

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S
ELDORADO-IVANPAH TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

APRIL 2010

VOLUME I



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEEDLES FIELD OFFICE

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COVER SHEET

Title: Eldorado–Ivanpah Transmission Project (EITP)

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

Lead Agencies: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Abstract: Southern California Edison (SCE) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain new and upgraded transmission facilities. The upgraded transmission lines would extend approximately 35 miles in Clark County, Nevada, and San Bernardino County, California. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide the transmission facilities necessary to interconnect and deliver up to 1,400 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy that is expected to be generated in the Ivanpah Valley area in compliance with federal and state requirements. The proposed project would include the following components:

- Powerlines

- Eldorado–Ivanpah Transmission Line: A new double-circuit 230-kilovolt [kV] transmission line, approximately 35 miles long, would be constructed between the existing Eldorado Substation in Nevada and the proposed Ivanpah Substation in California. It would replace the existing 115-kV transmission line that runs from Eldorado through Baker, Coolwater, and Dunn Siding to Mountain Pass. The existing 115-kV transmission line that is west of the proposed Ivanpah Substation would remain unchanged.
- Subtransmission Line: A proposed 600- to 800-foot-long addition to an existing 115-kV subtransmission line from a connection point on the existing Eldorado–Baker–Coolwater–Dunn Siding–Mountain Pass 115-kV line would be connected to the proposed Ivanpah Substation.
- Distribution Line: An extension of an existing 33-kV distribution line would be built to provide light and auxiliary power to the proposed Ivanpah Substation.

- Substations

- Ivanpah Substation: The proposed substation would be located in California near Primm, Nevada, and would serve as a connector hub for solar energy generated in the Ivanpah Valley area. The substation would include a mechanical and electrical equipment room and microwave tower.
- Eldorado Substation: Changes inside the existing Eldorado Substation would be made to accommodate the new Eldorado–Ivanpah 230-kV transmission line.

- Redundant Telecommunication System

This EIR/EIS evaluates the impacts of the proposed project and 7 potential alternatives or combinations of alternatives. The primary environmental resource issues analyzed in this document were potential effects on Aesthetics and Visual Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, Minerals, and Paleontology; Hazards, Health, and Safety; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use; Noise; Public Services and Utilities; Recreation; Socioeconomics, Population and Housing, and Environmental Justice; and Transportation and Traffic.

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Comments: Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS must be submitted to the address provided above by June 21, 2010, which presents the end of the public review period. Email comments may be sent to Ivanpah@ene.com.

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