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***Appendix A
Notice of Intent***

Published in Federal Register on July 27, 2009

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



For Immediate Release: TBA

CA-CDD-09-xx

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The Bureau of Land Management and the California Public Utilities Commission Initiate Joint Environmental Review of the Eldorado–Ivanpah Transmission Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct a joint environmental review with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the impacts of the Eldorado–Ivanpah Transmission Project in San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada.

Southern California Edison has applied for a right-of-way authorization to upgrade and replace approximately 36 miles of an existing 115-kV transmission line on public lands with a new double circuit 220-kV transmission line.

The proposed transmission line would handle projected electricity produced from several renewable energy project proposals in and around the Ivanpah Valley including the Ivanpah Solar Energy Generation System planned by Solar Partners, LLC. The proposed transmission line and new substation would be constructed within an existing designated utility corridor.

The BLM, as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the CPUC, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, will jointly prepare an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) for public review.

Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register initiates a public scoping period of 30 days, ending August 26, 2009. During the scoping period, the BLM and the CPUC solicit public comment on issues, concerns, potential impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be considered in the analysis of the proposed action.

BLM/CPUC public scoping meetings will be held at the Primm Valley Golf Course, 1 Yates Well Road (last California Exit on I-15) near Primm, Nevada, on July 28, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and at the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa at 9777 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 29, 2009, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The BLM and the CPUC will use the public scoping comments received to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR to be available for public review later this year.

Further details can be found at the BLM web page: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/needles> and the CPUC web page: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>. For information contact Tom Hurshman at 970-240-5345, or email ivanpah@ene.com.

-BLM-

“visit our website at www.blm.gov/ca”

The Echanis Wind Energy Project is to be located entirely within private lands. A conditional use permit for the wind project was issued to Columbia Energy Partners by Harney County in April 2007. Although wind testing and project feasibility studies are currently ongoing on private, State, and Federal lands in several areas throughout Harney County, the Echanis project is the only wind energy project approved for development, to date, by Harney County or any other jurisdiction. Currently there are no transmission facilities available in the Diamond/North Steens area to transport electrical power produced from the Echanis Wind Energy Project to the existing transmission grid.

Public scoping will aid in determining relevant issues influencing the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: sage-grouse, migratory birds, recreation, local and regional social/economic conditions, visual resource management, and special management areas including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the EIS in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified through the scoping process. Resources addressed in the EIS process will include (but are not limited to) air quality, American Indian traditional practices, biological soil crusts, cultural heritage, fire management, fisheries, grazing management, migratory birds, minerals, noxious weeds, recreation, soils, social/economic values, special status species, transportation/roads, vegetation, visual resources, water quality, riparian zones, wildlife, and wilderness values. The BLM will analyze the proposed action and no action alternatives, as well as other reasonable alternatives to the proposed transmission line location, access routes, and construction/design methods.

Authorization of this proposal may require amendments to one or more Resource Management Plans (RMP). By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential RMP amendments, predicated on the findings of the EIS. If RMP amendments are necessary, the BLM will integrate the RMP process with the NEPA process for this project.

Any authorization of the project on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge lands would require a formal determination by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the proposal is compatible with Refuge purposes. This compatibility determination would be incorporated into the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the NEPA analysis process and preparation of the EIS. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Harney County have agreed to be cooperating agencies in the EIS. Other potential cooperating agencies identified at this time include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Bend Field Office, Burns Paiute Tribe, and State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Other cooperating agencies having specific expertise or interests in the project could also be invited to participate based on the outcome of scoping.

You may submit comments on issues in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Comments, including the names and addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Burns District Office during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

(Authority: 43 CFR part 2800)

Joan Suther,

Acting Burns District Manager.

[FR Doc. E9-17780 Filed 7-24-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 49834; L51010000.ER0000
LLCAD09000 LVRWB09B3160]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Final Environmental Impact Report for the Southern California Edison, Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project; California, Nevada

Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the impacts of the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP).

DATES: This notice initiates the public participation and scoping processes for the EIS. A public scoping period of at least 30 days is hereby announced, and at least one public meeting has been announced through the local news media, newspapers, and BLM's Web page (<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/needles.html>). During the public scoping period, the BLM solicits public comment on issues, concerns, and opportunities that should be considered in the analysis of the proposed action. Comments on issues, potential impacts, or suggestions for additional alternatives may be submitted in writing to the address listed below. In order to be included in the Draft EIS all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Additional opportunities for public participation and formal comment will occur when the Draft EIS/Draft EIR is issued.

ADDRESSES: Comments and other correspondence should be sent to the BLM Needles Office, attention George R. Meckfessel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Needles Field Office, 1303 South U.S. Highway 95, Needles, California, 92363-4228, or by fax at (760) 326-7099 or by e-mail at <mailto:ca690@ca.blm.gov> attention EITP. Documents pertinent to this proposal, including comments of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Needles Field Office

during regular business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Tom Hurshman, Project Manager, 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401, Phone (970) 240-5345, fax (970) 240-5368, or e-mail Tom_Hurshman@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant, Southern California Edison, has requested a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct a proposed electric transmission line and associated facilities on public lands located in San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada. The EIS/EIR will analyze the site-specific impacts to the environment resulting from the proposed project. The CPUC is the lead State of California agency for the licensing of electric transmission facilities and, in the present case, for compliance with the requirements of CEQA. BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

Southern California Edison has applied for a ROW authorization to upgrade and replace an existing 115 kV electric transmission line on public lands with a new double circuit 220 kV electric transmission line. The proposed transmission line would handle projected electricity produced from several renewable energy project proposals in and around the Ivanpah Valley, including the Ivanpah Solar Energy Generation System planned by Solar Partners, LLC. The proposed electric transmission line and a new substation would be constructed within an existing designated utility corridor. The public lands are managed by BLM in accordance with the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and the Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). The segment of electric transmission line to be replaced is approximately 36 miles long and originates at the existing Eldorado Substation in T. 25 S., R. 62 E., Sec. 1, Mount Diablo PM, and terminates at the proposed Ivanpah Substation in T. 16 N., R. 14 E., Sec. 4, San Bernardino PM.

In addition to the electric transmission line, the applicant requires telecommunications facilities to operate the substation. Primary telecommunications would be provided with an optical overhead ground wire constructed on the proposed electric

transmission line, and redundant telecommunications would be established by construction of an independent fiber optics cable that will be located on other existing electric transmission towers owned by the applicant.

BLM will consider approval of the proposed Project in a manner that avoids or reduces impacts to public lands. This action is consistent with Federal law and BLM's policy allowing the use of public lands for the generation and transmission of electrical energy from renewable energy projects pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (119 Stat. 594, 660). BLM has an established process to respond to applications for ROW's for major utilities while protecting the environment. The CDCA Plan, the Las Vegas Field Office RMP, and the FLPMA recognize that public lands will be managed for multiple uses and emphasize the use of ROW corridors.

The EIS/EIR will describe and analyze the project as proposed and will include: (1) Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on the environment; (2) alternative routes and locations for facilities; and (3) the "No Action" alternative (no upgrades to the existing electric transmission line). Through public scoping, BLM expects to identify various issues, potential impacts, and mitigation measures. As proposed, the electric transmission line has been sited to take advantage of existing designated ROW corridors, which are areas identified by BLM land use plans as suitable for ROW development.

BLM has identified a potential list of issues that will need to be addressed in this analysis including but not limited to: Social and economic impacts, including impacts to the public from traffic; ground and surface water quantity and quality impacts; plant and animal species including special status species; cultural resources; and visual resource impacts. If approved, the electric transmission line project on public lands would be authorized in accordance with the FLPMA and federal regulations at Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2800.

You may submit comments in writing at the public scoping meeting, by mail, or via e-mail (see **ADDRESSES** section above). Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Tom Zale,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources (acting), California State Office.

[FR Doc. E9-17784 Filed 7-24-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[LLCAD00000 L19900000.AL 0000]

Meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Public Laws 92-463 and 94-579, that the California Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, will meet in formal session on Friday, August 28, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday, August 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Riverside Marriott, 3400 Market St., Riverside, CA 92501.

Agenda topics will include updates by Council members and reports from the BLM District Manager and five field office managers. Additional agenda topics may include updates on legislation, renewable energy, the wild horse and burro program, DesertXpress, and grazing. Final agenda items will be posted on the BLM California State Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/news/rac.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All California Desert District Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Public comment for items not on the agenda will be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting Friday afternoon, as well as Saturday morning. Time for public comment may be made available by the Council Chairman during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the end of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

While the meetings are tentatively scheduled to conclude at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday, they could conclude earlier should the Council conclude its presentations and discussions. Therefore, members of the public interested in a particular agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the

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Appendix B
Notice of Preparation

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July 23, 2009



Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
Proposed by Southern California Edison
Company
A.09-05-027



**Notice of Preparation
of a
Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
and
Notice of Public Scoping Meetings**

Si usted necesita más información o una copia de este documento en español, por favor, llame al (888) 331-9897 o visite la siguiente página Web.

이 서류의 한국어 사본이 필요하거나 다른 정보를 원하는 분은 전화 (888) 331-9897번을 이용하시거나 아래의 웹 사이트를 방문하십시오.

如果您需要本文件的中文版本或其他相關資訊，請致電(888)331-9897，或拜訪下列網站。

Project website: www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html

A. Introduction

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will direct preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE). Under the direction of CPUC as the lead California State agency and BLM as the lead federal agency, a draft and final EIR/EIS will be prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The CPUC and the BLM invite written comments on the scope of this environmental analysis. In addition, the agencies have provided this notice so that interested and affected agencies, organizations, and individuals are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being sent to affected agencies and interested members of the public. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the CPUC is beginning preparation of the EITP EIR/EIS and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. **This notice includes a description of the project that SCE proposes to construct, a summary of potential project impacts, the times and locations of public scoping meetings, and information on how to provide comments to the CPUC and the BLM.**

As required by NEPA, the BLM will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare a joint EIR/EIS for the EITP. Similar to this NOP, the NOI will initiate the public scoping for the EIR/EIS, provide information about the proposed project, and serve as an

invitation for agencies and the public to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS.

B. Summary of the Project

Under Sections 210 and 212 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824 (i) and (k)) and Sections 3.2 and 5.7 of the California Independent System Operator's Tariff, SCE is obligated to interconnect and integrate power generation facilities into its electric system. In addition, the 2001 National Energy Policy goals are to increase domestic energy supplies, modernize and improve our nation's energy infrastructure, and improve the reliability of the delivery of energy from its sources to points of use.

Executive Order 13212, issued by President George W. Bush on May 18, 2001, encourages increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner. It states that, for energy-related projects, agencies must expedite their review of permits or take other actions as necessary to accelerate completion to the extent permitted by law and regulations (66 FR 28357).

SCE proposes to construct, use, and maintain new and upgraded transmission facilities to deliver electricity from projected solar generation development in the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area. The proposed project involves several types of transmission upgrades including a new Ivanpah 220/115-kilovolt (kV) Substation, a new approximately 35-mile double-circuit 220-kV transmission line (T/L) between the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area and the existing Eldorado Substation, and a telecommunication system. These are described in more detail below:

- **New Ivanpah Substation:** SCE proposes to construct the new Ivanpah Substation in California near Primm, Nevada. The Ivanpah Substation would include 220-kV and 115-kV switchracks.
- **Transmission Line Replacement:** SCE proposes to build a new double-circuit 220-kV T/L approximately 35 miles long between the existing Eldorado Substation in Nevada and the proposed Ivanpah Substation, replacing the existing 115-kV T/L that runs from Eldorado through Baker, Coolwater, and Dunn Siding to Mountain Pass. West of the new Ivanpah Substation, the 115-kV T/L would remain unchanged.
- **Telecommunication System:** The proposed project also includes (1) replacement of an overhead ground wire (OHGW) with an optical ground wire (OPGW) on an approximately 30-mile section of the Eldorado-Lugo 500-kV T/L; (2) installation of approximately 20 miles of all dielectric self supporting fiber optic cable (ADSS) between Nipton and the Ivanpah Substation; (3) construction of an approximately 1-mile section of the Nipton 33-kV distribution line; and (4) changes inside the Eldorado Substation to accommodate the new 220-kV T/Ls.

The existing 115-kV single-circuit T/L would not provide the power transmission capacity necessary for projected solar generation development in the Ivanpah area. A new 220-kV double-circuit T/L would meet the necessary requirements and would be constructed within the existing 115-kV right-of-way (ROW) wherever feasible. The proposed 220-kV T/L would be constructed on double-circuit lattice-steel towers (LSTs) for most of the route. Where required, additional ROWs and single-circuit LST or tubular steel poles (TSPs) would be used to facilitate

crossing other T/Ls in the project area. The entire proposed project would span approximately 28 miles in Nevada and approximately 7 miles in California.

A portion of the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass 115-kV T/L would be removed and replaced with 220-kV double-circuit structures (the Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L) mostly within the existing ROW between the existing Eldorado Substation in Nevada and the proposed Ivanpah Substation in California. The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L route would begin at the existing Eldorado Substation. The line would exit the substation to the north and join the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass 115-kV T/L ROW. The line would head generally west on a 75-foot ROW and cross below five existing T/Ls (Eldorado-McCullough [500-kV], Mead-Victorville [287-kV], McCullough-Victorville 1 [500-kV], McCullough-Victorville 2 [500-kV], and Intermountain-Adelanto [500-kV Direct Current (DC) line]). The 75-foot ROW would be widened to 100 feet to accommodate 220-kV construction. At the crossing locations, a 250-foot ROW would be obtained for side-by-side single-circuit 220-kV H-frame structures (Figure 1).

At milepost (mp) 2.1 (tower 20), the line would make a sharp turn to the southwest and run along the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass 115-kV T/L 100-foot ROW for approximately 5 miles until it would turn due west and immediately cross below the Intermountain-Adelanto 500-kV DC line. At the crossing location, the 100-foot ROW would be widened to 250 feet for side-by-side single-circuit 220-kV H-frame structures. Given the congestion in this area, widening the ROW to 250 feet may prove difficult; therefore, additional survey information will be evaluated to determine the optimum crossing alignment. The existing line then runs west for approximately 3.6 miles (mp 10.7, tower 74) until it crosses below the existing Intermountain-Adelanto 500-kV DC line twice at very steep angles. At both crossing locations, there is not adequate space to fit the 250-foot ROW between the existing 500-kV structures for construction of the new line. Therefore, the new line would be routed north of the 500-kV line for approximately 0.4 miles, eliminating the need for both crossings.

The line would then parallel the Intermountain-Adelanto 500-kV DC line for approximately 0.9 miles before crossing below the 500-kV DC line again. Once again, the existing crossing occurs at a very steep angle without adequate space to widen the existing ROW to 250 feet for the side-by-side 220-kV H-frames. Therefore, the new line would be routed along the north side of the 500-kV DC line, turn 90 degrees to the south, cross below the 500-kV DC line, then turn 90 degrees to the west and rejoin the existing ROW.

The line would continue southwest for approximately 13.0 miles (mp 24.8, tower 170) before crossing over one existing 115-kV T/L and below the McCullough-Victorville 1 and McCullough-Victorville 2 500-kV T/Ls and the Mead-Victorville 287-kV T/L. At the crossing of the latter two lines, there is not adequate space to widen the existing ROW for the standard SCE side-by-side 220-kV H-frames. As required on the previous crossing, the new line would be routed along the north side of the McCullough-Victorville 2 500-kV T/L, then would turn 90 degrees to the south and cross below the Mead-Victorville 287-kV T/L, then turn 90 degrees to the west and rejoin the existing ROW. The line would continue on the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass 115-kV ROW for another 7.8 miles, terminating at the proposed Ivanpah Substation.

Purpose and Need for Project

The proposed project would provide the electrical facilities necessary to integrate new solar energy generation development in excess of 1,400 megawatts in the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area. The project is needed to interconnect and deliver energy from these renewable resources in a way that complies with all applicable North American Electric Reliability Council and Western Electric Coordinating Council reliability planning criteria.

C. Project Alternatives

The CPUC and the BLM have not yet identified the alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. Preliminary concepts for project alternatives include alternative routes for some transmission segments. Alternative transmission line configurations and designs will also be considered. The transmission line routing alternatives currently under consideration (in addition to the proposed Project) are discussed below. Routing alternatives are shown in Figure 1: Eldorado to Ivanpah Project Map.

Alternative A (Segment Parallel to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Line)

The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L Alternative A route would begin at the Eldorado Substation. The line would exit the substation to the north and join the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass ROW. The line would head generally west on a 75-foot ROW but would head north to cross three T/Ls (McCullough-Victorville 1 [500-kV], McCullough-Victorville 2 [500-kV], and Mead-Victorville [287-kV]) before heading west again. Prior to the line turning north again, there would be one more 500-kV T/L crossing (Marketplace-Adelanto [500-kV]). The Alternative A route would continue west for approximately 5 miles on a new ROW and then turn north and run for approximately 1,000 feet before crossing the Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kV T/L and joining the existing ROW.

Alternative B (North of Eldorado)

The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L Alternative B route would begin at the Eldorado Substation. The line would exit the substation to the north and parallel the Eldorado-Mead 220-kV T/L on the existing ROW for approximately 2.5 miles before turning southwest. It would then continue for approximately 2.8 miles and join the existing Eldorado-Baker-Coolwater-Dunn Siding-Mountain Pass 115-kV T/L ROW at mp 2, tower 20. To reach this point, there are approximately 10 utility T/L crossings that would need to be made. Several of these overhead utility lines would likely have to be modified or relocated to accommodate passage of the Alternative B T/L. The rest of the route for Alternative B is the same as for the proposed project.

Alternative C (North Dry Lakes Reroute)

The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L Alternative C route would begin at the Eldorado Substation and follow the proposed route to the point where the line would reach the northeastern edge of the dry Ivanpah Lake bed (mp 27, tower 185). The line would then run west and southwest on a new ROW around Ivanpah Lake for approximately 5.3 miles before rejoining the existing ROW at mp 32, tower 218.

Alternative D (South Dry Lakes Reroute)

The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L Alternative D route would begin at the Eldorado Substation and follow the proposed route to the point where the line would reach the northeastern edge of the dry Ivanpah Lake bed (mp 27, tower 184). The Alternative D line would be routed west and southwest on a new ROW around Ivanpah Lake for approximately 3.3 miles before rejoining the existing ROW at mp 30, tower 203. The line would parallel the Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kV T/L where that T/L crosses through the dry lake.

Alternative E (South Ivanpah Dry Lake Bypass Reroute)

The Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L Alternative E route would leave the proposed route at approximately MP 27 and proceeds southerly for approximately 1 mile on new 130 foot ROW before intercepting Alternative D at approximately Milepost 1. The route bypasses Ivanpah Dry Lake completely.

No Action/No Project Alternative

Under the No Action/No Project Alternative, the T/L would not be constructed and no expansion activities would occur.

Additional Alternate Routing

Additional alternatives may be evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS based on input from agencies and the public and additional independent analysis by the CPUC and the BLM. Feasibility is a consideration in identifying alternatives for further analysis in the EIR/EIS.

Telecommunication Paths

The proposed project would require new telecommunication infrastructure to provide protective relay circuit, SCADA circuit, and telephone services to the proposed Ivanpah Substation. The new infrastructure would include two fully diverse and redundant communication paths to support both (1) a special protection system that would trigger SCE's Eldorado-Ivanpah 220-kV T/L relay system in the event of unforeseen power outages and (2) an operating and monitoring system for the substation and transmission line equipment. The paths would connect the existing Eldorado Substation to the proposed Ivanpah Substation.

The first telecommunication path (Path 1) would include placement of approximately 35 miles of new optical ground wire along the proposed project's 220-kV T/L from the Eldorado Substation to the proposed Ivanpah Substation. The second telecommunication path (Path 2) would replace approximately 25 miles of existing overhead ground wire with optical ground wire along SCE's nearby Eldorado-Lugo 500-kV T/L, install approximately 5 miles of underground fiber optic cable to the town of Nipton, and then continue on to the Ivanpah Substation via a microwave path or one of two optional routes that would follow the existing Nipton 33-kV distribution line.

D. The EIR/EIS Process¹

CEQA requires the CPUC to evaluate the environmental impacts that could result from a proposed project. Based on potential impacts identified in SCE's PEA, the CPUC determined that preparation of an EIR is required for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project pursuant to CEQA. In addition, as indicated in the Section B "Summary of the Project," the proposed 220-kV T/L would traverse public land administered by the BLM. Thus, SCE would need ROW authorization and special use permits from the BLM, which require the BLM to prepare an EIS pursuant to NEPA requirements as part of the review process for permit issuance. Therefore, a joint EIR/EIS will be prepared under the direction of both the state and the federal lead agencies to satisfy permitting and decision-making requirements.

CEQA and NEPA also require that the EIR/EIS development process include public notice of the proposed project and address important issues that the public may have. The Draft EIR/EIS will include an objective analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives and, when completed, will be distributed for a 45-day public review period. A notice of availability of the Draft EIR/EIS will be sent to the State Clearinghouse by the CPUC and published in the Federal Register by the BLM. The CPUC and the BLM will consider all comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS during the public review period and will revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIR/EIS. The Final EIR/EIS will include responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS.

E. Proposed Scope of the EIR/EIS

The EIR/EIS will present the analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, and will identify mitigation measures for substantial impacts. The EIR/EIS will address the important environmental issues identified during the scoping process or otherwise determined by the lead agencies. Attachment 1 includes a list of potential issues and impacts to the existing environment. Determinations of the importance of these potential impacts will be made in the environmental analysis conducted in the EIR/EIS after thorough consideration.

The EIR/EIS will also evaluate the cumulative impacts of the proposed project in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

Mitigation Measures

As part of its application for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project, SCE has proposed measures that could reduce or eliminate potential impacts. The effectiveness of these measures (called "applicant-proposed measures") will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS, and additional measures ("mitigation measures") will be developed as part of the analysis to further reduce impacts, if required. If the CPUC and the BLM both decide to approve the proposed project, they will identify the mitigation measures to be adopted as conditions of approval and will require monitoring the implementation of those measures.

¹ The CPUC's permitting review involves two concurrent processes: (1) an environmental review pursuant to CEQA and the Public Resources Code, and (2) a formal CPUC proceeding assessing the project's need and cost pursuant to Public Utilities Code 1001 *et. seq.*, and CPUC's General Order 131-D. Inquiries and comments on the formal proceeding should be directed to the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

F. Project Scoping Process and Scoping Meetings

The process of determining the focus and content of the EIR/EIS is known as scoping. Scoping helps to identify the range of important issues, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS, and eliminates from detailed study those issues that are not substantial or not relevant to the environmental analysis. Scoping is also an effective way to bring together and address the concerns of the public, affected agencies, and other interested parties. Important issues may be identified through public and agency comments received during the scoping process. Scoping is not conducted to resolve issues or determine the merits of the proposed project, but to help ensure that a comprehensive and focused EIR/EIS will be prepared that helps provide a firm basis for the decision-making process. Members of the public; affected federal, state, and local agencies; the project proponent; interest groups; and other interested parties may participate in the scoping process by providing written and verbal comments regarding issues to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS.

Comments may be given by attending the scheduled scoping meetings listed below and/or by sending written comments as indicated below.

Public Scoping Meetings. The CPUC and the BLM will conduct two public scoping meetings, as noted in Table 1. At these meetings, the CPUC and the BLM will present information on the proposed project and the decision-making processes, and will listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS.

Table 1. Public Scoping Meetings

Date, Time	Location, Phone Number
July 28, 2009, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Primm Valley Golf Club 31900 Las Vegas Blvd. South Primm, NV 89019 (702) 874-6753
July 29, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	South Point Hotel 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas NV, 89183 (702) 796-7111

The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible; however, other accommodations for disabilities (such as sign language interpreters) must be requested by calling (562) 947-5259. Attendees requiring language interpretation services must also call the EIR/EIS public involvement manager at (415) 981-2811, extension 4710.

Written Comments. Send written comments by August 23, 2009 to:

Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Email. Email communications must include the sender's name and return address and should be sent to ivanpah@ene.com.

Fax. Comment letters must include name and return address and may be faxed to (415) 981-0801.

A **Scoping Report** will be prepared, summarizing all comments received (including oral comments made at the scoping meetings). This report will be posted on the project website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>. In addition, a limited number of copies will be available through the CPUC upon request.

Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping

1. **Review the description of the project** (see Section B of this document and the map provided) and **summary of potential impacts** (Attachment 1). The project website (above) gives additional information and allows viewing of SCE's application and supporting information.
2. **Attend a scoping meeting** to get more information on the project and the environmental review process (see Table 1 for dates and times).
3. **Submit written comments** or attend the scoping meetings and make oral comments. Explain important issues that the EIR/EIS should cover (see Attachment 1 for examples). A comment form is included in this package to facilitate preparation and submittal of written comments.
4. **Suggest mitigation measures** that could reduce the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.
5. **Suggest alternatives** to SCE's proposed project that could avoid or reduce impacts.

G. Agency Comments

This NOP has been sent to responsible state and trustee agencies, affected local and federal agencies, the State Clearinghouse, and the Federal Register. The purpose is to solicit each agency's views, as related to their statutory responsibilities, on the scope and content of the environmental information to be used in the EIR/EIS. Again, responses should identify the issues to be considered in the Draft EIR/EIS, including substantial environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures. Responses should also indicate whether they are from a responsible state agency, a cooperating federal agency, or a state trustee agency. In accordance with timeframes set forth in CEQA and NEPA, responses must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to:

Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

H. Available Information

This NOP, the NOI, and all future project-related documents are available for review at local agency offices and public libraries near the proposed route. Refer to the table below for the locations of the document repository sites.

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

Internet Website: Information about this application and the environmental review process will be posted on the EITP website (see address below). This website will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming public meetings.

SCE's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) is also available for review in electronic format at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>. The PEA includes a detailed description of the proposed project and evaluates potential impacts of the project from SCE's perspective.

Project Information Hotline: Project information may be requested by leaving a voice message or sending a fax to (877) 478-4686.

CPUC and BLM hereby issue this Notice of Preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement.

Attachment 1. Summary of Potential Impacts for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

A thorough and detailed analysis of impacts will be completed for the EIR/EIS. This overview is presented to assist the public and agencies in presenting scoping comments.

Potential Environmental Issues or Impacts

Aesthetics/Visual Resources

- Permanent impacts may result related to visual contrast, alterations in existing scenic integrity, blocked or partially blocked views, and the introduction of industrial-like facilities and new sources of light and glare due to the placement of towers, new or expanded substations, and new access and spur roads in all project segments, including scenic vistas and other designated scenic resources.
- Construction-related activities would result in the temporary degradation of existing visual character and quality in all project segments, including scenic vistas and other designated scenic resources.
- There may be potential conflicts with federal, state, and local plans; regulations; or standards applicable to the protection of visual resources.

Agricultural Resources

- The project would potentially impact Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and lands under Williamson Act Contracts.

Air Quality

- Construction impacts would occur when heavy equipment, support vehicles, and other machinery with internal combustion engines create fugitive dust and/or generate exhaust containing carbon monoxide (CO), reactive organic compounds (ROC), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and particulate matter (PM₁₀).
- Impacts would result from fugitive dust generated from ground clearing, grading, vehicle traffic on the access roads, and vehicle traffic at the construction sites.
- There would be potential ongoing impacts from emissions and fugitive dust produced during operation and maintenance of the proposed transmission line.
- There would be potential temporary and long-term localized impacts from toxic air contaminants including diesel particulate matter.

Biological Resources

- Construction activities and project facilities would result in temporary and permanent loss of native wildlife and habitat.
- Loss of habitat could occur for sensitive species designated by state and federal resource agencies.
- Construction and operation of the project could disturb wildlife and cause changes in wildlife behavior.
- Construction activities may conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Cultural & Paleontological Resources

- Construction of new towers and access roads could damage or destroy historic and archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, or areas containing paleontological resources.
- Temporary use of staging areas and conductor pull sites could damage or destroy historic and archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, or areas containing paleontological resources.

Geology and Soils

- Soil erosion on low fill slopes and steeply graded areas could result in sedimentation of water bodies.
- Ground surface rupture could occur where the proposed transmission line would cross active fault lines.
- Landslides, mudslides, or other related ground failures from seismic activity could occur and damage facilities, particularly where the proposed transmission line would cross active fault lines.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Temporary relocation of residents along parts of the project might be required where helicopter construction is required (FAA safety regulations for helicopter flight paths).
- Improper storage or handling of hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes during project construction, operations, or maintenance could present hazards to construction workers or the public.
- Leaking or spilling of petroleum or hydraulic fluids from construction equipment or other vehicles during project construction, operation, or maintenance could contaminate soils, surface waters, or groundwater.
- Inadvertent uncovering of hazardous materials during excavation activities could cause toxic releases to the environment.

Fire Prevention and Suppression

- Wildfires could be caused by construction or operation of the transmission lines.
- Project facilities and activities could interfere with wildfire suppression.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Increased surface water runoff, erosion, siltation, and sedimentation could diminish water quality.
- Water quality of streams or washes could be diminished from violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Land Use

- Possible conflicts with applicable local agency land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.
- Construction would temporarily disturb the land uses it traverses or adjacent land uses.
- Operation would result in permanent preclusion of, or substantial conflict with, land uses it traverses, or adjacent land uses.

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CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Scoping Comments Form

Proposed Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); insert additional sheets if needed. Comments may also be submitted to the Project hotline at (877) 478-4686 or emailed to ivanpah@ene.com. Comments must be postmarked by August 23, 2009.

Place
Postage
Here

**Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111**

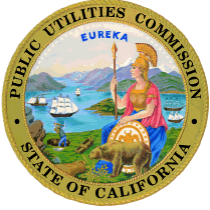
Figure 1.

Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project Map

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***Appendix C
Notice of Public Scoping Meetings
and Mailing List***

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Eldorado-Ivanpah 220kV Transmission Project Joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping Meeting

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) invite you to participate in the public scoping process for the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project.

The BLM and the CPUC are preparing an EIS/EIR to evaluate potential impacts associated with the Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project, which would be located between the existing Eldorado Substation in Boulder City, Nevada and the proposed new Ivanpah Substation in California, near Primm Nevada. As proposed, the project would construct a new substation, a new double circuit 220kV transmission line, a new portion of an existing 115kV subtransmission line, an extension of an existing 33kV distribution line, and a new dedicated telecommunication system to support the project.

The BLM and the CPUC will host three scoping meetings to provide the opportunity for the public to learn about the project and to share any concerns or comments they may have. Additionally, the public may submit information and identify issues to be addressed during the EIS/EIR process. The scoping meetings are scheduled on the following dates at the following locations.

- July XX at South Point Hotel Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89183
- July XX at Primm Conference Center, 31900 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Primm, NV 89019
- July XX at Primm Valley Golf Club, 1 Yates Well Road Nipton, CA 92364

The meetings will include an open house session and a presentation and comment session to allow the public to visit with BLM and CPUC representatives to learn about the project and provide comments. Written comments may be submitted to the address below, faxed to (415)-981-0801 or emailed to Ivanpah@ene.com

Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Attention Christine McCollum
130 Battery St. Ste. 130
San Francisco, CA 94111

The BLM and CPUC encourage your participation in this scoping process. Please contact Christine McCollum at (415)-981-2811 to request additional information regarding the scoping meetings.

Eldorado - Ivanpah Mailing List: Agencies

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Address 1	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	Email	
			Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 803	Washington	DC	20004	(202) 606-8503		
Richard Cin	Begay Greyraven		Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Audubon Society	650 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite D P. O. Box 88	Palm Springs Forest Falls	CA	92262 92339			
Melissa Brok Mark	Galbraith Brito Armantrout Chandler	Realty Specialist	Barrick Gold of North America, Inc. Boulder City Community Development Bureau of Land Management	136 E South Temple 401 California Ave. 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive	Salt Lake City Boulder City Las Vegas	UT NV NV	84111 89005 89130		Mbrito@barrick.com mchandle@nv.blm.gov	
Tom Raymond Duane George	Hurshman Lee Marti Meckfessel	Project Manager Field Manager Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Land Management	2465 South Townsend Ave. 1303 South U.S. Highway 95 2800 Cottage Way STE W1834 1303 S. Hwy 95	Montrose Needles Sacramento Needles	CO CA CA CA	81401 92363 95825 92363		970-240-5345 760.326.7008	tom_hurshman@blm.gov
Richard	Reisinger	LEADER	Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad CA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION CA Environmental Protection Agency Cal OSHA	740 E. Carnegie Dr 3321 POWER INN ROAD SUITE 210 PO Box 4025 242 E. Airport Dr., Suite 103	San Bernardino SACRAMENTO Sacramento San Bernardino	CA CA CA CA	92408 95826 95812 92408			
Mike Becky Denyse	Tollstrop Jones Racine	Project Assessment Branch Environmental Scientist Senior Environmental Scientist	California Air Resources Board California Department of Fish & Game California Department of Fish & Game	1001 I Street 36431 41st Street East 407 West Line Street	Sacramento Palmdale Bishop	CA CA CA	95814 93552 93514	909.987.7764 661.285.5867	dfqpalm@adelphia.net	
Dan	Kopulsky		California Department of Fish & Game California Department of Transportation California Dept. of Health Services California Dept. of Toxic Subst. Control California Dept. of Transportation	3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220 464 W. 4th St., 6th Floor 714 D Street, #1253 5796 Corporate Avenue 464 W. 4th St., 6th Floor	Ontario San Bernardino Sacramento Cypress San Bernardino	CA CA CA CA CA	91764 92401 95814 90630 92401	909-937-7161		
CEQA/IGR Coordinator Mark Vice Chairman James Commissioner Jeffrey John Paul Elena Dick	Stuart Boyd Byron Kessler Kramer Miller Ratliff	Chief	California Dept. of Water Resources California Energy Commission California Energy Commission California Energy Commission California Energy Commission California Energy Commission California Energy Commission California Energy Market	770 Fairmont Ave. 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 1516 Ninth Street 425 Divisadero St, Suite 303	Glendale Sacramento Sacramento Sacramento Sacramento Sacramento San Francisco	CA CA CA CA CA CA CA CA	91203 95814 95814 95814 95814 95814 95814 94117	909.383.6799	marks@water.ca.gov	
Linda	Scanlon Brecher	ACCTING SECT, HM LICENSING PROG	CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL	P.O. BOX 942902	SACRAMENTO	CA	94298	818.500.1645 510-622-2145	mavis@newsdata.com	
David	Singleton	Program Analyst	California Native American Heritage Commission	915 Capitol Mall, Room 364	Sacramento	CA	95814		ds_nahc@pacbell.net	
Milford Monisha Jason	Donaldson Gangopadhyay Reiger	Project Manager Legal Colorado River Region Lahontan Region	California Office of Historic Preservation California Public Utilities Commission California Public Utilities Commission California Regional Water Quality Control Board California Regional Water Quality Control Board	1416 9th Street RM 1442-7 770 L Street, Suite 1050 505 Van Ness Avenue, Rm. 5035 P.O. Box 100 15428 Civic Dr., Suite 100	Sacramento Sacramento San Francisco Sacramento Victorville	CA CA CA CA CA CA	95814 95814 94102 95812 92392			
Sandy	Goldberg	Deputy Attorney General	California State Attorney General's Office California State Clearinghouse	1515 Clay street, 20th Fl P. O. Box 3044 (US Mail only)	Oakland Sacramento	CA CA	94612 95812	916.341.5300	sandra.goldberg@doj.ca.gov	
David Lisa	Bryrd Belenky	State Historian II	California State Historic Preservation Office Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco Office	1416 9th Street, Room 1442 351 California St, # 600	Sacramento San Francisco	CA CA	95814 94104		dbvrd@parks.ca.gov lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org	
Cara Charles Susan Steve Robert Dionicio Susan Virginia	McDonald Wood Bragger Sisolak Tweedy Gordillo Wainscott Valentine	Clark County Commissioner Clark County Commissioner CountyManager/CEO	Chemehuevi Reservation Chemehuevi Reservation Clark County Commission Clark County Commission Clark County Department of Aviation Clark County Department of Planning Clark County Desert Conservation Program Clark County Manager Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board	P.O. Box 1976 P.O. Box 1976 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. 5757 Wayne Newton Blvd. P.O. Box 551744 333 N. Rancho #635 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100	Havasu Lake Havasu Lake Las Vegas Las Vegas Las Vegas Las Vegas Las Vegas Las Vegas Palm Desert	CA CA NV NV NV NV NV NV CA	92363 92363 89155 89155 89119 89005 89106 89155 92260	702.261.5211 702.455.4314	sbrager@co.clark.nv.us ccdista@co.clark.nv.us	
Daniel Mike Brenda	Eddy Tsosie Williams	Public Information Coordinator	Colorado River Indian Tribes Colorado River Indian Tribes Department of Air Quality Management	Route 1, Box 23-B Route 1 Box 23-B 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.	Parker Parker Las Vegas	AZ AZ NV	85344 85344 89155	702.261.5746		
Guether	Moskat	PLANNING & ENV ANALYSIS SECTION	DEPT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL	P.O. BOX 806 MS 22-2	SACRAMENTO	CA	95812			

Eldorado - Ivanpah Mailing List: Agencies

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Address 1	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	Email
Ann	Mc Pherson		Edison International	287 Tennessee Street	Redlands	CA	92373	909.396.2000	
Karen	McDonald		ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OFFICE	75 HAWTHORNE STREET	SAN FRANCISCO	CA	94105	702-293-9282	
David (AWP-610.1)	Kessler		FAA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFC AJR-32	2601 MEACHAM BLVD	FORT WORTH	TX	76137		
AWP-530			FAA Western Pacific Region, Airports Division	P.O. Box 92007	Los Angeles	CA	90009		
Attn: CHIEF			Federal Aviation Administration	Box 92007	Los Angeles	CA	90009		
Timothy	Williams		Federal Highway Administration	980 Ninth Street, Suite 400	Sacramento	CA	95814		
Linda	Otero		Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	500 Merriman Avenue	Needles	CA	92363		
			Fort Mojave Indian Tribe AhaMakav Cultural Society	P.O. Box 5990	Mojave Valley	AZ	86440		
Luke	Jackson		Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Environmental Division	500 Merriman Avenue	Needles	CA	92363		
			Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District	1609 S. Grove Avenue, Ste. 103	Ontario	CA	91761		
Robert	Robinson		Kern Valley Indian Council	P.O. Box 401	Weldon	CA	93283		
Benny	Tso		Las Vegas paiute Tribe	One Paiute Drive	Las Vegas	NV	89106		
			Metropolitan Water District	700 N. Alameda Street	Los Angeles	CA	90012		
Philbert	Swain		Moapa Band of Paiutes	P.O. Box 340	Moapa	NV	89025		
Chris	Collins	Compliance Supervisor	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	14306 Park Avenue	Victorville	CA	92392		ccollins@mdaqmd.ca.gov
			Mojave Water Agency	P. O. Box 1089	Apple Valley	CA	92307		
Mike Tsosie	Contreras		Morongo Band of Mission Indians	13000 Fields Road	Banning	CA	92220		
Robert	Martin		Morongo Band of Mission Indians	11581 Potrero Road	Banning	CA	92220		
Larry	Whalon	Deputy Superintendent	National Park Service	2701 Barstow Road	Barstow	CA	92311	760.252.6109	larry_whalon@nps.gov
Michael	Bartley	Installation Commander	Nellis Air Force Base	4430 Grissom Avenue, Suite 110	Nellis AFB	NV	89191		
Cynthia	Keller	Deputy to Chief Cox	Nevada Dept. of Corrections	3955 W. Russell Road	Las Vegas	NV	89118		ckeller@doc.nv.gov
Karen	Howard	Division Assistant to NDEP Chief	Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection	901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001	Carson City	NV	89710		khoward@ndep.nv.gov
		Storm Water Coordinator	Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection	901 South Stewart Streets, Suite 4001	Carson City	NV	89701		
Mary	Martini	District Engineer	Nevada Dept. of Transportation	123 E. Washington Ave.	Las Vegas	NV	89101		mmartini@dot.state.nv.us
Brad	Hardenbrook	Habitat Bureau Lead	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife	4747 Vegas Drive	Las Vegas	NV	89108		bhrdnbrk@ndow.org
Michael	Richardson		Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	2030 East Flamingo Rd. Ste. 230	Las Vegas	NV	89119		
			Nevada Division of Forestry	4747 West Vegas Drive	Las Vegas	NV	89108		
Pamela	Wilcox	Administrator	Nevada Division of State Lands	901 S. Stewart Street, Ste. 5003	Carson City	NV	89701		pwilcox@lands.nv.gov
Mark	Harris		Nevada Public Utilities Commission	101 Convention Center Dr. Ste. 250	Las Vegas	NV	89109		
			Nevada State Clearinghouse	209 E. Musser Street, Room 200	Carson City	NV	89701	801-419-3115	
			Nevada State Historic Preservation Office	101 N Stewart St.	Carson City	NV	89701	702.486.9912	
Andrea	Anderson	City Council Member	NV - Boulder City	401 California Ave.	Boulder City	NV	89005	(702) 261-5522	
Travis	Chandler	City Council Member	NV - Boulder City	401 California Ave.	Boulder City	NV	89005	702-261-5709	
Mike	Pacini	Mayor Pro-Tem	NV - Boulder City	401 California Ave.	Boulder City	NV	89005	702-261-5750	
Linda	Strickland	City Council Member	NV - Boulder City	401 California Ave.	Boulder City	NV	89005	702-261-5180	
Roger	Tobler	Mayor	NV - Boulder City	401 California Ave.	Boulder City	NV	89005	702.261.5211	
Susan	Peterson		NV DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	1263 S. STEWART ST ROOM 102	CARSON CITY	CA	89712		
Moustafa	Abou-Taleb		OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	3650 SCHRIEVER AVE	MATHER	CA	95655		
Cynthia	Oshita		OFFICE OF ENVIRON HEALTH & HAZ ASSES	1001 I STREET	SACRAMENTO	CA	95814		
Doug	Crawford	PLANNING/ENGINEER SUPERVISOR	OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL	620 SOUTH E" STREET"	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Richard	Arnold		Pahrump Paiute Tribe	P.O. Box 3411	Pahrump	NV	89041		
Russ	Blewett	Commissioner, 1st District	Planning Commission	385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Fl	San Bernardino	CA	92415	415-903-4439	
			Public Utilities Commission of Nevada	101 Convention Center Drive, Ste. 250	Las Vegas	NV	89109	775.687.9350	
			San Bernardino Associated Governments	1170 West Third Street, 2nd Floor	San Bernardino	CA	92410		
Eric	Ender	APPRAISER III	SAN BERNARDINO CO ASSESSOR'S OFFICE	172 WEST 3RD STREET	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Eric	Frykman	HEALTH OFFICER	SAN BERNARDINO CO DEPT OF PUB HLTH	351 N MT VIEW AVENUE	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Tim	Wessel	CAPTAIN NORTH DESERT DIV	SAN BERNARDINO CO FIRE DEPT	17288 OLIVE STREET	HESPERIA	CA	92345		
Carrie	Hull	HAZMAT DIV CUPA PROGRAM	SAN BERNARDINO CO FIRE DPT HAZMAT DIV	620 SOUTH E" STREET"	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Joe	Trujillo	COUNTY ENGINEER	SAN BERNARDINO CO LUSD	385 N ARROWHEAD AVENUE	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Jim	Squire	SUPERVISING PLANNER	SAN BERNARDINO CO SAFETY SERVICES	385 N ARROWHEAD AVENUE 2ND FL	SAN BERNARDINO	CA	92415		
Doug	Hubbard	ADMINISTRATIVE SERGEANT	SAN BERNARDINO CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	225 EAST MT VIEW	BARSTOW	CA	92311		
Carrie	Hyke	Supervising Planner	San Bernardino County	385 N. Arrowhead Avenue	San Bernardino	CA	92415	909-387-4141	
Ann	Brierty		San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	101 Pure Water Lane	Highland	CA	92346		
James	Ramos		San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	26569 Community Center Drive	Highland	CA	92346		
Goldie	Walker		Serrano Band of Indians	6588 Valeria Drive	Highland	CA	92346		
Robert	Saldado		Soboba Band of Mission Indians	P.O Box 487	San Jacinto	CA	92581		
Peter	Wulfman		Solid Waste - Div Manager	222 W Hospitality Ln Fl 2	San Bernardino	CA	92415		
Steve	Smith		South Coast Air Quality Management District	21865 Copley Drive	Diamond Bar	CA	91765		

Eldorado - Ivanpah Mailing List: Agencies

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Address 1	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	Email
Attn: Storm Water Permit Unit			State Water Resources Control Board	P.O. Box 1977	Sacramento	CA	95812	530.542.5435	
Division of Water Rights			State Water Resources Control Board	P.O. Box 2000	Sacramento	CA	95812	916.657.0687	
David	Laughing Horse robinson		Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, First District The Kawaiisu Tribe	9329 Mariposa Road, Suite 205 P.O. Box 20849	Hesperia Bakersfield	CA	92344 93390		
Barbara Joseph Jackie	Durham Kennedy Brady		Timbisha Shoshone Timbisha Shoshone Town of Laughlin, Manager's Office Tri-County Conservation League	900 Indian Village Road., P.O. Box 206 785 N. Main Street, Suite Q 101 civic Way. P. O. Box 51127	Death Valley Bishop Laughlin Riverside	CA	92328 93514 89029 92517		
Mike Shannon	Darrell Pankratz	SBO Co. Projects	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians U. S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Dept. of the Interior United States Air Force	46-200 Harrison Street P.O. Box 532711 2800 Cottage Way Edwards AFB	Coachella Los Angeles Sacramento	CA	92236 90053 95825 93523	213-452-3412	shannon.pankratz@us.army.mil
Environmental Coordinator									
Michael Nancy	Burroughs Ferguson	Lead Tortoise Biologist San Bernardino Div. Chief	United States Fish and Wildlife Service United States Fish and Wildlife Service	4701 North Torrey Pines Drive 6010 Hidden Valley Road	Las Vegas Carlsbad	NV CA	89130 92011	702.515.5230 760.431.9440 ext. 244	michael_burroghs@fws.gov nancy_ferguson@fws.gov
			United States Fish and Wildlife Service United States Fish and Wildlife Service US EPA -Air Div-Permits Office USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services	2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606 2493 Portola Road, Suite B 75 HAWTHORNE STREET 17330 Bear Valley Road	Sacramento Ventura San Francisco Victorville	CA	95825 93003 94105 92392	805-644-1766	
Jessie	Stegmeier	BLM Biologist	Bureau of Land Management	4701 North Torrey Pines Drive	Las Vegas	NV	89130		

Eldorado - Ivanpah Mailing List: Organizations

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip
Cin	Greyraven	Audubon Society	P. O. Box 88	Forest Falls	CA	92339
Melissa	Galbraith Brito	Barrick Gold of North America, Inc.	136 E South Temple	Salt Lake City	UT	84111
Laura	Cunningham	Basin and Range Watch	P.O. Box 70	Beatty	NV	89003
Kevin	Emmerich	Basin and Range Watch	P.O. Box 70	Beatty	NV	89003
Ileen	Anderson	California Native Plant Society	2733 Cordwell Place	Los Angeles	CA	90046
Jim	Andre	California Native Plant Society	2708 K Street, Suite	Sacramento	CA	95816
Katie	Barrows	California Native Plant Society	53298 Avenida Montezuma	La Quinta	CA	92253
Tara	Hansen	California Native Plant Society	2707 K Street, Suite	Sacramento	CA	95816
Greg	Suba	California Native Plant Society	2707 K Street, Suite	Sacramento	CA	95816
Tanya	Gulesserian	California Unions for Reliable Energy	601 Gateway Boulevard, Ste 1000	South San Francisco	CA	94080
Marc	Joseph	California Unions for Reliable Energy	601 Gateway Boulevard, Ste 1000	South San Francisco	CA	94080
Lisa	Belenky	Center for Biological Diversity	351 California Street, Ste 600	San Francisco	CA	94104
John	Carrier	Ch2m	2485 Natomas Park Dr. #600	Sacramento	CA	95833
Susan	Brager	Clark County Commission	500 Grand Central Parkway	Las Vegas	NV	89106
D'Anne	Albers	Defenders of Wildlife	POBox 953	Joshua Tree	CA	92252
Joshua	Basofin	Defenders of Wildlife	1303 J Street, Ste. 270	Sacramento	CA	95814
		Desert Studies Consortium	800 N. State College Blvd	Fullerton	CA	92634
		Desert Tortoise Council	P. O. Box 3273	Beaumont	CA	92223
Jeffrey	Harris	Ellison, Schneider & Harris L.L.P.	2600 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 400	Sacramento	CA	95816
		Endangered Habitats League	8424-A Santa Monica Blvd., #592	Los Angeles	CA	90069
Nancy	Pearlman	Environmental Directions	P.O. Box 351419	Los Angeles	CA	90035
		Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	500 Merriman Street	Needles	CA	92363
Ileene	Anderson	Public Lands Desert Director	351 California Street, Ste 600	San Francisco	CA	94104
Sidney	Silliman	Sierra Club	85 Second Street, 2nd Fl.	San Francisco	CA	94105
Sid	Silliman	Sierra Club	1225 Advara Way	Upland	CA	91784
Gloria	Smith	Sierra Club	85 Second Street, 2nd Fl.	San Francisco	CA	94105
Joanne	Spalding	Sierra Club	85 Second Street, 2nd Fl.	San Francisco	CA	94105
Judy	Anderson	Sierra Club – Desert Committee	4134 Oceanview Blvd	Montrose	CA	91020
Peter	Kiriakos	Sierra Club – San Gorgonio Chapter	29421 Sunharbor Court	Lake Elsinore	CA	92530
		Sierra Club – San Gorgonio Chapter	4079 Mission Inn Ave.	Riverside	CA	92501
George	Kerr	Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep	2802 Ayeixida	Riverside	CA	92507
		Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep	PO Box 94182	Simi Valley	CA	93065
John	Woolard	Solar Partners, LLC	1999 Harrison Street, Suite # 500	Oakland	CA	94612
Inland Empire Region		Southern CA Gas Co	1981 West Lugonia Avenue	Redlands	CA	92373
		Southern Pacific Trans. Co	13181 Crossroads Pkwy. N., Ste 500	City of Industry	CA	91746
Lekona	Klippstein	Spirit of the Sage Council	30 N. Raymond Ave., Suite 302	Pasadena	CA	91103
		Tri-County Conservation League	P. O. Box 51127	Riverside	CA	92517
Michael	Connor	Western Watersheds Project	P.O. Box 2364	Reseda	CA	91337-2364
Alice	Bond	Wilderness Society	655 Montgomery St., Ste 1000	San Francisco	Ca	94111
Alex	Daue	Wilderness Society	1660 Wynkoop St. Suite 850	Denever	CO	80202
Steve	De Young		1999 Harrison Street, Suite # 500	Oakland	CA	94612
Richard	Edwards		233 S. Rancho Ave.	Colton	CA	92345
Todd	Stewart		1999 Harrison Street, Suite # 500	Oakland	CA	94612
Amanda	Beck	First Solar	31023 Huntwood Ave.	Hayward	CA	94544

Eldorado - Ivanpah Mailing List: 300 feet

First Name	Last Name	Address 1	City	State	Zip Code
CLAUDIA	Alcaino	441 CLOVERLEAF WAY	MONROVIA	CA	91016
WILLIAM H & DENNIS W ETAL	Benson	HC R 1 BOX 364	NIPTON	CA	92364
DANNA	Blad	7057 WESTPARK CT	LAS VEGAS	NV	89147
GERALD	Freeman	176 BUENA CT	HENDERSON	NV	89074
SANKHIRO	Gabriel	16818 W TONBRIDGE ST	SURPRISE	AZ	85374
GEORGE E	Goshen	1728 DESERT FORT ST	LAS VEGAS	NV	89128
SHERMA	Hartzke	229 W 7TH ST	PITTSBURG	CA	94565
CAROLYN	Kaminski	15 SEYMORE CRES	ST ALBERT AB T8N OK8		
PEDRO & NORMA	Luna	2368 ANZA AVE E	TORRANCE	CA	90505
RAYMOND	Martin	42925 15TH ST W 6	LANCASTER	CA	93534
DENNIS	McBride	HC 1 BOX 227	MOUNTAIN PASS	CA	92366
PAUL K & NORMA J	Miller	4334 STERN AVE 21	SHERMAN OAKS	CA	91423
JAY	Moon	21515 HALSTEAD RD	HINKLEY	CA	92347
THOMAS T & IRENE A	Nguyen	4312 STEWART AVE A	LAS VEGAS	NV	89110
RONNIE	Phelps	1117 CANTARA ST	COLTON	CA	92324
SUSAN	Russell	2479 EL PASEO CIR	LAS VEGAS	NV	89121
ANTONIO	Salas	PO BOX 19487	JEAN	NV	89019
DEBORAH	Sampson	4443 ROARK AVE	SLOAN	NV	89054
HENRY	Smith	PO BOX 221	MOUNTAIN PASS	CA	92366
DOYLE & ELIZABETH L	Taylor	PO BOX 194	MOUNTAIN PASS	CA	92366
JOANNE	Wright	5914 ALPACA TRL	BELLVUE	CO	80512-5677
JANE E	Yeager	P O BOX 61	SEARCHLIGHT	NV	89046-0061
JULIAN	Zuniga	PO BOX 221	MOUNTAIN PASS	CA	92366
JULIAN & PAMELA	Zuniga	72 WHEATON SPRING RD	MOUNTAIN PASS	CA	92366
BAKER VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT		P.O. BOX 460	BAKER	CA	92309
BENSON,WILLIAM H & DENNIS W ETAL		HC R 1 BOX 364	NIPTON	CA	92364
CITY OF BOULDER CITY		P O BOX 61350	BOULDER CITY	NV	89006-1350
ELLENBURG,JOHN 1990 TRUST		PO BOX 95704	LAS VEGAS	NV	89193
FM,ARABEL TRUST		PO BOX 138	LUNA	NM	87824
FRIAS PHYLLIS M MANAGEMENT TRUST		3930 W FRIAS AVE	LAS VEGAS	NV	89141
INTERMOUNTAIN POWER AGENCY		P O BOX 51111 RM 1031	LOS ANGELES	CA	90051-5700
JOHNSON,TERRY C & CHIYO TR TRUST		4830 SPANISH WELLS DR	NORTH LAS VEGAS	NV	89031
LUNA,PEDRO JR & NORMA L		2368 ANZA AVE E	TORRANCE	CA	90505
MOLYCORP INC		PO BOX 1392	BAKERSFIELD	CA	93302
MORGAN,C E FAMILY TRUST 1-3-92		1028 NEIL ARMSTRONG CIR	LAS VEGAS	NV	89145
MORRIS COMMUNICATIONS CORP		PO BOX 936	AUGUSTA	GA	30903
PRIMM 650 L P		5420 KIETZKE LN #108	RENO	NV	89511-2063
PRIMM SOUTH CORP		10277 HWY 31	BARSTOW	CA	92364
PRIMM SOUTH REAL ESTATE COMPANY		5420 KIETZKE LN #108	RENO	NV	89511-2063
PRMA LAND DEVELOPMENT CO		31900 LAS VEGAS BLVD S	PRIMM	NV	89019
PRMA LAND DEVELOPMENT CO		3950 LAS VEGAS BLVD S	LAS VEGAS	NV	89119
PRMA LAND DEVELOPMENT CO		31900 LAS VEGAS BLVD S	PRIMM	NV	89019
RIEGER 1982 REVOCABLE TRUST		38 PRINCEVILLE LN	LAS VEGAS	NV	89113-1345
SCHOOLER TRUST		341 VIA ALMANSA	ENCINITAS	CA	92024-5349
SMITH,RUTH L TRUST		HC BOX 250	NIPTON	CA	92364
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POWER AUT		PO BOX 51111	LOS ANGELES	CA	90051
UNION PACIFIC RAILWAY CO		1400 DOUGLAS STREET	OMAHA	NE	68179
US HEALTH AGENCY INC		PO BOX 19099	JEAN	NV	89019
WOOD,WARREN S TRUST 6-1-90		PO BOX 61919	BOULDER CITY	NV	89006

Appendix D
Scoping Notice Postcard

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The agencies invite you to participate in an open house followed by a public hearing where you can give oral and/or written comments on the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project. *(Las agencias [BLM y CPUC] le invitan a participar en una presentación pública y sesión de preguntas, a fin de recibir sus comentarios verbales y escritos sobre el Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah):*

Tuesday, July 28

Location: Primm Valley Golf Club
1 Yates Well Road
Nipton, CA 92364

Open House: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Public Meeting: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Telephone: (415) 981-2811, ext. 4710

Wednesday, July 29

Location: South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa
9777 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Open House: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Public Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Telephone: (415) 981-2811, ext. 4710

To receive a copy of the Draft EIS/EIR or other information about the project...

➤ Visit the project website at:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>
The Draft EIS/EIR will be available for download there. You can also provide your comments through this website, or...

➤ Fill out, add postage, and mail the attached postcard,

➤ or contact:

IVANPAH
c/o: Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: (877) 478-4686

• Para ayuda en español,
llame a (415) 981-2811, ext. 4715

• Consulte el sitio Web del Proyecto:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>

[Detach and return bottom portion]

From:

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Affix
28¢
postage
here

I would like to receive the following information about the project:

- Executive Summary en español
- Draft EIS/EIR en español
- Draft EIS/EIR (on CD) en español
- Remove my name from your mailing list

My email address is:

To:

Conor Doyle
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street – Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111

From:

Bureau of Land Management and
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street – Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111

Affix
44¢
postage
here

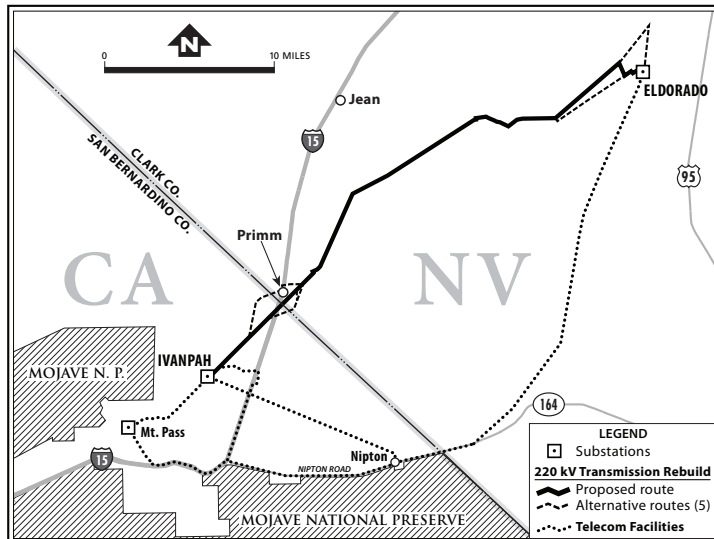
To:

**Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)
for the Proposed Eldorado-Ivanpah Double-Circuit 220kV Transmission Project**

Public Scoping Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are preparing an EIS/EIR to evaluate potential impacts associated with the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project. The project would be constructed between the existing Eldorado Substation in Boulder City, Nevada and the proposed new Ivanpah Substation in California, about 6 miles southwest of Primm, Nevada.

No decisions will be made about the project until after the environmental review process has been completed. The BLM and the CPUC welcome your comments on the project.



Appendix E

Scoping Meeting Fact Sheets

- 1: *What is a Transmission Project (English)***
- 2: *Project Overview (English)***
- 3: *Project Overview (Spanish)***
- 4: *Electric and Magnetic Fields(English)***
- 5: *Audible Noise (English)***
- 6: *Public Scoping and Public Involvement: An Overview (English)***
- 7: *Public Scoping and Public Involvement: An Overview (Spanish)***

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Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

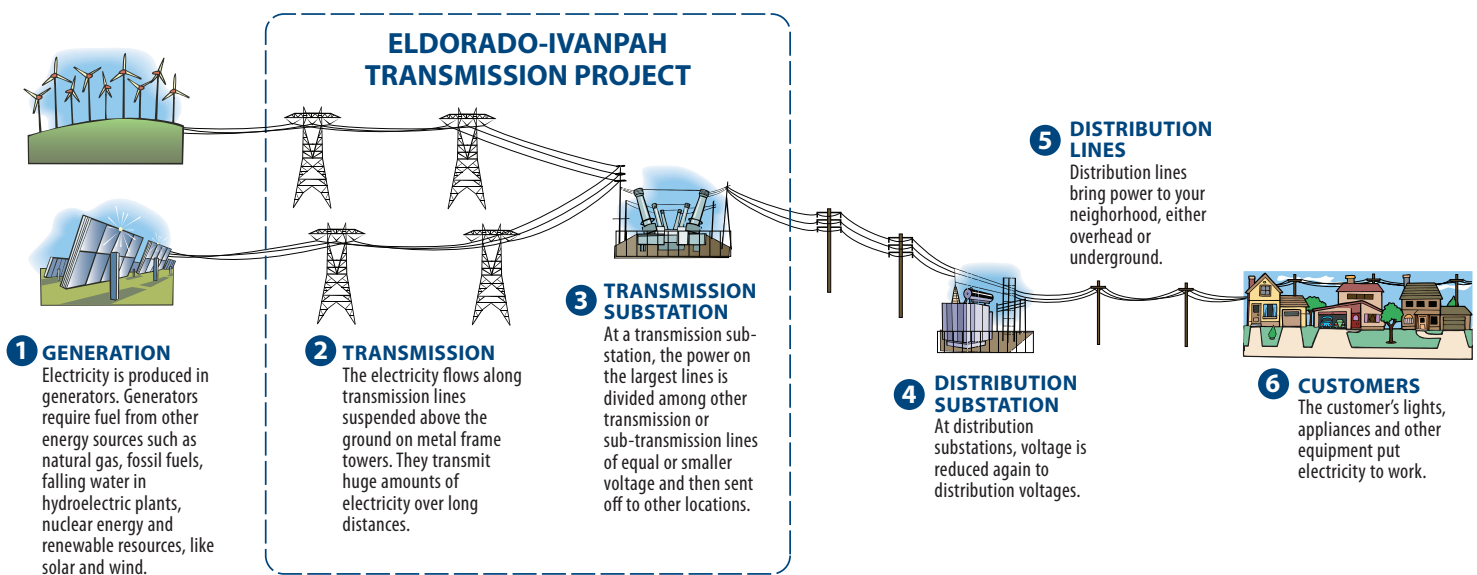
July 2009

What is a Transmission Project?

Electric transmission systems deliver electricity from power generating facilities in remote locations to consumers and businesses in our communities. To deliver large quantities of power more efficiently, power is transmitted using **high-voltage transmission lines** from the power generating facility to a **transmission substation**. At the substation, transformers are used to lower the voltage and distribute the power through **subtransmission lines**. Subtransmission lines then deliver the power to **distribution substations** where the voltage is again lowered and delivered to individual consumers through **distribution lines**. Another typical component of transmission systems is the **telecommunications system**. Telecommunications lines send signals to nearby substations to help monitor for system safety and reliability.

The **Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project** would move large amounts of power at high voltage through Clark County, Nevada, and San Bernardino County, California, accessing power generated by solar projects in the Mojave Desert area. The project includes replacement of 36 miles of single-circuit 115 kV lines with double-circuit 220 kV lines, installation of telecommunication facilities, construction of a new Ivanpah Substation, and replacement of an existing transformer at the El Dorado Substation. The project would provide customers with electricity from renewable energy sources and also increase system reliability.

The Path of Electricity





Transmission Line Components

A primary component of the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project includes the transmission line, which is composed of transmission structures, conductors, insulators, circuits, ground wires, and communication lines.

The **transmission structure** is the most visible element of a transmission line. Although designs vary according to terrain conditions and height restrictions, common types of transmission structures include:

- **Lattice Steel Towers (LST)**, which consist of a steel framework that is bolted or welded together, and
- **Tubular Steel Poles (TSP)**, which are hollow steel poles consisting of one or two pieces.

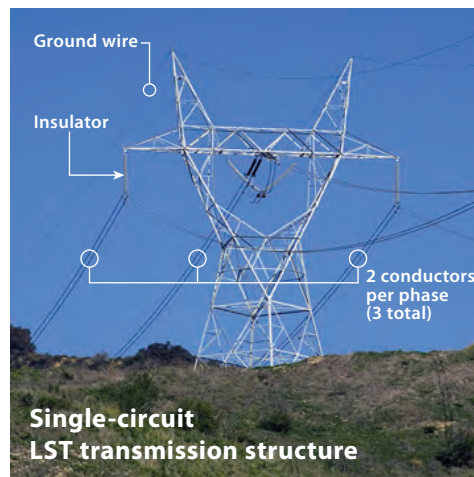
Conductors (i.e., “wires”), which conduct the electrical current, often consist of aluminum wires wrapped around a steel core for reinforcement. For public safety, conductors are connected to transmission structures typically via glass, porcelain, polymer, or silicon **insulators** to prevent transfer of the electrical current from the conductors to the structure. Two common types of insulators are:

- **Horizontal post-type**, which support the conductor on the side of the structure, and
- **Suspension-type**, which suspend the conductor below the transmission structure.

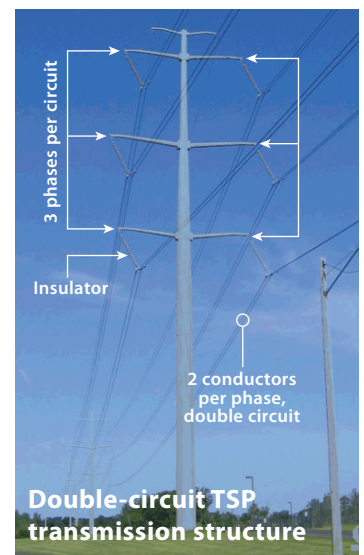
Ground wires (also called “shield wires” or “earth wires”) are placed along the tops of transmission structures to guard against lightning strikes. Ground wires may also contain a **fiber optic communication line** so that a signal can be directed to a nearby substation in the event of a problem along a portion of the line. The substation, using built-in mechanisms to detect problems along the line, can shut down sections of the line as necessary. In addition to being installed within ground wires, communication lines can be installed in separate locations, such as on nearby streets.

Transmission lines contain circuits that consist of multiple conductors along which the electrical current flows. Transmission structures can be designed as single-circuit or double-circuit structures:

- **Single-circuit structures** consist of 3 “phases” (see photos) and are best used for voltages up to 200 kilovolts (200-kV). Additionally, 3 phase circuit configuration can help reduce unwanted side-effects such as noise and radio interference. Each phase typically consists of only one conductor (i.e., “wire”), but sometimes they contain 2 or more “bundled” conductors as pictured below.



- **Double-circuit structures** have two circuits per structure, each circuit also consisting of 3 phases. To increase the line’s carrying capacity for voltages over 200-kV, each phase typically consists of 2 or more bundled conductors. Therefore, a double-circuit structure with 2 conductors per phase would consist of 12 conductors as shown on the right.



FACT SHEET

The California Public Utilities Commission
and
The Bureau of Land Management

No. 2



Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

July 2009

Project Overview

The Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) proposed by Southern California Edison (SCE) would involve the construction of new and upgraded electric transmission infrastructure to access and deliver power from new solar generation in the Ivanpah Valley area to electric utility load centers. The proposed facilities would be constructed along approximately 35 miles of existing rights-of-way (ROW) mostly under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) jurisdiction, from the existing Eldorado Substation located near Boulder City in Clark County, Nevada, to the new Ivanpah Substation located in San Bernardino County, California.

SCE filed an application (No. A.09-05-027) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the EITP on May 28, 2009. In addition, SCE filed an Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands (Standard Form 299), including a Plan of Development (POD), with the BLM.

What is the Purpose of the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project?

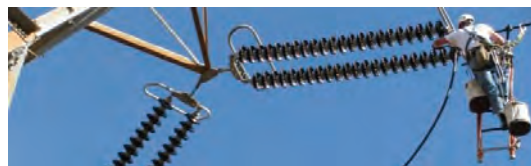
The EITP is proposed by SCE to:

- Connect renewable energy sources in the Ivanpah Valley area in compliance with Executive Order 13212, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Federal Power Act, California Senate Bill 1078, and California Senate Bill 107;
- Improve reliability in compliance with applicable NERC, WECC, CAISO, and SCE standards; and
- Maximize the use of existing ROW and designated utility corridors to minimize impacts to environmental resources.

What are the components of the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project?

The proposed transmission facilities would be constructed primarily within existing ROWs. The major components would consist of the following:

- Construction of the new 220/115 kilovolt (kV) Ivanpah Substation in California, near Primm, Nevada.
- Replacement of a portion of an existing SCE single-circuit 115-kV line with a new double-circuit 220-kV transmission line, connecting the Ivanpah Substation to the Eldorado Substation. The transmission line would be approximately 35 miles long, of which 28 miles would be located in Nevada and 7 miles in California.
- Upgrades to Eldorado Substation to support the connection of the new transmission lines.
- Construction of a new 1-mile portion of the existing SCE 115-kV line connecting to the proposed Ivanpah Substation.
- Construction of two separate telecommunication pathways and communication equipment to connect the project to SCE's existing telecommunication system. The first communication path would be constructed along the proposed transmission line route from Ivanpah Substation to Eldorado Substation. The second would begin at Eldorado Substation, proceed slightly southwest to Highway 164, and then proceed west along the highway to Nipton. From Nipton, the second route would proceed west to the Ivanpah Substation.



What are the Alternatives to the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project?

System, technology and routing potential alternatives are being developed and evaluated during the project design process. Of all the potential alternatives identified, the following alternatives are being considered as part of the environmental review process. In addition to the SCE's Proposed Project and the No Project/Action Alternative, these alternatives include the following:



Alternatives to the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project...

- **System Alternative 1: 500-kV.** This alternative proposes the construction of a double-circuit a 500-kV line and transmission facilities between the Ivanpah Valley area and the Eldorado Substation, instead of the proposed 220-kV system. This option would enable a more efficient energy transmission performance and the addition of future transmission capacity. However, it would require an expanded ROW and special considerations in terms of structures, components, and crossings with existing utilities.
- **Transmission Alternative A: Segment Parallel to DWP Line.** This alternative has the same purpose as the Proposed Project but would eliminate several difficult crossovers of existing transmission lines near the Eldorado Substation by using an existing City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (LADWP) ROW from the McCullough Pass area to the Eldorado Substation.
- **Transmission Alternative B: North of Eldorado.** This alternative would involve deviating from the Proposed Project only near the Eldorado Substation area. The alternative would use a new ROW adjacent to an existing LADWP transmission corridor and proceed north from LADWP's McCullough Substation and then southwesterly on a new ROW to a point where the existing SCE 115-kV line heads south toward the Eldorado Valley Dry Lake.
- **Transmission Alternative C: North Dry Lakes Reroute.** This alternative would require new ROW north of the Ivanpah Valley, but it would avoid routing the 220-kV transmission line through the Ivanpah Valley and the town of Primm. Instead, the line would be routed off the existing SCE transmission corridor just before entering the Ivanpah Dry Lake and head north and around the dry lake as well as around Primm, Nevada.
- **Transmission Alternative D: South Dry Lakes Reroute.** This alternative proposes a route on a new ROW from the existing 115-kV line to avoid routing the 220-kV transmission line through the Ivanpah Valley and through the town of Primm. This new route would run easterly and southerly on an expanded LADWP ROW, joining the Proposed Project ROW to a new ROW south of Primm.
- **Transmission Alternative E: South Ivanpah Dry Lake Bypass Reroute.** This route would leave the proposed route at approximately MP 27 and proceed southerly for approximately 1 mile on a new 130-foot ROW before intercepting Alternative D at approximately Milepost 1. The route bypasses Ivanpah Dry Lake completely.
- **Telecommunications Alternative 1: Eldorado to Nipton Path.** This alternative proposes a route for the second telecommunication path that extends from the SCE Eldorado-Lugo 500-kV transmission line approximately 4.8 miles east of the town of Nipton, on the north side of Highway 164. The route would parallel Nipton Road on the north side in an underground duct that would be installed along a new roadside ROW.
- **Telecommunications Alternative 2: Microwave Nipton to Ivanpah Path.** This alternative proposes over 12 miles of microwave path from the town of Nipton to the Ivanpah Substation. At the Ivanpah Substation, a microwave tower approximately 180 feet tall would be built to link to the Nipton communication site via the air microwave path.
- **Telecommunications Alternative 3: Nipton to Ivanpah Path.** This alternative is approximately 15 miles long from the I-15 junction point to the Ivanpah Substation. It parallels I-15 in an underground duct for approximately 1 mile and then runs on the existing Nipton 33-kV distribution line poles to the Mountain Pass Substation. From the Mountain Pass Substation, the cable route turns in a northeast direction and proceeds to the Ivanpah Substation.
- **Telecommunications Alternative 4: Nipton to Mountain Pass Path.** From the I-15 junction point, this alternative route parallels I-15 in a northerly direction on existing Nipton 33-kV distribution line poles, crosses over I-15 near the Primm Golf Course, and then crosses the golf course in an underground duct. After leaving the golf course, the route continues on existing Nipton 33-kV distribution line poles to the Ivanpah Substation. The total length from the I-15 junction point to the Ivanpah Substation is approximately 10 miles.

Timeline

2008	SCE Engineering Analysis
2009 – 2010	BLM/CPUC Public Outreach and Environmental Review
2011	CPUC and BLM to Issue Decisions on Project
2011 – 2012	Project Construction Period (pending approval)

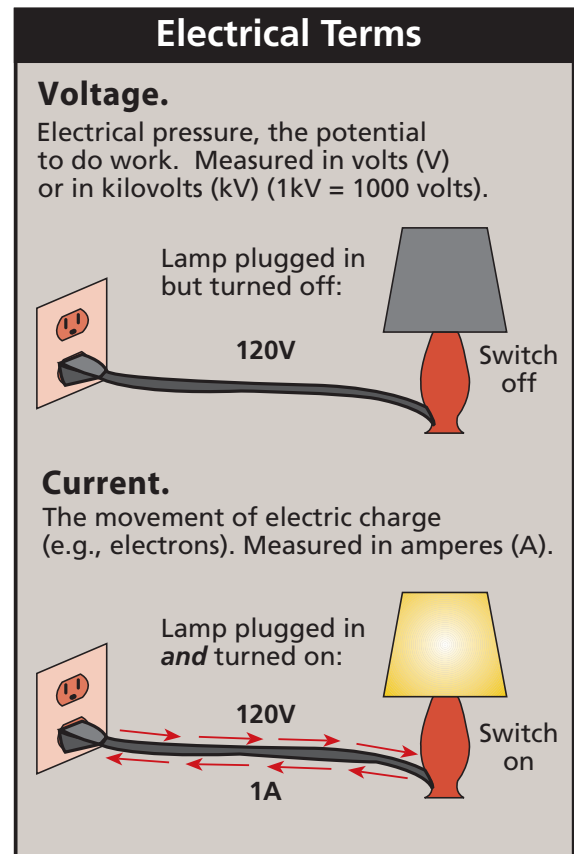


Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

- Electricity** is a form of energy that can occur naturally or can be generated by burning coal or collecting the sun's rays with photovoltaic technology. Despite its significance in our day-to-day lives, we seldom consider what our lives would be like without it. Like air and water, we often underestimate its value. Everyday, we use electricity for a variety of tasks—from lighting our homes to powering our computers. Our bodies also generate electricity naturally to allow information flow between cells and tissues.
- Electric fields** are produced by voltage. Voltage is the pressure behind the flow of electricity—similar to the pressure of a water hose. The voltage creates electric fields around any electrical device that is plugged in—whether it is operating or not. The closer you are to the source or object, the stronger the electric field. However, electric fields are weakened or hindered by natural obstructions like walls or trees and decrease as you move farther from the source.
- Magnetic fields** are produced by current. Current is the flow of electricity through a wire (i.e., “conductor”). Switching on an appliance generates a magnetic field around both the appliance and the cord through which the electric current flows. Like electric fields, magnetic fields are stronger the closer you are to the object and decrease as you move away. Unlike electric fields, however, magnetic fields are not affected by walls or trees.
- Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)** surround appliances and objects we encounter everyday such as microwaves, dishwashers, televisions, and the electric transmission lines that deliver power to our communities. EMF also occur naturally in lightning or in the Earth's magnetic field.

Although EMF are prevalent in our daily lives, EMF are generally associated with transmission lines. Compared to other forms of electromagnetic radiation, transmission line EMF is considered Extremely Low Frequency, but it is possible for a person standing directly under the line to receive a mild shock when touching something that conducts electricity. These sensations are caused by the strong electric fields from

the high-voltage electricity in the lines; however, this reaction occurs only at very close range. As discussed above, EMF rapidly become weaker as the distance from the line increases. EMF are considered strongest at the middle point between two transmission towers where the line hangs closest to the ground.



Voltage produces an electric field and current produces a magnetic field.







Figure 1



■ **Do electric and magnetic fields have an effect on human health?**

Since the 1970s, people have been asking whether EMF have an effect on our health. To date, a great deal of research has been conducted, but there is no definitive answer. However, the majority of scientific research studies do not support the idea that EMF causes damage to human health. In fact, in 1999 the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS) reviewed all of the available EMF studies conducted up to that date and concluded that at best, “[t]he scientific evidence suggesting that [EMF] exposures pose any health risk is weak.” While there have been several studies that concluded that there might be a link between high levels of EMF exposure and cancer risk, the evidence is not conclusive and is not supported by most studies. Additional research is necessary before a more definitive conclusion can be reached, but EMF is not widely considered to be a serious human health risk.

Magnetic Fields in the Home

		1.2" Away	12" Away	39" Away
	Microwave Oven	750 to 2,000	40 to 80	3 to 8
	Washing Machine	8 to 400	2 to 30	0.1 to 2
	Electric Range	60 to 2,000	4 to 40	0.1 to 1
	Fluorescent Lights	400 to 4,000	5 to 20	0.1 to 3
	Television	25 to 500	0.4 to 20	0.1 to 2
	Hair Dryer	60 to 20,000	1 to 70	3 to 8

Source: Adapted from Gauger 1985

Magnetic Fields Outdoors

(maximum values may be lower for some California utilities)

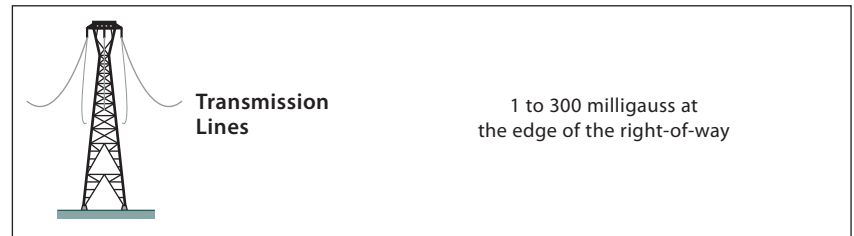


Figure 2

FACT SHEET

The California Public Utilities Commission
and
The Bureau of Land Management

No. 4

Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

July 2009



Audible Noise

Noise is defined as “unwanted sound.” Sound becomes unwanted when it interferes with normal activities, when it causes physical harm, or when it has adverse effects on health. The Eldorado–Ivanpah Transmission Project would have two primary sources of noise: corona noise and transformer noise.

How do we Measure Noise? Since the range of sounds that the human ear can detect is so large, the scale frequently used to measure intensity is a scale based in multiples of 10 called the logarithmic scale. Each interval of 10 decibels (dB) indicates a sound energy ten times greater, which is perceived by the human ear as being roughly twice as loud. However, because certain dB levels have a reduced effect on the human ear, an “A-weighted” decibel system (dBA) is used to approximate how a person actually perceives or hears sound. In the A-weighted system, the dB values of sounds at low frequencies are reduced to account for the human ear being less sensitive at low audio frequencies than at high audio frequencies. The “A-weighted” decibel system, therefore, achieves a good correlation in terms of how to evaluate acceptable and unacceptable sound levels.

Community noise levels are usually closely related to the intensity of nearby human activity. For example, noise levels are generally considered low at ambient levels below 45 dBA, moderate between 45 to 60 dBA, and high above 60 dBA.

What is the Corona Effect?

Corona is the ionization of air at the surface of an energized conductor and suspension hardware due to very strong electric fields during certain conditions. Corona may result in radio and television reception interference, audible noise, light, and production of ozone.

Corona is a phenomenon associated with all energized alternating current (AC) electrical lines. Several factors, including conductor voltage, shape and diameter, and surface irregularities such as scratches, nicks, dust, or water drops can affect a conductor’s electrical surface gradient and its corona performance.

Corona is usually not a design issue for power lines rated at 220-kilovolt (kV) and lower because the conductor size is of sufficient diameter to lower the localized electrical stress on the air. Conductors for 220 kV power lines have lower conductor surface gradients so little or no corona activity occurs under most operating conditions.

Corona Noise Discharge

Corona generates audible noise during operation of transmission lines. The noise is generally characterized as a crackling, hissing, or humming noise. The noise is most noticeable during wet conditions such as rain or fog. Audible noise from transmission lines is often masked by background noise, particularly where the line runs near a source of background noise such as a freeway. The amount of corona produced by a transmission line is a function of the voltage of the line, the diameter of the conductor (or bundle of conductors), the elevation of the line above sea level, the condition of the conductor and hardware, and local weather conditions. Corona typically becomes a design concern for transmission lines at 345 kV and above and is less noticeable on lines operated at lower voltages.





What contributes to Corona Generation on Transmission Lines?

- **Conductor Surface Electric Field.** This is the most important contributing factor to conductor corona phenomena. Conductor surface electric field is the combined value of nominal voltage, conductor diameter, number of sub-conductors in a bundle (if more than one), average height of conductors above ground, and the distance between phases.
- **Conductor Surface Conditions.** Since audible noise is primarily noticeable during wet weather conditions, potential for water droplet formation on the conductor surface is an important contributing factor to corona noise. Conductors with a hydrophilic (water absorbing) surface produce less noise than those with a hydrophobic (water repelling) surface. (Note: The opposite is true for insulator corona phenomena.) Any surface imperfections (i.e., small nicks or scratches) may also contribute to increased corona, though the impacts from these conditions contribute more to radio interference than to audible noise.
- **Conductor Diameter.** For a constant voltage, the corona noise decreases as the conductor diameter increases. Therefore, the thicker the conductor wire, the less chance of a corona effect.
- **Number of Conductors.** In this case, due to interaction with other sub-conductors, noise studies have shown that audible noise actually increases as the number of conductors in a bundle increases.
- **Weather Conditions.** Corona noise increases when moisture accumulates on the conductor surface. While the current's heat is usually enough to prevent formation of water droplets on the conductor due to fog and high humidity, noise may be audible noise during heavy rain (or heavy wet snow). In many cases, the rain itself may create more noise than the corona, so the most noise may be detected only immediately following a significant rainfall. This is a short-lived effect, however, until the heat of the conductor evaporates water droplets on the conductor surface.

What potential sources of audible noise can be found in substations?

In a substation, the audible noise produced by corona discharge during heavy rain is significantly less than

the noise produced by transmission lines. This is due to the presence of metallic equipment such as switch-racks, circuit breakers, switches, and metallic fences, which significantly reduce the voltage gradient on the energized conductive materials (such as conductors).

Transformer noise is the other potential source of noise associated with substations. Transformers emit a characteristic hum that causes the core to vibrate. In addition, transformer cooling fans produce noise when they operate. Quieted transformers are available and may be up to 20 dBA quieter than standard equipment. Barrier walls can also provide additional reductions, typically ranging between 10 to 15 dBA.

Common sounds and their noise levels

Source	Sound Level (dBA)
Normal breathing	10
Rustling leaves	20
Whisper	20-30
Ambient noise in an average home	50
Normal conversation at 3 feet	60-65
Vacuum cleaner	60-82
Freeway traffic at 165 feet	70
Garbage disposal at 3 feet	80
Rock concert	90-115
Jet flyover at 1,000 feet	110
Apollo rocket launch	188

FACT SHEET

The California Public Utilities Commission
and
The Bureau of Land Management

No. 5



Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

July 2009

Public Scoping and Public Involvement: *An Overview*

What is Scoping?

The BLM and the CPUC are conducting a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental review for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP). The environmental review process gives government decision-makers information on the environmental effects of the proposed project; no action on the project can be taken until the environmental review process is completed.

Public input is a key part of the NEPA/CEQA environmental review process. Interested individuals, groups, and government agencies are encouraged to get involved by submitting comments and attending public meetings. Scoping provides you with an opportunity to become involved as soon as the EIS/EIR process begins, allowing you to help identify issues and provide recommendations to the agencies, so they can be addressed in depth in the EIS/EIR.

You may provide your comments at key times during the NEPA/CEQA review process: in person at public scoping meetings; written comments via mail or email; and after publication of the draft EIS/EIR. All comments, oral and written, will be given the same consideration and become part of the public record.

Here's How the Meeting is Structured...

If you wish to give a verbal comment at the public meeting, please fill out a comment card at the registration table. After the open house session, a public meeting will be open to your oral testimony. Speakers will be recognized in the following order:

1. Elected officials
2. Public agencies (following a hierarchy of municipal, county, state, and federal officials)
3. Individuals or groups in the order of signup on the list of commenters
4. Anyone else who wishes to speak

Providing Useful Comments

Comments that are most useful at this time are those that identify key environmental concerns related to the project that are not covered in the NOI/NOP, including alternatives, methodologies, or mitigation.

To provide the most useful comments, we recommend that you review the project description, alternatives, and list of environmental issues that will be analyzed in the joint EIS/EIR. We recommend you develop your comments by considering the following ideas, in addition to any ideas and concerns you have:

- Additional studies you think need to be considered
- Environmental issue(s) of greatest concern
- Providing personal knowledge you may have about the project or environmental issues
- Any mitigation measures you think would help reduce or avoid impacts
- Additional topics or issues that should be analyzed in the EIS/EIR





Other Opportunities to Provide Comments

Please include your name, address, and application number A.09-05-027 in your comments. To ensure that your comments are not entered more than once, please submit comments by only one of the following means:

- Mail:** **BLM/CPUC EITP**
 c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
 130 Battery St., Suite 400
 San Francisco, CA 94111
- E-mail:** ivanpah@ene.com or caeitp@blm.gov
- Phone:** Project voice mail – (877) 478-4686
- Fax:** Project fax – (415) 981-0801

For more information on the environmental review process for EITP and links to publicly available documents, please visit our website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>

We request that all public scoping comments be submitted by August 26, 2009.



Ivanpah Dry Lake, the Lucy Gray Mountains, and McCullough Mountain in the distance



Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah

July 2009

Visión General del Proyecto

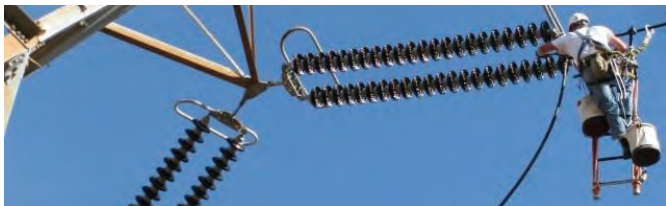
El Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah (EITP, por sus siglas en inglés) propuesto por Southern California Edison (SCE) involucraría la construcción y mejora de infraestructura de transmisión eléctrica necesaria para obtener y suministrar energía desde las nuevas instalaciones de generación solar propuestas en el área del Valle de Ivanpah, hasta los centros de consumo de servicio eléctrico. Las instalaciones del EITP podrían ser construidas a lo largo de 35 millas de derechos de paso ya existentes, la mayoría de ellos bajo la jurisdicción de la Oficina de Administración de Tierras (BLM, por sus siglas en inglés), desde la Subestación Eldorado localizada cerca de Boulder City en el Condado de Clark, Nevada, hasta la nueva Subestación Ivanpah en el Condado de San Bernardino, California.

El 28 de Mayo de 2009, SCE entregó una solicitud (No. A.09-05-027) a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California (CPUC, por sus siglas en inglés) para la obtención de un Certificado de Conveniencia y Necesidad Pública para el EITP. Así mismo, SCE entregó a la BLM una Solicitud para Transporte y Sistemas e Instalaciones de Servicios en Tierras Federales (Standard Form 299), la cual incluye in Plan de Desarrollo (POD, por sus siglas en inglés).

¿Cuál es el Objetivo del Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah?

El EITP ha sido propuesto por SCE con la finalidad de:

- Conectar fuentes de energía renovable ubicadas en el área del Valle de Ivanpah, de conformidad con la Orden Ejecutiva 13212, la Ley sobre Política Energética de 2005, la Ley Federal sobre Energía, y las Leyes No. 1078 y No. 107 del Senado de California;
- Mejorar la confiabilidad del servicio eléctrico, según los estándares aplicables de la NERC, WECC, CAISO y SCE; y
- Utilizar al máximo los derechos de paso y corredores de servicio existentes a fin de minimizar impactos sobre recursos ambientales.



¿Cuáles son los componentes del Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah?

Las instalaciones propuestas podrían ser construidas en su mayoría dentro de derechos de paso existentes. Los principales componentes son los siguientes:

- Construcción de una nueva Subestación de 220/115 kilovoltios (kV) en California, cerca de Primm, Nevada.
- Reemplazo de una porción de la línea existente de 115 kV de circuito simple, perteneciente a SCE, por una nueva línea de 220 kV de doble circuito, la cual conectaría las Subestaciones Ivanpah y Eldorado. Esta línea de transmisión tendría una longitud de aproximadamente 35 millas, de las cuales 28 millas se ubicarían en Nevada, y 7 millas en California.
- Mejoras a la Subestación Eldorado para brindar apoyo a las nuevas líneas de transmisión a ser construidas.
- Construcción de una nueva porción de 1 milla de longitud en la línea existente de 115 kV perteneciente a SCE, a fin de conectar la Subestación Ivanpah al sistema.
- Construcción de dos rutas de telecomunicaciones e instalación de equipos de comunicación para conectar el proyecto al sistema existente manejado por SCE. La primera ruta de telecomunicaciones se construiría a lo largo de la ruta propuesta de la línea de transmisión entre las Subestaciones Ivanpah y Eldorado. La segunda ruta comenzaría en la Subestación Eldorado y continuaría al Suroeste hacia la Autopista 164, luego seguiría en dirección Oeste hasta Nipton. Desde Nipton, esta segunda ruta se dirigiría al Oeste hasta la Subestación Ivanpah.

¿Cuáles son las Alternativas del Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah?

Durante el proceso de diseño del proyecto, se han ido desarrollando y evaluando alternativas potenciales al sistema de transmisión, tecnología y trazado de ruta. De todas las alternativas potenciales identificadas, las siguientes opciones están siendo consideradas como parte del proceso de revisión ambiental. Además de la propuesta de proyecto de SCE y la alternativa de descarte del proyecto (no acción/no proyecto), las siguientes alternativas están bajo consideración:



Alternativas del Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah...

- **Alternativa de Sistema 1: 500-kV.** Esta alternativa propone la construcción de una línea de 500-kV de doble circuito e instalaciones auxiliares de transmisión, entre el área del Valle de Ivanpah y la Subestación Eldorado, en lugar del sistema de 220 kV propuesto. Esta opción permitiría un desempeño más eficiente de transmisión de energía y la adición de capacidad de transmisión a futuro. Sin embargo, esta opción requeriría un derecho de paso más amplio y consideraciones especiales en términos de estructuras, componentes y cruces con otras instalaciones de servicios ya existentes.
- **Alternativa de Transmisión A: Segmento Paralelo a la Línea del DWP.** Esta alternativa tiene el mismo propósito que el proyecto propuesto, pero eliminaría algunos cruces difíciles de las líneas de transmisión que ya existen cerca de la Subestación Eldorado, mediante el uso de un derecho de paso del Departamento de Agua y Energía de la Ciudad de Los Ángeles (LADWP), ubicado desde el área del Paso McCollough hasta la Subestación Eldorado.
- **Alternativa de Transmisión B: Norte de Eldorado.** Esta alternativa consistiría en desviar la ruta propuesta del proyecto cerca de la Subestación Eldorado solamente. La alternativa utilizaría un nuevo derecho de paso adyacente al corredor de transmisión existente del LADWP, y procedería en dirección Norte desde la Subestación McCullough del LADWP. Posteriormente, la ruta continuaría al Suroeste en un nuevo derecho de paso hasta el punto en el cual la línea existente de 115 kV de SCE se dirige al Sur hacia el Valle del Lago Seco de Eldorado.
- **Alternativa de Transmisión C: Variante North Dry Lakes.** Esta alternativa requeriría un nuevo derecho de paso al norte del Valle de Ivanpah, pero evitaría la línea de transmisión de 220 kV atravesando el Valle de Ivanpah y el poblado de Primm, Nevada. Por el contrario, la ruta de la línea de transmisión sería desviada del corredor de transmisión de SCE justo antes de entrar al Lago Seco de Ivanpah, y se dirigiría al Norte y alrededor del lago seco y de Primm.
- **Alternativa de Transmisión D: Variante South Dry Lakes.** Esta alternativa propone una ruta dentro de un nuevo derecho de paso desde la línea de 115 kV existente, a fin de evitar la instalación de la línea de transmisión de 220 kV a través del Valle de Ivanpah y del poblado de Primm. Esta nueva ruta se desviaría hacia el Este y al Sur a lo largo de un derecho de paso expandido del LADWP, retomando el derecho de paso del proyecto propuesto hacia un nuevo corredor ubicado al Sur de Primm.
- **Alternativa de Transmisión E:** Desviación al Sur del Lago Seco de Ivanpah. Esta ruta se desviaría del trayecto propuesto aproximadamente en el marcador de milla (MP) 27, y se dirigiría al Sur por aproximadamente 1 milla en un nuevo derecho de paso de 130 pies de ancho antes de interceptar la ruta de la Alternativa D en su marcador de milla 1. Esta ruta evitaría por completo el cruce del Lago Seco de Ivanpah.
- **Alternativa de Telecomunicaciones 1:** Ruta Eldorado – Nipton. Esta alternativa propone el trazado de la segunda ruta de telecomunicaciones a lo largo de la línea de transmisión de 500 kV Eldorado-Lugo, aproximadamente 4,8 millas al Este del poblado de Nipton, en el lado Norte de la Autopista 164. La ruta seguiría en paralelo a la carretera Nipton Road en su lado Norte, y luego a través de un ducto subterráneo a ser instalado a lo largo de un nuevo derecho de vía.
- **Alternativa de Telecomunicaciones 2:** Ruta de Comunicación vía Microondas Nipton-Ivanpah. Esta alternativa propone la instalación de más de 12 millas de comunicación vía microondas desde el poblado de Nipton hasta la Subestación Ivanpah. Una torre de transmisión de microondas de aproximadamente 180 pies de altura sería instalada en la Subestación Ivanpah para conectar la misma con el sitio de comunicación Nipton a través de radiación de microondas a través del aire.
- **Alternativa de Telecomunicaciones 3:** Ruta Nipton-Ivanpah. Esta alternativa tendría una longitud aproximada de 15 millas desde el punto de intersección de la Autopista Interestatal I-15 hasta la Subestación Ivanpah. Esta ruta se instalaría en un ducto subterráneo paralelo a la I-15 por aproximadamente 1 milla, y luego se instalaría sobre los postes de la línea de distribución de 33kV Nipton hasta la Subestación Mountain Pass. Desde la Subestación Mountain Pass, la ruta del cable se desviaría en dirección Noreste hasta la Subestación Ivanpah.
- **Alternativa de Telecomunicaciones 4:** Ruta Nipton – Mountain Pass. Desde la intersección con la Autopista Interestatal I-15, esta ruta se dirigiría en dirección Norte a lo largo de la línea de distribución de 33 kV Nipton, cruzaría sobre la I-15 cerca del Campo de Golf de Primm, y luego curzaría el campo de golf a través de un ducto subterráneo. Luego de dejar el campo de golf, la ruta continuaría sobre los postes de la línea de distribución de 33 kV Nipton hasta la Subestación Ivanpah. La longitud total desde la intersección de la I-15 hasta la Subestación Ivanpah es de aproximadamente 10 millas.

Cronograma

2008	Análisis de Ingeniería de SCE
2009 – 2010	Proceso de Divulgación Pública y Revisión Ambiental de BLM y CPUC
2011	CPUC y BLM Emiten Decisiones sobre el Proyecto
2011 – 2012	Período de Construcción del Proyecto (aprobación pendiente)



Determinación del Alcance y Participación Pública: Una Visión General

¿Qué es la Determinación del Alcance (Scoping)?

La Oficina de Administración de Tierras (BLM) y la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California (CPUC) están llevando a cabo una revisión ambiental conjunta para el Proyecto de Transmisión Eldorado-Ivanpah (EITP), de acuerdo con la Ley Nacional sobre Política Ambiental (NEPA) y la Ley de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California (CEQA). El proceso de revisión ambiental (EIS/EIR) ofrece información a las personas encargadas de tomar decisiones sobre los efectos de la propuesta de proyecto. Ninguna acción sobre este proyecto podrá llevarse a cabo sin haberse culminado el proceso de revisión ambiental.

La opinión del público es una parte esencial del proceso de revisión ambiental propuesto por la NEPA y CEQA. Por ello, las personas, grupos y agencias de gobierno interesadas son invitados a participar, enviar comentarios y asistir a reuniones públicas. La determinación del alcance le brinda a Ud. la oportunidad de involucrarse desde el inicio del proceso de EIS/EIR, permitiéndole identificar asuntos de interés y proponer recomendaciones a las agencias, de tal forma que las mismas sean abordadas con detalle en el EIS/EIR.

Usted puede aportar sus comentarios en momentos clave del proceso de revisión ambiental NEPA/CEQA, ya sea en persona durante las reuniones de alcance, a través de comentarios escritos enviados por correo postal o electrónico, o después de la publicación del Borrador del EIS/EIR. Todos los comentarios, verbales y escritos, serán tomados en cuenta y formarán parte del registro público.

¿Cómo está estructurada esta reunión?

Si usted desea hacer un comentario verbal durante la reunión pública, por favor llene una tarjeta de comentario en la mesa de registro. Después de la recepción general (open house), se abrirá la sesión de comentarios del público para recibir su testimonio. Se les dará el derecho de palabra a las personas que deseen aportar sus comentarios, de acuerdo con el siguiente orden:

1. Oficiales electos
2. Agencias públicas (siguiendo la jerarquía de oficiales a nivel municipal, condado, estatal y federal)
3. Particulares o grupos registrados en la lista de comentaristas
4. Cualquier otra persona que desee aportar su comentario

Aporte comentarios valiosos

Los comentarios del público que son más valiosos en este momento son aquellos que permiten identificar los asuntos críticos de interés ambiental relacionados con el proyecto, y que no han sido cubiertos en la Notificación de Intención (NOI) o la Notificación de Preparación (NOP), incluyendo alternativas, métodos, y mitigación.

Para aportar sus comentarios, le recomendamos que revise la descripción del proyecto, las alternativas de proyecto, y la lista de asuntos ambientales de interés que serán analizados en el documento conjunto EIS/EIR. Además de las ideas o asuntos de su interés, le recomendamos considere las siguientes ideas para desarrollar sus comentarios:

- Estudios adicionales que en su opinión deben ser considerados;
- Asuntos de mayor interés en materia ambiental;
- Conocimiento personal que Ud. pueda suministrar sobre el proyecto o los asuntos ambientales;
- Medidas de mitigación o atenuación que Ud. considere que puedan ayudar a reducir o evitar impactos;
- Tópicos o asuntos adicionales que deban ser analizados en el EIS/EIR.





Otras Formas de Aportar Comentarios

Al enviar sus comentarios, por favor incluya su nombre, dirección y el siguiente número de solicitud: A.09-05-027. Para garantizar que sus comentarios no se ingresen de manera repetida, por favor envíelos a través de sólo uno de los siguientes medios:

Correo postal: **BLM/CPUC EITP**
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery St., Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111

Correo electrónico: ivanpah@ene.com o caeitp@blm.gov

Teléfono: Buzón de mensajes del Proyecto – (877) 478-4686

Fax: Fax del Proyecto – (415) 981-0801

Para mayor información sobre el proceso de revisión ambiental del EITP y consulta de documentos disponibles al público, por favor visite nuestro Sitio Web:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html>

***Todos los comentarios del público sobre el alcance del proyecto
serán recibidos hasta el 26 de Agosto de 2009.***



Lago Seco de Ivanpah y vista a distancia de las las Montañas Lucy Gray y McCollough

Appendix F
Scoping Meeting Powerpoint

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**Eldorado to Ivanpah
Transmission Project
Public Scoping Meetings
July 28-29, 2009**



Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project Public Scoping Meeting

Please...

- Sign in at the table near the entrance
- Pick up copies of meeting materials
- Fill out a speaker card if you would like to provide an oral comment
- Pick up comment cards to make written comments
 - Drop off at the end of the meeting, or mail or fax the card later
- Hold all comments until the end of the presentation
- **Scoping Period Ends – August 26, 2009**



Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) present:

Public Scoping Meetings *for the* Joint EIS/EIR

MEETING LOCATIONS

-
- **Tuesday, July 28**
 - **Primm Valley Golf Club**
 - **1 Yates Well Road Exit**
 - **Primm, NV 89019**
 - **Tuesday, July 29**
 - **South Point Hotel**
 - **9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South**
 - **Las Vegas NV, 89183**

- ***The meeting in Las Vegas are scheduled to take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.***
- ***The meetings in Primm, Nevada are scheduled for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.***



Agenda

- **4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Open House
- **5:00 – 5:30 p.m.** Presentation
 - Introductions and Meeting Purpose
 - Project Overview
 - Environmental Review Process
 - Joint NEPA/CEQA process
 - BLM Plan Amendment Process
 - Scope of EIS/EIR
 - Opportunities for public comment
 - Public Comments
 - Next Steps & Other Opportunities for Public Comment
 - Closing Remarks
- **5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Speaker Comments*

*Varies depending on the meeting start time.



Who Are We?

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E)
 - Third party consultant on behalf of BLM and the CPUC
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
 - Project Applicant



Project Management Team

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Tom Hurshman
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Monisha Gangopadhyay



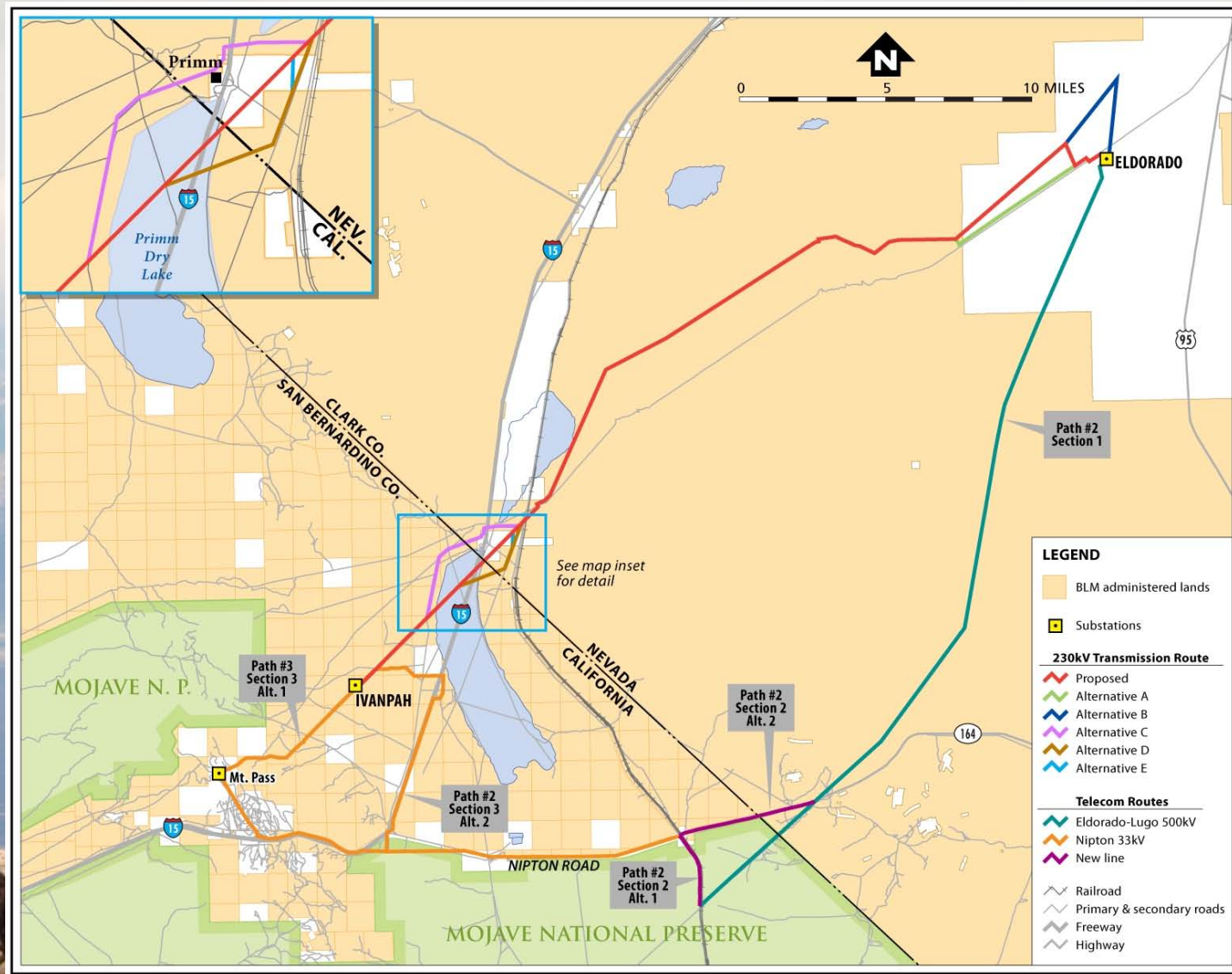
Project Overview

Purpose and Need

- Transmission ROWs to Support Renewable Energy Consistent with National Energy Policy of 2001 and Energy Policy Act of 2005
- High Priority Workload



Project Overview



Project Overview

Project Location

- California and Nevada border near Primm, Nevada

Construction Process

- Approximately 16 months to complete construction
- Rural



Project Overview

Ivanpah Substation

- Located in California
- 230/115 kV facilities
- Initial 115 kV facilities

Telecommunication Facilities

- 35 miles of transmission line upgrades
- Single circuit 115 kV to double circuit 230 kV
- 7 miles in California
- 28 miles in Nevada

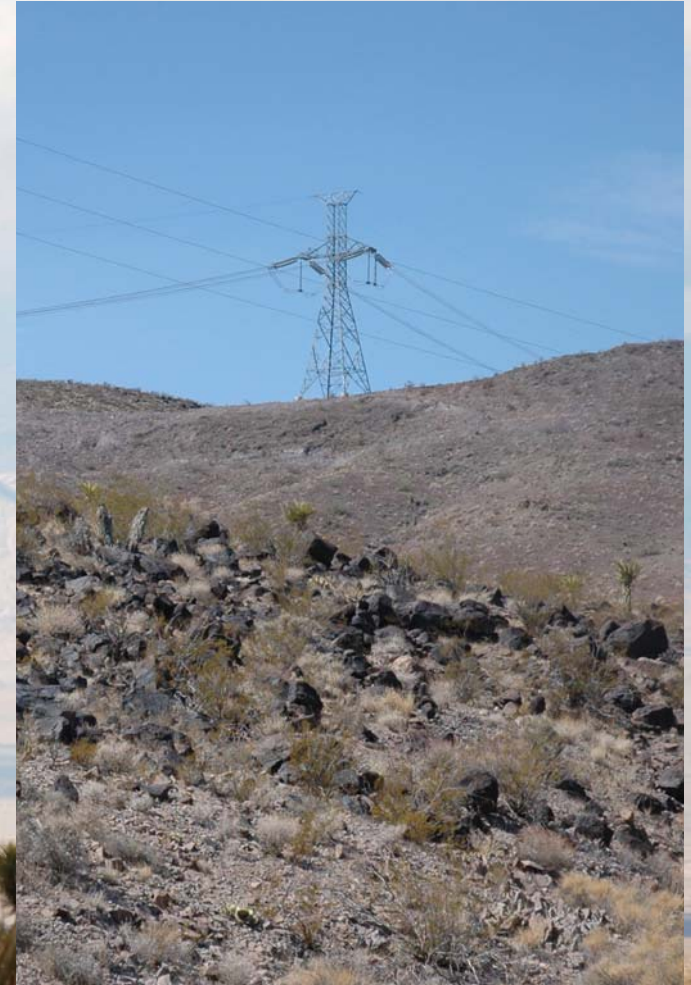


Project Overview

Telecommunications Lines

- Path 1 - 35 miles of Optical Groundwire along proposed transmission line route; and
- Path 2 – 25 miles of Optical Groundwire on the existing Eldorado to Lugo line with 5 miles of underground cable and either a microwave path or alternate routes.

Upgrades to the Eldorado Substation in Nevada



Why Are We Here?

The Purpose of Public Scoping

- Give a project overview
- Solicit Public Feedback
- Allow the public to voice their opinions
- Use this feedback to focus analysis



Environmental Review

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the NEPA lead agency
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the CEQA lead agency



Agency Actions Under Consideration

- BLM:
 - Right-of-Way Grant: 299 application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands
- CPUC:
 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application



NEPA/CEQA Objectives

- Identify key issues to focus analysis
- Identify reasonable alternatives for analysis
- Present environmental impacts of proposed project and alternatives
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- Inform the agency decision-making process
- Encourage public participation



Preparation of the EIS/EIR (Six Stages)



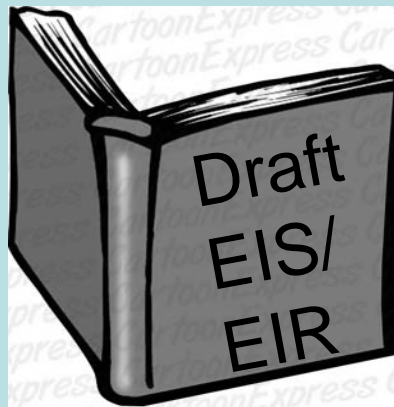
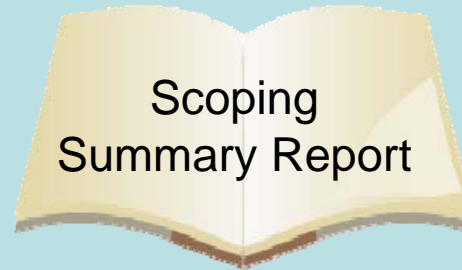
1. Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation (July, 2009)
2. Scoping Period (ends August, 2009)
3. Draft EIS/EIR (public review Season 2009)
4. Draft EIS/EIR Public Comment Period (90 days)
5. Final EIS/EIR (Spring 2010)
6. Record of Decision/ Notice of Determination (60 days after final EIS/EIR)



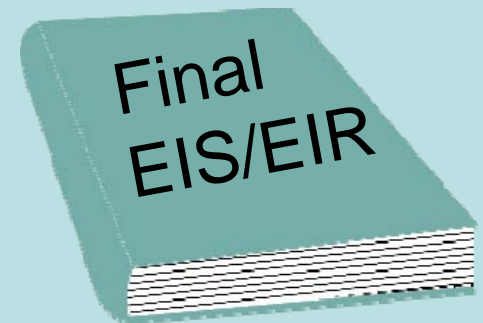
Opportunities for Public Comment During the Review Process Under NEPA/CEQA

Scoping Meeting

(to determine range of issues & alternatives)



Public Comment



BLM Process

- BLM will use the Public Scoping period to inform its decision on designating a “Preferred Project Alternative”
- This Preferred Project Alternative will be included in the DEIS/DEIR
- This will allow the public to comment on the BLM’s Preferred Alignment before the final document is released



Public Comment

- We want to hear your comments on the proposed scope of environmental review of the Ivanpah-Eldorado Project
- Help identify the following to be analyzed in depth:
 - Key issues
 - Range of alternatives
 - Environmental effects
 - Mitigation measures

The public comment period runs through August 26, 2009



Comment Session Ground Rules

This session is to hear from you...

- Please:
 - Submit speaker cards in order to speak
 - Wait until your name is called
 - State your name and speak clearly
 - Limit your comment to 3 minutes
 - Use comment forms for more extensive input



Where to Send Your Comments

- Scoping comments will be accepted through August 26, 2009
 - **Send written comments to:**
Conor Doyle
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111
 - **Submit by email to:** Ivanpah@ene.com
 - **BLM Documents are available at:**
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/needles.html>
 - **CPUC documents available at:**
www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html

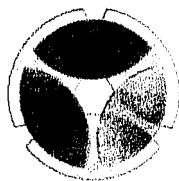


Thank You



Appendix G
Comments Received During the Scoping Process

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desert conservation
PROGRAM

June 12, 2009

California Public Utilities Commission
Docket Office, Rm 2001
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 84102-3214

California Public Utilities Commission
Director, Energy Division
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 84102-3214

Southern California Edison Co.
Attention: Cheryl Lawson
Law Department – Exception Mail
2244 Walnut Grove Ave
Rosemead, CA 91770-3714

Re: Eldorado - Ivanpah Transmission Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for the subject project filed with your agency by Southern California Edison on May 28, 2009. We are actively reviewing the materials available on the project website on June 10, 2009, and what follows are our initial comments.

The Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP) implements the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) on behalf of Clark County, Nevada, Department of Transportation and the Cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite and North Las Vegas, as mitigation for our federal Endangered Species Act, Section 10 Incidental Take Permit for Desert Tortoise and 78 other species of concern. The MSHCP and Section 10 Incidental Take Permit documents are available for download on our website: http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/daqem/epd/dcp/Pages/dcp_guidingdocs.aspx.

As you will notice in these documents, the DCP manages an approximately 86,500 acre conservation easement southwest of the City of Boulder City (Boulder City Conservation Easement: BCCE) as a required, key mitigation measure for the MSHCP's Section 10 Incidental Take Permit. The BCCE is managed for desert tortoise habitat and natural resource values. The BCCE agreement between the County and the City of Boulder City has strict use and access restrictions and requirements that include minimization and mitigation measures recommended

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

500 S. Grand Central Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89155 • Phone (702) 455-5942 • Fax (702) 382-4593

Eldorado - Ivanpah Transmission Project
June 12, 2009
Page Two

by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for any activities not specifically allowable by the BCCE agreement. The Eldorado substation described in the project documentation is surrounded by the BCCE.

0001-1

The application and environmental assessment documents currently available on the subject project website, do not address the impacts of the proposed project on MSHCP mitigation areas, and the BCCE is not identified. We will continue to review the project application and environmental assessment documents in more detail, but wanted to take this opportunity to notify you that without analysis of the impacts the proposed project will have on the Clark County MSHCP mitigation areas, including the BCCE, these materials are deficient.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (702) 455-3859 or swainsco@co.clark.nv.us to ask any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Sue Wainscott
Adaptive Management Coordinator and Project Manager
Desert Conservation Program

SW/ee

cc: Scott Hansen, City of Boulder City
Nancy Jackson, SCE Local Public Affairs Region Manager, SCE Victorville Service Center,
✓ Jennifer Rouda, Project Manager, Ecology & Environment, Inc.
Janet Bair, USFWS – Las Vegas



DEPARTMENT OF AIR QUALITY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

500 S Grand Central Parkway 1st Floor · Box 555210 · Las Vegas, NV 89155-5210
(702) 455-5942 · Fax (702) 383-9994

Lewis Wallenmeyer Director · Tina Gingras Assistant Director

August 25, 2009

Monisha Gangopadhyay, CPUC Energy Division
Tom Hurshman, BLM Project Manager
c/o Ecology & Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Notice of Preparation for a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

The Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management has reviewed the subject document. We appreciate the opportunity to participate, but we do not wish to submit comments at this time. However, we look forward to reviewing future documents.

Thank you again for your consideration. If you have questions, please contact me at 702-455-1600.

Sincerely,

Lewis Wallenmeyer
Director



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Virginia Valentine, PE, County Manager



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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

KENNETH E. MAYER
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS II
Deputy Director

SOUTHERN REGION
4747 WEST VEGAS DRIVE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89108
(702) 486-5127; 486-5133 FAX

August 13, 2009

NDOW-SR#: 10-032

Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: Notice of Public Scoping for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

Dear Concerned Parties:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) has been invited to participate in the planning process by the project proponent, Southern California Edison Power Company (SCEP), and their contracted biological consultant, Ecology and Environment, Inc (E&E). On Tuesday, June 30th 2009 a field tour of the project site in Nevada was attended by the Department, Mr. Roger Overstreet of SCEP, Mr. Jason Zoller of E&E, and Jason Barangan of BLM's Southern Nevada District Office. During that field tour various aspects of the project were discussed and our concerns were voiced. In short summary they were:

- Nelson's (Desert) Bighorn Sheep. Bighorn sheep inhabit McCullough Pass and the surrounding area. Our concerns are for a predicted loss of habitat due to the installation of a double circuit 220kV transmission line with ancillary facilities and upgrades to existing service roads or the possible establishment of new service roads. We are also concerned about inadvertent hazing of animals out of the area which is a bighorn movement corridor and potential lambing grounds. Our preliminary recommendation is for the project proponent to time installation of the transmission lines to avoid the lambing season, utilizing the warmer summer months when bighorn sheep will be tied to water sources north of the project area.
- Migratory Raptorial Birds. The McCullough Pass area and Highland Range are breeding areas for various migratory birds including raptors. High cliffs and crevices are suitable habitat for nesting and rearing of young. While construction activity is not expected to have a significant impact on these species, once the towers are installed potential exists to attract raptors and ravens to roost there, putting greater predatory pressure on ground dwelling species in the surrounding habitat. Measures to discourage roosting on power lines should be adopted into the plan of development. Additionally, spacing of the terminals on the towers must be adequate to ameliorate collision threats involving large raptors like the Golden eagle and Red-Tailed hawk. Standard, raptor-friendly designs are outlined in "Suggested Practice for Raptor Protection on Power Lines" (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee, 2006, 1996; APLIC and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2005). These should be incorporated into the project design as a standard operating procedure. The Department requested that information gathered from raptor surveys associated with the project be shared with its biological staff.

0003-1
0003-2
0003-3
0003-4
0003-5
0003-6

August 13, 2009

- Banded Gila Monster. The lizard is State of Nevada Protected and a species of conservation priority to the Department as well as a BLM Sensitive Species. It utilizes rocky outcrops, underground caves and sandy gravelly washes. (While a copy of our Gila monster encounter protocols was forwarded to Mr. Zoller, the protocols are also available online at <http://www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/>.) 0003-7
- Desert tortoise is listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by the State of Nevada. While completion of a Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is anticipated, and should the project go forward, the Department would like to emphasize that prior to handling any live individuals, authorization must be obtained from the Department in addition to any Federal requirements. 0003-8
- Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for migratory birds such as Phainopepla to minimize potential impacts during the spring and summer months. 0003-9

Shortly thereafter on July 1st, a follow-up meeting was attended by those on the field tour and by Mr. Mark Chandler (BLM Southern Nevada District) and Mr. Tom Hurshman (BLM Needles Field Office). A progress summary was developed by E&E and shared with the principals.

Should additional assistance be sought, please contact Roddy Shepard at (702) 486-5127 x3613, or by e-mail at rshepard@ndow.org.

Sincerely,



D. Bradford Hardenbrook
Supervisory Habitat Biologist

RS/DBH

cc: NDOW, File



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392-2310

760.245.1661 • fax 760.245.2699

Visit our web site: <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov>

Eldon Heaston, Executive Director

July 30, 20099

Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman

CPUC/BLM

c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc

130 Battery Street, 4th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94111

Project: Notice of Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay and Mr. Hurshman:

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (District) has received the Notice of Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project. The project proposes to construct, operate, and maintain new and upgraded transmission facilities to deliver electricity from projected solar generation development in the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area. The proposed project involves several types of transmission upgrades including a new Ivanpah 220/115-kilovolt (kV) Substation, a new approximately 35-mile double-circuit 220-kV transmission line between the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area and the existing Eldorado Substation, and a new communication system. 7 miles of the project are located in California.

The District has reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the project and concurs that the air quality impact associated with construction should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

|0004-1

Thank you for the opportunity to review this planning document. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 245-1661, extension 6726, or Tracy Walters at extension 6122.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan J. De Salvio".

Alan J. De Salvio

Supervising Air Quality Engineer

TW/AJD

Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project



desert conservation
PROGRAM

July 24, 2009

Nancy Jackson
SCE Local Public Affairs Region Manager
SCE Victorville Service Center
12353 Hesperia Rd.
Victorville, CA 92392-4797

Re: Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Our staff continues to review the application materials provided by Southern California Edison (SCE) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project, as well as the June 26, 2009 draft "road story" that describes the proposed activities in greater detail, and the copy of the original grants of Rights of Way (ROW) issued to SCE for the portions of the proposed project that cross land within the boundaries of the City of Boulder City (the City) provided to us by SCE. In addition, we are examining other documents that describe SCE's current ROW grant, the rights of parties to issue new ROW in the lands owned by the City, and in particular those lands on which the County has entered into a conservation easement agreement with the City.

We have provided to Roger Overstreet of SCE, and Erica Brown of Ecology and Environment, Inc, consultant to CPUC, a copy of the conservation easement document and GIS layers containing the boundaries of the easement and the interim road designation showing open and closed roads within the area. The following is provided to inform you of the nature and purpose of the Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE), the environmental requirements associated with it, and some outstanding concerns regarding new ROW issuance or current ROW amendment within the BCCE area.

The BCCE has been set aside for the preservation and protection of native plants and animals as well as its scenic and cultural value. As partial mitigation for Clark County's federal incidental take permit, the County purchased the conservation easement from Boulder City in 1995. The term of the easement is at least 50 years, and the property must be retained in a natural condition with the purpose for recovery of the desert tortoise and conservation of other native flora and fauna. Much of the BCCE meets the criteria for desert tortoise critical habitat, and should be analyzed as such in the biological and environmental analyses for the CPUC application and subsequent National Environmental Policy Act analyses.

0005-1

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Nancy Jackson
July 24, 2009
Page Two

For those unfamiliar with the BCCE, the following are part of the agreement:

- The City of Boulder City is the owner in fee simple of all of the land underlying the BCCE.
- The County holds an easement for certain uses and rights of an approximately 85,000 acre area.
- Section 4 of the BCCE lists prohibited uses that may be authorized by the City of Boulder City with the consent of the US Fish & Wildlife Services and Clark County. Section 4 may allow a ROW holder to use a particular area for a finite amount of time and appropriate mitigation, but would not allow the City of Boulder City to grant additional ROW or expand current ROW to include additional activities or uses within the BCCE.
- Section 6 lists the City of Boulder City's reserved rights even if they may conflict with the purpose and intent of the BCCE. Nothing in Section 6 would authorize the City of Boulder City to grant additional ROW or expand its current ROW in any way within the BCCE.
- No ROW expansion could occur without an amendment to the BCCE agreement.

US Land Patent 27-95-0022 transferred land to the Colorado River Commission subject to several ROW held by SCE. Subsequently, this land was transferred to the City of Boulder City, subject to these same ROW held by SCE. However, if SCE seeks to go beyond the ROW within the BCCE, any proposed expansion of existing ROW or any additional ROW would be subordinate to the BCCE. As discussed above, any extension in time or expansion of allowable uses or areas for those ROW as well as any additional ROW would be incompatible with the BCCE.

0005-2

Within the vicinity of the BCCE, US Land Patent 27-95-0022 also appears to have reserved and excluded to the US several corridors for ROW issuance. A low-resolution map is provided in the Patent that appears to generally locate those corridors in the vicinity of the BCCE, but we have been unable to locate documents that describe the formal designation or legal descriptions of these corridors. Until such time as those documents are provided and the corridor issue is resolved, it is the County's position that the BCCE, and its terms and conditions, applies to any expansion of existing ROW or any additional ROW on the BCCE.

0005-3

In addition, the proposed project will need to comply with other federal, state and local laws, several of which address biological resources in the area contained within the BCCE. Boulder City Ordinance #972, title 7, chapter 5 (7-5-8) pertains to the easement area, and restricts surface disturbances within the BCCE. The City does reserve the right to issue permits for temporary surface disturbances, with the written concurrence of the County and the FWS.

0005-4


Also, in the State of Nevada, cacti and yucca are protected plants and it is unlawful for any person, firm, or company or corporation to cut, destroy, mutilate, remove, or possess any Christmas tree, cactus, yucca from any of the lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada or its counties (NRS 527.100). This includes all areas within the BCCE.

0005-5

Nancy Jackson
July 24, 2009
Page Three

I hope the information provided above assists you in planning your activities on and near the BCCE. I'm available for any questions you may have.

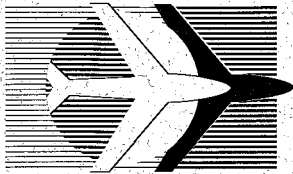
Sincerely,


Sue Wainscott *by ee*

SW/ee

cc: Vicki Mayes, City Manager of Boulder City
Brok Armantrout, Director of Community Development Department, Boulder City
Janet Bair, US Fish and Wildlife Service
✓ Conor Doyle, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

LAS VEGAS



McCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Department of Aviation

RANDALL H. WALKER
DIRECTORROSEMARY A. VASSILIADIS
DEPUTY DIRECTORPOSTAL BOX 11005
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89111-1005
(702) 261-5211
FAX (702) 597-9553
E-MAIL: webmaster2@mccarran.com

August 24, 2009

George R. Meckfessel
 Planning and Environmental Coordinator
 Needles Field Office
 Bureau of Land Management
 1303 South U.S. Highway 95
 Needles, CA 92363-4228

**RE: Scoping Comments on SCE Eldorado Ivanpah Transmission Project; and
 Request for Cooperating Agency Status**

Dear Mr. Meckfessel:

The Clark County Department of Aviation (CCDOA) submits these comments on the proposed Southern California Edison (SCE) Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) that would involve constructing an electric transmission line and associated facilities on public lands in San Bernadino County, California and Clark County, Nevada.

CCDOA is planning to construct and operate a new commercial service airport in the Ivanpah Valley (the Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport or SNSA). As directed by Public Law 106-362, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) patented to Clark County a 6,000-acre site in the Ivanpah Valley (Airport Site) for the purpose of developing an airport and related infrastructure. In Public Law 107-282, Congress also directed that an additional 17,000 acres surrounding the Airport Site (the Airport Environs Overlay District) be conveyed to the County upon final approval of the SNSA.

The construction of the SNSA will be eligible for federal grant funding under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). In order for Clark County to receive such AIP grants, CCDOA must comply with several statutorily-defined obligations. In particular, the airport sponsor must take appropriate action to ensure that the terminal airspace required to protect instrument and visual operations to the airport will be cleared and protected by mitigating existing *and by preventing future airport hazards*. 49 U.S.C. 47107(a)(9). In addition, as the recipient of AIP grant monies, CCDOA must also take appropriate action to restrict the use of land next to or near the airport to users that are compatible with normal airport operations. 49 U.S.C. 47107(a)(10). As a result of these legal requirements, CCDOA is contractually and statutorily obligated to ensure that land uses in and around the Airport Site would not impair the use and operation of that facility.



Clark County Board of Commissioners

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George R. Meckfessel

August 24, 2009

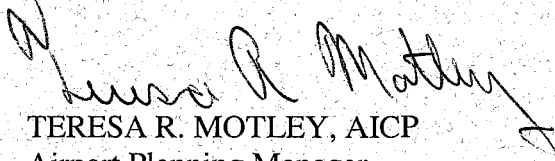
Page 2

The proposed route for the EITP would be located immediately adjacent to the Airport Site (which Clark County currently owns) and within the Airport Environs Overlay District (which Clark County will have the right to acquire once the airport project receives final environmental approval). Because of its status as a current and future owner of land that could be affected by the EITP, combined with the County's legal obligations to protect against any incompatibility between the SNSA and the EITP, **CCDOA formally requests to be a cooperating agency for the EITP EIS.** As described above, CCDOA has the necessary jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise to participate as a cooperating agency.

0006-1

Please feel free to contact Robert Tweedy on my staff at (702) 261-5175 or roberttw@mccarran.com with any questions or inquiries.

Sincerely,



TERESA R. MOTLEY, AICP
Airport Planning Manager

Enclosure

cc: Randall Walker
Rosemary Vassiliadis
Robert Tweedy
Jeffrey Steinmetz
Phil Rhinehart

Clark County Department of Aviation

Scoping Comments on the Proposal by Southern California Edison

to construct the

Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

August 24, 2009

Clark County Department of Aviation (CCDOA) owns and operates a regional system of airports that accommodates commercial service, corporate, general aviation, sport aviation and air cargo demands within southern Nevada. As part of that system, CCDOA is planning to construct and operate a new commercial service airport in the Ivanpah Valley (the Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport or SNSA) in order to ensure sufficient commercial aviation capacity in the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

The proposed route for the proposed Southern California Edison (SCE) Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) would be located immediately adjacent to the Airport Site (which Clark County currently owns) and within the Airport Environs Overlay District (which Clark County will have the right to acquire once the airport project receives final environmental approval).

While CCDOA neither supports nor opposes the EITP, CCDOA is committed to ensuring that any new infrastructure in southern Clark County is compatible with the siting, construction, and operation of the SNSA. To that end, CCDOA is providing the following comments for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to address as it prepares its environmental impact statement (EIS) for the EITP.

1. LAND USE

In accordance with Public Law 106-362, the BLM conveyed to Clark County approximately 6,000 acres of land in the Ivanpah Valley between the towns of Jean and Primm and immediately east of interstate highway I-15 (the Airport Site) for the purpose of developing the SNSA and related infrastructure.¹ Subsequently, in Public Law 107-282, Congress directed that an additional 17,000 acres surrounding the Airport Site be conveyed to the County as an Airport Environs Overlay District upon final approval of the SNSA.² FAA and BLM are currently conducting the necessary environmental reviews for the SNSA and expect to issue Records of Decision (RODs) for the SNSA in 2013.

a. Compliance with Federal Law

¹ The land was patented to the County in 2004. See Patent No. 27-2004-0104.

² Pub. L. 107-282 at § 501(c).

One component of the EITP is a proposed right-of-way that would pass through the southern part of the congressionally-defined Airport Environs Overlay District. *See Exhibit A.* As a result, BLM cannot approve any component of the EITP that would be inconsistent with the congressional direction regarding management of such lands. Therefore, in its EITP EIS, BLM must examine whether the EITP is consistent with congressional direction in Public Law 107-282.

0006-2

b. Consistency with Applicable Land Use Plans

Regardless of the degree to which the project application has any legal obligation to comply with local zoning, BLM has an independent obligation arising under the National Environmental Policy Act to examine in its EIS the degree to which the EITP would be consistent with applicable land use plans. With respect to airport-related issues, the relevant plans include the following:

0006-3

- *Clark County Comprehensive Plan, Vol. 1*³
- *Clark County Airport Environs Report (2007)*⁴
- *South County Land Use Plan (2009)*⁵

c. Coordination with Clark County

Finally, BLM should coordinate the terms of any relevant land use authorization with Clark County. Such coordination will enable Clark County to fulfill its federal obligation to prevent any potential future airspace incompatibility and to take all appropriate actions to restrict incompatible land uses near the SNSA site.⁶ Moreover, once the SNSA is approved pursuant to Public Law 106-362, the BLM must, upon request from the County, transfer all right, title and interest to the Airport Environs Overlay District. As the future owner, Clark County has an inchoate interest in the Overlay District and needs to ensure that the terms and limits on SCE's proposed uses within the Overlay District – including not just the presence of the transmission line, *but also the need for future access* – are consistent with CCDOA's interests and federal obligations regarding the property.

0006-4

2. AVIATION SAFETY

³ Available at:

www.accessclarkcounty.com/DEPTS/COMPREHENSIVE_PLANNING/COMPPLANELEMENTS/Pages/compplanindex.aspx

⁴ Available at:

http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/comprehensive_planning/compplanelements/Documents/FinalAirportEnvironsReport0607.pdf

⁵ Available at:

http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/comprehensive_planning/landuse/Documents/SouthCountyLUP2008.pdf

⁶ See 49 U.S.C. § 471087 §§ (a)(9) & (10).

Because of the close proximity of the EITP to the proposed SNSA, there is also a real possibility that the some elements of the EITP (specifically, transmission towers and lines) may constitute obstructions or hazards, or may create adverse impacts on the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace. CCDOA's chief objective is to avoid any potential for interference with the planned airport, and to ensure that the project applicant complies with relevant FAA regulations in that regard.

0006-5

Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (Part 77) provides that any party proposing to construct an object or structure near a *proposed* public-use airport is required to notify the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) before construction begins.⁷ In turn, the FAA is obligated to examine whether the structure or structures would result in an obstruction of the navigable airspace or would interfere with air navigation facilities and equipment or the navigable airspace.⁸ After considering these factors, FAA issues a determination as to whether or not the proposed structure(s) constitute a hazard to air navigation. This determination has immediate consequences: the Clark County Development Code provides that:

0006-6

“No building or structure shall be permitted if the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determines that the building or structure constitutes a hazard or obstruction to the operation of aircraft, unless the hazard can be mitigated per the FAA. This requirement cannot be waived or varied.”⁹

FAA has exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether tall structures constitute obstructions or hazards to air navigation. However, based on the projected heights of the transmission towers and the proximity of the preferred alignment to the SNSA, it is very likely that several elements of the EITP not only would trigger notice obligations, but also may penetrate one or more of the defined geometric surfaces emanating from the planned SNSA (*e.g.*, Part 77 surfaces, and Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS)) and therefore constitute obstructions. Therefore, CCDOA strongly recommends that the project applicant file a FAA Form 7460-1 (Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration) for each discrete structure proposed to be located near the SNSA in order to obtain a formal FAA determination for each structure. In these determinations, FAA will identify lighting and/or other mitigation requirements that may be necessary to avoid creating obstructions or hazards. Until FAA has issued its determinations, neither BLM nor the project applicant can be certain that the EITP will be compatible with the proposed SNSA. Therefore, it is critical that the project applicant file these forms *now*, during the planning process, rather than wait until the EITP is ready to be constructed to discover any potential conflicts.

0006-7

⁷ 14 C.F.R. § 77.13(a)(5)(ii) (construction or alteration requiring notice); 14 C.F.R. § 77.17 (form and time of notice); *see also Greater Orlando Aviation Authority v. FAA*, 939 F.2d 954, 960-61 (11th Cir. 1991) (FAA's requirement to carry out aeronautical studies includes, by necessity, a requirement to consider every planned airport of which it has actual notice).

⁸ 49 U.S.C. § 44718 (requiring FAA to conduct aeronautical studies to determine impacts on planned public use airports).

⁹ CLARK COUNTY CODE § 30.56.070.

CCDOA is prepared to assist the project applicant and/or BLM in determining any necessary measures to avoid any adverse effects to air navigation or to the SNSA.

0006-8

3. TECHNICAL ISSUES / QUESTIONS

CCDOA also has identified several more minor issues that should be examined and addressed in the EIS.

a. Lighting

As noted above, FAA requires that structures near aviation facilities that are *obstructions* must be marked and/or lighted in accordance with FAA standards, and it is very likely that sections of the EITP near the SNSA will need to be lighted. In addition, there are several existing transmission lines near the project area that may need to be lighted when the SNSA becomes operational. To that end, BLM should consider both the direct and the potential cumulative effects of any required lighting of the new EITP lines.

0006-9

0006-10

b. Cultural Resources

BLM will be required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into consideration the effects of the EITP on historic properties.¹⁰ As a result, the agency will be required to define an Area of Potential Effects (APE), conduct an inventory in the APE for potential historic properties, evaluate such properties in terms of their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties, consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), develop a mitigation plan to address any potential adverse effects, and, if there would be adverse effects, execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO (and possibly the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation).

As a joint lead agency for the pending SNSA EIS, BLM has these same obligations for the SNSA project. Therefore, in preparing the EIS for the EITP, BLM should (to the extent that the APEs for the two projects overlap) take all steps to make sure that the agency's findings regarding eligible properties are consistent.

0006-11

c. Scoping Map

Finally, CCDOA wishes to comment that the Scoping Map that is entitled "The Ivanpah to Eldorado Transmission Project in Relation to Other Energy Projects" and that was made available at the recent public meetings has misleading, *and in some cases incorrect*, information regarding land status in Clark County. For example:

0006-12

- The map depicts BLM solar project leases inside the 6,000 acre Airport Site. As noted above, that site was patented to Clark County in 2004.¹¹ Clark County

¹⁰ 16 U.S.C. § 470f; 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

¹¹ See Patent No. 27-2004-0104.

Clark County Department of Aviation
Scoping Comments on the EIS for the SCE Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
August 24, 2009

did not take title subject to any existing leases, and BLM has no legal authority, since the land was transferred, to accept any leases on the now private property.

- The map also depicts several categories of land northwest of Jean as “BLM wind project leases (authorized).” CCDOA is aware of at least one lease (the proposed Table Mountain Wind Co. project) that has not yet received a Record of Decision from BLM.¹²
- In addition, the map depicts a series of solar project leases throughout the South County, many of which overlap the Airport Environs Overlay District. BLM should amend the map to include the perimeter of the Overlay District and to clarify that none of these solar leases are yet authorized.

A copy of the scoping map is provided for your reference.

* * *

¹² See *Clark County v. FAA*, 522 F.3d 437, 441 (D.C. Cir. 2008).



SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

1225 Adriana Way, Upland, CA 91784
(909) 946-5027

*Regional Groups Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties: Big Bear,
Los Serranos, Mojave, Moreno Valley, Mountains, Santa Margarita, Tahquitz.*

August 21, 2009

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Attention George R. Meckfessel
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Needles Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
1303 South U.S. Highway 95
Needles, California, 92363-4228

**Re: Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Final Environmental Impact Report for
the Proposed SCE, Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project**

To All Whom It May Concern:

The San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomes the opportunity to assist the Bureau of Land Management and the California Public Utilities Commission to identify the issues and environmental effects that should be addressed in the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Southern California Edison (SCE) Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project in California and Nevada. The most important consideration in our view is that the EIS/EIR must include a thorough and complete analysis of the project's effects on the Northeastern Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Unit and its associated eco-system, both in terms of direct and cumulative impacts.

0007-1

The Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit is one of the six Desert Tortoise Recovery Units designated in the 1994 *Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan*. These populations were identified based on genetics, behavior, ecology, geographic isolation, and morphology. Since the Recovery Plan was published, a number of studies have compared tortoises between different Recovery Units and confirmed biological differences among the populations. Most recently, "A Genetic Assessment of the Recovery Units for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise..." (Murphy, et. al. 2007) presents additional evidence that the tortoises in the Recovery Units constitute distinct populations, confirming the validity of the Recovery Plan's six Desert Tortoise Recovery Units.

The proposed SCE project will directly affect the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit in both California and Nevada as the Ivanpah substation, the transmission line replacement, and the telecommunications systems are situated in or traverse the habitat of this evolutionary significant population Unit. The project will impact the Piute-Eldorado Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA), critical habitat where the threatened desert tortoise is to be managed to achieve recovery by reducing eliminating human-caused impacts. The project will affect the habitat of the California portion of the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit in the Ivanpah Valley, as well.

0007-2

The site of the proposed Ivanpah substation, for instance, is on relatively undisturbed lands that currently support a resident desert tortoise population.

The joint EIS/EIR must also provide a thorough and complete analysis of the manner in which the project contributes to cumulative impacts on the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit of the related power projects proposed for the Ivanpah Valley. The EIS/EIR will be inadequate if it fails to consider the cumulative impacts from the Ivanpah to Eldorado transmission line, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, the Optisolar power plant, and the Nextlight Renewable Power projects on nearly 8,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat in the eastern Ivanpah Valley. The future of the Ivanpah desert tortoise is at risk from the combined impact of these industrial developments. It is reasonable and prudent, therefore, to take into account the projected impacts to the desert tortoise across the Valley.

0007-3

Sincerely,

Sidney Silliman
Conservation Committee

....To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 24 2009

George R. Meckfessel
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Highway 95
Needles, California, 92363-4228

Dear Mr. Meckfessel:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Southern California Edison, Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project, Clark County, Nevada and San Bernardino County, CA. Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA has no formal comments on the Notice of Intent at this time. Please send one hard copy of the Draft EIS (DEIS) and two CD copies to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. Office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3545 or at mcperson.ann@epa.gov.

0008-1

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann McPherson".

Ann McPherson
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

VIA U.S. MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 20, 2009

Monisha Gangopadhyay/Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM

c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.
130 Battery Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
ivanpah@ene.com

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Joint EIR/EIS and Notice of Scoping Meetings for the Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project A.09-05-027

Dear Ms. Gangopadhyay and Mr. Hurshman:

The Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 40,000 members throughout California and the western United States, including members that live and/or visit the vicinity of the proposed Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project and the solar generating projects to which it is linked. These scoping comments are submitted on behalf of our board, staff and members.

The development of renewable energy generation and adequate transmission capacity for that renewable energy is a critical component of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoid the worst consequences of global warming, and to assist California in meeting emission reductions set by AB 32 and Executive Order S-03-05. The Center strongly supports the development of renewable energy production, and the generation of electricity from solar power, in particular and truly necessary transmission upgrades to support that power production. However, like any project, proposed solar power projects and transmission projects to support that power generation must be thoughtfully planned to minimize impacts to the environment. In particular, renewable energy projects should avoid impacts to sensitive species and habitats, and should be sited in proximity to the areas of electricity end-use in order to reduce the need for extensive new transmission corridors and the efficiency loss associated with extended energy transmission. Only by maintaining the highest environmental standards with regard to local impacts, and effects on species and habitat, can renewable energy production be truly sustainable.

The need for the proposed Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission project (which also includes a new substation) is entirely based on the assumption that the proposed solar projects in the Ivanpah Valley in California and near Primm, Nevada will be approved. However, none of these proposed solar projects has yet been approved, completed environmental review, or even reached

Arizona • California • Nevada • New Mexico • Alaska • Oregon • Montana • Illinois • Minnesota • Vermont • Washington, DC

the stage of a Draft EIS. And all of these proposed projects will have major impacts to the biological resources of the area, significantly affecting many sensitive plant and wildlife species, and eliminating broad expanses of relatively undisturbed Mojave Desert habitat on both sides of the border. Of particular concern to the Center, the proposed solar projects and this proposed transmission project taken together will have significant impacts to a suite of species including to the federally and state listed threatened desert tortoise and its critical habitat that are not being considered in a comprehensive way. The following comments address those issues:

Purpose and Need:

The scoping notice assumes that new solar power generation will be approved and constructed in the Ivanpah Dry Lake Area and that therefore the transmission project is needed to service those new generation sites. However, those project approvals are not a foregone conclusion, for example, the new Ivanpah substation appears to be intended to service the proposed Ivanpah SEGS, the proposed NextLight solar projects in Nevada, as well as other potential projects, none of which have yet been approved. The BLM and the CPUC cannot base the need for this project on other proposed projects that have not yet, and may not ever, be approved. To do so would not only violate the principle that the decisions on those proposed solar facilities must only be made *after* careful environmental review but could also result in much wasted time and effort and the premature approval of a transmission project that is simply a “bridge to nowhere.”

Agencies cannot narrow the purpose and need statement to fit only the proposed project and then shape their findings to approve that project without a “hard look” at the environmental consequences. To do so would allow an agency to circumvent environmental laws by simply “going-through-the-motions.” It is well established that NEPA review cannot be “used to rationalize or justify decisions already made.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.5; *Metcalf v. Daley*, 214 F.3d 1135, 1141-42 (9th Cir. 2000) (“the comprehensive ‘hard look’ mandated by Congress and required by the statute must be timely, and it must be taken objectively and in good faith, not as an exercise in form over substance, and not as a subterfuge designed to rationalize a decision already made.”)

Project as a Whole:

To the extent that this project states that it is necessitated by new solar energy generation development projects that have not yet been approved by the BLM, it is improper for BLM to segment the analysis of this project from those other projects. NEPA’s implementing regulations state that agencies should consider similar, reasonably foreseeable actions together in the same environmental review document when the actions “have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography,” and the “best way to assess adequately [their] combined impacts [...] or reasonable alternatives” is to consider them together. 40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(C). It is important for federal agencies to consider connected actions together in a single NEPA process as opposed to segmenting review. *Daly v. Volpe*, 514 F.2d 1106, 1110 (9th Cir. 1975) (where actions are interconnected in terms of fulfilling a joint purpose it may be necessary to conduct a single NEPA review). Here, the BLM should not proceed any further in the NEPA process for the proposed transmission lines and

0009-2

substation without coordinating this NEPA process with the approval process for all of the connected actions. This would allow all of the projects' significant impacts to be fully considered together.

0009-3

In particular, the BLM should consider together the additive impacts to biological resources, including the desert tortoise and its habitat, from the proposed solar projects and the proposed transmission line and substation to ensure that the true extent of impacts are fully disclosed and analyzed. BLM should not treat this critical analysis as a cumulative impacts question alone. Because the currently proposed projects are linked and interdependent they should be evaluated together under NEPA. Most importantly, each of these projects will have significant direct impacts on desert tortoise populations in the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit. BLM must look at those impacts in a comprehensive way that would allow it to formulate meaningful alternatives that could avoid many of the impacts of these linked projects and where impacts remain that cannot be avoided through alternatives, provide for comprehensive minimization and mitigation measures that will ensure that impacts to this recovery unit are appropriately mitigated. Ultimately, BLM must ensure that the approval of these linked projects does not impair the recovery of the desert tortoise populations in the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit.

0009-4

Alternatives:

Pursuant to CEQA, the "policy of the state" is that projects with significant environmental impacts may not be approved "if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects..." Pub. Res. Code § 21002; CEQA Guidelines § 15021(a)(2). A Project should not be approved if environmentally superior alternatives exist "even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the project objectives, or would be more costly." CEQA Guidelines §§ 15021(a)(2), 15126.6; Pub. Res. Code § 21002. The Project must be rejected if an alternative available for consideration would accomplish "most [not all] of the basic objectives of the project and could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects." CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(c).

0009-5

Accordingly, the EIR/EIS must consider a range of alternatives that would achieve the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant environmental effects, and it is essential that the "EIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project." CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(d). Alternative sites must also be considered where relocating the project would substantially lessen the significant impacts of the project. Guidelines Section 15126.6(f)(2). *See Citizens of Goleta Valley v County of Santa Barbara* (1988) 197 Cal.App.3d 1167, 1178; *Save Round Valley Alliance v. County of Inyo* (2007) 157 Cal.App.4th 1437, 1456 (whether an alternative site may be feasible even where it requires a change in land use designation; to determine feasibility requires detailed analysis of the alternatives; and even if an alternative is less profitable than the project as proposed it may still be a feasible alternative).

NEPA similarly requires that a range of meaningful alternatives be explored in the environmental review process. 42 U.S.C. §§ 4332(C)(iii),(E). The agency must “study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommend courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.” 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(E); *see also* CEQ Forty Questions, 46 Fed. Reg. at 18027 (“Section 1502.14 requires the EIS to examine all reasonable alternatives to the proposal. In determining the scope of alternatives to be considered, the emphasis is on what is ‘reasonable’ rather than on whether the proponent or applicant likes or is itself capable of carrying out a particular alternative. Reasonable alternatives include those that are *practical or feasible* from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply *desirable* from the standpoint of the applicant.” (emphasis in original)).

In addition, pursuant to the BLM’s California Desert Conservation Area plan which covers much of the area the project impacts in California, impacts to wildlife from conflicting land uses should be avoided. CDCA Plan at 28. Impacts to BLM sensitive plant species should also be avoided. CDCA Plan at 37. Avoidance can best be accomplished through alternative project siting and/or project design. Most importantly in this instance, and as detailed below, the EIR/EIS must look at alternative sites that could avoid impacts to desert tortoises, critical habitat, DWMA’s and other essential desert tortoise habitat. The EIR/EIS should also fully explore other alternatives that would achieve the same level of transmission reliability and support for solar energy production that is intelligently sited—which should be the basic objective of the project—but without the significant impacts of the proposed project and the projects that are linked to it.

Impacts to Plants and Wildlife:

Many rare plants have been identified within the project area. In California these plants include but are not limited to the Rusby’s desert mallow (*Spheralcea rusbyi* var. *eremicola*), Cave evening primrose (*Oenothera cavernae*), Mojave milkweed (*Asclepias nyctaginifolia*), and Desert pincushion (*Coryphantha chlorantha*). In addition, there are several rare plants found in Nevada within the project area:

White-margined penstemon (*Penstemon albomarginatus*)

The white-margined penstemon is a rare plant known from only five general locales, two in southwest Nevada, including the Jean-Roach Lake area, two in southeast California, and one in Arizona near Kingman. The Jean-Roach Lake population is central and likely to be important for the transport of genetic material among populations and other ecological functions.¹

This plant is generally restricted to deep, loose deposits of aeolian sandy soils between 2560 and 3570 feet elevation. A 2001 field survey reported finding at least 68,164 plants on

¹ The Nature Conservancy. 2007. A conservation management strategy for nine low elevation rare plants in Clark County, Nevada. At: http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/daqem/epd/dcp/Pages/dcp_reports.aspx.

6734 acres in Nevada.² While the plant is not federally listed, its unique and limited habitat makes it rare and imperiled. The Nature Conservancy report summarizes the threats to the Jean-Roach Lake population as “very high”. Because of the limited distribution, unique habitat and very high level of threats, the Natural Heritage Program ranks it globally as “G2”, imperiled, while in Nevada and Arizona it is state ranked as imperiled, and in California it is state ranked as critically imperiled and very threatened.³

The proposed route of the 220 kV passes through the Jean-Roach Lake area and poses a potential threat to populations 10 and 12 as identified by Smith.⁴ These roughly correspond to between mile markers 12-15, and 21-25 as shown on Project Overview Figure ES-1. A pre-activity inventory should be conducted in areas of potential and known habitats, and the populations found or known clearly marked on the ground. Activities associated with tower construction or modification, line pulling and other potentially ground disturbing activities should be sited away from inventoried occupied sites whenever possible.

Aven Nelson phacelia (*Phacelia anelsonii*)

Aven Nelson phacelia occurs mostly in sheltered places, as along the northern side of cliffs and ledges, in rocky or sandy or gravelly soil, at elevations of up to 1500 m. There are only two known occurrences in Nevada, including one near the alignment of highway 164 along the proposed route of the telecommunications line near where path 2, sections 1 and 2 meet.⁵ NatureServe ranks this plant as “G2” imperiled, while it is state ranked in Nevada as “critically imperiled”.⁶ A pre-activity inventory should be conducted in areas of potential and known habitats, and the populations found or known clearly marked on the ground. Activities associated with tower construction or modification, line pulling and other potentially ground disturbing activities should be sited away from inventoried occupied sites whenever possible.

Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

The desert tortoise lives in valleys, flat areas, and dry alluvial fans and washes. In the Mojave and Colorado deserts, tortoises are generally found below 4,000 feet in Joshua tree-Mohave yucca communities, creosote bush-saltbush scrub habitats, and some ocotillo-creosote habitats. They may live in a variety of soil types, including those of sand dunes, rocky hillsides, washes, sandy soils, and desert pavements. Tortoises living in southern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, and extreme northern Arizona comprise the Mojave population of

² Smith, Frank J. 2001. Current knowledge and conservation status of *Penstemon albomarginatus* M.E. Jones (Scrophulariaceae), the white-margined penstemon. 29 pages + 3 appendices. Nevada Natural Heritage Program. Carson City, NV.

³ Ibid, The Nature Conservancy.

⁴ Ibid, Smith.

⁵ <http://heritage.nv.gov/atlas/atlasndx.htm>

⁶ http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?sourceTemplate=tabular_report.wmt&loadTemplate=spe cies_RptComprehensive.wmt&selectedReport=RptComprehensive.wmt&summaryView=tabular_report.wmt&elKey=156874&paging=home&save=true&startIndex=1&nextStartIndex=1&reset=false&offPageSelectedElKey=156874&offPageSelectedElType=species&offPageYesNo=true&post_processes=&radiobutton=radiobutton&selectedIndexes=156874

desert tortoise, and were afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species in 1990.

Desert tortoises are found throughout the proposed project area, with the possible exception of the mountain passes. The proposed project lies within the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit and impacts the Ivanpah (CA) and Piute-Eldorado (NV) recovery units.⁷ Murphy et al. (2007) undertook extensive genetic analysis across the range of the desert tortoise and identified genetically unique populations within the larger listed population. The desert tortoise in the project area represent a unique genetic group – the northeastern Mojave group. The uniqueness of this population is also recognized both in the 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (USFWS 1994) and the draft Revised Recovery Plan (USFWS 2008) as the North Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit and the Murphy et al. paper again confirms the uniqueness of this population.

In California, the Ivanpah area is the only location of this unique genotype of desert tortoise in California. Because these animals represent such a unique occurrence in California, adequate avoidance, minimization and mitigation must be applied to this project pursuant to CEQA taking into account the connected and cumulative projects including the Ivanpah SEGS project. Several of the Path 2 sections and alternatives fall within desert tortoise critical habitat in California which is part of the Ivanpah DWMA. Prior to 2002, the area to the north of the I-15 in California in the Ivanpah Valley was designated by BLM as Category 1 habitat for desert tortoise – the best desert tortoise habitat. The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan (BLM 2002) changed that designation, not based on any site specific science, but on the establishment of Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA's) elsewhere. All critical habitat and occupied desert tortoise habitat should be avoided and the EIR/EIS should explore a more robust range of alternatives providing at least one alternative that does not impact any critical habitat.

In Nevada, the entire proposed route of the 220 kV transmission line and proposed telecommunication route Path 2 falls within the Piute-Eldorado Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) as outlined in the 1994 desert tortoise recovery plan. Further, the majority of Path 2, segment 1 from the Boulder City limits to highway 164 falls within designated critical habitat.⁸

The EIR/EIS must address the impacts of this project and other linked projects to the *survival and recovery* of desert tortoise in this recovery unit and take seriously the development of meaningful alternatives to this project and the linked solar generating projects that will avoid impacts to the species and its habitat. The desert tortoise is continuing to decline throughout its range (USFWS 2008) despite being under federal and state Endangered Species Acts protection as threatened. As the BLM is well aware, it is increasingly difficult to find intact, high quality desert tortoise habitat that could arguably “mitigate” for the loss of any high quality occupied desert tortoise habitat in the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit. Therefore, *avoiding* impacts to this essential habitat and maintaining the largest possible areas of intact, high quality habitat is absolutely critical for recovery of the species.

⁷ http://www.fws.gov/nevada/desert_tortoise/dtro_1994_recovery_plan.html

⁸ Ibid.

Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelson*)

In California, desert bighorn sheep are found both in the Clark Mountains and within the Mojave National Preserve. There is ongoing concern regarding the fragmentation of bighorn habitat and the loss of critical movement corridors across the I-15 which this project may exacerbate by further industrializing the area. The project should look at ways to minimize any impacts to bighorn movement.

In Nevada, desert bighorn sheep are found in the McCoullough and Highland Ranges, crucial bighorn sheep habitat, which both are affected by components of the proposal. The proposed route of the 220 kV transmission line crosses the McCullough Range, and while it does so through a highly disturbed and roaded pass, there is a critical watering guzzler located north of the pass. This watering source is critically important to the sheep during the hot and dry periods of the year. Construction activities could disrupt the movements of sheep north and south of the pass and result in critical stresses on the herd. Work in this area should be conducted outside of periods where access to this guzzler is important to the sheep. Another concern is the proposed telecommunications route Path 2 section 1, which is sited in a narrow valley between the two ranges. Sheep movement between these ranges is routine and construction would impact around ten miles of sheep crossing areas. Again, timing and segmenting work on the telecommunications line may be useful in mitigating impacts to the sheep. Also of concern are the impacts of construction and helicopter support on sheep lambing. The BLM and proponent should consult with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on how best to mitigate these and other impacts.

0009-12

Impacts to Mojave National Preserve and Other Special Status Areas:

Mojave National Preserve

The Path 2 and alternatives run along the border of the Mojave National Preserve which is home to many rare and imperiled species including the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep. In this area the project is also within the critical habitat for the desert tortoise. All potential impacts to the Preserve must be identified and fully considered.

0009-13

Wee Thump Joshua Tree Forest Important Bird Area

Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs may be a few acres or thousands of acres, but usually they are discrete sites that stand out from the surrounding landscape.⁹ The Wee Thump Joshua Tree IBA was designated because of the important and unique habitat it provides for desert cavity nesting birds. The ancient Joshua trees, estimated to be over 250 years old offer cavities and habitat that are largely absent over much of the surrounding regional landscape.¹⁰ The proposed Path 2 segment 1 for the telecommunications line borders or slightly enters this IBA. Consultations should be conducted

⁹ http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/iba_intro.html

¹⁰ <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/stateIndex.do?state=US-NV>

with NDOW and should include consideration of mitigation measures such as seasonal work stoppages to protect the breeding activity in the neighboring IBA.

0009-14

Unusual Plant Assemblages and Riparian Areas

The EIS should identify and analyze impacts to all Unusual Plant Assemblages and riparian areas throughout the project area and these resources should be fully protected. Within the CDCA all riparian areas are considered Unusual Plant Assemblages and must be fully protected. CDCA Plan at 38, 42. To the extent that the proposed project may affect any riparian areas or other UPA's alternatives must be explored that would avoid all impacts to these rare desert resources.

0009-15

0009-16

Conclusion

For this and future proposed projects, mechanisms must be put in place to provide comprehensive environmental review of all connected and linked projects including both generation and transmission facilities so that the true impacts of the project as a whole can be evaluated and meaningful alternatives developed. A coordinated process will encourage solar facilities to be proposed and sited in appropriate areas, preferably on disturbed lands instead of in fully ecologically functioning habitat which supports a variety of rare and threatened species such as is found in the Ivanpah Valley and other areas affected by this proposed project. Moreover, better planning and appropriate siting of generating facilities can minimize the need for extensive new transmission lines.

We hope and expect that the CPUC and the BLM will carefully consider all of the connected projects in a comprehensive environmental review process in order to develop meaningful alternatives that will avoid many of the significant impacts of the proposed transmission line and substation as well as the associated solar generating projects. We look forward to reviewing a Draft EIR/EIS that comprehensively identifies and analyzes all of the significant impacts of the proposed transmission line, substation, and the associated solar projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Please provide notices relate to this project to me at the address below.

Sincerely,



Lisa T. Belenky, Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
351 California St., Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 436-9682 x307
Fax: (415) 436-9683

Ivanpah Project

Agency Scoping Meeting

Ecology & Environment, Inc.

Date:	07/01/09
Location:	BLM Las Vegas FO; dial-in
E & E:	Jennifer Rouda, Jason Zoller (biologist), Howard Levine, Tina Willis, Erica Brown
CPUC:	Monisha Gangopadhyay, Jason Reiger
BLM:	Tom Hurshman, George Meckfessel, resource specialists (see attached list)
Agency Attendees:	See attached list.
Details:	Agency Scoping Meeting – Introduction of EITP and Opportunity for Agency Questions and Comments

SUMMARY:

Tom Hurshman (BLM PM), Monisha Gangopadhyay (CPUC PM), and E & E staff introduced the Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) to agency stakeholders. They provided an overview of the project and the permitting process and invited questions and comments from the agencies. The following is a summary of the topics that were discussed.

Purpose of Meeting (Hurshman/Rouda). Agency scoping is a fundamental part of the NEPA/CEQA process.

The purpose of the agency scoping meeting is to introduce the EITP to agency stakeholders and answer any questions the agencies might have about the project. The agency meeting was held in advance of the public scoping process to allow agencies to become involved early on through both questions and comments. The scoping period tentatively ends August 11, 2009, pending publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI).

Project History (Hurshman). SCE indicated their intention to upgrade the existing line in the Ivanpah Valley area to server renewable energy generation. BLM and CPUC have participated in a pre-filing review process culminating in SCE's submission of a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Plan of Development (POD).

Roles and Responsibilities (Hurshman/Gangopadhyay). The project would require a CPCN from the CPUC and a ROW grant from the BLM. The BLM and CPUC have signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document. E & E will be assisting both the CPUC and the BLM in their environmental review. CPUC is the licensing agency for the transmission line and associated infrastructure under G.O. 131-D. As the primary landowner, BLM would issue a ROW grant for the project pending a NEPA review. The majority of the project would be located in Nevada, but Needles is the BLM lead FO.

Project Components Overview (Rouda). The project includes 35 miles of transmission upgrades from single circuit 115-kV to double circuit 220-kV, redundant telecommunications systems, upgrades to the existing Eldorado Substation, and construction of the Ivanpah Substation. The project would be located primarily in Nevada near the town of Primm.

Purpose, Need, and Objectives (Rouda). BLM, CPUC, and E & E have developed draft Objectives reflecting the Purpose and Need for the project:

1. To connect renewable energy sources in the Ivanpah Valley Area in compliance with Executive Order 13212, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Federal Power Act, California Senate Bill 1078, and California Senate Bill 107;
2. To improve reliability in compliance with applicable standards including NERC, WECC, CAISO, and Southern California Edison standards; and
3. To maximize the use of existing ROW and designated utility corridors to minimize impacts to environmental resources.

Alternatives (Rouda). Alternatives will be developed and expanded as part of the agency and public scoping process. SCE has included a number of alternatives in the PEA, including system alternatives, routing alternatives, technology alternatives, and a no project alternative.

Resource Areas and Key Project Issues (Brown). The following resource areas were discussed: biological, cultural, visual, recreational, lands, hydrology, hazards, geology, public services and utilities, population and housing, traffic, air quality, noise, agriculture, and cumulative. The following specific comments/questions were made by agency representatives in attendance:

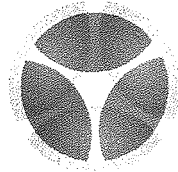
- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Sue Wainscott raised the issue of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and advised CPUC/BLM to obtain a complete list of species covered under the MSHCP and a copy of their mitigation measures when meeting with Boulder City. | 0010-1 |
| 2. Representatives from the Clark County Department of Aviation noted that they have been attending ongoing meetings with SCE regarding the project and had another meeting scheduled for the end of the month. | 0010-2 |
| 3. Roddy Sheppard of the Nevada Department of Wildlife asked about the handling of the old poles—specifically where would they be disposed of and whether the existing roads would be able to handle the transportation of the waste materials. | 0010-3 |
| 4. Dan Kupulsky of Caltrans stated that a permit would be required for the I-15 crossing but that crossing would be allowed in that location. He raised the issue of consulting the Nevada Department of Transportation and potential railroad crossings. | 0010-4 |
| 5. Fred Edwards, BLM botanist, suggested addressing potential impacts to the white-margin beardtongue in the cumulative section, given the amount of development in the area. | 0010-5 |
| 6. Fred Edwards, BLM biologist, stated that the rare plant surveys need to follow BLM protocol. | 0010-6 |
| 7. Larry Whalen of the National Park Service asked about the project’s potential impact to natural dark. The project would not require nighttime lighting and would use non-speculative materials, but impacts to natural dark would have to be addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis. | 0010-7 |

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 8. Becky Jones of CDFG asked if cumulative impacts due to land construction had been quantified. She also asked whether the project would require a 2081 (California Incidental Take Permit) or 1600 (lakebed and stream alteration) permit. | 0010-8
0010-9
0010-11 |
| 9. Sue Wainscott recommended acquiring a list of Bolder City's Future Projects from Bolder City. | 0010-12 |
| 10. BLM representatives pointed out that some of the footprints for solar development in the area on the cumulative map were misplaced or incorrectly sized. | 0010-13 |
| 11. Dave Kessler of the FAA raised the issue of navigational aids and airplane flight paths and asked if the project had looked at electromagnetic interference and sound abatement zones. | 0010-14 |
| 12. Larry Whalen of the National Park Service asked whether the telecommunications route would be within an existing ROW or require new ROW and whether it would be undergrounded or installed along existing poles in the Mojave National Preserve. | |

ACTION ITEMS:

1. E & E to forward above questions and comments to section authors. Section authors to respond, where required.
2. E & E to send invites to agencies for the public scoping meeting.
3. E & E to set up separate scoping meeting with the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Agency	Point of Contact	Title	Address	City, State, Zip	Attendance
Clark County Desert Conservation Program	Sue Wainscott	Adaptive Management Coordinator/Project Manager	333 N. Rancho # 625	Las Vegas, NV 89119	In Person
NDOW	Roddy Shepard				In Person
National Parks Service (Mojave National Preserve)	Larry Whalon	Deputy Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve			In Person
Clark County Comprehensive Planning	Dionicio Gordillo				In Person
Clark County DOA	Scott Thompson				In Person
BLM	Jeff Steinmetz				In Person
BLM	George Varhalimi				In person
BLM	Susanne Rowe				In Person
BLM	Fred Edwards				In Person
BLM	Sarah Peterson				In Person
BLM	Mark Chandler	Realty Specialist			In Person
Ecology and Environment, Inc	Jason Zoller	Biologist			In Person
Clark County Department of Aviation	Mark Silverstein				In Person
Clark County Department of Aviation	Tucker Field				In Person
Clark County Department of Aviation	Robert Tweedy				In Person
BLM	Marilyn Peterson	Recreation Specialist			In Person
BLM	Jason Barangan	Biologist			In Person
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management Town of Laughlin, Managers Office	Michael R. Richardson Jackie Brady				Dial In Dial In
FAA Western Pacific Region, Airports Division	David Kessler				Dial In
California Department of Fish and Game	Becky Jones				Dial In
California Department of Transportation	Dan Kopulsky				Dial In



desert conservation
PROGRAM

August 28, 2009

Monisha Gangopadhyay and Tom Hurshman
CPUC/BLM
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc
130 Battery St., 4th FL
San Francisco, CA 94111-4905

Re: Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings.

The concerns expressed in our previous letters dated June 12, 2009 and July 24, 2009, remain. In summary, those concerns are:

- No expansion of the current Southern California Edison Rights of Way in space or uses could currently be granted without amendment to the Boulder City Conservation Easement; 0011-1
- No new Rights of Way could currently be granted within the Boulder City Conservation Easement without amendment to the Easement; 0011-2
- The application documents should indicate that the project as proposed will have an impact on our Habitat Conservation Plan via the impacts to one of our key mitigation areas, the Boulder City Conservation Easement. In particular, the application's Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix A) and the text of the document do not indicate or analyze these impacts; and 0011-3
- Boulder City Ordinances, Nevada State Cactus and Yucca laws and other local and state regulations must be reviewed to determine if the project as proposed is in compliance with those regulations. 0011-4

In addition, the Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP) has evaluated environmental and land use concerns within the Project area which included analyzing existing information for environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife, and plant species of concern. The DCP is providing the following comments:

Chapter 8, page A-8, needs to have the HCP box checked as having some impacts. 0011-5

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Monisha Gangopadhyay and Tom Hurshman
 Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
 August 28, 2009
 Page Two

The boundaries of the Boulder City Conservation Easement and better defined SCE ROWs limits should be incorporated and displayed onto the appropriate road story maps provided by Roger Overstreet. Our staff and law enforcement personnel, who patrol the Boulder City Conservation Easement on a regular basis, will need to know what the limits of those ROWs are, prior to any ground disturbance within the Boulder City Conservation Easement area, so that we have a clear understanding of what activities are and are not allowable.

0011-6

Road story maps 11-14 and 74-78 are of particular interest to the DCP. These maps are located in one of the highest biodiversity areas within the Boulder City Conservation Easement. This area contains greater cactus densities; impacts and restoration activities may be higher in this area.

0011-7

Table 3.1 needs to be updated to reflect the acres of private (City of Boulder City) lands and substation lands affected by the project and alternatives.

0011-8

Consider general project impacts and restoration activities, especially at pull and tension sites. The impacts and restoration will be greater in sandier areas and in southwestern portion of the Boulder City Conservation Easement.

0011-9

A list of species that could be found in or near the Easement is also provided:

Reptiles:

Gopherus agassizii
Heloderma suspectum
Sauromalus obesus
Gambelia wislizenii
Crotaphytus insularis
Coleonyx variegatus
Phrynosoma platyrhinos
Dipsosaurus dorsalis
Crotalus mitchelli
Crotalus cerastes
Crotalus scutulatus
Rhinocheilus lecontei
Arizona elegans
Phyllorhynchus decurtatus
Trimorphodon biscutatus

0011-10

Bees:

Perdita cracens
Perdita fallugiae

0011-11

Monisha Gangopadhyay and Tom Hurshman
 Eldorado-Ivanpah Transmission Project
 August 28, 2009
 Page Three

Birds:

Phainopepla
 LeConte's Thrasher
 Crissal Thrasher
 Gray Vireo
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Western Burrowing Owl
 Cactus Wren
 Scott's Oriole

0011-12

Plants:

Penstemon bicolor ssp *roseus* & *bicolor*
Acacia greggii
Prosopis glandulosa
Lotus argyraeus var *multicaulis* (scrub lotus)

0011-13

Mammals:

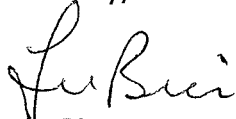
Kit Fox
 Several varieties of Bats
 Desert Kangaroo Rat
 Desert Pocket Mouse

0011-14

As the manager for the Boulder City Conservation Easement, any proposed project work on the Easement is of utmost importance to us. We are most interested in commenting on the draft Environmental Assessment when it becomes available.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed project. We hope the information provided assists you in planning your activities on and near the Easement. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 702.455.3554.

Sincerely,



Lee Bice
 Sr. GIS Analyst and Project Manager

cc: Brok Armantrout, City of Boulder City
 Janet Bair, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS
 Sue Wainscott, DCP Project Manager
 Marci Henson, DCP Program Manager

Appendix H ***Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets***

- 1. Nipton Meeting***
- 2. Las Vegas Meeting***

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Bureau of Land Management / California Public Utilities Commission

Public Scoping Meeting

El Dorado - Ivanpah Transmission Project

Nipton, CA - July 28, 2009

Note: Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety

SIGN-IN SHEET

Presentation starting promptly at 7:00 pm **(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)**

NAME	AFFILIATION	Mailing ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
DON COPELAND	CALTRANS		909 388-1252	don_copeland@dot.ca.gov
MARK CHANDLER	BLM LAS VEGAS	4701 N. TORREY PINES LAS VEGAS, NV 89130	702 515-5000	
Shemie L. Hanics	w/ husband - Elcon Portland OR	10800 SW 25th AV	503-246-5574	Shemie@slhdesign.com

Bureau of Land Management / California Public Utilities Commission

Public Scoping Meeting

El Dorado - Ivanpah Transmission Project

Las Vegas, NV – July 29, 2009

Note: Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety

SIGN-IN SHEET

Presentation starting promptly at 7:00 pm (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

NAME	AFFILIATION	Mailing ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
Jessie Stegmaier	BLM	LVFO, BLM	702-515-5102	Jessica_stegmaier@blm.gov
MARK CHANDLER	BLM	LAS VEGAS, 89031 4701 N. TONGUE PINES	702 515-5200	
Sue Waincott	Clark County	333 N. Rancho #625 LV NV 89106	702 455-3859	swainseo@co.clark.nv.us
Kerry Whalon	NPS Mojave Preserve	1271 Baslow Ct	760-252-6109	kerry-whalon@nps.gov
CHARLES MORGAN	NA	1028 NEIL ARMSTRONG CR	702-363-3328	
JAYSON BARANGAN	BLM	LVFO BLM	515 8094	Jayson_Barangan@blm.gov

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