



Screening Plan Operation and Maintenance Facility

674 - Ocotillo Express LLC

Ocotillo, CA

For submittal to:
BLM / Imperial County

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Blattner Energy, Inc. (BEI) is knowledgeable of requirements listed in the Visual Resource Mitigation Measure VR-4. BEI, on behalf of Ocotillo Express LLC, is hereby providing the County of Imperial and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) an overview of how the intent of Mitigation Measure (MM)-VR-4 will be implemented during construction and operation of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) facility.

MM No. VR-4 Screening Plan

The project Applicant shall provide a Screening Plan for screening vegetation, walls, and fences that reduces visibility of ancillary facilities and helps the facility blend in with the landscape. The use of berms to facilitate project screening may also be incorporated into the Screening Plan. The project applicant shall submit the Plan to the appropriate land use jurisdiction agency for review and approval at least 90 days prior to installing the landscape screening. If the appropriate land use jurisdiction agency notifies the project applicant that revisions to the Screening Plan are needed before the Plan can be approved, the project Applicant shall submit a revised Screening Plan within 30 days of receiving that notification.

INTRODUCTION

The Screening Plan (Plan) outlines measures to be taken by BEI and OE LLC to reduce the potential visual impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Project. Specifically, this Plan has been prepared to support compliance with Mitigation Measure (MM) VR-4). This Plan addresses the use of screening components that will reduce visibility and contrast of Operation and Maintenance facilities and will minimize contrast with the surrounding landscape setting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ocotillo Express Wind Project consists of installing 112 Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbine generators (WTG). The project is located approximately 3 miles north / northwest of Ocotillo, CA in Imperial County. The main construction activities on this project will include the following: building project roads, digging foundations, massive foundation concrete pours, trenching of electrical system, and installation of wind turbine generators. In addition to these temporary construction activities, an electrical substation and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building will also be constructed. The electrical substation and O&M building will result in permanent structures on the project site.

OPERATION AND MAINTENENCE FACILITY

The O&M facility is located in an area surrounded by natural desert landscape. In order to minimize visual contrast between the natural desert landscape and the O&M facility, the following components have been incorporated into the project design.

Fencing: The O&M facility will be surrounded by chain-link fencing on all sides per the specifications identified in Attachment A1. The fence will consist of an eight foot high chain link fence with 1 foot of barbwire along the top of the fence. The fence will be a standard grey finish that will include a finish that will dull over time. The O&M facility is located approximately 1,600 feet south of County Road S2. In order to screen O&M components from motorists passing along County Road S2, fence slats will be installed along the perimeter of the northern, eastern and southern limits of the laydown yard. The slats will be colored with a desert tan treatment to blend with the desert landscape.

Landscaping: Landscaping will be incorporated into the final design along the limits of the parking lot area adjacent to the Operation Building and Warehouse Building. The landscaping will meet Imperial County standards, which consist of a 10% coverage of native vegetative plantings. The landscaping will break-up vertical elements associated with the O&M facility and will provide a transition from the natural desert landscape.

Earth Berm: An earth berm will be constructed along the perimeter of all structures and the project limits. The earth berm will placed on top of a concrete retaining wall at a 3:1 slope for a distance of teen feet from the edge of O&M structures (see Attachment A2). The earth berm will provide a transition from the natural desert landscape to the O&M buildings and will screen lower components consisting of the building foundations.

The combination of the fencing materials, landscaping and earth berm reduces the visibility of O&M facilities and helps the facility blend in with the natural desert landscape in accordance with MM-VR-4.