

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.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on April 15, 2011. This began the 60-day period for public review and comment of the Draft EIS. Prior to publication of the NOA, The BLM mailed the second project Bulletin to 111 people who indicated that they wanted to be on the mailing list. The BLM mailed hard copies of the Draft EIS to nine people or agencies and 62 electronic copies on CD, based on requests and agency policy. E-mail notification of the NOA and the availability of the Draft EIS for downloading from the project website were sent to 55 people who provided addresses.

Two public meetings to receive public comments on the Draft EIS were held from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., one each in Carlsbad (May 10, 2011) and Hobbs (May 11, 2011), New Mexico. The meetings were publicized through the project website, public service announcements to local radio and television stations, and through display advertisements in Artesia Daily Press, Hobbs News-Sun, and Carlsbad Current-Argus. The meetings began with a formal presentation to the public to ensure that meeting attendees were informed about the project and the findings in the Draft EIS. The presentation was followed by an informal open house to allow meeting attendees to ask questions and submit comments. BLM representatives staffed information stations with display boards showing the alternatives analyzed in detail, some of the key findings from the impact analysis, and information on the NEPA process. Sixty members of the public attended the Carlsbad meeting and 18 people attended the Hobbs meeting.

During the public comment period, The BLM met with representatives from local governments and state and federal agencies to answer questions and explain the findings of the Draft EIS. In response to a request from one agency, The BLM extended the public comment period by two weeks, closing on June 23, 2011 instead of June 13 as originally scheduled.

The BLM received 27 distinct comment letters and 139 form letters from which 217 unique comments were categorized. The comments and responses are provided in **Appendix D** where they are grouped by category.

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, but the final decision is not expected before summer of 2012. A biological assessment evaluating the effect of the Preferred Alternative on sand dune lizard and its habitat was submitted to the USFWS by the BLM on October 24, 2011.

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. Formal cooperating agency agreements have been signed by eight organizations: 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 Environment Department; and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Hopi Tribe and three federal agencies declined the invitation to become cooperating agencies.

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 project, 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
Project Manager	David Alderman	BA Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; MS Environmental Science and Management 1 year of experience in NEPA and project management

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Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
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)
Geology	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)

Table 6-1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
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	James Smith	A.A. Heritage Interpretation; BS Anthropology & Applied Archaeology 1.5 years experience in NEPA with BLM
Biological Resources	John Chopp	BS Wildlife and Fisheries Management 2 years experience as USDA-FS biological technician; 3 years experience as BLM wildlife biologist
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
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, Biological Assessment	Matt Brekke	BS Wildlife Biology 5 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

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Resource/Responsibility	AECOM Team Member	Education and 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 the Draft 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. Notification of publication of the Final EIS will be distributed to the mailing list that includes people who commented on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will also be posted to the project website.