

Question Report- Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/9/2021

Question Details		
#	Question	Answer(s)
1	I don't see a mute button, are we muted?	Participants are muted during the meeting. During public input, speakers will be unmuted to provide their verbal comment.
2	Thanks	You are welcome.
3	Hello, other people are having log in issues. You need to make this a bit easier to join	I am sorry to hear that some people are having login issues. They can contact Victoria Gaston at 864-901-3832 for assistance.
4	Who receives the power from this project	live answered
5	Have you determined how many Mojave yuccas are on the site? It is 93,000 for Yellow Pine	live answered
6	How many Joshua trees are found on the project?	live answered
7	What is the proposal for getting water for the project?	live answered
8	Is there a current route inventory for the land and a travel management plan on place for the land?	live answered
9	Would a water pipeline across BLM land need additional NEPA review?	live answered
10	In your environmental impact research did you take all solar site in account before drafting one?	Currently, BLM is in the early stages of the application review. The BLM has made no determination at this time, whether the project will move forward for processing. The input received from the public during the public comment period is critical to help inform the BLM's decision on whether the application will be processed further with the initiation of the NEPA process.
11	To follow up on Kevin's question, what are they going to do with the Yuccas?	live answered
12	Without a route inventory how will BLM understand the impacts to recreation?	The BLM is currently requesting information about potential impacts to public access and recreation within and adjacent to the proposed site. Helpful information to submit at this time could include local knowledge of trails and routes used within the project area and impacts to the recreational experience on the trails. If the project receives a favorable Variance Determination and continues to be processed, the specific impacts from the proposed solar project to recreation use and trails within and adjacent to the proposed project would be analyzed during the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. Additionally, applicable design features required by the Solar PEIS include methods to minimize access and recreation conflicts.
13	Why is the chat disabled?	BLM is committed to an accessible public meeting experience. To ensure this, SNDO follows a standard process and agenda for virtual meetings. Meetings are recorded and posted with closed captions. Input during public comment is transcribed and included as part of the public comment period. Questions are taken using the Zoom Q&A feature and are answered by a mix of typing some answers which all participants can see as well verbally answering some questions which participants can hear. Questions are answered in both formats to ensure as many questions as possible are answered during the meeting time. Zoom Q&A and chat features are 508 and WCAG compliant and video of meeting is closed captioned. Phone in options are available and instructions are included specifically for those using that functionality to provide comment. A phone number is provided on the news release and website to ask questions outside meeting times. Questions and comments may also be emailed and mailed until the December 22, 2021 deadline on
14	Has Candela built similar projects in NV? If so, what management practices have been adopted in other projects to preserve recreation access and recognized trails and routes?	live answered
15	When and how was the site evaluated for Joshua trees? They are there, just not in high numbers	Belt transects were distributed randomly throughout the site and numbers of cacti and yucca were extrapolated from the data from the belt transects. Joshua trees were noted as an observed species in the preliminary botanical report but were not captured in the belt transects.
16	Can I send in my photos and GPS locations to BLM of the many Joshua trees I have found on what I think is the Rough Hat Clark project site?	live answered
17	It seems this and other solar projects are being rushed or getting much quicker attention than other land use concerns, is there a reason for this?	The BLM has identified the Pahrump Valley Projects has a high priority for application processing over other renewable energy applications in the district. For the Rough Hat Clark project, we are in the application review process that includes the Variance process. The BLM will review the applications in accordance with all laws, regulations and policies, including robust public engagement.
18	Why doesn't the BLM try to have the solar energy projects use the SEZs which are "suited to solar development" before allowing variance applications?	live answered
19	Are all of the solar PEIS (?) lands already in process and going forward? Why the need to expand into lands that were not "most suitable"?	live answered
20	What are the plans to mitigate impacts to the Mojave desert tortoise?	live answered
21	Why was Pahrump Valley identified as low conflict? If you identify high conflicts now during the public comment processes, will you revise this designation?	live answered
22	Why aren't preliminary plans for the mitigation of the existing conditions, plants, animals required in this application. So you approve it and then find the mitigations, is that the process?	live answered
23	Prior that's the word. Thanks W	You are welcome.
24	I don't have a comment tonight. Thanks	Thanks for letting us know.
25	Kevin Emmerich's computer is having problems, so he will comment on Laura Cunningham's computer—I will raise hand	Thank you.

26	This computer process you are using is very difficult to use for public comment, I think many people are having technical problems.	We are sorry to hear that people are having technical problems. Please share this contact information with anyone having issues - For Zoom technical issues, call Victoria Gaston at 864-901-3832.
27	Where is the best place to find the documentation that is required for the variance application?	Here is that link again: The full list of variance factors can be found at the following website: https://blmsolar.anl.gov/variance/process/factors/
28	I have that link, but that just outlines the factors that require documentation. Where is the actual documentation?	At this point, the documentation to support the Variance request is still being compiled. Once the information is compiled (including the public input), it will be presented to the State Director. The State Director, with concurrence from the Director, will make the Variance determination on whether to continue processing the application.
29	Thank you. It was an interesting format.	Thanks for the feedback.
30	For example, this is a factor: Documentation that the proposed project is in an area with low or comparatively low resource conflicts and where conflicts can be resolved. This factor implies that some form of documentation will be produced. Is the documentation publicly available?	The documentation is being compiled and is not yet in a final form that is publicly available. Once the Variance Report is complete, including supporting documentation, it can be made publicly available.
31	Is the Trout Canyon Substation part of the Variance Process?	The Trout Canyon Substation was approved as part of the Yellow Pine Solar project.
32	The prioritization process allows BLM to reverse a decision on priority status. New information on translocated tortoise mortality by badgers on the Yellow Pine Solar Project indicates drought may be having significant impacts to tortoise populations and translocation efforts, so will the BLM priority status of this project be re-evaluated?	The BLM made the priority decision and then continued processing the application. We are now considering the application as part of the application evaluation, which will include the Variance process. The BLM does not plan to revisit the prioritization decision. The next step in the process will be to compile information, in accordance with the regulations and Variance process, and present the Report to the State Director for a determination on whether to continue processing or deny the application.
33	Which Native American tribes will be consulted and how will the BLM reach out to them? Which representatives of each tribe will be consulted?	The BLM has initiated government-to-government consultation with Tribes for this project. The Tribes include: 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, and Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. This has included formal correspondence, meetings, and site visits with tribal members.