## NORTH VALLEY GEOTHERMAL FACILITY

WASHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION | SEPTEMBER 1, 2020





#### INTRODUCTION TO ORMAT

Market leader with proven track record in the geothermal energy sector Our mission is to become a leading global renewable energy provider







#### ~1,410 Employees



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**Project Applicant** 

- ~6.2 miles southwest of State Highway 447 and Rodeo Creek Road in the High Desert and Truckee Canyon Planning Areas
- Primary access to the site will utilize the existing access route off of State Highway 447
- Properties zoned General Rural in the High Desert Area Plan
- Adjacent to existing San Emidio geothermal facility

# Project Location





#### Special Use Permit:

- "Renewable Energy Production" and the "Development of Natural Resources"
- Hazardous Material (i.e. Pentane)
- Major Grading associated with roads and well pads

Project of Regional Significance:

- Generates more than 5 MW of power
- Two substations
- Construction of new transmission
  line outside of existing utility corridor



**Northern Portion** 



#### **Southern Portion**



Project Request

Summary of proposed new facilities showing estimated area of permanent and temporary disturbance for project area as proposed/permitted in Draft EA

#### Table 2-1 Proposed Disturbance in the AOI

Component -	Acre Disturbance	
	Temporary	Permanent
Power Plants <sup>1</sup>	30	30
Pipelines	36.8	18.4
Well Pads	105	63
Access Roads <sup>2</sup>	13.1	13.1
Aggregate Pit	5	5
Total	189.9	129.5

Source: Ormat 2020

<sup>1</sup>The substation and ancillary features, such as offices, restrooms, a control room, a maintenance building, and smaller auxiliary buildings, would be constructed within the power plants' footprints.

<sup>2</sup> Includes acres of disturbance from new roads and upgrades to existing roads.



## Summary of Project

#### Northern Portion

- Two, 24MW binary design geothermal energy generation facilities
- Specific elements include:
  - 0.5-acre substation
  - Geothermal fluid production
  - Injection wells and well pads
  - Access roads
  - Geothermal fluid pipelines
  - Ancillary support facilities
  - Overhead transmission line

#### Southern Portion

- Limited to overhead transmission line
  - Within existing 368 energy corridor
  - Will connect new plant to existing electrical facilities in Lyon County



Northern Portion



#### **Southern Portion**



Summary of Project

- Two, 24 MW binary, air-cooled geothermal plants (Closed loop systems)
  - New technology utilizes dry (air) cooling heat rejection systems so no steam plume.
  - Geothermal Fluid pumped from production well via pipelines into heat converter/exchanger
  - Heat exchanger transfers heat from geothermal fluid to working fluid (pentane), causing it to "flash" to vapor
  - Vapor powers the turbine to produce electricity
  - Vapor is condensed back to liquid state for reuse, and geothermal fluid is returned to geothermal aquifer via pipelines and injection wells, completing the closed loop cycle

Plant Details





#### Pentane Gas (aka – motive fluid)

- Flammable but non-toxic
- Requires advanced permitting through State and County
- Project will include up to 720,000 lbs of pentane in system at any given time
- During maintenance, pentane pumped back and sealed from the system to ensure safe working environment and prevent losses
- No disposal of pentane; continuously used in sealed, closed-loop process
- Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) permits and Class II Operating Permit through NDEP required
  - Applicant is seasoned with protocols
  - Stellar safety record

## Hazardous Materials



#### Each Plant includes:

- Buildings (including condensers) at or below 35 ft in height
- 0.5-acre substation to transform low voltage (DC) energy to higher voltage (AC) for the transmission line
- 8-ft chain link fence (no slats) topped with barbed wire (controlled-entry gates)
- Lighting will be minimal, motion controlled, and directed downward and shielded to meet Dark Sky's requirements
- Ancillary facilities (office, restrooms, electrical room, etc) located inside fence for the power plant
- Two 500-gallon aboveground storage tanks, used to backup generators and fueling on-site equipment

Plant Details





#### Additional details

- > All structures will be 35' or less in height
- Lighting will comply with Dark Skies requirements/High Desert Area Plan
- > 3 parking spaces (DG) for employees
  - Parking waiver requested due to remote location and no need for paved parking availability
- No formal landscaping or screening planned; maintain natural appearance
  - Disturbed areas will be revegetated with native seed mix
- Well drilling anticipated to start Q3 2020, construction of power production facilities anticipated to start in Q3 2021, and commercial operation slated by Q2 2022





### **Plant Details**

Up to 25 production and/or injection well pads

- Through EA process, identified 25 preliminary well sites
- Unlikely that all 25 wells will be necessary
- Exact location of each well is unknown as each well drilled will influence the location of the next well
- Based on EA and preliminary well pad locations, ~7.6 miles of production and injection pipelines are proposed
- Pipelines ~30 inches in diameter;
  located above ground along roads
- Pipelines and wellheads painted as approved by BLM EA

## Wells and Well Pads



- Grading associated with project ~300,000cy (wells/well pads/roads/generation plants)
- Grading activities will require cutting of slopes to clear for new roads, well pads, plant pads, pipelines, existing road improvements and power pole placement
- Native materials will be used for site and road building materials as much as possible
- 3 pad sites are planned in terrain where that will exceed the allowed 10 ft max cut
  - Waiver requested to allow cuts up to 30' in order to minimize mass grading efforts and preserve flexibility for pad location

Grading



DAYLIGHT

DRAINAGE SWALE

- Location identified as an area of geothermal activity
- Adjacent properties already operating similarly to proposed project
- Majority of the project is relatively flat (no slopes greater than 10%)
- Permit issuance will help NV meet goal of 50% renewable energy production by 2030
- No public health detriment when done properly
- Produces clean energy with little GHG emission
- Increased safety and monitoring protocols

Closing







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