

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet

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

Identifying Information

OFFICE: Stillwater FO, LLNVC01000

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2016-0002-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Geothermal Lease NVN-092479, Unit Agreement Area NVN-089456X

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Dixie Meadows/Hope Well 24-8 Sundry Notice Move Location & Change To Directional Drilling

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: MDM T. 22 N., R. 35 E., Section 8

APPLICANT (if any): Ormat Technologies, Inc.

Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

Ormat is proposing to move the location and change from a vertical to a directional drilling program for well 24-8 at its Dixie Meadows/Hope Geothermal Project area located in Dixie Valley approximately 40 miles east-northeast of Fallon in Churchill County, Nevada. The new location will reduce the amount of access road construction by approximately 300 feet from 1,000 feet approved in the original GDP to 700 feet under this Sundry Notice. The proposed pad dimensions of approximately 300 feet by 300 feet will remain the same as in the approved GDP. The proposed drill site is directly adjacent to the project area analyzed in the Ormat Technologies, Inc., Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project and FONSI/DR signed January 17, 2012.

Table 1. Land Use Plan Conformance

LUP Name*:	Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan	Date Approved:	May 9, 2001
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*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

MIN-1, Desired Outcomes, 1: Encourage development for energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional, and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

MIN-5, Standard Operating Procedures: Leasable Minerals, 5: Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Stillwater Field Office — Ormat Technologies, Inc., Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project EA and FONSI/DR signed January 17, 2012.

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

The proposed action is identical to the actions analyzed in and is immediately adjacent to the project area analyzed in the Ormat Technologies, Dixie Meadows Geothermal Exploration Project EA and FONSI/DR signed in 2012

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource value?**

Yes, the environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed since the completion of the 2012 EA. The range of alternatives in the 2012 EA is still appropriate. The environmental constraints of the geothermal exploration activities have not changed and the proposed action is identical to that analyzed in the 2012 EA.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed and no new information or circumstances have been identified since the signing of the FONSI/DR in 2012. Access to the proposed site will be via improvement of an existing road and the proposed drill site is in close proximity to the proponents permitted mineral material source. The proposed action will not have any adverse affect on human health or the environment.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, the 2012 EA analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from geothermal exploration activities would remain unchanged. The 2012 EA analyzed cumulative impacts for up to twenty (20) drill sites of which fewer than six (6) have been constructed. The analyzed action is not different from the construction of the proposed well pads or geothermal exploration activities analyzed in the 2012 EA.

5. **5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the geothermal resource exploration and development operations were analyzed in the 2012 EA which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document.

Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Table 2. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Signature & Date Reviewed
Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson	Rangeland Management Specialist	<i>LA</i> 11/2/15
Ken Vicencio	Range Tech/Weed Coordinator	<i>Ken</i> 11/2/2015
Chris Kula	Wildlife Biologist	<i>CK</i> 11/2/15
Dan Westermeyer	Outdoor Recreation Planner	<i>Dan</i> 11/2/15
Jason Wright/Kristin Bowen	Archaeologist	<i>JB</i> 11/3/15
Angelica Rose	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	<i>AR</i> 11/2/15
Ken Depaoli/Joel Hartmann	Geologist	<i>JD</i> 11/2/15
Dave Schroeder	Natural Resource Specialist	<i>DS</i> 11/3/15
Matt Simons	Lands and Realty	<i>MS</i> 11/2/15
Michelle Stropky	Hydrologist	<i>MKS</i> 11/02/2015

Note:

Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

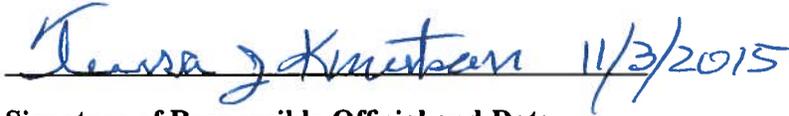
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

Daniel L. Schuler 11/3/2015

Signature of Project Lead and Date

Angelica Rose Nov. 2, 2015

Signature of NEPA Coordinator and Date



Signature of Responsible Official and Date

Teresa J. Knutson

Field Manager

Stillwater Field Office

Note:

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.