



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District Office, Humboldt River Field Office (WDO/HRFO) has completed the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the “New York Canyon Geothermal Utilization and Interconnect Project”.

This project is located at the base of the northwest slope of the Stillwater Range, approximately twenty five miles east-southeast of Lovelock, in Pershing County, Nevada. The proposed utilization project area would be located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and within the boundaries of twelve federal geothermal leases in Pershing County and Churchill County, Nevada.

The proposed action is to construct and utilize a geothermal power plant and a 230-kilovolt electrical line, electrical substation and support facilities. The PEA analyzes the impacts associated with the construction activities planned under the proposed action which include:

- Construction and operation of an up to 70-Megawatt, geothermal power plant, requiring up to 60 acres. The proposed power plant would be sited on one of four possible locations. Selection of the power plant site, as well as the power plant technology, would be based on characterization of the geothermal resource that would result from ongoing exploration activities;
- Construction and drilling of up to 30 total geothermal production, injection and/or observation wells, on previously approved acreage (42 acres);
- Construction of geothermal steam/fluid pipelines requiring up to 20 acres;
- Construction of an airstrip and an airplane hangar requiring up to 15 acres;
- Construction of a 230-kilovolt electrical line, an electrical substation, and support facilities. The proposed route as well as the alternative route, are analyzed in the EA. Both alternatives travel north and connect to an existing 345 kV transmission line. The proposed route travels on the west side of the Humboldt Range and the alternative would travel on the east side. Depending on the selected route for the power line, an additional 33 or 36 acres would be crossed overland by the poles and power line;

- Drilling of up to three water wells; and
- Construction of new access roads and improvements to existing roads for project area access beginning off of Pershing County's Dago Pass road.

You are invited to submit your comments to the HRFO on the PEA within 30 days of the date of this letter. A copy of the PEA is available on our National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) webpage at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. Please send written comments to Mr. Philip D'Amo, Project Lead, at the above address or e-mail wfoweb@blm.gov with "NYC Geothermal Project (D'Amo)" in the subject line. In addition, a hardcopy of the EA will be available for review at the Winnemucca District Office (WDO) during the comment period.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the WDO during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. 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 personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

After the public review period has ended, comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the decision-making process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Philip D'Amo at (775) 623-1567 or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Vern Graham
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office