



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

EI Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
EI Centro, California 92243
Website: www.tulewindECCMP.com

Project: Tule Wind Energy Project

Weekly Project Update

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

Reporting Period: 10.02.17 through 10.08.17

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 10.02.17 through 10.08.17.

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 along the E, F, G, and H-line as well as turbine base assembly on turbines E6, E10, G11 through G14, J3, and along the F-line and H-line. Transmission and collector pole

activities included drilling at collector pole 60, installation of collector poles 58 and 61, and cable installation at collector poles 41 and 43.

Additionally, crews conducted wire-pulling activities between transmission towers 28-40, 38-46, and 40-51 and at collector pole 41. Erosion control maintenance and repair included straw wattle installation along the E-line access road, and ongoing riprap installation along the sides of McCain Valley Road between the A and B-lines, south of the D1-D4 access road, along the entrance to the G-line access road, at turbine pads G-4 and G-5, and along the road near Cottonwood Campground.

Rock Management activities included haul trucks moving rock aggregate from McCain Valley Road, turbine pad G-4, and Laydown yard #12. Soil reclamation occurred along the E-line access road, while backfilling occurred at turbine pad G-7.

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 MM CUL-1d and the approved Tribal Participation Plan.

Biological Resources

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

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 10/02/17, ECMs observed implementation of the protocols of Variance Request 006 to allow foot traffic outside the limits of disturbance for tag line stabilization. Full time cultural and biological monitors were onsite along with ECMs to perform resource clearance sweeps. No impacts to sensitive biological or cultural resources were observed.

On 10/07/2017, one turbine blade from G11 stuck out past the disturbance limits by approximately 15 feet, causing only the tag lines to make minimal contact with the vegetation. The single blade was off the ground and above the vegetation. No damage to biological or cultural resources was observed.

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 MM HYD-1.

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)

During this reporting period, all fuels, oils, lubricants, and other hazardous materials on site were labeled and stored in their appropriate containers in accordance with MM HAZ-1a.

Traffic Control Plan Implementation (MM TRA-1)

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

Construction Activities Schedule:

- Component offload on C, B, E, G, and H-line,
- Pre-Walk on G and J-line,
- Prep sites on E and F-line for base and mid crane,
- Staging on A, B, C-line,
- Road maintenance on Rough Acres Ranch Road,
- Moving blades for site prep on C, D, E, 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 B, G, and E-line,
- Tower wire installation on: G14, G15
- Top out build on turbine G-9 – G-14, J-1—J-3,
- Set ESS on B, C, and D-line, and
- Wire installation on: wire 40-50, rope 31-50.

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 	Yes

Notice to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
		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
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	Approved	02.14.17

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
		environmental resources, and to accommodate construction and engineering design.		
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 trench backfill at turbine pad G-7. A water truck was present during activity to minimize dust in accordance with MM AQ-1 and the dust control plan.



Photo 2: ECMs observed drilling at collector pole 60. A water truck was also present during drilling to minimize fire risk in accordance with the Fire Prevention and Protection Plan and MM FF-1.



Photo 3: ECMs observed Mountain Power pulling wire between towers 28-40. This activity was monitored full time by an archaeologist in accordance with MM CUL-1D.



Photo 4: ECMs observed a backhoe placing rock check dams to slow the rate of water flow in order to reduce the potential for erosion along McCain Valley Road near the Cottonwood Campground, in accordance with the SWPPP and MM HYD-1.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK