



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 5.1.17 through 5.7.17

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.

The BLM has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted an Environmental Compliance Monitoring Plan (ECMP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/FEIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This ECMP 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 ECMP, Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) -2, Notice to Proceed (NTPs) 3, 4, 5, and the February 1, 2017 NTP, which lifted the Temporary Suspension of Construction Activities issued on January 20, 2017; and anticipated construction activities for the following week. The following weekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 5.1.17 through 5.7.17.

Site Inspections, Mitigation Monitoring, and Compliance

Construction activities were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's ECMP and conditions included in LNTP-2, NTPs 3, 4, 5, and the NTP issued on February 1, 2017 as they pertain to the current activities. ECMs documented observations on daily site inspection forms and reviewed applicable mitigation measures. The following activities were observed by third party ECMs onsite during this reporting period:

Construction Activities

ECMs observed drilling, trenching, grading, and spreading of hydromulch along McCain Valley Road, as well as continued grading and cut and fill along the A through E and G lines. In addition, drilling and trenching occurred along the A through E lines and topsoil salvage

occurred along the B and C lines. Turbine foundations were excavated for on the C line, rebar was installed at turbine pad F-2, and new drainage pipes were installed on the access road to the G line. Drilling occurred for collector poles 13 through 38 and poles 2, 3, 7, and 10 were installed. Additionally, construction crews graded the connector road near Ribbonwood Road and spread hydro-mulch at various sediment stockpiles throughout the project area.

Cultural Resources

Archaeological and Native American monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing activities including grading, grubbing, and trenching in accordance with mitigation measure (MM) CUL-1d and the approved Tribal Participation Plan.

Archaeologists and Native American monitors dug shovel test pits at nine archeological sites in accordance with the approved Identification and Evaluation Plan for resources identified along project access routes and turbine pads, including McCain Valley Road.

Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor initial ground disturbance activities as well as clearing and grubbing activities in accordance with MM BIO-1c. Biological monitors were observed performing nesting bird and general wildlife clearance surveys ahead of construction activities and establishing no-disturbance buffers around observed active bird nests in accordance with MM BIO-7j. ECMs also observed inactive trenches and excavations covered to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-7a.

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, an ECM observed food trash that was left uncovered in a concrete wash out bin on the G string access road. The ECM notified the onsite Designated Biologist about the issue and the Designated Biologist contacted the construction contractor to address the issue. ECMs are anticipated to check the site again during the next reporting period for compliance with MM BIO-7d.

During this reporting period the following special-status species were observed: three coast horned lizards and one loggerhead shrike. Two of the three coast horned lizards were relocated and one required no action.

Monitor Sign-off (February 1, 2017 NTP)

ECMs observed monitor sign-off sheets (MSOS) at each construction activity in accordance with the February 1, 2017 NTP. This is part of the conditions that allowed the temporary suspension of construction activities to be lifted.

Limits of Disturbance (MM BIO-1a)

Work occurred within the project limits of disturbance in accordance with MM BIO-1a. Yellow tape was strung between disturbance limit stakes to enhance visibility of the limits of disturbance for equipment operators, spotters, and monitors in accordance with the NTP issued on February 1, 2017.

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

ECMs observed construction crews laying biodegradable and weed-free straw erosion control in culverts along MVR in accordance with MM-HYD-1. In addition, ECMs confirmed with construction crews that all inactive topsoil stockpiles are stabilized in accordance with Section 7.8 of the SWPPP.

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

ECMs observed best management practices on the project site during construction activities, including vehicles with required fire suppression equipment, fire suppression equipment within 25 feet of active work sites, vehicles parked in areas with no vegetation, and the wetting of vegetation ahead of clearing activities. Fire patrols occurred one hour after the end of daily construction in accordance with MM FF-1.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed a leak from the drill at collector pole #27. Upon notification of the leak, the construction crew member immediately cleaned up the stained soil and placed a drip pan at the location in accordance with MM HA-1a.

Traffic Control Plan Implementation (MM-TRA-1)

Flaggers were present to notify motorists of temporary road blockages while crews widened and conducted maintenance and improvement activities along McCain Valley Road in accordance with MM TRA-1.

Construction Activities Schedule:

- Surveying and staking disturbance limits,
- Erosion and sediment control device installation and repairs along the E and C lines,
- Hydroseeding along McCain Valley Road and B and C lines,
- Widening, grading, and rock installation along Ribbonwood Rd. and C Line,
- Topsoil salvage at pad sites along the B and C lines,
- Foundation excavation and backfill at the substation and along the A, B, C, and G lines,
- Building pad sites along the A, C, and G lines,
- Building access roads along the B and C lines,
- Drilling at the A, B, C, G, and H lines,
- And concrete pouring and setting poles along the transmission line.

Notice to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
1	09.17.12	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
N/A	02.01.17	Temporary Suspension of Construction Activities lifted for the project subject to the implementation of all safeguards and corrective actions identified by Tule Wind LLC in the letter of January 31, 2017.	Yes
5	02.10.17	Balance of plant construction activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation drilling and blasting • Installation of seal slabs • Installation of turbine foundations • Installation of MET towers • Foundation backfill and crane pad installation • Turbine erection • Installation of underground collection system • Boring of specific locations for the collection line • Drilling and setting of overhead line systems 	Yes

Notice to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure erection • Wire pulling • Restoration of temporarily impacted areas 	

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	11.02.12
2	05.16.13	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	05.20.13
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.	Approved	02.14.17
4	01.09.17	Addition of seven areas outside of the limits of disturbance to allow for the relocation of boulders along the G-string.	N/A	Resubmitted as part of variance request 006 on 03.24.17.
5	02.09.17	The use of generators to provide power for up to four Conex storage trailers.	Approved	02.23.17
6	02.24.17	Addition of temporary areas needed for constructability. A 20-foot buffer of the approved engineering disturbance limits is being proposed to allow construction activities to use the areas where necessary to safely construct the project while remaining in compliance with the permit conditions. Approximately 10 acres is anticipated to be impacted.	Approved	Resubmitted on 03.24.17. Approved on 04.24.17
7	03.03.17	Addition of impact areas for the installation of riprap associated with 48 culverts along project access roads.	Approved	04.14.17
8	03.24.17	Includes the addition of a concrete batch plant facility in the 2-acre laydown yard (Yard 6) to serve as the primary concrete batch plant.	Approved	04.18.17
9	03.28.17	Includes additional temporary areas needed for turbine installation for blade overhang areas, Nacelle tagline areas, and turbine top section staging areas.	Pending	Under BLM Review
10	03.29.17	Includes additional areas needed for constructability and safety associated with travel along McCain Valley Road near the Lark Canyon Campground and off-highway vehicle (OHV) staging areas.	Pending	Under BLM Review
11	04.07.17	Relocation of office trailers from San Diego County land to laydown yards 9 and 11.	Approved	04.24.17

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
12	04.20.17	Includes widening portions of McCain Valley Road at three specific areas for constructability and safety during construction.	Pending	Under BLM Review

Representative Photos



Photo 1: ECMs observed a construction crewmember cleaning up stained soil at collector pole site 27 in accordance with MM HAZ-1A.



Photo 2: Drip pans were present under staged equipment in accordance with the SWPPP and MM HAZ-1A.



Photo 3: Archaeological and Native American monitors checking spoils from drilling activities at collector pole site 33, in accordance with MM CUL-1D.



Photo 4: ECMs observed inactive excavations covered to prevent entrapment of wildlife in accordance with MM BIO-7A.

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