



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Great Basin National Park

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## Great Basin National Park News Release

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### Great Basin National Park Submits Public Comments on the Emissions Permit for the Proposed Ely Energy Center

At the public hearing held on January 9, 2008 in Ely Nevada, the National Park Service presented its concerns on the issuance of an emissions permit by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. The approval of a State emissions permit is pending for a 1,500 megawatt conventional coal fired power plant located 38 miles northwest of the Park.

An analysis by the National Park Service's Air Resource Division has found that the level of potential emissions by the proposed Ely Energy Center will have significant negative impacts to park resources as well as to the surrounding area of White Pine County. Air quality, visibility, night skies and water quality could be affected.

Acting Superintendent, Paul DePrey, noted that "Great Basin National Park has the cleanest air of any National Park site in the lower 48. White Pine County and the rest of Nevada can be proud of such a pristine environment. We all need to work together to preserve it while pursuing economic development."

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Great Basin National Park was established by Congress in part to include the scenic values in and around the park. This was done with the support and leadership of the citizens of Nevada to preserve and protect a representative segment of the Great Basin Region unimpaired for future generations.

The Park Service's analysis has found that the proposed levels of emissions will result in a significant reduction in visibility at the park and to the surrounding area. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 445B.100) declares that it is the public policy of the state of Nevada to preserve visibility and scenic values of the state. Proposed sulfur, nitrogen and mercury deposition rates associated with the Ely Energy Center could potentially impact the pristine water quality of the park's lakes and streams as well as affecting the wildlife and fish dependent upon them.

The Park Service has been providing data and document review as a cooperating agency with the Bureau of Land Management in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project in efforts to develop an alternative in line with preservation of National Park values.

To view the comments and technical report submitted to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection on the Ely Energy Center please visit the News Section of the Park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grba/parknews/index.htm>.

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