



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
Black Rock Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: wfoweb@blm.gov
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

NOV 12 2013

In Reply Refer To:
3200/1792
N-92241 (NV030.38)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Black Rock Field Office is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a US Geothermal Nevada LLC (USGN) proposal for their San Emidio Geothermal Energy North Plant Project. The project is located entirely on land managed by the BLM. The legal description is T.30N., R.23E., section 33 and T.29.N., R.23E., section 4, MDB&M. USGN is proposing to construct a new geothermal power plant that would include up to eight wells, two high efficiency heat exchangers, an air cooling system (condenser) and a nine megawatt generator.

- Support facilities would include a control building, pump control modules, geothermal pipelines and a power transmission line.
- The plant would occupy approximately four acres.
- The eight wells would occupy up to eight acres.
- The geothermal pipeline disturbance (both injection and production) is proposed to be 11,600 linear feet at 20 feet wide (5.5 acres).
- The power transmission lines are proposed to be 5,486 linear feet at 20 feet wide (2.5 acres) and will run from the plant site to an existing substation.
- Access roads would run along the above proposed transmission line and pipeline corridors would a part of that disturbance.
- Total new surface disturbance would be approximately 20 acres.
- The project is located along the east side of the San Emidio desert approximately 12 miles south of Empire, Washoe County, Nevada.

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 Black Rock Field Office, will be preparing an EA for the proposed project. This document

will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The BLM requests public participation in the process to help identify potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, issues and/or concerns.

The public is invited to submit comments on the proposal within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, November 12, 2013. Please send written comments to Mr. Jim Weiser, Attn: San Emidio North Geothermal Plant Project EA, BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca NV 89445-2921.

Comments may also be submitted by email to: wfoweb@blm.gov. Email messages should reference "San Emidio North Geothermal Plant Project EA (Weiser)" on the subject line.

Maps of the proposed San Emidio North Geothermal Plant Project are enclosed with this letter and a Portable Document Format (pdf) map of the proposed project area can also be viewed online at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html.

Public comments submitted regarding this proposal, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personnel identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mark Hall or Jim Weiser at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Donovan Walker
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office

Enclosures