

along the proposed gas pipeline corridor (corridor segments T4, C3, T3, C1, and R1); Alternative T gas pipeline corridor (corridor segments T4, C3, T3, T2, and T1); and Alternative R gas pipeline corridor (corridor segments R5, R4, R3, R2, and R1) located in areas of Class C scenic quality which are seen by a low to moderate number of sensitive viewers (primarily from US 93 and dispersed residences). These alternatives follow a BLM-designated utility corridor and US 93.

Class III landscapes occur near the eastern and southern boundaries of the region of influence surrounding the proposed power plant site. These landscapes consist of Class B scenic quality which is seen by a low to moderate number of sensitive viewers (primarily US 93 and dispersed residences). The Class III landscapes are found along the proposed gas pipeline corridor (corridor segment R5); Alternative T gas pipeline corridor (corridor segment T5); and Alternative R gas pipeline corridor (corridor segment R5).

Class II landscapes occur along the Big Sandy River from the southern to central portions of the region of influence. These landscapes consist of Class A scenic quality areas seen by a moderate to high number of sensitive viewers (primarily from US 93, Wikieup, and dispersed residences). The proposed and alternative gas pipeline routes cross the Class II Big Sandy River north and south of Wikieup. The Class II landscapes are found along the proposed gas pipeline corridor (corridor segment R5); Alternative T gas pipeline corridor (corridor segment T5); and Alternative R gas pipeline corridor (corridor segments R5 and R4).

The proposed power plant site is located on private land. Therefore, it is not specifically subject to BLM VRM guidelines. It is surrounded by Class III landscapes and the closest Class II landscapes are approximately 1 to 1.5 miles away.

3.9.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Identification of Issues

Impacts on visual resources resulting from the proposed Project would be both short term and long term. Issues relative to evaluating impacts on visual resources are listed below.

Short-term Issues:

- presence of construction vehicles and equipment (e.g., cranes, trucks, bulldozers, scaffolding)
- dust and emissions from construction equipment
- construction lighting

Long-term Issues:

- terrain and vegetation disturbance at the proposed power plant site (approximately 56 acres), as well as along the pipeline and access roads
- presence of aboveground facilities at the proposed power plant site including the following:
 - combustion turbine generators (CTGs), approximately 60 feet high
 - HRSG, approximately 93 feet high
 - HRSG exhaust stacks, approximately 130 feet high
 - steam turbine generator (STG), approximately 37 feet high
 - cooling tower (CT), approximately 40 feet high
 - water storage tanks, approximately 43 feet high

- power plant substation and transmission line structures, approximately 35 to 125 feet high
 - presence of communication facilities including a 60 feet high communication tower and two 10 feet diameter microwave dishes
- presence of visible vapor plumes emanating from the HRSG exhaust stacks and CT cells
- night lighting for operations and maintenance

- skyline views of proposed facilities
- substantial earthwork (cut and fill) that exposes visually contrasting soils or rock and does not repeat natural contours of the surrounding terrain

Significance Criteria

Impacts would be considered significant if the following were to occur:

- non-compliance with applicable agency VRM guidelines, including the following:
 - BLM Visual Resource Management Classifications
 - ADOT Parkways, Historic, and Scenic Roads Program
 - Mohave County “Night Sky Ordinance”
- a substantial degradation of the character or scenic quality of a landscape in terms of the form, line, color, and texture qualities that make the setting unique, identifiable, or establish a “sense of place” as a result of the proposed Project
- introduction of substantial dominant visual changes in the landscape that are seen by highly sensitive viewers (e.g., residences, recreation areas, scenic roads) including, but not limited to the following:
 - partial or full view blockage of surrounding viewsheds (e.g., ridgelines and riparian corridors) by the proposed facilities, where there currently are unobstructed views

Impact Assessment Methods

The assessment of potential significant impacts on visual resources resulting from the Proposed Action was based on the evaluation of visual contrast as defined by the BLM’s 8400 series manual (Visual Resource Inventory and Contrast Rating System, 1986).

Visual contrast is a measure of the perceptible level of change to landscape scenic quality and views from KOPs resulting from the proposed Project. Viewing variables affecting visual contrast include vegetation or terrain screening, atmospheric conditions, daytime vs. nighttime conditions, and visual absorption capability (VAC). VAC is defined as the extent to which the complexity of the landscape can absorb changes without affecting the overall visual character.

The BLM Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet (Form 8400-4) was used as the basis for establishing potential visual contrast levels. These worksheets were completed in the field and are available for review at the BLM Kingman Field Office. Additionally, visual simulations were prepared using photography and computer-generated three-dimensional models to assist in determining visual contrast levels.

There were four visual contrast (modification) levels established for this Project, as described below.

Not Noticeable $\frac{3}{4}$ Changes in the landscape scenery or views that would not be evident (weak contrast) unless pointed out due to such factors as previous disturbance, distance, terrain and vegetation screening, dominance of adjacent landscape features, and visual absorption due to

background terrain. Changes typically would be viewed in the background and would be unobstructed. However, middleground views may be included that are partially screened or foreground views that would be completely screened.

Noticeable ³/₄ Changes in the landscape scenery or views that would be evident (weak/moderate contrast) but visually subordinate to the setting due to the factors described above. These changes may attract slight attention, but would not compete with adjacent landscape scenery or views. Changes typically would be viewed in the middleground or background and would be unobstructed. However, foreground views may be included that would be partially screened.

Co-dominant ³/₄ Changes in the landscape scenery or views that would attract attention (moderate contrast) and begin to compete with adjacent landscape scenery or views. Changes typically would be viewed in the middleground and would be unobstructed or partially screened in the foreground.

Dominant ³/₄ Changes in the landscape scenery or views that would become the focal point or most significant (strong contrast) feature in the setting. Changes typically would be viewed in the foreground, be unobstructed, and in extreme cases may be partially screened. Such changes often cause a lasting impression when viewed in the landscape.

The severity of impacts is determined by combining the landscape scenic quality classes and viewer sensitivity levels for KOPs determined in the inventory with the visual contrast/modification levels described above. Tables 3.9-1 and 3.9-2 summarize the impacts in terms of high, moderate, and low levels. The impact levels assume the application of mitigation measures that are part of the Proposed Action and presented in Section 2.2.8.8. Table 3.9-3 summarizes the compliance with BLM VRM Classifications.

Five visual simulations (3D computer models), one from each of the KOPs, were prepared to assist with the assessment of impacts to visual resources. The simulation prepared from KOP #1 - Community of Wikieup (refer to Figure 3.9.3) is the only one shown in this Draft EIS, since it represents a characteristic view of the proposed power plant seen by the general public. Simulations for the other KOPs illustrated limited views of the power plant due to short viewing duration, increased viewing distance, and screening from intervening terrain and vegetation.

Actions Incorporated into the Proposed Action to Reduce or Prevent Impacts

As described in Section 2.2.8.8, all lighting would be shielded and directed downward, in accordance with the Mohave "Night-Sky" Ordinance. In addition, the proposed power plant would be painted to blend with the natural background. All areas disturbed by construction would be reclaimed (landscape recontoured and rocks scattered randomly and planted with native vegetation, which would help ensure that the proposed Project facilities blend with the surrounding area.

Impact Assessment

Proposed Action

Proposed Power Plant Site

Long-term impacts would begin after construction of the proposed power plant and remain over the life of the Project. Modifications would be noticeable to co-dominant primarily due to surface disturbance and the introduction of additional industrial facilities (turbines, exhaust stacks, CTs, water tanks, substation, and evaporation ponds) into scenic quality Class B foothill landscapes at the proposed power plant site. Impacts would be moderate and less than significant after the application of actions to reduce impacts and due to the presence of a BLM-designated utility corridor, which has 500-kV, 345-kV, and 69-kV transmission lines

TABLE 3.9-1 SCENIC QUALITY IMPACT LEVELS			
Visual Contrast or Modification Levels	Scenic Quality Class		
	<i>Class A</i>	<i>Class B</i>	<i>Class C</i>
<i>Not Noticeable</i>	Moderate	Low	Low
<i>Noticeable</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Low
<i>Co-dominant</i>	High	Moderate	Low
<i>Dominant</i>	High	High	Moderate

TABLE 3.9-2 KOP (VIEWER) IMPACT LEVELS			
Visual Contrast or Modification Levels	Viewer Sensitivity		
	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Not Noticeable</i>	Low	Low	Low
<i>Noticeable</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Low
<i>Co-dominant</i>	High	Moderate	Low
<i>Dominant</i>	High	High	Moderate

TABLE 3.9-3 COMPLIANCE WITH BLM VRM CLASSIFICATIONS				
Visual Contrast or Modification Levels	VRM Class			
	<i>Class I *</i>	<i>Class II</i>	<i>Class III</i>	<i>Class IV</i>
<i>Not Noticeable</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Noticeable</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Co-dominant</i>	No	No	Yes /No**	Yes
<i>Dominant</i>	No	No	No	Yes/No**

* There are no VRM Class I landscapes in the region of influence

** Compliance may depend upon implementation of mitigation measures to reduce visual contrast

bisecting the proposed power plant site and evaporation ponds.

The proposed power plant would be a noticeable feature in the landscape as viewed from KOP #1 - Community of Wikieup (approximately 3.5 to 4 miles away). Impacts on these views would be moderate to low, since they are partially screened by vegetation, terrain, and occasionally surrounding development. A simulation of the view of the proposed power plant from KOP #1 is included as Figure 3.9-3. The Aquarius Mountains to the east are the dominant feature in the landscape when viewed from this KOP. The Big Sandy River in the foreground (approximately 0.25 mile away) is a secondary feature that attracts viewer attention from this

KOP. Additionally, the Hualapai Mountains to the west are a dominant feature in the landscape, which may draw attention away from views of the proposed power plant. At this distance, the proposed power plant would tend to be absorbed into the landscape. Visible water vapor plumes would contribute to the visibility of the proposed power plant from this KOP and likely would be a co-dominant feature when they occur. Lighting also would contribute to the noticeability of the proposed power plant during nighttime hours; however, impacts would be reduced to low levels because of the measures proposed as part of the Proposed Action (refer to Section 2.2.8.8). Based on the significance criteria, these impacts would not be significant.

The proposed power plant would be a noticeable to not noticeable feature in the landscape when viewed from KOP #2 - Chicken Springs Road (approximately 7 miles away). This is primarily because the proposed power plant site is located at a relatively long distance and is partially to fully screened due to intervening terrain and vegetation from this KOP, as well as being absorbed by background terrain. Additionally, the Big Sandy River, Hualapai Mountains, and Aquarius Mountains are the dominant features visible in the landscape from this KOP. The most noticeable features would be the presence of water vapor plumes during the day and light during nighttime hours. Visible night lighting would be reduced to low levels since they would be shielded and directed away from viewers. Based on the significance criteria, impacts on this KOP would be low and less than significant.

KOP #3 - US 93 has several viewing locations where the proposed power plant and access road would be not noticeable to noticeable primarily due to intervening terrain and vegetation, as well the dominance of the surrounding mountain landscapes. The proposed power plant would not be noticeable along the stretch of highway west of the proposed power plant site where views are oriented primarily north and south away from the site. However, the access road would be noticeable since it is located immediately adjacent to the highway. The most noticeable location is the designated scenic section of the highway south of the proposed power plant site where northbound views (relatively short duration) are oriented directly toward the proposed power plant site (approximately 3.5 miles away). The upper portions of the HRSG and exhaust stacks, along with the cut slope created by the earthwork at the power plant site, would be the most visible features from this KOP. However, the power plant and cut slope would tend to be absorbed into the landscape since the plant facilities would be surface treated to match colors in the surrounding environment and after the cut slope has been revegetated.

The second location along US 93 where the proposed power plant would be most noticeable

is north of Wikieup where southbound views are partially directed toward the proposed power plant site in similar conditions described above. Similar to other viewing areas, night lighting and water vapor plumes would be the most visible features associated with the proposed power plant. Impacts for this KOP would be moderate along the scenic portion of the highway and low for the remaining sections after the application of measures. Based on the significance criteria, impacts along US 93 would not be considered significant.

KOP #4 - Carrow-Stephens Ranches ACEC is approximately 9 to 10 miles away from the proposed power plant site and views would range from not noticeable during daytime hours to potentially noticeable during nighttime hours. Impacts on views would be low primarily due to distance, orientation, and absorption from background terrain. Another potentially noticeable feature of the proposed power plant from this KOP would be the water vapor plumes. However, occurrence of the plumes would be relatively infrequent. Based on the significance criteria, impacts would be less than significant.

The highest visual impacts would occur at KOP #5 – Nettie’s Place Residence. Impacts on these views would be moderate due to the proximity (less than 1 mile) of the KOP to the proposed plant site. The most noticeable feature would be the cut slope created by the earthwork at the plant site (including the evaporation ponds) since it is the highest point where modifications to the landscape occur. The cut slope would be visible primarily during the first several years after construction, until vegetation of the disturbed area establishes itself. Foreground screening from intervening vegetation and terrain would reduce the overall visual contrast of the proposed power plant from this KOP from co-dominant to noticeable. The impacts would be less than significant, since the proposed power plant would partially blend with background terrain when painted with earth tones consistent with the surrounding landscape.

Water vapor plumes emanating from the CT cells and HRSG exhaust stacks would be occasionally visible from KOP #5 during daylight hours. These plumes would occur only under certain atmospheric conditions (i.e., primarily during winter when cold temperatures and high humidity are common), with the CT plumes visible more frequently than the HRSG plumes. Plumes that are 164 feet high are expected to occur less than 5 percent of hours during the course of a year and plumes that are greater than 230 feet high would be expected to occur less than 3 percent of yearly hours. The plumes would appear as a medium-density white/gray cloud rising above the proposed power plant site and would occur primarily at night during winter months. The plumes would partially block views of the Aquarius Mountains from KOP #5. When visible, the plumes would be co-dominant to dominant depending upon their height above ground and duration of time visible. Impacts resulting from the plumes would be high to moderate. However, the plumes only would be visible a small percentage of daytime hours, and therefore would result in less than significant impacts.

There currently are no lights visible to the east of KOP #5. Therefore, lighting would be co-dominant (partially screened) and contribute to impacts during the nighttime. Impacts would be reduced to moderate levels by implementation of shielding and directive devices. Based on the significance criteria, impacts from night lighting would be less than significant.

Impacts on other viewing areas described in the affected environment section would be low and insignificant primarily due to limited visibility of the proposed power plant site. Additionally, measures included in Section 2.2.8.8 (i.e., surface treated facilities, revegetation of disturbed areas, and shielding devices on lights) would reduce visual contrast with the surrounding landscape.

The proposed power plant site is located on private land (zoned industrial) and therefore does not have established visual resource

management guidelines. The proposed power plant and associated facilities would comply with all applicable agency visual resource management guidelines including BLM VRM classifications, ADOT's Parkways, Historic, and Scenic Roads Program; and Mohave County's "Night Sky" Ordinance, and therefore would not result in a significant impact.

Short-term impacts resulting from the construction of the proposed power plant primarily would result from the visibility of equipment and dust related to the construction process. Additionally, lighting present during nighttime hours would contribute to short-term impacts. These impacts would occur primarily to KOP #5 - Nettie's Place Residence and would range from moderate to low depending upon the size and type of equipment (e.g., high cranes, scaffolding, earth moving equipment). These short-term impacts would be less than significant.

Communication Facilities

Visible modifications and impact levels for the proposed communication towers (approximately 60 feet high) and microwave dishes would be the same as previously described for the proposed power plant site.

Modification levels for the installation of microwave dishes would range from noticeable from views within 0.25 mile to not noticeable to views from beyond 0.25 mile. Impacts would be low and insignificant primarily due to the presence of numerous existing towers, buildings, and microwave dishes. Impacts would be the same for facilities at the Phoenix and Perkins Substation sites.

Replacing the existing overhead static wire with an OPGW on the existing 345-kV transmission line would not be noticeable since it would appear nearly identical. Based on the significance criteria, therefore, impacts would be low and insignificant.

Proposed Gas Pipeline Corridor

Long-term impacts would begin after the construction of the gas pipeline along the proposed route. The proposed gas pipeline route follows existing right-of-way along the Mead-Phoenix Project 500-kV transmission line route and Hackberry Road. The modifications resulting from the proposed gas pipeline corridor would range from noticeable in areas where existing right-of-way disturbance is evident to not noticeable where existing disturbance is prevalent. Low to moderate impacts would occur where the proposed pipeline corridor crosses scenic quality Class B foothill landscapes west of the proposed power plant site (corridor segment R5) and juniper plains south of I-40 (corridor segment T3). The remainder of the proposed pipeline corridor would cross Class C desert scrub landscapes (corridor segments T4, C3, C1, and R1) resulting in low impacts. Based on the significance criteria, impacts on scenic quality would be less than significant.

Modification levels would range from not noticeable to noticeable and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be low where the corridor is adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way. Modification levels would be noticeable to co-dominant and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be moderate where the corridor would diverge beyond 1/8 of a mile from previously disturbed right-of-way.

The most visible portion of the proposed gas pipeline corridor would be where it crosses US 93 and to residences located near its intersection with the Big Sandy River (corridor segments R5 and T4). Modification levels here would be noticeable and impacts would be moderate to viewers traveling in both directions along the highway as well as the residences. Contrasting rocks or soil in the disturbed area may contribute to this impact. The application of reclamation and other measures proposed as part of the Proposed Action would reduce visual contrast of the pipeline with the surrounding landscape. Based on the significance criteria, impacts on

KOPs and other viewing areas would be less than significant.

The proposed gas pipeline corridor would be in compliance with BLM Class II, III, and IV landscapes. This is primarily due to its location adjacent to existing right-of-way and the implementation of the measures described in Section 2.2.8.8.

Short-term impacts resulting from the construction of the pipeline primarily would result from the visibility of equipment and dust related to the construction process from KOPs #1 - Community of Wikieup, #3 - US 93, and #5 - Nettie's Place Residence. The equipment (e.g., backhoes, bulldozers, trucks) and dust could temporarily block views to distant mountain landscapes. These short-term impacts would be moderate and, based on the significance criteria, they would be less than significant.

Alternative R Gas Pipeline Corridor

Long-term impacts would begin after the construction of the gas pipeline along the Alternative R gas pipeline corridor. Modification levels would range from not noticeable to noticeable and impacts on scenic quality would be low where the corridor is adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way. Modification levels would be noticeable to co-dominant and impacts on scenic quality would be moderate where the corridor would diverge beyond 1/8 of a mile from previously disturbed right-of-way.

The Alternative R gas pipeline corridor would cross (corridor segment R5) or be adjacent to (corridor segment R4) the scenic quality Class A Big Sandy River near the middle of the region of influence resulting in moderate to low impacts. Moderate to low impacts would occur where the Alternative R gas pipeline corridor crosses scenic quality Class B foothill landscapes west of the proposed power plant site along the proposed access road (corridor segment R5). The remainder of the Alternative R gas pipeline corridor would cross Class C desert scrub

landscapes (corridor segment R4, C3, R3, R2, and R1) throughout the middle of the region of influence and result in low impacts on scenic quality. Based on the significance criteria, impacts on scenic quality would be less than significant.

Modification levels would range from not noticeable to noticeable and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be low where the corridor is adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way. Modification levels would be noticeable to co-dominant and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be moderate where the corridor would diverge beyond 1/8 of a mile from previously disturbed right-of-way.

The Alternative R gas pipeline corridor would be visible for the entire length of US 93 (corridor segment R5, R4, C3, and R3) and Hackberry Road (corridor segment R2 and R1). Modification levels here would be noticeable and impacts would be moderate to viewers traveling in both directions along the roadways. Contrasting rocks or soil in the disturbed area may contribute to this impact. Revegetation of disturbed areas would reduce visual contrast of the pipeline with the surrounding landscape. Impacts to KOPs and other viewing areas would be less than significant.

The Alternative R gas pipeline corridor would be in compliance with BLM Class II (corridor segments R5 and R4), Class III (corridor segment R5), and Class IV (corridor segments R5, R4, C3, R3, R2, and R1) landscapes. This is primarily due to its location adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way.

Alternative T Gas Pipeline Corridor

Long-term impacts would begin after the construction of the gas pipeline along the Alternative T gas pipeline corridor. The Alternative T gas pipeline corridor follows existing right-of-way along the Mead-Phoenix Project 500-kV transmission line route. Modification levels would range from not noticeable to noticeable and impacts on scenic

quality would be low where the corridor is adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way. Modification levels would be noticeable to co-dominant and impacts on scenic quality would be moderate where the corridor would diverge beyond 1/8 of a mile from previously disturbed right-of-way.

The Alternative T gas pipeline corridor would cross the scenic quality Class A Big Sandy River (corridor segment T5) near the southern end of the region of influence, resulting in moderate impacts. Low to moderate impacts would occur where the alternative pipeline route crosses scenic quality Class B foothill landscapes northwest of the proposed power plant site (corridor segment T5) and juniper plains south of I-40 (corridor segments T3, T2, and T1). The remainder of the proposed pipeline corridor would cross Class C desert scrub landscapes (corridor segments T4, C3, C1, and R1), which would result in low impacts. Based on the significance criteria, impacts on scenic quality would be less than significant.

Modification levels would range from not noticeable to noticeable and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be low where the corridor is adjacent to previously disturbed right-of-way. Modification levels would be noticeable to co-dominant and impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be moderate where the corridor would diverge beyond 1/8 of a mile from previously disturbed right-of-way along the Mead-Phoenix Project 500-kV transmission line.

The most visible portion of the Alternative T gas pipeline corridor would be where it crosses US 93 and to residences located near its intersection with the Big Sandy River (corridor segments T5 and T4). Modification levels here would be noticeable and impacts would be moderate to viewers traveling in both directions along the highway as well as the residences. Contrasting rocks or soil in the disturbed area may contribute to this impact. The application of reclamation and other measures proposed as part of the Proposed Action would reduce visual

contrast of the pipeline with the surrounding landscape. Impacts on KOPs and other viewing areas would be less than significant.

The Alternative T gas pipeline corridor would be in compliance with BLM Class II (corridor segment T5), III (corridor segment T5), and IV (corridor segments T4, C3, T3, T2, and T1) landscapes. This is primarily due to its location adjacent to existing rights-of-way and after implementation of measures described in Section 2.2.8.8.

Short-term impacts resulting from the construction of the pipeline primarily would result from the visibility of equipment and dust related to the construction process from KOPs #1 - Community of Wikieup, #3 - US 93, and #5 - Nettie's Place Residence. The equipment (e.g., backhoes, bulldozers, trucks) and dust could temporarily block views to distant mountain landscapes. These short-term impacts would be moderate and less than significant.

Crossover Segment C2

Corridor segment C2 follows the old US 93 alignment. The scenic quality is Class C desert scrub landscapes and would result in low impacts. Views of this corridor would be limited to the point where it intersects with US 93. Modifications would be noticeable when viewed from a small section US 93 and not noticeable for the remainder of the corridor where there are no sensitive viewers. Impacts to views from US 93 would be low primarily because of the short duration of view and minimal scenic quality of the landscape. Impacts from this corridor would be less than significant.

No-Action Alternative

There would be no impacts on visual resources associated with the No-Action Alternative. The groundwater production and monitoring wells, access roads, and well pads, that were completed on private land and used to identify and test the lower aquifer, would remain.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts

No significant impacts would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action with the actions incorporated to reduce or prevent impacts. There would be no residual significant impacts.

If adopted, the following measures would be implemented to minimize adverse impacts not considered to be significant:

- As necessary to blend with the surrounding weathered rock, the high cut slope north of the proposed power plant site would be coated with penetrating rock stain.
- As necessary to blend with the surrounding weathered rock and soil, larger rocks left on the surface of areas disturbed for the pipeline construction would be coated with penetrating rock stain.

3.10 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs BLM to manage public lands for multiple purposes. However, BLM has the authority to designate and more restrictively manage some lands to protect some resources such as special status plants and animals, cultural values, scenic values, and wildlife and riparian resources. The *Kingman Area Resource Management Plan* (BLM 1993) defined 12 ACECs for such special management (Figure 3.10-1). Because of their locations, the proposed Big Sandy Energy Project is not projected to have any potential effects on 10 of these 12 ACECs. The Carrow-Stephens Ranches ACEC and the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC were identified as subject to potential impacts and are addressed in this section.

3.10.1 Affected Environment

3.10.1.1 Region of Influence

The region of influence for assessing construction and operation impacts includes the area within the boundaries of the Carrow-