

NEWSLETTER #1

Mohave County Wind Farm Project

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office / Arizona

November 2009

BLM



Introduction

In November 2002, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a right-of-way application from BP Wind Energy North America, Inc. (BPWE), for meteorological testing and monitoring for a potential wind energy project in the White Hills area of Arizona. BPWE has gathered wind data for more than four years, and is now moving forward with a proposal to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission facilities on approximately 44,860 acres of public land and potentially 4,360 acres of private land.

The BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. The proposed project site would be mostly on public land that is presently managed by the BLM; therefore, the project is considered a Federal action requiring review under and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). An EIS is a document prepared to comply with NEPA and discloses how a proposed project might impact the natural, cultural, and human environment and what actions may be required to minimize those impacts. The first step in the EIS process is public scoping to identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS.



This newsletter is being provided to interested parties and nearby property owners to describe the proposed project, announce upcoming scoping meetings, and let you know how you can contribute to the EIS process by offering your comments on the project.

Project Description

The proposed project would be located in the White Hills area, approximately 40 miles northwest of Kingman, Arizona. Most of the land is administered by the BLM, but some private land is interspersed in a checkerboard pattern as illustrated on the project location map included in this newsletter.

BPWE proposes to produce up to 500 megawatts (MW), which would supply approximately 110,000 homes per year with power. To generate this much power, the project will consist of up to 335 wind turbine generators, and construction would occur in multiple phases. Phase 1 would be located on the northwest portion of the project area, and would consist of up to 235 wind turbines. Up to 10 of the turbines in Phase 1 could be installed on the private lands leased from the property owners within the project area boundary. Phase 2 would include the addition of between 50 and 100 wind turbines. While the specific type of turbine that may be used has not yet been determined, each turbine would be expected to generate between 1.5 and 3.0 MW. The turbines would be approximately 263 feet tall from the ground to the hub, with rotors extending up to an additional 157 feet. The total height of the wind turbines could be up to 420 feet.

In addition to the wind turbines, the project would include access roads, transformers, operations and maintenance buildings, a switchyard, and a 345-kilovolt (kV) or 500 kV transmission line and substation. The project also would require an interconnection with one of the two existing transmission line facilities in the area, which are operated by Western Area Power Administration. Consequently, Western Area Power Administration will serve as a cooperating agency during preparation of the EIS so that the EIS also satisfies this agency's requirements to comply with NEPA. The exact locations of each component will be determined as project design is completed and the EIS process proceeds.

The EIS Process

The NEPA compliance process for the proposed project is anticipated to occur within an 18- to 24-month timeframe and consist of several steps as depicted in the flow chart on the following page. At this early stage in the process, BLM (the lead Federal agency) will identify the range or scope of public and agency issues through comments received in meetings and discussions with relevant agencies, Tribes, and the public.

Once the BLM has an understanding of the issues, the study team will begin to develop an inventory of resource information by gathering data representing human, natural, and cultural resources within the study area. The types of resources considered include, but are not limited to air quality, water resources, soils, geology, minerals, land use, recreation, public health and safety, visual resources and scenic quality, social and economic conditions, wildlife, vegetation, protected species, and cultural resources (including historic and prehistoric sites as well as places of traditional cultural importance). Based on the description of the proposed

project and any alternatives to be evaluated, issues identified, and inventoried resource data, the EIS team will comprehensively assess potential impacts of the project and identify measures to mitigate or reduce those impacts.

Once completed, the Draft EIS will be released to the public for a 45-day review period so you can read about the findings of the environmental studies. During that 45-day review period, BLM will conduct public meetings and you will be given an opportunity to comment on the draft document.

Planning Process



Public Scoping

It is important to BLM to involve the public, Tribes, and agencies in the NEPA process so that your concerns and comments are considered before making a decision on granting the right-of-way to allow BPWE to develop the wind farm. During public scoping, BLM encourages comments to identify issues and concerns that are important to the public in the region and that need to be addressed in the EIS.

The first opportunity for you to participate in the process will be the upcoming public scoping meetings. These public meetings are planned for the City of Kingman, and the towns of Dolan Springs and White Hills, Arizona in December 2009 as noted on the back of this newsletter. These meetings also will be announced in local newspapers and on the BLM Arizona website, www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html. Comments may be submitted in writing at the public meetings, as well as by mail, fax or e-mail.

The scoping meetings will be held in an open house format, with a brief presentation to provide an overview of the project and EIS process. Project team members will be available at display stations to answer questions about the project.

Your thoughts, comments, and concerns are important to us throughout the process, but especially right now at this early stage! Please attend one of the three scoping meetings and/or send us your written comments before the 45-day scoping period ends on Friday, January 8, 2010 so that your comments can be considered in the preparation of the EIS.

If you have questions, would like to be on the mailing list, or would like to speak to a project representative, please use the contact information below.

Questions may be directed to:

Jerry Crockford, contracted
BLM Project Manager, at (505) 360-0473

Written comments may be e-mailed to:

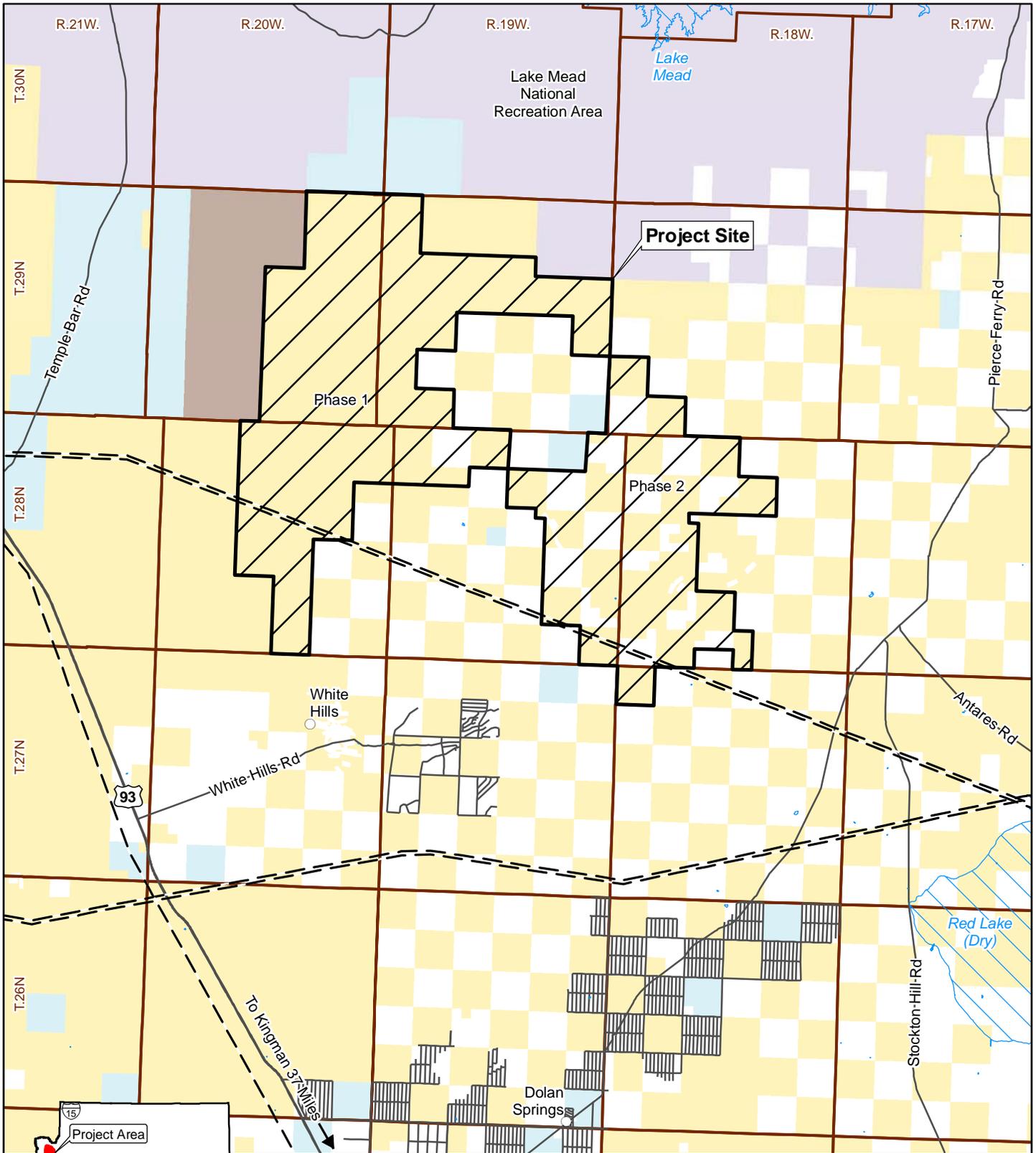
KFO_WindEnergy@blm.gov

Written comments may be faxed to:

(928) 718-3761 Attn: Joyce Cook

Written comments may be mailed to:

Bureau of Land Management
Kingman Field Office
Joyce Cook, Realty Specialist
2755 Mission Blvd.
Kingman, AZ 86401



Project Site

Phase 1

Phase 2

White Hills

White Hills Rd

Red Lake (Dry)

Dolan Springs

To Kingman 37 Miles

93

T.30N.
T.29N.
T.28N.
T.27N.
T.26N.

R.21W. R.20W. R.19W. R.18W. R.17W.



LEGEND

- Mohave County
- Wind Project Site
- Road
- Existing Transmission Line
- Lake
- Township and Range Boundary

- Surface Management**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - National Park Service
 - State Trust Land
 - Private

Project Site
Mohave County Wind Farm Project



Public Meeting Announcement

The BLM invites you to attend a scoping meeting to help identify the range or scope of issues related to the proposed Mohave County Wind Project. The issues identified during the scoping process will be considered and addressed during preparation of the EIS. Please attend one of the following open house meetings:

Dolan Springs

Dolan Springs Community Center
15195 Pierce Ferry Road
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
presentation at 6:45 pm

Kingman

Hampton Inn
1791 Sycamore Avenue
Kingman, AZ 86409
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
presentation at 6:45 pm

White Hills

White Hills Community Center
8599 W. White Hills Blvd.
White Hills, AZ 86445
Thursday, December 10, 2009
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
presentation at 6:45 pm



Participants will have the opportunity to submit written comments at all meetings.