



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243
Website: www.TuleECCMP.com

Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

Prepared By: David Hochart, DUDEK, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

Reporting Period: 5.28.13 through 5.31.13

Summary

The BLM is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Tule Wind Energy Project. A federal Right-of-Way (ROW) for the Tule Wind Energy Project was granted by the BLM to Tule Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc. on April 10, 2010.

The BLM has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted an Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (ECCMP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. The ECCMP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities, a summary of site inspections conducted by the BLM's third-party environmental compliance monitors (ECMs), the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the ECCMP, and anticipated construction activities for the following week.

On September 17, 2012, the BLM issued Notice to Proceed (NTP) -1 to Tule Wind, LLC authorizing geotechnical activities within the Tule Wind Energy Project site. The requirement for completion of design-level geotechnical investigations was analyzed as mitigation in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), adopted as part of the Record of Decision (ROD) and further stipulated in the ROW Grant issued to Tule Wind, LLC. The requirement for design-level geotechnical activities was identified as Mitigation Measure (MM) Geo-3 in these documents.

All geotechnical testing will occur within the proposed limits of disturbance identified in the Tule Wind FEIS and more specifically at the geographic coordinates included in Appendix D to the Tule Wind Project Plan of Development (December 2011), as amended. Geotechnical activities authorized under NTP-1 include turbine borings, met tower borings, soil test pit excavations, visual examination, completion of Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) and seismic refraction testing. Detailed definitions of these activities can be found on the Tule Wind ECCMP website under the Notice to Proceed section (http://tulewindeccmp.com/NTP_1_Approval.pdf).

This status report is intended to provide a summary of site inspections conducted by the BLM's third party environmental compliance monitors (ECMs), and the compliance status of mitigation measures required per NTP #1 for these activities for the reporting period of 5.28.13 through 5.31.13

Site Inspections, Mitigation Monitoring, and Compliance

Areas of active geotechnical investigations were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's ECCMP as they pertain to current activities. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed. Pre-construction mitigation measures including but not limited to development and implementation of preconstruction plans have been completed as indicated in NTP -1. The following compliance activities were observed by third party ECMs on site during geotechnical activities:

Issues/Concerns with Applicable Conditions of Certification

During geotechnical activities this week, overland travel was surveyed and approved in the field in effort to reach a geotechnical boring site that was misidentified. Upon discovery of the data discrepancy, the ECM, in coordination with the geotechnical and monitoring crew stopped work and directed the drill rig back to McCain Valley Road (see photo 1). The drill rig backed out of the site using the same access route used for ingress and rerouted to the accurate location. The biological and archaeological monitors confirmed that no resources were impacted as a result of the activity (it was pre-surveyed and cleared in accordance with the conditions under NTP-1). The final temporary disturbance area will be tracked and reported to the agency at the conclusion of geotechnical activities. ECMs observed restoration activities such as salvage of topsoil and re-contouring occurred throughout the week at different test pit sites.

Archaeological Resources

Tule Wind, LLC has contracted with an archeological consulting firm approved by the BLM to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP, the Management Plan for Archaeological Resources, and the Tribal Participation Plan for the Tule Project. ECMs observed archeological monitors and Native American observers present during all ground disturbing activities and working with biological monitors to ensure avoidance and protection of resources during geotechnical activities. Observers and monitors collectively accompanied geotechnical equipment down access routes as conditioned in the NTP-1 (see photo 2).

Biological Resources

Tule Wind, LLC has contracted with a consulting firm approved by the BLM to complete day-to-day biological monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP and MM Bio-1c. In conformance with conditions outlined in NTP-1, biologists' resumes were submitted and approved by the BLM prior to initial geotechnical activities in November 2012, and new resumes were submitted and approved by BLM prior to the initiation of geotechnical activities conducted this month.

Surveys and Buffers

Biological monitors were observed conducting surveys and establishing buffers for active bird nests prior to geotechnical activities in accordance with NTP-1.

In addition to surveys, ECMs observed biological monitors accompanying geotechnical equipment such as drill rigs, back hoes, and track hoes along the project access routes and monitoring geotechnical work.

Dust Control Plan Implementation (MM-AQ-1)

In accordance with the Dust Control Plan, traffic speeds on unpaved roads and the right-of-way were limited to 15 miles per hour. ECMs observed watering and stabilizing of active unpaved access roads, parking areas, and staging areas throughout the week to suppress fugitive dust, however dust was not found to be an issue area (see photo 3).

Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (MM-FF-1; MMBio-1f)

During all construction activities, Tule Wind, LLC is required to adhere to the guidelines and commitments within the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (as applicable to geotechnical activities), NTP-1 conditions and Variance Approval #001.

As approved through Variance Approval #001, ECMs observed required fire equipment and personnel on the project site during geotechnical activities, including an all-wheel drive Type III engine, as well as a 2 -wheel drive Type II Water Tender for use during any backhoe work. The vehicles were also equipped with 1,200-foot hose extensions per NTP-1 conditions of approval.

In addition to the mobilized Water Tender and Type III engine, fire patrols from San Diego Rural Fire District were observed monitoring activities at each geotechnical site and were equipped with fire suppression water bladders/ backpacks at the direction of the Fire Safety Officer (see photo 4). ECMs observed application of water to areas prior to use or travel and ECMs observed fire patrols monitoring disturbed areas for one hour post-geotechnical activities in accordance with the conditions in NTP -1/the Construction Fire Protection/Prevention Plan. Fire personnel were also observed patrolling areas of overland travel where brush crushing occurred.

ECMs ensured crews were made aware of the requirements for having 3A, 40BC fire extinguishers, 5- gallon backpack pumps, and shovels. ECMs observed fire patrols present at all geotechnical activities.

Geotechnical Schedule:

There are no geotechnical activities scheduled for next week.

Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None identified at this time.

Plan Review Submittal Items

- None identified at this time.

Notice to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
1	9.17.12	Geotechnical Activities per MM-Geo-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • turbine borings • met tower borings • soil test pit exactions • visual examination • completion of Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) and seismic refraction testing at up to 15 percent of the turbine locations • thermal resistivity sample collection at approximately six locations • electrical resistivity testing at approximately six locations 	Yes

Variance Requests

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
1	10.26.12	Use of one Type II Water Tender and one Type III Engine in-lieu of a Type VI Skid Mount pump unit	Approved	11.2.12
2	5.16.13	Use of additional existing roads, use of a track-mounted excavator, ability to shift small to medium sized boulders and use of a chain-saw or similar type equipment to trim vegetation	Approved	5.20.13

Photographs from the Week



Photo 1: Drill rig tracks as a result of overland travel to a misidentified geotechnical boring site. The access road was cleared prior to travel by archaeological and biological monitors and was recorded as part of linear disturbance. The final temporary disturbance area will be tracked and reported in accordance with NTP-1.



Photo 2: ECMs observed archaeological monitors, Native American observers, and biological monitors staking limits of disturbance and clearing access paths prior to ground disturbance in accordance with the NTP-1 conditions of approval.



Photo 3: A water truck applies water to McCain Valley Road in order to suppress any potential fugitive dust resulting from geotechnical activity traffic in accordance with the conditions in NTP-1.



Photo 4: Fire Patrols observed all geotechnical activities in accordance with NTP-1.

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