



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carlsbad Field Office
620 E. Greene St.
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220-6292
www.blm.gov/nm



Dear Reader:

Attached is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the HB In-Situ Solution Mining Project. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the DEIS to address the effects of allowing HB Potash (Intrepid) to construct and operate a solution mining operation on BLM managed public land and minerals. The project is located about 20 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The proposed action would inject saline water into the mine workings and extract a mineral-rich solution. This mineral-rich solution would be pumped to the surface and transported through a series of pipelines to evaporation ponds. Once the solution evaporates in the ponds, the potassium-bearing salts would be harvested from the ponds and transported to a newly constructed mill for ore refinement. The DEIS also analyses alternatives to the proposed action, including alternate water sources.

The 60 day comment period begins with publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register, which is expected to occur on April 15, 2011. The public comment period is expected to close on June 13, 2011. Changes in these dates will be published on the website listed below. The purpose of the comment period is to ensure that the Final EIS includes an appropriate range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and that the effects analysis is complete, appropriately presenting and interpreting the available information. We have not yet chosen a preferred alternative for this project and are seeking public. The final preferred alternative may combine aspects of the existing alternatives.

You may submit written comments on the DEIS by hand delivery, U.S. postal mail, facsimile, and electronic mail (Email). Only comments received during the 60 day period following the publication of the NOA will be considered prior to a decision on the proposed action. Only parties who offer comment during this period will be granted the right to appeal the decision.

Copies by postal mail should be sent to HB EIS project manager, 620 E Greene St, Carlsbad, NM 88220. Hand delivery of written comments to the same address may occur between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday excluding Federal holidays. Facsimiles may be sent to 575-234-9264, and email to nmcfo_comment@blm.gov. Envelopes and the subject line of emails and facsimiles should be identified as "HB In-Situ solution mining DEIS"

Comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to pages, sections and/or chapters of the DEIS. Comments may address the adequacy of specific analyses in the DEIS and the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document (refer to CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1503.3).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record on this DEIS and are available for public inspection. Comments, including names and addresses, may be published as part of the Final EIS. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CRF 1.27(d), any person may request that submissions be withheld from public record by showing how the FOIA permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect confidential business information. The requester will be informed of the BLM decision regarding the request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the comments will be returned to the requester, and the requester will be notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address. Comments

submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Anonymous comments do not create standing or a record of participation. All submissions from organizations or business will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information on this DEIS please contact David Alderman, Project Manager, or James Smith, NEPA Coordinator at the Carlsbad Field Office.

Phone: 575-234-5972
Email: David_alderman@blm.gov, James_B_Smith@blm.gov
Project Website: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/cfo/HBIS/index.html>

Thank you for your interest in public land management. We look forward to receiving your comments on the DEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Stovall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Stovall

Field Manager