



# United States Department of the Interior



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Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Black Rock Field Office (BRFO) has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) evaluating an application from Ormat Nevada, Inc (Ormat) to construct and operate a proposed geothermal resource confirmation operations plan (OP) The Gerlach Geothermal Exploration Project for Resource Confirmation proposed by Ormat is located less than one mile north of Gerlach, Nevada. A 30-day scoping period to solicit public input was initiated December 10, 2021. The scoping comments were used to identify issues to analyze in the document, and the DEA was published for public comment on August 19, 2022. The Final EA, Appendices and associated baseline studies, Decision Record (DR), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents can be downloaded or viewed at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016744/510>.

As part of the proposed geothermal resource confirmation project, the BLM has analyzed the environmental effects of up to 19 total geothermal exploration wells, approximately 3 miles of new or improved access roads, and a new aggregate pit. Each well pad would be approximately 2.1 acres. The BLM is analyzing a total proposed surface disturbance from the project of up to 49.3 acres.

Through the NEPA analyses, the decision by the BLM is to approve the drilling by Ormat of up to 13 wells and accessing part of the drilling area by using the 3-Mile playa entrance. In response to the analyses and public concern, additional hydrological monitoring will be performed before, during and after drilling. Details are contained in the DR and FONSI.

The BLM has fulfilled its obligations for consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as implemented in the 36 CFR 800.8(c) regulations, through the NEPA process.

Should you have questions or concerns about this decision, please reach out to Ms. Tai Subia, Project Lead, at 775-623-1500 or [blm\\_nv\\_wdo\\_gerlach\\_geothermal@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_wdo_gerlach_geothermal@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mark E Hall*

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