TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

INTRODUCTION 1-1

PURPOSE AND NEED 1-3
- Southwest Intertie Project - Midpoint Substation to Dry Lake 1-3
- Crosstie Route - Ely, Nevada, to Delta, Utah 1-4
- Western Energy Demand 1-5
  - Northwest Demand Forecasts 1-5
  - Southwest Demand Forecasts 1-6
- Capacity and Reliability 1-8
  - Seasonal Exchanges 1-9
  - Seasonal Diversity 1-9
- Competition and Economic Efficiency 1-10
- Open Marketplace 1-11
- Wheeling 1-11
- Economy Purchases and Sales 1-12
- Long-term Purchases and Sales 1-12
- Fuel Resource Diversity 1-12

SUMMARY 1-13

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND LICENSING 1-13

CHAPTER 2 - ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION 2-1
- Alternatives Considered But Eliminated 2-2
  - Energy Conservation and Load Management 2-2
  - Generation 2-5
  - Alternative Transmission Systems 2-5
  - Alternative Transmission Technologies 2-7
    - Voltages 2-7
    - Direct Current Transmission 2-7
    - Underground Construction 2-8
    - New Methods of Transmission 2-9
    - Routing Alternatives 2-9

ALTERNATIVES STUDIED IN DETAIL 2-10
- No Action 2-10
- Proposed Action and Alternatives 2-12
  - Description of Proposed Action 2-12
    - Transmission Line Design 2-12

Terminals and Communications 2-14
Substation and Series Compensation Stations 2-14
Communications Facilities 2-15
Right-of-Way Acquisition 2-17
Right-of-Way Separation 2-17
Construction 2-19
Operation, Maintenance, and Abandonment 2-23
Construction Work Force and Schedule 2-24
Regional Environmental Study/Scoping Process 2-25
Identification Of Alternatives 2-25
Develop Scope/Preparation Plan 2-28
Corridor Studies 2-28
Routing Alternatives Evaluation Process 2-34

COMPARISON OF FINAL ROUTING ALTERNATIVES 2-36
Midpoint to Dry Lake 2-37
Transmission Line Alternatives 2-37
Substation and Series Compensation Sites 2-44
Communication Facilities 2-45
Ely to Delta 2-46
Transmission Line Alternatives 2-46
Substation and Series Compensation Station Areas 2-49
Communication Facilities 2-50

IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES 2-50
Environmentally Preferred Alternatives 2-50
Midpoint to Dry Lake 2-50
Ely to Delta 2-53
Utility Preferred Alternatives 2-54
Midpoint to Dry Lake 2-54
Ely to Delta 2-55
Agency Preferred Routes 2-56
Midpoint to Dry Lake 2-57
Ely to Delta 2-57

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION 3-1

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 3-2
Air Quality and Meteorology 3-2
Earth and Water Resources 3-4
Introduction 3-4
Methods 3-4
Results 3-5

Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-6
Route A 3-6
Route B 3-7
Route C 3-9
Route D 3-9
Route E 3-10
Route F 3-10
Route G 3-11
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 3-11
Cutoff Route 3-11
Direct Route 3-12
230kV Corridor Route 3-13
Southern Route 3-13
Biological Resources 3-14
Introduction 3-14
Methods 3-14
Results 3-15
Vegetative Communities 3-15
Wildlife 3-18
Aquatic/Riparian Habitats 3-19
Special Status Species - Plants 3-20
Special Status Species - Wildlife 3-24
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-26
Route A 3-26
Route B 3-28
Route C 3-28
Route D 3-29
Route E 3-29
Route F 3-30
Route G 3-31
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 3-31
Direct Route 3-31
Cutoff Route 3-32
230kV Corridor Route 3-32
Southern Route 3-33

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT 3-33
Land Use Resources 3-33
Introduction 3-33
Methods 3-34
Results 3-35
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-40
Route A 3-40
Route B 3-41
Route C 3-43
Route D 3-43

Route E 3-44
Route F 3-45
Route G 3-46
Alternative Routes - Ely To Delta 3-47
Direct Route 3-47
Cutoff Route 3-48
230kV Corridor Route 3-48
Southern Route 3-49
Visual Resources 3-50
Introduction 3-50
Methods 3-51
Scenic Quality 3-52
Viewpoints 3-53
Distance Zones 3-53
Visual Sensitivity 3-53
VRM/VQO Classes 3-54
Results 3-55
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-55
Route A 3-55
Route B 3-57
Route C 3-58
Route D 3-58
Route E 3-59
Route F 3-60
Route G 3-61
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 3-62
Direct Route 3-62
Cutoff Route 3-62
230kV Corridor Route 3-63
Southern Route 3-65
Socioeconomics 3-66
Introduction 3-66
Methods 3-66
Results 3-67
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-67
Route A 3-67
Route B 3-69
Route C 3-69
Route D 3-69
Route E 3-69
Route F 3-70
Route G 3-70
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 3-70
Direct Route 3-70
Cutoff Route 3-71
230kV Corridor 3-71
Southern Route 3-72

Electric and Magnetic Fields 3-72
Introduction 3-72
Methods 3-74
Results 3-75
Electric Field 3-75
Magnetic Fields 3-77
Corona 3-79
Audible Noise 3-80
Radio and Television Interference 3-81

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT 3-82
Cultural Resources 3-82
Introduction 3-82
Methods 3-83
Results 3-84
Cultural History Overview 3-85
Regional Studies 3-88
Alternative Corridor Studies 3-89
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 3-90
Route A 3-91
Route B 3-92
Route C 3-93
Route D 3-93
Route E 3-93
Route F 3-94
Route G 3-94
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 3-95
Direct Route 3-95
Cutoff Route 3-95
230kV Corridor Route 3-95
Southern Route 3-96
Ancillary Facility Siting Areas 3-96
Series Compensation Siting Study Areas 3-96
Substation Siting Study Areas 3-97
Microwave Communication Sites 3-98

CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION 4-1

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 4-3
Air Quality 4-3
Earth Resources 4-4
Introduction 4-4
Methods 4-4
Results 4-5

Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-6
Route A 4-6
Route B 4-6
Route C 4-7
Route D 4-7
Route E 4-7
Route F 4-7
Route G 4-7
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 4-8
Direct Route 4-8
Cutoff Route 4-8
230kV Corridor Route 4-8
Southern Route 4-8
Consistency with Agency Management Plans 4-8
Biological Resources 4-9
Introduction 4-9
Methods 4-9
Mitigation Planning 4-10
Results 4-11
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-11
Route A 4-11
Route B 4-15
Route C 4-17
Route D 4-17
Route E 4-19
Route F 4-19
Route G 4-20
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 4-21
Direct Route 4-21
Cutoff Route 4-23
230kV Corridor 4-24
Southern Route 4-24

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT 4-26
Land Use Resources 4-26
Introduction 4-26
Methods 4-26
Impact Types 4-27
Mitigation 4-28
Results 4-28
Alternative Routes Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-30
Route A 4-30
Route B 4-31
Route C 4-31
Route D 4-31
Route E 4-32
Route F 4-32
Route G 4-33

Alternative Routes Ely to Delta 4-33
Direct Route 4-33
Cutoff Route 4-34
230kV Corridor Route 4-34
Southern Route 4-34
Visual Resources 4-35
Introduction 4-35
Methods 4-35
Results 4-39
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-40
Route A 4-40
Route B 4-41
Route C 4-42
Route D 4-42
Route E 4-42
Route F 4-42
Route G 4-43
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 4-44
Direct Route 4-44
Cutoff Route 4-44
230kV Corridor Route 4-44
Southern Route 4-45
Socioeconomics 4-46
Introduction 4-46
Methods 4-46
Results 4-48
Alternative Route - Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-48
Route A 4-48
Route B 4-49
Route C 4-49
Route D 4-49
Route E 4-50
Route F 4-50
Route G 4-50
Alternative Routes Ely to Delta 4-50
Direct Route 4-50
Cutoff Route 4-51
230kV Corridor Route 4-51
Southern Route 4-51
Electric and Magnetic Field Effects 4-51
Introduction 4-51
Ongoing Research 4-52
Methods 4-52
Transmission Line Electric Fields 4-52
Transmission Line Magnetic Fields 4-53
Results 4-55
Transmission Line Electric Fields 4-55
Electric Fields: Short-term Effects 4-55

Transmission Line Magnetic Fields 4-56
Magnetic Field: Short-Term Effects 4-57
Epidemiologic Studies 4-57
Exposure Assessment For Community Cancer Studies 4-57
Other Exposure Sources for Community-Based Studies . . . 4-60
Occupational Studies 4-60
Reproductive Outcome 4-62
Laboratory Studies 4-63
Cancer 4-63
Studies of Cellular Function 4-65
Studies of Immunological Function 4-66
Studies of Endocrine Function 4-66
Reproduction 4-67
Physiological Systems 4-68

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT 4-69
Cultural Resources 4-69
Introduction 4-69
Methods 4-69
Results 4-70
Mitigation Measures 4-71
Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake 4-71
Route A 4-71
Route B 4-72
Route C 4-72
Route D 4-73
Route E 4-73
Route F 4-73
Route G 4-74
Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta 4-74
Direct Route 4-74
Cutoff Route 4-75
230kV Corridor 4-75
Southern Route 4-75
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of
Resources 4-76
Cumulative Effects 4-78
Existing Transmission Lines 4-78
BLM Utility Corridors 4-78
Future Transmission Lines 4-78
Future Development Projects 4-88
Global Warming 4-90

CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION 5-1

PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS 5-1
Previous Projects 5-2
Public Participation Program 5-4
Public Information 5-4
Public Scoping and Input 5-6
Summary of Issues and Concerns 5-8
Publish Notice of Intent 5-8
Planning Workshops 5-9
Agency Contacts 5-10
Meetings with County Commissioners 5-11
Steering Committee 5-12
Public Review of DEIS/DPA 5-15
Formal Consultation with Federal Agencies 5-15
Biological Resources 5-15
Cultural Resources 5-16

CHAPTER 6 - PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Lead Federal Agency 6-1
Idaho State BLM Office 6-1
Burley District BLM Office (Idaho) 6-1
Shoshone District BLM Office (Idaho) 6-2
Boise District (Idaho) 6-3
Utah State BLM Office 6-3
Richfield District BLM Office (Utah) 6-4
Nevada State BLM Office 6-6
Las Vegas BLM District (Nevada) 6-6
Ely BLM District Office (Nevada) 6-9
Elko BLM District Office (Nevada) 6-11
Cooperating Federal Agencies 6-12
National Park Service 6-12
Humboldt National Forest 6-13
Bureau of Reclamation 6-14
Bureau of Indian Affairs 6-14
Utilities 6-15
Idaho Power Company 6-15
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power: 6-17
Dames & Moore Study Personnel 6-18

LIST OF FIGURES

		Follows Page
1-1	Regional Transmission Network	1-4
2-1	Regional Study Corridors	2-10
2-2	Midpoint to Dry Lake Structures	2-12
2-3	Ely to Delta Structures	2-14
2-4	Typical Construction Activities	2-22
2-5	Basic Wire Handling Equipment	2-22
2-6	Southwest Intertie Project Alternative Corridors	2-28
2-7	Moapa Feasibility Study	2-34
2-8	Subroute Location Map	2-38
4-1	EMF Case Studies	4-54
4-2	Electric Field Profiles	4-56
4-3	Magnetic Field Profiles	4-56

LIST OF TABLES

1-1 Summary of Potential Major Permits Required for Transmission Line Construction & Operation

2-1 Design Characteristics of the 500kV Transmission Line

2-2 Design Characteristics of a Substation and Series Compensation Site

2-3 Construction Work Force and Equipment

2-4 Route Comparison Table - Midpoint to Dry Lake Routes

2-5 Route Comparison Table - Ely to Delta Routes

2-6 Summary of Selectively Committed Mitigation

3-1 Summary of Land Jurisdiction

3-2 Summary of Counties Crossed

3-3 Alternative Routes Adjacent to WSAs

3-4 Scenic Quality/Variety Class Definitions

3-5 BLM Visual Resource Management Classes and FS Visual Quality Objectives

3-6 Demographic and Economic Indicators by County

3-7 Assessed Values and Tax Rates by County

3-8 Population of Study Area Communities

3-9 States with Transmission Line Field Limits

4-1 Generic Mitigation Measures Included In The Project Description

4-2 Selectively Committed Mitigation Measures

4-3 Range Allotments Crossed by Alternative Routes - Midpoint to Dry Lake

4-3A Range Allotments Crossed by Alternative Routes - Ely to Delta

4-4 Estimated County Tax Revenues by Alternative Route

4-5 Electric Field Calculations

4-6 Magnetic Field Calculations

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - References

APPENDIX B - Glossary, Acronyms & Abbreviations

APPENDIX C - Agencies & Organizations Contacted During Preparation of the Draft EIS/PA

APPENDIX D - Subroute Evaluation Process

APPENDIX E - Substations and Series Compensation Stations

APPENDIX F - Microwave Facilities

APPENDIX G - List of Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Receiving Draft EIS/PA

APPENDIX H - Availability of Technical Reports