

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Matt Simons, Realty Specialist

Field Office: Stillwater Field Office

Lead Office: Stillwater Field Office

Case File/Project Number: NVN-090849 01

Applicable Categorical Exclusion: H-1790-1, Appendix 4 E(12)

Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-~~0072~~-CX

Project Name: TV Hill Temporary Equipment Shelter.

Project Description: Short term (3 year) authorization to place a pre-fabricated building on the east side of the existing TV Hill communications site fence to allow radio equipment to continue to operate while the old, failing steel tower is removed. The building would be placed on a graveled parking area between the Sierra Pacific Power Company facility and the Nevada Department of Transportation facility. The parking area would still have sufficient room to park a pickup truck while the temporary building is in use.

Applicant Name: Sierra Pacific Power Company (NV Energy)

Project Location: MDM, T. 7 N., R. 29 E., Section 20: NW¼NE¼ (within).

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Approximately .005 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance:

Administrative Actions #6, page LND-7: "Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public."

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD
2. Would the Proposed Action 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		DW CS
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		ADR
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		ADR
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		ADR
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		ADR
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		JD
8. Would the Proposed Action 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? (Wildlife)		CS
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		ADR
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (PEC)		ADR
11. Would the Proposed Action 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 (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		JD
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native 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 EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

- Planning Environmental Coordinator: Angelica Rose *ARL 7/22/13*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds: Jill Devaurs *JD 7-18-13*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC: Dan Westermeyer *DW 7-22-13*
- Archeology: Jason Wright *JW 7/22/13*
- Wildlife: Christopher Kula *CK 7/22/13*
- Soils: Chelsey Simerson *CS 7/22/13*

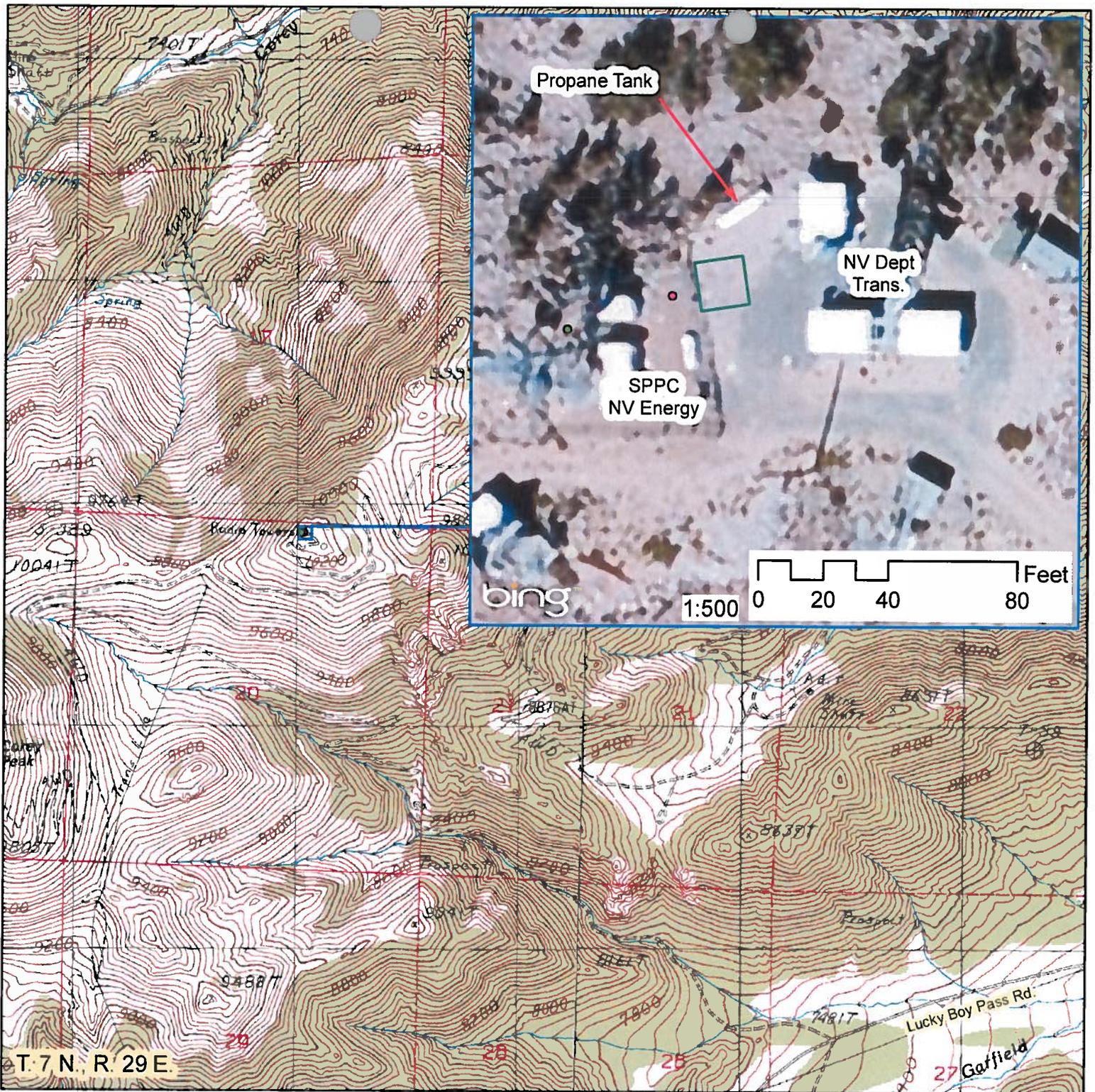
CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

Teresa J. Knutson
Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

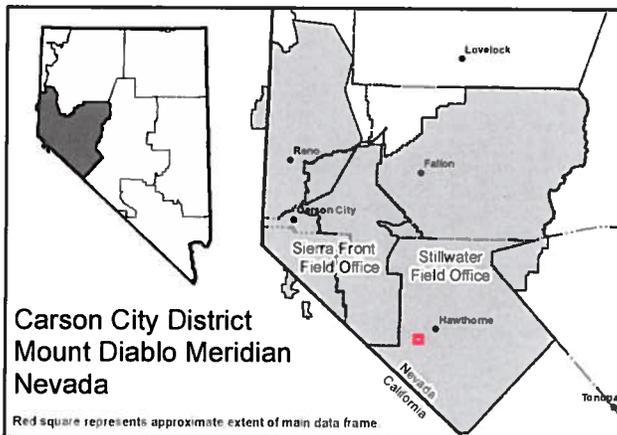
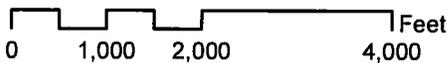
7/23/2013

(date)



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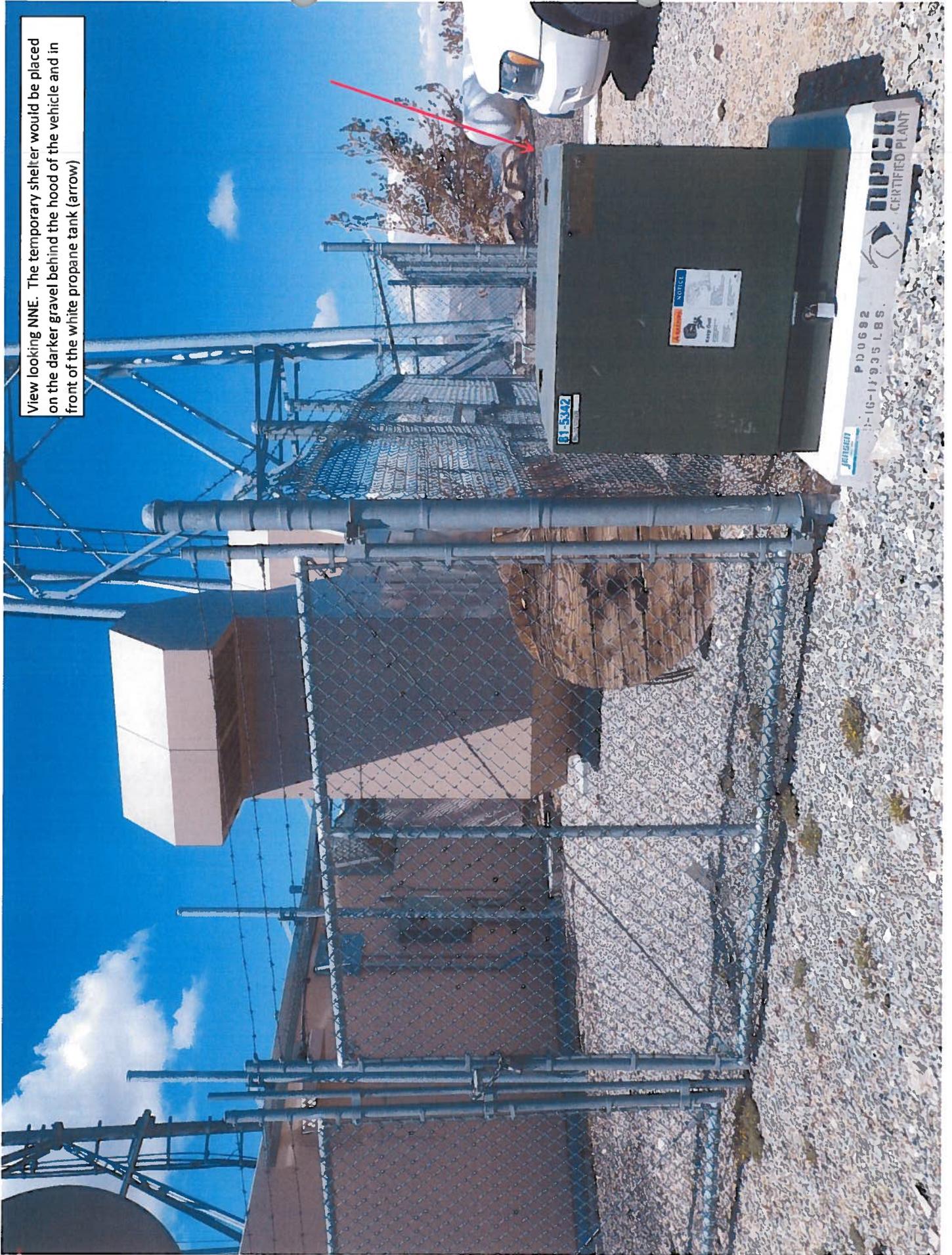
SPPC TV Hill Towers

- New Tower Loc (approx)
- Old Tower Loc (approx)

SPPC TV Hill Temp Building



View looking NNE. The temporary shelter would be placed on the darker gravel behind the hood of the vehicle and in front of the white propane tank (arrow)



View looking WSW. The temporary building would sit on the near side of the fence. The white propane tank is directly behind the camera.



View looking E. The graveled area to the right of the propane tank is where the temporary building would site, just on the other side of the tower leg.





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TV Hill Temporary Equipment Shelter Application

Site Photos

Following are a series of photos taking at various times over the past couple years during trips to the site. These photos are provided per BLM request to get better view of the proposed location.



Old Photo (a couple years old) with view to the East. NV Energy Comm site on the left and propane tank for adjoining site shown in photo with northern corner of building on adjoining site. Full area is now graveled and can be seen, as such in following photos.



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Photo during tower construction with view to the south. Southern fence of NV Energy site is down during construction, but fence posts and adjoining comm buildings can be seen in photo.

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Photo taken during tower construction with view to the SSE. Southern fence of NV Energy site is down during construction, but fence posts and adjoining comm buildings can be seen in photo. Also, propane tank for adjoining grant (to the south) can be seen on the far left side of the photo.

existing right-of-way during Phase 1. The existing L.P. tank was relocated within the existing right-of-way to accomplish this task. An 80 foot tall tower was needed to accommodate system capabilities. The tower has a base footprint of approximately 13.5-15 foot square. The original tower will be removed during Phase 2. See Attachment B for Phase 1 site layout.

3.1.1 Communications Buildings

Two prefabricated fiberglass shelters are currently in place on the existing site to store the equipment needed for transmitting signals. In Phase 2, these shelters will be replaced with a CMU block building and will be placed on a concrete pad. This building will be constructed on site by hauling the materials to the site on a truck. The building measures 20 feet by 24 feet and will be placed next to the replacement tower. The original tower will be removed to accommodate the building construction. See Photographs of the existing facilities in Attachment D.

3.1.2 Generator and L.P. Tank

To ensure reliable energy grid performance, the communication equipment on this site needs to be fully operational at all times. To maintain operation during a power outage, a standby generator is used. One of the existing fiberglass shelters contains DC batteries to power the site for 7 days after the L.P. fuel supply is exhausted. A 55 KVA Generator is currently installed within this site to keep the communication devices online in the event of a power outage. This generator runs on liquefied propane and needs to have enough fuel to operate for a minimum of 72 hours. 2000 gallons of L.P. fuel is required to meet this need. To accommodate the replacement of the tower and to conform to the National Fire Protection Code (fuel tank 10' from any electrical source) the existing L.P. tank was relocated to the SW corner of the existing site during Phase 1. A retaining wall constructed and imported fill was constructed in this section of the site and brought into the level of the site for concrete pad and tank placement. New LP supply lines were also installed. During Phase 2, after obtaining the realignment of the north and south lot lines, and second 1000 gallon L.P. tank will be installed. The final site preparation for the LP tanks will be step tiered to blend in with the slope of the top of the peak.

3.1.3 Temporary Shelter Location

The temporary shelter location requested is adjacent to the new tower at the northeast corner of the ROW. The temporary shelter is 10' x 12' x 9' and tan in color. A two year 15' x 15' temporary ROW is requested. This would not interfere with other site users accessing their building or LP tanks.

3.2 LAND/ROW REQUIREMENTS

NVE currently holds an easement from the BLM N-33877 for the existing microwave relay site. The lease documents were submitted in October 2011.

3.2.0 Permanent (Operation)

After project maintenance is completed, NVE will operate the permanent ROW for the TV Hill Communication Site in order to conduct operations and maintenance of the site.

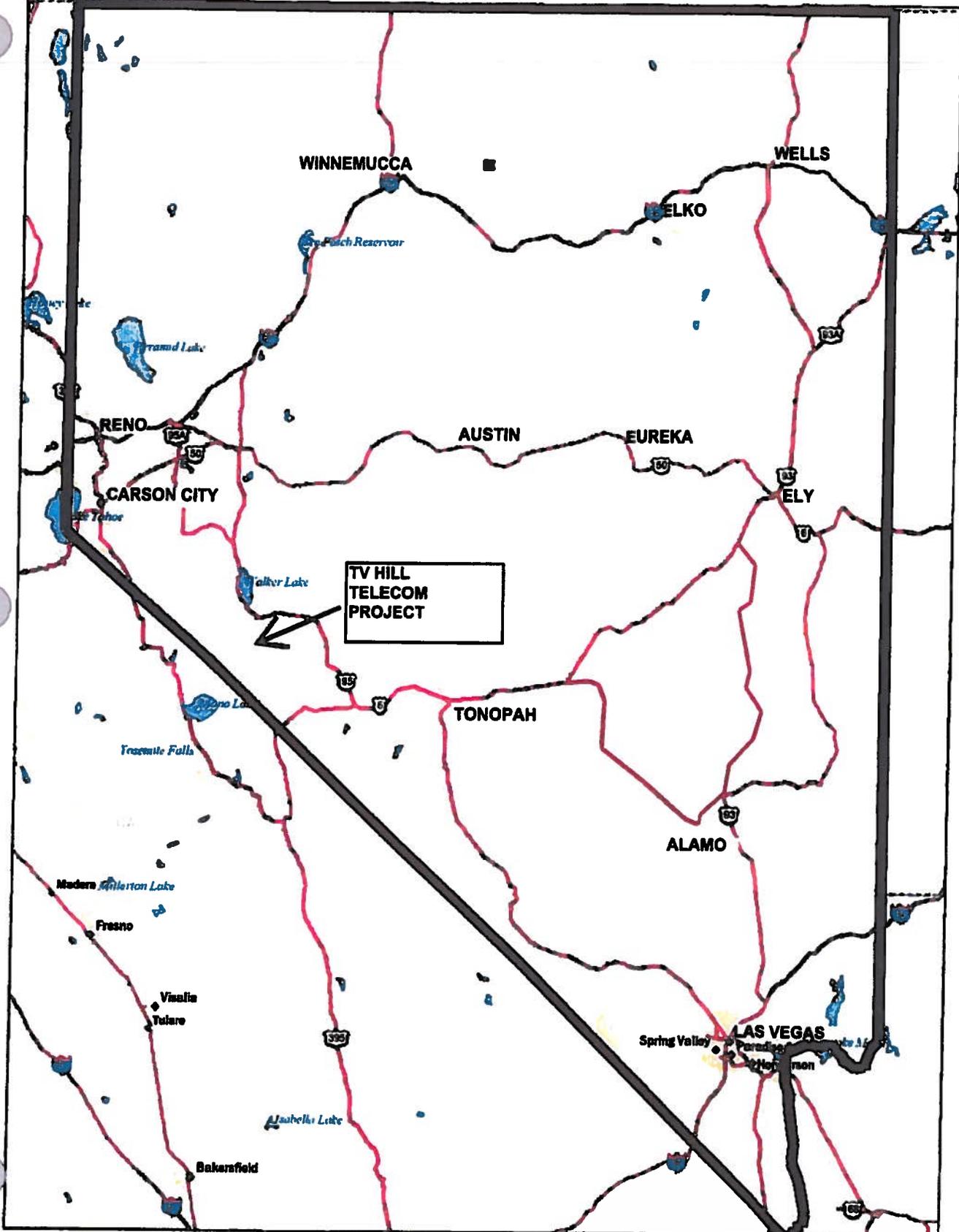
3.3 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

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ATTACH A - PROJECT VICINITY/LOCATION MAP

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