

**From:** Alexis Lizares [mailto:alizares@magmaenergycorp.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:57 PM



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March 22, 2011

To: all of the Nevada Legislature (Senate and Assembly) and also the Board of Regents Re:  
**Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology**

On behalf of Magma Energy (U. S.) Corp. (Magma), I am writing to express concern and dismay about the major budget cuts that are tentatively proposed for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBM&G). Magma owns and operates the 23.1 MW (gross) Soda Lake Geothermal Power Plant facility located near Fallon, Nevada and has private and Federal leases covering eight other prospective geothermal areas in Nevada.

Magma exploration personnel have worked extensively with NBM&G personnel and University of Nevada Reno graduate students over the past two years in studying and evaluating some of these geothermal areas. Magma is currently supporting one doctoral candidate at the University of Nevada Reno who is being supervised by a NBM&G staff member. This support is a \$40,000/year commitment. The NBM&G staff has developed extensive geothermal experience over the past few decades and now represents a highly valued professional resource for Magma and the entire geothermal industry in Nevada. NBM&G staff have supervised and trained most of the new geosciences professionals that have entered the Nevada geothermal industry in the past several years. This training is necessary for the geothermal industry to grow and maintain its viability over the long term. Many of the professionals that have managed Nevada's development over the past 30 plus years are now near retirement age. There has been a great deal of publicity generated about the geothermal potential of Nevada from the press and Nevada political figures such as Senator Reid, Congressman Heller, and Governor Sandoval. Without the continuing assistance from the NBM&G this potential is less likely to be realized.

Magma and I urge you to support the work of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology so that Nevada may continue to make progress in developing its geothermal resources in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Monte C. Morrison, P.E.  
Country Manager

**From:** Bar-Sever, Yoaz E (3350) [mailto:yoaz.e.bar-sever@jpl.nasa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:50 AM  
**To:** Milton Glick; Marc Johnson  
**Cc:** Jeffrey S Thompson; Jonathan G Price; Geoff Blewitt  
**Subject:** Regrettable budget cuts to NBMG

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson,

I was alarmed to learn of the plan to drastically cut the budget of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). As a long-term sponsor of NBMG research activities (at the UNR geodesy group) I am concerned about the potential loss to the Nation and to Nevada of the cutting edge geodetic capabilities developed at NBMG.

NBMG has developed in recent years world-class capabilities in GPS-based geodesy, Earthquake modeling, and natural hazard monitoring (which I was partially involved in sponsoring). These capabilities have been leveraged by NASA (my organization) and other organizations to provide outstanding societal benefits on a global and national scale, as well as for the state of Nevada. It is unfortunate that the investment Nevada and the Federal Government have made in NBMG will now be undermined.

Given Nevada's diverse natural resources and important geohazards it seems shortsighted to cut NBMG's budget so severely, especially since it brings in more external funding than it receives from the state of Nevada.

I am hoping that you will reconsider your NBMG budgetary cuts, which will likely lead to the degradation and even elimination of the world-class geodetic research carried out at NBMG.

Sincerely,

Yoaz Bar-Sever

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Dr. Yoaz E. Bar-Sever

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