



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 7.16.12 through 7.22.12

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 7.16.12 through 7.22.12.

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring:

Issues/Concerns with Applicable Conditions of Certification

Dust Suppression: An ECM observed dust emissions along the Old Mining Road on 7.16.12. The dust emissions were observed when motorists kicked-up sediment along Old Mining Road. The sediment was present on the roadway as a result of natural sediment wash from the storm event on 7.13.12 (see Weekly Report #9). The construction contractor was contacted regarding the dust emissions. Upon the notification being provided water trucks were observed watering down Old Mining Road. In addition, a check-point was established at the intersection of Old Mining Road/Evan Hewes Highway to remind truck operators to reduce speeds while driving along the roadway. The application of water and reducing speeds proved to be effective in minimizing dust emissions.

Work Limits: The lead biologist observed on 7.17.12 a water truck operator travelling just outside of the approved work limits at WT 83 while watering down the wind turbine pad site prior to ground disturbance. The lead biologist notified the water truck operator immediately upon the observation being made. The lead biologist instructed crews to place additional staking to ensure the work limits were clearly being delineated.

Wildlife Escape Ramps: In accordance with MM-Wild-1b, at the end of each work day, the lead biologist is to inspect all potential wildlife pitfalls to ensure that the construction crew slopes the ends of the excavation to provide wildlife escape ramps or ensure that the construction crew completely and securely covers the excavation to prevent wildlife entry. An ECM observed excavations at the O&M facility on 7.17.12 where wildlife escape ramps had not been put in place. The lead biologist was contacted regarding the need to place wildlife escape ramps and upon notification crews were observed working with the lead biologist to construct wildlife escape ramps.

Trash Management: In accordance with Solid Waste Management specifications identified in the SWPPP (MM Water-9), litter and debris shall be disposed of properly. An ECM observed litter debris along the eastern limits of Dos Cabezas Road on 7.16.12. The lead biological monitor was notified of the litter and debris and upon notification the litter and debris were removed by hand crews and disposed of properly into waste bins.

Issues of Concern with or by the Applicant

None.

Construction Activities:

Construction activities conducted for this period consisted of clearing and grading access roads and pad sites for wind turbines, construction of wind turbine foundations and above-grade installation of substation/switchyard components at the 30-acre substation/switchyard.

Compliance:

Environmental compliance monitors conducted site inspections of the active construction areas on a daily basis. 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 and NTP#2.

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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 (see photo 1). Biological and archeological monitors were observed completing ongoing monitoring in accordance with the project requirements.

With the exception of the observation noted below, dust emissions were not observed to be an issue/concern throughout the daily construction activities. Crews were observed applying water during ground disturbance activities (see photo 2).

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Crews were observed using spill kits and cleaning any spills and/or soil stains from leaking equipment throughout the day to day construction activities (see photo 4).

Construction activities occurring at the 30-acre substation/switchyard were observed being completed within the approved work limits. Crews were observed constructing foundations that will be utilized to erect above-grade substation components (see photo 5). Dust emissions were monitored on a regular basis and no issues/concerns were reported by the compliance monitors throughout the week.

Crews were observed placing base pours at the wind turbine foundations and using rebar to construct turbine pad foundations (see Photos 6 and 7). Crews completing these activities were observed working within the approved work limits. Crews were also observed constructing wind turbine access roads, which consisted of placing a gravel road base along access roads (see photo 8).

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 7.29.12 consist of the following:

- Temporary Laydown Yard
 - Construct perimeter security fencing along Temporary Laydown Yard limits.
- Roadway Improvements & Turbine Pad Sites Clearing
 - Continue roadway and turbine pad site improvements.
- Wind Turbine Foundation Construction
 - Continue wind turbine foundation construction consisting of excavations, base pour and pedestal pour.
- O&M Facility
 - Complete excavations for foundations.
- Switchyard/Substation
 - Continue work within SDG&E substation.

Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None identified at this time.

Plan Review Submittal Items

Submittal Type	Description
Paleontological Monitoring & Treatment Plan	In accordance with MM-Paleo-1 a monitoring plan shall be developed by a qualified paleontologist hired by the proponent who holds a current California BLM Paleontology Use Permit. The plan must be appropriately scaled to the size and complexity of the anticipated monitoring.

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"> • 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
2	6.27.12	Clearing and grading of the following facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 turbines. 	Yes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MET towers • 3.4-acre O&M facility • 10-acre temporary laydown area • Temporary connex storage areas • Temporary crane walk corridors <p>Excavation and installation for all project infrastructure including foundations, collection system, electrical utility, and communication systems.</p> <p>Structural erection for all approved project features including concrete foundations, structural steel, wind turbine towers, MET towers, and the wind farm substation.</p> <p>Electrical wiring, testing, and pre-commissioning of wind turbines, MET towers, collection electrical system and wind farm substation.</p> <p>Construction of all buildings and associate facilities including the O&M building, biological observation tower, control buildings at substation and switchyard.</p> <p>Structure installation at the SDG&E energy switchyard.</p>	
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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.	Approved	6.20.12
5	6.8.12	Turbine micro-siting and road re-alignments to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	7.12.12
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
7	6.26.12	Modify alternate turbine locations included in the Record of Decision.	Pending	Pending

Photographs from Week



Photo 1: Archeological monitors complete monitoring during initial ground disturbance activity associated with establishing a wind turbine pad site.



Photo 2: A water truck applies water during grading activities to minimize dust emissions in accordance with the Dust Control Plan.



Photo 3: A check-point was established at the intersection of Old Mining Road/Evan Hewes Highway to notify truck operators of reduced speeds required along Old Mining Highway to minimize dust emissions.



Photo 4: A crew cleans a hydraulic leak with a spill kit in accordance with the project requirements.



Photo 5: A foundation is constructed within the SDG&E substation that will be utilized to transfer energy generated from the wind turbines to the Sunrise Powerlink located along the eastern limits of the substation.



Photo 6: Crews place a base pour at a wind turbine foundation.



Photo 7: A concrete foundation with steel rebar is constructed at the wind turbine pad base that will be utilized for the construction of a wind turbine.



Photo 8: Gravel road base is placed along turbine access roads. A water truck is utilized to suppress dust during placement of the gravel road base