

Variance Request Form



Company: Avangrid Renewables
Address: 1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 700
City, State, Zip : Portland, OR, 97209

Variance: VAR-015
Request No.: Rev 0
Date Submit: 06/16/2017
Date Agency Received:
Agency Reference No.:

Request Prepared by: Kamber McAllister (ICF)
Spread/Location (Milepost): N/A

Net Acreage Affected: 3.55 (3.36 additional)

Alignment Sheet/Sta. No.:

Tract No.: N/A

Landowner: BLM

In or Within 50ft of a Wetland: Yes No

Current Land Use/Vegetative Cover: Chamise Chaparral, Semi Desert Chaparral

Within 50ft of a Water Body: Yes No

Nearby Features (Water body, T&E Habitat, Wetlands, Noxious Weed):

Waters are included on Figure 3.

Area, Residence, Cultural Resource Site (distance, etc.):

Variance Level: Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 (To Be Assigned by Designated Representative)

Variance From: Permit Plan/Procedure Specification Drawing Mitigation Measure Other

Detailed Description of Variance: Attachments Yes No Photos? Yes No

Variance 15 (VAR-015) is requesting turbine B-5 be approved as an alternate turbine that would replace an approved turbine, should it be determined necessary. Turbine B-5 would be accessed from turbine B-4 via an additional access road as shown on Figures 1 and 2.

The turbine B-5 variance area includes temporary and permanent areas needed for access, construction, and turbine erection including the tagline and blade overhang areas. Turbine B-5, its road and their associated construction areas are completely within previously surveyed areas. Impacts associated with turbine B-5 include 3.55 acres of impacts; 0.61 acres of permanent (0.19 acres of which is a change from approved temporary impacts to permanent through the variance) and 2.94 acres of temporary impacts. Should construction of turbine B-5 be determined necessary, construction methods and revegetation efforts will be consistent with project NTPs.

If the alternate turbine is selected for final turbine placement, a currently approved turbine will be identified and BLM will receive formal written notice from the Owner with the location of the turbine which will not be constructed as well as a calculation of any difference in temporary or permanent disturbance. In the event that a turbine is removed which has already been cleared, all impacts will be restored consistent with the HRP as if the entire area were a temporary impact.

Variance Justification:

VAR-015 is requested to allow flexibility in the event a current turbine site is infeasible. Turbine B-5 is within the Project's ROW and was included in the NEPA analysis. Turbine B-5 can meet all permit conditions.

For Avangrid Renewables Use Only

Additional Surveys Required	Surveyed Corridor Description	Additional Surveys Completed
Cultural Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The variance is within existing cultural and biological resources survey areas, so additional surveys were not required. Supplemental confidential reporting associated with the cultural ESAs is being submitted separately.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
T & E Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Report Document Survey:

Sign-Off (as appropriate)	Name (print)	Approval Signature	Conditions (see attached)
Avangrid Permit Manager	Kristen Goland		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Lead Environmental Inspector	Talia Haley		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Designated Biologist	James Hickman		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Cultural Resource Specialist	Brian Williams		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

For BLM Project Manager or Compliance Contact Use Only

Variance Approved: Variance Denied: Date: 7/12/2017

Signature: 

For Compliance Manager and Monitor Use Only

Variance Approved: Variance Denied: Date: 07/10/17

Signature: 

Stipulations: Yes, please see attached.

Spread: See attached maps.

Variance Request No.: 015

VARIANCE CONDITIONS

Name: N/A

Title: N/A

Organization: BLM

Conditions:

Please see attached.

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Conditions:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Conditions:

Attachment A

Figures

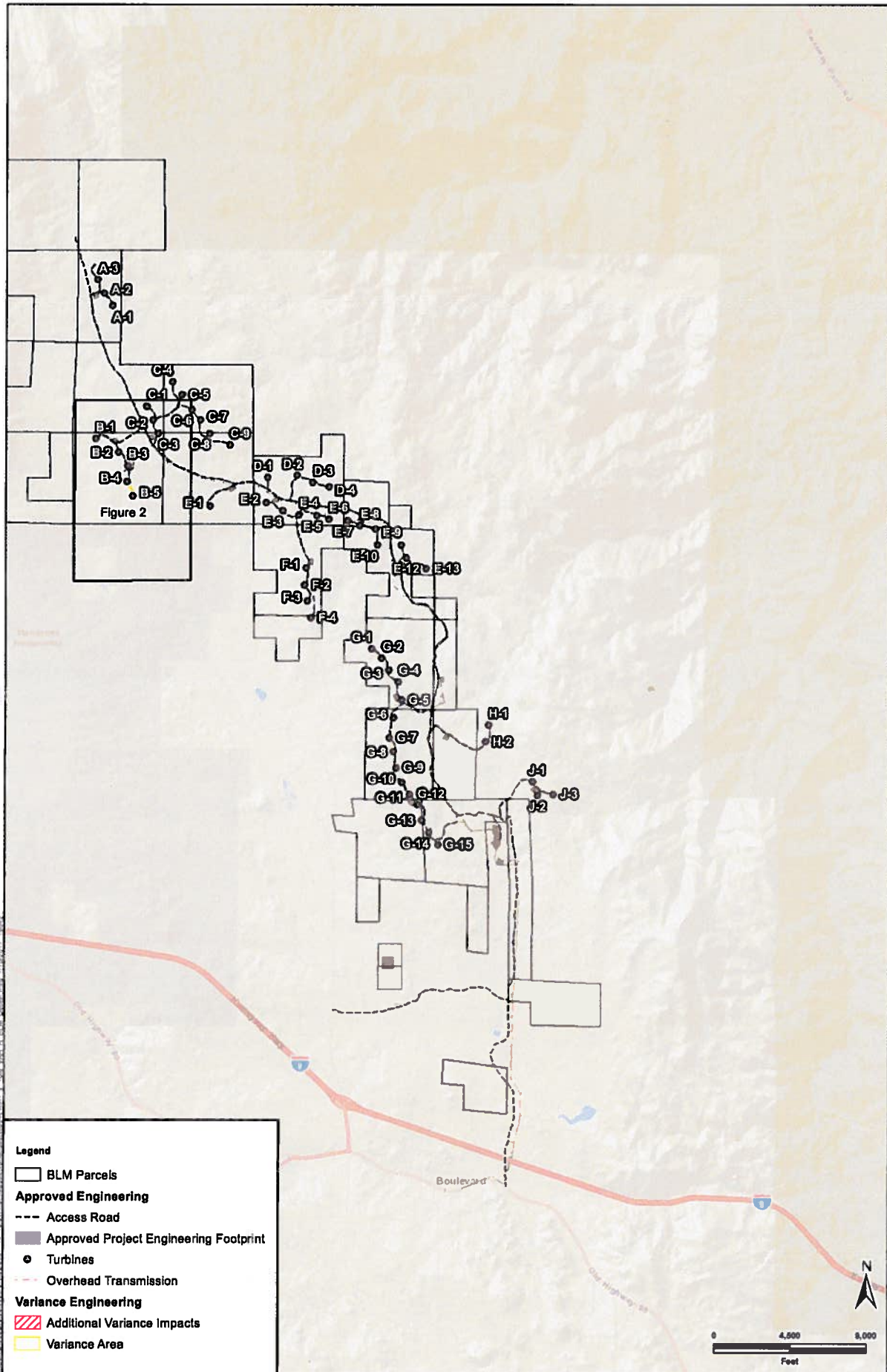


Figure 1
Variance 15 Turbine B-5
Tule Wind Project



Source: ICF, Avangrid (2017); Imagery (2008).



Figure 2
Variance 15 Turbine B-5
Tule Wind Project

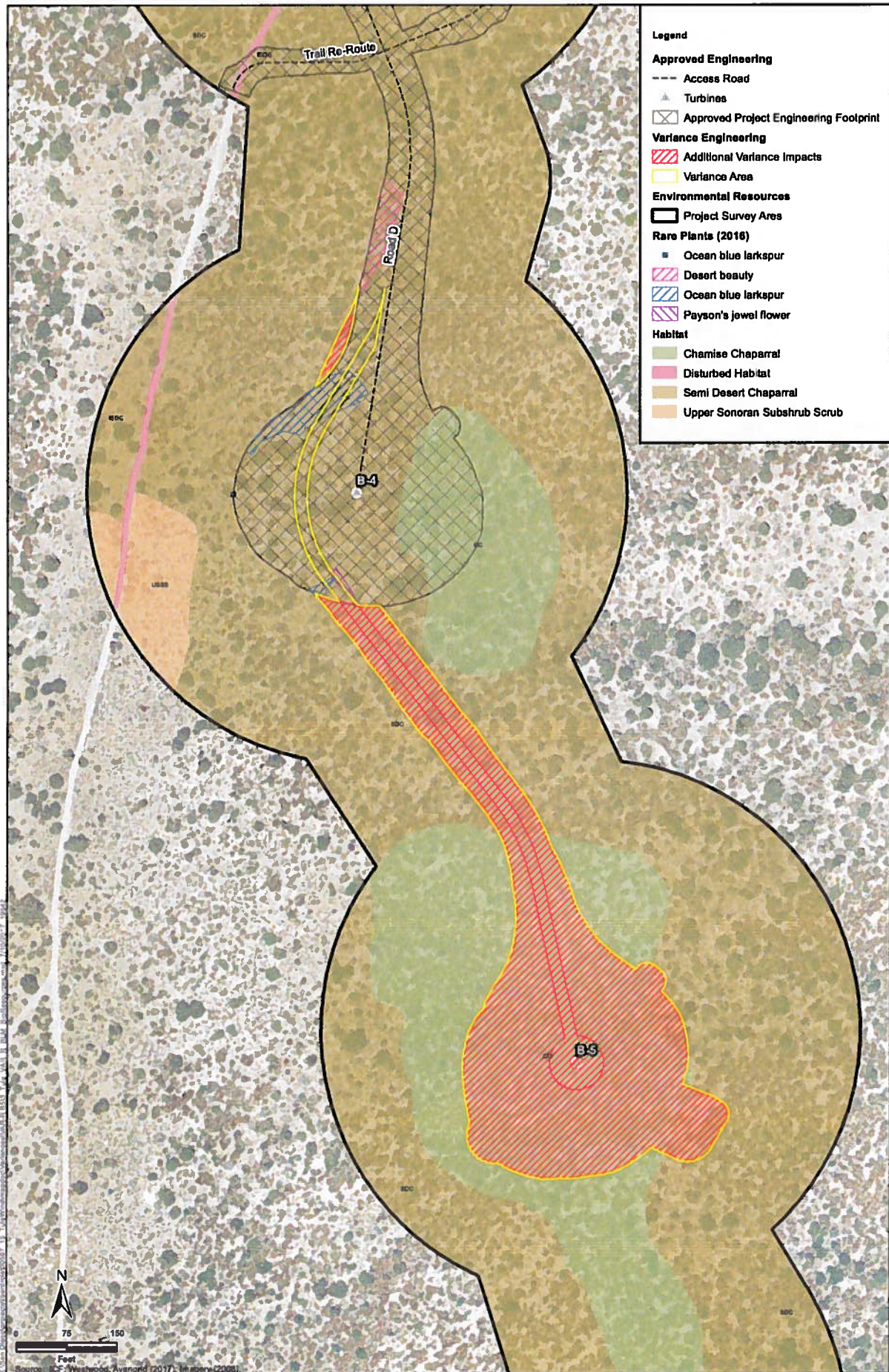


Figure 3
Variance R Biological Resources
Tule Wind Project



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro CA 92243
www.blm.gov/california



July 12, 2017

In Reply Refer To
CACA-49698/2800(P)
CA670.25

NOTICE

Tule Wind LLC	:	Tule Wind Project
1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 700	:	CACA-49698
Portland, OR 97209	:	

**Tule Wind Project
Notice of Substitution of Alternative Wind Turbine Location**

On December 19, 2011, the Secretary of the Interior approved the Record of Decision (ROD) to issue a right-of-way grant for the Tule Wind Project (Project). On March 7, 2013 an Amended ROD was approved and a subsequent amended right-of-way grant was issued on June 30, 2014.

The Tule Wind Project, as described in the Amended ROD, consists of a configuration of 62 wind turbines on public land. In February 2013, Tule Wind LLC submitted a Plan of Development (POD), which included construction of up to 62 turbines. In May 2016 a revised Plan of Development was submitted removing ten turbines located on public land from the Project and including eight of the ten turbines as alternate turbines including wind turbine sites A4, A5, B0, B5, B6, G16, G3, and H4.

Tule Wind LLC submitted a request to the BLM on June 16, 2017 to approve turbine site B5 as an alternate turbine that could replace an approved turbine should it be determined necessary. If alternate turbine B5 is selected for final turbine placement, one of the currently approved turbines will be identified. Tule Wind LLC will send the BLM a formal written notice with the location of the turbine that will not be constructed as well as a calculation for any difference in temporary or permanent disturbance. In the event that a turbine is removed that has already been cleared, all impacts will be restored consistent with the Habitat Restoration Plan as if the entire area were a temporary impact.

Alternate wind turbine B5 was analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and included in the selected alternative in the amended ROD. The BLM acknowledges this request and is providing Tule Wind LLC notice that construction activity may begin on alternate turbine location B5 as depicted on **Attachment 1** with the submittal of formal written notice from Tule Wind LLC. The notice shall include the location of the turbine that will not be constructed and a calculation of any difference in temporary or permanent disturbance.

If alternate turbine B5 is selected for construction, Tule Wind LLC shall update the POD for the Tule Wind Project to reflect the changes in the wind turbine configuration. In addition, Tule Wind LLC shall submit documentation about how turbine B5 will conform to the noise requirements included in the Site-specific Noise Mitigation Plan for the Tule Wind Project and mitigation measure NOI-3.

Please contact Miriam Liberatore, BLM Project Manager, at (541) 618-2412 if you have any questions about this Notice. Alternatively, I can be reached at (760) 337-4410. Thank you for your cooperation with the BLM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas F. Zale', written in a cursive style.

Thomas F. Zale
Field Manager

Enclosures (1):

1. Attachment 1: Tule Wind Alternative Wind Turbines Location Map