



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ELDORADO-IVANPAH TRANSMISSION PROJECT
 PROPOSED BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
APPLICATION NO. 09-05-027
 CALIFORNIA SCH #2009071091

Si usted necesita una copia de este documento en español o si necesita información acerca del proyecto por favor llame a (951) 274-7293.

To: All Interested Parties/Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report
From: Monisha Gangopadhyay, California Public Utilities Commission, EIR Project Manager
Subject: **Notice of Availability and Public Meetings**, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
Date: April 29, 2010

On May 28, 2009, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed Application No. 09-05-027 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project.

The CPUC, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for consideration of SCE’s Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP).

The agencies will hold two public meetings to explain the proposed project, discuss the proposed project’s significant impacts and receive comments on the DEIR/EIS from the public (see table below).

Time, Date, and Location of Public Meetings

Time	Date	Location
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	May 26, 2010	Primm Valley Golf Course, 1 Yates Well Road (last California Exit on I-15) near Primm, Nevada
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	May 26, 2010	Jean Sport Aviation Center, 23600 South Las Vegas Boulevard Jean, NV 89019 (0.3 miles from Exit 12 on I-15 for NV-161)

A. Proposed Project Description and Location

The EITP would upgrade approximately 35 miles of existing single-circuit 115-kV subtransmission line to double-circuit 230-kV transmission line between the Ivanpah Dry Lake area and the existing Eldorado Substation, construct a new substation (Ivanpah Substation), install upgrades within the existing Eldorado Substation, and install a redundant telecommunications path between the Ivanpah and Eldorado substations. The redundant telecommunications path would be strung along the existing 500-kV Eldorado-Lugo transmission line for approximately 25 miles before it would be installed in a new underground duct for approximately 5 miles along the northern edge of Nipton Road to a new microwave tower outside Nipton, California. The EITP would be located in Clark County, Nevada and San Bernardino County, California near Primm, Nevada.

B. Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Project

The Draft EIR/EIS has identified potentially significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on biological resources, air quality, hydrology and water quality, and public services and utilities that would result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. Under NEPA, the proposed project would result in major, adverse and unavoidable impacts on aesthetics and visual resources for one of the eight KOPs analyzed; with mitigation, impacts on aesthetics and visual resources would be less than significant under CEQA. All other Project impacts were determined to be less than significant, or can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Draft EIR/EIS. No portion of the EITP would be located on a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

C. Environmentally Superior Alternative

Alternative 1, the No Project / No Action Alternative, would be environmentally superior to the project on the basis of the minimization or avoidance of physical environmental impacts. However, this alternative would not meet the proposed project objectives. Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that “the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.” In terms of effects on the environment, it has been determined that the environmentally superior alternative is the proposed project as it would have less temporary and permanent land disturbance, less significant impacts on sensitive biological resources, and meet all of the project’s objectives. However, this alternative would still result in potentially significant and unavoidable impacts to desert tortoise habitat and potentially significant impacts to air quality, hydrology, and public services, under CEQA.

D. Public Review Period/DEIR Information

The CPUC and the BLM will receive comments on the Draft EIR/EIS starting April 30, 2009 and ending June 21, 2010. A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (877) 478-4686. Faxes may be sent to (415) 981-0801. Email comments may be sent to ivanpah@ene.com. Written comments may be sent to:

Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Information about the Project, including the Scoping Report, the Draft EIR/EIS, and the Final EIR/EIS will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>. This site is used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings.

The Draft EIR/EIS will be placed in two repository sites to allow the public access to the document. EIR-related documents, including the Scoping Report, this Draft EIR/EIS, and the Final EIR/EIS will be made available upon their release to the public at these locations:

List of Repositories for EITP Documents

Agency	Address	Phone Number
DOI, Bureau of Land Management		
BLM Needles Field Office	1303 South Highway 95 Needles, CA 92363-4428	(760) 326-7000
County and City Public Libraries		
Las Vegas Library	833 Las Vegas Blvd. North Las Vegas, NV 89101	(702) 507-3500
Searchlight Library	200 Michael Wendell Way Searchlight, NV 89046	(702) 297-1442
Barstow Library	304 E Buena Vista St. Barstow, CA 92311	(760) 256-4850