

NEWSLETTER #2

Mohave County Wind Farm Project

Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office / Arizona

April 2010

BLM



This is the second in a series of newsletters to keep you informed about the proposed Mohave County Wind Farm Project. The proposed project would involve the construction of a wind energy generation facility located in the White Hills area approximately 40 miles northwest of Kingman, Arizona. The project is proposed by BP Wind Energy and would be primarily located on public land administered by the Bureau Land Management (BLM).

As stated in the first newsletter, the Kingman Field Office of the BLM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impact that the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the proposed facilities could have on natural and cultural resources and local communities.

For more information, or to review the first project newsletter, please visit the project website at <http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/wind/mohave.html>.

Project Description is Revised – Most Private Land Eliminated from Study Area

The proposed project would consist of no more than 333 wind turbines and generate up to 500 megawatts of power. Based on additional studies and comments received during scoping, the project area has been revised. Land previously identified as subsequent phases or Phase 2 of the project, including 13,522 acres of BLM-administered land and 4,360 acres private land, are no longer under consideration.



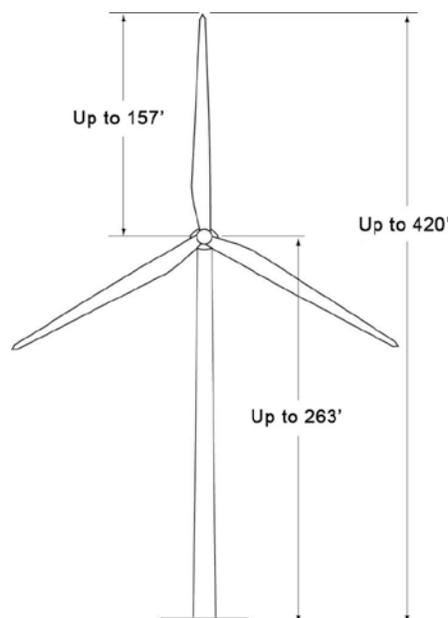
Example wind turbine

The project area now includes about 40,300 acres—31,300 acres of BLM-administered land and 9,000 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land to the west (see map on page 3).

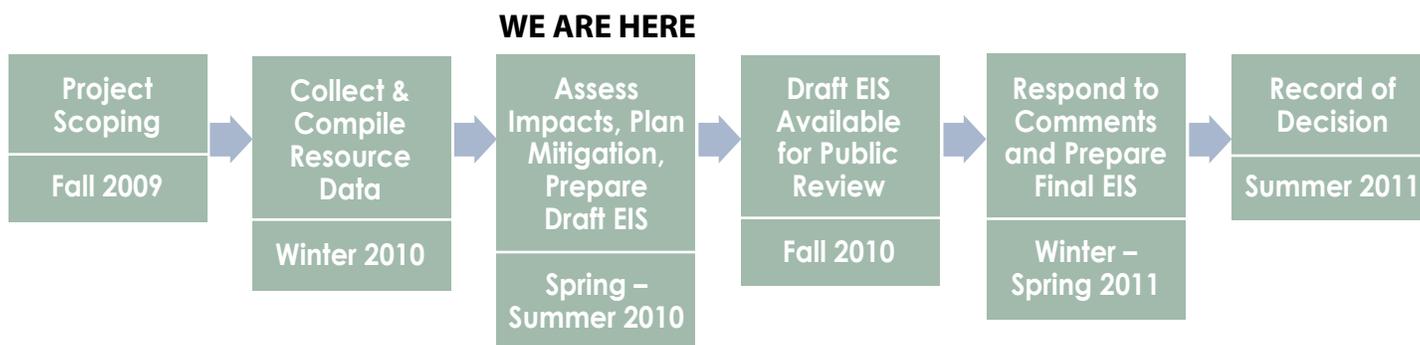
Data Collection and Alternatives Identification Currently Underway

The first step in the EIS process, project scoping, was to identify questions, issues, and concerns from the public, other agencies, and tribes. The comments received during scoping provide direction for developing a reasonable range of project alternatives, help to focus the analysis for the EIS studies, and provide valuable community input for project team consideration. The flow chart on page 2 shows the EIS process and estimated schedule.

Data Collection – The project team is collecting further data on land uses and other resources in the project area to better understand the local environment. The project team also will be conducting some field surveys in the project area. The team has identified several key observation points that will be used to assess potential visual impacts from the project and to create simulations of what the facilities may look like. Other reports that have been completed or are being drafted include evaluations of hazardous materials, geology, and noise.



Alternatives Identification
NEPA requires an evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives in the EIS. Having a range of alternatives helps to differentiate environmental effects and may provide options for avoiding significant environmental impacts that could



result from a proposed project. Potential alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS include developing only the area originally described as Phase 1; no more than 333 wind turbines would be constructed and no other portions of the project area would be developed. Another alternative will consist of the modified project area shown on the map, which will include both the BLM land identified as the project area and Reclamation land identified as the expansion area.

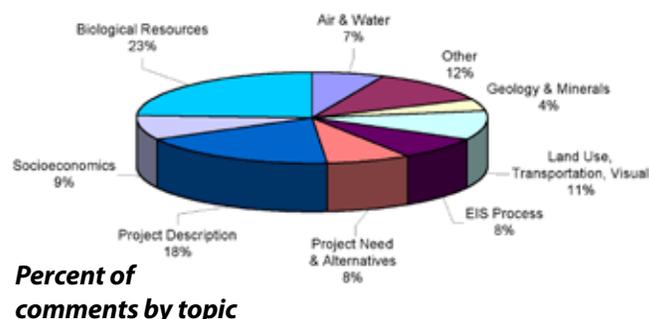
Other types of alternative are also being considered. In addition to an interconnection with one of the transmission lines that pass through the project site, other alternatives include interconnection with the Moenkopi-El Dorado transmission line, located about 6 miles south of the project site, or a consolidated tie-in to serve both the Mohave County Wind Farm Project and the Hualapai Valley Solar Project, located about 20 miles southeast of the project site. Other issues identified during scoping, such as visual impacts, will be evaluated by analyzing different colored turbines and different turbine setback distances.

Many scoping comments focused on the potential effect to private land from development of subsequent project phases. Because the project area has been substantially modified since public scoping meetings were held in December, **BLM will hold additional public meetings to provide information and receive comments on the alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS.** These meetings will be announced to those on the project mailing list, on the project website, and through media announcements.

Public Provides Comments During Scoping – Broad Range of Issues Identified

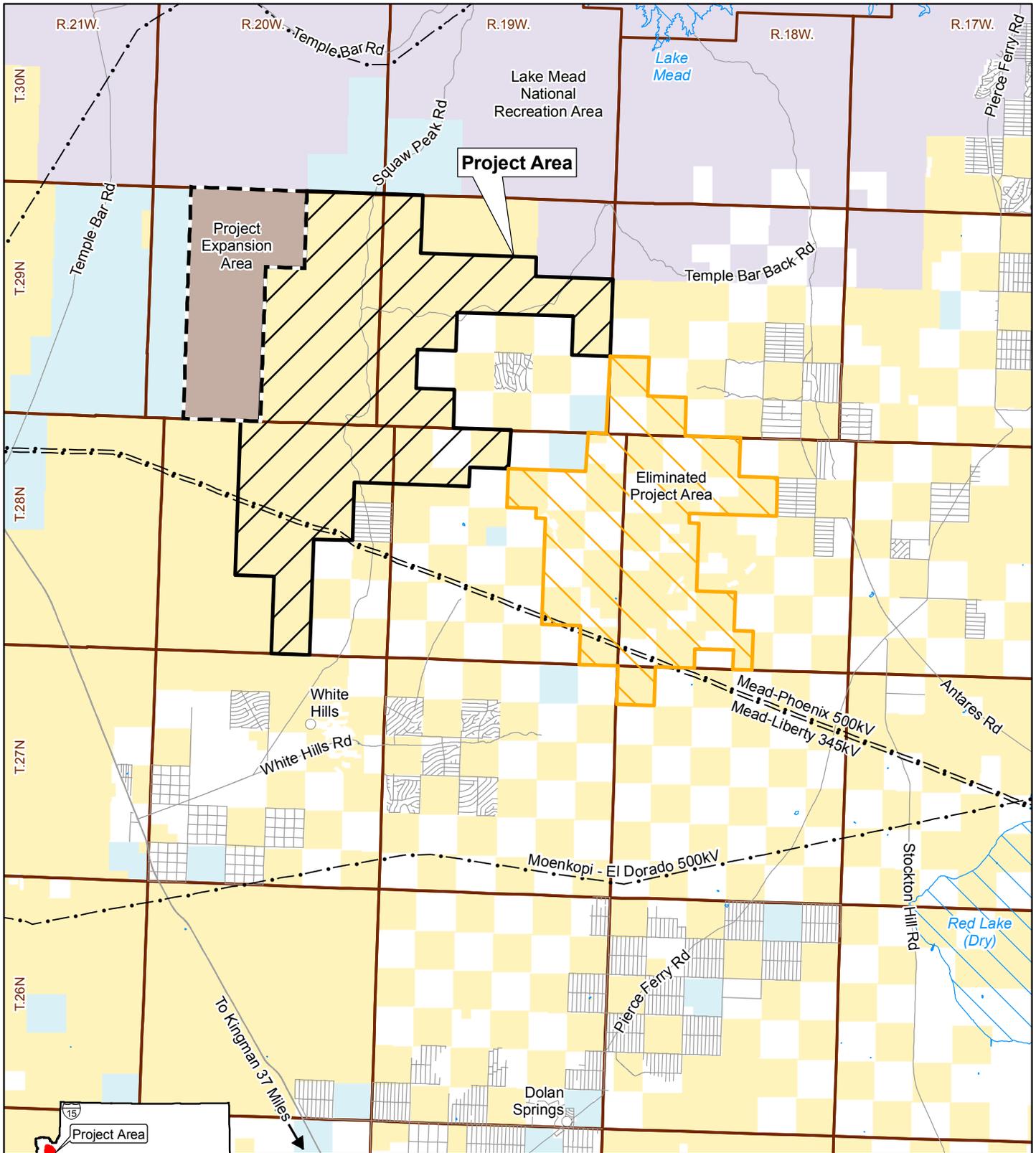
A total of 110 people attended three public scoping meetings held in December. During the 45-day public scoping period, 71 comments were submitted by letter, e-mail, or meeting comment forms. The results of the scoping period, including comments received and the issues identified, have been summarized in a Scoping Report, which is posted on the BLM project website. A summary of the concerns and suggestions that were raised most frequently follows.

Biological Resources – Nearly 25 percent of the issues identified in public comments focused on potential impacts to biological resources. Bat and avian species were a large subset of comments on biological resources. In fact, 9 percent of all comments received dealt with these species. Other comments focused on potential habitat disturbance and questions regarding revegetation and restoration after project construction. The majority of comments in this category were submitted by agencies or special interest groups with a particular focus on the management or preservation of biological resources.



Project Description – Many questions were received on various project components, such as where the access roads would be located, how project decommissioning would occur, how components would be transported to the project site, and how much power the project would generally produce. A number of questions in this category related to which parcels of private property could be affected by or included in future phases of the project.

Socioeconomics and Land Use – Most residents or private property owners near the proposed project noted issues related to socioeconomics or land use, including comments on employment, economic benefits, and property values. Land use issues primarily related to the effects of the project on adjacent communities or private property and how access to the site would be maintained or restricted.



LEGEND

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Project Expansion Area | Township and Range Boundary |
| Project Area | Surface Management |
| Project Area to be Eliminated | Bureau of Land Management |
| Road | Bureau of Reclamation |
| Existing Transmission Line | National Park Service |
| Lake | State Trust Land |
| | Private |

Project Area
Mohave County
Wind Farm Project





Many public comments mentioned bat and avian species

BLM Continues Evaluation of Project

BLM is currently identifying project alternatives and preparing for more public meetings to share alternatives with the public. Details on the public meetings will be provided in the next project mailing and on the project website.

The next step of the process is to identify impacts that could result from the project under each of the alternatives. The results of the project studies will be documented in the Draft EIS. It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review in Fall 2010. During the 45-day public review period, the Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM project website and additional public meetings will be held to receive comments on the draft document. The availability of the Draft EIS and dates of the public meetings will be

announced in a future newsletter, on the project website, and in local media. The BLM will compile and review all comments received on the Draft EIS and prepare responses to those comments for inclusion in a Final EIS.

For More Information

For additional information on the project, please visit the project website at www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/wind/mohave.html. Watch this website for a future announcement of public meetings to review project alternatives.

Questions, comments, or requests to receive a copy of the Draft EIS* may be directed to:

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Renewable Energy Coordination Office
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Safford, Arizona 85546-3337

**Note: Copies of the Draft EIS will be distributed electronically (in CD format) unless a specific request for a hard copy is noted.*