



## BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### Weekly Project Update

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**Reporting Period:** 12.19.16 through 12.25.16

### 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 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 12.19.16 through 12.25.16.

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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. 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

Cacti salvage activities authorized under LNTP-2 were completed on November 30, 2016. The cacti are currently being stored on-site within multiple staked and flagged Environmentally Sensitive Areas. 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.

On Saturday, December 12, 2016 four 10,000-gallon temporary water tanks were installed along McCain Valley Road in accordance with the Fire Prevention/Protection Plan and NTP-3. With the installation of the four 10,000-gallon temporary water tanks, clearing and grading activities on land administered by the BLM were authorized to proceed.

During this reporting period, grading and clearing activities continued along the H string and G string access roads as well as temporary staging areas in accordance with NTP-4. Crews also continued to install erosion and sediment control devices.

On December 20, 2016 the temporary water tanks were drained and temporary fencing was installed at the entrances of construction roads to prepare for the suspension of construction activities during the holiday break between December 20 and January 3, 2017. Minimal construction activities are anticipated to occur during this period including maintenance and repair of erosion and sediment control devices.

### Cultural Resources

Cultural monitors were present to monitor clearing, grading, and the installation of erosion and sediment control devices in accordance with mitigation measure CUL-1d. ECMs observed cultural resource monitors staking ESAs in accordance with MM CUL-1a.

### Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor clearing, grading, and 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 proper installation of erosion and sediment control devices including straw wattles and silt fencing. Erosion and sediment control devices were being installed per the specifications provided in the grading plans and in accordance with the SWPPP.

On Wednesday, December 21, 2016 during a rain event, a straw wattle (erosion control device) along McCain Valley Road was not effective, resulting in stormwater and sediment flowing through an ESA. The ESA was evaluated by resource specialists and BLM's third-party monitor. Both the resource specialists and the third-party monitor concluded that the resources were not impacted from the incident. Additional erosion and sediment control devices will be installed to prevent project runoff in accordance with MM HYD-1 during the upcoming reporting period.

#### 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.

#### 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 and ECMs observed a fire patrol monitoring clearing activities along the G string in accordance with MM FF-1.

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

- Minimal construction activities including erosion and sediment control device maintenance and repair are anticipated during the holiday break of December 20 through January 3, 2017.

#### 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:** Clearing and grading activities observed within the staked limits of disturbance in accordance with MM BIO-1A.



**Photo 2:** Water trucks observed applying water ahead of clearing activities in accordance with MM AIR-3.



**Photo 3:** ECMs observed a Fire Patrol monitoring the clearing activities along the G line in accordance with MM FF-1.



**Photo 4:** Temporary fencing installed to discourage unauthorized use of construction roads during the holiday break.

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