BLM Authorized Officer
Weekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 3.11.13 through 3.17.13

Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 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 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 BLM'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 3.11.13 through 3.17.13.

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

The following issues/concerns have been observed by the BLM 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

Accidental Spill Control (MM-Water-10) – An ECM observed a bellyscraper that was under repair adjacent to a turbine pad site where soil stains were present from the equipment being repaired. Crews had placed absorbent materials beneath the bellyscraper in accordance with MM-Water-10; however fluids from the repair were observed on the ground adjacent to the absorbent materials. The area where soil stains were present was reported to the lead biological monitor and construction contractor. The construction contractor responded by removing the stained soil in accordance with MM-Water-10 and placed additional secondary containment beneath the equipment while repairs were completed to the bellyscraper.

Construction Activities

Construction activities consisted of placement of underground collection lines for wind turbines associated with Phase II, delivery of turbine components for Phase II turbines (see photo 1), turbine erection and assembly (see photos 2 and 3), weed abatement activities and berm construction for the Phase II substation (see photo 4).

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. Furthermore, archeological monitors ensured that construction crews stayed clear of all ESAs during the erection of turbines associated with Phase II.

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 project access roads (see photo 5). 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.

Temporary signage has been put in place in accordance with MM-FF-1 and Imperial County permit conditions notifying fire crews of the location for the water hook-up to draft firefighting water from the onsite storage tanks at the O&M facility (see photo 6).

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. ECM's observed biological monitors conducting daily sweeps and ensuring all work activities were being completed within the approved work limits in accordance with MM-Wild-1d. ECM's observed a biological monitor completing compliance inspections during clearing, grading, and grubbing in accordance with MM-Wild-1a (see photo 7).

A crew was observed removing noxious weeds using hand tools in accordance with the Integrated Weed Management Plan (MM-Veg-1d). All work was performed within the approved disturbance limits and was directed by the BLM-approved Weed Control Manager. In addition, ECM's observed restoration activities including raking soil within the disrobed areas around the turbines and restoring temporary disturbances caused by taglines associated with the erection of the Phase II wind turbines (see photo 8).

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.

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.

Construction Schedule

Scheduled Activities for Next Week: The anticipated construction activities associated for 3.18.13 through 3.25.13 includes:

- Access Roads – Install low water crossings on Dos Cabezas Road.
- Substation/Switchyard – Phase II grading; substation berm and security fencing.
- O&M Facility – Carport installation and miscellaneous punchlist items.
- Turbine Deliveries – Turbine deliveries throughout the week.
- Turbine Installation – Turbine installation throughout the week.
- 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: • 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/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 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 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	Approved	3.5.13
38	2.22.13	Micro-siting three turbine locations to mitigate geotechnical siting considerations.	Approved	3.5.13

Photographs from Week

	
Photo 1: The delivery of turbine components associated with Phase II continued throughout this reporting period. Flaggers and traffic control were utilized during the delivery of turbine components.	**Photo 2:** Turbine erection activities continued throughout the reporting period. Construction crews utilize large cranes to lift the rotor and blade for assembly with the nacelle.
	
Photo 3: Cranes were utilized to attach the turbine base section with the concrete foundation.	**Photo 4**: Work activities continue for the Phase II berm and associated flood control measures. Crews were observed utilizing shotcrete to secure slopes associated with the substation berm.

	
Photo 5: Water trucks were observed throughout the reporting period watering down turbine access roads in accordance with MM-Air-1.	**Photo 6:** A source for firefighting water has been put in place at the O&M facility in accordance with MM-FF-1.
	
Photo 7: In accordance with MM-Wild-1a a biological monitor is observed completing compliance inspections during clearing, grubbing, and grading.	**Photo 8**: In accordance with MM-Veg-2b, a habitat restoration specialist restores contours associated with disturbances that occurred during tag line work as authorized by BLM in Variance 016.