

STATE OF NEVADA  
 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

1150 E. William Street  
 Carson City, Nevada 89701-3109

No. 40057

RECEIPT

Received from

Date 4/21/2011

HOLLAND & HART  
 5441 KIETZKE LN FL 2  
 RENO, NV 89511

AMOUNT \$ 200.00

TWO HUNDRED ----- and 00/100 Dollars

How Paid	Cash	Check 67003660	Money Order	Draft		
Type of Receipt	Filing Fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TDD	Copy Service	UEC	Mill or CMRS	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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Memo

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Received by ET

April 21, 2011

HAND DELIVERED

Donna Skau  
Commission Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
1150 E. William Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

RECEIVED PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF NEVADA - CARSON CITY  
2011 APR 21 AM 11:33

RE: Docket No. 11-\_\_\_\_\_. Application of Ormat Nevada, Inc., for authority under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act for a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities.

Dear Ms. Skau:

Accompanying this letter, for filing with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (the "Commission") and pursuant to the Nevada Utility Environmental Protection Act, is the Application of Ormat Nevada, Inc., for authority and a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities. Also enclosed is a Draft Notice for the Application and a check for \$200.00 for the filing fee.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,



Timothy M. Clausen  
for HOLLAND & HART LLP

TMC:taw  
Enclosures  
cc: Parties of Record

5086281\_1.DOC

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA  
DRAFT NOTICE

(Applications, Tariff Filings, Complaints, and Petitions)

RECEIVED-PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF NEVADA-CARSON CITY  
2011 APR 21 AM 11:33

Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC") 703.162, the Commission requires that a draft notice be included with all applications, tariff filings, complaints and petitions. Please complete and include **ONE COPY** of this form with your filing. (Completion of this form may require the use of more than one page.)

A title that generally describes the relief requested (see NAC 703.160(5)(a)):

**Application of Ormat Nevada, Inc., for authority under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act for a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Lander County, Nevada.**

The name of the applicant, complainant, petitioner or the name of the agent for the applicant, complainant or petitioner (see NAC 703.160(5)(b)):

**Ormat Nevada, Inc.**

A brief description of the purpose of the filing or proceeding, including, without limitation, a clear and concise introductory statement that summarizes the relief requested or the type of proceeding scheduled **AND** the effect of the relief or proceeding upon consumers (see NAC 703.160(5)(c)):

**See Public Notice of Amended Application at Exhibit G of the Application.**

A statement indicating whether a consumer session is required to be held pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute ("NRS") 704.069(1)<sup>1</sup>:

N/A

If the draft notice pertains to a tariff filing, please include the tariff number **AND** the section number(s) or schedule number(s) being revised.

N/A

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<sup>1</sup> NRS 704.069 states in pertinent part:

1. The Commission shall conduct a consumer session to solicit comments from the public in any matter pending before the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.061 to 704.110 inclusive, in which:
  - (a) A public utility has filed a general rate application, an application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale or an application to clear its deferred accounts; and
  - (b) The changes proposed in the application will result in an increase in annual gross operating revenue, as certified by the applicant, in an amount that will exceed \$50,000 or 10 percent of the applicant's annual gross operating revenue, whichever is less.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

2011 APR 21 AM 11:35

Application of Ormat Nevada, Inc., for authority under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act for a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Lander County, Nevada.

Docket No. 11-\_\_\_\_\_

**INITIAL APPLICATION OF ORMAT NEVADA, INC., FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES UNDER THE UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

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Carson City, Nevada 89701

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

Application of Ormat Nevada, Inc., for authority under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act for a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Lander County, Nevada.

Docket No. 11-\_\_\_\_\_

**INITIAL APPLICATION OF ORMAT NEVADA, INC. FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES UNDER THE UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

Ormat Nevada, Inc., on behalf of its subsidiary ORNI 39, LLC (“Applicant”), hereby submits to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (“Commission”) its initial application for a permit to construct a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities under the Utility Environmental Protection Act (“Application”). The Application is made pursuant to Sections 704.820 to 704.900 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Sections 703.415 to 703.427 of the Nevada Administrative Code. In support of the Application, the Applicant hereby submits the following information and evidence.

**I. Introduction**

Applicant is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a new 230 kV overhead mono-pole transmission line and associated facilities at the Frontier Substation that will be approximately 8-10 miles northeast of the town of Austin in Lander County, Nevada. The transmission line will connect the new McGinness Hills geothermal generating facility to Sierra Pacific Power Company’s (“Sierra”) Frontier Substation.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the transmission line is to deliver renewable energy from the McGinness Hills geothermal generating facility to Sierra to help meet Nevada’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard requirements and to meet the growing need for renewable energy in Nevada.

<sup>1</sup> The McGinness Hills geothermal generating plant has a nameplate capacity of 51 MW and, therefore, Applicant is not required to obtain a permit to construct the generating plant from the Commission because it does not qualify as a “Utility Facility” pursuant to NRS 704.860(1).

1 Section 704.870(2) of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides that Applicant must submit  
2 an initial application with the Commission if a federal agency is conducting an environmental  
3 analysis of the proposed utility facility. The Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) is currently  
4 conducting an Environmental Assessment on the proposed utility facility. Upon its release of a  
5 final Environmental Assessment and Decision of Record, Applicant will file its amended  
6 application with the Commission within thirty (30) days.

7 **II. Information Regarding the Applicant**

8 The Applicant is a Delaware limited liability company qualified to do business in  
9 Nevada. The Applicant’s corporate headquarters and principal place of business is 6225 Neil  
10 Road, Reno, Nevada 89511. The Applicant is an affiliate of Ormat Technologies, Inc.

11 All communications or correspondence regarding the Application should be addressed or  
12 directed to the following:

13 Scott Kessler  
14 Ormat Nevada, Inc.  
15 6225 Neil Road  
16 Reno, Nevada 89511  
17 Telephone: (775) 356-9029  
18 Email: [skessler@ormat.com](mailto:skessler@ormat.com)

19 and

20 Tim Clausen  
21 Fred Schmidt  
22 Holland & Hart LLP  
23 777 E. William Street, Suite 200  
24 Carson City, Nevada 89701  
25 Telephone: (775) 684-6000  
26 Email: [tclausen@hollandhart.com](mailto:tclausen@hollandhart.com)

27 **III. Responses to Required Disclosures**

28 The information required by NAC 703.421 is provided as follows.

- 29 A. NAC 703.421(1). A general description of the location of the proposed utility facility.

30 Applicant is proposing to construct, operate and maintain approximately nine (9) miles of  
31 230 kV overhead mono-pole transmission line approximately 8-10 miles northeast of the town /

32 / / /

1 of Austin in Lander County, Nevada. Maps of the project vicinity, its location and the  
2 transmission route are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3 The transmission line and dedicated communication system is proposed to connect the  
4 new McGinness Hills geothermal power plant and terminate at Sierra's existing Frontier  
5 Substation, which is located on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management  
6 ("BLM"). The transmission line and dedicated communication system is mainly located on  
7 public lands managed by the United States Forest Service ("USFS"); however, a portion is  
8 located on public land managed by the BLM. A transmission routing map is attached hereto as  
9 Exhibit A and ownership plats are attached hereto as Exhibit D. The existing Frontier Substation  
10 portion of the Project is on public land managed by the BLM.

11 In addition, in order to interconnect the transmission line to its transmission system,  
12 Sierra will install new facilities at its Frontier Substation, as described below.<sup>2</sup> A copy of the  
13 proposed substation layout is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The transmission line, dedicated  
14 communication system and upgrades at the Frontier Substation are collectively referred to as the  
15 "Project."

16 **1. NAC 703.421(1)(a). A regional map that identifies the location of the**  
17 **proposed utility facility.**

18 Please see Exhibit A for maps of the Project's general vicinity and location, and Exhibit  
19 F for additional detail on routing.

20 **2. NAC 703.421(1)(b). Alternative locations for the proposed utility facility.**

21 Both the preferred and alternative transmission routes are located on federal lands. The  
22 alternative route deviates from the preferred route by approximately three (3) miles south of the  
23 McGinness Hills geothermal power plant and travels about 3.1 miles southwest to the proposed  
24 Prospect Switch. See Exhibit A, labeled "proposed alternate." From the Prospect Switch the

25 / / /

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>2</sup> Sierra will be responsible for installing the upgrades at the Frontier Substation. However, the upgrades are  
28 included in this Application so the permit to construct will include the entire Project and also not require two  
separate filings by both Sierra and the Applicant. The Commission has recently approved a similar single  
application for a permit to construct in Docket No. 10-02013.

1 alternative route would travel southeast to interconnect the Project with Sierra's existing  
2 Churchill to Frontier 230kV Line.

3 **3. NAC 703.421(1)(c). The reason why the location identified in paragraph**  
4 **(a) is best suited for the proposed utility facility.**

5 Approximately one-half of the preferred route parallels and makes use of Sierra's existing  
6 Churchill to Frontier transmission route, minimizing new environmental and visual impacts. In  
7 addition, the preferred route makes use of existing infrastructure at the Frontier Substation,  
8 thereby eliminating an approximate one (1) mile line fold and duplication of equipment at the  
9 alternate prospect site.

10 B. NAC 703.421(2). A general description of the proposed utility facility.

11 **1. NAC 703.421(2)(a). The size and nature of the proposed utility facility.**

12 The transmission line portion of the Project is proposed as a 230 kV overhead  
13 transmission line and fiber optic line that will be approximately nine (9) miles long. Typical  
14 design characteristics of the transmission line can be found in Table 1, below, and in Exhibit E.  
15 The Project will require a ninety (90) foot width permanent right-of-way ("ROW") a majority of  
16 its length, a 110-foot width permanent ROW around the two angle points, and an additional  
17 110-foot width temporary ROW for construction. Approximately three (3) miles of the Project is  
18 located on public lands managed by the BLM, while the remaining six (6) miles is located on  
19 public lands managed by the USFS.

20 The interconnection portion of the Project is located on BLM-managed lands in and  
21 around Sierra's Frontier Substation. These new facilities will include:

- 22 (1) a new 230 kV line terminal;
- 23 (2) two (2) 230 kV circuit breakers;
- 24 (3) two (2) 230 kV switches;
- 25 (4) one (1) 230 kV line switch;
- 26 (5) protection and control for the new 230 kV conductor and a 230 kV conductor and  
27 shield wire;

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- (6) a new 230 kV steel "A" frame "dead-end" structure to be constructed inside the substation; and
- (7) Approximately 275 feet of 230 kV overhead line between the substation and the dead-end structure.

See Exhibit B, Proposed Substation Layout.

**Table 1: Typical Design Characteristics**

Line length	Approximately 9 miles (3 miles on BLM land; 6 miles on USFS land)
Type of structure	Single weathering steel pole.
Structure height	55 to 70 feet above ground poles plus an additional amount equal to 10% of that structure height plus 2 feet to be buried below ground.
Span length	Approximately 500 to 600 feet.
Number of structures/mile	Approximately 9 to 11 per mile.
Structure Base	Direct embedded
Conductor Types	Conductor – 397.5 MCM All Aluminum "Canna"  Shield Wire – 3/8" EHS Steel  Insulators – lightweight, thin line polymer rubber with non-reflective light gray color
Clearance of Conductor	Minimum of 8 feet phase to phase based on SPPCo. standard for structures at 230 kV
ROW width	200-foot wide ROW (90-foot permanent width and 110-foot temporary width required for construction)
Access roads	Existing roads would be utilized whenever possible to access the ROW. In those areas where no reasonable access roads exist, Ormat would utilize overland travel to access the ROW.
Voltage	230,000

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1                                   **2. NAC 703.421(2)(b). The natural resources that will be used during**  
2                                   **construction and operation of the proposed utility facility.**

3                                   Applicant intends to utilize existing roads and overland travel and will not construct any  
4 new roads. Construction will consume water for the sole purpose to stabilize soils and to control  
5 fugitive dust. Applicant estimates that approximately 13 acre feet of water will be used during  
6 construction, which will be acquired and trucked from a private entity (i.e. the Grass Valley  
7 Ranch).

8                                   C. NAC 703.421(3). A summary of any studies which the applicant anticipates will  
9                                   be made of the environmental impact of the proposed utility facility as required  
10                                   by subsection 2 of NRS 704.870, including a copy of all corresponding studies  
11                                   filed with appropriate federal agencies.

12                                   Table 2, below, includes a summary of studies that are being conducted or that the  
13 Applicant anticipates will be conducted.

14                                   **Table 2: Summary Studies**

STUDIES	AGENCY	SCOPE	PURPOSE
Plan of Development	BLM, USFS	Transmission Line	ROW issuance
Plan of Utilization	BLM	Geo-power plant construction	Site License
NEPA Environmental Assessment	BLM, USFS	Project Environmental Review	Decision Record
Cultural field work, report and mitigation	BLM, USFS, SHPO		Supporting NEPA special studies
Water Modeling and Monitoring	BLM, NDEP		Supporting NEPA special studies
Noise Modeling	BLM		Supporting NEPA special studies
Biologic studies	BLM, USFS		Supporting NEPA special studies
Botanical studies	BLM, USFS		Supporting NEPA special studies
Vegetation	BLM		Supporting NEPA

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Assessment			special studies
Biological assessment / Biologic evaluation	USFS		Supporting NEPA special studies

D. NAC 703.421(4). Copy of the public notice of the application and proof of the publication of the public notice.

A copy of the public notice of the application and proof of publication of the public notice is attached hereto as Exhibit G.

E. NAC 703.421(5). Proof of service to the Nevada State Clearinghouse.

A copy of the proof of service to the Nevada State Clearinghouse is attached hereto as Exhibit H.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission notice this filing as the initial application, as required by NRS 704.870(2)(a) and NRS 704.870(5). At such time as Applicant files its amended application pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), Applicant will request the Commission further process Applicant's application and issue a permit to construct for the Project.

DATED and respectfully submitted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2011.

HOLLAND & HART LLP

By: Maum  
Tim Clausen  
Fred Schmidt  
777 E. William Street, Suite 200  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Attorneys for the Applicant

