

COPPER RAYS SOLAR PROJECT

INPUT SUMMARY REPORT



Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada District Office
Pahrump Field Office
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

February 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Copper Rays Solar, LLC (Applicant) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pahrump Field Office for a right-of-way grant in Nye County, Nevada to provide the necessary land for the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a proposed solar facility and interconnection to the regional transmission system, known as the Copper Rays Solar Project (Project). The Project would total up to 700 megawatts (MW) of solar energy generation, using photovoltaic (PV) technology and incorporating energy storage. The proposed Project solar generating facility would be constructed on approximately 5,127 acres of BLM-managed public land located in the Pahrump Valley in Nye County immediately adjacent to the county line. These lands are southeast of the Town of Pahrump and approximately 40 miles west of Las Vegas.

The right-of-way regulations provide direction on solar and wind energy development applications and state information provided by the applicant and other parties will be utilized when evaluating the appropriateness of an application. As part of the evaluation, the BLM scheduled public information forums and a public input period for the Project to provide opportunities for public outreach and input. Information gathered during the public input period will inform the BLM determination on whether to continue to process, or to deny, the right-of-way application (application evaluation determination). The application evaluation determination is separate and comes before the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

In 2012, the BLM and the United States Department of Energy issued the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS) in six Southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.) The comprehensive Solar PEIS facilitated the permitting of solar energy development projects on federal public land in a more efficient, standardized, and environmentally responsible manner. The Project was considered a “pending” application under the Solar PEIS as it was submitted prior to publication of the Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS. Because of this, the application is not subject to any decisions adopted by the Solar PEIS Record of Decision, including the variance process.

The BLM considers right-of-way applications for utility-scale solar energy development on a case-by-case basis based on environmental considerations; coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and tribes; and public outreach. Information gathered during the public input period will inform the BLM determination on whether to continue to process, or to deny, the right-of-way application (application evaluation determination). More information about the application evaluation process is included on the website: https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-11/2021_1118_Solar%20Application%20Eval%20Process_Fact%20Sheet.pdf

The purpose of this report is to summarize input provided by individuals, organizations, tribes, and agencies during the public input period for the Project. This report also describes methods used for soliciting input.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is located approximately 40 miles west of Las Vegas and southeast of the Town of Pahrump. The Project would interconnect at the existing Gamebird Substation, located approximately 4 miles north of the Project site and southeast of Pahrump, Nevada. All Project facilities would be located on lands administered by the BLM. The solar fields and associated facilities would be in Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 18, 23, 24, 26, 25, 35 and 36, Township 21 South; Sections 1 and 2, Township 22 South; Range 55 East; Mount Diablo Principal Meridian. Part of the associated generation interconnection transmission (gen-tie) line would also be located in Sections 34 and 35; Township 20 South; Range 55 East; Mount Diablo Principal Meridian.

The proposed Project would include solar PV modules that convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity that would be collected and converted to alternating current (AC) electricity through a system of inverters. Medium voltage transformers would step up the AC electricity to 34.5 kilovolt (kV) and the collected energy would be delivered to the onsite substation; there the electricity would be stepped up with high voltage transformers to 230 kV. The Project would interconnect from the onsite substation via a new 230 kV gen-tie line, which would run northwest of the Project, parallel with State route (SR) 160, into the existing Gamebird Substation. Construction is estimated to take approximately 72 months. Substation and gen-tie construction would occur in time with construction of the solar arrays.

Regional access to the Project for component deliveries and worker access would be provided from SR 160 located adjacent to the northeastern corner of the site. Project-related roads for direct access to the site include the Project access way, perimeter road, and solar field access ways as described in the *Plan of Development*. Water is not required for PV generation; however, it would be required for Project construction and operations. The Project would require water during construction primarily for dust control as well as some minor consumptive use for concrete and other needs. Water consumption during operation would be relatively low and primarily for potable uses by site personnel and periodic washing of panels. The most probable source of construction and permanent operational water for the Project are current holders of water rights in the basin.

After the Project's useful life, the Project would be decommissioned, and existing facilities and equipment would be removed. Decommissioning would involve removal of the solar arrays and other facilities with some buried components potentially remaining in place. Following decommissioning, the solar site would be reclaimed and restored according to applicable regulations at the time.

2.0 NOTIFICATION AND SOLICITATION OF INPUT

During the public input period, the BLM informed the public, landowners, federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, and interested stakeholders about the proposed Project and solicited their input. The BLM announced the Project and the initiation of the public input process, held public information forums, and invited the public to comment and ask questions. The public information forums were publicized on the Project website and BLM social media accounts, in letters mailed to interested stakeholders, and through public notices/news releases. These outreach and notification activities are described in more detail in the following subsections.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

The BLM sent letters to the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Timbisha Shoshone, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and Colorado River Indian Tribes on March 31, 2021, to assess initial interest on the Project and invite the tribes to initiate formal government-to-government consultation. The Project was presented, along with the other proposed solar projects in the Pahrump Valley, at a government-to-government consultation meeting with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe on February 19, 2021, and input was invited. The BLM presented Project information at government-to-government consultation meetings with the Moapa Band of Paiutes on March 3, April 7, November 3, and December 1, 2021, and January 5, 2022. Follow-up Project information was provided to the Tribe. The BLM also sent follow-up emails to these Tribes on April 27, 2021. Based on interest, the BLM conducted field visits for the proposed Project area on May 26, 2021, and June 4, 2021, with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and the Timbisha Shoshone, respectively. Follow-up meetings were conducted with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians on May 6 and July 30, 2021. The BLM emailed the Tribes on November 30, 2021, to invite them to attend an interagency meeting on December 2, 2021, as an opportunity to learn more information about the proposed solar projects.

Summary of Tribal Input

- Request for visual analysis and for the Tribes to be included in identification of key observation points.
- Potential long-term impacts of the proposed solar Project.
- Concern about impact on the cultural landscape.
- Interest in Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT), which is in the vicinity of the Project.

Tribal Consultation for the Project is ongoing.

PROJECT WEBSITE

A press release by the BLM on November 22, 2021. The press release included information about the proposed Project and the solar application evaluation process; registration information for the virtual public information forums; instructions for providing written input; and contact phone numbers—one for the media and the other for general questions. After the two virtual public information forums, the website was updated to include links to video recordings of the forums in addition to the lists of questions and answers from each of the forums. The website will remain active for the duration of the application evaluation process and can be accessed at www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-hold-virtual-public-information-forums-copper-rays-solar.

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUMS

Notice of the virtual public information forums for the Project was distributed via postcards, emails, and BLM social media accounts. Postcards were sent by the BLM to government agencies, elected officials, property owners near the proposed Project, various non-governmental organizations, tribes, individual

members of the public, and other interested stakeholders. The postcards briefly explained the Project, identified the application evaluation, announced the virtual public information forums, and described how to access additional information. Included on the postcard was a map displaying the Project location. Over 4,700 postcards were mailed on November 22, 2021. The postcard can be found in **Appendix A**. In addition to postcards, notifications of the virtual public information forums were distributed via email to interested publics, agencies, and tribes.

METHODS FOR SUBMITTING INPUT

The BLM publicized that public input would be accepted until January 7, 2022, and encouraged interested parties to submit input through a variety of methods:

- Written input could be submitted via email to BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov.
- Letters could be mailed to BLM SNDO, Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130.
- Input could be provided verbally at the virtual public information forums. A link to the recording for each virtual public information forum can be found below:
<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-12/Copper%20Rays%20Public%20Info%20Forum%20Recordings%202012-21.pdf>

3.0 VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUMS

The BLM hosted two virtual public information forums using the Zoom platform. These meetings provided a description of the application evaluation process, information on the proposed Project, and the opportunity to ask questions and provide public input. The two virtual public information forums were held at the times listed below.

Meeting Date / Time		
December 15, 2021 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST	65	36
December 16, 2021 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST	46	23

Registration for the virtual public information forums opened November 22, 2021 and was announced via the press release and postcard. Registration was required in order to attend the meeting and participants were able to register at any time, including during the forum. The virtual public information forums were open for participation for the duration of the announced time from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST. Those without access to a computer were still able to register and participate via phone. Those who were not able to join the live forum could access a recording of the meeting in addition to the lists of questions and answers from each of the forums on the Project website.

PRESENTATION

A formal presentation was included as part of the forum. The presentation opened with a welcome and overview by Kenda Pollio, a consultant for the BLM. The Field Manager, Nicholas Pay, provided introductions for the meeting. Then the Project Manager, Whitney Wirthlin, provided information about the proposed Project and application evaluation process. The presentation included maps and information about the Project location; descriptions of the major Project components; information about the application evaluation process; and resources for additional information.

After the formal presentation, Kenda Pollio facilitated the live question and answer section with Whitney Wirthlin before moving into the verbal input portion and then a closeout by Nicholas Pay. Throughout the meeting, participants were reminded that the public input period would close on January 7, 2022, and that additional comments could be sent in via email or mail. Additional information about the question and answer and verbal input portions of the virtual public information forums is provided below.

The PowerPoint presentation provided a visual aid for the virtual public information forums and is provided in **Appendix B**. As previously mentioned, the entirety of each virtual public information forum was recorded and posted to the Project website.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Written questions could be submitted throughout the meeting using the online platform's Q&A feature. Questions were either responded to in writing or answered verbally by the Project Manager, Whitney Wirthlin. A total of 106 questions were asked and answered over the two nights of virtual public information forums, 54 on the first forum and fifty-two on the second forum. Copies of the questions that were asked and answered for each forum are provided in **Appendix C**.

VERBAL INPUT

Verbal input could be provided during the verbal input portion of the virtual public information forums. Verbal input was accepted in the order of participant registration online. Input was limited to two minutes to ensure that every participant had a chance to provide input. After going through the registrants who signed up before the meeting to provide input, verbal input was opened to anyone who had not yet spoken. After that, the verbal input portion was opened to any additional input, and participants were able to provide as much input as the remaining time in the virtual public information forums allowed.

Input and questions were not responded to verbally; however, participants were encouraged to continue submitting their questions in writing using the aforementioned Q&A feature. A total of 40 verbal comments were provided over the two forums, 18 on the first forum and twenty-two on the second forum. A summary of the input provided each forum is included **Appendix D**.

A link to the recording for each virtual public information forum, which include the verbal public input portion, is below: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-12/Copper%20Rays%20Public%20Info%20Forum%20Recordings%2012-21.pdf>

AGENCY INPUT

The BLM conducted a meeting for federal, state, local governments, and Tribes to provide information on multiple proposed solar projects in the Pahrump Valley, including the Copper Rays Solar Project, and to gather agency input. The virtual meeting was held on December 2, 2021, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am PST. The virtual meeting was attended by 25 individuals from 16 agencies, including:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Chemehuevi Cultural Center
- Clark County
- Clark County Desert Conservation Program
- National Park Service
- Nellis Air Force Base
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- Nevada Division of State Lands
- Nye County
- Nye County Planning
- Pahrump Public Land Advisory Committee
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The agency input period concluded December 17, 2021, and four letters/emails were submitted with agency input on the Project. The agency submissions are included in **Appendix E**.

Summary of Agency Input

- Concerns about potential impacts, including visual impacts, to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, south of the proposed Project area.
- The proposed Project will have minimal impact on military operations conducted in the area.
- There is the potential for Gila monster and western burrowing owls within the Project area; both are BLM Nevada sensitive species.
- If the Project proceeds, the BLM should consider potential impacts from desert tortoise translocation into nearby habitat.
- Request for more information on the proposed Project related to native vegetation species and communities, as well as mitigation for those effects to sensitive biological resources and ecosystems.
- Potential impacts to Mojave yucca, Joshua tree, and cacti, and additional information on how these species would be impacted under the proposal.
- Concerns that reflection from the proposed solar arrays may increase impacts to birds and nighttime migrant species. More information on potential monitoring programs for bird recovery is needed.
- Impacts to climate change from the proposed Project.
- Potential water impacts to the basin from the proposed Project.

- Impacts from the proposed Project to recreation use, including impacts to recreationists and users moving to other surrounding areas, if the Project is constructed.
- Concerns about impacts from fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) generated from the proposed operations to hydrographic attainment areas, specifically Hydrographic Area 212). Impacts to air quality as a result of surface-disturbance activities must be analyzed and mitigated through implementation of water erosion and dust control best management practices and Project design features.

4.0 COMMENT EVALUATION

The public input period began on November 22, 2021 - the date the press release was published. In addition to verbal comments received during the virtual public information forums, there were 68 comment letters/emails received. Each comment document was read to identify key concerns/topics. In some cases, a single comment document contained multiple comments that were identified by resource/concerns/ topic categories. All comments were evaluated, and copies are contained in **Appendix F**.

This report summarizes concerns/topic areas identified from the input received throughout the public input period. For the purposes of this summary, all concerns/topics were given equal weight, regardless of whether they were mentioned once or mentioned several times. This report does not prioritize concerns/topic areas, but it provides tracking for the number of comments each concern/topic category received. The identified topics and areas of concern will be used to guide the application evaluation determination for the Project.

5.0 COMMENT SUMMARY

This section provides a summary of the key concerns/topics identified during the public input period for the Project. The Project received public input in a variety of ways and the public input table below summarizes the topics that were raised.

At the Public Input Forum on December 15, 2021, there were 18 comments. At the Public Input Forum on December 16, 2021, there were twenty-two comments. In addition to comments received during the Public Input Forums, BLM received emails and letters. There were 64 emails and 3 letters received from the public. Therefore, in total, the BLM received a total of 107 public input submissions.

Some of the submissions focused on one subject or topic, while other submissions mentioned several topics. The attached table shows the topics or areas of concern that were included in the submissions received. Each individual mention of a specific topic or area of concern provided in the submissions was included in the table below. There was a total of 391 individual comments included in the 107 public input submissions.

COPPER RAYS SOLAR PROJECT COMMENTS BY TOPIC CATEGORY

Topic Category	Total Comments Submitted	Percentage of Total
Application Evaluation Process		
Public Outreach	4	1.0
Cooperating Agency Relationships/BLM responsibilities	7	1.8
Range of Alternatives/New Proposals	18	4.6
Other Regulations, Policies, Surveys, or Permitting	4	1.0
Monitoring (including Mitigation)	3	0.8
Other Issues, Concerns, Corporate Greed	20	5.1
Public Access/Traffic/New Construction	3	0.8
Recreation		
Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Use	9	2.3
Nonmotorized Recreation/Hiking	8	2.1
Spoiled Desert Views	19	4.9
Access to Public Lands	41	10.5
Cultural and Historical Resources	33	8.4
Wildlife and Vegetation		
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species	67	17.1
Sensitive Vegetation and Soils	61	15.6
Rights-of-Way Concern	4	1.0
Socioeconomics/Property Values	9	2.3
Quality of Life	37	9.5
Air Quality and Climate	14	3.6
Public Health and Safety	14	3.6
Water Resources	16	4.1
Total	391	100

Application Evaluation Process

- From public comments and input received, there was a general tone of opposition to solar projects within the Pahrump Valley area.
- The BLM should add local people, entities, or groups to the list of planning partners and consult with businesses and local entities.
- Questions on how BLM is reviewing the projects in the Pahrump Valley area, reviewing case by case or looking at all the projects together in the area.
- Input submitted suggested the Project should be moved to formally contaminated lands, landfills, brownfields, or mine sites, or placed on private rooftops, parking areas, along highways, warehouses, government buildings, and hotels.
- Questions were submitted in regard to the applicant's country of residence, corporate greed, benefit to current residents.
- The BLM should consider the effects of the proposed Project and the other proposed and authorized solar projects within the Pahrump Valley area.

- The Copper Rays Project prioritization should be re-categorized based on new information, such as desert tortoise surveys, public meetings, local considerations, or other data collection.

Public Access/Traffic/New Construction/Rights-of-Way

- The BLM should provide to the public a plan and cost for new construction of roads, loss of public lands, and expected traffic impacts on rights-of-way.
- The proposed Project boundary overlaps with the proposed Pahrump Bypass route, which is currently undergoing planning and alignment, which may cause conflicts with user ingress and egress.

Recreation/Visual Resources

- The BLM should engage and partner with local knowledge experts in the OHV community, local tourism, and chambers of commerce during this process.
- The BLM needs to consider the loss of area hiking trails, dispersed camping sites, horseback riding, and non-motorized vehicle trails within the proposed Project area, as well as impacts to national park land.
- Concerns about impacts to recreation use, including hiking, biking, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicles, within the proposed Project area. The BLM needs to consider impacts to the tourism economy from impacts to recreation use within the proposed Project area.
- The BLM should complete a travel management plan or full route inventory of the proposed Project area to determine extent of existing trails.
- The BLM needs to consider visual impacts to the area and local communities from the proposed Project solar panels.
- The BLM needs to take into account how the proposed Project will impact the peaceful nature and enjoyment of the proposed Project area by the local communities.
- Concerns were expressed about access being restricted to trails that are currently being used for recreation and business purposes. Access restrictions to trails in the area may impact organized events for trails rides and races, and in turn impact economics of the local communities.

Cultural and Historical Resources

- The BLM needs to ensure adequate tribal consultation and consider impacts to historic and spiritual land.
- The BLM should consider impacts to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
- Concerns that the proposed Project would impact cultural resources within the Project area.

Wildlife and Vegetation

- The BLM should consider the loss of sensitive desert soil crust, deterioration of biologically diverse vegetation such as buckwheat, Mojave Yucca, Joshua trees, Parish club cholla, and other rare plants, including how the potential impacts to Joshua trees would be mitigated. Comments about the removal of vegetation in the area impacting non-native and noxious plant species introduction, carbon-sequestration, and global climate change.
- The BLM should be aware of the prior desert tortoise relocation efforts.

- The BLM should consider the loss of habitat and general harm to all area wildlife, including desert tortoises, kit fox, desert iguana, burrowing owl, bird species, and coyote. The Project proponent needs to resurvey the Project area for desert tortoise based on the conditions in which the previous surveys were completed. New desert tortoise survey needs to occur for the proposed Project area.
- The proposed Project will impact 100,000-year-old biological soil crusts and desert pavement within the area.
- The BLM should consider impacts to bird species from the polarized glare, or lake effect, that solar panels can cause.

Socioeconomics/Property Values

- The BLM should consider the public’s concern about loss of property values.
- Comments expressed concern that the local communities will not benefit from the solar projects which are located very close to homes and residences.
- Comments were received that suggested proposed job creation from the Project will not offset impacts to the environment.

Air Quality and Climate

- The BLM needs to consider impacts from dust pollution, Valley fever and climate change issues. Comments were made on the removal of the desert surface which would result in uncontrollable fugitive dust.
- The BLM needs to consider impacts to temperature in the valley from the construction of solar panels.

Public Health and Safety

- The BLM needs to consider plans for construction traffic around schools and residential neighborhoods to ensure safety in these areas.
- The BLM needs to be forthcoming about possible health risks associated with the Project.

Water Resources

- The BLM should engage and partner with local knowledge experts to ensure water resources are adequate for this Project without it being a detriment to the community of Pahrump and that water resources will not be affected.
- The Project proponent should develop a detailed erosion and sedimentation control plan and a flood rich control plan due to potential storm water impacts that may occur from the Project.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

As part of the solar application evaluation process, the BLM will continue agency coordination and evaluation of the information gathered during the public input period. The BLM will then determine

whether to process or deny the right-of-way application by the Applicant for the Project. If the BLM determines to process the application, then the NEPA process will be initiated which involves NEPA analysis and further public involvement.

The BLM will post documents related to the application evaluation process for the Project at the Project website www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-hold-virtual-public-information-forums-copper-rays-solar.

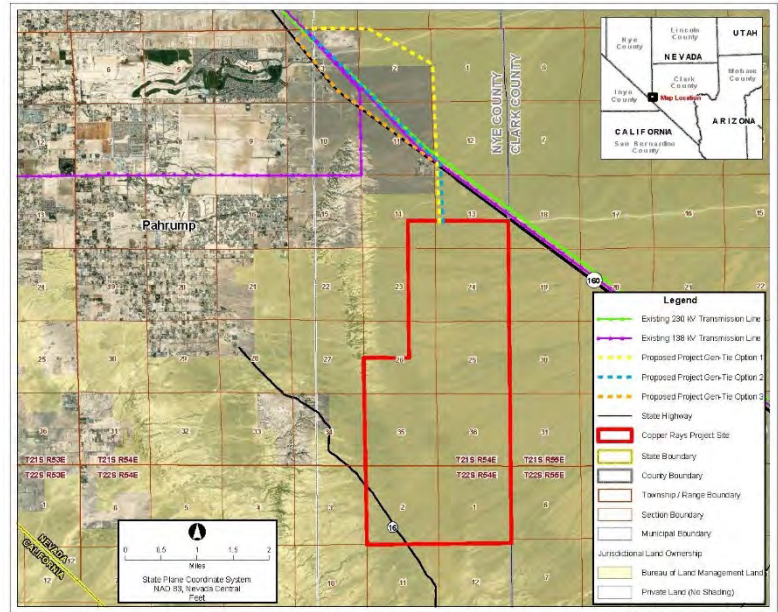
Appendix A - Post Card



NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUMS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Right-of-Way under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act regulations provide direction on solar and wind energy development applications located on BLM-managed lands. The regulations state information provided by the applicant, Federal, State, and local government agencies, tribes, and through public input meetings can be utilized when evaluating the appropriateness of an application.

Copper Rays Solar, LLC is proposing the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of the Copper Rays Solar Project (Project), a photovoltaic solar power project located in Nye County, Nevada. The Project would include 700 MW solar and battery storage facilities on 5,127 acres of federal lands managed by the BLM Pahrump Field Office. Copper Rays Solar, LLC has applied for a right-of-way grant for the Project to provide the necessary land and access for the construction and operation of the proposed solar facility and interconnection to the regional transmission system.



BLM Southern Nevada District Office
Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project
4701 N Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130



As part of the application evaluation process, the BLM will hold virtual public information forums for the Copper Rays Solar Project on December 15 and December 16, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

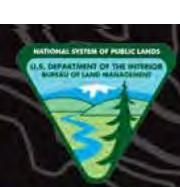
To register for the information forums, please use the following links:

For the December 15, 2021 forum:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xabMfThuS--QU2pNKqKCog
For the December 16, 2021 forum:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vNRxjVzcRMKoBEplrHjgcw

If you have any questions or technical issues trying to register for the information forums, please call 864-901-3832 for assistance. More information on the Project and the virtual forums can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xekXJ>. The information forums will be recorded, and a copy posted at that website for 30 days. The information forum will include brief presentations on the Project and BLM's application evaluation process followed by a question-and-answer portion and a public input period. Public input will be accepted until January 7, 2022.



Appendix B – PowerPoint Presentation-Visual Aid



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Copper Rays Solar Project

Application Evaluation Virtual Public Information Forums





Agenda

- Field Manager Introduction
- Presentation
- Question & Answer Session
- Public Input
- Close out



Introductions

Presenters

- Nicholas Pay, BLM Field Manager
- Whitney Wirthlin, BLM Project Manager
- Kenda Pollio, Principal, KP Environmental, Inc.

Additional Participants

- Steve Leslie, BLM
- Beth Ransel, BLM
- Lara Kobelt, BLM
- Jessica Headen, BLM
- Mary Vinson, BLM
- Dagmar Galvan, BLM
- Kirsten Cannon, BLM



Questions and Input

Tonight's meeting will provide opportunities to ask questions and provide public input

- Question & Answer portion: written questions can be submitted throughout meeting
- Verbal Public Input: after the presentations and Q&A portion

Want to provide input or questions after the meeting?

Input or questions can also be submitted after the meeting, until January 7, 2022, via:

EMAIL: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov

MAIL: BLM Southern Nevada District Office,
Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130



Solar Projects within the Pahrump Valley

BLM Southern Nevada District Office

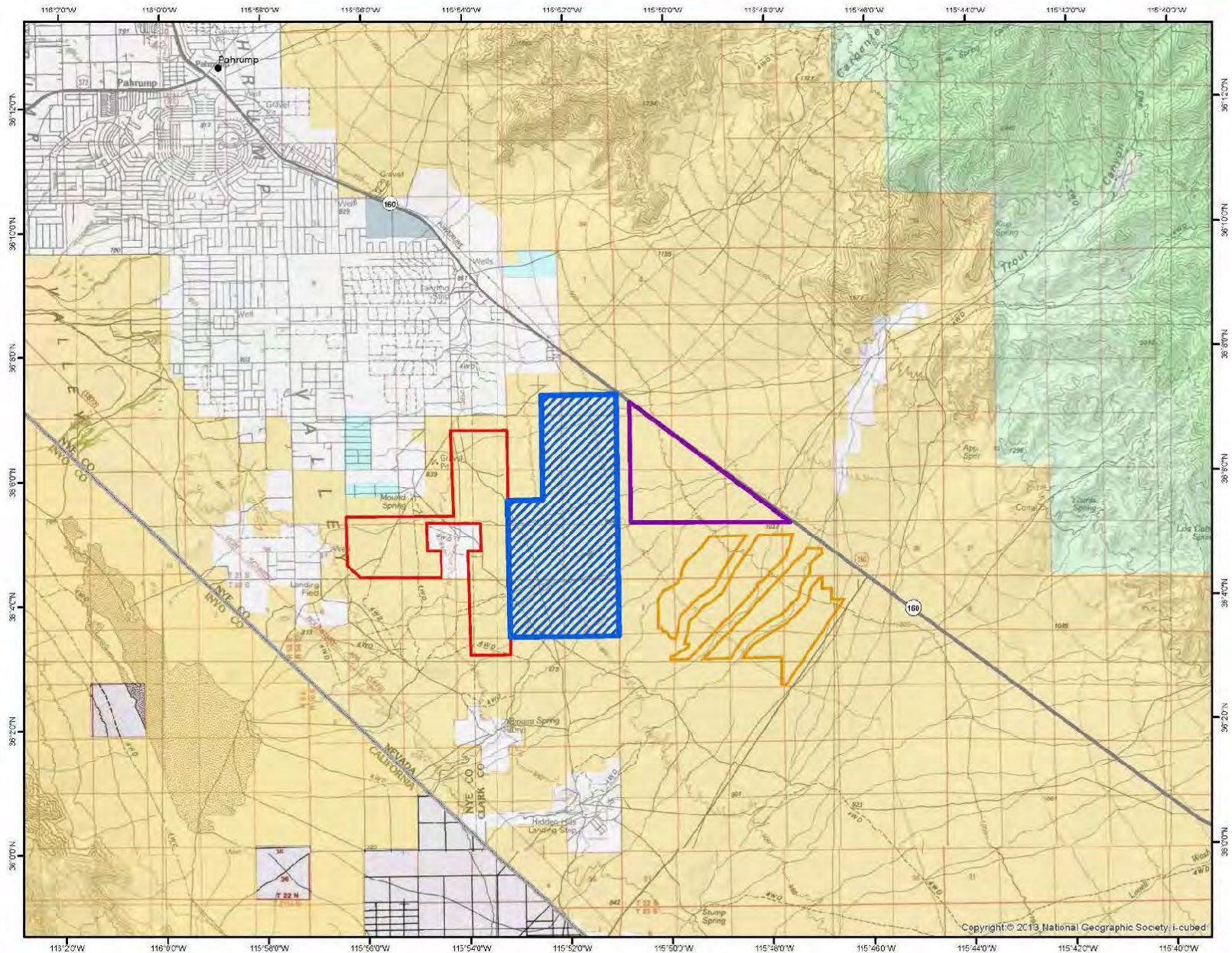
Copper Rays,
Rough Hat Clark County,
Rough Hat Nye County,
and Yellow Pine Solar Projects

Legend

- Cities & Towns
- Copper Rays (proposed)
- Yellow Pine (approved)
- Rough Hat - Nye (proposed)
- Rough Hat - Clark (proposed)
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Private

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Miles

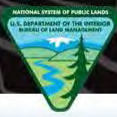
N
Lat Long Grid - UTM Zone 11, NAD 1983
Degrees Minutes Seconds
Prepared By: SNDO E&I Staff on 12/1/2021
No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or use of information in this product for individual use or aggregate use with other data.





Copper Rays Solar Project

- Copper Rays Solar, LLC has applied for a right-of-way grant to provide the necessary land and access for the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of a proposed solar facility and interconnection to the regional transmission system on BLM-managed public land.
- The request is to use approximately 5,127 acres of public land managed by the BLM Southern Nevada District, located in the Pahrump Valley in Nye County, immediately adjacent to the county line, southeast of the Town of Pahrump and approximately 40 miles west of Las Vegas.
- The project proposes to build and operate a 700 mega-watt alternating current solar photovoltaic power generating facility with battery storage.

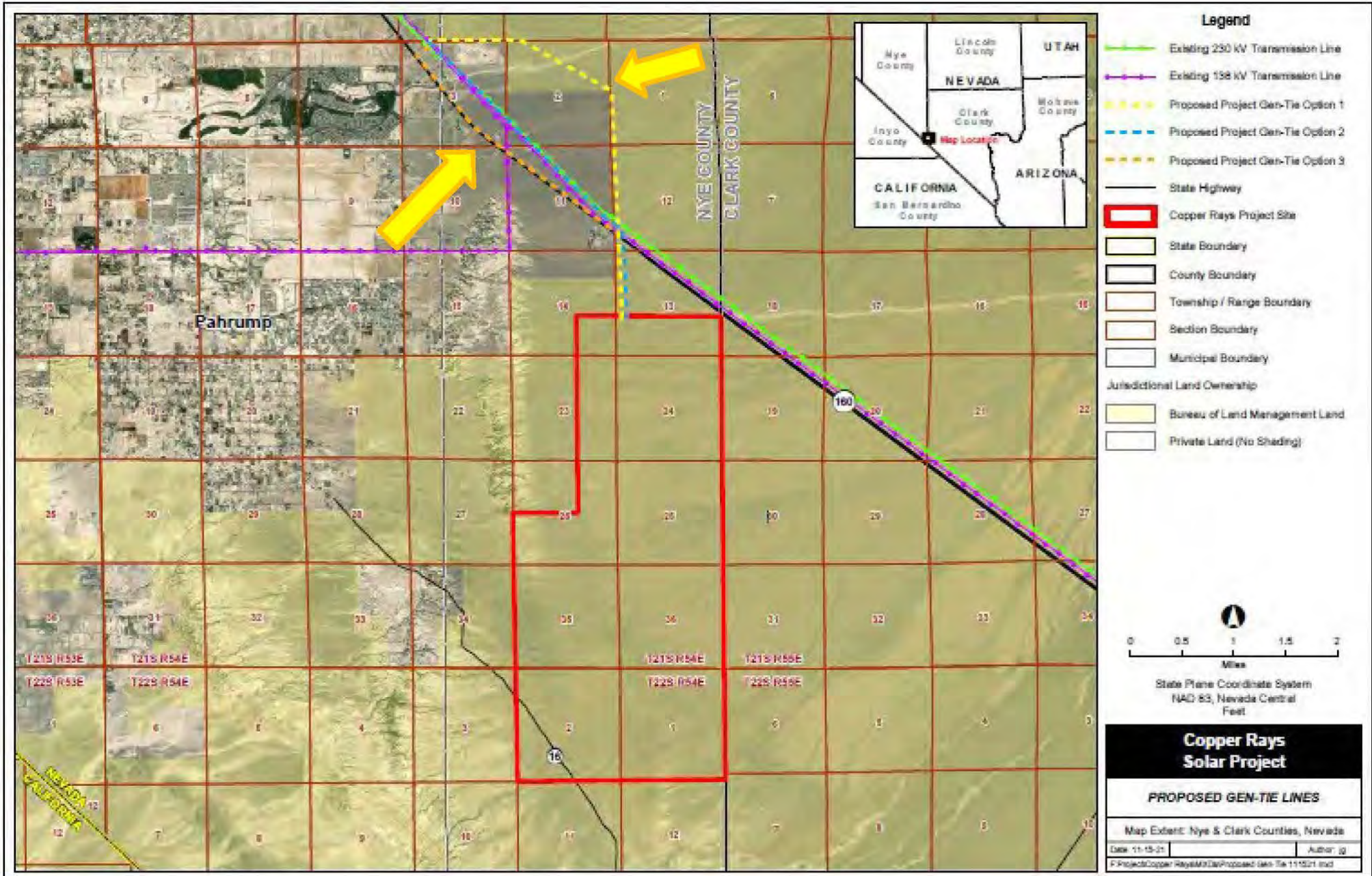


Additional Project Information

- The project would use photovoltaic modules that convert sunlight into direct current electricity
- Direct current electricity is collected and converted to alternating current electricity through a system of inverters
- Transformers would step up the alternating current electricity to 34.5 kV
- Energy would be delivered to the existing Gamebird substation via new 230 kV gen-tie lines
- Battery storage facilities would also be constructed on-site
- The preliminary Plan of Development for the proposed project is available online at: <https://go.usa.gov/xekXJ>



Copper Rays Solar Project



Legend

- Existing 250 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 158 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Project Gen-Tie Option 1
- Proposed Project Gen-Tie Option 2
- Proposed Project Gen-Tie Option 3
- State Highway
- Copper Rays Project Site
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Township / Range Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Municipal Boundary

Jurisdictional Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management Land
- Private Land (No Shading)

0 0.5 1 1.5 2
Miles

State Plane Coordinate System
NAD 83, Nevada Central
Feet

**Copper Rays
Solar Project**

PROPOSED GEN-TIE LINES

Map Extent: Nye & Clark Counties, Nevada
Date: 11-15-21 Author: jg
Project: Copper Rays/M3/Gen-Tie/Proposed Gen-Tie 11/15/21.mxd



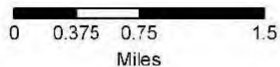
Copper Rays Solar Project

BLM Southern Nevada District Office

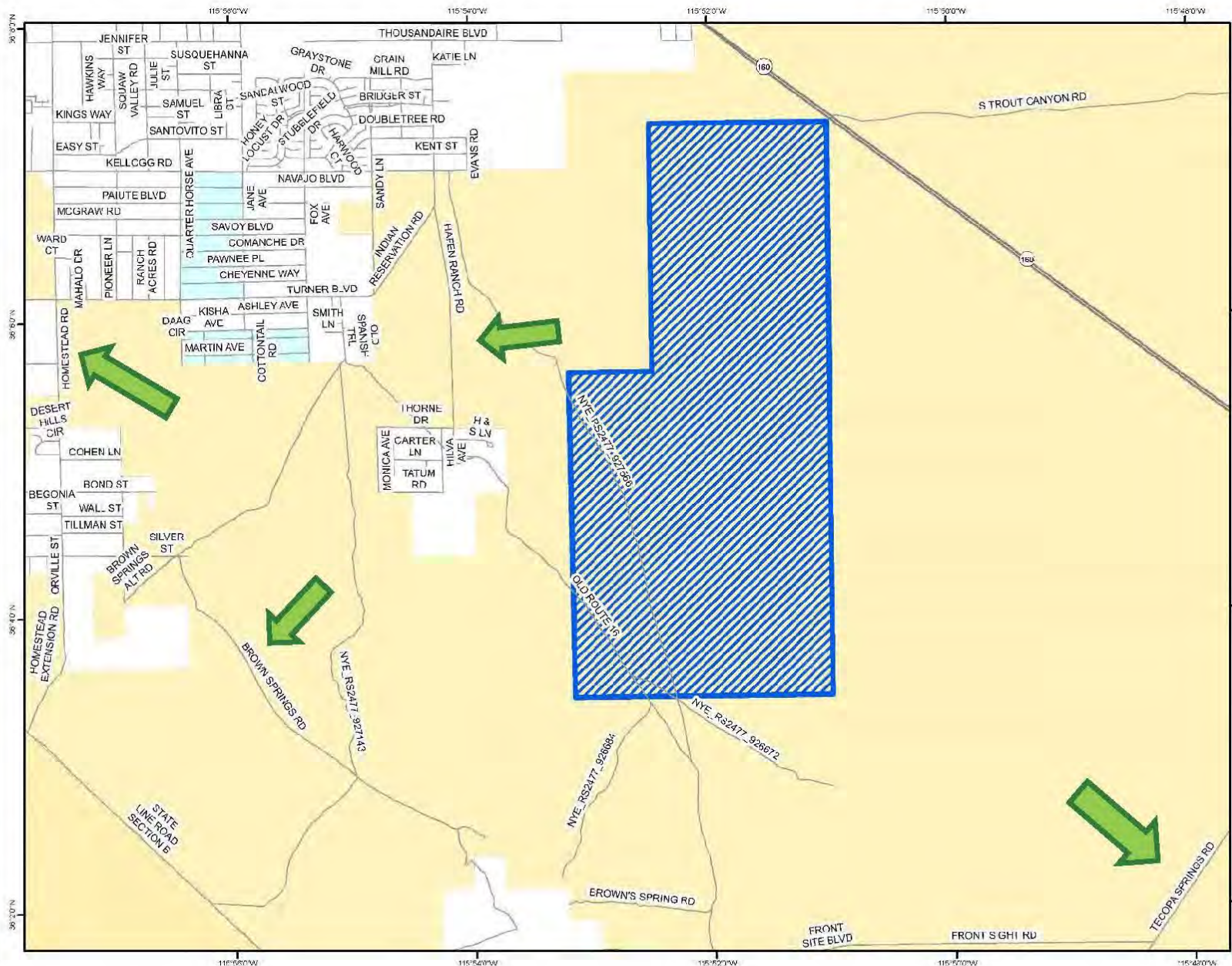
Copper Rays Solar Project and Local Roads

Legend

- Copper Rays (proposed)
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Private

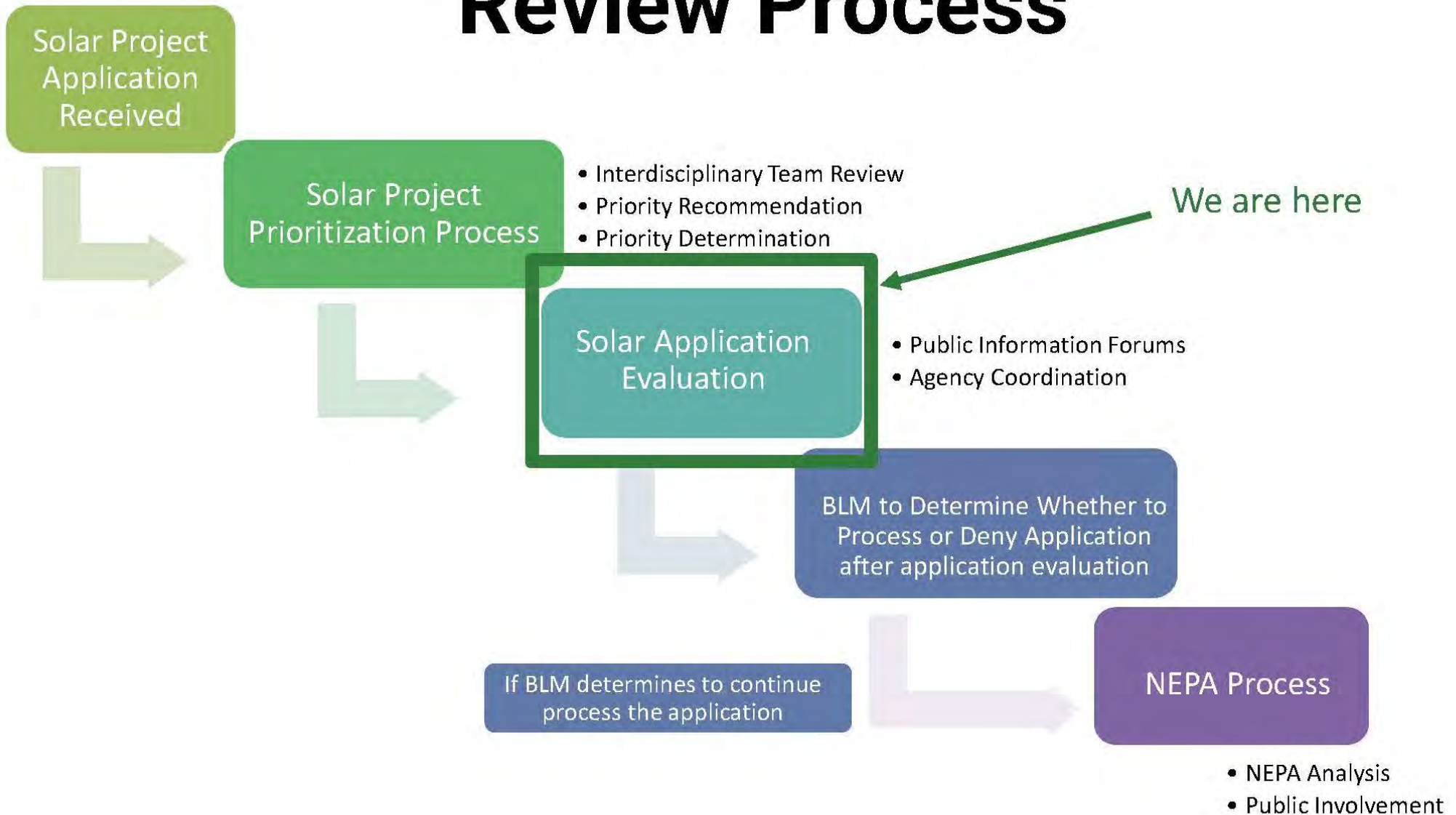


N
 Lat Long Grid - UTM Zone 11 NAD 1983
 Degrees Minutes Seconds
 Prepared by: SIVILUJ bsl staff on 12/12/2021
 No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data or individual use or aggregate use with other data.





Copper Rays Solar Project Application Review Process





Solar Project Prioritization Process

- The Southern Nevada District solar project prioritization process focuses on prioritizing applications that have the fewest known resource conflicts.
- The district uses the prioritization process to prioritize processing the 26 current applications.
- In August 2020, the Copper Rays Solar Project was determined to be a High Priority for continued application processing by the BLM due to low resource conflicts.



Copper Rays Evaluation Process

- In 2012, the BLM and the Department of Energy issued the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS).
- The Copper Rays Solar Project was considered a “pending” application under the Solar PEIS as it was submitted prior to publication of the Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS.
- Because of this, the application is not subject to any decisions adopted by the Solar PEIS Record of Decision, including the variance process.



Solar Application Evaluation Process

- The right-of-way regulations provide direction on solar and wind energy development applications located on BLM managed public lands.
- The BLM evaluates the appropriateness of right-of-way applications for utility-scale solar energy development on a case-by-case basis, based on:
 - Environmental considerations
 - Coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and Tribes
 - Public outreach
- The regulations state information provided by the applicant and other parties can be utilized when evaluating the appropriateness of an application.



Solar Application Evaluation Process

- As part of the evaluation, the BLM has scheduled this public information forum, and public input period, to provide opportunities for input.
- Information gathered during the input period will inform the application evaluation process including the BLM determination on whether to continue to process or to deny the right-of-way application.
- The application evaluation determination is separate and comes before the National Environmental Policy Act process.



Next Steps

- Public input on the Copper Rays Solar Project will be accepted until January 7, 2022.
- The information gathered will be review by the BLM Authorized Officer. The BLM Authorized Officer will make the determination of whether the project will move forward and be analyzed under the NEPA process. Determination expected early 2022.



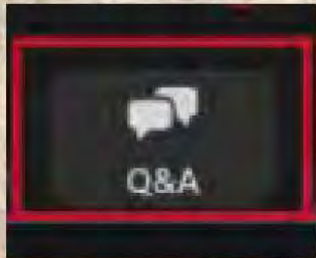
What Types of Input Would be Most Helpful Now

- Helpful public input at this point would include potential local concerns, barriers, and/or opportunities related to the proposed project.
- Input about types of use or resource concerns within the proposed area, like recreational activities and opportunities, wildlife, vegetation, visual resources, and other factors, would also be helpful at this time.

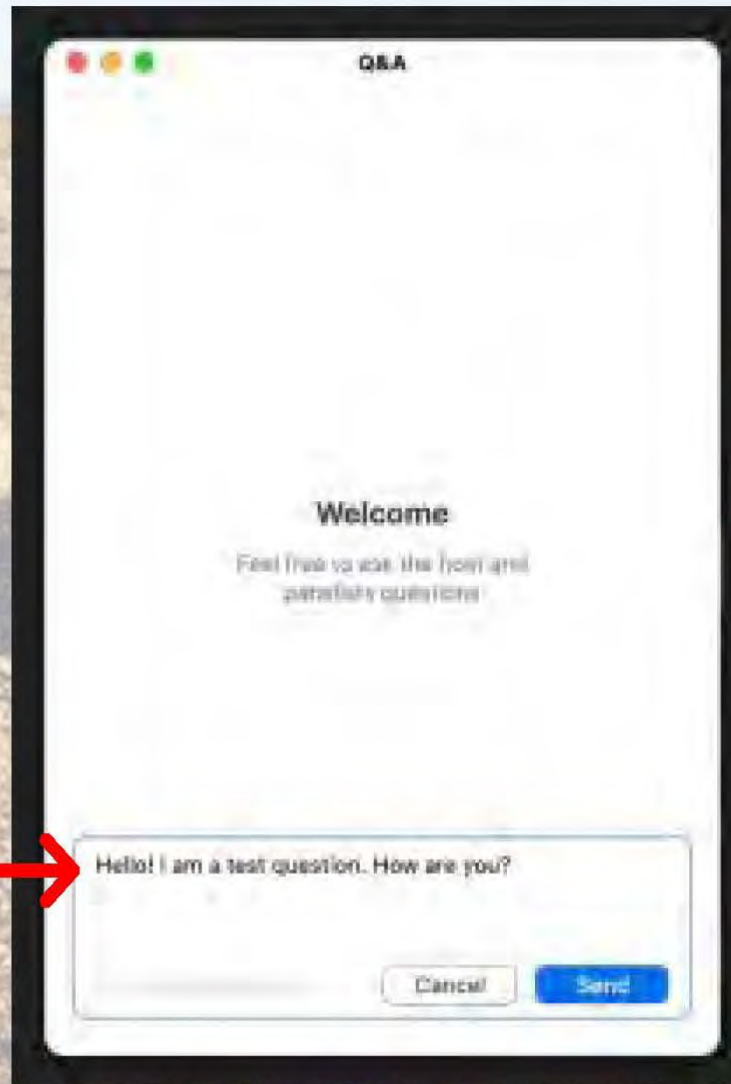


Question and Answer Section

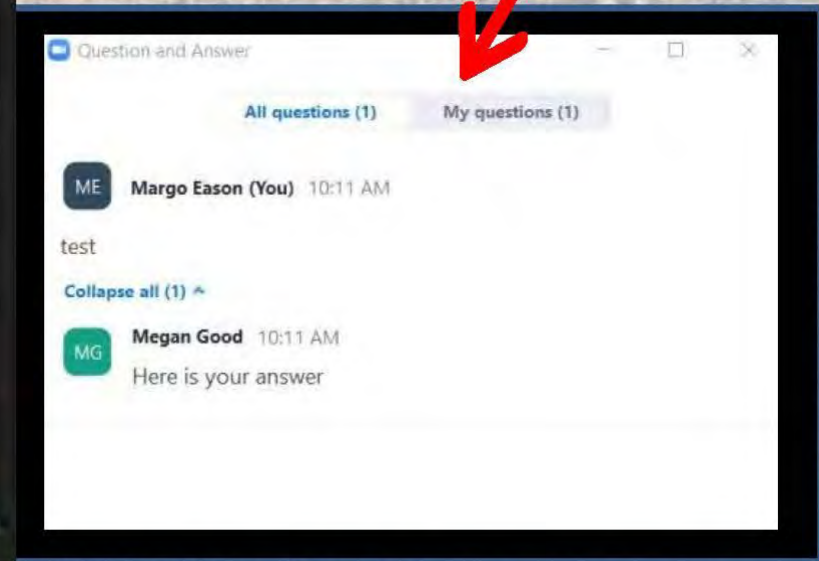
1. Click "Q&A"
button at
bottom of screen



2. Type your
question



BLM will answer your
question in Zoom or live





How to Provide Verbal Input

- Input will be accepted in order of registration
- Once your name is called, use the 'Raise Hand' feature and the meeting facilitator will open your microphone
- If you are on the phone, you can raise your hand with *9 and then unmute/mute using *6
- A timer will be displayed on your screen to show the time remaining for your input
- Your input will be included in the project record





Public Input Section

BLM wants to hear from all members of the public. Out of respect for everyone's participation and input, we will be using the following guidelines:

- Stay within your allotted time so that everyone can speak
- Please be respectful of others
- Refrain from profanity
- Questions are no longer being answered live – please type your questions in the Q&A box

If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person

Next 10 commenters

1. Rhiannon Scanlon
2. Carol Swanson
3. Tambi Calvert
4. Thomas Mauceri
5. Don Hertz
6. Susie Hertz
7. Jimmy Lewis
8. Srikanth Madala
9. Lou Pintarelli
10. Julia Kitami

2:00



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Next 10 commenters

1. Ryan Gallagher
2. Kevin Emmerich
3. Shannon Salter
4. Linda Faye
5. Joy Centers
6. Patricia Robb
7. Ellyn Escobar
8. Aleta Alexander
9. Joni Hawley
10. Barbara Callihan

2:00



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Next 10 commenters

1. Mike Dwyer
- 2.

2:00



How to Submit Further Input

More information is available at the website:

<https://go.usa.gov/xekXJ>

Want to provide comment?

EMAIL: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov

MAIL:

BLM Southern Nevada District Office,
Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

**Public input period closes
01/07/2022**

Appendix C - Q&A From Virtual Public Information Forums

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

1	I want to know what is the revenue that the BLM receives from leasing the public land?	(live answered)-So the BLM will calculate acreage rent on or before the date of the issuance of a right-of-way grant or lease. The BLM will charge acreage rent on an annual basis by calculating the annual acreage rent by multiplying the entire number of acres authorized in the right-of-way grant or lease by the appropriate per acre rate. BLM will also charge a megawatt capacity fee once generation of electricity starts on an annual basis. That megawatt capacity fee will be multiplied by the approved capacity to get the appropriate fee. We do have more information on our rent and megawatt fees and will put those links in the chat. And then also, the BLM is currently seeking public input on draft guidance to promote the use of wind and solar energy on public lands. that input period last until February 2, 2022. The proposed update would reduce acreage rental rates and capacity fees for existing and new wind and solar authorizations on public land. Once this is finalized the updated guidance will provide enhanced financial and regulatory predictability for solar wind energy projects authorized on public land. And we do have more information and a link for that, and we'll post that in the chat if folks are interested in that information and providing input on that.
2	This will not use the Trout Canyon Substation?	(live answered)-That's correct, the Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to use the existing Gamebird Substation.
3	Who has allowed this to be so close to homes, schools, and the town of Pahrump?	(live answered)-So the applicant Copper Rays Solar LLC has identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of that application using the application evaluation determination process that we discussed earlier in the presentation. And that process is identified in the right-of-way regulations. So, the current public meetings and public input period are a crucial piece of that application evaluation process and will inform the decision on whether to continue processing and initiate environmental review or go to the National Environmental Policy Act process.
4	Which Native American tribes will be consulted?	(live answered)-So BLM has initiated government to government consultation with the tribes for the Copper Rays Solar Project, those tribes include the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe. This has included both formal correspondence, meetings, and also site visits with tribal members.
5	By what method will the BLM reach out to or communicate with Native American tribes?	(live answered)-This has included both formal correspondence, meetings, and also site visits with tribal members.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

6	Who specifically in the Native American tribes will be consulted and what does the consultation entail?	(live answered)-So, like we stated, the BLM has initiated consultation with the Moapa Band of Paiutes, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and the Colorado River Indian Tribe for this Project. The specific procedures or protocols for how consultation proceeds and what that consultation look like is dependent on the BLMs relationship with each tribe. Generally, this consultation consists in coordination between the BLM authorized officer, and the individual tribal governments to identify specific tribal concerns and work with the necessary individuals to address those concerns. These efforts are part of an ongoing relationship between the BLM and each tribal government.
7	Where would BLM deposit displaced Tortoises?	(live answered)-So if the Project is approved desert tortoises would be impacted by the construction of the solar facility, the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service work in coordination to reduce those impacts by requiring that tortoises be translocated prior to construction of the solar facility. The BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Trout Canyon and Stump Springs translocation areas that could potentially be used as recipient sites for tortoises from the Copper Rays Project. Other measures to reduce impacts could include post construction monitoring, health assessments, and treatment if needed. Additional specific measures would be developed in a desert tortoise translocation plan, and that would occur during the environmental review process, if the application was given a favorable application evaluation determination.
8	Where will the power be shipped to?	(live answered)-So the Project sponsor Copper Rays Solar LLC has indicated that a purchaser for the power proposed to be generated by the Copper Rays Solar Project has not yet been identified. The Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to interconnect with the Gamebird Substation, which would allow power to be provided to the California independent system operator and Valley Electric Association systems. There's more information in the preliminary plan of development, which we can post a link to in the chat that's on the Project website.
9	What year would the equipment be disassembled?	(live answered)-So if the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination and goes through the environmental review process and is approved, it would be authorized for a term of 30 years with the option to renew. There are decommissioning procedures that are outlined in the preliminary plan of development, which is available at the Project website. And then also if the Project does go through the environmental review process, and it is approved, Copper Rays Solar LLC would be required to prepare a decommissioning plan that would require removal of facilities and restoration of the site.
10	Has setting dispersed use standards (acres of solar per square mile) been considered to	(live answered)-When the BLM receives an application for renewable energy projects from a project sponsor, the application goes through the prioritization and the application evaluation process before initiating the environmental review or the NEPA process. Solar applications are examined on a case-by-case basis, and the environmental review process analyzes and discloses the potential impacts from proposed action and alternatives prior

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

	mitigation impacts on the desert environment and current users?	to a decision being made. In addition to the environmental review process, BLM would make efforts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts the resources that could result from the Project if approved.
11	Is Naturally Occurring Asbestos in soil and dust regulated in Nevada?	Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project, 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89130
12	What would the BLM require of the applicant in terms of mitigating the over 5000 acres of Mojave land being totally destroyed?	(live answered)-If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, and we move into the environmental review or the NEPA process types and alternatives for replanting of vegetation species within the Project areas would be analyzed. During the environmental review process the BLM would make efforts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to vegetation within the Project area. Mitigation measures have not been developed at this time, we're still in the early stages of the application processing. Currently we are requesting information about potential impacts within the site. And that relevant mitigation during the environmental review process would be identified and addressed at that time.
13	How does the BLM propose that the applicant attempt to mitigate toxic dust?	(live answered)-So the design features identified during the environmental review or the NEPA process could include the health and safety programs to address reducing exposure to dust in areas, especially those endemic to the valley fever fungus. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, risks related to dust and mitigation measures would be analyzed, and mitigations would be developed through that NEPA process.
14	How many Mojave yuccas will be destroyed?	(live answered)-So we estimate approximately 49,000 cacti and yucca within the entire survey area of the Project, which includes an estimated 38,000 in the Project site and 11,000 within the gen-tie. The predominant species found within the Project site include Mojave yucca, Joshua Trees, Pencil Cholla. Golden Cholla, Hedgehog cactus, Cottontop cactus and Beavertail cactus. Specific estimates of each species within the Project area are not available at this time, because botanical surveys are still ongoing, and reports have not yet been finalized.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

15	How much water will be required to maintain this Project on an ongoing basis, including but not limited to the ongoing washing of the solar panels to be installed?	(live answered)-Copper Rays Solar LLC has stated in their preliminary plan of development that the most probable source of construction and operations-based water for the proposed Project would be water leased or purchased from either a public or private entity utilizing existing water rights. Right now, Copper Rays Solar LLC is working on a water use report and have not made determinations yet on the amount of water that would be needed for construction and ongoing operations. The Nevada Division of Water Resources is responsible for the allocation of water resources within the state of Nevada, and if the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will consider impacts from water use during the environmental review or the National Environmental Policy Act process. BLM considers water, both surface and groundwater within the broader context of all resources, under BLM administered lands and their interaction as they relate to BLM responsibilities.
16	Which roads will be used for construction traffic?	(live answered)-Copper Rays Solar LLC will be constructing an access road off of State Route 160, which would be utilized to access the site. They anticipate that construction would take approximately 72 months, depending on the phasing of the Project. Additional information on the Project including access and routes in a more detailed schedule estimate can be found in the preliminary plan of development, which we posted to the Project website, and I believe we put a link in the chat for that.
17	What is the current BLM acreage rate for this area?	(live answered)-So that is something that we will have to determine and calculate at a later date. We do not have that acreage calculation at this time, or the sorry the rental rate.
18	I recently relocated to Pahrump from another state and am very concerned that this will drastically & negatively affect my property and home values. With millions of acres why next to an existing town?	(live answered)-We strive to provide the best information at this moment we do not have an immediate answer for that question. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the Project, the BLM will continue processing through the environmental review process or the National Environmental Policy Act process. And that question would be analyzed during that process where we would do review and analysis for those issues.
19	How would the applicant be required to restore the site, and how would the applicant restore the ancient desert crust?	(live answered)-So if the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, it would move through the environmental review process, and if it is eventually approved Copper Rays Solar LLC would be required to prepare a decommissioning plan, kind of similar to what we talked about in the earlier question, which would require both the removal of facilities and restoration of the site.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

20	What positive effect will this Project have on the Pahrump community?	(live answered)-So the Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to interconnect with the Gamebird substation, which was allow power to be provided to the California independent system operator and also the Valley Electric associated systems. And then there is more information in the plan of development for that, that we've posted online.
21	How would the applicant be required to compensate Pahrump residents for the incalculable reduction in quality of life?	(live answered)-So the BLM does not have the authority to require that Project sponsor pay compensation to landowners.
22	Will all mesquite be avoided?	(live answered)-So on the eastern edge of the Project site, and within the survey buffer the site, a few of the large washes lead into some bottom land honey mesquite. And that is a mesquite bosque riparian habitat. It is unknown at this time. How many mesquite would potentially be impacted by the proposed Project as botanical surveys are ongoing and reports have not been finalized. If the Project does receive a favorable application evaluation determination and we proceed into the environmental review process, relevant measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to those species would be considered.
23	Is BLM and/or solar company going to transplant yuccas and cacti after the botanical survey of the Project gets approved?	(live answered)-So, as we discussed, if the Project does receive a favorable application evaluation determination and we go through the environmental review process, post construction ground treatment types and alternatives would be analyzed. This could include leaving cacti and yuccas in place within areas where grading is not required. The BLMs restoration plan states that cacti and yucca will be salvaged from temporary disturbance areas and replanted after construction in those areas.
24	That did not answer the question. HOW specifically would the applicant attempt to restore the cryptobiotic desert crust?	(live answered)-So the BLM would work with the applicant to avoid where appropriate development in areas with biological soil crest. The loss of bio crest would be documented and analyzed as part of the environmental review process should there be a favorable application evaluation determination made on the Project. Typically bio crest salvage is included in the restoration plan in temporary disturbance areas.
25	Why is this Project so close to residential areas?	(live answered)-So, the applicant Copper Rays Solar LLC identified and applied for the proposed Project site and BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of that application. During this application evaluation process with these public meetings and the public input period. That will help inform our determination on the Project.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

26	Will the botanical survey be available to the public? If so, when and where?	If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination and the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process is initiated, the botanical survey would be included as an appendix to those environmental review documents when they are made available for public comment.
27	Who is the BLM officer that will communicate with each Native American tribal government?	(live answered)-So for the Copper Rays Solar Project, which is located in the Pahrump field office, the Pahrump field office manager would communicate with the tribal governments, they would be the authorize officer.
28	Will desert tortoises on the site be recounted because surveys happened in extreme drought conditions. are you worried about undercount?	Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project, 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130.
29	Has a variance request ever been denied?	(live answered)-So on the BLM Southern Nevada district, we have not. I would like to clarify though that the Copper Rays Solar Project is actually not subject to the variance process, and is not subject to the decisions in the solar PEIS, so this is following the application evaluation process that is established in the right of way regulations.
30	Who at the BLM determines whether the application receives a favorable outcome?	Because the Copper Rays Solar Project is not subject to the Solar PEIS Variance Process, the BLM authorized officer, the Pahrump Field Office Manager, makes the determination on the application.
31	How does the BLM plan to determine whether the Project proceeds?	The BLM is responsible for making the determination on whether to continue processing the solar Project application with input from the public, other agencies, and the Tribes. Currently, the Project is being reviewed under the application evaluation determination process. It is estimated a determination will happen early in 2022.
32	What additional opportunities are available to oppose this application?	The current public input period, for providing input to inform the application evaluation determination, is open through January 7, 2022. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the Project, the BLM would continue processing the application by initiating an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. That process would include public comment opportunities for Scoping and for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The environmental review would also involve consultation and coordination with local, federal, and state agencies and tribal governments.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

34	It sounds as if the BLM acreage use rate is negotiable?	CALENDAR YEARS 2021 - 2025 RIGHT-OF-WAY RENTAL SCHEDULE RE-ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY ZONES https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2021-005 Nye County is in Zone 4 and the 2022 Per Acre Rate for Solar Energy Development is \$103.98 per acre
35	I won't be speaking today.	Thanks for letting us know.
36	Actually, I will speak.	Thanks for letting us know.
37	How will this Project impact the water table? How much water are you requesting to use in this Project?	Copper Rays Solar, LLC has stated in their preliminary Plan of Development that the most probable source of construction and operations-phase water for the proposed Project would be water leased or purchased from either a public or private entity utilizing existing water rights, either within the Pahrump Valley Basin or trucked from the Las Vegas area. The Project does not anticipate drilling any new water wells. The Nevada Division of Water Resources is responsible for the allocation of water resources within the State of Nevada. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will consider impacts from water use during the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. BLM considers water, both surface and groundwater, within the broader context of all resources on BLM administered lands and their interaction as they relate to BLM responsibilities.
38	I've been registered to speak in err (speaker #4, Roben Armstrong) for this round. I do not wish to speak at this time. Thank you.	Thanks for letting us know.

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

39	<p>Given that the electric generation only serves California customers, will the Environmental analysis take a hard look at reasonable Project alternatives closer to the Project customers and the grid there, instead of just what is more convenient and less costly to the applicant based on California? Plenty of other sites meet the Project need and comply with NEPA, regardless of applicant profit.</p>	<p>The Project sponsor, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, has indicated that a purchaser for the power proposed to be generated from the Project site has not been identified yet. The Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to interconnect to the Gamebird substation, which would allow the power to be provided to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Valley Electric Association systems (Nevada).</p>
40	<p>Looks like at least water, riparian, recreation, tortoise, and controversy have shifted this process plainly into an Environmental Impact Statement with a true range of alternatives warranted for multiple sites, including outside Nevada.</p>	<p>If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, processing of the application would continue, and an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process would be initiated. The range of alternatives to be analyzed would be developed as part of the environmental review process.</p>
41	<p>How do I see a recording of this meeting?</p>	<p>Yes, this meeting is being recorded in its entirety. The link to the recorded meeting will be published in one to two business days. Thank you for asking.</p>

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

42	How many other solar proposals are being evaluated within the surrounding 300 miles to this site?	<p>Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
43	The proportion of proposed generation to CAISO vs. Valley Electric needs to be disclosed in the context of Project purpose and range of alternatives. Electric demand current and forecasting needs to occur for Valley Electric proportion. Questions and comments via these early Zoom meetings also need to be on the record and in the scoping report.	<p>Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p> <p>All comments and questions will be included in the Project record and posted on the Project website.</p>
44	Is Nevada going to start regulating Naturally Occurring Asbestos in soil the way CA does?	<p>BLM does not have authority to regulate Naturally Occurring Asbestos. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the Project, the BLM would continue processing the application by initiating an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process.</p>
45	Is Nevada going to start regulating Naturally Occurring Asbestos in soil the way CA does?	<p>During this process, the BLM would consult with other agencies that deal with management of air quality and who would be able to provide more input into this concern.</p>
46	Does BLM care about human quality of life?	<p>Yes, we do. The BLM is currently requesting information about potential impacts that could be caused by the Project. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, as part of the environmental review/NEPA process, potential impacts on resources related to the quality of human life would be analyzed, including consideration of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation to reduce impacts.</p>

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

47	How far can the valley fever bacteria travel in air?	<p>Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
48	Is there a reason to place this Project near a town?	<p>The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).</p>
49	Why are the Pahrump band of Paiutes not being consulted?	<p>BLM is consulting with Federally Recognized Tribes. Additionally, the BLM is interested, and values input from Federal, state, and local agencies and the public, to help inform the application evaluation for the Copper Rays Solar Project.</p>
50	Are all letters and comments available to the public? Are transcripts from all the hearings available? Are all documents related to the Project between developers and BLM made available?	<p>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 January 7, 2021 deadline.</p>
51	Is Nevada an Energy Colony of California? This Project is.	<p>Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>

Question Report- Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

52	Is that a yes that this Project needs to be near town?	The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).
53	So how much of this is open to the public and where do we find it?	Information is available on the website provided. If you have additional questions, you may use the email provided.
54	I'm afraid this doesn't answer what I asked.	We responded to your second question - please let us know if you have additional questions.

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1	How many solar projects and how many acres of public lands are under consideration, aside from Copper Ray, within a 300-mile area of Copper Rays. I asked this yesterday, with no answer.	Currently, the Southern Nevada District Office has 26 pending renewable project applications and receive more on a regular basis. Information about pending solar applications can be found by querying BLM's Land & Mineral Report System (LR2000) found at https://reports.blm.gov/reports/LR2000/ . If you would like assistance with LR2000, please contact the Southern Nevada District at 702-515-5000.
2	Why Pahrump?	(live answered)-The applicant Copper Rays Solar LLC identified and applied for the proposed Project site. BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of that application, utilizing the application evaluation process that we discussed previously as identified in the right-of-way regulations. These current public input meetings and the public input period are a critical piece to the application evaluation process and will inform BLMs decision on whether to continue to process the application.
3	Why near a residential area?	The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).
4	What does it mean that Copper Rays is not a variance land? Can you explain what variance land is?	(live answered)-The solar PEIS identified solar energy zones in designated leasing areas, in addition to also providing for applications to be considered in variance areas. For projects in variance areas and subject to the variance process, the BLM would consider additional applicable variance factors described in the solar PEIS. Some of those factors can include documentation about the proposed project related to land use plan documents, existing facilities, environmental resources such as fish and wildlife habitat, visual resource management, hydrologic resources, access and recreational opportunities and applicant coordination with state and local governments for the permitting process. So, the Copper Rays Solar Project was considered a pending application under the solar PEIS, the application for Copper Ray Solar Project was submitted prior to October 28 2011. As such, applications submitted prior to that publication of the Supplemental Draft solar PEIS would not be subject to any decisions adopted by the solar PEIS record of decision. The copyright application is therefore not subject to the variance process and requirements of the solar PEIS.

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5	What elements is the BLM aware of that could be present in the dust associated with the Copper Rays Solar Project?	(live answered)-So, we're in the early stage of the process with the application evaluation determination. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, as part of the environmental review or the NEPA process, potential impacts on soil disturbance and air quality, including potential mitigation measures as needed, would be evaluated at that time.
6	Who is the developer behind the Copper Rays Solar Project?	(live answered)-The applicant for this solar Project is Copper Rays Solar LLC, so that is who has come forward with the application and has applied.
7	How close will the new powerlines to Gamebird substation be to private residents?	(live answered)-The proposed power lines or transmission lines that would run north and west of the Project area would stay within existing corridors along State Route 160, and then would branch up to the Gamebird substation. More details on the location of those in relation to other areas throughout the Pahrump area can be found at the preliminary plan of development, which we have included on the Project website, and we can put a link for that in the chat.
8	Under business entity, what is your business listed as?	(live answered)-So the Project sponsor is the Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website, and we can provide that link in the chat as well.
9	Are you calling the destruction of over 50,000 Mojave yuccas a low resource conflict?	(live answered)-The Copper Rays Project prioritization determination worksheet, which is part of the prioritization process of the Southern Nevada district provides details on the resources considered in making the determination and that can be posted on the Project website.
10	How many Joshua trees are there on the proposed Project site?	(live answered)-We estimate that approximately 49,000 cacti and yucca within the entire survey area, including an estimated 38,000 in the Project site itself and then 11,000 within the generation tie line. The predominant species found within the site are Mojave yucca, Joshua trees, Pencil Cholla, Golden Cholla, Hedgehog cactus, Cottontop cactus, and Beavertail cactus. Specific estimates of each species within the Project area are not available at this time, as botanical surveys are ongoing, and the reports have not been finalized.
11	If this Project goes through, how will BLM and the Project mitigate recreation loss?	(live answered)-So, members of the Copper Rays Solar Project team and Copper Rays Solar LLC, have constructed several projects in Nevada, and in the desert region of Southern California. 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 within the Project area and impacts to recreational experience on the trails. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination as part of the environmental review or the NEPA process, potential impacts on trails and recreation, including potential mitigation measures as needed, would be evaluated. For past projects such measures have included changes to the proposed Project layout, reserved trail segments, and maintain access to specific recreational resources.

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12	<p>Why doesn't BLM propose some kind of overarching plan for the public to review and evaluate instead of letting developers go about submitting applications one at a time in a way that is most profitable for them?</p>	<p>Although the proposed Projects are located in a similar area, BLM received individual applications for the three stand-alone projects. Each has potential site-specific resource concerns.</p> <p>Since the applications are stand-alone projects, once the application evaluation process is complete, including completion of the public information forums for each project, the BLM will make individual determinations for each application.</p> <p>In addition to the public information forums, each project will have a public input period that would provide time before and after the public forums for additional public input. For the Copper Rays Solar Project, the public input period would span November 22 to January 7, 2022. For the Rough Hat Clark Project, the public input period would span November 15 to December 22, 2021. Dates for input vary by project due to holidays within each input period but all are longer than 30 days.</p>
13	<p>Is there a detailed map showing street names?</p>	<p>(live answered)-The map I showed earlier or was displayed earlier on screen. It will be available we will update our map packet to include that map for Copper Rays. We also provided a similar map in our updated map packet for the Rough Hat Clark County Project from the meetings we had last week, so both of those packets are available at those Project websites.</p>
14	<p>Why doesn't BLM have a game plan for this, instead of letting it be driven by corporations, with NEPA issues at the end of the decision-making process?</p>	<p>The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).</p>
15	<p>Will Copper Rays connect to GridLiance transmission line?</p>	<p>The Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to interconnect to the Gamebird substation, which would allow the power to be provided to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Valley Electric Association systems.</p>
16	<p>But WHY Pahrump? I heard your verbiage, but it does not make sense So, in layman's terms I ask again, WHY in Pahrump?</p>	<p>The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).</p>
17	<p>How many people at the BLM are involved in the decision-making process?</p>	<p>As part of considering an application for a solar energy development project, the BLM seeks input from the public, coordinates with local, Federal, and state agencies and consults with Tribal governments. The BLM also has various BLM resource specialists that review and provide input on review and analysis. All of the above input, coordination, and consultation is valuable to inform BLM decisions on the application.</p>

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18	Where is the energy collected being used?	(live answered)-The Project sponsor Copper Rays Solar LLC has indicated that a purchaser for the power proposed to be generated from the Project has not yet been identified. The Copper Rays Solar Project proposes to interconnect to the Gamebird Substation, which would allow power to be provided to the California independent system operator and Valley Electric Association systems, the Copper Rays Solar LLC. proposed plan of development for the Project is, or preliminary planet development, is posted on our website as well for more information.
19	Is variance all public land not in a SEZ that has no other formal protection? (Question asked twice)	<p>The Solar PEIS identified solar energy zones/designated leasing areas, in addition to providing for applications to be considered in Variance areas. For projects in variance areas and subject to the variance process, the BLM will consider those applicable variance factors described in the Solar PEIS. The variance factors include documentation about the proposed Project related to land use plan documents, Project use of existing facilities and roads, design features, environmental resources (like fish and wildlife habitat, visual resource management, wilderness, hydrologic resources), access and recreational opportunities, and applicant coordination with state and local governments for permitting requirements. The Copper Rays Solar Project was considered a pending application under the Solar PEIS. As such, applications submitted prior to publication of the Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS would not be subject to any decisions adopted by the Solar PEIS Record of Decision.</p> <p>The Copper Rays application is not subject to the variance process requirements of the Solar PEIS.</p>
20	Where is the corporation from?	The Project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov
21	Are the business holders of the solar company US citizens?	The Project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov
22	Water source will be?	(live answered)-Copper Rays Solar LLC has stated in their preliminary plan of development that the most probable source of construction and operations phase water from the proposed Project would be water leased or purchased from either a public or private entity, utilizing existing water rights, either within the current Valley basin, or truck from the Las Vegas area. The Project does not anticipate drilling any new water wells, the Nevada Division of Water Resources is responsible for the allocation of water resources within the state of Nevada. If the Project does receive a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will consider impacts from water use during the environmental review or the NEPA process. BLM considers water, both surface and groundwater, within the broader context of all resources on BLM administered lands and their interaction as they relate to BLM responsibilities.

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23	50,000 yuccas not 5,000!	Thank you for the clarification to your earlier question - this was also clarified live for the record.
24	Does the BLM consider their job to be “processing applications”?	No. The BLM will review the applications in accordance with all laws, regulations, and policies, including robust public engagement.
25	Solar panel will be provided by whom?	The Project sponsor, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, has indicated that a supplier for solar panels for the proposed Project has not been identified yet. It is very early in the consideration of the Copper Rays Solar Project; in most cases procurement of solar panels would not occur until a project has been approved.
26	How can you determine low conflict when you have not conducted full surveys?	The Copper Rays Project Prioritization Determination Worksheet provides details on the resources considered in making the determination and can be posted on the Project website.
27	So, Copper Ray LLC is NOT listed as a solar company?	It looks like you may have left the "s" off "Rays". The Project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov
28	How old can the Mojave Yucca be, in the opinion of BLM scientists?	(live answered)-Mojave yucca can be as old as 100-150 years old. Some can likely live longer, but this is dependent on environmental factors and their habitat.
29	What would BLM ask the construction crew to do in order to “mitigate” the dust hazard?	(live answered)-Design features identified during the environmental review or the NEPA process could include health and safety programs to address, reducing dust exposure. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, risk related to dust hazards would be analyzed and mitigation would be developed during the NEPA process.
30	How can you have already determined low or high priority status when you have not yet finished resource surveys? How many rare Parish club-cholla cacti are found on the site? This is a sensitive species.	(live answered)-Priority prioritization process in accordance with the regulations is intended to prioritize applications for processing very early in the process based on known resource conflicts. If the application receives a favorable application evaluation determination, it would proceed into environmental review and the NEPA process, and a detailed analysis based on resource surveys, would be conducted. We do not have a number for those cacti that are found on site at this time, but we will. You can email that comment to our email address, and then we can do some research on that.

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31	Is this company related to Rough Hat Solar?	<p>Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
32	<p>Jimmy Lewis (You): I was advised by a past recreation planner to remove routes within this Project area for both cultural and biological concerns or my permit would not be approved. These were existing 24" wide motorcycle trails. How can this Project dodge those concerns? Or have these concerns gone away and if so, please explain why?</p>	<p>(live answered)-So if the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination and we continue processing through the environmental review process, specific impacts from the Project, both within and adjacent to the Project area would be analyzed and reviewed at that time.</p>
33	<p>Will building resources, such as water and dust mitigation, come from the town of Pahrump, or will Copper Rays provide their own resources?</p>	<p>The BLM has posted the preliminary Plan of Development for the Project online at the following link: https://go.usa.gov/xekXJ. Additional information on the proposed Project can be found in the Plan of Development and at that website.</p>
34	<p>Do you attempt to evaluate effects on mental health in the community caused by the destruction of nature and open space within their habitat?</p>	<p>This question is important and can offer another perspective to the Copper Rays Solar Project. Please email this comment/question to the Project email address: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov so that it can be further reviewed.</p>

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35	<p>Would they really truck water from Vegas? They are using 350,000 gallons a day during Yellow Pine construction.</p>	<p>Copper Rays Solar, LLC has stated in their preliminary Plan of Development that the most probable source of construction and operations-phase water for the proposed Project would be water leased or purchased from either a public or private entity utilizing existing water rights, either within the Pahrump Valley Basin or trucked from the Las Vegas area. The Project does not anticipate drilling any new water wells.</p> <p>The Nevada Division of Water Resources is responsible for the allocation of water resources within the State of Nevada. If the Project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will consider impacts from water use during the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. BLM considers water, both surface and groundwater, within the broader context of all resources on BLM administered lands and their interaction as they relate to BLM responsibilities.</p>
36	<p>Be real - Las Vegas does not have water to spare for this Project - Pahrump does NOT want our water used for this Project. We do not want you drilling wells.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
37	<p>Because the desert tortoise surveys took place last April/May in a record-breaking drought year, the accuracy of the surveys is questionable. Will the BLM require the applicant to redo desert tortoise surveys in more reasonable conditions?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
38	<p>What country is going to supply Copper Ray solar panels?</p>	<p>(live answered)-The Project sponsor Copper Rays Solar LLC has indicated that a supplier for the solar panels has not yet been identified. It is very early in the consideration of the Copper Rays Solar Project. In most cases procurement of solar panels would not occur until a project has been approved.</p>

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39	Since Pahrump is not using the energy produced, what is the benefit of this Project to our town?	(live answered)-So the Project sponsor Copper Rays Solar LLC has indicated that a purchaser for the power of proposed to be generated from the Project has not yet been identified. The Project proposes to interconnect with the Gamebird Substation that would allow for power to be provided to the California independent system operator and Valley Electric Systems.
40	WHY place this near a residential area?	The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).
41	So biological and cultural types of concerns are not considered in this pre application process?	The planning for the proposed Copper Rays Project involves the solar application evaluation and the National Environmental Policy Act process if a favorable application evaluation determination is made. Currently we are at the application evaluation process, which includes coordination with federal, state, and local governments, tribes, and public outreach. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the Project, the BLM would continue processing the application by initiating an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process, which includes further scoping and review opportunities for agencies, tribes, and the public.
42	It is proven that many Desert Tortoise do not survive relocation. Do you see that as a problem since they are a protected species?	(live answered)-The BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service work in coordination to reduce impacts to desert tortoise from translocation. Measures to reduce impacts from translocation could include post construction monitoring for 12 months, health assessments, and treatment if needed. Specific measures would be developed in a desert tortoise translocation plan. during the environmental review process.
43	Since there is a high density of projects that are side by side, does each project consider the others in the pre application process?	(live answered)-Although the proposed Projects are located in a similar area, BLM received individual applications for these three standalone projects. Each has potential site-specific resource concerns. Since the applications are standalone projects. Once the application evaluation process is complete, including completion of the public information forums for each project, the BLM will make individual determinations for each application. If a project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will continue processing the Project and environmental review will be initiated. Cumulative effects or combined effects of all reasonably foreseeable projects will be analyzed during the environmental review process.

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44	Again, why place this near a residential area?	The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed Project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).
45	Please answer this one: Because the desert tortoise surveys took place last April/May in a record-breaking drought year, the accuracy of the surveys is questionable. Will the BLM require the applicant to redo desert tortoise surveys in more reasonable conditions?	Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
46	Very concerned that we would approve a project that may be buying solar panels/and more from a country that does not support human rights and is known for child labor. I feel strongly that source of panels should be known before approval!	Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
47	Can I speak as well?	Yes, you will be listed as a speaker.
48	Please feel free to answer my questions to aletarn@hotmail.com	Answers to the questions that you submitted were provided in writing. You may be having trouble viewing the responses. Under your question, there is a "show all" link that is blue, if you click that link, the BLM response should show. If you would like, we can also send the responses to the email address you have provided.
49	Is there a reason or normal process that this application is 11 years or so old before moving to this point? thx.	The application for the Copper Rays Solar Project was received by the BLM on September 9, 2010. To look at the siting of solar comprehensively, the BLM and the United States Department of Energy approved the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS) in six Southwestern States. The Solar PEIS designated Solar Energy Zones that are well suited for utility-scale production of solar energy. Then the Southern Nevada District issued policy implementing regulations for prioritization of applications based on known resource conflicts. The Copper Rays Solar Project priority for processing decision was issued last year. The BLM is now proceeding with application evaluation for the Project. We welcome input from the public on this evaluation.

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50	I think you are trying to skirt around the license information. Please - just answer my questions - What country do the holders of this company live in?	<p>We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response.</p> <p>We encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>
51	I cannot find the license information for this company. I went to www.nvsos.gov and it's NOT there.	<p>Here is a direct link to the website: https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineBusinessAndMarkSearchResult</p>
52	There is NO business listed under Copper Hat or hats on esos.nv.gov Please offer the business license type. (*Question asked 3 times)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here is a direct link to the website: https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineBusinessAndMarkSearchResult • From the esos.nv.gov site – search “Copper Rays Solar LLC” • There are two separate Projects named "Copper Rays" and "Rough Hat" solar Projects. This public meeting is regarding the "Copper Rays" Project.

Appendix D - Public Input from Virtual Public Information Forums

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Robert Adams	57:08	<p>Okay. Just to follow up on the comment before that. There's just too much public land. These solar developers are just asking for too much public lands too close to Pahrump. It should be further out, and a way to mitigate the impacts on both the current users, people that recreate in public land and desert would be to approach it the same way we do with the water wells of how many per square mile. We've got several thousand acres that are going to be tied up here, right next to the, right east and south of Pahrump, the smaller projects would be much better and disperse them separately, that, that way there'd be room between them. Because what the developers are asking for is pretty much to take up the entire desert surrounding the east and south sides of Pahrump, and that's just not fair to the citizens of Pahrump and just can be devastating for nature. Thank you.</p>
Judy Branfman	58:59	<p>Yeah, I just want to say the same thing that I said at the Rough Hat, hearing, and the Green Link hearing and that is that there's been basically no or incredibly poor planning, that's gone into this and I think it's really clear from the questions that to offer up public land before you've done botanical surveys, human surveys, indigenous surveys, figuring out if there's really a need for all this electricity at this point, you know if where it's supposed to go the other end is actually doing their part before they start, you know, taking public lands, is just really unimpressive, and really awful, that, that there's basically that this is a plot by plot. I mean, you know, sort of, piece by piece, case by case, proposal by proposal process with absolutely no big picture thinking. It's so embarrassing and again it's, it's not good stewardship of the land. So, I really invite you to rethink your process. You know, I don't know who it serves but it's not serving us, the public. Thanks.</p>
Tynia Dixon	1:02:25	<p>My understanding is that this Project is going to use a lot of water, and that will potentially impact those of us who are on wells, so I haven't heard any of that being addressed so I just wanted to get it into the record that we have limited water. I'm also wondering why a California company would come to Nevada when there's plenty of desert in California, that they could direct, whatever, solar things that they need. And I guess that's pretty much all I have.</p>
Daniel Dixon	1:04:07	<p>I just want people to give some thought and maybe do some research and find out ahead of time, my wife brought up the questions of the impact on the water table, and how that's going to impact individual homes in this area with their water are they going to have to redrill wells and things like that because of the amount of water that they've been using on that Project, we really need to consider her question you know why a California company is wanting to build their solar farm here to send power to California instead of building it in California. And I think we as residents here who live here and have our homes here, and business here, need to really do some research and make sure we're becoming active in finding out who's making money on this and where that money is going and who stands to benefit from some of the problems that arise because of this location and, again, why is it going to be, it's going to impact front side it's going to impact all the other big businesses around here, as well as any anybody else, just from the increased construction traffic, the hassle that's going to cause, and I know that somebody's going to be making money from it, we just need to look and see who's making those decisions and how that's going to affect the rest of us, not just now but 10 years from now. And is it going to be worth that for the majority of us here. So, doesn't sound like a great idea for me, that we would consider this in general and specifically where they want to do it and how they want to go about it. So, that's all I got to say.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Tom Bressler	1:06:30	<p>Yeah, I'm looking at the plan of development for the Copper Rays Solar Project at section 1.2.2.2 where it talks about the power market and Project benefits, which is a question I asked is what benefit is for Pahrump, and in there, it points out that one of the benefits is they're going to be able to sell this electricity back to California for their renewable portfolio. I got out of California, just because of the environment there. I come here, I fell in love with the desert, looking at it. And now I don't understand why I got to look at 10 square miles or more of solar panels to support California, and their lack of electricity that they have. I don't know why we have to pay for that here when we left California? Now I got to look at it. I mean long after I'm dead it'll still be there, and it is just too much. I agree with Daniel on this 100%.</p>
Susie Hertz	1:08:57	<p>My comments have to deal with the water requirements, I asked the question and I'm terribly concerned not only with the water question but anything here that has been asked this evening. This entire Project has been even considered without you having enough information to make a reasonable determination as to whether this is a realistic Project or not. The entire region here is an environmentally fragile limited water resource area. I think it's inappropriate and irresponsible to propose solar generation projects in such an area of such limited resources, you propose to approve this Project and other projects which we know will require large volumes of water in both construction and maintenance, yet we know the areas proposed are in areas of known limited water resources as other people have commented, it seems to me to be a totally irresponsible action on the part of BLM, and the citizens, and against the citizens of Pahrump and the surrounding Nye and Clark county areas, when we've asked about negative impacts to Pahrump, its citizens, loss of property values, loss of quality of life, devastation to nature, wildlife, and resources, you state you'll consider all of this after you approve consideration of this and other projects. This is a great waste of taxpayer dollars. And I remind you that this land is owned by the people of the United States, Nevada. Nye County, and therefore my spouse and myself. And many of my neighbors do not want this Project within the development plan area in any way shape or form. If you have, get anything from this meeting, please understand the citizens do not want solar generation projects in any area visible or easily reachable. During normal recreational life, when there are 10s of thousands and hundreds of thousands of acres and miles of BLM land that you can manage and are far from populations that could be utilized instead of putting this up against an existing community and having a massive negative impact on our community.</p>
Mike Barishman	1:12:06	<p>Ladies and gentlemen of Nye County. Nobody wants to live near a nuclear power plant such as San Onofre, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl. Nobody wants to live near a hydro plant such as the Tennessee Valley Authority. Nobody wants to live near a coal burning plant. Nobody wants to live with a wind farm in their backyard such as they do in Texas. Nobody wants a solar farm in their neighborhood. This is not moving next door to an airport and complaining about the noise. All power plants have environmental fallout that affect the inhabitants. We're wasting our time with having meetings with the vampires who want to suck the life blood out of our aquifers. And leave droppings of tar. We need to be involved with our Councilman, commissioners, governors, and mayors and attorneys who are fighting against the destruction of our homes, schools, playgrounds, human and wildlife. The more we negotiate with the BLM and solar projects, the more we play into their hands. People of Pahrump I implore you to call, email, write all who are involved with fighting this land and power grab for trinkets and beads at our expense and vote against anyone who is for it. It's the only thing they understand, and that's it, I'm done.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Joyce Barishman	1:13:56	<p>Okay, so I do agree with Daniel and Susie Hertz as well. I, I am not for this Project, it's the wrong thing for the, the citizens of Pahrump, it's too close to the town. We don't have enough water, it's going to create dust, valley fever, heat. We're going to lose, animals, and, and, and other important things that we have in the desert that people enjoy. This is our land. It's not solar land, and it is much too close to the town of Pahrump, and this Project needs to be halted and all solar projects around the town of Pahrump need to be stopped, that's, that's how I feel. And please, please understand this has to be stopped. Thank you.</p>
Michael Fender	1:16:11	<p>Well, my comments this evening are pretty straightforward. I want people to understand that 40% of the land in Nevada is managed by the BLM and that's little over 40%. And in California, the same thing applies but that's right around 15% those are just stats that the public can pick up. The bottom line is, as residents of Pahrump and the surrounding communities. We the county, the town and the residents need to be in some way the benefactors and not fixtures for these projects The X on the map that relates to where these projects can be built, does that mean they have to be built? There are no real ordinances, rules, and codes so how, where, and when these projects could proceed. You got a place in mind here. If you put one of these up there, build one solar farm. You could end up with two, we could end up with 10. Instead of 18,000 acres, it could be 180,000 acres but might be a little bit exaggeration on land usage. But if that's the case you're here again when you talk about water. Some of these outfits are going to use upwards of 500-acre feet of water per year. And if you build four of them, how much is that's about 2-million-acre feet of water per year. That's just during the construction phase. So, keep in mind, folks, this is not a healthy way to do things, because we're going to end up turning our nice Valley here into a really nice solar desert, and it's not going to be very livable. Anyway, thanks for my time I really appreciate it.</p>
Kevin Emmerich	1:19:23	<p>Thank you. My name is Kevin Emmerich, my group is the Basin and Range Watch, we're following a lot of these projects. You gave this a high priority status over a year ago, and it was based on what you call low conflicts and many of your low conflicts are based on bogus biological survey. You said in this presentation there are 49,000 cacti and yuccas, I think that's off. Yellow Pine Solar Project is 3000 acres, 2000 acres smaller than this one, had 93,000 Mojave yucca. I believe there's an undercount here. Somebody asked what happens to the yucca, as they're called forest products by BLM? They get destroyed. Even if there's 49,000 you cannot salvage all of those, and they don't grow back, Google it, Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, did a study when you mulch them, they're gone. Also, you said, you don't know if you avoid the mesquite. Mesquite are a (garbled) a wetland species. Why not? Why not avoid a really rare resource in the desert that's ridiculous to replace those with solar panels? Desert tortoise surveys were done in a record-breaking drought year by this particular company's biological consultant New Fields, and they were done with what BLM said with a 64% confidence interval, those need to be done again, I actually asked you, in the question and answer those would be re surveyed you did not answer that. What happened on yellow pine you undercounted, you got 139 predicted 53. And then when they moved them in April, record breaking drought, 30 were killed by hungry badgers. Really bad, really bad screw up let's not keep doing this with all these other solar projects. Thank you.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Shannon Salter	1:22:08	<p>Um, but yeah you know this Project is an absolute absurdity. And I've hiked a lot on the site, it's really, really biodiverse there's, as you said about 49,000 yucca, and other cactus. And it's home to so many animals; kit foxes, tortoises, coyotes. And I really think that what's happening, or what's supposed to happen here in the valley is a form of ecocide, I mean it's definitely a form of ecocide I don't think that because this is a completely intact ecosystem which has now been starting to be ripped apart by the Yellow Pine Solar Facility. And I believe it needs to stop but that I think we should recognize that we've made a mistake with that and not proceed with the other four projects that are proposed so that the whole valley is not totally destroyed. I really consider it a form of ecological terrorism, because so many forms of life are being completely decimated. And it's impossible to get them back as Kevin said the yucca do not grow back. The BLM proposes to have the applicant mow the landscape.</p> <p>but you know it's sort of pointless to do that because the yucca are going to be dead. I think it's like a cop-out and it's just a way for the BLM to make it look a little bit better but it's really not better. I think that the American public is stands to lose a huge resource here again of course this has been identified as a low conflict area but as Kevin pointed out too there's, you know, this is like a wetlands in the desert. And so, I think to do this would be a form of ecocide and ecological terrorism and assault on our Mojave Desert. Thank you.</p>
Michael Long	1:24:55	<p>Hi, I'm recently relocated from another state in which we had a significant amount of wind farms which cause significant declines in the value of homes from, and the accompanying cities and towns around those, and those have a pretty short shelf life too because they're not even recyclable. I moved to Pahrump because I wanted to be out away from everything else. I didn't want to be in Vegas. I want to be out in nature, and I wanted to have some nice peace and quiet. Now I find out within six months after I moved here. There's going to be this big solar array and the more I research it and I am pretty conservative but now I'm realizing that I am beside myself. I go to Moab Utah for Easter Jeep Safari every year, and we are fined, and we can be charged with citations just for stepping on the crust there. And yet this entire desert needs to be decimated by a contractor that's going to sell this off to another state, and not benefiting any of the residents, or anybody in the state of Nevada, from what I understand, and the questions that have been asked over and over and over throughout this session, have been just the answers have been doublespeak. We don't have an answer, we don't know. I'm just beside myself and so many people have made statements and comments prior to me. I'm even more frustrated now realizing that this could be the home that I wanted to build my forever home in. And in my commute to Las Vegas, I'm just supposed to look at a whole bunch of mirrors of solar farm, knowing that all of the entire ecosystem under that has been destroyed and will never come back. And then there's homes that I've looked at that I've been told, don't buy that home because the well needs to be redrilled because the water table is so low. There's not enough water for the residents that are in Pahrump now in addition to all the other houses that are being built. And then you want to throw this solar farm out here. This is absolutely inappropriate and it's a complete disrespect to the citizens, and it's a misuse of our BLM lands. Thank you.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Kevin Emmerich	1:29:27	<p>Thank you once again, again on this low conflict. You can actually by the Code of Federal Regulations reevaluate a prioritization process (garbled) surveys were done in such a dry year you have one avenue right there the Endangered Species Act to reevaluate that into a high conflict area. And then you could turn (garbled) to a remote viewing data and turn that into a low priority. This isn't about desert tortoise, it's about people. It's about their water (audio cuts off) I don't know where I got cut off, I'd say you have several avenues to reevaluate that priority status. And like I said, you issued a high priority in August of 2020. That is a public process because anybody can appeal it, and often when you issue low priority a renewable energy company will challenge that and appeal. But it's not just limited to them, any citizen can do it so as a public process you can reevaluate, a prioritization. Go back and put cooperated a low priority project. And you know what you're going to solve a lot of issues because I did not hear one comment supporting this Project, people hate this. People do not want their public land trashed by the solar boondoggles, please stop it. Thank you.</p>
Michael Long	1:33:13	<p>Thank you, so I used all two minutes earlier, and my passion and frustration with this particular Project is unfettered by time, but that's a limitation that we have for this, this venue. Water table is a big issue. There's no way for us to account for how much water is underground. And if you talk to any well driller, they're all telling everyone I've tried to get a bid on well, we're drilling a while has told me to go in an additional 50 to 100 feet, beyond where they're anticipating the water will be because they do not know when this water table dry up. And then we're going to bring this Project and that's going to take on an unknown amount of water, because they're just guessing and how much water they're going to use, we cannot afford that as a town, absolutely cannot, especially with the record droughts that we're having. And then in addition to the fact that there's no way to assess how this will affect the values of the homes and properties in Pahrump because people come out to this area because it's a serene place to be. 10s of thousands of acres of solar panels is not serene, That's not somewhere that anyone's going to want to raise their family or retire, looking out off their back deck, you know a bunch of solar panels. That's not a very comfortable and serene place to live your life. Thank you.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Shannon Salter	1:35:41	<p>Yeah. Um, I just wanted to add that the BLM should definitely reconsider the priority status, this, you know, considering the desert tortoise debacle at Yellow Pine, how 30 of the tortoises removed were eaten by badgers at the Stump Springs, which is the same place that the BLM is proposing to put tortoises from the Copper Rays solar facility. That's just like completely absurd and it's an outrage really, and it would almost be laughable you know like if it was funny, we would have to laugh, but it's just completely an absurdity. You know the other thing is just the way that this will affect the people that live in Pahrump. I mean, it would basically devastate the town and make it a place where nobody wants to live, and a place where people don't want to visit either. Like, I'm a resident of Las Vegas and I always come to Pahrump, just like the previous commenter said for the serenity of it. It's a beautiful countryside place. And this would completely change the character of the town forever, and I really can't imagine anybody wanting to come there or live there. So, it's for those reasons, and I mean, for others too but just for those particular reasons that the desert tortoise situation at Yellow Pine was such a debacle and so mismanaged, and they found so many more than they anticipated and then so many of them died. And then the fact that program presents so many concerns about their quality of life being, you know, pretty much ruined. And not to mention their water table that's already under stress, potentially getting even lower. So, I think with those I think like just for those two reasons alone there's plenty of reasons for the BLM to reconsider their priority status and I think it would be really unjust and odd if they didn't. Thanks.</p>
Susie Hertz	1:40:15	<p>I forwarded a question asking how many actual projects there are that had been begun to be evaluated in the Nye County area. I'm aware of four to six of them and I haven't lived here and been very involved for very long. But I find it really peculiar that where these proposed projects are at the town of Pahrump, and some others in northern Nye County as well, where there are populations of people. I've made the drive between Baker California and Pahrump untold dozens of times and in those 60 miles or 70 miles worth of BLM managed lands, there are little to zero population and oodles of open space. So, it's really hard for me to comprehend how the intelligent people of the BLM could decide to entertain projects that absolutely impact populations, and their environments, versus hundreds of miles of open space where there are absolutely no human beings that could be negatively impacted by such a project. And that's not with any disrespect to the environment and nature itself, but logic aside of anything else would tell you there's no reason for you, other than money to put propose a project, next to a populated environment. Human beings have already told you this is a viable space, but it doesn't mean it's a viable space to take and strip and destroy the environment, and the resources that are there. We have hundreds of thousands of other open miles of uninhabited areas that could well be utilized. Thank you.</p>

NAME	12/15/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Tom Bressler	1:43:12	Thank you, um, I'd like to get back to where the money goes to, I'm looking under where you told us to go under the power marketing benefits. They only mentioned about it once. They only mentioned Nevada once they talk about construction jobs, which, it's hard to find people to work right now anyway. And we have tons of construction going on in the area with all these new houses. But they constantly bring up California, they talk about, California independent system operator where they can sell this solar power back to California, and it will be sold at a prime rate. So, it's, that's where the money is, I believe, and there's no benefit to Pahrump and or little to Nevada on this. So, that's the only comment I have. Thank you.
Judy Branfman	1:49:36	Right, yeah, I'll just ask the question that I posted, I'm concerned about all letters and comments, being made available to the public. Are they are the transcripts from all the hearings like in Pahrump available as well, and are all the documents related to the Project between the developers and BLM made available, is it how transparent Is it because I know the process is not that there's something plan there's no RFP, that they respond to so there's a lot of back and forth going on? So, are all those documents, public?

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Susie Hertz	52:55	<p>Your BLM staff today attended the Nye County Commissioners meeting and volumes of data was given as to why solar development in Pahrump Valley is wrong, it's a bad idea. It's a wrong idea. Just as an example, and a comment is that we do not want you to use any of the water within basin 162 areas, there is not enough for us who live here. There will not be enough if you decide to do these solar projects. Your responsibility as BLM is to manage public lands, lands that belong to the citizens of this county, Clark County and of this country. We citizens are here to tell you the proper management of the lands in question is to manage and to continue to manage this land as open land for public recreational use in perpetuity. With 56 million acres of land in Nevada. That is what you should be doing, managing all those lands for use by the people. Solar needs should only be used in an area far from human life. Copper Rays and all the related possible projects being entertained for Clark, and Nye counties in the same vicinity needs to be stopped to be prevented. No amount of damage to life wildlife, human life is acceptable. No to these solar projects, speaking to your process it seems counterintuitive, and a waste of taxpayer dollars to preliminarily approve this Project to go all the way down to the NEPA process when you can't answer any of the concrete questions brought forth tonight. This is the cart before the horse, considering these sorts of projects before you have considered the negative impacts of such projects. Again, it seems irresponsible and behaviors of processes that are costly use of tax dollars. I'm appealing to the bigger picture of BLM and the environmental agency senses of logic to this process, it's backwards.</p>
Jimmy Lewis	55:28	<p>My biggest concern is, personally to my business but on a bigger picture, I feel that putting a lot of these solar projects in is kind of rush to judgment and bowing to like more political pressures than actual use and my case in point is if solar was so effective in our area it would be on our roofs, before we go and mow down desert, close off desert public access, and really destroy the visual quality in the area I chose to live in. So, it's going to affect my recreation, it's going to affect what I see every day, and unfortunately, as vocal as Pahrump has been, I don't think you're going to see the true, you know, outcome of this until you start putting the panels up. And I was really surprised at how Yellow Pine, kind of snuck under the radar. And I see the rush now to get these other projects in motion. Before we see the visual effects of that, let alone whatever else happens, and that's kind of up for you guys to, you know, do it through the NEPA process and stuff, but I'm adamantly opposed to this, and I think we should make sure that we're doing all the right processes because it doesn't seem very straightforward to me it seems rushed and, in some ways, kind of political. Thank you.</p>
Lou Pintarelli	58:00	<p>Um, so, like the others I just wanted to disapprove of this, process. You know from, we're new to Pahrump and just recently gotten involved with a lot of these projects that are going on. And it seems like there's not enough information of the benefits, versus the destruction of the land. The hurt to the environment. The resources that are going to be used and things like that, there's not enough information on the benefit that is going to come from a project like this, where it would be something that really should be moved forward. That's all I have.</p>

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Kevin Emmerich	1:00:12	<p>Hello. Hi again I'm going to bring up the same stuff I've been talking about desert tortoise. Can you hear me? All right. Okay, so I'm going to talk again about the desert tortoise just to recap. When you said low conflict, high priority for tortoises that you base that on surveys that took place 31 years ago. That's too long, that has to be done. Fast forward to April/May of 2021 Yellow Pine tortoise clearance was going on a record-breaking drought year, about the same time, they were doing desert tortoise surveys for Copper Rays solar on a record-breaking drought year. The numbers are skewed when they look for tortoises in drought years. It should be redone. I've been asking you to redo the survey and it will cost them money but who cares, we need to do that right. The same company hired New Fields, and New Field did a tortoise survey for the Searchlight Wind Project I think 2012/2013. In 2015 our organization Basin and Range Watch along with others successfully had a federal judge vacate the right of way for the Searchlight Wind Project in the same BLM district, based on the fact partially because the desert tortoise surveys, were not done correctly or accurately. A federal judge did that. That same company did a survey on a record-breaking drought year for Copper Rays solar. Thank you.</p>
Shannon Salter	1:02:13	<p>First of all, yeah just, you know, also echoing about the desert tortoise at the Yellow Pine site everybody knows what a complete catastrophe that was and what a sad heartbreaking thing. So, like, they definitely need to do new tortoise surveys, hands down. But I just, I want to speak to something that somebody said today at the Rough Hat meeting at the Nye County Commissioners meeting, and that was that they were worried about the health of the people in Pahrump where the Project would come close to, and she was referencing the one Jeanne, the hot dog Jeanne, who would be surrounded, totally surrounded by solar but you know I wonder about the effects on mental health of just everybody that lives in Pahrump and even people that that like frequently go to Pahrump from Las Vegas and enjoy getting out of the city but especially the people that live in, the mental health effects of having the desert around them completely destroyed. I mean, talk about like nature being ripped out from under you, but the desert that they love, and even if they don't realize that they love it just having that open space and nature we know is good for people's mental health so to have that destroyed before your eyes, I wonder about the mental health effects on people living in Pahrump. And not to mention the physical health effects of course like I asked a lot of questions that maybe will hopefully be addressed in writing about what is known to the BLM to be in the dust. And then I mean, then there's, we can also consider everything that's not known, but it's interesting just to see what is known. And yeah, just mostly thinking about the health of the mental health and physical health of everybody that would be surrounded by this catastrophe. Yellow Pine is already going to change the valley tremendously so I think doing any more projects will be a total disaster.</p>

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Linda Faye	1:05:28	Um, I just wanted to say that I'm really concerned about the environmental impact of all these projects because the desert floor is a very complex organism. And as many before me have said the impacts have not been studied. This is uncharted territory. So, you really need to drill down and do your due diligence before you know a project of this scale is legitimized, because once the damage is done, it won't be easily reversed, and climate change is already like so negatively impacting our environment and the desert. You know the desert plays a great role in climate management, so I don't think we can afford to tamper with that delicate balance right now. So, I'm imploring the powers that be, to just take a breath. Do your diligence. Don't rush into anything that you won't be able to reverse and do further damage to an area that is very instrumental in our climate right now, the high desert is, you know, it's very valuable. And we don't need to tamper with that balance right now. And as others have said, what is the value to Pahrump? I hear they're saying they're this is energy for California, And also the water resources. There's, there's also many housing developments planned here, who was thinking about the water resources. No one has control over the weather. We don't know what's going to come in, in the coming year as far as far as the water resources. So, I don't think it's wise to plan any more projects that are going to further deplete water resources and aquifers. That's the end of my statement. Thank you.
Joy Centers	1:07:43	Hi, um, we don't want this here. It will kill our visual, it will probably make us sick with valley fever at some point. And it's just not a good idea. It's not for this community, it is too close to people. And we just can't have it here.
Aleta Alexander	1:08:55	Good evening. Hey, thank you for hosting this, I have a couple questions. One, who had get had the bright idea of putting this proposed solar farm so close to school and close to residential areas? That's my first question. Number two, if Pahrump is not going to benefit from all this solar energy, then why do you think that we want it here? Would you want it in your backyard? Number three, I actually value the desert tortoises that was, those were my questions about the desert tortoises. And I would be a criminal. If I went out and killed one, but yet your company seems to think that it's just a-okay to kill several hundred. and I don't think that's quite right. Do you want me to continue, ma'am? So, in general, this is a bad idea. We'd like you guys to just go away. I have one other question. who are the shareholders or the stockholders or the businesspeople of this company? Are they actually United States citizens' because I can tell you Rough Hat, LLC is from another country so what country is Copper Hat from?
Joni Hawley	1:11:07	Hi. Um, I just recently moved to the area. I retired, and our whole goal was getting to a community where we could enjoy the natural resources, and not be surrounded by huge city. And it was all about quality of life. And I think that the solar projects, not being small solar projects, they're huge. And there, one right next to another next to another to another. So, you're talking, you know, anywhere from 10 to 15,000 acres of solar panels, the visual effect, that alone is going to be awful. But you, there's so many negative impacts to our environment, heat islands. The, the damage to the plants the animals. The dust issues and the one that's so near and dear to all of us is the water issue. I just, you know, these people are here to make money. It's not that they're here to help benefit our community and our people. It's about lining their own pockets. And I just wanted to be on record that I am completely opposed to this. I didn't move here, and I could have gone anywhere in the country, and I chose to come to the desert area of Pahrump, and I would like to keep it the way it is. And I just wanted to be on record that I oppose this. Thank you.

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Barbara Callahan	1:19:23	<p>I'm very pleased that this is coming before the public. I have, I need to underline, and exclamation mark all the comments that have been said. I really can't understand and wrap my mind around the backward process. BLM and Copper Rays is bringing a Project to us wanting us to give our honest opinion yet you're unable to answer some very important questions for us. Until, let me correct that, you can't answer them until it's approved or further down the line. I just can't wrap my mind around the backward process. The dust and air pollution has already been proven, a real problem with already established solar projects. The one near Boulder City is an example. They prefer to take the fine than to correct the air pollution. There has not been enough study on the large farms to really know what the long-term impact is. I can't understand why we would put so many of the projects on top of, and with me, 1000 feet from my property. I'm born and raised third generation Nevadan, and it kills me to see the proper land raped, abused, not for our consideration, but for unknown entity. I asked BLM please take a step backwards and really look what's happening. Move such projects, far away from established towns and businesses and residents. Yes, they have to spend more money dropping in the power stations and running their lines. But it would certainly save towns like BLM. Thank you.</p>
Lisa Ortega	1:16:08	<p>Hello, thanks for having the meeting and hosting. So, I'm just going to say that I really wish there was a game plan. A green energy plan. I implore you BLM to get some kind of a green energy plan where you're guiding it for the lands in Nevada. We need a resource plan for this stuff. We have lands that are already disturbed by mining, strip mines, dumps. I mean, we can put this stuff on our roofs, community solar, churches, parking lots, stores, all of that. But we don't have a plan and it's so much you guys you know the resources you, your people know the resources and having developers out in front. I mean, I go to the site, you know, I go out to Yellow Pine. And it's hard to take these sites one by one as you do in your process because I know how big Yellow Pine is and I looked at that map, and I was absolutely devastated at how big these projects as a whole are, and for the area. And I just think that a developer led green industry with companies that have no desert flora experience, nor any appreciation of our Mojave Desert is a shit show. And thank you, and I'm sorry I said that.</p>
Laura Cunningham	1:17:58	<p>Yeah, hi i co-founded the desert conservation group Basin and Range Watch. Been a Nye County resident for 20 years. I hike, ride my horse, mountain bike, and use my four by four. In this Copper Rays area, I have hiked across country on the Copper Rays Project site where I have seen, beautiful stands of Mojave yucca old growth desert, Joshua trees. I have found fossils, on the soil surface. I've seen desert tortoise. I have seen the rare Parish Club Cholla Cactus, which is like a rare plant, so I don't understand why this Project isn't considered low priority. The cumulative impact of all of these projects Rough Hat Nye, Rough Hat Clark, Yellow Pine, Copper Rays, you know, others, Sagittarius should be considered. Now, I mean, I think it's really deficient. These are public lands with multiple use mandates, and if we put an eight-foot-high chain link fence with barbed wire on top of all these thousands and thousands of acres for some of these developers who are from Spain or other countries, we will not have public lands for 30 years, it's like de facto virtually privatizing our public lands. So, I oppose Copper Rays and all of these projects. Thank you.</p>

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Unknown Speaker (Aleta Alexander's husband)	1:20:43	Yeah, just like to just say that most of the comments that I've heard are opposed to this Project coming in here, and I, I wholeheartedly agree with the fact that I don't see why we would give up our land to provide energy for someone else. But I want to read to you something here, because I think is consequential, it says here that while black surfaces of the solar panels of so most of the sunlight that reaches them only a fraction around 15% of that incoming energy gets converted to electricity. The rest of return to the environment is heat. The panels, usually darken and they make the ground cover so vast an expanse of solar cells will absorb a lot of additional energy and admitted as heat effect the climate, so we're not really helping anything. We're not helping the climate by allowing this Project to come in here and I really think that we should rethink what we're doing and let them find some other place to plant their job.
Shannon Salter	1:22:24	Yeah, hi thanks, you know I just, um, I just wanted to add that I hike in this area just like you know I've said with the other projects too, the Rough Hat and the Copper Rays I hike in all these areas, and I you know I'm disappointed in myself for not being more active earlier with the Yellow Pine facility because had I, you know, it was really pushed through during coronavirus they didn't have public meetings there towards the end which they didn't have to technically because it was a fast 41 project, but they could have had virtual public meetings and they didn't. And it just wasn't, you know, the Covid was on, and all kinds of struggles and I'm really disappointed in myself for not being more active in the Yellow Pine facility first because they'll be breaking ground soon on that and that is going to change the character of this valley so much. And, you know, I'm just not gonna even enjoy coming out here the way I always have which is a really sad thing and so you know I fear for the like effects on my mental health, and I can only imagine how it's affecting other people as well especially like I said the people that live in Pahrump. But I just think that if we could go back and take Yellow Pine back and say, we're not going to do this, you know, that would have been better and now we definitely shouldn't do any more in this valley because it's just so wrong, and disgusting. And I agree that like it's crazy to not to have an overarching plan, even though I could, you know, just having these things come up one at a time is just so exhausting and takes is such a drain on people and it's so tiring for all of us. But yeah, we just can't have this here, and it's just ruining like the state of Southern Nevada and it's making this not a nice place to live. So, thank you.
Barbara Callahan	1:24:54	Thank you. If I knew which button to push where. I'm really curious that I have tried and tried to find out the country that is sourcing the solar panels, and the equipment and the electrical and it seems like nobody can tell nobody will say or it's not always available. What country is all this equipment being sourced from? I have to tell you I have a real problem with supporting any country, items that might be coming from a country that has little or no human rights, and that support child labor. So, I really would like to know these panels and etc. where they're coming from. What's the guarantee of the products that are in them? That's it. I could talk forever but I'm so against this. Thank you very much.

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Kevin Emmerich	1:26:51	<p>Yeah, this one comment. A lot of folks have been asking, well what country to the solar panels come from. Originally this application was by First Solar, that's a big solar developer company and like 2010 or so. They were on top of the game building most of the PV projects on public and private lands. I believe they're now called Leeward or Leland Renewables but it's the same group, and they get their solar panels they manufacture them in Malaysia, they're not American made. These are not American factory. Maybe they've changed it. I don't know, maybe it's different now but for a long time because they could utilize cheap labor, Malaysia was the source of the solar panels, these are not American made, if they are now, you should be telling us, and you should be letting us know where those solar panels are coming from, but historically no, they went to the third world they went for the cheap labor, which is not exactly ethical Thank you.</p>
Linda Faye	1:28:41	<p>Hello, this is Linda Faye again. I just wanted to reinforce a comment that a gentleman made previously a few minutes ago. I haven't really, this is all new to me, so I haven't done a lot of research on it. But he made a very valid point about the feature that those solar panels reflect heat back into the earth, which is contributing more to global warming, which is definitely not beneficial, it's almost counterproductive. And one thing that I am aware of that I have read about is the issue of end of life, solar panels. Apparently, there is a huge issue with lots of toxic waste. So there needs to be planning for that as well. And for BLM, I think that, since we already have a Project that's been given the go.</p> <p>Why not see how things go before committing 10s of thousands of acres of land into, maybe, who knows what? You'll see the environmental impact how it affects global warming, how the companies will indeed force their water and other resources they can't really give a plan for that now. See how it's gonna go with the, the projects that you already have existing, and also the plan for waste management. And I would like to say for the record I oppose this Project. Thank you for your time.</p>
Aleta Alexander	1:31:22	<p>Okay, I just have another comment. I was able to find Rough Hat Solar and under the business section they're listed as hats. I'm not able to find this Copper Hat, so I'm curious what other business would they be listed under. I concur with my husband; this is a bad idea for the desert it's already hot out here. We don't need to make it hotter. So, and in general, we just really wish that this whole thing would go away. I think the BLM has other things that they can spend their time on, and they can look out for the welfare of our land. Pahrump's not going to benefit from this. If California wants it fine, put it over there. They could certainly probably use it. Thank you so much for your time.</p>

NAME	12/16/21 TIMESTAMP	INPUT
Shannon Salter	1:32:31	Yeah. A couple things. One thing on the water issue, I feel like I know that a question was answered earlier that they might get water that is already owned by somebody here. I know they lease water right from someone here in this valley, or get it from Las Vegas truck it in. But there's no way they're going to truck in all that water from Las Vegas. At the Yellow Pine so for Yellow Pine Next Era energy has contracted with qubit construction to build their project and I talked to them there. And they said that they're going to use 350,000 gallons of water per day during construction. So, they're probably going to use the water in this valley, they're not going to truck in all that water from Las Vegas. And another thing is that you know what, Linda just said was so right on that this solar panels are also a toxic process and so really like we're just replacing one toxic process with another. And I think that BLM has a really interesting opportunity like really historic opportunity to talk to the Department of Interior, and say like, okay, we're going to change the focus of what we do on public land like we've always historically used it for energy use, but like, we don't want to destroy all the desert, that's not protected, we want to keep the desert intact because it's sequestering carbon, and it is necessary for animals, it's an intact ecosystem and it's necessary for people's like livelihoods and enjoyment of life. So, the BLM, you just say, we're going to prioritize distributed energy building solar on rooftops and over parking lots, we're not, we're going to discourage it on public land because it's bad for people and it's bad for the natural world and it's the old way of doing things. Thanks so much.
Susie Hertz	1:34:57	I did, locate Copper Rays Solar on the state site. The formation entity type is foreign Limited Liability Company. The name of the individual like legal entity as CT Corporation, the jurisdiction is Delaware. They do have an office address in Carson City, and the two noted managers or principles are located in Dallas, Texas. So that's to answer another caller's question. This is clearly not something done locally and it's not for local interest or local benefit. Thank you.
Linda Faye	1:36:49	Yeah, that's me. Okay, um, so I just have one question. I don't know if Copper Hat is still on the call. But I'm just wondering why Pahrump of all the millions of acres of desert, why was Pahrump chosen? That's my question. And I'm just thinking been kind of thinking for my thing about the whole situation. Going back to the comment that the gentleman made about panels being seen absorbing and casting more, you know, contributing to global warming. So, I mean, that is probably a no-no that's probably no-no. I mean God designed the desert to be respected for a reason, and we have 10s of thousands of acres of something that's going to be absorbing energy. How is that scientifically correct. You know, even in medical research, I'm in medical research, in medical research before new technologies are released into the public, as you see with the vaccine. There has to be evidence based. It has to be evidence based before it's acceptable. So, where's the evidence that we're seeing that this is acceptable for our environment and for our health and for our community. Thank you.
Linda Faye	1:42:15	Hi. Um, yeah, I think I have one question is kind of related to my previous question was why was Pahrump chosen? So, it kind of makes me wonder if it's a political thing. And my question now is, how are Pahrump elected officials, what's the role they're playing in this decision? That's my question What is the role of Pahrump elected officials? And what is your position on this Project? Thank you.