



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Stillwater Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701
<http://www.blm.gov/nv>

In Reply Refer To:
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JUN 23 2016

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Stillwater Field Office, has issued the Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *New Pass Peak Distribution Line Project*, EA# DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2015-0030-EA.

The decision is for BLM to issue a right-of-way (ROW) grant to Sierra Pacific Power Company to construct, maintain and operate the New Pass Peak Distribution Line Project as described under the Proposed Action including incorporation of the applicant's committed avoidance and mitigation measures (described in Chapter 2 of the EA) and the BLM proposed avoidance and mitigation measures described in Chapter 3 of the EA and carried forward in the DR. The EA analyzed potential impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from implementation of the construction, operation and maintenance of a 24.9 kilovolt (kV) distribution line from an existing distribution line located within Edwards Creek Valley to an existing communications site complex located on New Pass Peak. The project site is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Austin, Nevada largely within Churchill County with a portion of the proposed distribution line located within Lander County, Nevada. The total length of the proposed line is approximately 30,563 feet.

A determination has been made that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental impacts to the natural and human environment, therefore a FONSI has been prepared to document that determination, and a DR has been issued providing the rationale for approving the Proposed Action. The Final EA, DR and FONSI are available electronically on the project's ePlanning website at <http://1.usa.gov/1TXZspG>. The EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period in which several comments were received. The Final EA incorporates the changes that were made to the document based on these comments, which were minor and clarifying in nature. A summary and response to these comments are included in Appendix F Response to Comments. All of these documents are on the project webpage stated above.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Simons, Realty Specialist, or Angelica Rose, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (775) 885-6000 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office