Quick Facts on HB In-Situ Solution Mine Project EIS

- **Proposed Project**
  - Intrepid Potash, Inc. (Intrepid) is proposing to extract the potash remaining in inactive underground mine workings using a solution mining process.
  - The solution mining process includes: water pumping, injection of brine into underground mine workings, extraction of mineral-rich brine, evaporation of water in pond system, and final processing to create a salable product.
  - The project includes construction of facilities such as pipelines, evaporation ponds, extraction and injection wells, monitoring wells, and processing plant.
- **BLM Decisions to be Made**
  - Whether to approve Intrepid's proposed project or any combination of the three EIS action alternatives. If approved, BLM must state the terms and conditions for implementation.
  - How to modify Intrepid's potash leases to be in compliance with the allowable acreage per 43 CFR §3503.37, as amended
- **Guide to EIS Organization and Content**
  - Chapter 1—Project background, purpose and need statement, summary of public involvement, relevant laws, policies, and permits
  - Chapter 2—Description of alternatives analyzed in detail and those considered but eliminated, summary of applicable environmental protection measures, summary of key impacts
  - Chapter 3—Description of the affected environment for natural, cultural, and economic resources
  - Chapter 4—Analysis of direct and indirect environmental impacts for natural, cultural, and economic resources
  - Chapter 5—Analysis of cumulative impacts of the proposed project, past and present actions in the vicinity, and reasonably foreseeable future projects
  - Chapter 6—summary of agency and public coordination and tribal consultation; list of EIS preparers and reviewers
  - Appendices—Guidance for management of the Secretary's Potash Area, current BLM lease stipulations and environmental protection measures, list of existing rights-of-way
  - Other sections—Executive summary, reference list, glossary, index
- **EIS Alternatives Analyzed in Detail**
  - No Action—Proposed project not approved, operations continue as currently implemented
  - Alternative A, Proposed Action—As originally proposed by Intrepid with the addition of 3 Rustler wells in the northern portion of project area to be used for injectate into the inactive mine workings.
  - Alternative B, Supplemental Water—Rustler water for injectate to be supplemented with water from the Caprock well fields; new or improved existing Caprock pipelines
  - Alternative C, Buried Pipelines—Same as Proposed Action except all surface pipelines in project area would be buried

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- **Key Potential Impacts Common to the Action Alternatives (A, B, and C)**
  - Subsidence—maximum of 0.6 foot depth
  - Solid Minerals—increased recovery of potash reserves
  - Oil and Gas—no change to the management and development under all alternatives
  - Visual Resources—slight to moderate changes in viewshed, primarily due to evaporation pond construction under all alternatives
  - Socioeconomics
    - 36 employees for operations under all alternatives
    - Population increase of 24 for operations phase under all alternatives
    - Additional annual federal mineral royalties—between $2.3 million and $4.7 million under all alternatives
- **Key Potential Impacts that Differ by Action Alternative**
  - Caves—under alternatives A and C, up to 43 known caves may be affected by groundwater drawdown if they currently have standing water. Up to 38 caves under Alternative B.
  - Groundwater
    - Maximum Rustler area drawdown: 200 feet, greatest extent is between 1,850 and 6,500 acres under Alternatives A and C; 200 feet, greatest extent is between 1,450 and 4,750 acres under Alternative B
    - Maximum Caprock area drawdown: 8 feet under Alternatives A and C, 52 feet under Alternative B
    - Maximum reduction in spring flow in project area—64% under Alternatives A and C, 31% under alternative B
    - Maximum reduction in flows out of Nash Draw—35% under Alternatives A and C, 25% under Alternative B
  - Wildlife
    - Impacts to wildlife and special status species are expected to be minimal.
    - Changes to habitat from changes to plant communities due to drawdown are likely the biggest impacts on habitat from the project, greatest under Alternative A where Rustler drawdown would be the most extensive.
    - Under Alternative B, surface disturbance from construction or maintenance of the Caprock pipelines has the potential to affect sand dune lizard and lesser prairie-chicken habitat and recorded populations. Mitigation measures would minimize the impacts.
  - Socioeconomics
    - Increase in employment: 259 employees for construction under Alternatives A and C, 272 for construction under Alternative B
    - Potential population increases:210 for construction phase under Alternative A, 221 for construction under Alternative B, slightly higher number of employees for construction under Alternative C

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- Additional local annual property tax—between $0.53 million and $1.05 million under Alternatives A and C; slightly higher under Alternative B due to higher capital investment