

6.0 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter reviews agency and public consultation and coordination that occurred prior to and during preparation of this EIS. It also includes a list of the BLM resource staff who provided information and reviewed the EIS, the staff from AECOM, the contractor selected to prepare the EIS under the direction of the BLM, and the list of agencies and individuals who received the draft EIS.

6.1 Public Involvement

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the HB In-Situ Solution Mine Project was published in the *Federal Register* on January 12, 2010. Consultation and coordination with various federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals has been accomplished through formal and informal means of communication, including meetings, interviews, e-mail exchanges, telephone calls, and other verbal exchanges. The description of the public scoping process and the issues identified during public scoping is presented in Chapter 1.0, Section 1.5 of this EIS.

A newsletter bulletin was mailed to 146 interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and governments to explain the proposed project and announce the start of public scoping. BLM received a total of 17 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, verbal comments) containing 133 individual comments during the 30-day public scoping period. In addition to the two public scoping meetings held on January 26, 2010, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, some interviews of selected state and local government representatives were conducted to collect information particular to issues related to socioeconomics.

6.2 Agency Coordination

Consultation with the USFWS to date has been conducted informally. Numerous conversations and e-mail exchanges with a variety of USFWS biologists have been completed in pursuit of guidance and recommendations regarding anticipated impacts from the proposed project and recommendations for potential mitigation measures that would be appropriate. To date, no formal consultation has been initiated under Section 7 of the ESA or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Currently, the sand dune lizard is under consideration for formal listing as a threatened species, with the final decision expected in December, 2011. If the decision is made to list this species, then formal consultation will be initiated with the USFWS and a biological assessment will be developed to analyze the effect of the proposed project preferred alternative on the species and its habitat. This biological assessment will be submitted to the USFWS for review, comment, and further determination of the impacts of the project on the species.

On December 21, 2010, the BLM mailed letters of invitation for cooperating agency status to 42 federal, state, and local government agencies, and interested tribes and pueblos. Any of these groups that respond will be sent a memorandum of understanding that outlines the responsibilities of the lead agency (BLM) and the cooperating agency. To date, eight organizations requested to be cooperating agencies: the cities of Carlsbad, Eunice, and Hobbs; Chaves and Lea counties; the Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department; the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office; and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Hopi Tribe and three federal agencies declined the invitation to become cooperating agencies. Formal agreements have been signed by the City of Eunice and the Department of Energy.

6.3 Tribal Consultation

On February 1, 2010, the BLM sent letters to the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Comanche Indian Tribe, Pueblo of Isleta, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Hopi Tribal Council as part of the consultation efforts for the proposed project. To date, only the Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Isleta, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo have responded. The Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Isleta, and Ysleta

del Sur Pueblo have no concerns with the proposed project but requested to be notified in the event unanticipated discoveries, including human remains, are unearthed during project construction. No TCPs or places of cultural and religious importance have been identified in the project area by the tribal groups.

The BLM intends to continue consultation throughout the environmental review and construction phase of the Proposed Action, if approved. Renewed contacts with some or all of the tribes may result if there are unanticipated discoveries.

6.4 List of Preparers and Reviewers

The people listed in the following table, **Table 6-1**, provided oversight, information, and review of the EIS. All staff are located at the BLM Field Office in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The people listed in **Table 6-2** prepared the EIS under the guidance of the BLM staff listed in **Table 6-1**.

Table 6-1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
Planning and NEPA Coordinator	James Smith	A.A. Heritage Interpretation; BS Anthropology & Applied Archaeology 1.5 years experience in NEPA with BLM
Assistant Project Manager	David Alderman	BA Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; MS Environmental Science and Management 1 year of experience in NEPA and project management
Mining	Craig Cranston	BS Geology; MA Business and Economics 15 years experience in the Potash Industry as a mine engineer; 19 years experience with BLM as a mining engineer.
Geology	Jim Rutley	BS Geology 15 years experience in Potash Surface Production Operations; 2 years experience in Oil and Gas in the Permian Basin; 3 years experience with BLM as a geologist (specializing in Potash)

Table 6-1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
Geology (Continued)	Joe Galluzzi	MS Geological Sciences; BS Geological Sciences 1.5 years experience with BLM as a geologist, fluid and solid minerals; 7 years experience as geologist in civil engineering (surface mining, surface water and groundwater modeling, environmental assessments)
Caves/Karst	Jim Goodbar	BS Park and Recreation Management Texas; Graduate Studies Karst Geology 51 years caving experience globally, 31 years with BLM cave/karst program; Last 11 years as senior cave/karst specialist with the BLM Washington Office
	Aaron Stockton	BS Agriculture, Ag Econ and Business, Option in Natural Resources Management 16 years caving experience, 6 years experience in cave management with the federal government (USDA-FS and BLM)
Hydrology	Carolyn Moores	BS Geology; MS Hydrology 5 years experience as oil exploration geologist; 9 years experience in surface water and groundwater quality assessment on federal lands 1 year experience as BLM hydrologist
Cultural Resources	George MacDonell	BS United States Military Academy; MA Anthropology 15 years experience as professional/federal archaeologist
Biological Resources	John Chopp	BS Wildlife and Fisheries Management 2 years experience as USDA-FS biological technician; 3 years experience as BLM wildlife biologist

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Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
Soils/Reclamation	Steve Daly	BS Wildlife Science 30 years experience with BLM range staff, 20 years as soil, water, air program lead
Recreation, Visual Resources	Deanna Younger	BS Parks and Recreation Management 1.5 years experience with BLM as outdoor recreation planner. 9 years experience with USDA-FS in cave and recreation management
Geographic Information Systems	Dario Lunardi	BS Parks and Resource Management/Environmental Education; MS Park Resource Management 5 Years experience with BLM in GIS
Associate Field Manager for Resources	Jeanette Martinez	AS Word Information Processing 20 years experience BLM administration; 4 years experience realty

Table 6-2 AECOM EIS Team

Resource/Responsibility	AECOM Team Member	Education and Experience
Project Management	Ellen Dietrich	BA Anthropology; Graduate Study Soil Science 32 years experience
Project Coordinator	Lindsey Hart	BS Anthropology-Zoology and English 5 years experience
Geology and Minerals, Paleontology	William Berg	MS Geology 31 years experience
Groundwater Lead	Robert Berry	PhD Geology/Geochemistry 26 years experience
Rustler Groundwater Models	James Rumbaugh, Environmental Simulations, Inc.	BA and MS Geology 30 years experience

Table 6-2 AECOM EIS Team

Resource/Responsibility	AECOM Team Member	Education and Experience
Caprock Groundwater Model	Enrique Triana	PhD Civil and Environmental Engineering; MS Civil Engineering; BS Civil Engineering 11 years experience
	Rachel Pittinger	BS Civil Engineering 11 years experience
Surface Water	David Fetter	BS Watershed Science 9 years experience
Soils	Terra Mascareñas	BS Soil and Crop Science 13 years experience
Air Quality, Climate Change	Vince Scheetz	MS Systems Management; BS Mathematics; Graduate Study Atmospheric Science 40 years experience
	Charles Cornell	BS Environmental Sciences 16 years experience
Vegetation, Rangelands/Livestock Grazing	Erin Bergquist	MS Ecology; BA Environmental Studies & Economics 8 years experience
Wildlife and Fish	Erik Bray	BS, Fish and Wildlife Management and Biology 12 years experience
Lands and Realty, Recreation, Visual Resources, Health and Safety, Hazardous Materials	Steve Graber	BS Natural Resources Management; BA Economics 6 years experience
Cultural Resources	Kim Munson	MA and BA Anthropology 31 years experience
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	Ron Dutton, Sammons/Dutton LLC	MS and BS Economics 32 years experience
	George Blankenship, Blankenship Consulting	Master of Urban and Regional Planning; BA Social Work; BA Anthropology 31 years experience
Geographic Information Systems	Scott MacKinnon	BS Physical Geography 7 years experience
Word Processing / Document Formatting	Sue Coughenour	Two Years General Studies 25 years experience

6.5 Recipients of the Draft EIS

Numerous governmental bodies and agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals received copies of this EIS or notification of its availability. This list was developed by including those people who requested to remain on the mailing list at the beginning of the project, attendees at public scoping meetings, key representatives of local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, and representatives of federal agencies who are required to receive copies of EISs prepared by the BLM. The Draft EIS also was posted on the project website (<http://www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/HBIS/>) and made available in local libraries for public review.