Site Description

Searchlight
(updated 2014)

Geologic setting:

Searchlight Nevada is located approximately 70 kilometers south of Las Vegas, Nevada and to the west of the El Dorado Mountains, south of the Highland Range, and within the Piute Valley. The rocks that comprise the El Dorado Mountains and surrounding area are underlain by Precambrian rocks intruded by a quartz monzonitic pluton and granitic to dioritic dikes with several irregular smaller plutons of unknown age. The Precambrian rocks have been identified as being gneiss, schist, and granite. The rocks above the Precambrian have been identified as the Patsy Mine Volcanics, which are andesitic and ryolitic (Causey and Miller, 1988).

Alluvium forms the principal ground-water reservoir throughout the Eldorado and Piute Valleys. The alluvial materials are underlain by lenticular beds of gravel, sand, silt, and clay eroded from adjacent mountains and ranges in age from the Pliocene to Recent. The consolidated rocks of the Eldorado-Piute Valley area are relatively impermeable (Rush and Huxel, 1966).

Geothermal features:

Tenmile Well: Tenmile Well was a US BLM well located approximately 20 kilometers directly south of Searchlight, Nevada in Sec. 9, T30S, R63E. The Great Basin Groundwater Geochemical Database lists Tenmile Well as a warm well with a measured temperature of 30.6°C in 1965. The site was reported dry by the US Geological Survey in 2008 (U.S. Geological Survey, 2012).


Leasing information:

N/A

Bibliography:


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