

Corridor 37-223(N) and 37-223(S)

West Apex

Introduction

Corridor 37-223(N) extends east-west near the southeast corner of the Desert National Wildlife Range in southern Nevada, intended to link with Corridor 223-224 near the northwest corner of Nellis Air Force Base (AFB). 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 0.6-mile distance, with 0.6 designated centerline miles. The designated area is 200 acres/0.31 square miles. This corridor is entirely in Clark County, Nevada and the BLM Las Vegas Field Office (FO). This corridor is in Priority Region 1 for purposes of the regional review.

Corridor 37-223(S) extends south and west (and north through Nellis AFB) from the southeast corner of the Desert National Wildlife Range in southern Nevada, to the intersection with Corridors 37-223(N) and 223-224 at the northwest corner of the Nellis AFB Small Arms Range. Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 2,400-ft width over its entire extent. It is designated as an underground-only corridor due to military training requirements. The corridor spans a 7.1-mile distance, with 3.4 designated centerline miles. The designated area is 817 acres/1.28 square miles. This corridor is also entirely in Priority Region 1.



Figure 1. Corridor 37-223 (Key for Figures 1-2 can be found on the last page of the abstract)

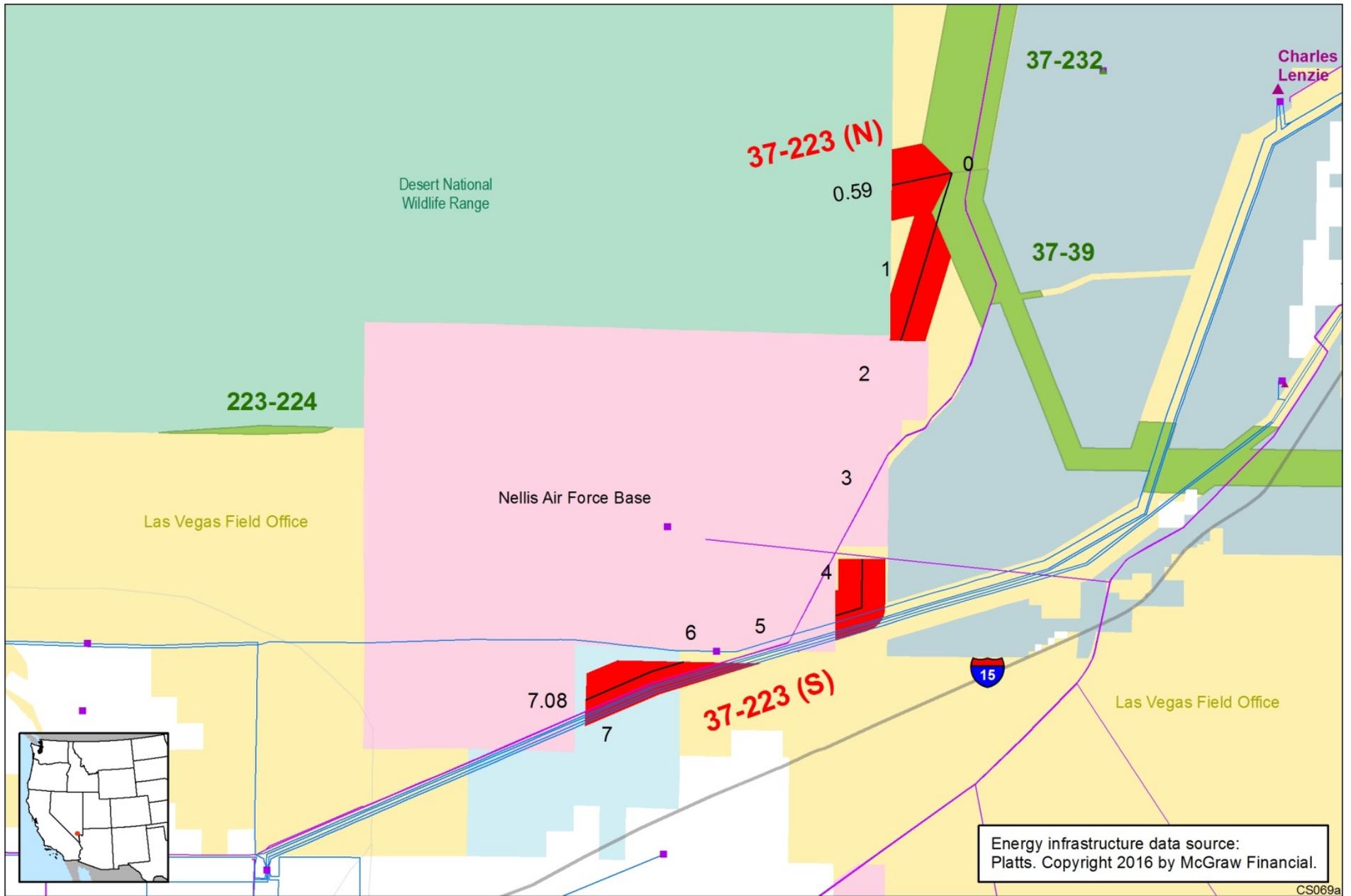


Figure 2. Corridor 37-223, including existing energy infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WWEC PEIS), routes generally following this route were suggested by Western Utility Group. There are three pending use applications within corridor 37-223(N), and seven pending applications for use of Corridor 37-223(S). Platts data indicate two existing Kern River natural gas pipelines, six existing transmission lines (AEP Energy Services, Inc. [230 kV], Nevada Power Co. [138 kV], three Nevada Power Co. 230 kV lines, and Nevada Power Co. [500 kV]), and three planned transmission lines (AEP Energy Services, Inc. [230 kV], Nevada Power Co. [230 kV], and Nevada Power Co. [500 kV]) within the corridor. There are also two existing substations within one mile of the corridor centerline.

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 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

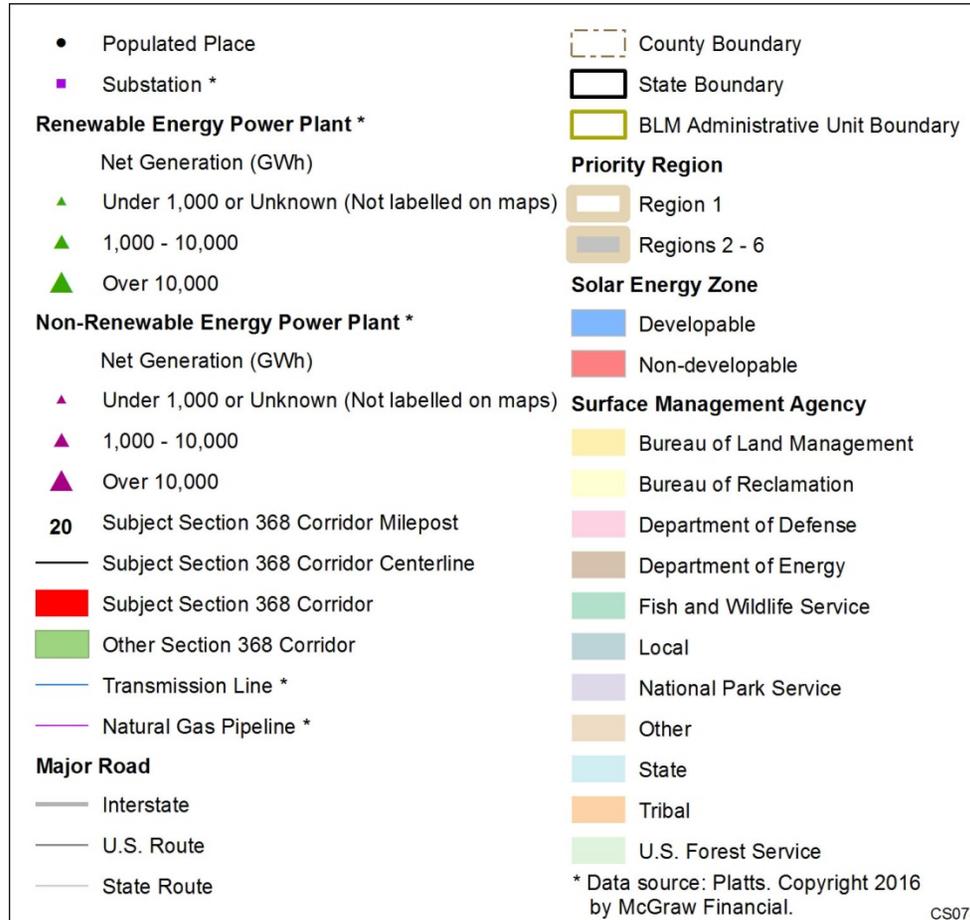
Interagency Operating Procedures

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES							
Appropriate and Acceptable Uses							
37-223 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	Nevada Power Co. 500-kV line	MP 4.3 to 4.5	GIS Analysis	
37-223 .002	BLM, State	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	AEP Energy Services, Inc. 230-kV line, Nevada Power Co. 138-kV line, and three Nevada Power Co. 230-kV lines	MP 4.3 to 4.5; MP 6.1 to 7.1	GIS Analysis	
37-223 .003	BLM, State	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	Kern River Gas Transmission Co. natural gas pipelines	MP 6.1 to 7.1	GIS Analysis	
WWEC Purpose							
37-223 .004	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)	MP 0.0	GIS Analysis/The Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) is 3.8 miles northeast of corridor	Opportunity
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
Jurisdictional Concern							
37-223 .005	FWS	USFWS	Clark County, NV	Desert National Wildlife Range	MP 0.6	GIS Analysis/Desert National Wildlife Range abuts corridor on western edge	Under review with USFWS
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
37-223 .006	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs)	MP 0 to 0.6	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in TCAs	Not a constraint. Impacts on connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.
37-223 .007				Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat	Data needed	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in	Not a constraint. Impacts on connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM Review and Analysis
these areas							
Ecology: Terrestrial Wildlife, Big Game, Non-Migratory Birds, and Aquatic Biota							
37-223 .008				Connectivity	Data needed	RFI/Re-route to avoid "Very High" risk to permeability, and work closely with state and federal wildlife and science agencies to ensure that connectivity is maintained	Not a constraint. Impacts on connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through consultation with the USFWS.
Lands and Realty: Rights-of-Way and General Land Use							
37-223 .009	USFWS	Desert NWR	Clark, County, NV	Undesignated USFWS land (Desert National Wildlife Range)	From corridor end (MP 0.6), extending out 5.9 miles	GIS Analysis/Corridor route crosses USFWS land (Desert National Wildlife Range), but was not designated (2,207 acres)	Under review with USFWS
37-223 .010	DOD	Nellis AFB	Clark County, NV	Undesignated DoD land (Nellis AFB)	Intermittent throughout corridor at MP 1.7, 3.8, and 6.1	GIS Analysis/Corridor route crosses DoD land (Nellis AFB), but was not designated (2,257 acres)	Under review with DoD
Specially Designated Areas							
37-223 .011	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	Coyote Springs ACEC		GIS Analysis/ Coyote Springs ACEC through entire corridor	Not a constraint. This is one of four ACEC's within the BLM SNDO which is specifically designated to protect desert tortoise critical habitat. The ACEC is managed as an avoidance area to linear rights-of-way, and as an exclusion area to site-type rights-of-way (except within one half mile of the center line of federal-aid highways). Site-type rights-of-way such as electrical substations, water treatment plant, construction staging areas may or may not be compatible with the use and future use of the corridor. Use of IOPs, BMP's would be required to avoid incompatible uses within the corridor
Visual Resources							

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM Review and Analysis
37-223 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Southern Nevada DO	Clark County, NV	VRM Class III		GIS Analysis/ VRM Class III along entire corridor	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; AFB = Air Force Base; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BOR = Bureau of Reclamation; CPW = Citizens Proposed Wilderness; DO = District Office; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; FS = Forest Service; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedures; GIS = geographic information system; MP = milepost; NPS = National Park Service; NWR = National Wildlife Range; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; SEZ = Solar Energy Zone; SNDO = Southern Nevada District Office; 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