



## **BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report**

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**Project:** Tule Wind Energy Project

### **Weekly Project Update**

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**Reporting Period:** 10.16.17 through 10.22.17

### **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 10.16.17 through 10.22.17.

### **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 road maintenance, including placing rocks and riprap in newly excavated culverts at the entrance to McCain Valley Road, turbine pad re-contouring at pads G-11 and G-14, curb grading and sub grading along Rough Acres Ranch Road, re-shaping shoulders and slopes along the connector road, and soil reclamation along the eastern most segment of

the connector road. Erosion control maintenance and repair crews replaced erosion blankets, straw wattles, and rock aggregate along the main access road. Rope and wire pulling occurred near the entrance to the north G-line access road, between collector poles 50-66 and towers 40-66, while cable installation occurred at overhead collector poles 52 and 64.

Additionally, ECMs observed construction crews preparing turbine components at turbine pads E-7 through E-13, while the base crane was assembled at turbine pad E-13 to facilitate turbine base erection along the C, G, and H-lines. Construction crews conducted road shoulder and turbine site restoration from turbine pad G-10 to G-13. Turbine installation continued at turbine pad C-7, G-1, G-2, and H-2, blade installation occurred at turbine pad E-12, E-13, H-1, and H-2, and a junction box was set at turbine pad E-11.

### Cultural Resources

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

On 10/21/17, ECMs observed the placement of plywood matting over ESAs to prevent any potential impacts to sensitive resources in accordance with MM CUL-1d. A portion of these plywood mats were blown off the ESA due to high winds. ECM observed mats to be re-secured during a follow-up inspection.

### Biological Resources

Biological monitors were present to monitor ground disturbing activities and grubbing/clearing activities in accordance with MM-BIO-1c.

During this reporting period, light plants were positioned appropriately during night construction to minimize lighting in adjacent native habitats and the nighttime sky in accordance with MM BIO-7c and APM BIO-15. ECMs also observed crews installing wild life escape routes at all trenches in accordance with MM BIO-7a.

On 10/18/17, ECMs observed a trash on the project site including a coffee cup, plastics, and snack wrappers. The ECM picked up the trash and reminded construction crews that trash should be disposed of properly in accordance with MM BIO-7d.

On 10/19/17, ECMs observed a rodent mortality on McCain Valley Road. The ECM contacted the onsite biological monitor. The biological monitor documented the event and removed the carcass.

### 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)

During this reporting period, all work occurred within the project limits of disturbance in accordance with MM BIO-1a.

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

During this reporting period, ECMs discovered a sediment pile at the entrance to the B-string requiring reapplication of a soil stabilizer or a soil binder. ECMs will continue to monitor and report potential issues to ensure they are addressed in accordance with MM-HYD-1 and the project site specific SWPPP.

ECMs observed construction crews cleaning straw wattles and collecting trash along McCain Valley Road as well as conducting inspections of straw wattles, rock aggregate, soil stabilized sediment piles and erosion control blankets.

On 10/19/17, ECMs observed construction crews covering a woodpile in the 80-acre lot with a thick plastic material to prevent any potential spread of bark beetle before transferring the wood to Tribal members.

### 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 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, in accordance with MM FF-1.

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

During night construction activities on 10/16/17, ECMs observed project personnel complying with the nighttime speed limit of 10 mph in accordance with MM BIO-7b.

On 10/17/17, ECMs observed fork lift drivers traveling in excess of 10 mph through the project site and on 10/19/17, project personnel were observed traveling in excess of the 10 mph from the laydown yard to turbine pad E-13. This issue was discussed with the site foreman, who reminded crewmembers of the nighttime speed limit. The ICF biological monitor also observed this issue and reminded project personnel about the speed limit. By the end of the night shift, crews were observed complying with the speed limit.

### **Construction Activities Schedule:**

- Cutting ditches and placing riprap along South McCain Valley Road,
- Moving blades along the D, E, and G-line,
- Haul trucks on the G-line and Rough Acre Ranch Road,
- Generator wiring at B, C, D, E, and F-line,
- Tower wiring through G8-G11 and J1-J3,
- Component delivery on Rough Acre Ranch Road,
- Turbines restored at sites G12-G13 and G15,
- Re-contouring at sites G11 and G14,
- Collector pole cable installation at CP52 and CP64,
- Turbine installation work at C7, G1, G2, and H2, and
- Blade installation at E12, E13, H1, and H2.

## 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.	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 light plants positioned appropriately to minimize lighting in adjacent native habitats and the nighttime sky in accordance with MM BIO-7c, APM BIO-15, and MM VIS-3b.



**Photo 2** ECMs observed construction crews covering a woodpile with a thick plastic material in the 80-acre lot for solarization treatment in order to prevent any potential spread of bark beetle before repurposing the wood.



**Photo 3:** ECMs observed wild life escape routes at all trenches in accordance with MM BIO-7a.



**Photo 4:** ECMs discovered a rodent mortality on McCain Valley Road. The mortality was reported to the designated biologist who documented the incident and removed the carcass.



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