BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 10.22.12 through 10.28.12

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 reporting period of 10.22.12 through 10.28.12.

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

The following issues/concerns have been observed by BLM ECM's during daily site observations. These following issues/concerns are being monitored to ensure follow-up is completed in a reasonable amount of time to avoid potential impacts to sensitive environmental resources per the intent of the ECCMP.

Issues/Concerns with Applicable Conditions of Certification

Dust Suppression: Dust flare-ups were observed during this reporting period by an ECM on 10.23.12, 10.24.12, 10.27.12. The dust flare-ups were associated with collection line trenching and construction vehicle traffic along Dos Cabezas Road. In all instances the construction contractor was observed proactively watering down the access road and mobilizing additional water tenders for use during excavation activities.

Construction Waste Management: In accordance with Section 4.1 of the Raven Control Plan (MM-Wild-1j), all trash onsite must be kept in covered trash receptacles. ECM's observed trash bins uncovered at a turbine site and the Laydown Yard. Upon the notification being provided to the lead environmental monitor, the trash bins were covered in accordance with MM-Wild-1j.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP): Stabilized construction entrances have been established where paved roadways intersect with unpaved access roads. The stabilized construction entrances are being put in place per MM-Air-1 to reduce the potential for track-out along paved roadways. ECM's observed stabilized construction entrances in need of repair and maintenance and track-out along paved access roads. The construction contractor has been observed maintaining the stabilized construction entrances and has also been observed cleaning paved access roads on a daily basis. ECM's will continue to monitor the effectiveness of stabilized construction entrances.

Construction Activities

Construction activities conducted for this period consisted of mobilizing and erecting wind turbines, constructing wind turbine foundations, installation of underground collection lines, access road improvements, O&M Building improvements and control wiring and buss work and testing transformer equipment at the 30-acre Substation/Switchyard. Ten turbines were erected during this reporting period totaling 47 turbines. To date approximately 94 wind turbine foundations have been excavated, and 91 wind turbine foundations concrete pours have been completed

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 including but not limited to development and implementation of preconstruction plans have been completed as indicated in NTP #1 and NTP #2.

OE LLC has contracted with an archeological consulting firm approved by the BLM to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP. Archeological monitors were observed completing ongoing monitoring in accordance with the project requirements and establishing ESA's prior to initiating ground disturbance. ECM's also observed archeological monitors and Native American Monitors onsite during initial ground disturbing activities, monitoring in accordance with the project requirements (see photo 1).

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 completely and securely covers the excavation to prevent wildlife entry. ECM's complete routine inspections to ensure all wildlife pitfalls include wildlife escape ramps and/or have been covered per MM-Wild-1b. Additionally, the ECMs completed inspections verifying that construction piping was covered in accordance with MM-Wild-1m. (see photo 2).

ECM's observed crews washing vehicles and heavy equipment in accordance with the Integrated Weed Management Plan per MM- Veg-1d. Washing heavy equipment is being implemented in order to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants within the project area (see photo 3).

In accordance with the Fire Safety Plan (MM-Fire-1), ECM's observed heavy equipment vehicles such as water trucks equipped with fire extinguishers (see photo 4).

Water wagons and water trucks were routinely observed watering down areas of active grading, trenching, and excavation to ensure dust emissions were minimized during construction activities in accordance with the Dust Control Plan per MM-Air-1. Crews were observed completing the concrete foundations associated with the Sunrise Powerlink turning structures and continued watering of these sites to prevent dust flares (see photo 5). The turning structures will be utilized to transfer energy generated onsite to the Sunrise Powerlink.

Construction activities associated with installing the underground line along Highway S2 continued during this reporting period (see photo 6). Crews were observed trenching, placing cable in the excavated trench and backfilling. Environmental monitors completed routine inspections of these activities to ensure work was being completed within the approved work limits, that dust control measures were being implemented and that activities affecting traffic along Highway S2 were conducted in accordance with traffic-control measures outlined in the Construction Traffic Management Plan and Transportation Plan.

Deliveries associated with hauling turbine components also continued during this reporting period. ECMs noted appropriate signage along the delivery routes (see photo 7) and that delivery traffic stayed within the approved work limits.

ECM's observed equipment testing at the substation this week and ensured good housekeeping practices were being implemented during these activities in in accordance with the SWPPP and MM-Water-10. The ECM's reported use of secondary containments under diesel-powered generators at the substation (see photo 8).

Based on the ECM's observations, all crew members working on the project site have been WEAP trained. Upon completing of WEAP training attendees are provided a sticker for their hard hat indicating they have completed required WEAP training.

See Section "Issues/Concerns with Applicable Conditions of Certification" above for a further discussion regarding environmental compliance status.

Construction Schedule:

Scheduled Activities for Next Week: The anticipated construction activities associated for 10.29.12 through 11.4.12 includes:

- 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 pedestal pour, and backfill.

- Underground Collection Lines
    - Continue excavation, conductor placement and backfill associated with underground collection lines.
- O&M Facility
    - Interior drywall, duct, ceiling title, light, interior door, sidewalk, mezzanine, fabricating structure for tower, and pour generator pad
- Switchyard/Substation
    - Equipment testing and berm work.
- Turbine Deliveries
    - Deliver the components for seven turbines.
- Turbine Erection
    - Crews mobilizing turbine components to site and erecting turbine towers and rotors.

Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None identified at this time.

Plan Review Submittal Items

- None identified at this time.

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
2	6.27.12	Clearing and grading of the following facilities. • 112 turbines. • 2 MET towers • 3.4-acre O&M facility • 10-acre temporary laydown area • Temporary connex storage areas • Temporary crane walk corridors Excavation and installation for all project infrastructure including foundations, collection system, electrical utility, and communication systems. Structural erection for all approved project features including concrete foundations, structural steel, wind turbine towers, MET towers, and the wind farm substation. Electrical wiring, testing, and pre-commissioning of wind turbines, MET towers, collection electrical system and wind farm substation. Construction of all buildings and associate facilities including the O&M building, biological observation tower, control buildings at substation and switchyard. Structure installation at the SDG&E energy switchyard.	Yes

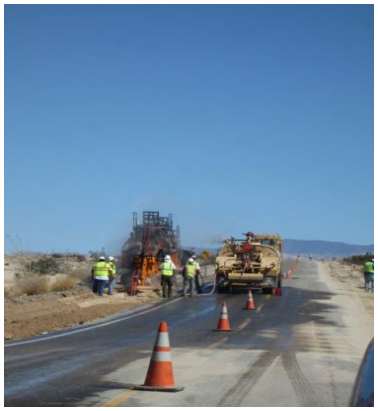
Variance Requests

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.	Approved	6.20.12
5	7.2.12	Turbine micro-siting and road re-alignments to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	7.12.12
6	7.3.12	Additional temporary work space for construction and permanent access to the transmission line turning structures at the substation/switchyard.	Approved	7.24.12
7	6.26.12	Modify alternate turbine locations included in the Record of Decision.	Approved	8.1.12
8	7.20.12	Re-alignment of an access road to wind turbine #9 to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	7.27.12
9	7.20.12	Re-alignment of underground collection line corridor between County Route S2 and Dos Cabezas Road.	Approved	7.30.12
10	7.31.12	Re-alignment of an access road to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	8.10.12
11	7.27.12	Micro-siting turbine location to accommodate a third party interest group.	Approved	8.16.12
12	8.14.12	Work space for wind turbine 103, 134 and 135	Approved	8.17.12
13	8.16.12	Collection line routing for wind turbines 155, 156 and 159.	Approved	8.17.12
14	8.21.12	Micro-siting wind turbines 86 and 87and a road re-alignment to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	8.21.12
15	8.22.12	Micro-siting wind turbines 26, 27, and 28 to accommodate a third party interest group.	Approved	9.4.12
16	8.20.12	Work space requirements associated with support safety tag lines.	Approved	8.23.12
17	8.22.12	Work space modifications at wind turbine 69 pad site.	Approved	8.30.12
18	8.28.12	Re-alignment of underground collection line corridors near wind turbines 88 and 131.	Approved	9.5.12
19	8.31.12	Re-alignment of an access road to wind turbine 73 to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	9.17.12
20	8.31.12	Re-alignment of two access roads to wind turbines 30 and 78 to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	9.13.12

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
21	9.13.12	Re-alignment of two access between wind turbines 10 and 11 and wind turbines 81 and 87 roads to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources	Approved	9.28.12
22	9.19.12	Re-alignment of underground collection line corridor from wind turbine 90 to 93 and extension of two turning radii near wind turbines 92 and 95.	Approved	10.2.12
23	9.21.12	Re-alignment of underground collection line corridor along County Highway S2, relocation of a crane walk corridor from wind turbine 107, and medication of a collection line corridor and access road near wind turbine 64.	Approved	10.15.12
24	9.27.12	Re-alignment of an access road between wind turbines 19 and 20 and micro-siting a turbine location to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.9.12
25	10.4.12	Re-alignment of an access road between wind turbines 16 and 17 to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.10.12
26	10.11.12	Re-alignment of an access road to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Pending	N/A
27	10.12.12	Micro-siting a turbine location to accommodate a third party interest group.	Approved	10.22.12
28	10.16.12	Micro-siting a turbine location to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.19.12
29	10.16.12	Re-alignment of an access road and shifting a turbine location to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.26.12
30	10.17.12	Re-alignment of an access road and micro-siting a turbine location to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.25.12
31	10.17.12	Micro-siting a turbine location to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.25.12
32	10.19.12	Re-alignment of an access road and underground collection line corridor.	Approved	10.25.12
33	10.20.12	Re-alignment of an access road to minimize potential disturbance to environmentally sensitive resources.	Approved	10.24.12

Photographs from Week

	
Photo 1: ECMs observed crews conducting initial disturbance (clearing and grading) for a turbine pad and the associated access road leading to S2. Archeological and Native American monitors were on site during these activities.	**Photo 2:** Installed pipe at the O&M facility has been covered per MM-Wild-1m.
	
Photo 3: Prior to entering the construction site, equipment is washed in accordance with the Integrated Weed Management Plan (MM- Veg-1d).	**Photo 4:** ECMs observed water trucks equipped with Fire Extinguishers in accordance with Fire Safety Plan (MM-Fire-1)

	
Photo 5: Water was applied before, during, and after construction activities, including the Sunrise Powerlink turning structures to suppress potential fugitive dust per MM-Air-1.	**Photo 6:** Crews stay within the approved work limits while trenching cables along Highway S2.
	
Photo 7: Turbine part deliveries and mobilization continued during this reporting period. Delivery trucks utilized clearly signed access roads within the approved work limits.	**Photo 8:** Secondary containment is utilized to prevent soil contamination per the SWPPP and MM-WATER 10.

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