

TOQUOP

ENERGY PROJECT EIS



PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

The BLM wants your input on the scope or range of issues related to the Toquop Energy Project. The issues identified during scoping will be considered and addressed during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

– MARCH 2006 –





Purpose of the Toquop Energy Project

- To generate power at competitive prices for use by consumers in southern Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico
- To meet growing demand for power in the southwestern United States

Need for the Toquop Energy Project

- To serve existing and future needs for power due to rapid population growth in Nevada and the southwestern United States
- Provide fuel diversity in a region that is heavily dependent on natural gas for electric generation
- Provide needed capacity to meet load growth and improve reliability of the electrical system
- Increase the tax base in Lincoln County, generate tax revenue for local jurisdictions, and provide employment





Project History

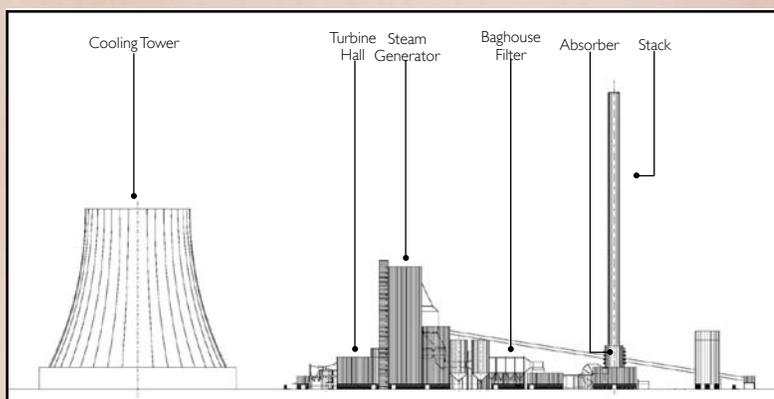
- **1,100-megawatt natural-gas fired plant was approved by the BLM in 2003 on the same project site**
- **Since 2003, natural gas prices have increased substantially**
- **Newer technology has increased the efficiency of coal-fired plants**
- **The current proposed project changes the fuel source, technology, and other aspects of the power plant proposed in 2003**
- **BLM has determined that a new EIS should be prepared to evaluate these differences, including:**
 - *Decreased capacity from 1,100 MW to 750 MW*
 - *Larger site plan*
 - *Construction of a 31-mile-long rail spur*
 - *Changes in air emissions*
 - *Reduced water use*





Project Description

- **A state-of-the-art 750-megawatt coal-fired power plant and associated facilities**



Anticipated Elevation

- **A 31-mile rail spur to transport coal to the power plant site**
- **Other facilities include water-supply infrastructure, power transmission line interconnection, and access roads**
- **Estimated construction cost is \$1.2 billion**
- **Construction would begin in 2007 with estimated online date of 2011**





Project Description

- **Use of state-of-the-art technology**
- **Advanced emissions controls**
- **High-efficiency boiler – reduces carbon dioxide emissions and fuel use by 15% to 20%**
- **Hybrid dry cooling - reduces annual water use by 80% to about 2,500 acre-feet**
- **Municipal waste water will be used, when available**
- **Design eliminates wastewater discharge**



EIS Studies

The EIS will analyze the existing local environment and potential impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed project. Ways to mitigate, or reduce, impacts on the environment also will be identified. Topics to be addressed in the EIS include:

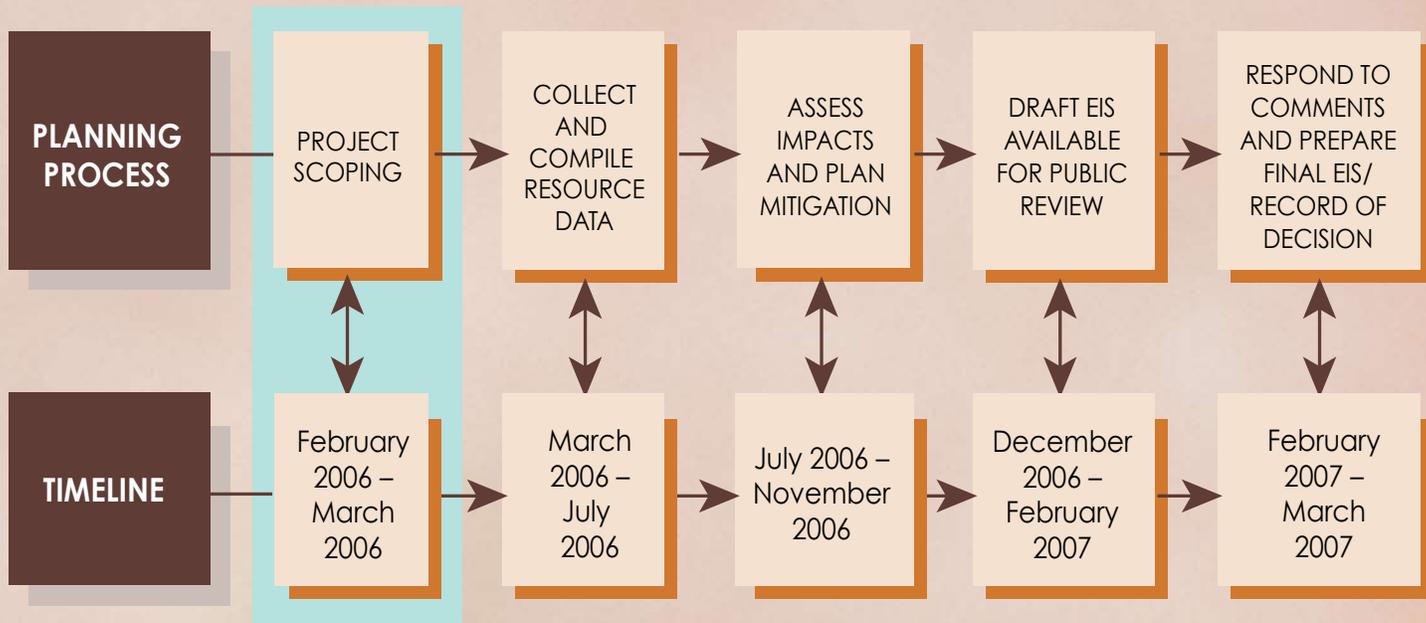
- **Human Environment** - land use, social and economic conditions, environmental justice, visual characteristics, noise
- **Natural Environment** - air, geology, soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, special status species
- **Cultural Environment** - prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and traditional cultural lifeways and resources





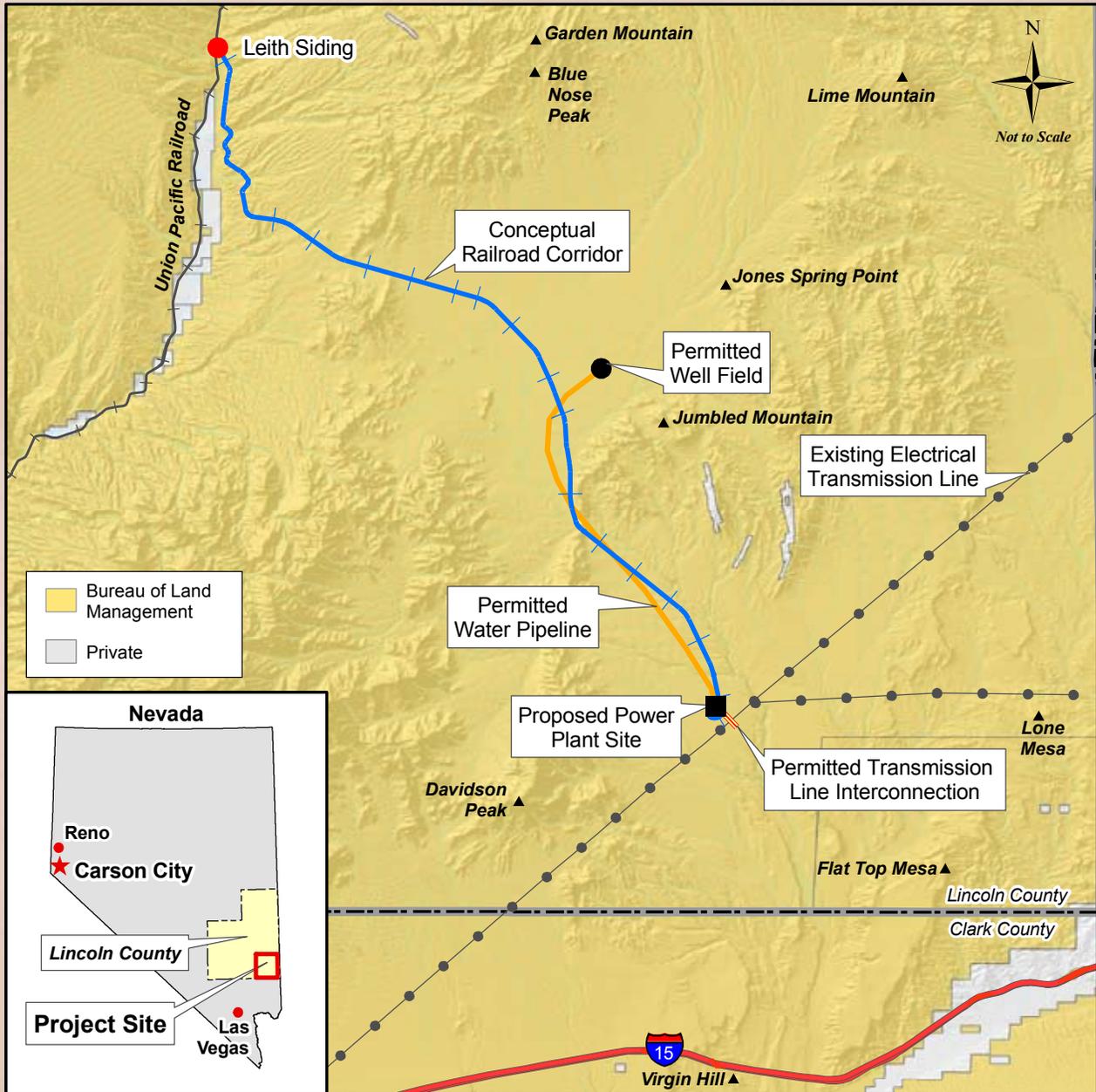
Planning Process

WE ARE HERE



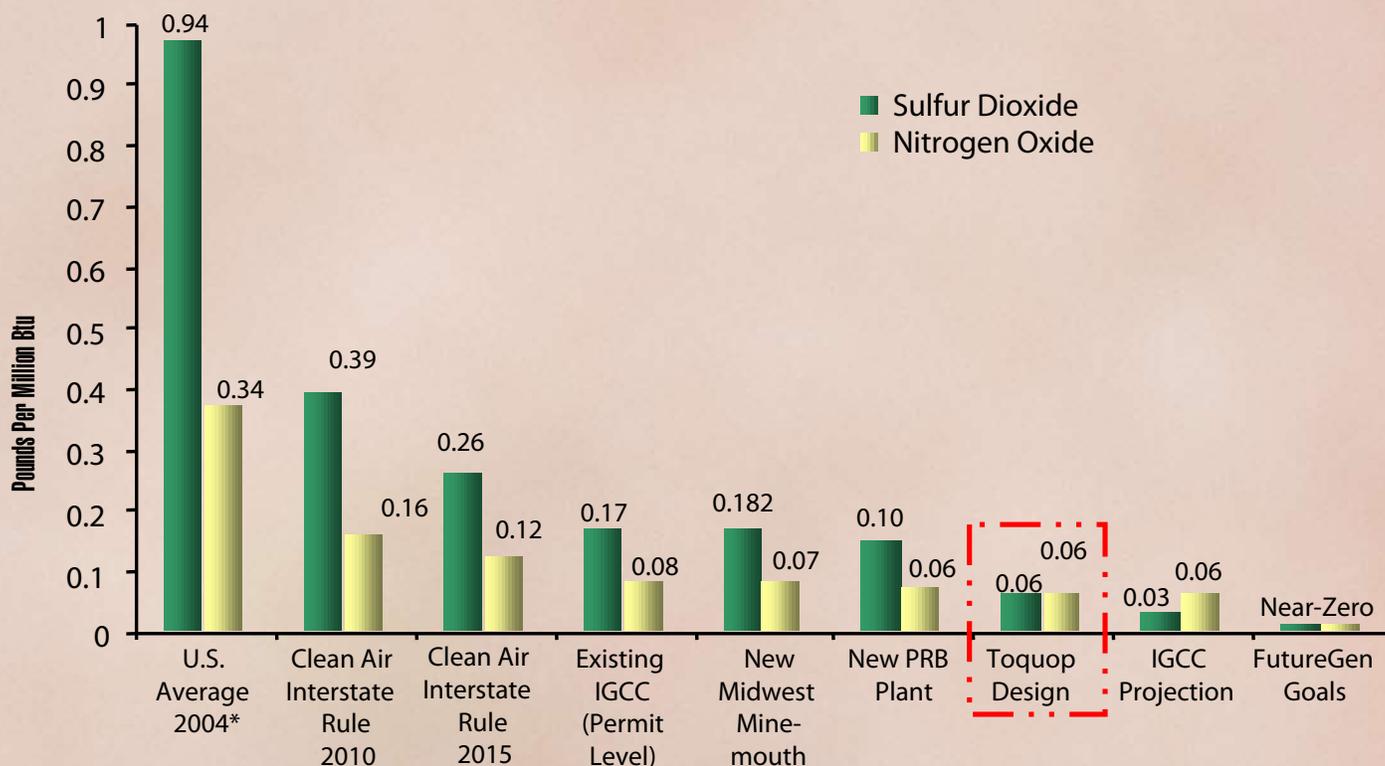


Project Location





Emissions from Coal-Fired Generating Plants



Source: EPA's Clean Air Markets database; EIA 2004 Annual Energy Outlook; GE Energy; SFA Pacific





How to Make Your Comments Most Effective...

One comment can make a difference.

- **Identify specific information that should be considered during the EIS process**
- **Offer a specific idea of how to address a particular concern**
- **Provide specific information about how a particular element of the project would affect you**
- **Speak to a project team member if you have any questions on project information**





Public Information and Feedback Opportunities

- 30-day scoping period to identify initial project issues

- Scoping meetings:

**Monday,
March 20**

Caliente Youth Center
U.S. Highway 93
Caliente, Nevada

**Tuesday,
March 21**

Mesquite City Hall
2nd Floor –
Council Chambers
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.
Mesquite, Nevada

**Wednesday,
March 22**

BLM Conference Room
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Thursday,
March 23**

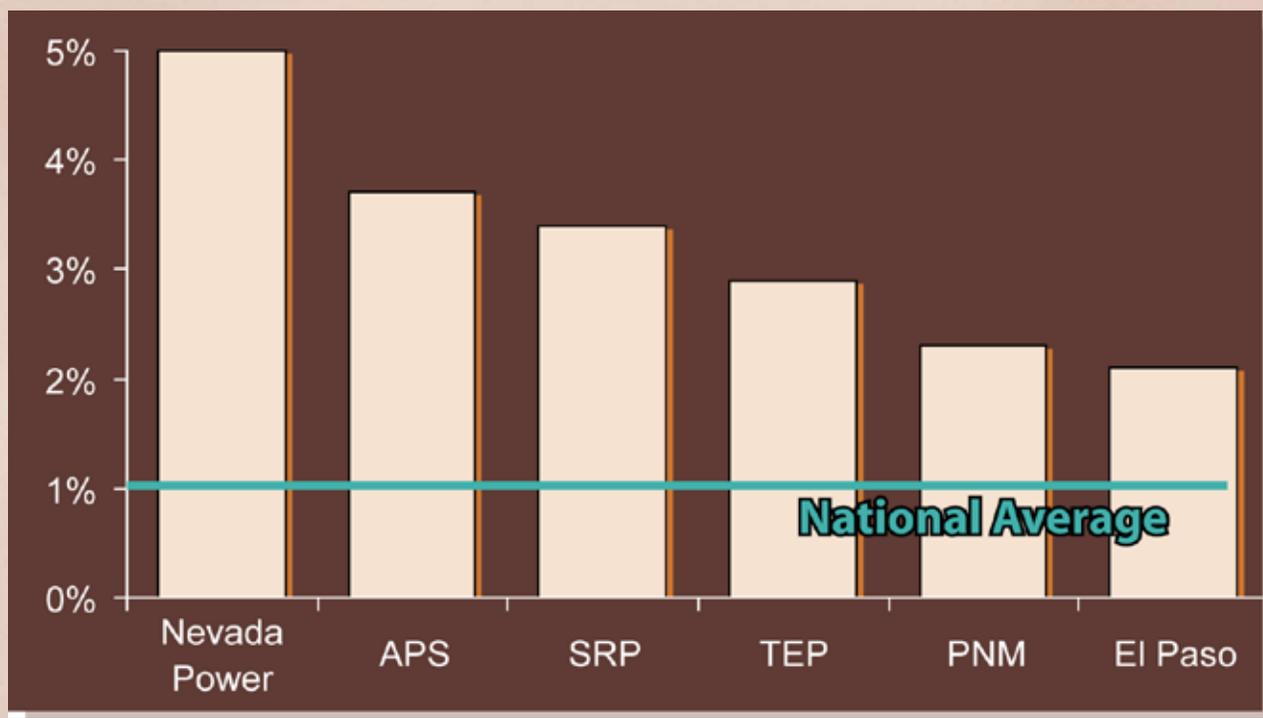
Meadow Wood Courtyard
5851 S. Virginia
Reno, Nevada

- Public meetings and 45-day public review on Draft EIS in late 2006
- Mailing list and newsletters throughout project
- Project website www.toquopenenergy.com
- Contact BLM Project Manager Bill Morrill, 775-225-8564





Average Annual Customer Growth Rates For Southwestern Utilities 1998-2003



Load growth rates experienced by utility companies in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico are 3 times the national average.

