



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah Field Office

P.O. Box 911 (1553 South Main Street)

Tonopah, Nevada 89049

Phone: 775-482-7800

Fax: 775-482-7810

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

N-87008

DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2012-0214-EA

3200 (NVB0200)

OCT 11 2012

Dear Interested Party:

Rockwood Lithium, Inc. (Rockwood) has submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tonopah Field Office an Operations Plan for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Silver Peak Area Geothermal Exploration Project within Esmeralda County, Nevada. The purpose of the project is to determine subsurface temperatures, confirm the existence of geothermal resources, and confirm the existence of a commercial geothermal reservoir at the proposed well sites within federal geothermal lease N-87008. The proposed project would consist of well and drill pad site preparation and the drilling and testing of two observation wells and four full-sized geothermal wells. The proposed geothermal wells would be located approximately one mile east of the community of Silver Peak, Nevada and approximately 55 miles travel distance southwest of Tonopah, Nevada.

Should this exploration project encounter and prove that a suitable geothermal resource is present, Rockwood intends to pursue development of the resource for the purpose of providing electrical power for their adjacent lithium processing facilities. Any subsequent geothermal developmental or further exploration, proposed as a result of the project and beyond what is being proposed in this analysis, would require additional permit applications and prior approval from the BLM. Any additional activity would be subject to review by the BLM under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed project. Pursuant to NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the EA identifies and analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and identifies resource protection measures that would mitigate these potential impacts. The EA will be available for a 15-day public comment period. Comments on this EA will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., October 29, 2012. You may email tcoward@blm.gov with your comments or written comments on the EA should be addressed to:

Timothy Coward
Bureau of Land Management
Rockwood Silver Peak Geothermal EA
1553 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 911
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

The EA is available at the National NEPA Register web page at:

https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

To navigate to the project webpage (from the link above), scroll down to and select "Nevada" in the "State(s)" list; this will populate the "Office(s)" list; select "NV - Tonopah FO". Then click the "Search" button. This will take you to a list of projects. Find and select this project (DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2012-0214-EA) to display the project webpage. Navigate through the project webpage using the links on the left.

The EA is also available at the BLM, Battle Mountain District web page at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/national_environmental.html

In addition, copies of the EA may be obtained by notifying the Tonopah Field Office at the letterhead address above.

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 your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this proposal, please contact Timothy Coward at (775) 482-7830.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Seley
Field Manager