

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-040-07-5101-ER-F336; (N-77484)]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Proposed Coal-fired Electric Power Generating Plant in Southeastern Lincoln County and Notice of Public Meetings; Nevada**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, a Draft EIS has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely Field Office, for the Toquop Energy Project and is now available for comment. This document evaluates the environmental effects from constructing a 750-megawatt (MW) coal-fired electric power generating plant and associated features on public lands in Lincoln County, Nevada.

DATES: The Draft EIS is now available for comment. Copies of the Draft EIS will be mailed to individuals, agencies, or companies who previously requested copies. Mailed comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked by December 11, 2007. Written comments on the document should be addressed to Jane Peterson, Project Manager/Energy, Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301-9408. Comments may also be faxed to (775) 289-1910. Oral and/or written comments may also be presented at four public meetings. These public meetings will be held in St. George, Utah, and Caliente, Mesquite, Las Vegas, and Reno, Nevada. The date, time, and location will be made available at least 15 days before the meetings.

ADDRESSES: Public reading copies of the Draft EIS will be available for reading at the locations listed below:

- University of Nevada-Reno, Getchell Library, Government Publication Dept., Reno, NV 89507.
- Lincoln County Library, #63 Main St., Pioche, NV 89043.
- Mesquite Library, 1221 W. 1st St., Mesquite, NV 89027.
- Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119.
- Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/eis/nv/toquop>.

A limited number of copies of the document will be available at the following BLM offices:

- Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301-9408.

- Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130.
- Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89502-7147.
- Washington Office of Public Affairs, 1849 C Street, Room 406-LS, Washington, DC 20240.

You may submit comments on the Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- Mail: Jane Peterson, Project Manager/Energy, Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408.
- Fax: 775-289-1910.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Linnell at the above address, or by telephone: 775-289-1808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft EIS addresses alternatives to resolve the following major issues: air quality, visual resources, biological resources, and socioeconomic effects. On June 15 and June 28, 2001, Toquop Energy Inc., filed applications for Federal Land Policy and Management Act rights-of-way and a temporary use permit to construct and operate a 1,100 MW gas-fired power plant to be located in southeast Lincoln County. The rights-of-way included: (1) The power plant site; (2) gas pipeline, overhead power line, and access road from the main road to the power plant site; (3) a water pipeline; (4) an access road from Interstate 15 to the proposed project site; (5) a water pipeline, electrical line and well field access road running from the proposed power plant site to a terminus point in the proposed well field site in the Tule Desert Area; and (6) a well field in the Tule Desert area, and an associated water pump station and equalizer tank. In 2003, the BLM prepared an EIS to examine the impacts of this request. The EIS evaluated three alternatives: (1) Granting the requested rights-of-way for a northern site; and (2)

granting the rights-of-way for a southern site (preferred alternative) and (3) a No Action alternative, not granting the requested rights-of-way. The BLM granted Toquop Energy Inc., the rights-of-way and temporary use permit in December 2003. The 2003 EIS considered several project and right-of-way alternatives, including the use of alternative fuels in lieu of a gas-fired power plant. These alternative were eliminated from detailed analysis in the EIS because project economics did not support such alternatives at the time the EIS was issued. However, recent change in market conditions, driven by the ever higher and volatile prices of natural gas, makes alternative fuels more desirable and economically viable. The BLM has now completed necessary studies, and prepared a draft EIS to re-evaluate the alternative of constructing a 750 MW coal-fired power plant in lieu of an 1,100 MW gas-fired power plant, as well as to analyze the proposal to grant a new railroad right-of-way connecting the project site to the existing Union Pacific Railway near Leith, Nevada. The scope of the draft EIS is limited to evaluating the alternative of constructing a 750 MW coal plant and the new railroad access right-of-way, and subsequent disposal of the power plant site.

Public participation is occurring throughout the processing of this project application. A Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on February 21, 2006, 71 FR 8869-8870. One round of public meetings was held. Comments presented throughout the process have been considered and used in developing this draft EIS.

Jack Tribble,

*Acting Assistant Field Manager,
Nonrenewable Resources.*

[FR Doc. E7-20162 Filed 10-11-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-910-1310PP-ARAC]

Notice of Public Meeting, Alaska Resource Advisory Council**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Resource Advisory Council will meet as

indicated below. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held November 13–14, 2007, at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center, 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The November 13 meeting begins at 1 p.m. and the November 14 meeting starts at 8 a.m. The council will accept public comment on November 14 at 10 a.m.

The public may give verbal comments on agenda items during the public comment period on November 14. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment, the time for individual comments may be limited.

The public may also present written comments to the Council. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

People who plan to attend the meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Danielle Allen, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513. Telephone (907) 271-3335 or e-mail *Danielle_Allen@ak.blm.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Alaska. At this meeting, topics planned for discussion include:

- Fire Season Closeout
- Invasive Species
- Resource Management Planning
- Land Conveyance Program Update
- 17(b) Easement Management
- Other topics the Council may raise

Dated: October 5, 2007.

Thomas P. Lonnie,
State Director.

[FR Doc. E7-20124 Filed 10-11-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The Advisory Board will meet Monday, November 5, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time. This will be a one day meeting.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, 921 SW., Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The Hilton's phone number is (503) 226-1611.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Submit written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting no later than close of business, October 31, 2007. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, November 5, 2007 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

8 a.m. Call to Order & Introductions:
8:15 a.m. Old Business:

Approval of July, 2007 Minutes
Update Pending Litigation

8:45 a.m. Program Updates:

Gathers
Adoptions
Facilities

Forest Service Update

Break (9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.)

9:45 a.m. Program Updates (continued):

Program Accomplishments

BLM Response to Advisory Board

Recommendations

Lunch (11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.)

1 p.m. New Business:

Break (2:45 p.m.–3 p.m.)

3 p.m. Public Comments

4 p.m. Board Recommendations

4:45 p.m. Recap/Summary/Next Meeting/Date/Site

5 p.m. Adjourn

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as an interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal Advisory Committee Management Regulations [41 CFR 101-6.1015(b).] require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the Advisory Board on November 5, 2007, at the appropriate point in the agenda. This opportunity is anticipated to occur at 3 p.m., local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon on November 5, 2007, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address the specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most