# NORTH VALLEY GEOTHERMAL FACILITY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS | NOVEMBER 10, 2020





#### **INTRODUCTION TO ORMAT**

Market leader with proven track record in the geothermal energy sector

Our mission is to become a leading global renewable energy provider



**55** years Of experience



914 MW



**~1,410** Employees

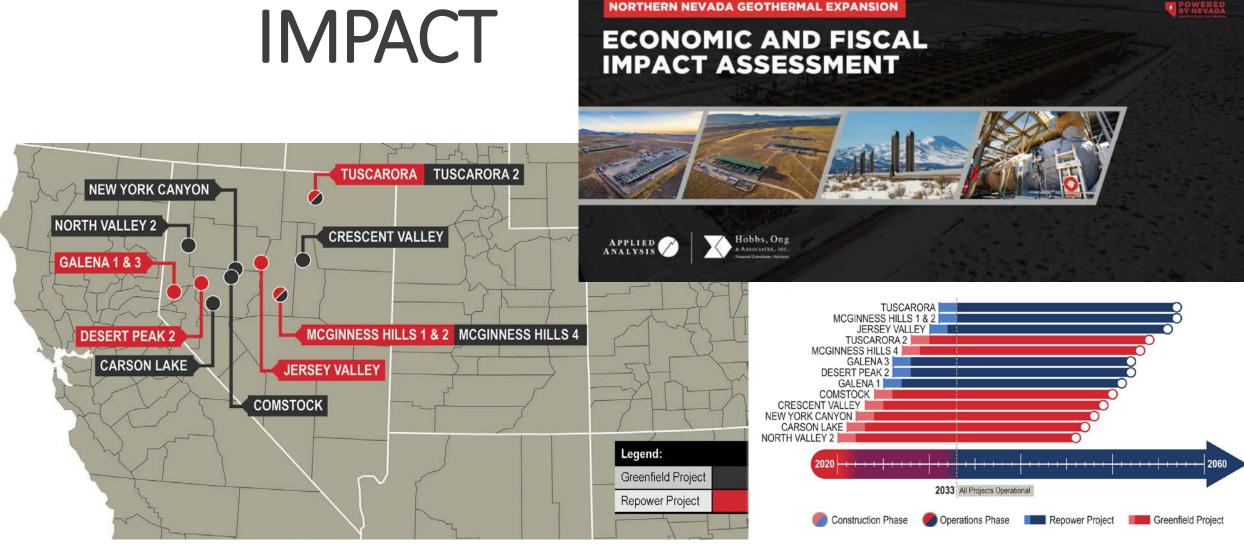


\*Mar 25, 2020



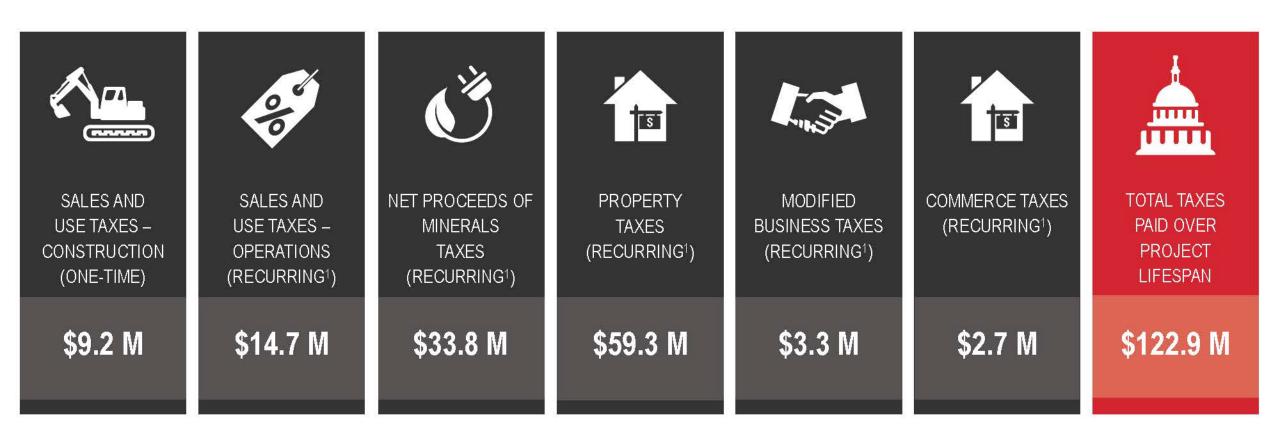


# ECONOMIC IMPACT

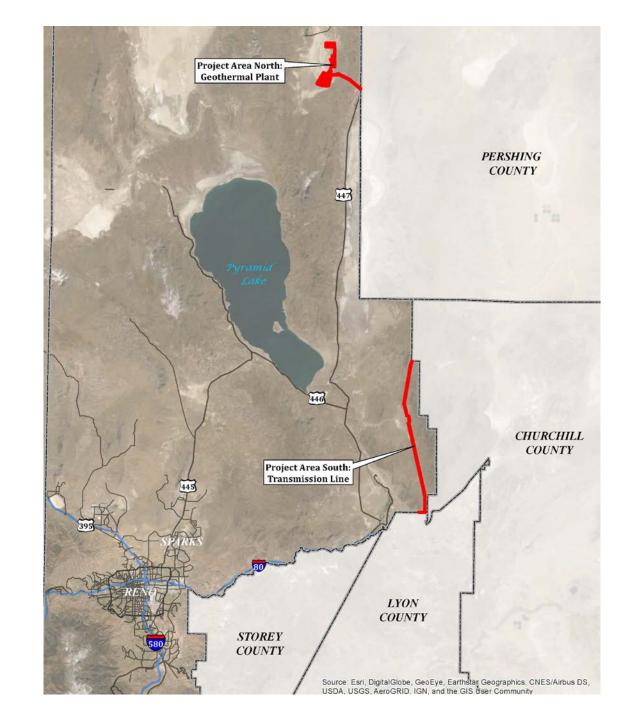




### Fiscal Impact Assessment Summary | Proposed Greenfield and Repower Projects



- ~6.2 miles southwest of State Highway 447 and Rodeo Creek Road in the High Desert and Truckee Canyon Planning Areas
- Primary access to the site will utilize the existing access route off of State Highway 447
- Properties zoned General Rural in the High Desert Area Plan
- Adjacent to existing San Emidio geothermal facility





#### Special Use Permit:

- "Renewable Energy Production" and the "Development of Natural Resources"
- Hazardous Material (i.e. Pentane)
- Major Grading associated with roads and well pads

#### Project of Regional Significance:

- Generates more than 5 MW of power
- > Two substations
- Construction of new transmission line outside of existing utility corridor



**Northern Portion** 



Southern Portion



Summary of proposed new facilities showing estimated area of permanent and temporary disturbance for project area as proposed/permitted in Draft EA

Table 2-I
Proposed Disturbance in the AOI

| Component -               | Acre Disturbance |           |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|
|                           | Temporary        | Permanent |
| Power Plants <sup>1</sup> | 30               | 30        |
| Pipelines                 | 36.8             | 18.4      |
| Well Pads                 | 105              | 63        |
| Access Roads <sup>2</sup> | 13.1             | 13.1      |
| Aggregate Pit             | 5                | 5         |
| Total                     | 189.9            | 129.5     |

Source: Ormat 2020



The substation and ancillary features, such as offices, restrooms, a control room, a maintenance building, and smaller auxiliary buildings, would be constructed within the power plants' footprints.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes acres of disturbance from new roads and upgrades to existing roads.

#### Northern Portion

- Two, 24MW binary design geothermal energy generation facilities
- Specific elements include:
  - 0.5-acre substation
  - Geothermal fluid production
  - Injection wells and well pads
  - Access roads
  - Geothermal fluid pipelines
  - Ancillary support facilities
  - Overhead transmission line

#### Southern Portion

- Limited to overhead transmission line
  - Within existing 368 energy corridor
  - Will connect new plant to existing electrical facilities in Lyon County



**Northern Portion** 



Southern Portion



- Two, 24 MW binary, air-cooled geothermal plants (Closed loop systems)
  - New technology utilizes dry (air) cooling heat rejection systems so no steam plume.
  - Geothermal Fluid pumped from production well via pipelines into heat converter/exchanger
  - Heat exchanger transfers heat from geothermal fluid to working fluid (pentane), causing it to "flash" to vapor
  - Vapor powers the turbine to produce electricity
  - Vapor is condensed back to liquid state for reuse, and geothermal fluid is returned to geothermal aquifer via pipelines and injection wells, completing the closed loop cycle

#### Air-Cooled Binary Geothermal Power Plant Condenser Turbine Fan Generator Injection Bypass Valve Valve Vaporizer Preheater Motive Fluid Pump Injection Pump Geothermal Fluid Motive Fluid (Liquid) Injection Well **Production Well** Motive Fluid (Vapor) **Heat Flow Control Valve** Hot Cooled A Production Pump Geothermal Geothermal Fluid

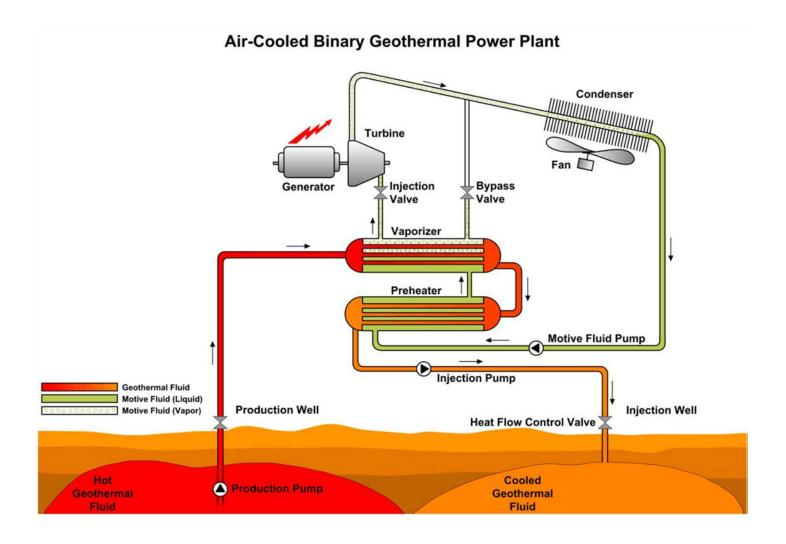




#### Pentane Gas (aka – motive fluid)

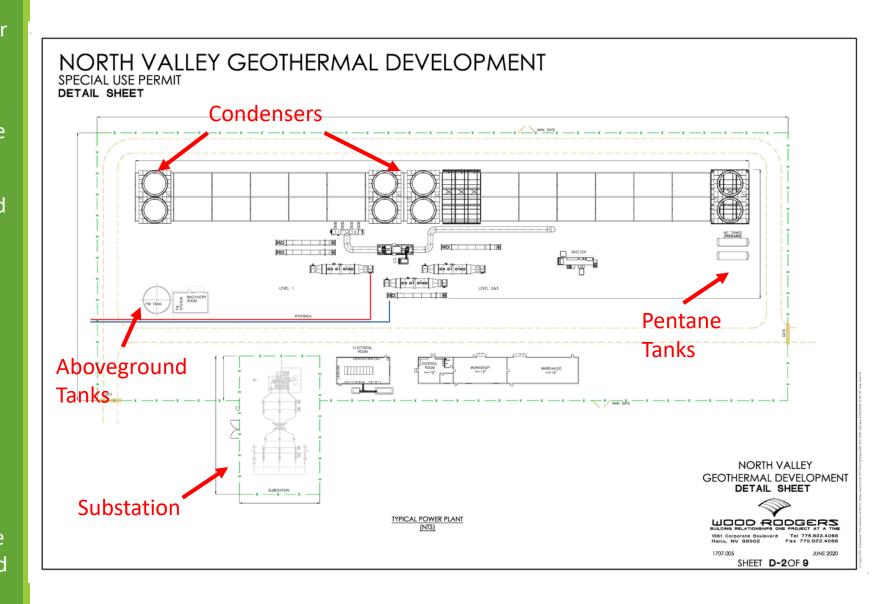
- > Flammable but non-toxic
- Requires advanced permitting through State and County
- Project will include up to 720,000 lbs of pentane in system at any given time
- During maintenance, pentane pumped back and sealed from the system to ensure safe working environment and prevent losses
- No disposal of pentane; continuously used in sealed, closed-loop process
- Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) permits and Class II Operating Permit through NDEP required
  - Applicant is seasoned with protocols
  - Stellar safety record

### Hazardous Materials



#### Each Plant includes:

- Buildings (including condensers) at or below 35 ft in height
- 0.5-acre substation to transform low voltage (DC) energy to higher voltage (AC) for the transmission line
- 8-ft chain link fence (no slats) topped with barbed wire (controlled-entry gates)
- Lighting will be minimal, motion controlled, and directed downward and shielded to meet Dark Sky's requirements
- Ancillary facilities (office, restrooms, electrical room, etc) located inside fence for the power plant
- Two 500-gallon aboveground storage tanks, used to backup generators and fueling on-site equipment

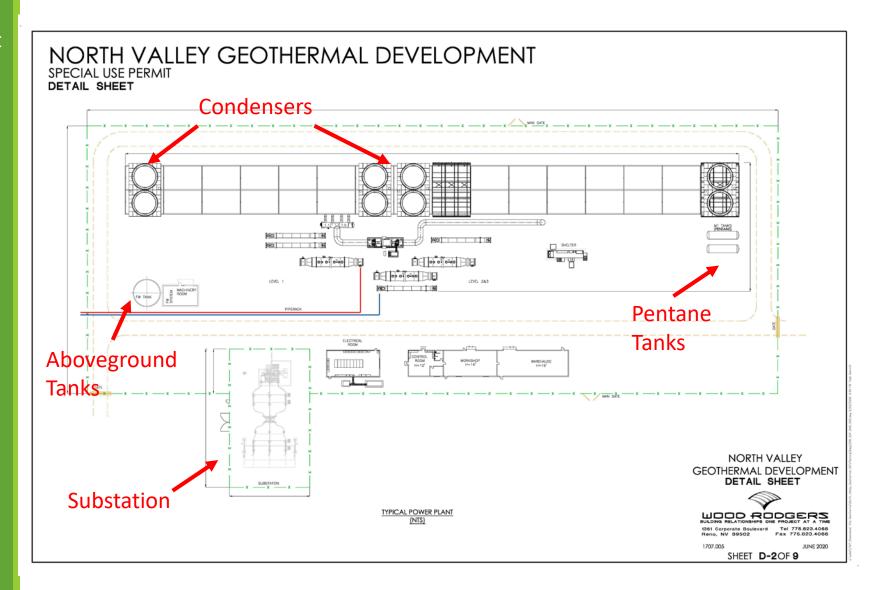






#### Additional details

- > All structures will be 35' or less in height
- ➤ Lighting will comply with Dark Skies requirements/High Desert Area Plan
- ➤ 3 parking spaces (DG) for employees
  - Parking waiver requested due to remote location and no need for paved parking availability
- ➤ No formal landscaping or screening planned; maintain natural appearance
  - Disturbed areas will be revegetated with native seed mix
- ➤ Well drilling anticipated to start Q3 2020, construction of power production facilities anticipated to start in Q3 2021, and commercial operation slated by Q2 2022



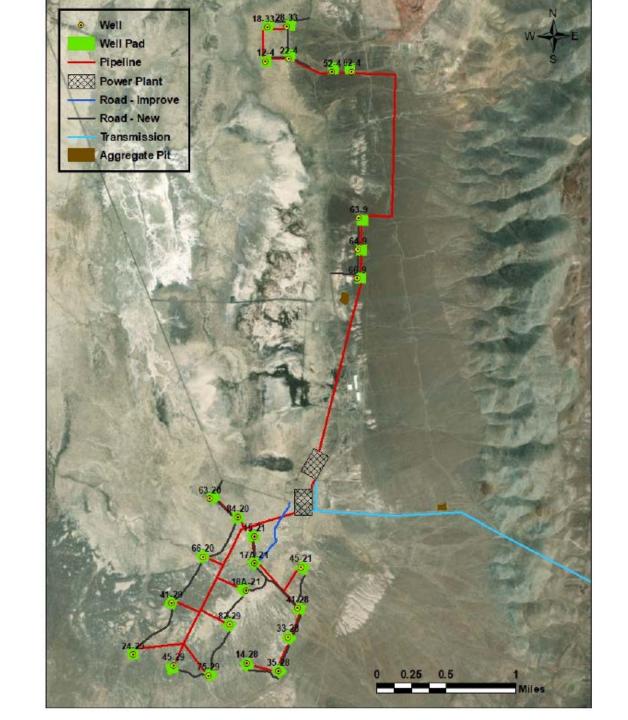




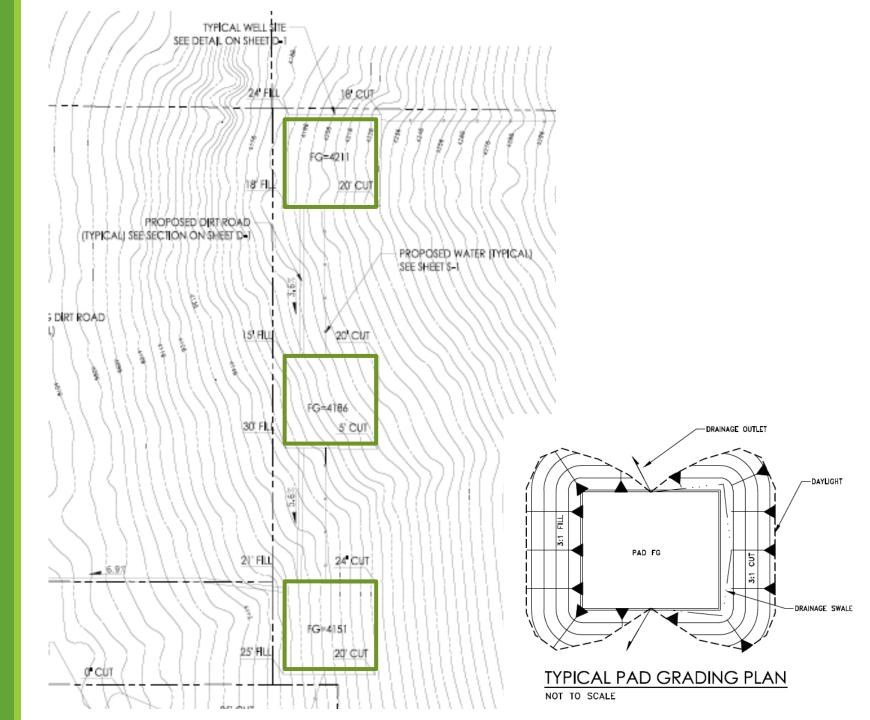
Up to 25 production and/or injection well pads

- Through EA process, identified 25 preliminary well sites
- Unlikely that all 25 wells will be necessary
- Exact location of each well is unknown as each well drilled will influence the location of the next well
- ▶ Based on EA and preliminary well pad locations, ~7.6 miles of production and injection pipelines are proposed
- ➤ Pipelines ~30 inches in diameter; located above ground along roads
- Pipelines and wellheads painted as approved by BLM EA

# Wells and Well Pads



- Grading associated with project ~300,000cy (wells/well pads/roads/generation plants)
- Grading activities will require cutting of slopes to clear for new roads, well pads, plant pads, pipelines, existing road improvements and power pole placement
- Native materials will be used for site and road building materials as much as possible
- ➤ 3 pad sites are planned in terrain where that will exceed the allowed 10 ft max cut
  - Waiver requested to allow cuts up to 30' in order to minimize mass grading efforts and preserve flexibility for pad location



### Grading

## Planning Commission Concerns Addressed

- BLM environmental process will include additional groundwater monitoring program, in addition to required NDEP ground water monitoring
  - This will address Pyramid Indian Tribe concerns
- BLM Environmental Assessment (EA) schedule for completion in November
  - EA not within the purview of special use permit process
- Agreement reached with adjacent property owner for mineral lease and access easements; objection to the project withdrawn
- All findings can be met



## Finding 4:

<u>Issuance Not Detrimental</u> – That issuance of the permit will not be significantly detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare; injurious to the property or improvements of adjacent properties; or detrimental to the character of the surrounding area.

- Underground water and geothermal resources regulated by NDEP and BLM, not Washoe County
- Special Use Permit findings require the physical development conforms with Washoe County Code – the project does (as confirmed by staff)
- Adjoining property owner has withdrawn their objections



## Finding 6:

<u>Development of Natural Resources:</u> That the proposed development is not unduly detrimental to surrounding properties, land uses and the environment in general.

- Ormat's geothermal power production process does not use any natural resources. All geothermal brine is reinjected back into the aquifer.
- Environmental permitting and natural resource management is the responsibility of other State and Federal agencies.
- Mitigation for the physical development of the site (e.g. revegetation and dust/erosion control) are addressed with the project and conditions.
- Adjoining property owner has withdrawn their objections.



- Adjacent properties already operating similarly to proposed project
- Provides clean energy to about 29k homes
- Offset about 5.3 million tons of CO2
- Provides a rigorous groundwater monitoring plan to identify geothermal impacts to shallow groundwater throughout the valley (in addition to the existing NDEP monitoring program already implemented under the UIC program)
- Includes a comprehensive monitoring and mitigation program to identify, protect, and enhanced habitat for the kangaroo mouse a state sensitive species
- Permit issuance will help NV meet goal of 50% renewable energy production by 2030









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