



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer to:
3200/2800/1792
(NV 23.03)
NVN-058196
N-82701
N-83497

DEC 21 2007

Dear Reader:

On December 18, 2007 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office (WFO) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed Nevada Geothermal Power Company's Blue Mountain Geothermal Development Project.

The project includes a 120kV overhead transmission line right-of-way across public lands administered by the BLM WFO. The proposed power transmission line would transport electricity approximately 20 miles from the proposed geothermal power plant on the west side of Blue Mountain, to a point just north of Mill City, in Pershing County, where the transmission line would connect an existing 120kV power line via a new power switching station. The path of the proposed transmission line involves a checker board land ownership which is approximately 50% private and 50% public land.

Geothermal development operations include construction of nine new well pads, access roads, temporary water wells for the purpose of drilling geothermal production wells, and for construction and installation of production, re-injection, and fresh water pipelines, to operate a geothermal power plant on adjacent private land.

Geothermal development operations would occur on federal geothermal lease NVN-058196 and four private leases located within the Blue Mountain Geothermal Unit Agreement area, which also contains a checker board land ownership that is approximately 50% private and 50% public land administered by BLM WFO.

The BLM received several comments during a 30 day public comment period that ended on December 10, 2007. Comments received during the public comment period have been addressed in the EA or as Conditions of Approval (COAs) attached to the DR. The EA identified, described and evaluated resource protection measures that will be included as COAs for production wells, and as terms and conditions for the transmission line and switching station permits to mitigate environmental impacts.

Based on the analysis completed in the EA, the potential residual environmental impacts of Alternative 1, after mitigation, would not be significant. Accordingly, the DR will allow Nevada

Geothermal Power Company to proceed with operations described above, using the Alternative 1 transmission line route.

The Final EA, DR, and FONSI hardcopies are available for public review at the BLM WFO. The Final EA, DR, and FONSI can also be reviewed online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa.html. Hardcopies are available upon request at the BLM WFO.

If you do not agree with and are adversely affected by any of this decision you may file a Notice of Appeal (See enclosed form 1842-1, September 2006).

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Rebecca Lange at the BLM Winnemucca Field Office at 775-623-1742 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Hays". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "H".

Dave Hays
Assistant Field Manager
Nonrenewable Resources

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS

1. This decision is adverse to you.
- AND**
2. You believe it is incorrect.

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED:

1. **NOTICE OF APPEAL**....A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the Interior Board of Land Appeals) a notice that he wishes to appeal. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the Federal Register, a person not served with the decision must transmit a *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413).

2. **WHERE TO FILE NOTICE OF APPEAL**

U.S. Dept. of the Interior Office of the Secretary Office of Hearings & Appeals Board of Land Appeals 801 North Quincy St., MS 300-QC Arlington VA 22203	U.S. Dept. of the Interior Office of the Solicitor Pacific Southwest Region 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753 Sacramento CA 95825-1890	U.S. Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Land Management 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, NV 89445
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3. **STATEMENT OF REASONS**....Within 30 days after filing the *Notice of Appeal*, file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy St., MS 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203. If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the *Notice of Appeal*, no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413). Also send a copy to: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753, Sacramento CA 95825-1890.
4. **ADVERSE PARTIES**....Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the *Notice of Appeal*, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (43 CFR 4.413).
5. **PROOF OF SERVICE**....Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy St., MS 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (43 CFR 4.401(c)).
6. **REQUEST FOR STAY**....Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your *Notice of Appeal* (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the *Notice of Appeal* and Petition for a Stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards For Obtaining A Stay....Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Unless these procedures are followed your appeal will be subject to dismissal (43 CFR 4.402). Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (43 CFR 4.401(a)). See 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart B for general rules relating to procedures and practices involving appeals.

43 CFR SUBPART 1821—GENERAL INFORMATION

Sec. 1821.10. Where are BLM offices located?

(a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C., and seven national level support and service centers, the BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION

Alaska State-----Alaska
Arizona State Office-----Arizona
California State Office-----California
Colorado State Office-----Colorado
Eastern States Office-----Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri,
and all States east of the Mississippi River
Idaho State Office-----Idaho
Montana State Office-----Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota
Nevada State Office-----Nevada
New Mexico State Office---Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
Oregon State Office-----Oregon and Washington
Utah State Office-----Utah
Wyoming State Office-----Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the BLM can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the BLM, including the Washington Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Form 1842-1 (September 2006)