



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Needles Field Office  
1303 South U.S. Highway 95  
Needles, CA 92363  
[www.ca.blm.gov/needles](http://www.ca.blm.gov/needles)

*In Reply Refer To:*  
2800 P  
CACA-48668  
(CA-690.01)

NOV 20 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL # 7007 0710 0004 3886 2326  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Paul Biane, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
County of San Bernardino  
385 North Arrowhead Ave.  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

<b>DOCKET</b>	
07-AFC-5	
DATE	NOV 20 2007
RECD.	DEC 04 2007

Dear Supervisor Biane:

The purpose of this letter is to invite the County of San Bernardino to be a cooperating agency as the Bureau of Land Management initiates development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) proposed by subsidiaries of Bright Source Energy, Inc. The California Energy Commission has jurisdiction for thermal electrical generation plants over 50 MW in size and applications for certification have been filed with the Commission. The BLM and CEC will be conducting a joint environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

Bright Source Energy has filed right-of-way applications with the BLM Needles Field Office to construct a 400 MW solar thermal electric generation plant on approximately 3,400 acres of federal land located near the California – Nevada line along I-15. The nearest community to the project is Primm, Nevada. The proposed power plant is contemplated to be built in three phases and Bright Source Energy has created subsidiary companies that would develop each phase. Each phase would be composed of separately owned heliostat arrays and thermal towers that would utilize a jointly owned electric generating plant and substation. In addition, the project would include upgrades to an existing 115KV transmission line, improvements to access roads, installation of a new natural gas supply pipeline, and creation of offsite gravel and asphalt processing facilities. Water for the steam turbines and for washing heliostat arrays would be obtained from local well sources.

In addition to the government-to-government consultation that is ongoing throughout the EIS process, you also have the opportunity to directly work with us on the EIS as a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides assistance in developing analysis for which they have particular expertise; and the funding of their


participation. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be prepared within the next 30 days. This MOU will outline the rolls and responsibilities for the agencies.

We invite you to seek cooperating agency status associated with preparation of the ISEGS Project EIS and we will work with you to ensure that this is accomplished in a manner that follows the letter and spirit of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The role of cooperating agencies generally includes:

- Participation in the scoping process and identification of issues
- Inventory data and information collection including responsibility for providing information for the development of environmental analyses including portions of the environmental impact statement concerning which the cooperating agency has "special expertise"
- Make available staff support at the lead agency's request to enhance the latter's interdisciplinary capability, normally using its own funds
- Estimating effects of alternatives
- Selection of preferred alternative

Developing partnerships between cooperating agencies and BLM will create a stronger, more efficient NEPA process. This will help lead to sustainable decisions for the lands and resources under our respective jurisdictions, and a healthy economy and environment that will serve all citizens well. We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. Please fill out the enclosed return form indicating your interest in becoming a cooperating agency for the ISEGS Project. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Tom Hurshman, Project Manager, at 970-240-5345. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sterling White', written in a cursive style.

Sterling White  
Needles Field Manager

cc: California Energy Commission, Ivanpah SEGS Project Manager