

MAP OF SOLAR ENERGY STUDY AREAS FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY IN NEVADA

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM (the Agencies) are preparing a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate utility-scale solar energy development in six Western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. In the course of the PEIS analyses, the Agencies have identified a number of tracts of BLM-administered land for in-depth study for solar development. Seven study areas have been identified in Nevada: Amargosa Valley (32,699 acres), Dry Lake (16,516 acres), Delamar Valley (17,932 acres), Dry Lake Valley North (49,775 acres), East Mormon Mountain (7,418 acres), Gold Point (5,830 acres), and Miller's (19,205 acres). The attached map shows the locations of these solar energy study areas.

About the Solar Energy PEIS

The Agencies are preparing the Solar Energy PEIS to reach goals established by Congress, as set forth in Title II, Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and in accordance with Executive Order 13212, Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects, and in response to the Secretary of the Interior's Secretarial Order No. 3285 issued March 11, 2009. On the basis of the information and analyses developed in the PEIS, the Agencies will develop and implement agency-specific programs that would establish environmental policies and environmental impact mitigation strategies for solar energy development.

Public Comment Solicitation

On June 30, 2009, the Agencies issued a *Federal Register* Notice of Availability informing the public of the availability of the solar energy study area maps, and soliciting public comments for consideration in identifying environmental issues, existing resource data, and industry interest with respect to the proposed study areas. Some or all of the proposed solar energy study areas may be found appropriate for designation as solar energy zones in the future. Criteria for identifying the study areas are listed in the Notice of Availability.

The public comment period ends September 14, 2009. Comments on the solar energy study areas may be submitted electronically through the public comment form on the Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS Information Center Web site at <http://solareis.anl.gov>. Written comments can also be mailed to Solar Energy PEIS, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 S. Cass Avenue--EVS/900, Argonne, IL 60439.

For More Information

Copies of the solar energy study area maps, *Federal Register* notice, and other information about the solar energy study area maps and the Solar Energy PEIS are available on the Web site at <http://solareis.anl.gov>. For questions regarding map content, please contact Linda Resseguie, BLM Washington Office, linda_resseguie@blm.gov, 202-452-7774. For questions regarding use of the GIS data or GIS-enabled maps, please contact Brian Cantwell, Argonne National Laboratory, bcantwell@anl.gov, 630-252-6802.

