

Quartzsite Solar Energy Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: This concentrated solar power project will employ a field of mirrors that will focus the sun's energy on a collector at the top of a tower. The concentrated energy will be used to power a steam turbine.



VITALS

Location: La Paz County, Arizona, about 10 miles north of the Town of Quartzsite

Technology: Concentrating Solar Power with energy storage capability

Electricity production capacity: 100 megawatts

Company: Quartzsite Solar Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of Solar Reserve, LLC (Santa Monica, CA)

BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 30,000 homes.
- ✓ Encompass a project footprint of 1,675 acres of BLM-managed land.
- ✓ Generate an economic stimulus in the form of an estimated \$15.7 million in sales tax payments during the construction period. In addition, the spending by construction workers is anticipated to add up to \$46.3 million to the local and regional economy. During operation, spending by permanent employees is expected to add up to \$2 million a year to the local and regional economies.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In September 2011, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to providing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis and public review for renewable energy projects.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM works closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community, and other interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects. For the Quartzsite Solar Energy Project, this process resulted in:

- ✓ The use of dry-cooling technology, which is costlier and less efficient, but requires a fraction of the water required for wet-cooling.
- ✓ Mitigation to enhance future objectives for management of species and habitat.

- ✓ Use of solar energy means that there will be a potential reduction of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide that would have been emitted by burning fossil fuels to generate an equivalent amount of electricity.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Department of the Interior surpassed the President's goal of authorizing 10,000 MW of renewable energy projects on public lands by the end of 2012. The Quartzsite Solar project was identified in 2012 as a nationally significant infrastructure project for priority processing. Executive Order 13604 ("Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects," signed by the President on March 22, 2012) facilitates the permitting process for nationally significant infrastructure projects, including renewable energy projects. The Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates private utilities, has required 15 percent of energy be from renewable sources by 2025. Likewise, the State of California has a 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard to be in place by 2020. The Quartzsite Solar Energy Project will strengthen the Department's and the western states' renewable energy portfolios.