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ES.0 Executive Summary

The following sections summarize the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the White Pine Energy Station Project.* This summary provides a general overview of the proposed project and its purpose and need; briefly describes the Proposed Action and other alternatives; summarizes major impacts for key resources associated with the Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and the No Action Alternative; and lists key consultation and coordination activities.

ES.1 Introduction

ES.1.1 General Overview

The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 for the White Pine Energy Station (the Station) were developed in response to a proposal by White Pine Energy Associates, LLC, (WPEA) to construct, own, operate, and maintain an approximately 1,590-megawatt (MW) coal-fired electric power generating plant in White Pine County in eastern Nevada. The power plant and associated features (electric transmission facilities, water supply system, electric distribution line, rail spur, access roads, additional construction sites, and Moriah Ranches Seeding Project) would be located primarily on lands managed by the Ely Field Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (see Figure ES-1).

The power plant site for the Proposed Action is in Steptoe Valley, approximately 34 miles north of Ely, 22 miles north of McGill, and 1 mile west of U.S. Highway 93 (U.S. 93). Steptoe Valley is bordered on the east by the Schell Creek Range and on the west by the Egan Range. The Utah border is approximately 43 miles east and the northern boundary of Great Basin National Park approximately 57 miles southeast of the Proposed Action power plant site. An alternative power plant site (Alternative 1), also in Steptoe Valley, is approximately 12 miles south of the Proposed Action power plant site and 1 mile west of U.S. 93.

ES.1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the White Pine Energy Station is to supply reliable, low-cost electricity in an environmentally responsible manner to meet baseload energy needs in Nevada and the western United States, and to bring economic benefits to White Pine County, Nevada. To achieve this purpose, the Station must: (1) utilize commercially proven and reliable technology; (2) be cost-effective; (3) be located in proximity to infrastructure and water supplies in White Pine County needed to support the Station's operations; (4) put water rights held by White Pine County for energy production in Steptoe Valley to a beneficial use in producing energy; and (5) provide traffic for the Nevada Northern Railway (NNR).

ES.1.3 Need and Background

Adequate and reliable electricity supply is essential to the well-being of the American people and the economy. The construction of new power generation and transmission facilities is required to meet increasing demands for electricity. The White Pine Energy Station is being developed to serve baseload electric needs.

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council forecasts that "reported generating capacity additions in the region may not be sufficient to reliably supply the forecast firm peak demand and energy requirements throughout the [2005-2014] period" (Western Electricity Coordinating

Council, 2005). The Energy Information Administration (2006) forecasts the need for approximately 24,000 MW of new power generation in the western United States by 2015 (78,000 MW by 2030) to meet growing energy needs and maintain reliable operation of the electric system. The Energy Information Administration (2006) estimates that new coal-fired generation facilities will supply 5,700 MW by 2015 (47,000 MW by 2030) of this need for new generation capacity.

In Nevada, Nevada Power Company (2006) and Sierra Pacific Power Company (2006) have identified the need for approximately 5,500 MW of additional electric capacity beyond their existing generation capacity and secured purchases by 2015. The White Pine Energy Station would help fill part of the identified need for electricity by providing approximately 1,590 MW of new baseload coal-fired electric generation capacity.

Completion of the White Pine Energy Station also would help meet stated objectives of the Nevada State Office of Energy and Nevada electric utilities to increase fuel diversity in the State of Nevada. The addition of stable-priced, low-cost, coal-fired capacity would reduce the risk of reliance on volatile and more expensive natural gas-fired generation and the impacts of droughts on hydropower.

WPEA's proposal to locate the Station in Steptoe Valley approximately 34 miles (Proposed Action site) or 22 miles (Alternative 1 site) north of Ely is based on the following factors:

- The Station site is near the NNR, which would be used to supply coal to the power plant.
- The Station site is near a utility corridor that is permitted for a new 500,000-volt electric transmission line that would extend from Idaho to Clark County, Nevada. Access to this utility corridor provides a route to existing electric transmission facilities in White Pine County, specifically 345,000-volt and 230,000-volt transmission lines near Robinson Summit, and provides access to planned regional electric transmission facilities.
- The Station site is centrally located to the ground water source that would be used to supply the White Pine Energy Station's water needs. A reliable and economical water supply is central to a low-cost baseload, steam power plant and is available in the form of water rights held by White Pine County.
- The Station site can be easily accessed via U.S. 93 and is within a short driving distance to the population centers of Ely and McGill.
- The availability of a water supply was among the key factors in WPEA's decision to undertake the proposed Station and to site it at the proposed location in White Pine County.

Siting the Station in White Pine County, Nevada would meet long-held county objectives of attracting a coal-fired electric generation facility to bring needed and desired economic benefits to the county, strengthening and stabilizing the county economy, and improving the quality of life for county citizens. The Proposed Action and the other action alternative (Alternative 1) would put to beneficial use ground water rights granted to White Pine County by the Nevada State Engineer in Steptoe Valley for energy production purposes. The proposed Station also would help generate additional support for reactivating and upgrading the NNR, which would benefit the county's economy through recreational and industrial uses of the NNR.

Insert Figure ES-1 (front)

Insert Figure ES-1 (back)

ES.2 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

ES.2.1 Proposed Action and Alternative 1

The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 were developed for the White Pine Energy Station and would each include a Power Plant ROW and sale, Electric Transmission Facilities ROW, Water Supply System ROW, Rail Spur ROW, Access ROW, Additional Construction ROW, and Moriah Ranches Seeding Project. The Proposed Action and Alternative 1 would each include the following actions:

- Issue ROWs for construction and operation of the Station and subsequently arrange for the sale of the land covered by the Power Plant ROW to WPEA.
- Construction and operation of an approximately 1,590-MW coal-fired electric power generating plant using hybrid cooling systems that has an expected commercial life of 40 years or longer.
- Construction and operation of a water supply system in the Steptoe Valley Hydrographic Basin to meet the water needs of the power plant.
- Construction and operation of a new rail spur from the NNR to the power plant to supply coal.
- Construction and operation of electric transmission facilities to connect the power plant with existing and planned electric transmission facilities serving the region.
- Construction and operation of road access and certain utility access to the power plant and other Station features.
- Construction and operation of an electric distribution line for the supply of power during the construction period.
- Construction and operation of an off-site mineral materials sale area (borrow area) for the supply of earth and rock materials to be used in the construction process.
- Implementation of a seeding project to enhance the grazing and wildlife value on 700 to 900 acres.
- Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) during Station construction, operation, and maintenance to avoid or prevent the occurrence of impacts and, where possible, to minimize the magnitude, extent, and duration of those impacts when their occurrence can not be prevented.

Table ES-1 compares project components for the Station Proposed Action and Alternative 1.

ES.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Station-related ROWs would not be created, the land covered by the Power Plant ROW subsequently would not be sold to WPEA, and the Station power plant and related facilities would not be constructed or operated as described for the Proposed Action or Alternative 1.

ES.2.3 Preferred Alternative

BLM's Preferred Alternative is the Proposed Action.

TABLE ES-1

Comparison of Project Components for the White Pine Energy Station Proposed Action and Alternative 1

Project Component	Proposed Action	Alternative 1
BLM Action	Issue ROWs for construction and operation of all Station features on BLM-managed land. Subsequent sale of power plant site to WPEA	Issue ROWs for construction and operation of all Station features on BLM-managed land. Subsequent sale of power plant site to WPEA
Power Plant Construction	Construct and operate up to a three-unit, approximately 1,590-MW coal-fired, hybrid-cooled power plant	Construct and operate up to a three-unit, approximately 1,590-MW coal-fired, hybrid-cooled power plant
Power Plant Location	Sections 31 and 32, T22 North, R64 East and Sections 5 and 6, T21 North, R64 East in White Pine County, NV (Northern Site)	Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, T20 North, R64 East in White Pine County, NV (Southern Site)
Electric Distribution and Transmission	Construct and operate a 32-mile-long overhead 500-kV transmission line connecting the Duck Creek Substation to the Thirtymile Substation. Construct and operate a 2.5-mile-long loop of the overhead 500-kV SWIP line connecting to the Duck Creek Substation.	Construct and operate a 28-mile-long overhead 500-kV transmission line connecting the Duck Creek Substation to the Thirtymile Substation. Construct and operate a 6-mile-long loop of the overhead 500-kV SWIP line connecting to the Duck Creek Substation.
Switchyards	Construct and operate the 60-acre Duck Creek Substation at the power plant and the 77-acre Thirtymile Substation near Robinson Summit	Construct and operate the 60-acre Duck Creek Substation at the power plant and the 77-acre Thirtymile Substation near Robinson Summit
Coal Supply Access	Construct and operate a 1.3-mile-long rail spur crossing Duck Creek and connecting to the upgraded NNR.	Construct and operate a 3-mile-long rail spur connecting to the upgraded NNR.
Power Plant Road Access	Construct and maintain a 1-mile-long paved access road from U.S. 93	Construct and maintain a 0.3-mile-long paved access road from U.S. 93
Ground Water Well Field	Construct and operate a system of 8 wells north of the power plant site	Construct and operate a system of 8 wells south of the power plant site
Well Field Pipelines	Construct and operate 13 miles of 10- to 30-inch-diameter water pipeline connecting the wells to the power plant	Construct and operate 8 miles of 10- to 30-inch-diameter water pipeline connecting the wells to the power plant
Well Field Electric Distribution Line and Access Road	Construct and operate 13 miles of 13.8-kV overhead distribution lines and a 10-foot-wide access road servicing each well site	Construct and operate 8 miles of 13.8-kV overhead distribution lines and a 10-foot-wide access road servicing each well site
Mineral Materials Sale Area	Use during construction, a 40-acre earth and rock borrow area in Section 35, T22 North, R63 East in White Pine County, NV.	Use during construction, a 40-acre earth and rock borrow area in Section 35, T22 North, R63 East in White Pine County, NV.
Moriah Ranches Seeding Project	Implement a seeding program on 700 to 900 acres to improve forage for livestock and wildlife on public lands 16 miles north of McGill and immediately west of U.S. 93	Implement a seeding program on 700 to 900 acres to improve forage for livestock and wildlife on public lands 16 miles north of McGill and immediately west of U.S. 93
Best Management Practices	Commitment to construct and operate the various Station features in accordance with a series of best management practices	Commitment to construct and operate the various Station features in accordance with a series of best management practices

ES.2.4 Alternatives Considered During Scoping but Eliminated from Further Consideration

A number of alternatives were considered during project scoping but were eliminated from detailed analysis because they failed to meet project purpose and need, were operationally infeasible, were economically infeasible, were environmentally unacceptable, and/or did not afford environemental advantages over the Proposed Action or Alternative 1. Alternative power generating technologies and fuels were eliminated because they did not meet one or more of the following six key criteria that were developed to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility, environmental soundness, and ability of the alternative energy technologies to meet project purpose and need:

- Capable of providing approximately 1,590 MW of reliable baseload power generation capacity
- Environmentally permitable
- Cost effectiveness relative to pulverized coal
- Commercially proven and reliable
- Place water held by White Pine County for power production in Steptoe Valley to beneficial use for power production
- Provide traffic for the NNR

Alternative power plant locations were eliminated because they were infeasible from engineering (infrastructure needs versus availability) and economic (construction and operational costs) perspectives, would result in unacceptable environmental and socioeconomic impacts, and/or did not afford environemental advantages over the Proposed Action or Alternative 1. Alternative power plant designs and site configurations, rail spur locations, bridge designs for crossing Duck Creek, and well field electric distribution lines alignment and design were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis primarily because of unacceptable environmental impacts to biological resources and potentially to cultural resources. An alternative power plant cooling technology was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis because of potential impacts to ground water. Alternative transmission line routes were eliminated because of engineering and environmental issues and concerns (inconsistent with land use plan, conflict with private property, need for multiple power lines, and viewshed impacts).

ES.3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

ES.3.1 Proposed Action and Action Alternatives

Table ES-2, at the end of this chapter, summarizes major impacts, including unavoidable adverse impacts, anticipated under the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 by resource. Unavoidable adverse impacts on resources are those residual impacts remaining after implementation of mitigation measures. These impacts would primarily be associated with lands that would be disturbed and/or included in construction ROWs. Under the Proposed Action, 1,902 acres would be temporarily disturbed by Station construction and 1,510 acres would be permanently disturbed by Station operations. The power plant ROW that the BLM would subsequently sell to WPEA would make up 1,281 acres of the permanently disturbed acres under the Proposed Action. Under Alternative 1, 1,946 acres would be temporarily disturbed

and 1,569 acres would be permanently disturbed. The power plant ROW would make up 1,330 acres of the permanently disturbed acres under Alternative 1. Although the power plant parcels have been identified for disposal by the BLM, their transferal from public to private ownership would preclude the continuation of existing land uses (some recreation, grazing) on the fenced site.

TABLE ES-2

Summary of Impacts by Resource for the White Pine Energy Station Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and No Action Alternative

Proposed Action	Alternative 1	No Action Alternative
3.2 and 4.2*—Geology, Soils, and Minerals		
1,902 acres of soil disturbed during construction. 1,510 acres permanently disturbed.	1,946 acres of soil disturbed during construction. 1,569 acres permanently disturbed.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.3 and 4.3*—Surface Water Resources		
No effect	No effect	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.4 and 4.4*—Ground Water Resources		
Lowers ground water level near production wells. No effect on existing wells but may affect 12 areas where springs are present. This will be monitored and mitigated.	Lowers ground water level near production wells. No effect on existing wells or springs.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.5.1 and 4.5.1*—Biological Resources: Vegetation		
395 acres of vegetation temporarily disturbed during construction. 1,516 acres of vegetation permanently disturbed.	378 acres of vegetation temporarily disturbed during construction. 1,534 acres of vegetation permanently disturbed.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.5.2 and 4.5.2*—Biological Resources: Noxious and Invasive Weeds		
Potential for spread of noxious and invasive weeds but minimized by BMPs	Potential for spread of noxious and invasive weeds but minimized by BMPs	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.5.3 and 4.5.3*—Biological Resources: Wildlife and Fisheries Resources		
395 acres of wildlife habitat disturbed during construction. 1,516 acres of wildlife habitat permanently disturbed. No effect on fisheries. The Moriah Ranches Seeding Project would enhance wildlife value on 700 to 900 acres.	378 acres of wildlife habitat disturbed during construction. 1,534 acres of wildlife habitat permanently disturbed. No effect on fisheries. The Moriah Ranches Seeding Project would enhance wildlife value on 700 to 900 acres.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.5.4 and 4.5.4*—Biological Resources: Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive Species		
Potential to affect special status species because of loss of habitat. May affect but not likely to adversely affect bald eagles.	Potential to affect special status species because of loss of habitat. May affect but not likely to adversely affect bald eagles.	No Station-related impacts would occur.

TABLE ES-2

Summary of Impacts by Resource for the White Pine Energy Station Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and No Action Alternative

Proposed Action	Alternative 1	No Action Alternative
3.6.1 and 4.6.1*—Air Quality		
Minimal impacts during construction; the primary issue would be fugitive dust, which would be controlled by water spray on disturbed areas. Emissions during Station operations would meet PSD permit requirements, including a modeled demonstration that ambient impacts would be within applicable air quality standards, but some potential exceedances of visibility criteria may occur in Jarbidge Wilderness Area and Zion National Park. While Great Basin National Park and Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge are not PSD Class I areas, the dispersion modeling also demonstrates that acid deposition and visibility criteria may be exceeded in these locations if managed to Class I standards.	Minimal impacts during construction; the primary issue would be fugitive dust, which would be controlled by water spray on disturbed areas. Emissions during operations would meet PSD permit requirements, including a modeled demonstration that ambient impacts would be within applicable air quality standards, but some potential exceedances of visibility criteria may occur in Jarbidge Wilderness Area and Zion National Park. While Great Basin National Park and Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge are not PSD Class I areas, the dispersion modeling also demonstrates that acid deposition and visibility criteria may be exceeded in these locations if managed to Class I standards.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.6.2 and 4.6.2*—Noise		
Highest noise level during construction estimated at 74 dBA at nearest receptor. This level would be short term and result from steam blowouts. Noise from operations would be below background levels.	Lower potential impact than for Proposed Action because nearest receptor further away. Noise from operations would be below background levels.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.7 and 4.7*—Visual Resources		
The power plant, particularly the stacks and cooling towers, and transmission towers would be visible from much of Steptoe Valley. However, all features would meet VRM class objectives except for one location.	The power plant, particularly the stacks and cooling towers, and transmission towers would be visible from much of Steptoe Valley. However, all features would meet VRM class objectives except for one location.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.8 and 4.8*—Recreation Resources		
The increase in number of workers during construction and operation would increase the use of recreation resources in the Station project area.	The increase in number of workers during construction and operation would increase the use of recreation resources in the Station project area.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.9 and 4.9*—Land Use		
All facilities would be on BLM-administered land. Proposed ROWs would be shared with some other ROW holders. The proposed Station facilities comply with federal and local land use policies.	Nearly all facilities would be on BLM-administered land. Proposed ROWs would be shared with some other ROW holders. The proposed Station facilities comply with federal and local land use policies.	No Station-related impacts would occur.

TABLE ES-2

Summary of Impacts by Resource for the White Pine Energy Station Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and No Action Alternative

Proposed Action	Alternative 1	No Action Alternative
3.10 and 4.10*—Rangeland Resources		
The Moriah Ranches Seeding Project would enhance grazing value on 700 to 900 acres.	The Moriah Ranches Seeding Project would enhance grazing value on 700 to 900 acres.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.11 and 4.11*—Wilderness and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		
No Wilderness or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would be affected by the Station.	No Wilderness or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would be affected by the Station.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.12 and 4.12*—Wastes, Hazardous and Solid		
The Station would result in a solid waste disposal area being constructed and operated at the power plant site and would be permanently located there. Some hazardous materials would be stored on the power plant site.	The Station would result in a solid waste disposal area being constructed and operated at the power plant site and would be permanently located there. Some hazardous materials would be stored on the power plant site.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.13 and 4.13*—Cultural Resources		
One prehistoric site and a segment of the Nevada Northern Railroad would be disturbed that are considered eligible for the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP). In addition, three prehistoric sites eligible for the NRHP are located in the Thirtymile Substation area. Up to six historic ranches, two points along the Lincoln Highway and two points along the NNR would be subject to high indirect visual impacts.	A segment of the Nevada Northern Railroad would be reconstructed that is considered eligible for the NRHP. Four prehistoric properties would be affected by project features in Steptoe Valley. In addition, three prehistoric sites eligible for the NRHP are located in the Thirtymile Substation area. One point along the Lincoln Highway and three points along the NNR would be subject to high indirect visual impacts.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.15 and 4.15*—Native American Religious Concerns		
None were identified	None were identified	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.14 and 4.14*—Environmental Justice		
No impacts	No impacts	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.16 and 4.16*—Paleontological Resources		
None identified	None identified	No Station-related impacts would occur.

TABLE ES-2

Summary of Impacts by Resource for the White Pine Energy Station Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and No Action Alternative

Proposed Action	Alternative 1	No Action Alternative
3.17 and 4.17*—Socioecomics		
Economic benefits to White Pine County would result from the Station. Local infrastructure would be stressed during construction but Station construction commitments, including provision of onsite housing for construction workers, would prevent most impacts.	Economic benefits to White Pine County would result from the Station. Local infrastructure would be stressed during construction but Station construction commitments, including provision of onsite housing for construction workers, would prevent most impacts.	No Station-related impacts would occur.
3.18 and 4.18*—Transportation		
Traffic on U.S. 93 would increase during Station construction but not reduce the Level of Service class. The NNR is to be upgraded to Class 3 status and accommodate 12 coal trains to and from the power plant per week.	Traffic on U.S. 93 would increase during Station construction but not reduce the Level of Service class. The NNR is to be upgraded to Class 3 status and accommodate 12 coal trains to and from the power plant per week.	No Station-related impacts would occur.

*Refers to detailed resource discussions in EIS sections of Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) and Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences).

Other affected or potentially affected resources would include soils; several special status plant and animal species; plant species and vegetative cover; and various wildlife species and their habitat. Use of ground water for the Proposed Action (but not Alternative 1) may potentially reduce flows and water levels at 12 nearby areas where springs are present and adversely affect one species of special status aquatic springsnail and possibly other wildlife and plant species associated with spring environments.

Other Station-related effects would include the presence of construction vehicles, equipment, personnel, and activities, and associated fugitive dust emissions during construction. Emissions during Station operations would meet PSD permit requirements, but some potential exceedances of visibility criteria may occur in Jarbidge Wilderness Area and Zion National Park. While Great Basin National Park and Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge are not PSD Class I areas, dispersion modeling also demonstrates that acid deposition and visibility criteria may be exceeded in these locations if managed to Class I standards. Also, constructed Station features would not comply with the BLM's designated VRM Classes when viewed from one location each for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1.

Related visual impacts of project features on the historic integrity of several historical resources (NNR, Magnuson Ranch rest stop, Whiteman Ranch, and Lincoln Highway) could be minimized but not entirely mitigated. Another possible unavoidable adverse impact on cultural resources would be their accidental disturbance if inadvertently encountered during construction. Station effects on transportation would include traffic increases during Station construction on highways that are considered potential access routes to the proposed power plant sites but no change in the Level of Service class for these highways.

Overall, development of the White Pine Energy Station would result in a range of economic benefits to White Pine County. These benefits include, but are not limited to, local income and job creation, generation of tax revenue, and the development of a reliable and affordable source of power. Also, the Station would help diversify the local economy, resulting in less dependence on the boom-and-bust cycle of the mining industry. Economic benefits would likely also extend outside of the county based on purchases of goods and services during Station construction and operations, as well as power-related benefits. These economic benefits would be derived, in part, from putting to beneficial use water rights held by White Pine County and re-establishment of the NNR. Construction of the proposed White Pine Energy Station would result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitments of some resources. Irreversible impacts would include labor, capital, some construction materials, fuels, and ground water. Irretrievable impacts on environmental resources would generally not extend past the life of the Station. Affected resources would include biological resources, air quality and noise, soils, ground water, visual and recreation resources, land use, possibly cultural resources, and socioeconomics.

ES.3.2 No Action Alternative

If the No Action Alternative is selected for implementation, existing conditions and trends for the affected environment in the Station project area would continue. The purposes and needs that were identified for the proposed Station would not be met. Under the No Action Alternative, water rights held by White Pine County for energy production in Steptoe Valley may not be placed to a beneficial use and may be subject to forfeit by the Nevada State Engineer. Additional traffice on the NNR may be forgone, challenging the economic feasibility of rehabilitation of the line by the City of Ely.

ES.4 Consultation and Coordination

Public scoping meetings for the White Pine Energy Station were held in Ely on August 23, 2004, and in Reno on August 24, 2004. Meeting objectives were to learn the concerns of individuals, organizations, and agencies regarding the proposed Station and to allow interested parties to participate in developing a list of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The meetings were publicized through newspaper advertisements and individual mailings. On August 13 and August 20, 2004, advertisements were published in the *Ely Times* and the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. Mailings were sent to 210 addresses. The meetings were conducted using an open-house format. At each meeting, WPEA, EIS contractor, and BLM representatives presented Station information on display boards and handouts, and discussed concerns with individuals. The Ely meeting was attended by 42 people, and the Reno meeting was attended by 11 people.

Individuals, public agencies, and non-profit organizations submitted written comments to the BLM after the meetings. Thirty-five letters containing 231 comments were received. Most commentors expressed concerns regarding potential impacts of the proposed power plant on local resources and suggested the following issues should be addressed in the EIS: air quality; water development, use, and ground water; wildlife, habitat, and ecological concerns; socioeconomics, visual resources, and recreation; transportation, roads, and railroad; power

need and recipients; proposed site, alternatives, and transmission lines; energy efficiency, conservation, and alternative energy; waste and hazardous materials, and; power plant technology and noise.

Numerous federal, state, and county agencies, and Native American Tribes were consulted during the preparation of this DEIS. BLM representatives initiated formal and informal communication with Native American Tribal representatives in the Station project area to discuss the proposed White Pine Energy Station. This process provided Tribes the opportunity to identify potential effects of the Station on Native American interests. A Native American coordination meeting was conducted on December 8, 2004, in the BLM Ely Field Office with representatives from the Ely Shoshone Tribe, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, WPEA, and the Ely Field Office. Station details were presented to the group by WPEA, followed by a discussion of issues and concerns. Subsequent to the meeting in December, BLM Ely Field Office staff have remained in communication with the Tribes regarding the Station. The most recent meeting with the Tribes was in July 2006. Another meeting with the Tribes is anticipated to coincide with the release of this DEIS to the public for review and comment. To date, no issues or concerns have been raised by the Tribes regarding any religious or traditional cultural properties that might be impacted by the Proposed Action or Alternative 1.

This DEIS has been sent to, and comments requested from, the general public and entities including federal, state, and local governments; Tribal governments; other organizations; and Members of the U.S. Congress and the Governor of Nevada. This DEIS is available at numerous public libraries and BLM offices.

Two public meetings will be held to receive comments on this DEIS. Dates and locations of these meetings are as follows:

- May 8, 2007, Ely, Nevada
- May 9, 2007, Reno, Nevada