



## BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

**El Centro Field Office**  
1661 S. 4th Street  
El Centro, California 92243  
Website: [www.tulewindECCMP.com](http://www.tulewindECCMP.com)

---

**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### Weekly Project Update

**Prepared By:** David Hochart, DUDEK, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

**Reporting Period:** 07.03.17 through 07.09.17

### 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 07.03.17 through 07.09.17.

### 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 minimal activities on BLM administered land due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend. Potholing occurred along the G-line, and backfilling occurred at turbine site F-4. Additionally, excavation for conduit lines occurred at Vault B at the substation.

## Cultural Resources

Archaeological and Native American monitors were present to monitor ground-disturbing activities and surveys including trenching and excavating in accordance with MM-CUL-1D and the approved Tribal Participation Plan.

## Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to conduct nested bird surveys 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 checked straw wattles and other erosion and sediment control devices to ensure that they are properly installed and repaired when in need of maintenance in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the SWPPP.

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

ECMs observed a staged water truck during potholing activities along the G-line to provide dust suppression in accordance with MM-AQ-1.

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

Water tenders were observed working closely with construction equipment during excavation and potholing 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 bins beneath staged equipment throughout the project site in accordance with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan and MM-HAZ-5A.

### **Construction Activities Schedule:**

- Subgrade Rough Acres Ranch Road and the G-2, G-3 access road,
- Surveying and staking underground collection line,
- Rock management at G-2, G-3 and Rough Acres Ranch Road,
- Turbine site build at G-2, and C-9,
- Clear and grub at A-3 and J-line,
- Top soil strip at C-9,
- Foundation backfill at A-1, A-2, B-3 and B-4,
- Set poles and frame collector pole #45 and #55,
- Trenching along G-line,
- Pouring concrete at collector pole #52,
- Excavating for conduit at substation,
- Remove culverts for trencher along E and F-line,
- Placing aggregate along McCain Valley Road, and
- Digging of box pads at F-3, E-9, B-3 and B-4.

**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.<br>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 |
| 16                   | 07.07.17  | Requests a change in the means for installing underground collector line under McCain Valley Road from boring to trenching.   | Pending  | Under BLM Review |

## Representative Photos



**Photo 1:** ECMs observed archaeological and Native American monitors present during excavation at Vault B at the substation in accordance with MM-CUL-1D.



**Photo 2:** ECMs observed the installation of straw wattles at turbine site E-10 in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the project specific SWPPP.



**Photo 3:** ECMs observed archaeological and Native American monitors present during potholing along the G-line access road in accordance with MM-CUL-1D.



**Photo 4:** ECMs observed containment bins under staged equipment at G-15 in accordance with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan and MM-HAZ-5A.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK