

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

[Project No. 11858-002]

**The Nevada Power Company, Inc.;
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water
District; California; Notice of Intention
To Hold Public Meetings for
Discussion of the Draft Environmental
Impact Statement for the Lake Elsinore
Advanced Pumped Storage Project**

March 1, 2006.

On February 17, 2006, the Commission staff delivered the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS) to the Environmental Protection Agency and mailed it to resource and land management agencies, interested organizations, and individuals.

The draft EIS was noticed in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2006, (71 FR 9819) and comments are due April 25, 2006. The draft EIS evaluates the environmental consequences and developmental benefits of issuing an original license for building, operating and maintaining the LEAPS Project, located in Riverside County, California. The project would occupy 2,412 acres of federal lands, including lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest. Besides evaluating the applicant's proposal, the draft EIS evaluates a FERC staff proposal and the no-action alternative.

Two public meetings, which will be recorded by an official stenographer, are scheduled as follows.

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

Time: 7-10 p.m. (PST).

Place: San Juan Capistrano Community Center, 25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2006.

Time: 7-10 p.m. (PST).

Place: Lake Elsinore Cultural Center, 183 N. Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530.

At these meetings, resource agency personnel and other interested persons will have the opportunity to provide oral and written comments and recommendations regarding the DEIS for the Commission's public record.

For further information, please contact Jim Fargo at e-mail address james.fargo@ferc.gov, or by telephone at (202) 502-6095.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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[Docket No. CP06-66-000]

**Port Barre Investments, L.L.C. (d/b/a
Bobcat Gas Storage); Notice of Intent
To Prepare an Environmental
Assessment for the Proposed Bobcat
Gas Storage Project and Request for
Comments on Environmental Issues**

February 28, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of a proposal by Port Barre Investments, L.L.C. (d/b/a Bobcat Gas Storage (Bobcat)) to construct a new salt cavern natural gas storage facility in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.¹ The Bobcat Gas Storage Project would provide approximately 12 billion cubic feet of working natural gas storage capacity, capable of injecting gas at maximum rates of up to 900 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) and delivering gas at maximum rates of up to 1,200 MMcfd. The facilities would include two solution mined storage caverns, a 37,880 horsepower (hp) compressor station, a leaching plant, brine disposal facilities, approximately 18.1 miles of pipeline, and metering and regulating stations.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping period that will be used to gather environmental input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Please note that the scoping comments are requested by March 31, 2006.

This notice is being sent to potentially affected landowners; Federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes, other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a Bobcat company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of

eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the natural gas company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" is available for viewing on the FERC Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>). This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Bobcat proposes to construct, own, and operate a high-deliverability natural gas storage project on an 84-acre parcel of land leased by Bobcat, located about 2.2 miles east of the Town of Port Barre, Louisiana. Two caverns would be solution mined in the Port Barre Salt Dome in four phases, over an approximate five-year time span. The project would include construction of the following:

- (1) Gas Storage Site, including:
 - Eight (8) 4,735 horsepower compressors, dehydration and appurtenant facilities (Bobcat Compressor Station);
 - A leaching plant;
 - 0.5 mile of non-jurisdictional electric distribution line;
 - 2 freshwater and 2 cavern wells; and
 - 0.5 mile of 16-inch-diameter freshwater pipeline.
- (2) Brine Disposal Site, including three brine disposal wells;
- (3) 1.5 miles of 16-inch-diameter brine disposal pipeline;
- (4) 16.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and appurtenances; and
- (5) 5 interstate and 1 intrastate pipeline system interconnects, each with a regulator/meter station.

The location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 261.9 acres of land. Following construction, about 104.3 acres would be maintained as new aboveground facility sites and right-of-

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of all appendices, other than appendix 1 (maps), are available on the Commission's Web site at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

¹ Bobcat's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.