



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 11.28.16 through 12.4.16

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. Detailed definitions of these activities can be found on the Tule Wind ECCMP website under the Notice to Proceed section¹.

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 preconstruction activities that occurred during this reporting period were performed under LNTP-2. Construction activities associated with issuance of NTP 3 and 4 are scheduled to begin during the week of December 12, 2016.

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 and LNTP-2, and anticipated construction activities for the following week. The following weekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 11.28.16 through 12.4.16.

¹ [http://tulewindeccmp.com/CACA_49698_Tule_LNTP%2010.12.16%20\[FINAL\].pdf](http://tulewindeccmp.com/CACA_49698_Tule_LNTP%2010.12.16%20[FINAL].pdf)

Site Inspections, Mitigation Monitoring, and Compliance

Preconstruction activities were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's ECCMP and conditions included in LNTP-2 as they pertain to current activities. No issues or concerns about compliance with the mitigation measures were reported by ECMs. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed. The following compliance activities were observed by third party ECMs on site during preconstruction activities:

Survey Staking

ECMs observed Westwood survey crews staking the grading limits along McCain Valley Road to ensure the disturbance limits are delineated in the field according to the design plans and MM Bio-1a. Flagging was installed to assist with delineating and defining the work limits.

Archaeological Resources

ECMs observed cultural monitors clearing the areas ahead of the Westwood survey crews to ensure protection of nearby cultural resources in accordance with MM CUL-1b.

Cultural monitors completed as needed repairs on ESA buffer signage in accordance with MM CUL-1a. The ESAs will continue to be maintained to ensure the protection of environmental resources.

Biological Resources

Cacti salvage activities concluded on 11.30.16 with the removal of cacti along the D String. The salvaged cacti are staged and marked with ESA signs within the project footprint near Structures E2 and G12 (and along the J String off of BLM-administered land). The cacti will be planted in designated areas in accordance with Section 5.2.2.1 of the Habitat Restoration Plan. All cacti salvage activities were observed within the temporary disturbance work limits in accordance with MM Bio-1a and occurred under the supervision of a Biological Monitor/Habitat Restoration Specialist in accordance with MM Bio-1c.

Dust Control Plan Implementation (MM-AQ-1)

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

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.

Construction Notification Plan Implementation (MM LU-1a)

ECMs observed public notifications posted at the start of the dirt McCain Valley Road and at Lark Canyon Campground in accordance with the Construction Notification Plan (CNP).

Preconstruction Activities Schedule:

- Continue staking disturbance limits along McCain Valley Road.
- Begin staking clearing limits for turbine strings.

Construction Activities Schedule:

- Begin clearing and grubbing for laydown yards, O&M buildings, substation, and batch plant.

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"> • 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
2	10.12.16	Preconstruction activities as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance limit staking and limited vegetation clearing • staking of ESAs • removal of weeds in accordance with the HRP • cacti salvage • pickup truck and ATV use of BLM access routes authorized under the Eastern San Diego County Resource Management Plan (2008) 	Yes
3	11.18.16	Clearing and grading activities as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetation clearing (site clearing and grubbing) • grading work and blasting (as-needed) associated with the access road • equipment staging and laydown yard/staging areas • foundation excavation and blasting (as-needed) 	Yes
4	11.18.16	Construction activities for four 10,000-gallon fire tanks including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • site surveying • vegetation clearing and grading • footing excavation • turnout construction • forming the tanks • installation of reinforced steel • pouring footing, slab, and walls • backfill and final grading 	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

Representative Photos



Photo 1: Salvaged cacti staged at laydown yard near Structure E2. ESA signs were installed to mark the area in accordance with Section 5.2.2.1 of the Habitat Restoration Plan (MM BIO-1D).



Photo 2: Cacti being salvaged along the D String using hand tools in accordance with Section 5.2.2.1 of the Habitat Restoration Plan (MM BIO-1D).



Photo 3: Salvaged cacti being hauled on foot to the BLM access roads before being driven along existing roads to the staging area near Structure E2, in accordance with the conditions of LNTP-2.



Photo 4: Vehicles were observed parked in non-vegetated areas within the construction limits in accordance with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (MM FF-1 and MM BIO-1F).

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