



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bristlecone Field Office
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, Nevada 89301
<https://www.blm.gov/nevada>

In Reply Refer To:
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Return Receipt Requested

City of Ely
501 Mill Street
Ely, NV 89301

Subject: Cooperating Agency Invitation for the March 2027 Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Environmental Assessment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely District Office, Nevada, is anticipating an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze and disclose impacts associated with the March 2027 Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The proposed Project consists of three (3) oil and gas lease parcels located in Nye and White Pine Counties on public lands managed by BLM's Ely District Office (District). With this letter, we are inviting the City of Ely to participate in this process as a cooperating agency.

Cooperating Agency status provides a formal framework for governmental units to engage in active collaboration with a lead federal agency to implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 516 DM-1 – U.S. Department of Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures defines a Cooperating Agency as “any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency that has been designated as a cooperating agency under section 107(a)(3) of NEPA (23).

Based on our preliminary evaluation, we believe that your agency may meet the Cooperating Agency criteria. We are sending you this letter to determine your interest in, and eligibility, to collaborate with us in a Cooperating Agency relationship. Your agency is being asked to participate because your agency may have jurisdiction and/or special expertise, such as statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience relevant to the decision to be made.

The regulations implementing NEPA emphasize the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies in the preparation of NEPA analysis and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the Cooperating Agency relationship.

Cooperating Agencies may determine the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources. As a Cooperating Agency, your organization could participate

in the process, assist in developing information to be included, develop and identify potential mitigation measures and alternatives, and identify pertinent information that could be useful in preparation and the overall Project proposal. Please note that Cooperating Agency participation does not necessarily imply that your agency supports the proposed Project.

Project Background

The BLM's purpose in preparing the EA is to respond to Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to lease federal oil and gas resources through a competitive leasing process. The need for the action is established by the BLM's responsibility under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), as amended and the Federal Onshore Oil & Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (FOOGLRA), to make mineral resources, such as oil and gas, available for development and as part of the BLM's multiple-use and sustained-yield mandate under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). An analysis of issues is needed to determine the potential environmental impact of putting the lands up for competitive sale and transferring the parcels out of federal ownership.

Response to this Letter

Whether you accept or decline, we ask that you make every effort to respond to this request by submitting an official letter (or an email) to the BLM within 14 days of receipt of this letter. Please note that if you decline the invitation, this does not preclude you from participating in the NEPA decision appeals process.

The BLM will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that describes the roles and responsibilities of the BLM and your agency. After your acceptance as a Cooperating Agency, you will receive a draft MOU for review. The BLM will need a point of contact to finalize the MOU and the name of the person who will represent your agency for the process.

Please send your letter to:

Stacy Holt
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, Nevada 89301

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response. If you have any questions regarding the Project or the information presented in this letter, please contact Stacy Holt at (775) 289-1893 or slholt@blm.gov.

Sincerely,



Robbie Purdie-Williams
District Manager
Ely District Office