



## **BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report**

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**Project:** Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

### **Weekly Project Update**

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**Reporting Period:** 1.7.13 through 1.13.13

### **Summary**

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project. The Bureau of Land Management has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted an Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (ECCMP) to ensure that measures approved in the Final Environmental Impact Statement 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 Bureau of Land Management's third-party Environmental Compliance Monitors (ECMs), the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan, and anticipated construction activities for the following week. This weekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 1.7.13 through 1.13.13.

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

The following issues/concerns have been observed by the Bureau of Land Management Environmental Compliance Monitors during daily site observations. The 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

No issues/concerns to report during this reporting period. See discussion under the "Compliance" section below.

### **Construction Activities**

Construction activities consisted of SDG&E substation berm work and phase II grading (see photo 1), Operations & Maintenance building improvements, access road subgrade and gravel activities south of Interstate 8, and continued site restoration/re-vegetation. Construction activities associated with turbine foundation pours, foundation backfills, trenching and installation of cables for the collection lines, turbine deliveries, and turbine erection are complete for the 2012 calendar year.

To date approximately 101 wind turbine foundations have been excavated and 101 wind turbine foundations concrete pours have been completed.

## **Compliance**

ECMs conducted site inspections of the active construction areas on a daily basis, which were observed to verify implementation of the measures stipulated in the project's Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan 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 Notice to Proceed #1 thru #3.

Ocotillo Express LLC has contracted with an archeological consulting firm approved by the Bureau of Land Management 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 ensuring that flagging of Environmentally Sensitive Areas remained intact and that all ground disturbing activity, such as the access road grading south of Interstate 8, was conducted within the delineated work limits (see photo 2).

Ocotillo Express LLC has also contracted with a biological consulting firm approved by the Bureau of Land Management to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP. The ECMs observed continued work at the substation, including phase II grading and berm construction. Water trucks were observed on site to suppress fugitive dust during construction.

Improvements at the O&M facility continued this week, including foundation pours that will support ancillary facilities and painting of the facility exterior in accordance with MM VR-3 and the affiliated Surface Treatment Plan (see photo 3). Ocotillo Express LLC is using approved paint colors designed to blend into the surrounding landscape to minimize visual impacts of the project.

The ECMs also observed continued restoration and re-vegetation activities associated with previously disturbed work areas, including vertical mulching and re-planting Wolf's Cholla and Ocotillo (see photo 4). Other restoration work included raking soil within disturbed areas around the turbines.

Based on the ECMs observations, all crew members working on the project site have completed the Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). Construction-phase WEAP trainings continue to occur on the project site once a week as needed.

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 1.14.13 through 1.20.13 includes:

- Access Roads—building subgrade and gravel roads south of Interstate 8
- O&M Facility-- Pour concrete slab for oil containment building, LP Tank and back-up generator foundation; install oil containment building
- Foundation Pours— 6 foundation pours for turbines south of Interstate 8; 1 north of Interstate 8
- Foundation Excavation—1 north of Interstate 8
- Substation/Switchyard-- Phase II grading; berm
- Complete Site Reclamation/Re-vegetation at turbine sites
- Collection Line, Trenching Cables-- re-mobilizing crews; install transformer containment kits

## Potential Delays to the Online Date of the Project

- None identified at this time.

## Notice to Proceed (NTP)

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
2	6.27.12	Clearing and grading of the following facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 112 turbines.</li> <li>• 2 MET towers</li> <li>• 3.4-acre O&amp;M facility</li> <li>• 10-acre temporary laydown area</li> <li>• Temporary connex storage areas</li> <li>• Temporary crane walk corridors</li> </ul> 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.	Yes

## Notice to Proceed (NTP)

NTP No.	Date Issued	Project Component	Conditions Included (Y/N)
		<p>Electrical wiring, testing, and pre-commissioning of wind turbines, MET towers, collection electrical system and wind farm Substation/Switchyard.</p> <p>Construction of all buildings and associate facilities including the O&amp;M building, biological observation tower, control buildings at Substation/Switchyard.</p> <p>Structure installation at the SDG&amp;E energy switchyard.</p>	
3	12.21.12	Full commercial operations for 112 wind turbines and all associated project facilities.	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

## Variance Requests

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
14	8.21.12	Micro-siting wind turbines 86 and 87 and 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
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.	Approved	11.14.12
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

## Variance Requests

Variance Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval Date
34	11.1.12	Shifting turbine locations to accommodate a third party interest group, re-alignment of an access road to minimize potential disturbances, and removal of an approved equipment laydown area.	Approved	12.6.12
35	11.21.12	Work space modifications at wind turbine pad sites.	Approved	12.7.12
36	11.27.12	Micro-siting a turbine location to mitigate geotechnical siting considerations.	Approved	12.19.12

## Photographs from Week



**Photo 1:** ECMs observe continued berm work adjacent to the SDG&E substation.



**Photo 2:** ECMs observed access road subgrade activities south of Interstate 8, being performed within the approved staked work limits.



**Photo 3:** ECMs observed crews painting the O&M facility. In accordance with the Surface Treatment Plan (VR-3), the exterior of the facility will be painted “buff” for masonry and “brush brown” for structural steel to blend with the surrounding landscape.



**Photo 4:** ECMs observed plant re-vegetation by placing an Ocotillo in areas previously disturbed by construction activities for use as vertical mulch in accordance with the Habitat Re-vegetation plan (MM Veg-2b).