



## **BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report**

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**Project:** Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

### **Weekly Project Update**

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**Reporting Period:** 5.15.12 through 5.20.12

### **Summary:**

The BLM is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project. The BLM has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted an Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (ECCMP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This ECCMP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the BLM's third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the ECCMP, and anticipated construction activities for the following week. This weekly report covers construction activities for the period of May 15, 2012 through May 20, 2012.

### **Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring:**

Compliance Issues with Applicable Conditions of Certification (e.g., areas out of compliance, interpretational disagreements, etc.)

*Dust Emissions* – Excessive dust emissions were observed by environmental compliance monitors during ground disturbance activities associated with establishing the 12-acre temporary laydown area. The Project Applicant's construction contractor responded to concerns raised by the environmental compliance monitors by increasing the number of water trucks and associated watering activities during ground disturbance activities.

*Limits of Work* – Environmental compliance monitors expressed concern that the approved project limits and access roads were not clearly delineated. The Project Applicant construction

contractor responded to concerns raised by the environmental compliance monitors by agreeing to place additional survey stakes where a direct line of site between stakes was not visible and by ordering signs that would identify approved access routes.

#### Issues of Concern with or by the Applicant

None.

#### **Construction Activities:**

The construction activities conducted for this period consisted of mobilizing equipment to the 12-acre temporary laydown yard, clearing activities at the 30-acre substation/switchyard, and geotechnical testing at turbine pad sites.

*12-acre Temporary Laydown Yard:* Crews initiated construction activities on May 15, 2012, which consisting of mobilizing construction equipment to the temporary laydown yard located at the southwest intersection of County Route S-2 and Dos Cabeza Road. Crews were observed utilizing road graders to establish the finish grade. An excavator was also observed constructing a temporary water pond that will be utilized as a water source for the concrete batch plant and dust suppression. The approved work limits were identified by the surveying team and verified by the lead environmental monitor prior to ground disturbance activities. A rock apron and rattle plate was also constructed at the primary point of ingress/egress to minimize tracking onto County Route S-2. The temporary laydown yard will be utilized to stage construction equipment and the construction contractor's trailers throughout construction.

*30-acre Substation/Switchyard:* Crews completed hand clearing removal of vegetation located within the approved work limits associated with the 30-acre Substation/Switchyard.

*Geotechnical Testing:* Crews utilized approved access roads to complete geotechnical testing at turbine pad sites located throughout the project site. Geotechnical testing was completed at approximately six to seven turbine pad site foundations per day.

#### **Compliance:**

Environmental compliance monitors conducted site inspections of the active construction areas on a daily basis from May 15, 2012 through May 20, 2012. Areas of active construction were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's ECCMP as they pertain to current construction activities. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed.

Pre-construction mitigation measures have been completed as indicated in NTP #1. The Project Applicant has contracted with a biological and archeological consulting firm to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP.

Environmental compliance monitors reported dust issues associated with construction activities occurring at the temporary laydown yard. The Project Applicant's construction contractor responded to concerns associated with dust by mobilizing additional water trucks to the project site for dust suppression. Potential future compliance issues associated with dust will continue to be closely monitored.

Environmental compliance monitors reported incidences where pick-up trucks were observed beyond the approved project limits. The Project Applicant construction contractor responded to concerns raised by the environmental compliance monitors by agreeing to place additional survey stakes where a direct line of site between stakes was not visible and by ordering signs that would identify approved access routes. Crews operating the drill rigs were also observed to not be carrying spill kits in accordance with the project requirements. It was requested that all drill rigs operating along the right-of-way be equipped with spill kits in accordance with the project requirements.

Based on environmental compliance monitors observations, all crew members working on the project site have been WEAP trained and sensitive environmental resources requiring avoidance within proximity to the active construction areas are being identified in accordance with the project requirements. Topsoil in areas being graded is being stockpiled within the approved work limits in accordance with MM Veg-2b. In accordance with MM-Wild-2b, preconstruction migratory bird nesting surveys are being completed by the Project Applicant's designated biologist on a daily basis.

#### **Construction Schedule:**

Scheduled Activities for Next Week: The anticipated construction activities associated with week ending 5.27.12 consist of the following:

- Clear, grub, grade and gravel laydown yard
- Clear switchyard by hand
- Geotechnical borings at wind turbine foundations
- Grade substation and switchyard

#### Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None identified at this time.

**Plan Review Submittal Items**

Submittal Type	Description
N/A	N/A

**Notice to Proceed**

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
1	5.14.12	Clearing and grading of the following facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12-acre temporary laydown yard</li> <li>• 30-acre Substation/Switchyard</li> <li>• Temporary and permanent access road/collection corridors and permanent turbine area for 71 turbines.</li> <li>• Performance of all required geotechnical studies within the Project site with access along planned access road corridors.</li> <li>• Buried Site Sensitivity Testing</li> <li>• Structure installation at the SDG&amp;E Energy switchyard.</li> </ul>	Yes

**Variance Requests**

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Project Photographs from Week



**Photo 1:** A road grader is utilized to construct a level pad site at the temporary laydown yard located adjacent to County Route S2.



**Photo 2:** A rock apron and rattle plate is constructed at the primary project access point adjacent to County Route S2 and the temporary laydown yard. The rattle plate and rock apron is being utilized to minimize track-out along County Route S2.



**Photo 3:** Topsoil being salvaged onsite in accordance with MM Veg-2b.



**Photo 4:** Hand crews clear vegetation within the approved work limits at the 30-acre substation/switchyard.



**Photo 5:** Surveyors placing stakes at the 30-acre substation/switchyard to identify the approved work limits.



**Photo 6:** A road grader is utilized to construct an access road from the laydown yard located adjacent to County Route S2 and the 30-acre substation/switchyard.



**Photo 7:** A geotechnical crew completes geotechnical testing at a future location for a wind turbine foundation.



**Photo 8:** A water truck is utilized at the laydown yard for compaction and dust suppression.