

**DECISION RECORD
TUNGSTEN MOUNTAIN GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION PROJECT
CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0029-EA
Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project
Units NVN-85715, NVN-88428, NVN-86897, NVN-86898**

BACKGROUND

Ormat Technologies, Inc. (Ormat) has proposed geothermal exploratory drilling and testing within the boundaries of the Tungsten Mountain Lease Area (Lease Area), Churchill County, Nevada. This exploration project will involve portions of geothermal leases NVN-85715, NVN-88428, NVN-86897, and NVN-86898. Details of the proposed action to drill and test up to 27 wells and construct 4.2 miles of access roads within the Project Area are specified in the final Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project Operations Plan (OP) submitted to the Bureau of Land Management Stillwater Field Office (BLM) by Ormat in March 2011. A right-of-way (ROW) application was submitted to the BLM in January 2012 for off-lease access on public lands managed by the BLM. Issuance of these ROWs will provide for access to certain exploration activities.

In addition, a mineral material sales contract will be required for aggregate material obtained from a BLM-managed aggregate pit, should the private pit intended to be used not contain the needed amount of aggregate material. This contract, should one be necessary, would be for less than 50,000 cubic yards of aggregate and less than 5 acres of surface disturbance.

The Proposed Action is located on public lands and geothermal permit processing is managed by the BLM. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to develop the geothermal resource within the Ormat Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Unit area in response to Executive Order (EO) 13212, which directs the BLM in a timely manner to support efforts to increase energy production from federal minerals, while preserving the health of public lands.

The Ormat Technologies Inc. Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0029-EA environmental assessment (EA) evaluated the impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from implementation of this geothermal development project on federal land. The impact analysis in the EA characterizes the potential for impacts, from the Purposed Action, for each resource in the project area. The determination of environmental risk is resource-specific and is based on a number of factors, including the presence and extent of resources within the federal geothermal leases associated with the Proposed Action, the extent of resources in the surrounding area, and the quality of existing data. Based on the EA it was determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Ormat Technologies Inc. Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0029-EA, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action. This decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and conditions of the geothermal leases/drilling permits. The Conditions of Approval (COAs) are attached to this Decision Record.

AUTHORITY

The Proposed Action and COA meet the criteria described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of public land and with the 43 CFR 3200, 3250 and 3260 regulations. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) which states that the BLM desired outcome is to encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses. The action must comply with the conditions of permit for the Nevada Division of Minerals Geothermal Resource Development Permit Application and with applicable rules and regulation of other local, state, and federal agencies.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA was made available for a 30-day public review and comment period on January 30, 2012 until February 28, 2012. The EA was made available by hard copy at the Carson City District Office and the website at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

All comments received were reviewed, considered and responded to by the BLM Stillwater Field Office Carson City District. Additional minor analysis, environmental data and explanation have been included in the Final EA in response to public review and comments received.

RATIONALE

Upon analyzing the impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative and following issuance of the EA for public review, I have determined that implementing the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact to the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. Refer to the attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

APPROVAL

The Ormat Technologies Inc. Tungsten Mountain Geothermal Exploration Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0029-EA geothermal leases NVN-85715, NVN-88428, NVN-86897, and NVN-86898 are approved for implementation. This decision is effective upon issuance in accordance with the 43 CFR 3200, 3250, and 3260.



Teresa J. Knutson, Manager
Stillwater Field Office
Carson City District Office

3/28/2012
Date

Attachment: Exhibit B Conditions of Approval

APPEAL PROCEDURES

If you wish to appeal this decision, it may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Teresa J. Knutson, Stillwater Field Manager
BLM, Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Interior Board of Land Appeals
Dockets Attorney
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to 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 appellants' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals, therefore they will not be accepted.