BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 6.11.12 through 6.17.12

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 environmental compliance monitors (ECM's), 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 6.11.12 through 6.17.12.

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring:

Compliance Issues with Applicable Conditions of Certification

Trash Management: In accordance with Section 4.1 of the Raven Control Plan (April 2012), all trash must be kept in covered trash receptacles. An ECM observed trash bins uncovered at the Laydown Yard on 6.16.12. The observation was communicated to the lead environmental monitor at 8:45 AM and the trash receptacles were covered by 8:50 AM.

Track-out: An ECM observed track-out along County Road S2 located immediately adjacent to the main point of ingress/egress to the project site on 6.15.12. The observation was communicated to the lead environmental monitor at 11:30 AM and crews were observed sweeping the trac-out along County Road S2 at 12:00 PM.

Dust Emissions: An ECM observed slight dust emissions at the laydown yard during grading activities on 6.14.12. The dust emission was observed to last for approximately 15 seconds at

two intervals. The ECM reported the dust emissions to the lead environmental monitor and additional water was applied during grading activities within five minutes of the dust emissions being observed.

Armor Balls Movement in High Winds: An ECM observed portions of the water surface at the temporary water storage pond being exposed during high wind events. The ability for the armor balls to be effective in high wind events was communicated to the construction contractor on 6.11.12. The construction contractor identified the issue/concern associated with armor ball movement in the high winds will be remedied by placing a tarp or similar material along the southwest portion of the exclusionary fence, which will reduce the wind strength from disturbing the armor balls. The issue/concern associated with movement of the armor balls in high winds will be resolved by 6.20.12 when the material is put in place to reduce the strength of the wind.

Issues of Concern with or by the Applicant

None.

Construction Activities:

The construction activities conducted for this period consisted of establishing the 12-acre temporary laydown yard, grading activities at the 30-acre substation/switchyard, surveying and staking turbine access roads and geotechnical testing.

12-acre Temporary Laydown Yard: Crews were observed clearing and grading within the approved limits to establish the 12-acre Temporary Laydown Yard. The temporary laydown yard is being utilized to park personal construction vehicles, stage construction equipment and materials and to stage construction contractor trailer offices.

30-acre Substation/Switchyard: Construction activities during this reporting period consisted of grading activities associated with establishing the pad foundation for the 30-acre substation/switchyard. Heavy construction equipment utilized to complete grading activities consisted of loaders, tractors, and graders.

Surveying and Staking Turbine Access Roads: Survey crews were onsite throughout the week to place survey stakes for anticipated grading activities associated with the turbine access roads. The survey stakes are being utilized to delineate the approved work limits for anticipated grading activities.

Geotechnical Testing: Crews utilized approved access routes to complete geotechnical testing at turbine pad sites located throughout the project site.

Compliance:

Environmental compliance monitors conducted site inspections of the active construction areas on a daily basis from 6.11.12 through 6.17.12. 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 approved by the BLM to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP.

In accordance with Section 4.1 of the Raven Control Plan (April 2012), all trash must be kept in covered trash receptacles. An ECM observed trash bins uncovered at the Laydown Yard on 6.16.12. The observation was communicated to the lead environmental monitor at 8:45 AM and the trash receptacles were covered by 8:50 AM (see photo 1). An ECM also observed track-out along County Road S2 located immediately adjacent to the main point of ingress/egress to the project site on 6.15.12. The observation was communicated to the lead environmental monitor at 11:30 AM and crews were observed sweeping the trac-out along County Road S2 at 12:00 PM.

An ECM observed slight dust emissions at the laydown yard during grading activities on 6.14.12. The dust emissions were observed to last for approximately 15 seconds at two intervals. The ECM reported the dust emissions to the lead environmental monitor and additional water was applied during grading activities within five minutes of the dust emissions being observed. With the exception of the instance noted above, the construction contractor has been observed actively watering down construction areas during ground disturbance activities in accordance with MM-AIR-1 (see photos 2, 3 and 4).

Spill clean-up kits are being maintained and utilized by construction crews in accordance with the SWPPP (MM-Water-1). Drip-pans are being placed beneath construction equipment being stored onsite overnight to ensure equipment does not leak directly onto the ground surface (see photo 5).

An ECM observed portions of the water surface at the temporary water storage pond being exposed during high wind events (see photo 6). The ability for the armor balls to be effective in high wind events was communicated to the construction contractor on 6.11.12. The armor balls did not show any signs of movement and were adequately covering the water surface during non-high wind events. The construction contractor identified the issue/concern associated with armor ball movement in the high winds will be remedied by placing a tarp or similar material along the southwest portion of the exclusionary fence, which will reduce the wind strength from disturbing the armor balls. The issue/concern associated with movement of the armor

balls in high winds will be resolved by 6.20.12 when the material is put in place to reduce the strength of the wind.

Geotechnical testing activities were observed throughout the week being completed within the approved work limits and both an archeological and biological monitor approved by the BLM were present during the geotechnical testing activities (see photo 7). The biological and archeological monitors were observed guiding the geotechnical rigs to the testing locations along approved access roads and observing for archeological and biological resources to minimize disturbances to resources that may be present.

Grading activities occurring at the 30-acre substation/switchyard were observed being completed within the approved work limits (see photo 8). Dust emissions were being monitored on a regular basis and no issues/concerns were reported throughout the week.

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.

Construction Schedule:

Scheduled Activities for Next Week: The anticipated construction activities associated with week ending 6.24.12 consist of the following:

- Build access roads to WTG 131-176.
- Stake access road offsets 152-175 and 173-174.
- Grading operations on Phase 2 of the substation/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: • 12-acre temporary laydown yard • 30-acre Substation/Switchyard • Temporary and permanent access road/collection corridors and permanent turbine area for 71 turbines. • Performance of all required geotechnical studies within the Project site with access along planned access road corridors. • Buried Site Sensitivity Testing • Structure installation at the SDG&E Energy switchyard.	Yes

Variance Requests

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
1	5.23.12	Shift of the 30-acre substation/switchyard approximately 565 feet to the north in order to minimize disturbance to areas that have the potential of cultural importance.	Approved	6.4.12
2	5.31.12	Conduct geotechnical investigations at 12 turbines sites that are within 500 feet of the Palm Springs formation.	Approved	6.12.12
3	6.4.12	Temporary use of the BLM's Western Colorado Desert Routes of Travel (WECO) in order to complete pre-construction surveys as identified in the Final EIR/EIS and Record of Decision (ROD).	Approved	6.12.12
4	6.4.12	Temporary use of BLM WECO routes outside those designated as approved project roads in the ROD for geotechnical rigs to access turbine locations to conduct the required further geotechnical investigations.	Pending	Pending
5	6.8.12	Turbine micro-siting and road re-alignments to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Pending	Pending
6	6.13.12	Additional temporary work space for construction and permanent access to the transmission line turning structures at the substation/switchyard.	Pending	Pending

Photographs from Week

	
Photo 1: Hauling containers are covered with a tarp in accordance with the Raven Control Plan (MM-Wild-1j).	**Photo 2:** A water truck is utilized for dust suppression during flailing activities at the laydown yard.
	
Photo 3: A water truck is utilized during grading activities associated with establishing the laydown yard.	**Photo 4:** A water truck being utilized for compaction and dust suppression purposes at the substation/switchyard.

	
Photo 5: Drip-pans are being placed beneath equipment being stored overnight to ensure equipment does not leak directly onto the ground surface.	**Photo 6:** Armor balls have been placed along the water surface at the temporary water pond in accordance with Section 4.2 of the Raven Control Plan (MM-Wild-1j).
	
Photo 7: A drill rig completing geotechnical activities within the approved work limits.	**Photo 8:** Crews completing grading activities at the substation/switchyard to obtain the final grade for the substation/switchyard pad site.