

Maricopa Solar Park Project



November 2013

What is the Maricopa Solar Park?

Marisol Energy 2, LLC (Marisol) has filed an application for a right-of-way grant on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to construct a photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant. The proposed Maricopa Solar Park project would have a planned generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts, based on the best available technology at the time of construction. The project would consist of one or more phases, based upon potential power purchase agreement(s) with electrical utility companies. Electrical energy from an onsite switchyard would be delivered to the existing Pinal West Substation through up to two new high-voltage transmission lines of approximately 2.3 miles in length. The project proposes to use approximately 5.4 acre-feet of water per year for facility operation.

Where would the project be located?

The project would be located on approximately 1,730 acres of public land administered by the BLM in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Phoenix. (See insert map.)

What is a variance and why was it required?

As the project would be located outside of one of the solar energy zones identified in the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, a variance application was required. Marisol submitted its variance application for consideration to the BLM Arizona State Office and the BLM Washington Office. A public information meeting was held in Maricopa, Arizona, on February 5, 2013. The BLM Washington Office approved the Marisol Variance application in June 2013.



What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is prepared for major Federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The purpose of an EIS is to identify potential issues related to the project, analyze the project impacts, disclose them to the public, and use the information developed to make informed decisions. The EIS is a public document, and the public is encouraged to provide input throughout the development of the EIS. The EIS is not a decision document, but it is intended to provide information to the BLM decision makers in order to make informed decisions. See "A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA, Having your Voice Heard" for more information on NEPA and the EIS process. (http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/publications/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)

Where Can I Get Additional Information?

Contact

Joe Incardine, National Project Manager
801-539-4118
BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

Website

www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html



What is scoping?

The BLM published a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 2013, notifying the public of the intent to prepare an EIS. Public scoping is the first stage of the EIS process in which potential environmental issues, project modifications, alternatives, and potential mitigative measures to be evaluated in the Draft EIS are identified. During the scoping period, the public is encouraged to provide comments and information on factors that should be considered in the EIS. Public meetings are being held November 12 and 13, 2013, Goodyear and Maricopa, respectively. The 45-day public scoping comment period was extended an additional 30 days due to the federal government shutdown (until December 4, 2013) to provide the public ample time to provide comments.

How can I provide my comments?

- Submit a comment form to BLM staff at the public scoping meeting(s)
- US Mail:
Maricopa Solar Park Project
Attn: Lane Cowger
BLM Arizona State Office
1 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004
- Email: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

What are effective scoping comments?

Effective scoping comments are an important part of the NEPA process. The BLM needs your input on the following:

- Known impacts to natural resources as well as social and economic values regarding the proposed action (such as impacts to visual, cultural, recreation, and grazing resources and/or socio-economic impacts to the community, etc);
- Reasonable alternatives to the Proponent's proposed action; and
- Other issues and concerns.

Looking forward to the Draft EIS, the most effective comments are those that would provide useful information to the BLM. Comments made during scoping or on the EIS are not counted as votes. Rather comments are used to inform the BLM regarding resource impacts and reasonable alternatives and to adequately determine environmental impacts before the agency makes a final decision on the proposed project. Therefore, please avoid comments that state, "I am in favor of/opposed to this project," without adding the "because." Remember that the more clear, concise, and relevant to the project analysis your comments are, the more effective and useful they will be in improving the EIS analysis and affecting the BLM's decision. Please be sure to submit your comments within the timeframes announced, so as to ensure that the BLM will be able to have them included for use in the EIS.

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS:

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
5:30pm — 8:00pm
Presentation Begins at 6:30pm
Hampton Inn & Suites
2000 North Litchfield Road
Goodyear, AZ 85395

Wednesday, November 13, 2013
5:30pm — 8:00pm
Presentation Begins at 6:30pm
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club
48456 West Highway 238
Maricopa, AZ 85139

Dennis Schroeder/ NREL



Right-of-Way Application NEPA Process

