

# NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## FACT SHEET (pursuant to NAC 445.42525)

Permittee Name: **Presco Energy, LLC**  
Facility Name: **Rye Patch Geothermal Project**  
Address: **400 Humboldt Rd. Imlay, Nevada**  
Permit Action: **UIC Permit Re-issuance**  
Permit Number: **UNEV92209**  
Type of Project: **Geothermal**  
Injection Wells (#): **Five (5)**

### A. Description of Discharge

**Location:** The Rye Patch Geothermal Project is located in Sections 21, 28, 33, and W1/2 of Sections 22, 27 and 34, T31N, R33E, Pershing County, Nevada, at the coordinates: Latitude: 40° 31' 45" and Longitude: 118° 16' 08".

The project will, upon completion, consist of five injection wells and several infiltration basins to be used for discharge and storage of geothermal fluids produced in conjunction with well testing and geothermal power production.

**Flow:** The flow will be monitored by continuous monitoring gauges located on each wellhead and shall be reported in the semi-annual report.

### B. Synopsis

**2011 Renewal:** The previous permit expired in February 2004 with a renewal application received in October 2003. Presco Energy, LLC has been actively trying to obtain a power purchase agreements (PPA) from power markets in Nevada and California. Depending on PPA negotiations, additional capital will be raised for the 17 megawatt (MW) plant, with a projected start date in mid-2013. Future plans of the project are to further test the existing wells for production and/or injection as well as drill for additional wells. Due to the complexity of the geothermal field, it has not been determined which wells will be injection and which will be production wells.

**Dec. 2001 Minor Modification:** The only modification was to change ownership of the project from Mt. Wheeler Power, Inc. to Presco Energy, LLC. No modifications were made to the conditions of the permit.

**Original Facility Description:** The Rye Patch Limited Partnership proposed to construct and operate a geothermal electric generation facility and geothermal wellfield within the Rye Patch Known Geothermal Resource Area. The proposal consists of a two-acre infiltration basin located adjacent to each of the 20 wells and a one five-acre basin (basin 001) will be located adjacent to the power plant. Overflow from the two-acre basins will be piped to a pond near well E-1 where the fluids will be treated with flocculants and then discharged to infiltration basin 001 adjacent to the plant. This permit is required because the size of the basins for this project are larger than what is considered normal for geothermal operations in Nevada; this is due to the high silica content which tends to precipitate out and inhibit infiltration.

**C. General Requirements**

The facility will be inspected periodically to determine compliance with the discharge permit and that the facility is operating properly.

**D. Receiving Water Characteristics**

Disposal of spent geothermal fluids will take place in injection wells and evaporation/percolation pond(s). Percolated fluids will enter ground waters of the State of Nevada. All ground waters within the project area are geothermal fluids.

**E. Public Water System Wells**

Geothermal injection wells are not within 10-year Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) or Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPA) 1, 2, 3, or 4.

**F. Procedures for Public Comments**

The Notice of the Division's intent to re-issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to the ground water of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit is being sent to the Lovelock Review Miner and Reno Gazette-Journal for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX, or any interested agency, person or group of persons.

The request for a public hearing must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held shall be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445.150.

**G. Proposed Determination**

The Division has made the tentative determination to reissue the proposed permit for a period of five (5) years.

**H. Schedule of Compliance**

The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance.

**I. Rationale for Permit Requirements**

The permit conditions will help to ensure that the injectate does not adversely affect the existing water quality or hydrologic regime.