

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PURPOSE AND NEED.....	1-1
1.1	Introduction.....	1-1
1.2	Purpose and Need for Agency Action.....	1-5
1.3	Public Involvement	1-5
2.0	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1	Location	2-1
2.2	Existing Facilities.....	2-1
2.3	Proposed Action.....	2-6
2.3.1	Proposed Power Plant	2-6
2.3.2	Cooling Towers.....	2-11
2.3.3	Changes to Existing Geothermal Well.....	2-13
2.3.4	Direct Use of Geothermal Fluid.....	2-13
2.3.5	Reinjection of Cooled Geothermal Fluid.....	2-15
2.4	No Action Alternative	2-16
2.5	Related Actions	2-17
3.0	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	3-1
3.1	Geology and Soils	3-1
Soils	3-1	
Structural Geology	3-3	
Mineral Resources.....	3-3	
Geothermal Resources	3-3	
3.2	Water Resources	3-6
Surface Hydrology	3-6	
Groundwater Hydrology	3-7	
3.3	Climate/Air Resources	3-7
3.4	Biological Resources.....	3-8
Vegetation.....	3-8	
Wetlands.....	3-9	
Wildlife	3-9	
Protected and Sensitive Species	3-9	

3.5	Cultural Resources	3-10
3.6	Infrastructure	3-15
	Roads	3-16
3.7	Acoustic Noise	3-17
3.8	Visual Resources.....	3-17
3.9	Land Use	3-18
3.10	Socioeconomic Resources.....	3-19
	Population and Demographic Characteristics.....	3-19
	Economic Characteristics	3-19
	Community Resources and Social Services.....	3-21
3.11	Environmental Justice	3-21
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	4-1
4.1	Geology and Soils	4-1
	4.1.1 Proposed Action.....	4-1
	Soils.....	4-1
	Geothermal Resources	4-2
	4.1.2 No Action Alternative	4-4
4.2	Water Resources	4-4
	4.2.1 Proposed Action.....	4-4
	Surface Hydrology	4-4
	Groundwater Hydrology	4-5
	4.2.2 No Action Alternative	4-6
4.3	Climate/Air Resources	4-6
	4.3.1 Proposed Action.....	4-6
	4.3.2 No Action Alternative	4-7
4.4	Biological Resources.....	4-7
	4.4.1 Proposed Action.....	4-7
	Vegetation.....	4-7
	Wetlands.....	4-8
	Wildlife	4-8
	Protected and Sensitive Species	4-9
	4.4.2 No Action Alternative	4-9

4.5	Cultural Resources	4-9
4.5.1	Proposed Action.....	4-9
4.5.2	No Action Alternative	4-10
4.6	Infrastructure	4-11
4.6.1	Proposed Action.....	4-11
4.6.2	No Action Alternative	4-12
4.7	Acoustic Noise	4-12
4.7.1	Proposed Action.....	4-12
4.7.2	No Action Alternative	4-13
4.8	Visual Resources.....	4-13
4.8.1	Proposed Action.....	4-13
4.8.2	No Action Alternative	4-14
4.9	Land Use	4-14
4.9.1	Proposed Action.....	4-14
4.9.2	No Action Alternative	4-14
4.10	Socioeconomic Resources.....	4-15
4.10.1	Proposed Action.....	4-15
4.10.2	No Action Alternative	4-16
4.11	Environmental Justice	4-16
4.11.1	Proposed Action.....	4-16
4.11.2	No Action Alternative	4-16
5.0	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	5-1
6.0	AGENCIES CONTACTED.....	6-1
6.1	Federal Agencies.....	6-1
6.2	State Agencies.....	6-1
7.0	REFERENCES	7-1
APPENDIX A	Glossary
APPENDIX B	Consultation Letters
APPENDIX C	Enhanced Geothermal System
APPENDIX D	Comments on Predecisional Draft EA

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3-1	Drawdown Results of Pump Tests	3-5
Table 3-2	Geothermal Water Analysis	3-6
Table 3-3	Federal and State Listed Species for Hidalgo County, New Mexico	3-11
Table 3-4	Comparative A-Weighted Sound Levels	3-18
Table 3-5	Population, Demographics, Economic Characteristics, and Poverty Status	3-20
Table 4-1	Theis Method Drawdown Predictions Resulting from the Proposed Action.....	4-3

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1	Proposed Project Region in New Mexico	1-2
Figure 1-2	Location of Lightning Dock Known Geothermal Resource Area	1-3
Figure 1-3	Topographic Map of the Vicinity of the Project Area	1-4
Figure 2-1	AmeriCulture's Existing Facilities	2-2
Figure 2-2	Aerial Photograph of Location of Proposed Action	2-3
Figure 2-3	Existing Freshwater Well and Pipeline to AmeriCulture Facilities	2-4
Figure 2-4	Aerials Photograph of Freshwater Well Site	2-5
Figure 2-5	Pump Test Wells	2-5
Figure 2-6	Location of Elements of Proposed Action at AmeriCulture	2-7
Figure 2-7	Location of Power Block and Pipelines on the Site Aerial Photograph	2-8
Figure 2-8	Proposed Turbine and Generator Layout	2-10
Figure 2-9	Proposed Power Block and Cooling Tower Layout	2-12
Figure 2-10	Flow Diagram for Both Components of Proposed Action.....	2-14
Figure 2-11	Flow Diagram for Direct Use Component of Proposed Action.....	2-14
Figure 3-1	Animas Basin	3-2

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
I-10	Interstate 10
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
NEPA	<i>National Environmental Policy Act</i>
NM	New Mexico
NMSLO	New Mexico State Land Office
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OEC	Ormat Energy Converters
PW	Production Well
ROI	Region of Influence
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
Tri-State	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
UBC	Uniform Building Code
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

CHEMICALS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C	degrees Celcius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
ac-ft	acre-foot
cm	centimeter
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted sound levels
ft	foot
ft ²	square foot
ft/mi	feet per mile
ft ³ /sec	cubic feet per second
gpd/ft	gallons per day per foot
gpm	gallons per minute
ha	hectare
hr	hour
kg	kilogram
km	kilometer
kW	kilowatt
L	liter
lbs	pound
lpd/m	liters per day per meter
lpm	liters per minute
m	meter
m ²	square meter
mg	milligram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mi ²	square mile
m/km	meters per kilometer
MW	megawatt
MWt	megawatt thermal
ppm	parts per million
psi	pounds per square inch