



## BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### Weekly Project Update

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**Reporting Period:** 1.2.17 through 1.8.17

### Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures (MM) set forth in the *Joint Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/FEIS)* for the Tule Wind Energy Project. A federal Right-of-Way (ROW) grant (CACA-049698) for the Tule Wind Energy Project was granted by the BLM to Tule Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, Inc. on April 10, 2010.

On October 12, 2016, the BLM issued a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP)-2 to Tule Wind, LLC authorizing limited preconstruction activities within the Tule Wind Energy Project site. The preconstruction activities are being completed to prepare the project site for construction activities as described in the revised Plan of Development (POD), dated April 22, 2016. Preconstruction activities authorized under the LNTP-2 include disturbance limit staking, limited vegetation clearing associated with line of sight staking, staking of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, weed removal, cacti salvage, and truck and ATV use of BLM access routes.

On November 18, 2016, the BLM issued Notice to Proceed (NTP) 3 and 4 to Tule Wind, LLC authorizing clearing and grading activities, and construction and installation of four 10,000-gallon fire tanks, respectively. All construction activities that occurred on BLM-administered land during this reporting period were performed under LNTP-2, NTP-3, and NTP-4. The full text of all issued NTPs and the details of the covered activities can be found on the Tule Wind ECCMP website under the Notice to Proceed section<sup>1</sup>.

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 FEIR/FEIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This 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, LNTP-2, NTPs 3 and 4, and anticipated construction activities for the following week. The following weekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 1.2.17 through 1.8.17.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://tulewindeccmp.com/#NTP>

## **Site Inspections, Mitigation Monitoring, and Compliance**

Construction activities were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's ECCMP and conditions included in LNTP-2 and NTPs 3 and 4 as they pertain to current activities. ECMs documented observations on daily site inspection forms and reviewed applicable mitigation measures. The following compliance activities were observed by third party ECMs on site during preconstruction activities:

### Construction Activities

During this reporting period, grading activities occurred along McCain Valley Road and H string access roads, and clearing activities along the G and E string access roads continued in accordance with NTP-4. As a part of the clearing activities that occurred along the G string access roads, boulders were relocated from work areas to a temporary staging area. Survey crews continued to stake the project disturbance limits in accordance with LNTP-2. ECMs also observed the installation, maintenance, and repair of erosion and sediment control devices during this reporting period.

### Cultural Resources

Cultural monitors were present to monitor clearing and grading activities along with the installation of erosion and sediment control devices in accordance with mitigation measure CUL-1d.

ECMs checked the cultural ESAs following the recent rain events. No impacts to cultural resources were observed and the ESAs were in good condition.

### Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor clearing and grading activities along with the installation of erosion and sediment control devices in accordance with mitigation measure BIO-1c.

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (MM HYD-1)

ECMs observed the installation, reinforcement, and repair of erosion and sediment control devices including straw wattles, silt fencing, and sandbags. Traffic along McCain Valley Road has begun to damage sandbags that have been placed as temporary check dams. In addition, multiple straw wattles along McCain Valley Road were damaged due to recent rain events. The damaged sandbags and straw wattles were reported to Tule Wind, LLC. Dedicated construction crews are in the process of repairing, maintaining, and installing erosion and sediment control devices.

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan - Communication

As reported in Weekly Report #15 for the period of 12.26.16 through 1.1.17, concerns were documented regarding sediment track-out at the paved portion of McCain Valley Road. In

response to this concern, Tule Wind LLC procured a street sweeper to remove track-out on a daily basis in accordance with Section 7.6 of the SWPPP.

Third-party compliance monitors will continue to monitor for track-out and to ensure that the street sweeper is effective in addressing this concern.

#### Dust Control Plan Implementation (MM-AQ-1; AIR-3)

ECMs observed dust control best management practices being implemented including limiting vehicle idling times to a maximum of five minutes, maintaining traffic speeds at or below the 15 mile per hour speed limit, and watering active areas of construction at least three times per day in accordance with ROW Grant Stipulation 9 and the Dust Control Plan.

#### Hazardous Materials Management Plan and Waste Management Plan (MM-HAZ-1a; MM-HAZ-1c)

On Friday, January 6, 2017 a portable sanitation facility, which was previously secured using rope, was discovered overturned on the west side of McCain Valley Road. ECMs observed fluid discharge from the overturned facility. The stained soil was contained and removed from the site in accordance with Section 8.3 of the Hazardous Materials Management Plan. The facility was righted and secured. Tule Wind LLC is working to determine a permanent solution to securing the portable sanitation facilities onsite.

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

ECMs observed required fire equipment and best management practices on the project site during preconstruction activities, including vehicles with required fire suppression equipment and vehicles parked in areas with no vegetation. ECMs ensured crews were made aware of the requirements for having 3A, 40BC fire extinguishers, 5-gallon backpack pumps, and shovels. Fire patrols occurred on a regular basis one hour after the end of daily construction in accordance with MM FF-1.

#### **Construction Activities Schedule:**

- Continue staking disturbance limits;
- Continue erosion and sediment control device installation and repairs;
- Continue grading, clearing, and grubbing activities along the G and H lines and connector roads;
- Begin building turbine sites and substation pad;
- And build fence at the temporary parking/laydown area.

#### Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None.

## 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"> <li>• turbine borings</li> <li>• met tower borings</li> <li>• soil test pit exactions</li> <li>• visual examination</li> <li>• completion of Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) and seismic refraction testing at up to 15 percent of the turbine locations</li> <li>• thermal resistivity sample collection at approximately six locations</li> <li>• electrical resistivity testing at approximately six locations</li> </ul>	Yes
2	10.12.16	Preconstruction activities as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disturbance limit staking and limited vegetation clearing</li> <li>• staking of ESAs</li> <li>• removal of weeds in accordance with the HRP</li> <li>• cacti salvage</li> <li>• pickup truck and ATV use of BLM access routes authorized under the Eastern San Diego County Resource Management Plan (2008)</li> </ul>	Yes
3	11.18.16	Clearing and grading activities as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vegetation clearing (site clearing and grubbing)</li> <li>• grading work and blasting (as-needed) associated with the access road</li> <li>• equipment staging and laydown yard/staging areas</li> <li>• foundation excavation and blasting (as-needed)</li> </ul>	Yes
4	11.18.16	Construction activities for four 10,000-gallon fire tanks including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• site surveying</li> <li>• vegetation clearing and grading</li> <li>• footing excavation</li> <li>• turnout construction</li> <li>• forming the tanks</li> <li>• installation of reinforced steel</li> <li>• pouring footing, slab, and walls</li> <li>• backfill and final grading</li> </ul>	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
3	12.20.16	Realignment of access roads along the A-string, F-string, and G-string to minimize disturbance to previously undisturbed areas, to avoid impacts to sensitive environmental resources, and to accommodate construction and engineering design.	Pending	Under BLM Review

## Representative Photos



**Photo 1:** Clearing and grading activities observed within the staked limits of disturbance in accordance with MM BIO-1A. Water trucks in use for dust control in accordance with MM-AQ-1.



**Photo 2:** Cultural monitor observing clearing activities in accordance with MM CUL-1D.



**Photo 3:** Spill from overturned portable sanitation facility cleaned and stained soil removed in accordance with Section 8.3 of the Hazardous Materials Management Plan. Tule Wind LLC is working to determine a permanent solution to securing the portable sanitation facilities onsite.



**Photo 4:** Crews installing additional straw wattles along McCain Valley Road in accordance with the SWPPP and MM HYD-1.

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