



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 09.18.17 through 09.24.17

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 09.18.17 through 09.24.17.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed continued turbine component delivery and component offload on the E-line while turbine base assembly continued on the G-line. Transmission and collector pole activities included drilling at overhead collector pole 60, setting structure foundation at collector pole 40, and setting a box pad at collector pole 64.

Additionally, crews conducted wire-pulling operations between transmission towers 12-28 and installed junction boxes near laydown yards 1 and 3. Soil management activities included top soil hauling for track slopping, shoulder reclamation along the J-line and along the G-15 access road, with ongoing rip rap installation along the C-line and along McCain Valley Road near the Cottonwood Campground.

Cultural Resources

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

Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing activities and clearing and grubbing activities in accordance with MM-BIO-1c. Biological monitors were observed conducting sweeps ahead of trenching, grading, excavation and wire pulling activities.

During this reporting period, ECMs observed Blattner construction crews conducting trash removal throughout the project site in accordance with MM-BIO-7d.

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 work during this reporting period was observed within the staked limits of disturbance. On 9/23/17, ECMs discovered an ESA fence along McCain Valley Road partially knocked down. After reporting the location to the lead archaeologist, the fence was promptly adjusted. No impacts to sensitive resources were noted.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs observed construction crews placing filter fabric beneath riprap velocity dissipaters along culverts in accordance with the site specific SWPPP and MMHYD-1. On 9/22/17, ECMs observed construction crews applying soil binders to soil piles in the 80-acre lot for erosion control per EC-5 of the site specific SWPPP.

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

ECMs observed water trucks applying water in active areas of construction including excavation, soil/rock management and along access roads at least three times a day in accordance MM-AQ-1 and the Dust Control Plan.

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

ECMs observed fire equipment and water trucks on the project site during all construction activities including vehicles equipped with fire suppression equipment within 25 feet of active work sites, and fire crews conducting regular spot checks in accordance with MM FF-1.

Hazardous Materials Management Plan (MM HAZ-1A)

On 9/20/17, ECMs observed stained soil beneath equipment near Cottonwood Campground during riprap installation. Because the leak occurred at the end of the day, construction crews planned to remove the soil from site the following day. Crews gathered the stained soil into a pile on a fabric mat in order to prevent the stained soil from sitting on the bare ground overnight. At 9:00 am the next day (9/21/17), crews removed the pile of stained soil in accordance with MM HAZ-1a and the site SWPPP.

Traffic Control Plan Implementation (MM TRA-1)

ECMs observed safety personnel blocking traffic from crossing under transmission lines during wire pulling operations in accordance with MM TRA-1.

Construction Activities Schedule:

- Component offload on A and B-line,
- Top soil restoration on J-line,
- Prep sites on E-line for base and mid crane,
- Crane build/teardown pad H-
- Road maintenance, road shoulder reclamation on J-line,
- Blading on G-line,
- Shape slopes and ditches on Rough Acres Ranch Road,
- Excavate for rip rap culverts along McCain Valley road,
- Setting and wiring generators on E-line,
- Drilling overhead collector pole 67-69,
- Wire installation on collector line: wire 27-38, rope 38-50,
- Top out build on turbine G-12 – G-15
- Excavate and backfill at overhead collector pole 64, and
- Set overhead collector poles 51-57.

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 	Yes

Notice to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pickup truck and ATV use of BLM access routes authorized under the Eastern San Diego County Resource Management Plan (2008) 	
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 Structure erection Wire pulling Restoration of temporarily impacted areas 	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	11.02.12
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

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
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
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.	Approved	07.27.17
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.	Approved	07.12.17
16	07.07.17	Requests a change in the means for installing underground collector line under McCain Valley Road from boring to trenching.	Approved	07.12.17

Representative Photos



Photo 1: ECMs observed construction crews applying soil binders to soil piles in the 80-acre laydown yard to prevent wind erosion, in accordance with the site specific SWPPP and MM HYD-1.



Photo 2: ECMs observe a construction crewmember at a temporary road closure to allow overhead collector lines to be safely pulled over the right of way in accordance with MM TRA-1.



Photo 3: ECMs observe construction crews restoring temporary work areas by reclaiming topsoil to road shoulders, as pictured on the G-15 access road, pursuant to The Habitat Restoration Plan and MM BIO-1d.



Photo 4: ECMs observed a stained soil pile from an equipment leak. Soil was held on a fabric mat to keep contaminants from contacting the ground. The pile was later cleaned and removed in accordance with MM HAZ-1a.

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