



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 06.19.17 through 06.25.17

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 06.19.17 through 06.25.17.

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 ongoing drilling for overhead collector poles 45, 52, and 55. Construction crews continued to perform road maintenance activities such as road blading and widening along McCain Valley Road, compacting near Cottonwood Campground along McCain Valley Road, and blading along the F-line. Grubbing and vegetation removal also occurred along multiple sections

of McCain Valley Road. Rock management and rock breaking continued along the G and E lines, laydown yard 10, and Rough Acres Ranch Road, while rock removal occurred along the G-line. Pre ripping activities occurred at collector pole 1, along the access road between A and B line, the G-8 access road, along old Highway 80. Trenching occurred along McCain Valley Road and along the A, E, and G lines. Silt fencing was repaired along turbine pad D-1 and concrete washouts were reclaimed at turbine pad E-4.

Cultural Resources

Archaeological and Native American monitors were present to monitor ground-disturbing activities and surveys including road widening, grading, trenching, rock breaking, drilling, cut and fill, and ripping in accordance with MM-CUL-1D and the approved Tribal Participation Plan. In addition, cultural monitors were observed spot checking drilling for overhead collector pole sites, per MM-CUL-1D.

Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor road widening and vegetation/grubbing clearing activities in accordance with Variance Request 010 approval and MM-BIO-1C. No sensitive species were observed.

On 6/19/17, ECMs observed biological monitors present, near an active bird nest during grading activities along McCain Valley Road, near the Lark Canyon Campground. The grading activities remained outside of the active bird nest buffer and biological monitors were present to observe the bird's activity in accordance with MM-BIO-7J and the Nesting Bird Management, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan.

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 one of the conditions that allowed the temporary suspension of construction activities to be lifted.

Limits of Disturbance (MM BIO-1A)

All construction and road widening activities observed during this reporting period were within the staked disturbance/grading limits. This includes the revised limits of disturbance established as part of the variance request approval process.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed construction crews repairing silt fencing in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the SWPPP. Areas of deficient or damaged BMPs including straw wattles, silt fencing, and aggregate at washout basins have been provided to the designated biologist and construction contractor and are in the process of being addressed.

On 6/20/17, ECMs observed a concrete washout basin at laydown yard 3 with concrete water stains on the ground surface and damaged silt fencing. Upon notification, the stained soil was cleaned and the silt fencing surrounding the concrete washout basin was replaced.

On 6/20/17, ECMs observed soil stockpiles at multiple collector pole sites. Per the project specific SWPPP, fiber rolls are required when the soil stockpiles become inactive after 14 days of no use. The designated biologist was notified of the stockpiles and has contacted the construction contractor to install fiber rolls.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed active water application during rock breaking and earth moving activities in an effort to minimize dust in accordance with MM-AQ-1. Concrete trucks driving along the D line access road have been observed generating dust. ECMs notified the designated biologist of this observation and additional water trucks have been scheduled to apply water and suppress dust along this access road.

Fire Prevention/Protection Plan Implementation (MM-FF-1; MM BIO-1F)

Water tenders were observed working closely with construction equipment conducting rock breaking, drilling, and rock management activities in accordance with MM-FF-1 and MM-BIO-1F. Fire suppression tools including a 5-gallon hand pump, fire extinguisher, and round tip shovel were observed within 25 feet of active work sites.

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

ECMs observed containment beneath staged equipment throughout site in accordance with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan and MM-HAZ-5A.

Traffic Control Plan Implementation (MM-TRA-1)

ECMs observed Blatner construction crews replacing traffic signs along McCain Valley Road in accordance with MM-TRA-1. Traffic flaggers were present during periods when access routes were temporarily blocked and traffic cones were used to identify temporary changes in roadway access.

Construction Activities Schedule:

- Red flag warning for 6/27/17: No work scheduled.
- Surveying and staking underground collection line,
- Sub grading along Ribbonwood side of Rough Acres Road,
- Rock management at G3 and Rough Acres Ranch Road,
- Turbine site build at G2, and G3,
- Foundation backfill at C and B-line,
- Silt fence repair along G and E-line,
- Foundation excavation and framing at substation,
- Setting transformers along G-line,
- Drilling and blasting at G-2,
- Drilling for collector pole 54, 56, and 45,
- Top soil relocation of drill spoil sites, and
- Digging of box pads at C4, C6, and C7.

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.	Approved	05.16.17
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.	Approved	06.14.17
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.	Approved	05.24.17
13	05.10.17	Includes adjustments to the overhead collector line pole locations, associated access roads, and construction areas to reduce impacts to recently identified environmentally sensitive areas.	Approved	06.21.17
14	06.16.17	Includes additional pull ares for wire pulling along the transmission and collector lines, the use and widening of an existing access road, and shifting of a transmission line structure.	Pending	Under BLM Review
15	06.16.17	Requests turbine B-5 to be approved as an alternate turbine that would replace an approved turbine, should it be determined necessary.	Pending	Under BLM Review

Representative Photos



Photo 1: ECMs observed archaeological and Native American monitors present during road grading activities along McCain Valley Road in accordance with MM-CUL-1D.



Photo 2: ECMs observed construction crews replacing silt fencing along the D1 access road in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the project specific SWPPP.



Photo 3: Rock breaking activities at turbine pad G-3 were accompanied by a water tender present in accordance with MM-FF-1.



Photo 4: ECMs observed water tenders present during drilling at collector pole 55 in accordance with MM-FF-1. Excavated holes are covered to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM-BIO-7A.

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