



## **BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report**

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**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### **Weekly Project Update**

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**Reporting Period:** 12.5.16 through 12.11.16

### **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.

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 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 12.5.16 through 12.11.16.

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

## **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 and NTPs 3 and 4 as they pertain to current activities. 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:

### Construction Activities

Cacti salvage activities authorized under LNTP-2 were completed on November 30, 2016. The cacti are currently being stored on-site within a staked and flagged Environmentally Sensitive Area. The cacti are anticipated to be temporarily planted in the ground, in a secured on-site restoration yard until they can be re-planted post-construction.

Minimal clearing and grading activities occurred on lands administered by the BLM during this reporting period. This includes clearing portions of the access road leading to the 80-acre parcel located on San Diego County land where the operations and maintenance building is anticipated to be located. In addition, clearing and grading activities occurred at the sites where the four 10,000-gallon fire tanks will be located in accordance with NTP-3.

In addition to clearing and grading activities, three of the five temporary meteorological (met) towers were decommissioned and removed from the project site in accordance with the Meteorological Tower Decommissioning Plan. The met towers were initially installed under a ROW Grant issued by the BLM on September 15, 2004 (CACA-45248). The two remaining met towers are anticipated to be decommissioned and removed from the project site during the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Survey Staking

ECMs observed survey crews staking disturbance 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

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.

### 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.

### Limits of Disturbance – Problem Area

At approximately 1:30 pm, on 12.08.16 a biological monitor notified BLM's third-party ECM of a potential problem area. BLM's third-party ECM evaluated the problem area and observed a boulder that was pushed past the staked disturbance limits on the west side of the access road that leads to the 80-acre parcel, on lands administered by the BLM. The boulder was pushed approximately 15 feet past the staked limits of disturbance causing approximately 150 square feet of disturbance. BLM's third-party ECM and archaeological monitor inspected the area of disturbance and found no impacts to sensitive biological or cultural resources. In accordance with Section 5.2 of the ECCMP, this event is being classified as a "Problem Area" or "an activity that the compliance monitors determine is unintentional and an isolated departure from the project specifications, with no damage to resources". The BLM will be working with Tule Wind LLC to document the problem area and to take measures to prevent similar issues from occurring.

### Hazardous Materials Management Plan (MM-HAZ-1a)

ECMs observed all portable restroom facilities to be staked to the ground surface with containment in place to prevent the potential for leaks or spills in accordance with ROW Grant Stipulation 78 and the Hazardous Materials Management Plan.

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

Erosion and sediment control devices including straw wattles and silt fencing were observed to be properly installed by ECMs. Erosion and sediment control devices were being installed per the specifications provided in the grading plans and in accordance with the SWPPP.

### 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, 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.

### 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.

### **Preconstruction Activities Schedule:**

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

**Construction Activities Schedule:**

- Continue clearing and grubbing for laydown yards, O&M buildings, substation, batch plant, and water tank locations. Continue installation of erosion and sediment control devices.

**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

## Representative Photos



**Photo 1:** Archaeological and Native American monitors present during clearing and grading activities for the installation of water tanks along McCain Valley Road (MM-CUL-1d).



**Photo 2:** Portable restroom facilities are staked to the ground surface with containment in place to prevent the potential for leaks or spills in accordance with ROW Grant Stipulation 78 and the Hazardous Materials Management Plan.



**Photo 3:** Three of the five temporary met towers were decommissioned and removed in accordance with the Met Tower Decommissioning Plan.



**Photo 4:** A boulder was pushed approximately 15 feet outside of the limits of disturbance. This event is being classified as a "Problem Area" in accordance with 5.2 of the ECCMP.

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