



BLM Authorized Officer Weekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 5.13.13 through 5.19.13

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 5.13.13 through 5.19.13.

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

Wind Turbine Blade Incident– During the evening of Wednesday, May 15th a rotor blade from turbine #156 fell to the ground landing near the turbine base. The lead biological and archaeological monitors surveyed the area within and outside of the approved project limits and determined that there were no damages to sensitive environmental resources as the result of this incident. As an exercise of caution, OE LLC suspended operations of all 112 wind turbines pending further inspection and investigation.

On Friday, May 17th the blade was cut into segments by construction crews and transported to the Laydown Yard using tractor trailers under the supervision of the lead biological and cultural monitors (see photo 1) as approved by the BLM. In addition, all debris from the blade was cleared and the disturbed desert surface was raked by the lead biological monitor to return the disturbance areas to pre-disturbance conditions in accordance with MM-Veg-1a.

On Friday, May 24th the BLM issued a Notice of Temporary Suspension of Operations pursuant to 43 CFR 2807.16 as a safeguard to ensure the suspension of turbine operations (click [here](#) to view Notice of Temporary Suspension). Suspension will remain in effect until the BLM is satisfied that the terms of the suspension have been met.

Construction Activities

Construction activities consisted of paving Dos Cabezas Road, finalizing the berm for the Phase II substation (see photo 2) and constructing an asphalt access road, reclamation activities associated with turbine pad sites, access roads, and the southeast portion of the Laydown Yard, installation of access control gates and signs, and the demobilization of equipment and materials (see photo 3).

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 through #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 ongoing reclamation/revegetation activities.

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 construction crew members picking up trash in accordance with the Raven Control Plan MM-Wild-1j (see photo 4) and secondary containment under portable sanitary facilities in accordance with best management practices identified in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) MM-Water-9.

Construction activities were observed being completed in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-AIR-1) throughout the reporting period. Water wagons and water trucks were

routinely observed watering down active construction areas and frequently used dirt access roads (see photo 5).

Construction activities related to site restoration continued this week, including re-vegetation activities at turbine pad sites and along access roads in accordance with Mitigation Measure Veg-2b and the associated Habitat Restoration/Revegetation Plan (HRRP). Re-vegetation activities included de-compacting and replacing topsoil in areas where construction activities are complete (see photo 6) and installing vertical mulch in temporary work areas to help discourage access into reclaimed/revegetated areas and reduce wind speed at ground level (see photo 7). In accordance with Section 4.3.5 of the HRRP, a total of 250 ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) were salvaged prior to ground disturbance and maintained in an off-site nursery. During this reporting period, ECM's observed the Habitat Restoration Specialist directing construction crews to replant live Ocotillo in accordance with section 4.3.5 of the HRRP (see photo 8).

Construction crews finalized the installation of access control gates and informational signage to manage unauthorized access to turbine pad locations in accordance with the Access Control Plan (MM-CUL-11) during this 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 5.20.13 through 5.27.13 includes:

- Access Roads – No activities planned.
- Substation/Switchyard – Grading and gravel preparation.
- O&M Facility – Final punch-list items.
- Reclamation – Ocotillo transplant throughout the entire project site.
- Final Demobilization – Ship out materials and equipment.

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	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.	Approved	4.12.13

Photographs from Week



Photo 1: The lead biological and cultural monitor observe construction crews removing a portion of the blade that fell from the wind turbine.



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 continue to demobilize vehicles and equipment from the right-of-way.



Photo 4: ECMs observed a construction crew member picking up trash in accordance with the Raven Control Plan (MM-Wild-1j).



Photo 5: Construction crews water down access roads to prevent fugitive dust in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-Air-1).



Photo 6: ECM's continued to observe reclamation activities such as soil de-compaction associated with post-construction disturbance areas within the approved work limits.



Photo 7: In accordance with Section 4.5.9 of the HRRP, vertical mulch is placed in temporary work areas to reduce wind speed at ground level.



Photo 8: The Habitat Restoration Specialist observed construction crews replanting live ocotillo in accordance with section 4.3.5 of the HRRP.