

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

surrender their preliminary permits because of the status of current economic conditions.

[Project No. 11847-003, Project No. 11848-003, Project No. 11849-003, and Project No. 11850-003]

Washington Hydro Energy Development Corporation, Skookum Hydro Inc.: Notice of Surrender of Preliminary Permits

November 19, 2003.

Take notice that the permittees for the subject projects have requested to

Project No.	Project name	Stream	State	Expiration date
11847-003	Cumberland Creek	Cumberland Creek	WA	11-30-2003
11848-003	Mill Creek	Mill Creek	WA	11-30-2003
11849-003	O'Toole Creek	O'Toole Creek	WA	11-30-2003
11850-003 ...	Skookum Creek	Skookum and Orsino Creeks	WA	11-30-2003

The permits shall remain in effect through the thirtieth day after issuance of this notice unless that day is Saturday, Sunday, or holiday as described in 18 CFR 385.2007, in which case each permit shall remain in effect through the first business day following that day. New applications involving these project sites, to the extent provided for under 18 CFR part 4, may be filed on the next business day.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Valley Electric Association Interconnection of Ivanpah Energy Center to Mead Substation (DOE/EIS-0354)

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the construction, operation and maintenance of the Ivanpah Energy Center (IEC) power plant and ancillary facilities. The project would provide 500 megawatts (MW) of baseload power to the southern Nevada power grid. As a cooperating agency for the EIS, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Western Area Power Administration (Western)

considered the environmental impacts of the Ivanpah Energy Center Project (Project) and the interconnection to Western's Mead Substation. Western specifically evaluated proposed modifications to facilities at the substation. The modifications are necessary to accommodate the new Valley Electric Association (VEA) 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line interconnection for this new source of electric power. Western adopted the BLM EIS on May 28, 2003. This Record of Decision (ROD) announces Western's decision to grant the VEA interconnection request. Western will ensure that its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act are met before the interconnection is implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Holt, Environmental Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005, telephone (602) 352-2592, E-mail holt@wapa.gov. Copies of the EIS and the BLM Record of Decision are available from Jerry Crockford, Project Manager, BLM Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Hwy, Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401, telephone (505) 599-6333, E-mail jcrockford@nm.blm.gov. For information about the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM is the lead agency for the IEC EIS (Final EIS dated May 2003). Western requested to be, and was designated, a cooperating agency for the IEC EIS on October 2, 2002. The EIS addresses the effects of the Project, including modification of Western's transmission system. After an independent review of the EIS, Western concluded that its comments and suggestions had been satisfied and subsequently adopted the IEC EIS as its own under 40 CFR part 1506.3. Western's EIS document number is DOE/EIS-0354.

Project Purpose and Need

The Project is designed to provide electric power to the southern Nevada power grid. Currently, demand in the southwestern United States exceeds capacity and continues to increase. Peak demand energy requirements for the Arizona-New Mexico-southern Nevada Power Area are projected to grow at an annual compound rate of 3.3 percent between 2000 and 2010. Annual energy requirements for the period are expected to increase at a compound rate of 3.4 percent according to North American Electric Reliability Council projections. The Project action alternatives considered in the EIS would partially satisfy this projected need.

Description of Alternatives

The Draft EIS evaluated two alternative plant sites, four alternative transmission line alignments, and the No Action Alternative. The Primm Plant site was selected as the environmentally preferred alternative. However, this alternative became commercially