



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921
Phone (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: wfoweb@nvblm.gov

<http://www.nv.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>



OCT 28 2011

In Reply Refer to:
2800/1792
N-90074
(NV-0100.36)

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 proposal by NV Iron LLC, for a right-of-Way (ROW) for a slurry pipeline, a water distribution system, and water supply wells for the proposed Buena Vista Iron Ore Project, located at the former Buena Vista Iron Ore Mine, in Pershing and Churchill Counties. NV Energy will be constructing an electrical transmission line. The iron ore mine is located in T. 24 N., R., 34 E., secs. 4-5, MDM, and is on privately owned land. More specifically, the proposed project area would be located in (see enclosed map):

MDM

T. 27 N., R32 E. secs. 1-2, 12;
T. 28 N., R32 E. secs. 34-35;
T. 24 N., R33 E. secs. 1, 13;
T. 25 N., R33 E. sec. 32, 36;
T. 26 N., R33 E. secs. 1;
T. 27 N., R33 E. secs. 25,36;
T. 27 N., R33 E. secs. 7-8, 16-17, 21-24;
T. 28 N., R33 E. secs.13, 24;
T. 29 N., R33 E. secs. 28, 33;
T. 24 N., R34 E. secs. 6,18-19;
T. 25 N., R34 E. secs. 5, 8, 17, 20, 29;
T. 26 N., R34 E. secs. 7,18-19, 30-32;
T. 27 N., R34 E. secs.6-7;
T. 28 N., R34 E. secs.19, 29-32;

The Buena Vista Iron Ore Mine would make the proposed project economically feasible for a term of at least ten years. The price of iron ore, the worldwide demand for iron ore, the relatively close proximity to a railroad, the availability of water and an available work force make the proposed project economically feasible. The public benefit of this project goes to new employment opportunities in Pershing and Churchill Counties. Nevada Iron LLC proposes to hire locally and it will add at least 80-100 new jobs to the local economy.

No new roads would be constructed. Only existing roads would be used.

The electrical transmission line would be constructed near Oreana in Pershing County to T. 24 N., R. 34 E., sec. 5, in Churchill County. The transmission line crosses privately owned land and all or portions of several sections of Federal land. The transmission line and route is designed by Nevada Energy (NVE), is a single pole line (above ground), and begins at the existing NV Energy site in Pershing County and terminates at a new facility constructed on privately owned land in Churchill County.

The transmission line would be approximately 27 miles long and approximately four feet wide and would follow an existing unnamed gravel access road (80 feet wide County easement) for the first seven miles until it intersects Coal Canyon Road near Relief Canyon Road intersection. The transmission line would then continue in an existing right-of-way along Coal Canyon Road (a county road that is 240 feet long and 30 feet wide) the primary access road, to the section 32, T. 25 N., R. 34 E., section 32, NW1/4, (BLM section) to its terminus in T. 24 N., R. 34 E., sec. 5.

Nevada Iron LLC would construct a buried slurry pipeline to carry iron ore concentrate and a return water pipeline from T. 24 N., R. 34 E., sec. 5, in Churchill County to a railroad siding and load out facility at Colado Junction near the Coal Canyon Road overcrossing at I-80 in Pershing County. The slurry pipeline crosses privately owned land and all or portions of several sections of Federal land administered by BLM. The slurry pipeline would be twenty seven miles in length and eight inches in diameter.

Likewise, the return water pipeline would be twenty-seven miles in length and four inches in diameter. NV Iron LLC estimates that both pipelines would be buried in a single trench at a minimum depth of approximately thirty-six inches below the existing ground surface. The trench will be approximately eighteen inches wide. Where it is not possible to bury the pipeline, it would be bridged in a single sleeve over drainage ways. There are no perennial waterways along the pipeline route.

The pipeline route would follow Coal Canyon road, within the existing county owned right right-of-way. The pipeline would cross under I-80 via an existing undercrossing approximately 1,000 feet north (east) of the Coal Canyon Road/I-80 overcrossing. The undercrossing beneath I-80 is within the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). The pipeline is expected to carry between 1.5 and 2.0 million tons of iron ore concentrate annually.

Nevada Iron LLC would construct a water distribution system to supply water to its materials processing facilities in T. 24 N., R. 34 E., sec. 5, in Churchill County. The water distribution system consists of five groundwater supply wells and collectively, approximately ten miles of buried water pipelines to deliver the water to the processing facilities. Each of the five wells is served by an overhead electrical transmission line as the power supply for the submersible pumps. There is an equalization water tank and booster pump station along the pipeline route. Nevada Iron LLC has secured groundwater rights in excess of 1,750 acre feet annually for use at their facilities.

The BLM Humboldt River Field Office encourages your participation in the environmental analysis process. Please provide any issues and concerns relevant to this communications site proposal that you would like considered in this process by November 28, 2011.

Please send written comments to Debbie Dunham, project lead, at the WDO address or email: wfoweb@blm.gov with "Nevada Iron LLC (Dunham)" in the subject line. Copies of this letter and map are also available on our NEPA webpage at:

<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters, will be available for public review at the WDO during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. 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 personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in our comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Dunham, Project Lead, at the Winnemucca District Office at 775-623-1500.

Sincerely,



Michael Truden
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure