIS is required because the project is considered a major federal action, and therefore must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and associated regulations.

The proposed power plant would be constructed on a 640-acre parcel approximately 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada (see map below). The coal-fired power plant would be constructed on the same site and in place of a proposed gas-fired power plant analyzed in an EIS prepared in 2003. The BLM determined that new components associated with the coal-fired power plant warranted the preparation of an updated EIS. Some of the differences between the 2003 gas-fired plant and the currently proposed coal-fired plant include a decrease in plant capacity from 1,100 MW to 750 MW,

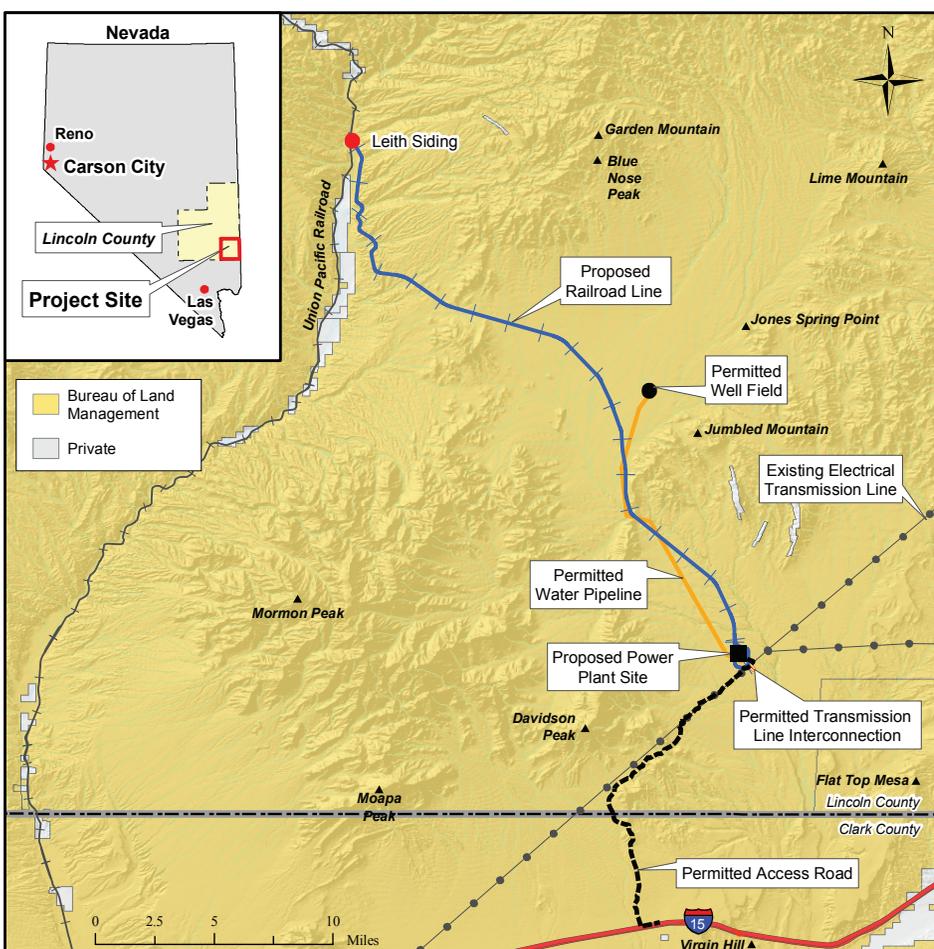
a different and larger site plan to accommodate the coal and coal-handling facilities, a 31-mile-long rail line for transporting coal to the power plant site, and different air emissions than those studied for the gas-fired power plant.

### EIS Planning Process

The flow chart on page 2 shows the EIS process and schedule. Four scoping meetings were held in March 2006 to introduce the project, receive comments, and identify issues that should be addressed in the EIS. A description of the scoping activities and issues identified was provided in a Scoping Summary Report and summarized in the second project newsletter, mailed in December 2006. For the past year, the project team has collected data on the existing environment, and identified potential impacts that could occur to the environment as a result of the proposed project or project alternatives. The team also identified measures to mitigate, or reduce impacts to the environment.

### Potential Project Impacts

As noted on the flow chart on the next page, potential impacts that could result from the project were identified and are discussed in the Draft EIS. In many instances, the effects of the proposed project are compared to the effects of the previously permitted, gas-fired power plant, which would not be constructed if the proposed coal-fired power plant is constructed. The primary differences in potential impacts result from the use of coal and the presence of the proposed railroad line to transport the coal to the plant site. The proposed coal-fired power plant would change air emissions and reduce water consumption. Surface disturbance associated with construction and operation of the railroad line would result in loss of vegetation, changes to wildlife movement corridors, and additional areas of impacts to visual resources, compared with the previously permitted power plant. However, proposed mitigation will reduce these impacts.

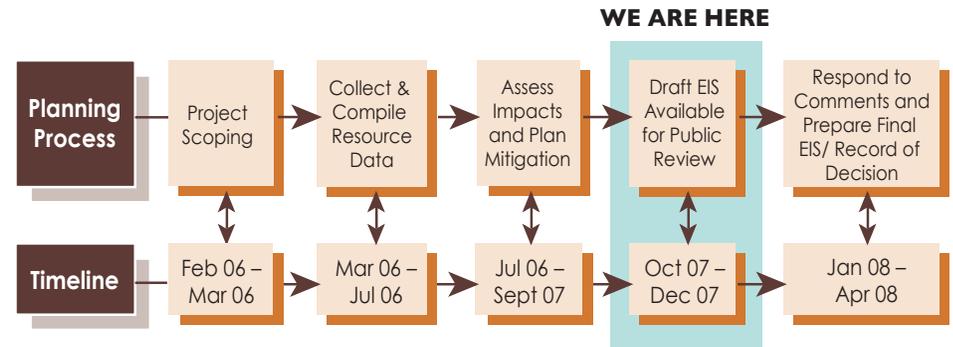




**How to Comment on the Draft EIS**

You may provide comments on the Draft EIS during the 60-day public review period by submitting a written comment to Jane Peterson, BLM Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely Nevada, 89301. You may also attend one of the public meetings listed below.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. 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.



The public meetings on the Draft EIS will include color displays depicting maps and information on the proposed project and alternatives. Agency and technical staff will be available to answer questions about the Draft EIS. To provide effective comments that assist the project team in preparation of the Final EIS, we encourage you to consider the following:

- Identify specific information that should have been considered during the EIS process
- Offer a specific idea of how to address a particular concern

- Provide information on how a particular element of the project could affect you

This comment period will conclude on December 11.

**For More Information**

If you have questions or would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Bill Morrill, BLM Project Manager, at 775-225-8564. To review a copy of the Draft EIS, please visit [www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop](http://www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop). Copies may also be requested from Brenda Linnell of the Ely BLM office at 775-289-1808.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All Toquop Energy Project materials, including the Draft EIS, can now be found on the new project website at: [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office/blm\\_programs/energy/toquop\\_energy.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office/blm_programs/energy/toquop_energy.html). BLM is transitioning all project materials to this new web site. The original website found in the Notice of Availability (published in the October 12, 2007 Federal Register) and in some of the meeting advertisements is being phased out. The address of the old website, [www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop](http://www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop), is linked to the new project website and can be used to access the all project materials until the end of the comment period, December 11, 2007. Please use either of the addresses above to access the Toquop Energy Project DEIS.

**PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The BLM would like to invite you to a public meeting on the Toquop Energy Project Draft EIS.

**All meetings will be held between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

A BLM presentation will be given at 4:30 p.m. and again at 5:45 p.m. Please attend one of the following meetings:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>November 6</b>	<b>November 7</b>	<b>November 8</b>	<b>November 13</b>
Caliente	Dixie	City of Mesquite	Cora Coleman	Best Western
Youth Center	Convention Center	City Hall	Senior Center	Airport Plaza Hotel
Highway 93 North	1835 Convention	2nd Floor Chambers	2100 Bonnie Lane	1981 Terminal Way
Caliente, Nevada	Center Drive	10 E. Mesquite Blvd.	Las Vegas, Nevada	Reno, Nevada
	St. George, Utah	Mesquite, Nevada		

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