



BLM Authorized Officer Biweekly Report

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Project: Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

Weekly Project Update

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Reporting Period: 7.8.13 through 7.21.13

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. This biweekly report covers construction activities for the reporting period of 7.8.13 through 7.21.13.

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

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

Construction Activities

As identified in Weekly Report #60, the BLM issued a Notice of Temporary Suspension of Operation on May 24, 2013 in response to the turbine blade that fell to the ground on May 15, 2013. The BLM issued the Notice of Temporary Suspension of Operations as a safeguard to

ensure that suspension of turbine operations remains in effect until such time as an individual turbine or group of turbines are authorized by the BLM to return to commercial operations.

On June 28, 2013, the BLM issued a Process for Returning Turbines to Service in response to a request submitted by OE LLC to remove the Temporary Suspension of Operation issued by BLM on May 24, 2013. As part of the Process for Returning Turbines to Service, OE LLC along with Siemens are working together to identify by turbine, which blades will need to be replaced, repaired, and/or upgraded. OE LLC must file a written request to the BLM with Siemens certified inspection documentation for permission to resume commercial operation of each individual turbine. After BLM reviews the request and provides authorization, the turbine may resume commercial operation.

OE LLC has submitted requests to the BLM to resume operations of individual wind turbines as required in the BLM approved Process for Returning Turbines to Service. 42 of the requests to return turbines to commercial operations have been granted by the BLM.

All areas where blades require replacement will require re-disturbance. Re-disturbance is located within temporary impact areas and will be restored in accordance with the approved Habitat Revegetation Plan and Mitigation Measure Veg-2b. On Tuesday, July 16, 2013 the BLM approved the re-disturbance plan and OE LLC began grading the re-disturbance areas on July 18, 2013 as approved by BLM.

Compliance

ECMs conducted site inspections of the active construction areas, which consisted of re-disturbance of revegetation areas associated with the blade replacement 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.

OE 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.

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 biological monitors and authorized Flat Tail Horned Lizard (FTHL) monitors present where ground disturbance occurred within FTHL habitat. During this reporting period, biological monitors were observed ensuring all work activities were being completed within the approved work limits in accordance with Mitigation Measure Wild-1b (see photos 1 and 2).

Water trucks were observed pre-watering re-disturbance areas in order to minimize dust in accordance with the Dust Control Plan and MM Air-1 and water accessing roads (see photo 3).

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared for the Ocotillo Wind Project in accordance with the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. The SWPPP prepared for the project includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect storm water runoff. A significant rain event occurred on July 21, 2013, which produced a flash flood. The BMP's identified in the SWPPP are designed to meet the General Construction Permit requirements, which include an equivalent rainfall under the 10 year 24-hour storm event. The rain event that occurred on July 21, 2013 resulted in a flash flood that exceeded the equivalent rainfall where BMP's would be effective as defined in the General Construction Permit (see photo 4). Following rain events, OE LLC is required to complete repairs to access roads within the approved work limits and repairing BMP's as needed.

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: Construction activities anticipated for the upcoming two weeks consist of re-disturbance of temporary work spaces for wind turbine blade deliveries and mobilizing cranes to be utilized for wind turbine blade assembly.

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"> • 12-acre temporary laydown yard • 30-acre substation/switchyard • Buried Site Sensitivity Testing <p>Temporary and permanent access road/collection corridors and permanent turbine area for 71 turbines.</p> <p>Performance of all required geotechnical studies within the Project site with access along planned access road corridors.</p> <p>Structure installation at the SDG&E Energy switchyard.</p>	Yes
2	6.27.12	<p>Clearing and grading of the following facilities:</p> <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 <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&M building, biological observation tower, control buildings at substation/switchyard.</p> <p>Structure installation at the SDG&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 ROD.	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: Staking is placed identifying the approved work limits and biological monitors are present to ensure all construction activities are completed within the approved work limits per MM-Wild-1d.



Photo 2: A belly scraper preparing the work area for blade replacement activities. All construction activities were completed within the approved work limits during this reporting period.



Photo 3: A water truck is utilized to pre-water a wind turbine foundation pad prior to re-disturbance activities to minimize dust emissions in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-AIR-1).



Photo 4: Wind Turbine Pad Site #128 following the rain event on July 21, 2013. OE LLC is anticipated to complete repair of access roads and BMP's during the next reporting period.