



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Rd
Carson City, NV 89701
<http://www.blm.gov/nv>

In Reply Refer To:
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Dear Reader:

In November 2014, Sierra Pacific Power Company dba NV Energy (NV Energy) submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sierra Front Field Office in Carson City, Nevada a right-of-way (ROW) amendment application. The application and draft Plan of Development (POD) details the need for the *Mason Valley to Smith Valley Transmission Right-of-Way Project*. NV Energy identified the need to improve voltage support and customer reliability for Smith Valley, and to replace two aging substations, the Bridge Street and Anaconda substations, with a modern substation (Mason Substation) in order to meet modern electrical safety standards and improve customer service and reliability.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act, an environmental assessment to evaluate the potential effects from the project would be prepared by the BLM.

In preparing their application and draft POD, NV Energy has described the features of the project as follows:

- Three existing 60 kV transmission lines would be connected to three new 60 kV lines west of Weed Heights. The lines would run for approximately 2.4 miles south to the new Mason Substation. One line would support a single circuit and a second line would support two circuits;
- A new Mason Substation would be constructed;
- The existing 17-mile Smith Valley 25 kV line would be rebuilt for operation at 60 kV (with a capacity of 120 kV) from the Mason Substation to the Smith Valley Substation;
- The existing Smith Valley Switching Station would be rebuilt as the Smith Valley Substation to receive the incoming transmission line and connected to the three existing distribution circuits serving the Smith Valley and Topaz Ranch Estates area;
- The Anaconda Substation would be decommissioned and removed;
- The Bridge Street Substation would be decommissioned and removed;
- A short distribution circuit (Mason 205) would be constructed from the Mason Substation would connect to the nearby existing 205 distribution circuit;
- Along the Mason 205/208 distribution feeder there would be pole replacement or circuit reconfiguration;

- Along the Mason 204/208 distribution feeder, a new double circuit distribution would tie into existing distribution circuits. This would replace a portion of an existing 25 kV (206) distribution line; and
- Three 60 kV transmission lines that share a narrow corridor from the start of the proposed Mason transmission lines to the Anaconda Substation would be removed.

During the winter of 2015 the BLM would publish a draft environmental assessment. This document would be available for 30-days public comment.

At this early stage in the project development, we ask for your input:

- Do you know of resource conflicts in the project area?
- Do you have any other substantive input into this proposal at this early stage?

We encourage you to review the information on the internet, which provides you with project information, maps, and how to comment. The Project website located at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

This scoping period ends on August 3, 2015.

For more information contact: Brian Buttazoni, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at: 775-885-6000. Send comments to: BLM, Sierra Front Field Office, attn.. Brian Buttazoni, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701, or by email to: MasonSmithEA@blm.gov.


/s/ **Victoria Wilkins**
for Leon Thomas
Field Manager
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