



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243
Website: www.OcotilloECCMP.com

Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

Prepared By: David Hochart, DUDEK, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

Reporting Period: 2.18.13 through 2.24.13

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 (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 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 ECCMP, and anticipated construction activities for the following week. This weekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 2.18.13 through 2.24.13.

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

The following issues/concerns have been observed by the Bureau of Land Management ECM's 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

Sediment Runoff (MM-Water-9) – On 2.21.13 the ECM observed surface sediment located at a turbine pad site that flowed beyond the approved disturbance limits. The sediment was observed to have been discharged approximately 250 feet from the limits of disturbance. The construction contractor was informed by both the ECM and lead biological monitor of this issue on 2.21.13. The lead biological monitor recommended that the sediment dry before methods are determined for removal of the sediment that was discharged beyond the disturbance limits. The construction contractor is anticipated to remove the sediment with hand tools when the sediment dries and will be installing straw wattles along the perimeter of the pad site to reduce the potential for a similar incident to occur in the future.

Construction Activities

Construction activities consisted of re-vegetation activities, weed abatement activities, installing security fencing, metal siding, and trash enclosures at the O&M facility, resuming backfill turbine pad sites, grading of the phase II substation and substation berm work (see photo 1), and installing underground collection lines south of Interstate 8.

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 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 Notice to Proceed #1 thru #3.

Ocotillo Express 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 ensuring that flagging of Environmentally Sensitive Areas remained intact and that all ground disturbing activity was conducted within the delineated work limits. This included, but was not limited to the collection lines in the southeast portion of the project (see photo 2).

Ocotillo Express LLC has also contracted with a biological consulting firm approved by the BLM to complete day-to-day monitoring of the construction activities in accordance with the ECCMP. ECMs observed continued restoration and re-vegetation activities associated with previously disturbed work areas, including vertical mulching, and re-planting Wolf's Cholla. Other restoration work included raking soil within disturbed areas around the turbines and restoring temporary disturbances caused by taglines that were approved as part of Variance #016. In addition, ECMs continued to observe the removal of non-native invasive weeds by workers using hand tools within the approved disturbance limits in accordance with the Integrated Weed Management Plan (MM Veg-1d) (see photo 3).

In accordance with MM-Wild-2b and the Nesting Bird Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, a pre-vegetation clearing survey for avian nesting will be conducted prior no more than 7 days prior to vegetation clearing. If any active nest is located, the nest area will be flagged or otherwise marked for avoidance, and a buffer zone will be established. Lead biologists approved by the BLM were observed completing pre construction nesting bird surveys in accordance with the Nesting Bird Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and MM-Wild-2b throughout the reporting period. Biological monitors were also observed being present in areas of initial ground disturbance along the ROW throughout the reporting period.

Construction activities were observed being completed in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-AIR-1) throughout the reporting period. Stabilized construction entrances have been established at the entryway to each wind turbine string from paved roadways. Stabilized construction entrances include a rock apron that reduces potential trac-out along paved roadways. Water wagons and water trucks were routinely observed watering down areas of active excavation and along access roads (see photo 4). Signage has been posted along the ROW notifying construction personnel that speeds should be reduced to 15 MPH along access roads per MM-AIR-1.

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 2.25.13 through 3.3.13 includes:

- O&M Facility – Install security fencing, metal siding, trash enclosure, site clean-up.
- Foundation Pours – Site clean-up.
- Foundation Excavation – No new excavation activities.
- Substation/Switchyard – Phase II grading; substation berm.
- Collection, Trenching Cables – Borings north of Interstate 8 and the Interstate 8 bore.
- Access Roads – Install low water crossings on Dos Cabezas Road.
- Revegetation – Weed abatement activities throughout the project site.

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"> • 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. • 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/Switchyard. Construction of all buildings and associate facilities including the O&M building, biological observation tower, control buildings at Substation/Switchyard. Structure installation at the SDG&E energy switchyard.	Yes
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
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

Variance Requests

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.	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
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
37	2.20.13	Work space modifications at two planned low water crossings on the asphalt paved road between Highway S-2 and the 30-acre Substation/Switchyard	Pending	N/A
38	2.22.13	Micro-siting three turbine locations to mitigate geotechnical siting considerations.	Pending	N/A

Photographs from Week



Photo 1: ECMS observed construction crews placing rip-rap around the substation for flood protection.



Photo 2: The placement of underground collection lines within the approved limits of disturbance continued during this reporting period.



Photo 3: ECMs observed biological crews conducting weed abatement activities within the approved work limits in accordance with the Integrated Weed Management Plan (MM-Veg-1d).



Photo 4: ECM's continued to observe access roads watered to reduce potential for fugitive dust in accordance with MM Air-1.