

## United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

## Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates the Environmental Analysis (EA) process for a geothermal exploration project being proposed by Terra-Gen Power Dixie Development Company, LLC (TGP) on seven federal geothermal leases owned by TGP. The project will be known as the TGP/ New York Canyon (NYC) geothermal exploration project.

The proposed project is located on the west flank of the Stillwater Range approximately 25 miles southeast of Lovelock, Nevada. The proposed exploration project area would be within the boundaries of these seven Federal geothermal leases in Pershing and Churchill Counties, Nevada. More specifically the proposed geothermal exploration project area would be located in (see enclosed Figure 1):

T. 26 N., R. 36 E., sections 20, 21, 28, and 31-33, MDM;

T. 26 N., R. 35 E., sections 35 and 36, MDM;

T. 25 N., R. 35 E., sections 1-3, 9-12, 14-16, 20-22, 28, 29 and 32, MDM:

T. 25 N., R. 36 E., section 6, MDM.

The proposed exploration project would consist of:

- A maximum of 15 observation wells.
- 15 drill pads and reserve pits that are approximately 2.8 acres in size for a total of 42 acres of disturbance.
- A maximum of 13 miles of 25 foot wide roads for both on lease access and for access to the geothermal leases beginning off Pershing County's Fencemaker Flat Road for approximately 40 acres of disturbance.

The proposed total disturbance associated with the project would consist of approximately 82 acres of disturbance.

The purpose of the exploration drilling would be to evaluate the temperature and volumes of geothermal fluid that can be generated by each well and investigate the development potential of the geothermal resources on BLM administered lands. The drilling is proposed to begin winter of 2010.

Each geothermal well would be drilled with a large rotary drill rig. During drilling, the top of the drill rig derrick may be as much as 175 feet above the ground surface. The typical drill rig and associated support equipment would be brought to the prepared well site on 20 or more large tractor-trailer trucks.

Water for drilling operations as well as for construction and compaction of roads, pads, reserve pits, and dust control would be obtained from a temporary well located on the Lease Area approved by the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the BLM respectively or purchased and trucked from nearby mining operations.

The well pads and roads would be graveled. Approximately one foot of gravel would be used as road surface since roads would be utilized during all seasons. Gravel would be obtained from an existing BLM gravel pit located approximately 3 miles northeast of the lease Area.

Ancillary equipment required for the project would include service trucks, small utility trailers, portable toilet, and 4X4 pickups. Materials brought to the site would be limited to fuel, lubricants and standard drilling additives. No hazardous materials would be utilized in the proposed drilling operations. Temporary man camps are also being proposed on the drill pad locations during exploration.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1500, for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Humboldt River Field Office, will be preparing a NEPA document for the proposed project. This document will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The BLM requests public participation in the process to help identify potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, issues and concerns.

Written comments are encouraged and may be submitted through December 9, 2009 to Bob Edwards, Attn: TGP's New York Canyon Geothermal Project EA, BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca NV 89445-2921.

Comments may also be submitted by email to: NV\_WFO\_Webmail@blm.gov. Email messages should reference "New York Canyon Geothermal Project (Edwards)" on the subject line.

A map of the currently proposed exploration drilling at the TGP/NYC Geothermal Exploration Project is enclosed; a Portable Document Format (pdf) map of the proposed treatment areas can also be viewed online at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm\_information/nepa0.html.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and street addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses

and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

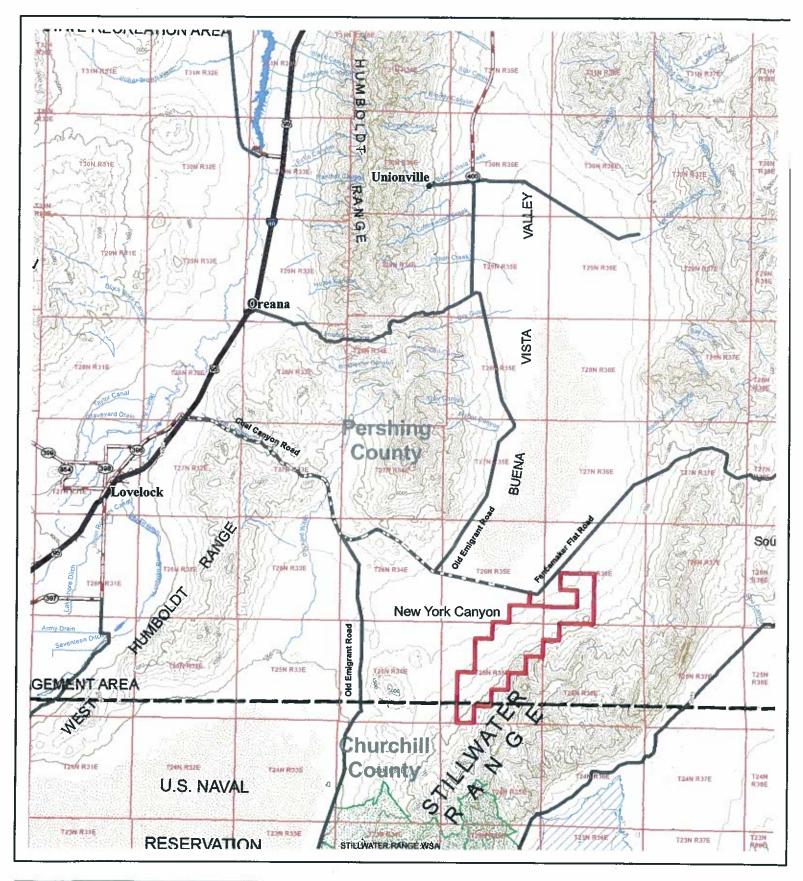
If you need additional information please contact Bob Edwards, Project Manager, or Lynn Harrison, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at the Winnemucca District Office at 775-623-1500.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Johnson Field Manager

Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure





## Terra-Gen Power Dixie Development Company New York Canyon Geothermal Exploration

