

SECTION 4.0

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE HARRY ALLEN SUBSTATION AND FOR THE THIRTYMILE SUBSTATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section addresses the environmental consequences (effects) associated with the No Action Alternative, and the Proposed Action (i.e., amendments to the ROW Grant for the extension to the Harry Allen Substation and locating the Thirtymile Substation site). Environmental consequences associated with the LCCRDA realignment are addressed in Section 5. Mitigation measures to reduce potential effects to the environment are also described with respect to each affected resource presented in this section, where appropriate. Many of the mitigation measures presented in this EA are included in the original SWIP EIS, ROD, and ROW Grant(s). Additional mitigation measures have been proposed by Great Basin or requested or required by the BLM, USFWS and other resource agencies, in connection with the preparation of this EA and the BA, BO, and COM Plan. All of the mitigation measures from these various sources have been incorporated in the COM Plan, and compliance with that plan would be included as an enforceable stipulation in the amended ROW grant, just as it is in the original SWIP ROW grant.

4.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the SWIP ROW would not be amended as proposed, and the SWIP transmission line would not be constructed due to the inability to interconnect with the existing grid at the southern terminus and the difficulty of interconnecting with the Falcon-to-Gonder 345kV line, which bisects the currently approved substation site. The environmental resources associated with these specific locations would not be affected.

4.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impacts to biological resources include consideration of the effects to vegetation, noxious weeds and invasive species, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species. Following is a discussion of impacts associated with the extension of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation, and at the Thirtymile Substation, including proposed mitigation measures.

4.3.1 Vegetation

4.3.1.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

Approximately 36 acres of land will be disturbed during construction of the 3.8 mile transmission line extension in this area, including 25 acres of temporary disturbance at tower sites, spur roads, and tensioning and pulling sites, and permanent disturbance of approximately 11 acres (primarily associated with access roads). Vegetation that will be affected is primarily creosote bush and white bursage, with scattered individual Mojave yucca populations and several species of cacti. It is anticipated that salvageable cacti and yucca will be safely stored in temporary plant storage sites. Plant salvage from areas of permanent disturbance will only be

moved once, and replanted as described in the Restoration Plan contained in the COM Plan. In areas of temporary disturbance, salvaged plants will be replanted in temporary storage sites using the procedures identified in the Restoration Plan. Location of these plant storage sites shall be provided by the Construction Contractor on a site-specific basis. These areas shall provide ease of care and maintenance for the plant material as well as provide protection from construction activities. Additionally, as identified in the COM Plan, all activities pertaining to the disturbance of cacti and yucca will be coordinated with the authorized Forestry Officer at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, including transportation permits, tags, etc. Areas of temporary disturbance will be restored in accordance with the COM Plan.

4.3.1.2 Thirtymile Substation

Construction of the Thirtymile Substation will affect approximately 77 acres. Construction of the transmission interconnections will affect an estimated 23 acres of land, including 19 acres of short-term disturbance and approximately 4 acres of permanent disturbance. The proposed site of the substation is strongly dominated by big sage, with additional occurrences of bitterbrush, black sage, and Utah juniper. Scattered Utah juniper will be selectively cleared during construction in areas of temporary disturbance and areas not permanently displaced by the substation, and long-term access will be restored in accordance with the COM Plan.

4.3.2 Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species

The introduction and spread of invasive and nonnative plant species (including noxious weeds) can contribute to the loss of rangeland productivity, increased soil erosion, reduced species and structural diversity, loss of wildlife habitat, and, in some instances, may pose a threat to human health and welfare. The Carlsen-Foley Act (Public Law 90-583) and the Federal Noxious Weed Act, Public Law 93-629 (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.: 88Stat. 2148), enacted January 3, 1975, established a federal program to control the spread of noxious weeds. Executive Order 13112 issued February 3, 1999 further defines the responsibilities of federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control by minimizing the economic, ecological and human health impacts that invasive species cause. Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, was authorized to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and to minimize the impacts caused by these species. NRS 555, Control of Insects, Pests, and Noxious Weeds, provides information regarding the designation and eradication of, and inspection for, noxious weeds within the State of Nevada (Ely PRMP/EIS).

4.3.2.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

Construction of the extension to the Harry Allen Substation will require the construction of new access roads, and result in disturbance at tower pad sites and pulling and tensioning areas. Berms created by access road construction can represent disturbed soils, which may provide suitable habitat for noxious weeds, including salt cedar and other invasive species in this area. Construction activity around tower pads and in pulling and tensioning areas, including movement of heavy equipment and light trucks may also disturb soil and provide weed habitat. Seeds of noxious weeds and invasive species also may be present in the seed bank and soil disturbance can have the effect of “releasing” these seeds, possibly leading to local infestations.

There also is the potential for weeds to be introduced into the project area by construction vehicles.

A comprehensive Noxious Weed Management Plan (part of the COM Plan) has been developed with the goal of keeping the ROW free of noxious weeds. Adherence to the specific weed control mitigation measures in this plan, including measures as identified in the BLM Las Vegas Noxious Weed Plan will minimize the introduction and spread of noxious weeds during and following construction. Early detection and rapid response have been important considerations in the development of this plan which includes (1) identification of problem areas, (2) preventative measures that will be implemented to prevent the spread of noxious weeds during construction, (3) treatment methods during construction and post-construction, and (4) reclamation and post-construction monitoring. Included in this plan are specific measures that address the eradication of existing noxious weed populations, measures to minimize the potential for the spread of noxious weeds through off-site power washing of equipment/vehicles and on-site cleaning of equipment/vehicles with compressed air, and the use of weed free materials during restoration (e.g., hay or straw).

In addition, as a part of the ROW Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan (included in the COM Plan), reseeding practices and seeding mixtures to be used in areas of temporary disturbance will be coordinated with a BLM specialist (e.g., botanist, range management specialist, or soil scientist designated by the BLM Authorized Officer) in order to determine the source type and quantity of seed mixtures and seeding locations. In this regard, mixtures that discourage the establishment of invasive and noxious weeds will be considered, as appropriate.

4.3.2.2 Thirtymile Substation

Acreages of land affected by construction of the Thirtymile Substation are discussed in Section 4.3.1.2. Most of the land will be permanently committed to substation structures and any other cleared ground within the substation fence will be covered with gravel. While no noxious weeds were found at the proposed substation site during weed surveys, exposed, disturbed soils associated with the substation and transmission interconnections may provide suitable habitat for noxious weeds. Construction activity within, and around, the substation site, including movement of heavy equipment and light trucks may disturb soil and provide weed habitat. Seeds of noxious weeds may be present in the seed bank and soil disturbance can have the effect of “releasing” these seeds possibly leading to local infestations. There also is the potential for noxious and invasive weeds to be introduced into the project area by construction vehicles.

As previously described for the extension to Harry Allen, a comprehensive Noxious Weed Management Plan and ROW Preparation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Plan (part of the COM Plan) have been developed with the goal of keeping the area of affect weed free. Adherence to the specific weed control mitigation measures in this plan, including measures as identified in the BLM Las Vegas Noxious Weed Plan and restoration practices will minimize the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds during, and following, construction of the Thirtymile Substation.

4.3.3 Wildlife

4.3.3.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

There will be some mortality of small vertebrate species and some degradation of general wildlife habitat quality from the construction of the transmission line. Ground-disturbing activities, such as vehicle movement along access roads, and at tower locations, laydown areas, and pulling and tensioning sites, will alter the quality of wildlife habitat in the short-term. Some individuals of small, fossorial species, such as Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats, will likely be crushed in their burrows by heavy equipment. Similarly, snakes, lizards, and other diurnal forms may be hit by vehicles on access roads or killed by road building equipment. Potential impacts from the operation of the transmission line may include an increase in hunting perches for avian predators. Mitigation measures, including limiting access to areas previously determined and clearly flagged, controlling speed limits on the ROW, and restoration practices, will assist in reducing impacts to wildlife.

4.3.3.2 Thirtymile Substation

The clearing of the Thirtymile Substation site during construction will result in some mortality of small vertebrate species and the removal of any wildlife habitat on the site. Wildlife occupying the site prior to construction will be displaced, since the existing habitat will be replaced with the substation facilities. Within the transmission line interconnection ROWs to the SWIP – Southern Portion and Falcon-to-Gonder transmission lines, ground-disturbing activities, such as vehicle movement along access roads, and at tower locations and laydown areas, also may result in some mortality and degradation of general wildlife habitat quality. Similar to the ROW extension at the Harry Allen Substation, individuals of small, fossorial species will likely be crushed in their burrows by heavy equipment, and snakes, lizards and other diurnal forms may be hit by vehicles on access roads or killed by construction equipment. Potential impacts from the operation of the substation and transmission line interconnections may include an increase in hunting perches for avian predators. Mitigation measures, including the use of improved existing access into the substation site, clearly flagging areas of disturbance, and restoration practices, will assist in reducing impacts to wildlife.

4.3.4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

4.3.4.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

Construction of the extension to Harry Allen Substation could potentially result in the loss of bird nests, eggs, or young, and there is a small area of bird habitat located immediately east of the transmission line in the area of the Dry Lake Playa. Adult birds are normally able to avoid construction equipment, however, eggs or young in nests cannot. As stipulated in the COM Plan, mitigation measures to address compliance with the MBTA will include the presence of a biological monitor during the migratory bird-nesting season to minimize the risk that all active nests along the line will not be disturbed. During construction, active nests that could be affected will be identified, and a buffer zone around each nest will be flagged to keep personnel and equipment away from sensitive areas until nests become dormant.

4.3.4.2 Thirtymile Substation

Adult birds are normally able to avoid construction equipment, however, eggs or young in nests cannot. As stipulated in the COM Plan, mitigation measures, including the presence of a biological monitor during the migratory bird-nesting season, will reduce these impacts. During construction, active nests that could be affected will be identified, and a buffer zone around each nest will be flagged to keep personnel and equipment away from sensitive areas.

4.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species/Special Status Species

4.3.5.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

The Mojave Desert Tortoise is the only federally listed species that is present along the extension of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation. Tortoise surveys that were conducted in the area during early Summer 2006 revealed a female tortoise carcass and an apparently active burrow. The ROW extension area does not contain designated Critical Habitat for the tortoise.

During construction, tortoises could be crushed in their burrows by heavy equipment. They could also be run over on access roads, especially small juveniles and hatchlings, which are very difficult to see even from a slow-moving vehicle. Mitigation and compensation measures, including limiting access to pre-determined and clearly flagged areas, controlling the speed of vehicles on the ROW, and the presence of tortoise biologists, will help to reduce impacts. While the ROW extension is not located in designated Critical Habitat, tortoise biologists will be present for all construction activities in this area as specified in the BA, BO, and COM Plan. It will be their responsibility to move any tortoises out of the way, to remove tortoises from burrows in construction areas, and to educate all construction personnel regarding the protocol for working in Mojave Desert Tortoise habitat areas.

In addition to the federally listed Mojave Desert Tortoise, there is a limited possibility of impact to the three-corner milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri* var. *triquetris*), which could potentially be present along the Harry Allen extension. Rare plant surveys conducted along the transmission line route in this area during Spring 2006 resulted in the detection of no sensitive species, with the exception of cacti and yuccas (see Section 4.3.1.1). However, these surveys were conducted during a very dry spring, and plants like the three-corner milkvetch, an annual, did not appear. Prior to ground-disturbing activities, any additional or updated surveys deemed necessary by the BLM, including rare plant surveys would be conducted prior to the initiation of the potentially harmful activities in the area of concern. In the event of a new discovery they will flag off the area and establish a construction restriction buffer.

4.3.5.2 Thirtymile Substation

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered species likely to be affected by construction at the Thirtymile Substation, and rare plant surveys during Spring 2006 did not reveal the presence of any sensitive plants that would be affected by the proposed substation.

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

No cultural resource sites were identified within the APE of the ROW extension, therefore impacts are not anticipated.

4.4.2 Thirtymile Substation

Of the 18 cultural resources identified within the APE (see Table 3-1), four are eligible for listing on the NRHP. Once the engineering plans are finalized, a determination as to which sites will be directly affected by the proposed project will be made. To mitigate both direct and indirect impacts to these cultural resources, a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) is being developed and will be implemented prior to construction of the substation. These measures will minimize impacts and ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

4.5 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

Minimal impacts are expected to any paleontological resources from the construction of the proposed project due to the low paleontological sensitivity within the ROW extension area.

4.5.2 Thirtymile Substation

A paleontological resources treatment plan has been prepared for the proposed project (San Bernardino County Museum 2006) and includes mitigation measures that would address potential impacts to paleontological specimens identified in the intensive pedestrian field inspection which would be conducted prior to construction of the proposed project. These measures include monitoring for paleontological specimens during construction and implementation of appropriate measures (if resources are identified) in order to minimize impacts. The treatment plan is included in the COM Plan for the SWIP – Southern Portion.

4.6 LAND USE, RECREATION, AND ACCESS

This section evaluates the impacts of the two ROW modifications on existing and planned land use, recreational activities, and access. Following is a description of potential land use impacts that could result from the construction and operation of the proposed facilities.

4.6.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

The ROW extension to the Harry Allen Substation would be constructed on vacant BLM land and does not conflict with any existing or planned facilities. The extension would be compatible with the Northeast Clark County Land Use Plan, which designates this area as *Heavy Industrial*

and *Open Land*. The BLM bird habitat adjacent to the proposed transmission line would be avoided, and mitigation measures identified to address migratory birds (see Section 4.3.4.1) will reduce any proximity impacts to this small management area. There are no active recreation areas in the immediate vicinity, and additional long-term access will generally be limited to the transmission ROW.

4.6.2 Thirtymile Substation

The Thirtymile Substation and transmission line interconnections would be constructed on vacant BLM land and would permanently displace approximately 81 acres of the 178,716 acre Thirty Mile Spring BLM grazing allotment. While located within the Loneliest Mountain SRMA, there are no existing or planned recreation sites within close proximity to the Thirtymile Substation. Impacts to existing and planned land use and public recreation opportunities from the construction and operation of the Thirtymile Substation would be limited to temporary disruption to traffic and access along Jakes Wash Road and U.S. Highway 50 during construction (see Figure 4). Mitigation measures identified in the COM Plan regarding the use of signage that notifies the public of the timing for construction activities will help reduce any potential conflicts with users, and additional practices outlined during construction and restoration will help minimize damages to resources in this area and provide for public safety.

4.7 VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual assessment focuses on characterizing the impacts resulting from the amount of visual contrast or landscape change that would occur from the introduction of new facilities, as perceived by sensitive viewers, and the consistency of these changes with BLM VRM objectives. The methods used to perform this assessment are consistent with the BLM VRM Handbook-8410.

4.7.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

The transmission line extension to the Harry Allen Substation in Dry Lake Valley is within a visual setting that has been significantly modified due to numerous existing transmission lines and substation facilities. Views of this area from Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 93 range from approximately 1.5 miles and beyond, and the SWIP transmission line will be seen primarily in a back-dropped condition, most often in context with these other facilities. As a result, the new transmission line will cause minimal contrast. Key mitigation measures include the use of dulled steel lattice towers, and non-specular conductors. Based on the contrast analysis, minimal change is expected from the addition of the new transmission line. This change would be consistent with the VRM Class III objective for this area, which requires that the character of the area be partially retained.

4.7.2 Thirtymile Substation

The Thirtymile Substation site and transmission line interconnections are located in proximity to the Falcon-to-Gonder 345kV transmission line and the Gonder-to-Machacek 230kV transmission line. Impacts to sensitive viewers are expected to be minimal. Views from U.S.

Route 50 will be primarily from eastbound traffic, at distances ranging from ½-mile away and farther, in a setting where the facilities should be partially to fully screened by intervening terrain, back-dropped by the Egan Mountains, and viewed in context with the existing 345kV and 230kV lines. Key mitigation measures include the use of non-specular conductors; dulled metal finishes on transmission towers, equipment, and facilities associated with the substation site; and the selective clearing of vegetation associated with temporary use areas, where possible. The substation will be located generally within a BLM Class III area and is immediately adjacent to, and overlapping with, two designated utility corridors that are considered VRM Class IV in the Ely PRMP. The substation will be in conformance with the VRM objectives requiring partial retention of the character of this area while allowing major modification associated with the corridors.

4.8 WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

This section of the EA evaluates potential effects of the proposed project to wildfire management. Impacts were assessed based on construction activities, including additional access road construction, clearing of vegetation, the type of vegetation located within the affected areas, and the Southern Nevada and Ely BLM District Office guidelines for fire suppression.

4.8.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

The majority of the proposed ROW crosses vacant land with sparse vegetation; therefore, a minimal amount of vegetation removal will be required. A new access road would be constructed primarily within the transmission line ROW. While little fuel exists within the area, increases in traffic during construction activities could potentially increase the chance of a human-caused, accidental fire. Long-term or operational impacts to fire management from improved access to the existing road could include human-caused, accidental ignitions from periodic ground maintenance and inspections of the transmission line, or recreational users along the access road. The improved access road could have the potential for use as fire-break lines and help minimize the need to build new breaks in the event of a fire (Ely PRMP, pg. 3.20-8). Mitigation measures and protocols identified in the COM Plan, including fire prevention measures (e.g., restrictions on smoking, no open fires, restrictions on welding and use of spark arresting devices), will reduce the potential for fires during construction. In addition, construction personnel will be trained in fire suppression, and selective vehicles will be equipped with fire suppression tools.

4.8.2 Thirtymile Substation

An existing dirt road will be improved for major access to the area for construction of the Thirtymile Substation and transmission line interconnections. Approximately 77 acres of vegetation will be cleared for the footprint of the substation and approximately 4 acres of additional ground will be permanently disturbed during construction of the substation and transmission line interconnections to the SWIP – Southern Portion and the Falcon-to-Gonder transmission lines. Short-term construction impacts to fire management include an increase in traffic during the construction of the substation, and the use of equipment, which could potentially increase the frequency of human-caused accidental ignitions along the access road

and near the siting area. Long-term or operational impacts and mitigation measures are similar to those previously described for the extension of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation.

4.9 EARTH RESOURCES

This section evaluates potential impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed extension of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation and at the Thirtymile Substation to geology, soils, and water resources.

4.9.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

4.9.1.1 Geology

No unique or special geological features were identified and no impacts are anticipated.

4.9.1.2 Soils

Soil resources in the area of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation that may be impacted by the construction of the transmission line are associated primarily with the Dry Lake Playa. While the proposed transmission line crosses only a small portion of the western edge of this playa, the soils in the general vicinity tend to be sandy/silty in composition. Impacts to soils will occur during construction at tower sites, pulling and tensioning sites, and in access development. Curtailing construction during periods of rain, and the use of erosion control mitigation measures, including limiting the areas of disturbance (as possible), and restoration practices described in the COM Plan, would be implemented to minimize the potential for short and long-term impacts to soils.

4.9.1.3 Water Resources

Impacts to ephemeral drainages and washes in this area are expected to be minimal due to the selective location of towers (spanning of drainages), limiting the area of disturbance, and erosion control measures presented in the COM Plan, and effects to groundwater are not anticipated.

Floodplains

Construction and operation of the transmission line in this area will not affect the floodplain. In areas along approximately 2.4 miles of the ROW extension which fall within the 100-year floodplain, transmission structures will be designed to withstand flooding events, and span drainages.

4.9.2 Thirtymile Substation

4.9.2.1 Geology

No unique or special geological features were identified and no impacts are anticipated.

4.9.2.2 Soils

No unique or special soil resources have been identified on the Thirtymile Substation site or the transmission line interconnections. During construction there could be potential erosion from soil runoff into nearby small ephemeral drainages; however, erosion control mitigation measures described in the COM Plan would be implemented as part of the construction, in order to minimize the potential for short-term impacts. The final design and grading of the substation site will be completed in a manner that insures that surface drainage from the substation site will not result in additional erosion or degradation to down-slope areas, and groundwater should remain unaffected.

4.9.2.3 Water Resources

The Thirtymile Substation will be constructed to comply with all local and federal requirements for safety and protection of groundwater. Features such as erosion control and spill prevention mechanisms (e.g., secondary containment basins) will help to prevent or minimize impacts to groundwater. The streambed located along the southwest corner of the substation site will be avoided.

Floodplains

As there are no identified floodplains within the immediate vicinity of the substation site, construction and operation of the substation in this area will not have an affect on any floodplains.

4.10 AIR RESOURCES

Impacts to air quality would primarily be short-term as a result of the construction of the proposed facilities, and operation and maintenance activities associated with the extension of the transmission line to the Harry Allen Substation, and at the Thirtymile Substation site are expected to be minimal. The construction of the facilities would produce two types of air pollution: fugitive dust from soil disturbance and exhaust emissions from construction vehicles and equipment.

4.10.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

A construction plan, including a schedule and the number and type of vehicles to be used during construction of the transmission line, is included in the COM Plan. Emissions from construction vehicles are not expected to exceed the air quality standards. Construction/maintenance

activities will comply with the policies identified by Clark County (e.g., Dust Control Permit). Dust and emission-control mitigation measures (including watering roads), mitigation measures limiting disturbance, and restoration and monitoring practices described in the COM Plan will further assist in reducing impacts to air quality along this portion of the alignment.

4.10.2 Thirtymile Substation

Construction/maintenance activities for the Thirtymile Substation and the transmission line interconnections will comply with the policies identified by the BLM and the BAPC. Similar to the ROW extension, dust and emission-control mitigation measures, mitigation limiting disturbance, and restoration and monitoring practices described in the COM Plan will further assist in reducing impacts to air quality during construction at the substation site.

4.11 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section evaluates the potential for impacts related to hazardous materials associated with the construction of proposed facilities, including the transportation of hazardous materials, and vehicle leaks or spills during construction.

4.11.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

No hazardous materials would be stored along the ROW extension to the Harry Allen Substation, and therefore the potential for impacts from hazardous materials exists primarily during construction. A spill prevention plan and reference to hazardous material regulations are documented in the COM Plan. During construction of the transmission line, mitigation measures outlined in the COM Plan would be followed to ensure that vehicles will be kept in good working condition and impacts from hazardous materials are minimized.

4.11.2 Thirtymile Substation

While the transformers at the substation will contain oil, it is anticipated that no other hazardous material will be stored on the substation site, and therefore the potential for impacts from hazardous materials exists primarily during construction. The containment would be per federal or local requirements and if applicable the containment would be designed to the Institute of Electrical Electronics Engineers standards (i.e., concrete lined berms around transformer). As described for the extension to the Harry Allen Substation, a spill prevention plan and reference to hazardous material regulations are documented in the COM Plan and similar mitigation measures will be implemented during construction at the substation site.

4.12 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This section evaluates the potential impacts to socioeconomic and environmental justice from the construction and operation of the proposed project. Both the extension of the ROW to the Harry Allen Substation and the Thirtymile Substation are located in unpopulated areas and no occurrences of disproportionately high percentages of minority or low-income populations exist.

Therefore, no environmental justice impacts would occur from the construction or operation of the transmission line or Thirtymile Substation.

4.12.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

During construction of the ROW extension, short-term beneficial impacts, such as increased revenue, could result from construction workers' use of local restaurants and hotels in the North Las Vegas area. The transmission line extension to the Harry Allen Substation will be an unmanned facility, located in an undeveloped area of Clark County, and as such, operation of the transmission line will have minimal effects on Clark County employment, income, or social services.

4.12.2 Thirtymile Substation

During construction of the substation, short-term beneficial impacts, such as increased revenue, could result from construction workers' use of local restaurants and hotels in Ely. The Thirtymile Substation will be an unmanned facility, located in an undeveloped rural area of White Pine County, and as such, operation of the substation will have minimal effects on White Pine County or Ely employment, income, or social services.

4.13 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

4.13.1 Right-of-Way Extension to the Harry Allen Substation

No ACECs were identified within the BLM Southern Nevada District that would be affected by the extension of the ROW.

4.13.2 Thirtymile Substation

No ACECs were identified within the BLM Ely District that would be affected by the proposed substation.