

Corridor 225-231

South McCullough Wilderness

Introduction

Corridor 225-231 is a short corridor that extends west-east south of Las Vegas in southern Nevada, providing a connection for multiple electric transmission lines to cross BLM-administered land. The corridor begins at the junction of Corridors 224-225 and 27-225 and is north of the South McCullough Wilderness Area. Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 3,500-ft width over its entire extent. It is designated as a multi-modal corridor that can accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans a 6.0-mile distance, with 6.0 designated centerline miles. The designated area is 2,532 acres/3.96 square miles. This corridor is entirely in Clark County, Nevada and entirely in the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. This corridor is also entirely in Priority Region 1 for purposes of the regional review.

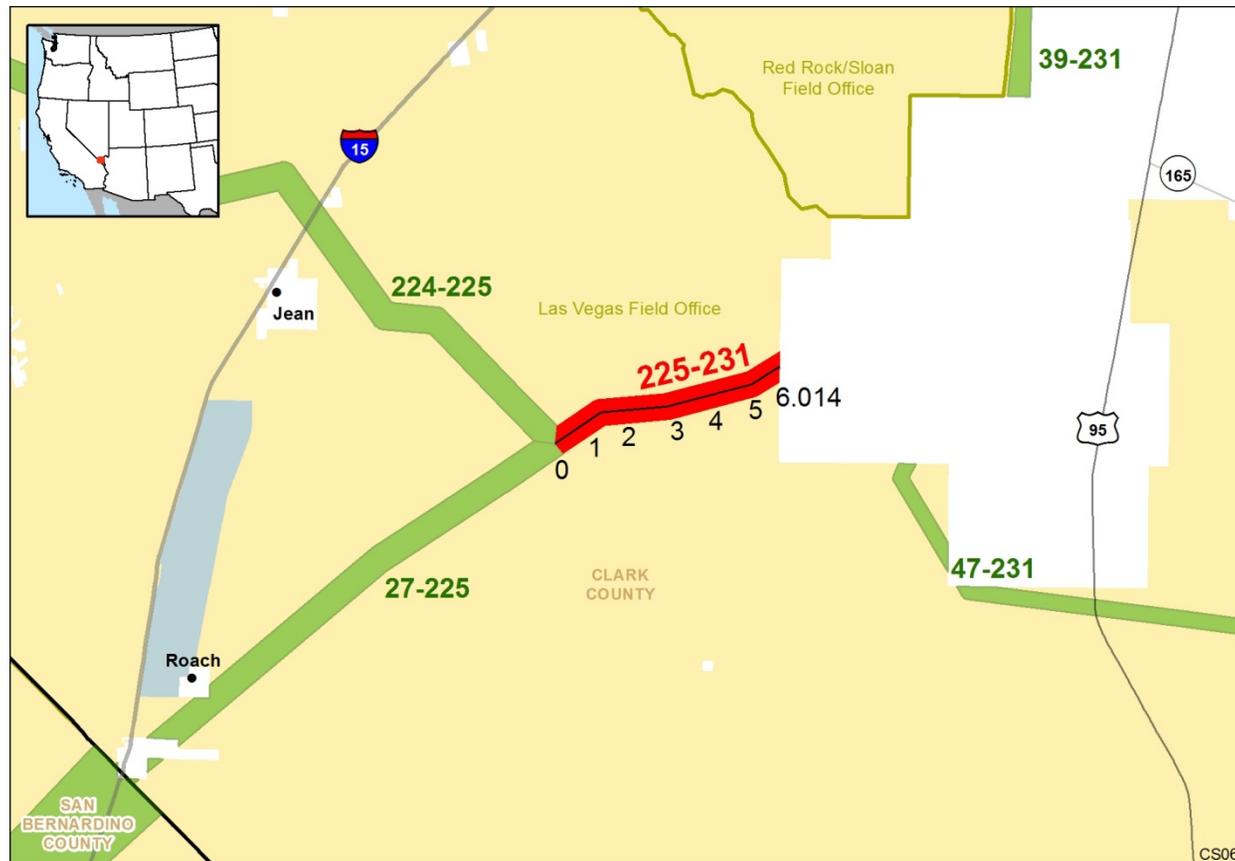


Figure 1. Corridor 225-231 (Key for Figures 1-2 can be found on the last page of the abstract)

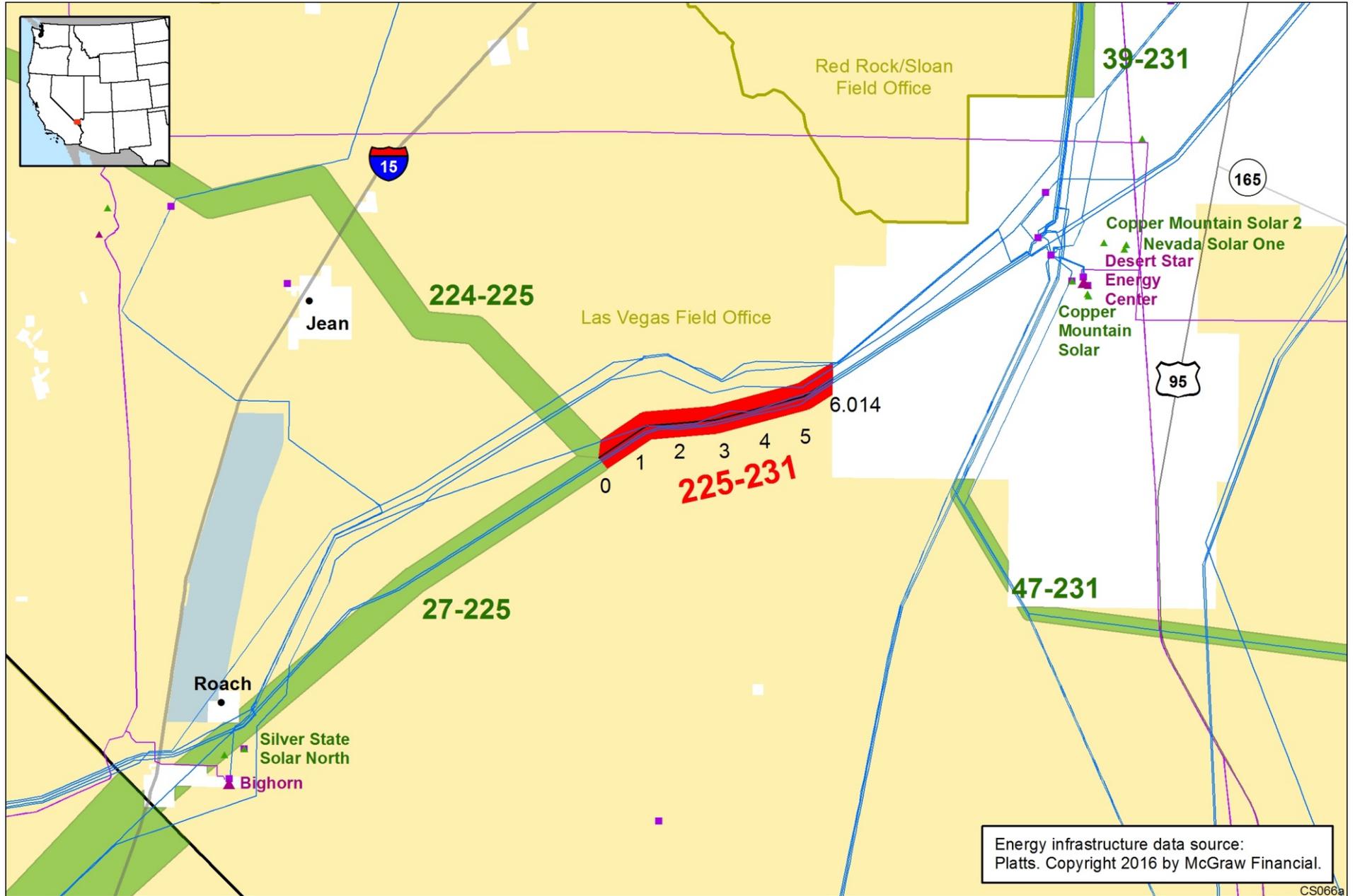


Figure 2. Corridor 225-231, including existing energy infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WWEC PEIS), a route generally following this corridor was suggested by Maximus USA. Current approved projects occupying parts of the corridor include existing transmission lines. There are currently no pipelines following the corridor. There is one pending right-of-way (ROW) for the corridor. Platts data indicate two planned projects within the corridor - one 1,000-kV DC line and one 500-kV AC line – and eight existing transmission lines: Intermountain Power Agency (1,000 kV DC), Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power (287 kV), three Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power 500-kV lines, Southern California Edison Co. (115 kV), and two Southern California Edison Co. 220-kV lines.

BLM is currently in the process of revising their Southern Nevada resource management plan, which is proposing corridor revisions.

Corridor of Concern Status

This corridor was not identified in the Settlement Agreement as a Corridor of Concern.

Corridor Analysis

Energy Planning Opportunities

- Appropriate and acceptable uses
- WWEC Purpose (e.g., renewable energy)
- Transmission and pipeline capacity opportunity

Energy Planning Concerns

- Physical barrier
- Jurisdictional concern
- Corridor alignment and spacing
- Transmission and pipeline capacity concern

Land Management Responsibilities and Environmental Concerns

- Acoustics
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Cultural resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hydrological resources
- Lands and Realty
- Lands with wilderness characteristics
- Livestock Grazing

Paleontology

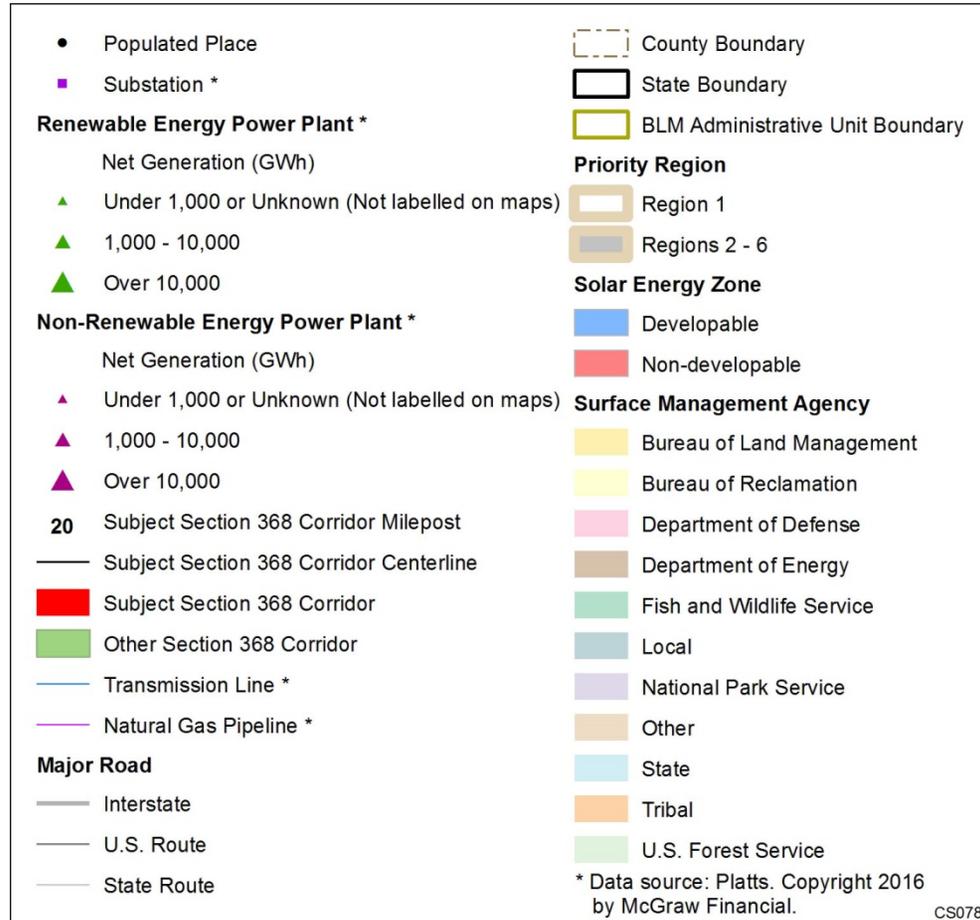
- Public Access and Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Soils/erosion
- Specially designated areas
- Tribal concerns
- Visual resources
- Wild horses and burros

Interagency Operating Procedures

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES							
Appropriate and Acceptable Uses							
225-231 -001	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power 287- kV line and two Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power 500- kV lines	MP 0.0 to 6.0	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other federal law.
225-231 -002	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power 500- kV line	MP 4.7 to 6.0	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other federal law.
225-231 -003	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Intermountain Power Agency 1,000-kV DC line, Southern California Edison Co. 115-kV line, and two Southern California Edison Co. 220-kV lines	MP 5.9	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other federal law.
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
225-231 -004				Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs)	Data needed	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in TCAs	Not a constraint. Impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.
225-231 -005	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Desert tortoise critical habitat	MP 2.3 to 6.0	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Critical habitat is designated avoidance area except within utility corridors.
225-231 -006	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Desert tortoise connectivity area	Entire corridor	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.
Ecology: Terrestrial Wildlife, Big Game, Non-Migratory Birds, and Aquatic Biota							
225-231 -007				Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat	Data needed	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in	Not a constraint. Impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
						Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas	and minimized through BMPs.
Specially Designated Areas							
225-231 .008	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Wilderness Area	MP 0.9 to 5.2	Corridor Study/The corridor is adjacent to a designated Wilderness Area (South McCullough Wilderness)	Not a constraint. Corridor not within the Wilderness Area.
Visual Resources							
225-231 .009	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	MP 0.0 to 1.6, 5.7 to 6.0	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. However, restrictions would be applied commensurate with designated VRM class; development must be in conformance with VRM objectives outlined in BLM Manual 8400.
225-231 .010	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class II	MP 1.6 to 6.0	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. However, restrictions would be applied commensurate with designated VRM class; development must be in conformance with VRM objectives outlined in BLM Manual 8400.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = Best Management Practices; BOR = Bureau of Reclamation; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; FS = Forest Service; GIS = geographic information system; MP = milepost; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WECC = Western Energy Coordinating Council; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor



Key