

**DECISION RECORD
WILD ROSE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
MINERAL COUNTY, NEVADA**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0050-EA**

1. BACKGROUND

In 2011, Ormat Nevada, Incorporated (Ormat) submitted to the (US) Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Stillwater Field Office, the following:

- An amended Operations Plan for exploration of several newly identified well locations in the Lease Area;
- A Plan of Utilization for the development of a geothermal power plant, well field, and associated facilities; and
- A Plan of Development for the construction of a gen-tie to connect produced power to the electric grid.

The BLM prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0050-EA *Wild Rose Geothermal Project* to analyze potential impacts on the human and natural environment that may result from geothermal exploration and development within the Ormat Dead Horse Wells Geothermal Unit (NVN-84239X) and from the construction and operation of an associated transmission line to bring electricity to market.

Exploration and development activities would be contained within two of the four federal geothermal leases of the Wild Rose Geothermal Unit (Unit), which is located in the western portion of Gabbs Valley, approximately 17 miles west of Gabbs, in Mineral County, Nevada. Three transmission line (gen-tie) options were also analyzed in the EA. All of the proposed exploration and development activities would occur completely on BLM-administered lands.

Exploration activities in the Unit were previously evaluated in the Gabbs Valley and Dead Horse Wells Exploration Projects EA (DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2010-0006-EA). A Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record were signed on January 13, 2010. Geothermal exploration activities authorized by BLM are current and ongoing in the Unit. Through these exploration activities, Ormat has acquired new information about the geothermal resource and is currently seeking authorization for four new exploration wells in addition to seeking authorizations for the development of a power plant, associated facilities, and a gen-tie.

In 2011, Ormat changed the name of activities in the Unit from Dead Horse to Wild Rose. This current proposal from Ormat is the Wild Rose Geothermal Development Project (Project). The project is located within the 13,800-acre Dead Horse Wells Geothermal Unit (NVN-84239X), which is comprised of four federal geothermal leases. Exploration and development activities would occur only in leases NVN-83929 and NVN-83931.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to develop the geothermal resource within and adjacent to the Wild Rose Geothermal Unit area in response to 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.

2. DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Ormat Nevada, Inc. Wild Rose Geothermal Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0050-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 and rights-of-way (ROW). The Conditions of Approval (COAs) are attached to this Decision Record.

3. AUTHORITY

The Proposed Action and COAs 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 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3200, 3250 and 3260 regulations.

Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 USC 1761-1771, authorized the BLM, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior to issue a ROW grant on, over, under, and through the public lands for systems for generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy. The BLM's implementation of its statutory direction for ROW authorizations is detailed in 43 CFR Part 2800. The Authorized Officer administers the ROW authorization and ensures compliance with the terms and conditions of the ROW grant. The Authorized Officer means any employee of the Department of the Interior to whom has been delegated the authority to perform the duties described in 43 CFR Part 2800. In respect to the specific ROW grant(s), this authority has been delegated to the BLM Stillwater Field Office Manager.

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.

4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA was sent out on July 11, 2012 for a 30-day public comment period. The BLM received 6 individual comment submissions. These comments were submitted by different federal and state agencies. Their comments and BLMs responses are found in Appendix E of the EA. The agencies that commented were the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control; the Nevada Department of Transportation; the Nevada Division of Water Resources; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. No additional comments from the public were received.

5. RATIONALE

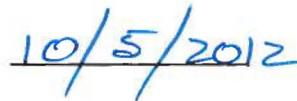
Upon analyzing the impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative and following issuance of the EA for public review, I have determined that implementing the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact to the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. Refer to the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

6. APPROVAL

The Ormat Nevada, Inc. Wild Rose Geothermal Project, DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0050-EA geothermal leases are approved for implementation. This decision is effective upon issuance in accordance with the 43 CFR 3200, 3250, and 3260.



Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office



Date

APPEAL PROVISIONS

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.

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 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.

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