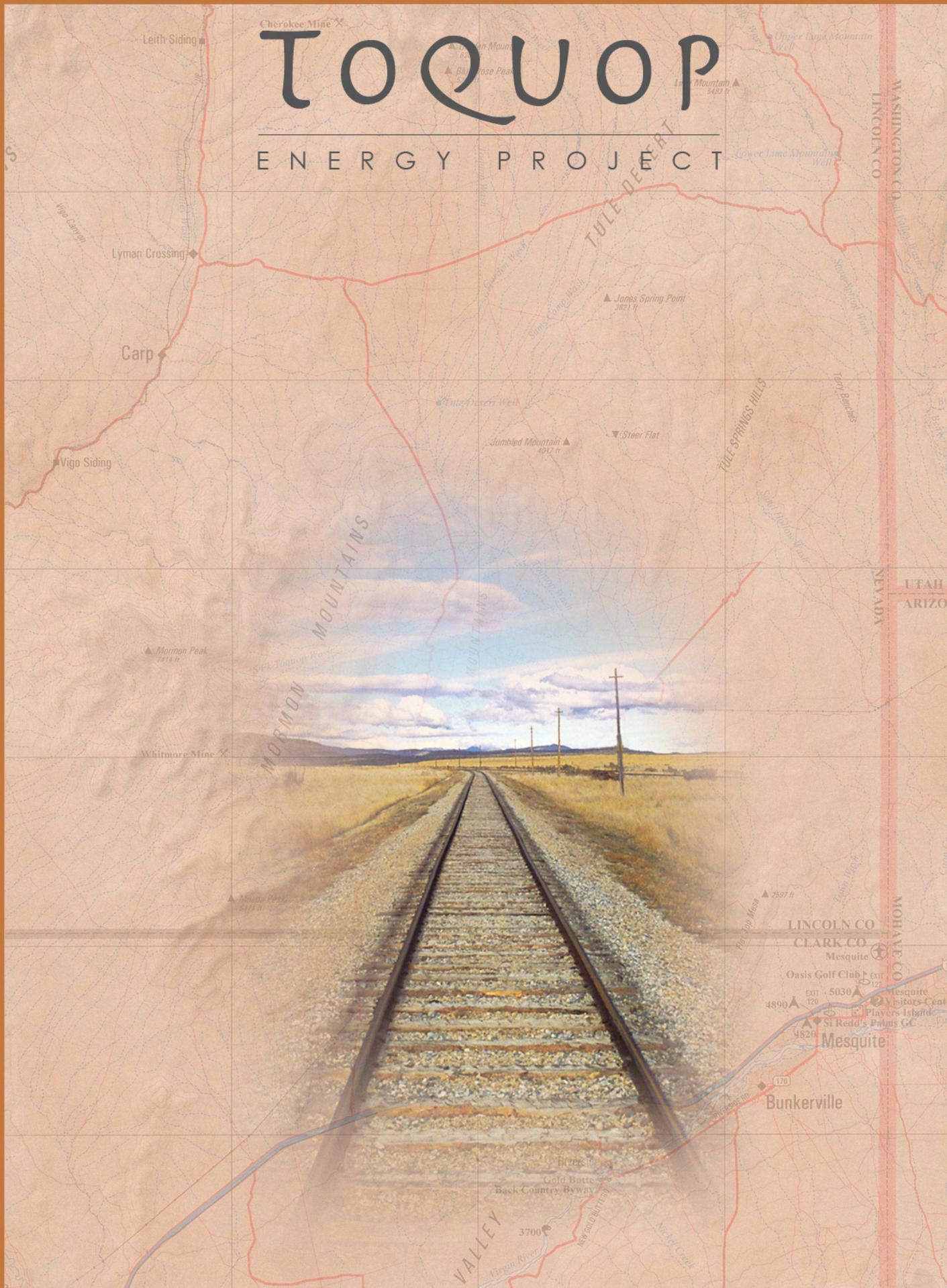


TOQUOP

ENERGY PROJECT



CHAPTER 1.0 - INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND LOCATION

In April 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), hereinafter referred to as the 2003 EIS, for the Toquop Energy Project proposed by Toquop Energy, Inc. This project was outlined and analyzed in the 2003 *Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Toquop Energy Project*. The project was to include construction and operation of a 1,100-megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fired electric-power-generation plant and associated facilities in Lincoln County, Nevada. The stated goal for the project was to generate electrical power at competitive prices, as a solution to the near- and long-term power shortages projected for the western United States. The Record of Decision accompanying the Final EIS approved the following rights-of-way (ROWs):

- 100 acres for the power plant site and access road to the power plant from the main access road, plus additional temporary ROW during construction
- 87 acres for improvements to the existing access road from I-15 to the power plant site boundary, plus additional temporary ROW during construction
- 45 acres for a 24-inch buried pipeline and buried electric line between the power plant and the well field, plus additional temporary ROW during construction and 6 acres for storage sites

Since 2003, the price of natural gas has increased substantially and natural-gas prices are projected to remain unstable due to increasing demand coupled with higher exploration and development costs. This, together with the fact that newer technology has improved the efficiency and environmental performance of modern coal-fired plants, has caused the proponent to reconsider the original proposal in favor of a new strategy that would offer greater economic stability by using coal instead of natural gas. In line with the project's original aim to provide power at competitive prices, Toquop Energy Company, LLC. (Toquop Energy) now proposes to construct a 750-MW coal-fired power plant in the same location.

The new coal-fired power plant project has a number of components that differ from the original gas-fired power plant project, and BLM has determined that preparation of a new EIS is warranted. The new project differs from the original project in the following key respects:

- Plant capacity would decrease from 1,100 MW to 750 MW.
- The plant facilities would use more surface area to accommodate the storage and handling of coal and the disposal of ash.
- A rail line to transport coal to the site would need to be constructed.

Map 1-1 shows the locations of the proposed facilities. The power plant would be located on 640 acres of public land currently managed by BLM, located in Township 11 South, Range 69 East, Section 36. This site is approximately 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada, and 50 miles south-southeast of Caliente, Nevada, in southern Lincoln County. The rail line would leave the existing Union Pacific Railroad line at Leith Siding, and would cross about 31 miles of land managed by the BLM to the power plant.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the action is to provide public land for the development of energy production by allowing for the construction of power plants on public lands managed by the BLM. The multiple-use mission of the BLM includes managing activities such as mineral development, energy production, recreation, and grazing, while conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands. BLM's objective is to meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, permits, leases, and easements while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values. The proposal to construct, operate and maintain a coal-fired power plant on public lands would be in accordance with this objective.

The need for the action is established by BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to respond to applications for ROW Grants and a request for land disposal. The BLM will: (1) respond to the request for a ROW for the rail line that would be required to transport coal to the power plant site, and (2) respond to the request to amend the ROW for the power plant site required for the construction and operation of a coal-fired power plant. The rail line would require a corridor 31 miles long across BLM-managed land, with ROW access to a width of 200 feet temporarily during construction and 100 feet wide for long-term use of the rail line. A 100-acre ROW was originally granted for the gas-fired plant; however, an amendment to the ROW is needed to accommodate the proposed 475-acre coal-fired plant. As part of the Proposed Action Alternative, BLM would dispose (by sale) of the 640-acre parcel that the power plant would occupy.

An access road, a water-supply system, and a transmission-line interconnection were granted permits as part of the previous gas-fired power plant project and would not be changed under the Proposed Action Alternative.

1.3 TIERING TO THE 2003 EIS

While some of the facilities associated with the coal-fired generation project are identical to those considered in the 2003 EIS, BLM has chosen to require a new EIS rather than a supplement to the 2003 EIS. Accordingly, this EIS will be tiered to the 2003 EIS to incorporate by reference the relevant aspects of the earlier analysis. The 2003 EIS evaluated three alternatives in addition to the proposed action (the natural gas-fired power plant) and the no action alternative. These alternatives included two alternate site locations, water-cooled vs. air-cooled technologies in the power plants, alternative access roads, alternative water requirements, and alternative transmission and gas line connections. In addition, alternative fuels and other potential locations for the power plant and access roads were considered during the scoping process, but eliminated from detailed analysis because they failed to meet the project needs, were economically infeasible, and /or were environmentally unacceptable.

Some of the ROWs granted in the BLM's 2003 Record of Decision would not be changed under the current proposed project. Specifically, the proponent has not requested any action by BLM related to the existing ROW grants for the water pipeline, access road, and disposal of the 640-acre site. The current EIS is focused on the issues and impacts that were not addressed in the previous EIS, or builds upon the 2003 analysis to adequately consider the impacts that could result from the grant of additional ROW or a ROW amendment.

P:\S\ha... ToquopGIS\Sheet\Basemap\Basemap.mxd

Surface Management and Project Components

Toquop Energy Project EIS
Lincoln County, Nevada

LEGEND

Surface Management

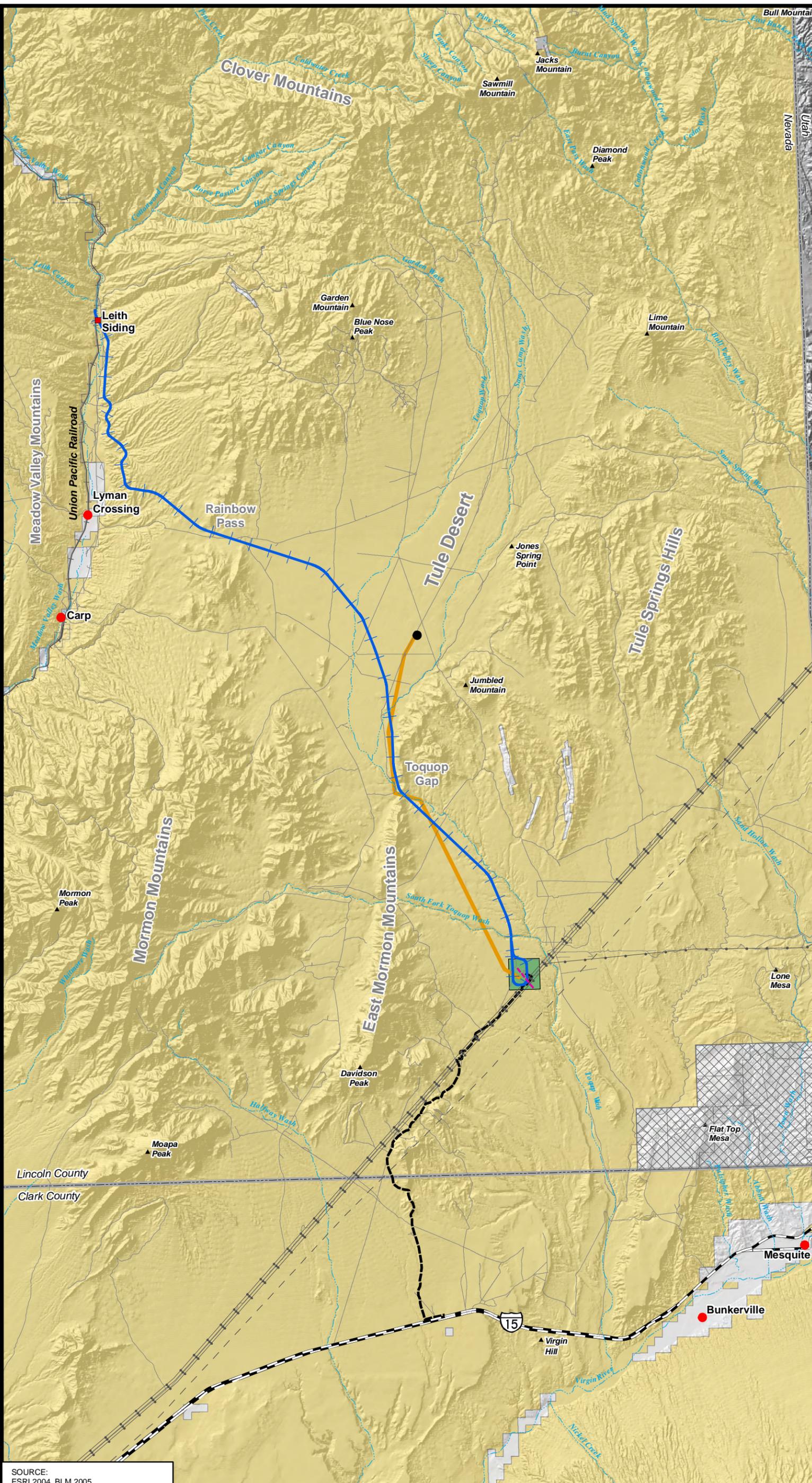
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

General Features

- Proposed Rail Line
- Proposed Plant Site (640 acres)
- Permitted Well Field
- Permitted Water Pipeline
- Permitted Natural Gas Pipeline and Transmission Line Interconnection
- Permitted Access Road
- Toquop Township

Reference Features

- Existing Road
- Interstate
- Existing Railroad
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Natural Gas Pipeline
- River, Stream, or Wash
- Mountain Peak
- Town
- Point of Interest



SOURCE:
ESRI 2004, BLM 2005

Table 1-1 summarizes the project features that are already permitted and those requiring further approvals.

**Table 1-1
Acreages of Proposed and Permitted Project Features**

	Acres	Permitted	Proposed
Power plant site	640		x
Gas-fired power plant footprint	100	x	
Coal-fired power plant footprint	475		x
Water pipeline permanent ROW (30 feet wide)*	45	x	
Water pipeline construction ROW (60 feet wide)*	90	x	
Access road permanent ROW (50 feet wide)*	138	x	
Rail line permanent ROW (100 feet wide)*	356		x
Rail line construction ROW (200 feet wide)*	698		x

SOURCE: Bureau of Land Management 2003a

NOTES: Acreages are approximate and ROW widths may vary due to terrain

*Acre count excludes 640-acre plant site

ROW = right-of-way

1.4 BACKGROUND

The population of the western United States grew by nearly 20 percent between 1990 and 2000. Nevada outpaced every state in the nation during that period, with a 66 percent increase in population. Las Vegas grew by 83 percent, becoming the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States (Perry and Mackun 2001). A consequence of this growth is the rapidly rising demand for electricity in the region. A new state-of-the-art coal-fired plant would limit pollution and respond to that need.

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) 2005 Ten-Year Coordinated Plan Summary forecasts that projected demand in the Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Nevada subregion would require 6,340 MW of additional power generation sometime between 2005 and 2012, a period during which the Proposed Action Alternative would be ready to enter into service. According to Toquop Energy, the project would be capable of contributing approximately 11 percent of the projected demand for new generation. WECC data indicate that Las Vegas, Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Nevada currently rely on energy imported from out-of-state in order to meet the demands of growing populations. The Proposed Action Alternative would significantly strengthen the reliability of the electric grid in the Las Vegas area by reducing the need for imported energy over the existing transmission system. Toquop Energy's overall goal is to generate electrical power at competitive prices to meet projected power needs in the region. At this time, natural-gas-fired generation makes up about 37 percent of total generating capacity in the WECC service area, almost double the percent contributed by coal-fired generation (WECC 2005). Many of the region's existing coal-fired generators are 40 or more years old, and may be facing retirement over the next decade. Fuel diversity is needed in the region due to the high cost and volatility of natural gas and the potential for interruptions in the supply of natural gas. United States supplies of coal are currently readily available, and coal can be stored much easier than natural gas. The WECC Ten-Year Coordinated Plan Summary raised concerns about possible natural-gas shortages that might persist for a number of years, as well as concerns about pipeline system capacity. Interruptions in the gas supply could reduce the reliability of the areawide electricity supply (WECC 2005).

The project proponents have determined that the use of coal would increase the predictability and affordability of power, as natural-gas prices have risen substantially between 1999 and 2006 and are

expected to remain unstable in the foreseeable future. One advantage of converting to coal-fired generation is that the United States has ample coal reserves. Furthermore, coal can be stored on site, protecting against potential disruptions in the fuel supply. Technological innovations make coal a feasible and cost-effective alternative. Hybrid cooling and state-of-the-art pollution-control devices reduce water usage and bring emissions closer to that of gas-fired power generation (BLM 2003a). The plant capacity would be reduced from the originally proposed 1,100 MW, as described in the original project, to 750 MW in this project to partially reduce emissions that would occur with coal- versus gas-fired power generation.

1.5 OVERVIEW OF THE NEPA PROCESS

The EIS evaluates the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action Alternative and identifies appropriate mitigation measures. The BLM is guiding this effort as lead Federal agency under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) process, assisted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, which are participating as cooperating agencies. The EIS is being prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, NEPA, Council of Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 1500–1508 [40 CFR 1500–1508]), U.S. Surface Transportation Board, Executive Order 13212, May 18, 2001¹, and other relevant regulations.

BLM is required to perform the following tasks as part of the NEPA process:

- Identify issues
- Collect relevant data and information
- Assess project-related impacts, identify alternatives to the action proposed, and define mitigation measures
- Complete a Draft EIS
- Offer the Draft EIS for public review
- Prepare a Final EIS
- Issue a Record of Decision

The first step in this process for the Proposed Action Alternative was to invite the participation of agencies and the general public to help identify project-related issues. Although scoping took place for the original 2003 project, it was necessary to initiate a new effort to define the extent of analyses appropriate to this revised project. A summary of public outreach efforts, including public meetings, is presented in Chapter 5. A summary of all scoping activities and the comments received about the project are documented in the Scoping Summary Report, available on the project Web site (<http://www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop/>) or from the BLM Ely Field Office. Section 1.5 below summarizes the issues raised by the scoping process and indicates where each issue is addressed in the EIS.

¹ “The increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people ... agencies shall take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to expedite projects that will increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy.” (Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 99, 28357).

Much of the information used to develop the baseline resource inventory for the analysis was compiled from existing data on file at the BLM Ely Field Office, and information was also collected from other sources, including government agencies and academic institutions. The 2003 EIS for the original project provided information still relevant to the current project. The 2003 EIS also incorporated information from published and unpublished reports, maps, and digital data for use in a geographic information system format.

Chapter 3 describes the existing conditions in the project area, as related to the following resource categories:

- Lands
- Livestock grazing and rangeland
- Recreation and access
- Wilderness and special management areas
- Visual resources
- Climate and air quality
- Noise
- Geology, soils, and minerals
- Groundwater resources
- Surface water resources
- Biological resources (including vegetation, wildlife, special status species)
- Wild horses and burros
- Archaeology and historic preservation
- Public health and safety, hazardous materials, and waste
- Paleontological resources
- Social and economic conditions
- Environmental justice

During the scoping and data collection processes for this EIS, BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve compliance and consistency with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, in order to assure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act), would be necessary to assure that these processes are completed in conjunction with the EIS.

Chapter 4 summarizes all potential project-related impacts that have been identified and analyzed in this Draft EIS. The impact analysis also identifies and considers measures that could be undertaken to mitigate impacts.

The release to the public of this Draft EIS coincides with the initiation of a 60-day public review period. Public meetings would be held during this period to solicit comments from agencies and the public regarding the findings of the Draft EIS. After completing a thorough review of comments received during this period, BLM would prepare responses to each comment and incorporate consideration of all comments into the Final EIS.

1.6 ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE EIS

In March 2006 public scoping meetings were held in four different communities to introduce the public to the project and allow them to identify issues they believe should be addressed in the EIS. A total of 113 people attended the meetings, and many of them presented comments. Additional comments were received through letters, electronic mail messages, and the project Web site. The scoping process and the issues identified through that process are discussed in detail in Chapter 5 and in the June 2006 Scoping Summary Report, available on the project Web site. Table 1-2 lists the key issues and questions that were raised through scoping and indicates the sections where the issues are addressed in this EIS.

**Table 1-2
Summary of Issues from Scoping Report**

Issue or Question	Response, or Section(s) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Where Issue Is Addressed
Project Description	
Identify the source of the coal that would be used and any associated issues.	Section 2.3
Evaluate alternative fuels for the plant, including renewable sources.	Section 2.4
What new transmission lines would be required?	Section 2.3
Has this type of technology been constructed elsewhere before?	Yes
Project Purpose and Need	
Who would be the customers for this power?	Sections 1.2 and 1.3
Consider the need for this plant given there are other new generation projects under way.	Section 1.3
Is there enough transmission capacity to handle the power from this project?	Yes. The proposed interconnection is addressed in Section 2.3.2.1.
Project Alternatives	
Can this plant be an integrated gasification combined-cycle plant with carbon-capture storage technology?	Section 2.4
The No-Action Alternative should be considered.	Chapters 2 and 4
Why was this site selected rather than a site closer to the rail line and further from populations?	Section 2.3
Can Toquop Energy purchase power from renewable sources or integrate some renewable generation on site?	Although this is not a part of the project as proposed, Toquop Energy has indicated that they would be open to considering these options.
Consider alternatives to mercury-emission-control technologies; alternative sites and transportation methods for transport of plant materials or byproducts; and alternative coal-haul routes.	Chapters 2 and 4
Air Quality	
As plant components age, would pollution increase?	Yes, but an air permit would be required, which would set emission limits.
How would this plant contribute to visual impairment in Class I and other areas?	Appendix D
Consider the contribution of mercury and other emissions to health problems such as asthma and cancer.	Discussion of health-protective air-quality standards are in Section 4.7.
How much will emissions contribute to global warming?	Appendix D

Issue or Question	Response, or Section(s) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Where Issue Is Addressed
Where is downwind? Where would the effects of plant emissions be?	Section 3.7.2.1
What air-pollution-control technologies would be used at plant and how effective are they?	Appendix D
Air-quality modeling should occur, including baseline, projected, and during operation, following U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.	Modeling has occurred, and a Prevention of Significant Deterioration application has been submitted. Also see Section 4.18.3.6.
Would coal washing be used to control various emissions?	No
During the life of the project, how much total mercury will be emitted into the air and water systems?	Appendix D
Water Resources	
Consider the impacts of groundwater withdrawal on springs, in-stream flows, and riparian habitats.	Section 4.10
Address impacts of groundwater pumping and withdrawal in the Colorado River flow system areas.	Section 4.10
Consider the frequency, extent, and duration of flooding that would occur as a result of surface runoff and the effects on discharge to groundwater.	Section 4.11
Consider the amount and effects of discharged wastewater during construction and operation.	Section 4.11
Biological Resources	
Consider construction impacts regarding habitat disturbance, noise, encroachment of invasive species, and stormwater runoff.	Section 4.12
Evaluate the impacts from air emissions, particularly mercury and heavy metals, in vegetation, water, and wildlife.	Section 4.12
Would tall facilities (cooling towers, stacks) impact birds, and how would bird strikes be minimized?	Section 4.12.2.1
Evaluate impacts from construction and presence of the rail line related to habitat fragmentation and disruption of the wildlife movement corridor.	Section 4.12
The proposed rail line is in desert tortoise area. What would be the impacts on the species?	Section 4.12
How would birds and other wildlife be prevented from using the evaporation ponds?	Section 4.12 (Note that evaporation ponds are only a component of the No-Action Alternative.)
Evaluate the effects on riparian species due to degradation of air quality.	Section 4.12
What would be done to minimize the spread of noxious weeds?	Section 4.12
Would the construction and the presence of power lines increase the population of ravens, which are predators of the desert tortoise?	No additional power lines would be developed under any of the alternatives considered in this EIS.
Evaluate water depletion and effects on animal species and water-dependent species.	Sections 4.10 and 4.12
Archaeology and Historic Preservation	
Would the proposed rail line corridor impact cultural resources?	Section 4.14
Consider traditional and historic land-use patterns.	Section 3.14
Identify traditional cultural places.	Section 3.14
Visual Resources	
Analyze effects of project components on dark-sky night attributes.	Section 4.6

Issue or Question	Response, or Section(s) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Where Issue Is Addressed
Analyze presence of haze in special designations including Wilderness areas and national monuments, among others.	Section 4.6
Noise	
Evaluate noise pollution from the railroad.	Section 4.8
Consider average projected peak-noise levels from plant and steam blowing at fence line.	Section 4.8
Land Use and Transportation	
Would maintenance and access roads be closed to the public or provide all-terrain vehicle and other vehicle access?	Existing roads into the power plant would be closed to public; steel barriers would provide controlled access.
What new proposed roadways or routes would be established?	Section 2.2
What are grazing allotments and public-land health assessments in areas where the project site is located?	Section 3.3
How would this project increase rail traffic on the proposed rail line and other railroads to which it is linked?	Section 2.3
Consider the number of daily train and truck trips and the impacts of those trips.	Section 4.4
Consider project impacts on specially designated areas.	Section 4.5
Underpasses and/or overpasses may be needed to prevent disruptions to access during train trips.	Existing access roads would be maintained.
Recreation	
Consider project impacts on local and regional recreation from new project facilities, potentially increased access, and regional haze.	Section 4.4
Consider recently increased demand for recreation due to Lincoln County legislation and recent and foreseeable development.	Sections 4.4 and 4.18
Hazardous Materials and Safety	
Identify safety and emergency-response plans regarding transportation and storage of hazardous materials and project waste.	Section 4.15
Evaluate whether the coal traffic-and-transport system would result in increased fire hazard.	Section 4.15
Storage and disposal of project waste is a safety concern.	Section 4.15
Would toxic materials be hauled on the railroad?	Coal would be hauled on the rail line.
Evaluate whether the spread of noxious weeds would increase fire hazard.	Section 4.12
Socioeconomics	
Consider impacts on Mesquite from increased traffic and people.	Sections 4.4 and 4.17
Consider whether Mesquite would experience the most adverse impacts in order to provide regional benefit.	Sections 4.16, 4.17 and 4.18 (and other Chapter 4 sections, as appropriate)
What are economic benefits to Mesquite?	Section 4.16
How would Mesquite handle housing, medical, and other infrastructure needs during worker influx?	Section 4.16
Will this project disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations?	Section 4.17
Would local agencies be assisted in providing services to accommodate influx of population associated with this project?	Section 4.17
Government-to-Government and Agency Consultation	
Consult with the American Indian tribes claiming affinity with the area.	Chapter 5

Issue or Question	Response, or Section(s) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Where Issue Is Addressed
Cumulative Effects	
Consider impacts of other proposed coal-fired plants in the western United States on natural resources.	Section 4.18
Consider cumulative impacts on global warming from various sources.	Section 4.18 and Appendix D
Consider cumulative air-pollution impacts from various sources, existing and foreseeable, including those resulting from future growth and development.	Section 4.18
Consider cumulative impacts on water resources, including other industrial and development projects.	Section 4.18
Would this project limit development of future major stationary sources?	Section 4.18
Consider cumulative visual impacts on special designations (national parks and monuments).	Section 4.18

1.7 RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICABLE LAWS, POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS

BLM is responsible for managing public lands in accordance with all applicable laws, including Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and NEPA. The agency is therefore reviewing the development plans for the Toquop Energy Project to assure that adequate protection is provided against unnecessary degradation of public land resources and that the project complies with all applicable state and Federal laws.

Approved land use plans in adjacent BLM administrative units were reviewed for changes since the issuance of the 2003 EIS, and include the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan, the Virgin River Management Framework Plan, and the Nellis Air Force Base Range Resource Plan. Plans from other jurisdictions—including Lincoln County, Clark County, State of Nevada, and local jurisdictions such as the City of Mesquite—were reviewed as part of data-collection efforts.

Table 1-3 below lists the laws, regulations, and Executive Orders that may apply to the Toquop Energy Project Proposed Action Alternative.

**Table 1-3
Laws, Regulations, Executive Orders, Permits, and Approvals That May Apply to the
Proposed Action Alternative of the Toquop Energy Project**

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.
Council on Environmental Quality general regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508)
Department of the Interior’s implementing procedures and proposed revisions (August 28, 2000, Federal Register)
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and regulations implementing NHPA 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) 470 et seq.
Antiquities Act of 1906 16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended 16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
Clean Air Act of 1990 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.
Clean Water Act of 1987 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Disposition: Sales 43 CFR 2700
Endangered Species Act of 1973 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.
Nevada Division of Forestry Critically Endangered Flora Law (Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 5.27-5.33)
Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended 42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.
Occupational Safety and Health Act 29 U.S.C. 651 et seq. (1970)
Mineral Leasing Act of 1920
Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 42 U.S.C. 13101 et seq.
Safe Drinking Water Act 42 U.S.C. s/s 300f et seq. (1974)
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (Migratory Bird Guidance) 16 U.S.C. 703–711 Executive Order January 1, 2001
Executive Order 11512, NEPA, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality
Executive Order 11593, National Historic Preservation
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards
Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice
Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 1996)
Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments of 1994
Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975, Title I
Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1994, Title IV
Departmental Responsibilities for Indian Trust Resources, 512 DM 2.1
Sacred Sites, 512 DM 3
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species
Secretarial Order 3206 (June 5, 1997), Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) right-of-way (ROW) regulations 43 CFR 2800
Federal Permits and Approvals
BLM NEPA Record of Decision for Proposed Action
BLM ROW for electric power generating plant, electric transmission lines and substations, well field and water pipeline, electric distribution line, access roads, railroad spur, and other ancillary approvals
Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation and Biological Opinion
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (delegated to Title V Authority, Nevada Division of Environmental protection), Acid Rain (Title IV Clean Air Act [CAA]) Permit
EPA, Region IX, Title V (CAA) Operating Permit
EPA, Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Notification for Stormwater Management during Construction
EPA, Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Notification for Stormwater Management during Operation
Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Excavation or Discharge of Fill Material into Waters of the U.S., Including Wetlands
State of Nevada Permits and Approvals
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Section 106 review and concurrence, per NHPA for BLM lands, per protocol between BLM and Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Review, Wildlife and Habitat Consultation for Disturbance on BLM-Administered Land
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Temporary Discharge Permit
Nevada Public Utilities Commission Utility EPA Permit
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Section 401 Water Quality Certification
Nevada Department of Water Resources, State Engineer, Water Right Permit
Nevada Department of Environmental Quality, Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program Major Source Permit
Nevada Department of Environmental Quality, Dust Control Permit
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Ground Water Discharge Permit
Nevada Department of Wildlife, Industrial Artificial Pond Permit
Nevada Department of Transportation, Encroachment Permit
Lincoln and Clark County Permits and Approvals
County Master Plan Amendment, Zone Change, and Special Use Permit
Grading permits

1.8 PROJECTS CONSIDERED FOR CUMULATIVE ANALYSIS

Council on Environmental Quality guidelines for the preparation of EISs require that cumulative impacts be addressed in addition to direct and indirect impacts. Cumulative impacts are those incremental impacts that would result from the effects of the Proposed Action Alternative when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. BLM recognizes the need for a thorough analysis of potential cumulative effects, not only from power plant siting activities, but from other development activities as well. This section identifies large projects whose cumulative impacts may extend across a broad range of the resource categories being assessed in this document. Each project has been evaluated to determine if it is sufficiently defined (reasonably foreseeable) to be (1) relevant to potential impacts, (2) within the project area of influence, and (3) of a magnitude that potentially could result in a cumulative impact. Descriptions and cumulative effects, if any, of the projects listed below are presented in Section 4.18, Cumulative Impacts, of Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, together with any other projects not listed here whose effects would be very resource-specific. The projects considered in the cumulative impacts analysis are the following:

- Southwest Intertie Project
- Reid Gardner Station
- Chuck Lenzie Generating Station
- Kern River Gas Transmission Company Expansion Pipeline
- Holly Energy Partners
- White Pine Energy
- Ely Energy Center Project
- Ash Grove Cement Plant
- Mesquite Airport
- Exit 109 Interchange
- Proposed Meadow Valley Wash Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Yucca Mountain Rail
- Kane Springs Valley Water Development Project
- Tule Desert – Clover Water Development
- Silverhawk Intermountain Project
- Apex Power Plant
- Virgin and Muddy Rivers Development Project
- Southern Nevada Water Authority, Vidler Water Company Inc., Lincoln County Water District, and Coyote Springs Water Development projects
- Riverside Planned Unit Development
- Coyote Springs Development