



## BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### Weekly Project Update

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**Reporting Period:** 06.26.17 through 07.02.17

### 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 06.26.17 through 07.02.17.

### 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

Environmental Compliance Monitors (ECMs) observed ongoing sediment control device repairs along the B and G-lines and installation of fiber rolls at turbine pad sites E-5 and E-10. Concrete washouts were reclaimed at laydown yard 6. Rock breaking occurred at turbine sites G-2 and G-3, while rock removal/rock management occurred at turbine site G-3. Turbine pad contouring

and excavating occurred at turbine site A-3 and drilling occurred at overhead collector pole #52. Construction crews installed collector pole #56 and installed box pads at turbine sites C-4 and C-8.

Additionally, backfilling occurred at turbine sites B-1, B-2, C-4, C-8, and C-9. Grubbing occurred at turbine site A-3, the C-line, and turbine site C-9, while grading occurred along the C-line access road, and compacting occurred at site C-7. Cut/fill occurred at site G-3, topsoil salvage occurred at C-9 and the C-6 access road, and dirt hauling occurred at collector pole sites along McCain Valley Road.

### Cultural Resources

Archaeological and Native American monitors were present to monitor ground-disturbing activities for construction activities including road widening, grading, trenching, rock breaking, drilling, soil loading, grubbing, and cut and fill, in accordance with mitigation measure CUL-1d and the approved Tribal Participation Plan.

On 6/26/17, an ESA near turbine site G-2 was released to construction by the BLM after the site was evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Construction crews were observed installing stakes to delineate future ground disturbing activities. Archaeological and Native American monitors were present in accordance with MM-CUL-1D.

### Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbance and vegetation clearing activities. ECMs observed biologists conducting nesting bird surveys in accordance with MM-BIO-7e and observed construction crews securing covers over dumpsters in order to prevent feeding the wildlife in accordance with MM-BIO-7e. ECMs observed construction crews repairing silt fencing along the C and G-lines and straw wattle installation at turbine site E-5 in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and MM-BIO-1g. All project related vehicles were observed adhering to the posted 15 mph speed limit in order to minimize dust, in accordance with MM-BIO-7b.

On 6/26/17, ECMs observed trash consisting of multiple water bottles and a plastic tarp downslope of turbine site E-1. The designated biologist was contacted and a bio monitor was sent to turbine site site E-1 to clean up and properly dispose of the trash.

### 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 activities observed during this reporting period were within the staked disturbance and grading boundary limits. No sensitive species were observed or disturbed. ECMs observed personnel staking limits of disturbance at site G-2 after an ESA was lifted.

### Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (MM HYD-1)

During this reporting period, ECMs observed construction crews conducting ongoing repairs to silt fences, installing straw wattles, and conducting non-stormwater management control by repairing liners in concrete washout basins. Several areas were identified with deficient silt fencing and straw wattles that were covered in sediment. Each of these issues were brought to the attention of the designated biologist and are being tracked by ECMs.

On 06/30/17, ECMs observed a concrete washout basin located in laydown yard #6 that had previously been identified as needing repairs. ECMs observed that the repairs including installation of new plastic lining and silt fencing had been completed in accordance with the site specific SWPPP.

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

ECMs observed water trucks applying water in active areas of construction at least three times a day in accordance MM-AQ-1. One area of concern where excessive dust was observed was along the access road to turbine sites D-2 and D-4. ECMs contacted the designated biologist to request that a water truck apply additional water to the access road.

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

During this reporting period, a red flag warning was issued at 1300 hours on 6/26/17 for high risk of fires due to high winds, low humidity and elevated air temperature. All ground disturbance and construction activities were halted with the exception of water hauling onto the site. The water trucks filled water tanks at laydown yard #6, in order to keep the tanks from blowing over in the high winds.

Red flag warning was lifted at 1300 hours on Wednesday, 6/28/17.

ECMs observed fire equipment and water trucks on the project site during all other construction activities outside of the red flag warning, including vehicles equipped with fire suppression equipment, and fire suppression equipment within 25 feet of active work sites, in accordance with MM-FF-1.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed stained soil under a haul truck at site G-12 and stained soil at site E-9 and E-10. The designated biologist was contacted and construction crews were seen removing the stained soil under the supervision of a biological monitor in accordance with MM-HAZ-1a and site specific SWPPP

### Traffic Control Plan Implementation (MM-TRA-1)

ECMs noted all construction traffic speed was within the 15 mph limit after radar signs were installed. The radar signs remain in place to remind construction crews and subcontractors of their speed for site safety and in order to minimize fugitive dust.

**Construction Activities Schedule:**

- Survey and staking underground collection and turbine grade locations,
- Laying aggregate along McCain Valley Road,
- Remove culverts for trencher along G-line,
- Sub grading along Rough Acres Road and G-2 to G-3 road,
- Rock management at site G-2,
- Building of turbine pad sites G-2 and C-9,
- Topsoil salvage at site G-2,
- Foundation backfill at E-9 and E-10,
- Setting transformers on G-line,
- Drilling and blasting at G-2 and G-3,
- Drilling for collector pole 34 and 36,
- Backfill box pads at B-1 through B-4, and
- Backfill and compact, and drilling piers at substation.

## 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"> <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
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"> <li>• Foundation drilling and blasting</li> <li>• Installation of seal slabs</li> <li>• Installation of turbine foundations</li> <li>• Installation of MET towers</li> <li>• Foundation backfill and crane pad installation</li> <li>• Turbine erection</li> <li>• Installation of underground collection system</li> <li>• Boring of specific locations for the collection line</li> <li>• Drilling and setting of overhead line systems</li> </ul>	Yes

## Notice to Proceed

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

## 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 areas 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:** Straw wattle installation at turbine site E-10 in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the site SWPPP.



**Photo 2:** ECM's observed construction crewmembers securing a dumpster cover at laydown yard #6 in accordance with MM-BIO-7d.



**Photo 3:** ECMs observed stained soil under construction equipment at site G-12.



**Photo 4:** Stained soil cleanup at site G-12 in accordance with MM-HAZ-1a.

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