



## BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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**Project:** Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

### Weekly Project Update

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**Reporting Period:** 4.1.13 through 4.7.13

### Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures (MM) 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 4.1.13 through 4.7.13.

### 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

*Vehicle Track-Out (Dust Control Plan – MM-Air-1)* – In accordance with MM- Air-1, vehicle track-out shall not extend 25 feet or more from an active construction area and all vehicle track-out must be removed by the conclusion of each workday. On 3.28.13 an ECM observed vehicle track-out extending beyond 25 feet from the project construction entrance/exit on CA-98. The vehicle track-out was generated by vehicles exiting the project site without driving over the rumble plates and rock apron that have been installed to remove vehicle debris. This observation was immediately reported to the construction contractor. The construction contractor was observed sweeping CA-98 to remove all debris and placing cones along the project site entrance/exit to ensure that vehicles exiting the project site travel over the rumble plates and rock apron (see photo 1). In addition, the construction contractor has assigned

personnel to monitor and clean vehicle track-out and reminded all construction crew members to use the rumble plates and rock apron when exiting the project site.

### **Construction Activities**

Construction activities consisted of building the berm for the Phase II substation (see photo 2), erecting wind turbines associated with Phase II (see photo 3), weed abatement activities, and reclamation activities associated with turbine access roads and the Laydown Yard.

### **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 (ESAs) remained intact. Furthermore, archeological monitors ensured that construction crews stayed clear of all ESAs during the erection of turbines associated with Phase II and ongoing reclamation/revegetation activities.

ECM's observed placement of secondary containment at transformers adjacent to each wind turbine base in accordance with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) MM-Water-9 (see photo 4).

In accordance with MM-Veg-3, ECM's observed jurisdictional drainages delineated with stakes and flags to avoid potential impacts from construction related activities (see photo 5).

Crews were observed implementing the Habitat Revegetation Plan at wind turbine pad sites, turbine access roads, and at the Laydown Yard in accordance with MM-Veg-2b. Temporary work spaces were observed being decompacted and topsoil that had been salvaged during initial ground was placed within the temporary work limits (see photo 6).

During this reporting period, construction crews were observed constructing a low water crossing on Dos Cabezas road. The low water crossing was being installed to comply with flood protection and design standards as specified by Imperial County (see photo 7).

Water wagons and water trucks were routinely observed watering down areas of active construction and restoration activities to ensure dust emissions were minimized in accordance with the dust control plan (MM-Air-1) (see photo 8).

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 4.8.13 through 4.14.13 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.
- Collection, Trenching Cables – Circuit energization.
- 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     | <p>Clearing and grading of the following facilities:</p> <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     | <p>Clearing and grading of the following facilities.</p> <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> <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/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> | 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   | Approved | 3.5.13        |
| 38                   | 2.22.13   | Micro-siting three turbine locations to mitigate geotechnical siting considerations.  | Approved | 3.5.13        |
| 39                   | 3.29.13   | Additional temporary work space for construction activities to address drainage between wind turbines 161 and 168.  | Pending  | N/A           |

## Photographs from Week



**Photo 1:** Construction crews sweep CA-98 to remove all debris and place cones along the project site entrance/exit to ensure that vehicles exiting the project site travel over the rumble plates and rock apron in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-Air-1).



**Photo 2:** Construction activities associated with the berm along the perimeter of the Phase II substation continued during this reporting period.



**Photo 3:** Construction crews utilize large cranes to lift the mid-section of the turbine tower for assembly to the base for the phase II turbines in the southeast portion of the project site.



**Photo 4:** ECM's observed the placement of secondary containment around the perimeter of the transformer at each wind turbine pad site in accordance with the SWPPP.



**Photo 5:** In accordance with MM-Veg-3, jurisdictional drainages are delineated with stakes and flags.



**Photo 6:** In accordance with MM-Veg-2b, crews place topsoil salvaged during initial ground disturbance within the temporary disturbance limits.



**Photo 7:** Construction crews construct a low water crossing on Dos Cabezas road.



**Photo 8:** Water trucks are utilized to water down construction activities in accordance with MM-Air-1.