



## **BLM Authorized Officer Biweekly Report**

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**Project:** Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project

### **Weekly Project Update**

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**Reporting Period:** 7.22.13 through 8.4.13

### **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 7.22.13 through 8.4.13.

### **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

*WECO Route Safety* – Construction crews were observed completing the reinforcement of gate posts associated with the access control gates at points of ingress/egress to the wind turbine pad sites during this reporting period. The access control gates are required in accordance with MM-CUL-11. On 7.25.13 the BLM identified concerns with the reinforcement of the gate posts. The gate posts had been removed and were being staged along WECO routes. Upon notification being provided to the construction crews by the BLM, gate materials that were staged along WECO routes were removed to ensure no users along WECO routes would be impacted from the construction activities.

## **Construction Activities**

As identified in Weekly Report #61, ongoing construction activities along the right-of-way consist of repairing wind turbine blades via use of cranes (see photo 1). In addition to the wind turbine blade replacement work, crews were observed reinforcing gate posts associated with the access control gates (see photo 2).

## **Compliance**

ECMs conducted daily site observations that 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.

Construction crew members were observed implementing good site management practices in accordance with Section 4.3.4 of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and MM-HYD-9. Containment bins were observed beneath portable toilets and construction equipment staged along the right-of-way (see photo 3). Water trucks were also observed watering down access roads to minimize dust in accordance with the Dust Control Plan and MM Air-1 (see photo 4).

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 blade replacement activities and reinforcing access control gates.

### 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>• Buried Site Sensitivity Testing</li> </ul> <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&amp;E Energy switchyard.</p>   | 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 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:** Construction crews utilize cranes to replace a wind turbine blade at Wind Turbine #90. All construction activities were completed within the approved work limits.



**Photo 2:** Crews reinforce access control gates located at the entrances to wind turbine pad sites. The access control gates are required in accordance with the Access Control Plan approved by the BLM (MM-CUL-11).



**Photo 3:** Containment bins are placed beneath construction equipment to minimize the potential for equipment fluids to be discharged onto the ground in accordance with the SWPPP (MM-HYD-9).



**Photo 4:** Water trucks are being utilized along access roads to minimize dust emissions in accordance with the Dust Control Plan (MM-AIR-1).