



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Winnemucca District Office  
Humboldt River Field Office  
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[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html)

SEP 20 2012

In Reply Refer To:  
NVN 065558  
3200 / 1792 (NVW0100.29)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District Office, Humboldt River Field Office (WDO/HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) process to analyze the development and testing of a geothermal reservoir using hydro-stimulation techniques, as proposed by Brady Power Partners, a subsidiary of Ormat Nevada, Inc. This project is located within the Hot Springs Mountains, approximately 50 miles northeast of Reno, in Churchill County, Nevada. The site location is shown on the enclosed map.

Brady Power Partners (Proponents) propose to implement a hydro-stimulation program to increase energy production by developing or enhancing natural hydraulic connections within the existing hydrothermal system. The project would utilize an existing well pad and an existing deep geothermal well (i.e., Well 15-12) located on federal geothermal lease NVN 065558 held by the Proponents. Data from Well 15-12 shows that the site has a great deal of heat in the underground rock formations, but it does not have sufficient hydraulic connections for an efficient hydrothermal system. Hydro-stimulation involves creating better hydraulic connections by injecting cool geothermal water to further open the existing network of minute cracks in the rocks deep underground, where natural fractures already occur. During the process, cool geothermal water would be injected at pressures less than 1,400 pounds per square inch at depths ranging from approximately 4,245 to 5,096 feet below ground surface. The goal of this project is to increase the output of the existing Brady Hot Springs Power Plant, delivering commercial electricity to the energy grid.

The BLM is the lead agency for this project because a majority of the project activity would occur on leases issued and administered by the BLM. The proposed project is located entirely on land administered by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). As a result, the Reclamation will be extended an invitation to be a cooperating agency for the preparation of this EA. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is funding a portion of the project; therefore, the DOE will also be extended an invitation to be a cooperating agency in this EA.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1500, for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM WDO/HRFO, will be preparing an EA for the proposed project. This analysis will disclose

the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The BLM is seeking your input in identifying issues and concerns or applicable knowledge to assist us with the NEPA process.

The public is invited to submit comments on the proposal within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please send written comments to Mr. Douglas Rowles, project lead, at the above address or e-mail [wfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@blm.gov) with "Brady Hot Springs Well 15-12 Hydro-Stimulation Project (D. Rowles)" in the subject line. A copy of this letter and map are also available on our NEPA webpage at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm\\_information/nepa0.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html). In addition, a copy of the Proponent's *Brady 15-12 Stimulation Plan* is available for review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours for 30 days from the date of this letter.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Douglas Rowles at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,



for

Michael Truden  
Field Manager  
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure