



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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1303 South U.S. Highway 95  
Needles, CA 92363  
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November 1, 2010

*In Reply Refer To:*  
2800/CACA49834

Dear Reader/Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Eldorado to Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP) Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS), which considers permitting of a right of way (ROW) to Southern California Edison (SCE) for a 230-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line. This joint Final EIR/EIS has been prepared on behalf of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to meet their respective obligations that cover electric transmission lines constructed on public lands in the State of California and the State of Nevada.

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

The Final EIR/EIS has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and incorporates changes resulting from comments submitted during the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS that was published April 30, 2010, and concluded on June 26, 2010. There were 15 comment letters received on the Draft EIR/EIS. The Final EIR/EIS consists of two volumes completely reprinted from the Draft EIR/EIS with all appendices available as a separate CD, Volume 3. Changes made to the Draft EIR/EIS are marked in Volumes 1 and 2; inserted text is underlined and deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

The Final EIR/EIS documents the evaluation of 19 alternatives, including the No Project / No Action Alternative. Alternatives are described and screened for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in the Alternates Screening Report (ASR) in Appendix A, then summarized in the Final EIR/EIS in Section 2.3, "Project Alternatives." Alternatives that meet the CEQA/NEPA criteria are analyzed along with the proposed project in 13 environmental issue areas in Chapter 3 of the EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS identifies feasible mitigation measures in each resource area analysis in Chapter 3 and in the Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program as defined in Section 9. These mitigation measures, if adopted, would avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and alternatives.

After publication of this joint Final EIR/EIS, the CPUC and the BLM will complete separate decisions for the EITP. There is no comment period following issuance of the Final EIR; however, the CPUC will determine the adequacy of this Final EIR, and, if adequate, will certify the document as compliant with CEQA. Public Participation Hearings and Evidentiary Hearings will be held at the CPUC offices in December 2010. The CPUC will issue a Decision on the proposed EITP, which will be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. The final decision is expected in December 2010. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing. If the CPUC approves the project or an alternative, the CPUC will implement a Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance Program as defined in Section 9 of this EIR/EIS. This program will ensure that the

approved route is constructed as defined, and that all adopted mitigation measures and applicant-proposed measures are implemented in order that effects on the environment do not exceed those defined in this EIR/EIS.

BLM will not issue a decision on the EITP ROW application until at least 30 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register. The BLM will decide whether to approve, approve with modification, or deny issuance of a ROW authorization to SCE for the proposed EITP.

You may submit comments related to the EITP Final EIS to the BLM during the 30-day period mentioned above by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/needles.html>
- Email: [caeitp@blm.gov](mailto:caeitp@blm.gov) subject line EITP
- Fax: (760) 326-7099
- Mail: George R. Meckfessel, Needles Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management, 1303 South U. S. Highway 95  
Needles, CA 92363-4228

Copies of the Final EIR/EIS have been mailed to parties of the General Proceeding and Federal, State, and local government agencies that commented on the Draft EIR/EIS, as well as some members of the public. The document is available on the CPUC's project website at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/ivanpah/ivanpah.html> and at the repository sites listed below. EIR-related documents, including the Scoping Report, the Draft EIR/EIS, and this Final EIR/EIS are available at these public locations:

#### List of Repositories for EITP Documents

Agency	Address	Phone Number
<b>DOI, Bureau of Land Management</b>		
BLM Needles Field Office	1303 South Highway 95 Needles, CA 92363-4428	(760) 326-7000
<b>County and City Public Libraries</b>		
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 Buena Vista St. Barstow, CA 92311	(760) 256-4850

Copies of the Final EIR/EIS on CD may be requested by phone at (415) 981-2811, by email at [ivanpah@ene.com](mailto:ivanpah@ene.com), or by fax at (415) 981-0801. The CPUC also has a limited number of copies of the complete Final EIR/EIS document available to the public upon request at:

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

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of public lands in California and Nevada. The BLM appreciates your involvement in this FEIS.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Lee  
Field Manager