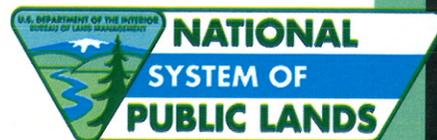


**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-0014-CX
December 4, 2012**

**Sierra Pacific Power Co. Lahontan
Communication Site
*Location: Lahontan Valley
Applicant: Sierra Pacific Power Company***

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
Phone: 775-885-6000
Fax: 775-885-6147



Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and non-statutory Categorical Exclusion of Federal Action

A. Background

BLM Office: Carson City District Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.:
Stillwater Field Office N-91374

Proposed Action Title/Type: Sierra Pacific Power Company Lahontan Communication Site

Location of Proposed Action: Lahontan Valley, Churchill County, NV

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposal is to install a Smart Meter 93' antenna and a telcom omni antenna within the optical amplification site owned by NV Energy under ROW N-76179. This project will be considered a Communication Site.

The tower is needed to support data communication for the smart meter project which is used to support the fiber optic line. It will be installed within the ROW authorized to NV Energy for a fiber optic line beginning in Reno, Nevada and ending at Spanish Fork, Utah. An EA (#NV-040-00-050, 2000) was prepared for the fiber optic line in May 2001, and all surveys and studies were completed at that time. Very minor disturbance will take place within an already disturbed area.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Carson City Resource Management Plan Date Approved/Amended: May 11, 2001

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Pgs. COM-1 through COM-3 "Area Covered By Central Nevada Communications Sites Modified Final Plan Amendment (1998)"

Pg. COM-1 #2 "Applications for rights-of-way for communication sites, including all military electronic warfare sites, will be considered in the area identified as permitted on the map (page 4)..."

Pg. COM-1 #3 "Facilitate communication site processing and minimize surface disturbance by grouping future communication facilities at locations where existing facilities occur, access is reasonably available, terrain is appropriate for communication facility needs, and other resource values are limited..."

Pg. COM-2 #4 "With proper justification, continue to provide for the location of future civilian and military communication sites (including telemetry sites and threat emitters) on more than four million acres of central Nevada. Proper justification includes physical and economic factors."

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

516 DM 11.9 E.12: Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed right-of-way.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SCREENING FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY APPLY TO ACTIONS NORMALLY ELIGIBLE FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUSION

An EA or EIS must be prepared if any of these extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action. Check the appropriate box. Would the proposed action:	Yes	No
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office?		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X

FINDINGS

Based on review of the proposal and the 12 exceptions listed above, this action qualifies as a categorical exclusion and environmental analysis is not required. The proposed action is in conformance with current BLM Land Use Plans.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: Rosemary Thomas Date: 12/12/12
 (Signature)

Name: Rosemary Thomas
 Title: Ely District Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Brenda Linnell at (775) 289-1808.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely District Office
HC33 Box 33500 (702 N. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-0014-DR
December 4, 2012

Sierra Pacific Power Co. Lahontan
Communication Site
Location: Lahontan Valley
Applicant: Sierra Pacific Power Company

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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2860 (NVC010)
N-91374

DECISION

Sierra Pacific Power Co., d/b/a NVE
P.O. Box 10100
Reno, NV

**Decision Record DOI-BLM-NV-
C010-2013-0014-CX**

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I have reviewed the application and the CX and have made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Sierra Pacific Power Co., who is requesting to install a Smart Meter 93' antenna and a telcom omni antenna within the optical amplification site owned by NV Energy under ROW N-91374. I approve this *federal action*.

RATIONALE:

- 1) The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Carson City Resource Management Plan signed on May 11, 2001. Section B of the CX documents the Land Use Plan Conformance.'
- 2) The Proposed Action is consistent with all other federal, state, local, and tribal policies and plans to the maximum extent possible. The Proposed Action is consistent with all other federal, state, local, and tribal policies and plans to the maximum extent possible.
- 3) The Purpose and need for this action, ROW N-91374, is to allow Sierra Pacific Power Co. to install a Smart Meter 93' antenna and a telcom omni antenna within the optical amplification site owned by NV Energy under ROW N-76179.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

This proposal was presented to the Stillwater Field Office NEPA Team to begin scoping on December 1, 2012. The proposal is not highly controversial therefore public involvement is not necessary. Team members determined that extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 do not apply (*Extraordinary Circumstances Interdisciplinary Table*).

APPEALS:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), U. S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed at the Bureau of Land Management at the above address within 30 days of either of receipt of the decision if served a copy of the document, or otherwise within 30 days of the date of the decision. If sent by United States Postal Service, the notice of appeal must be sent to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

The appeal may include a statement of reasons at the time the notice of appeal is filed, or the statement of reasons may be filed within 30 days of filing this appeal. At the same time the original documents are filed with this office, copies of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and all supporting documentation also must be sent to the U. S. DOI Solicitor at the following address:

Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753
Sacramento, CA 95825-1890

If a statement of reasons is filed separately from the notice of appeal, it also must be sent to the following location within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed:

Interior Board of Land Appeals
Office of Hearings and Appeals
4015 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203

This Decision will remain in effect during the appeal unless a petition for stay is filed. If the appellant wishes to file a petition pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that the appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany the notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. If the appellant requests a stay, the appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

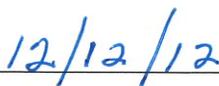
Except as otherwise provided by law or by other pertinent regulation, a Petition for a Stay of a Decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (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.

Approved by:



Rosemary Thomas
Ely District Manager

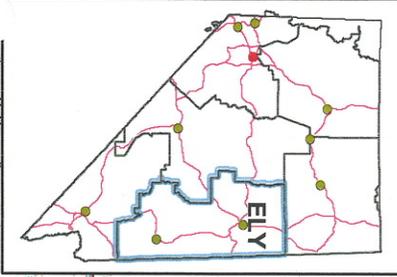


Date

EXHIBIT - A
SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY D/B/A NV ENERGY
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
N-91374

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	Subdivision	Acres/Length
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T. 19 N.	R. 27 E.	MDM	16	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	
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NV ENERGY N-91374 LAHONTAN OA SITE DIGITAL DATA ANTENNA

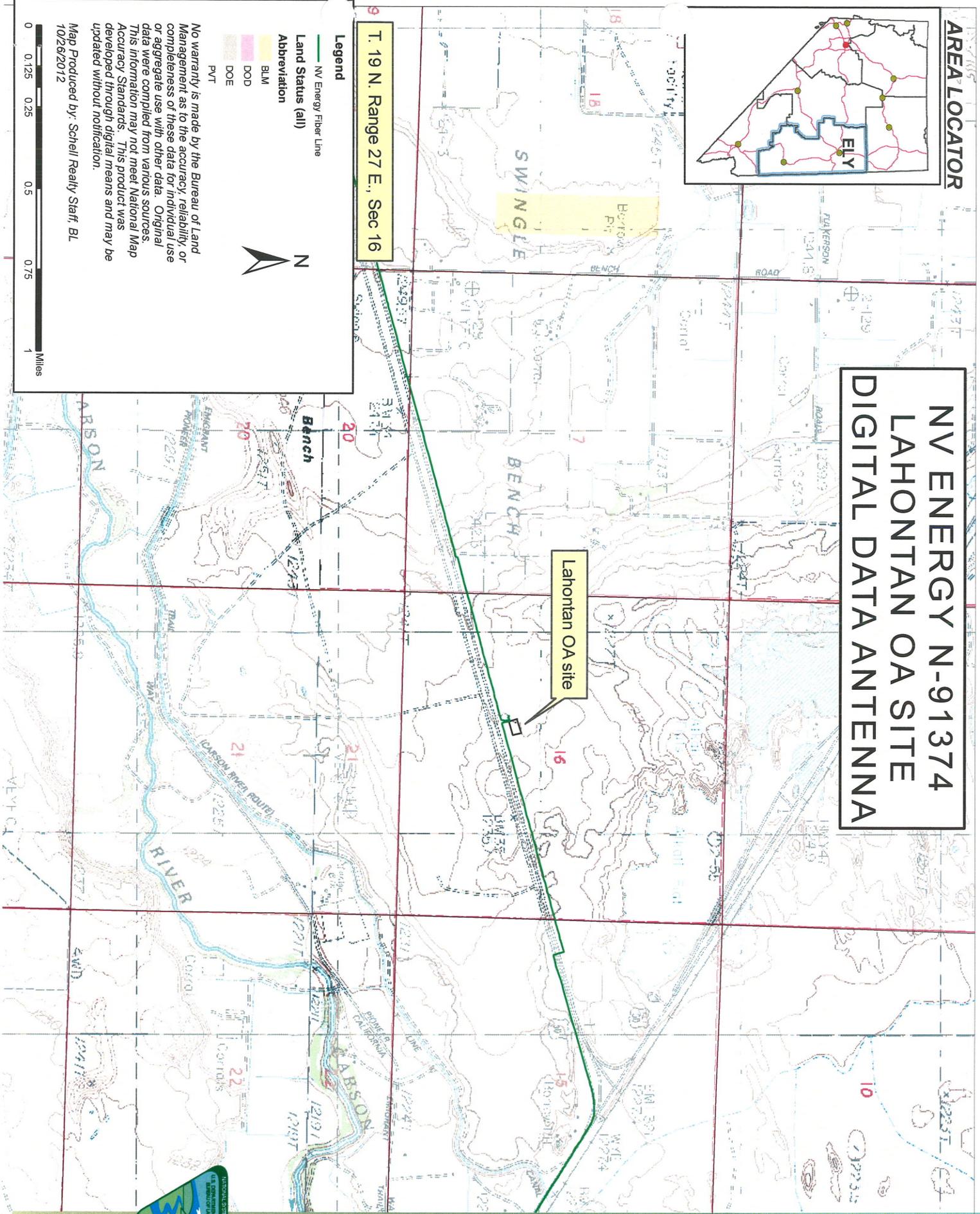
T. 19 N. Range 27 E., Sec 16

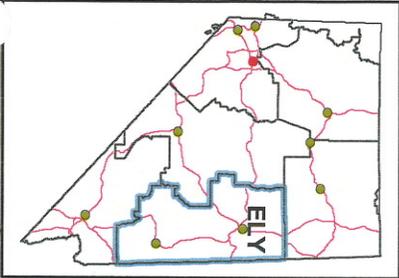


- Legend**
- NV Energy Fiber Line
 - Land Status (all)
 - Abbreviation
 - BLM
 - DOD
 - DOE
 - PVT

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map Produced by: Schell Realty Staff, BL
10/26/2012





**NV ENERGY N-91374
LAHONTAN OA SITE
DIGITAL DATA ANTENNA**

T. 19 N. Range 27 E., Sec 16

Lahontan OA site

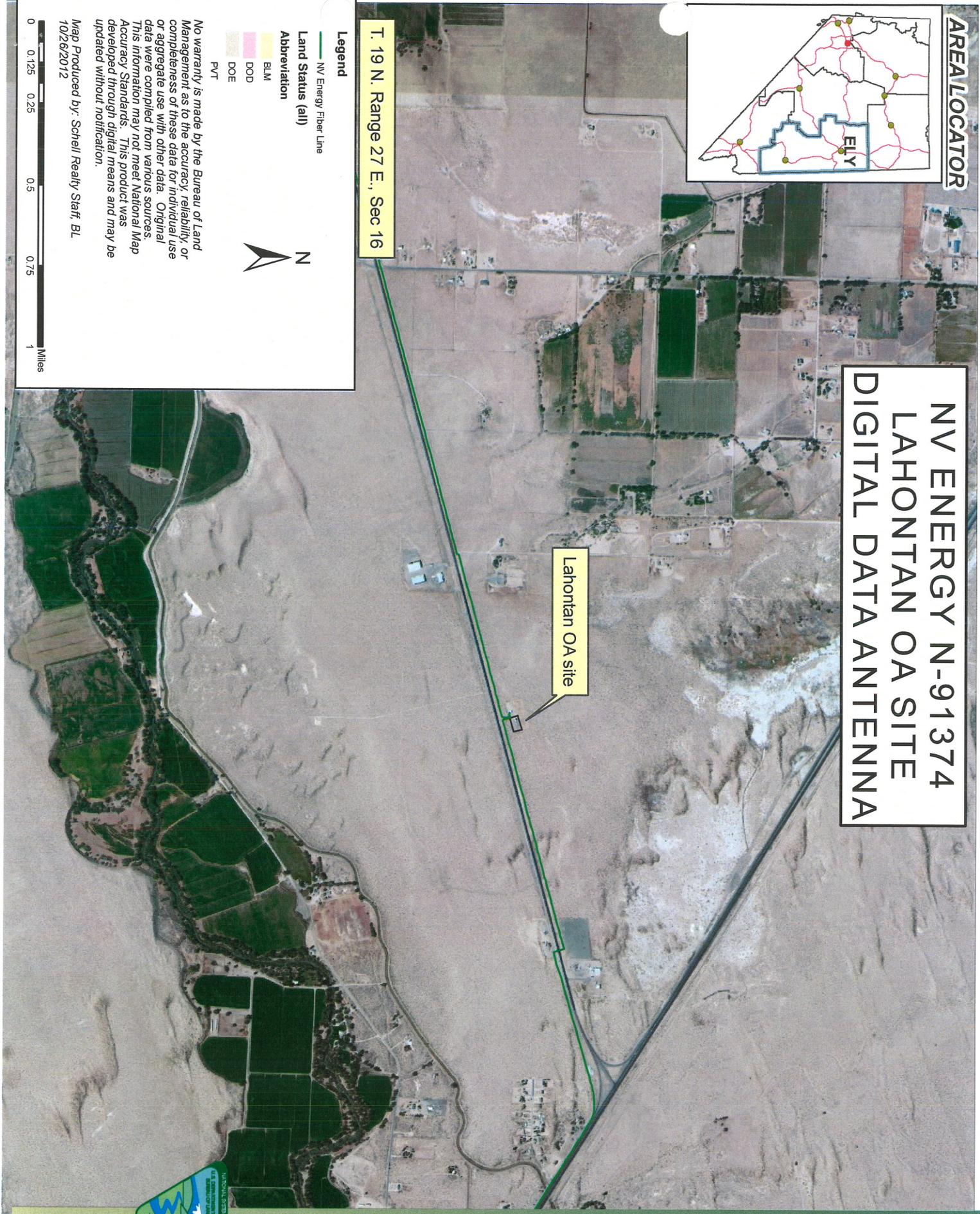


Legend

- NV Energy Fiber Line
- Land Status (all)
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Ely District Office