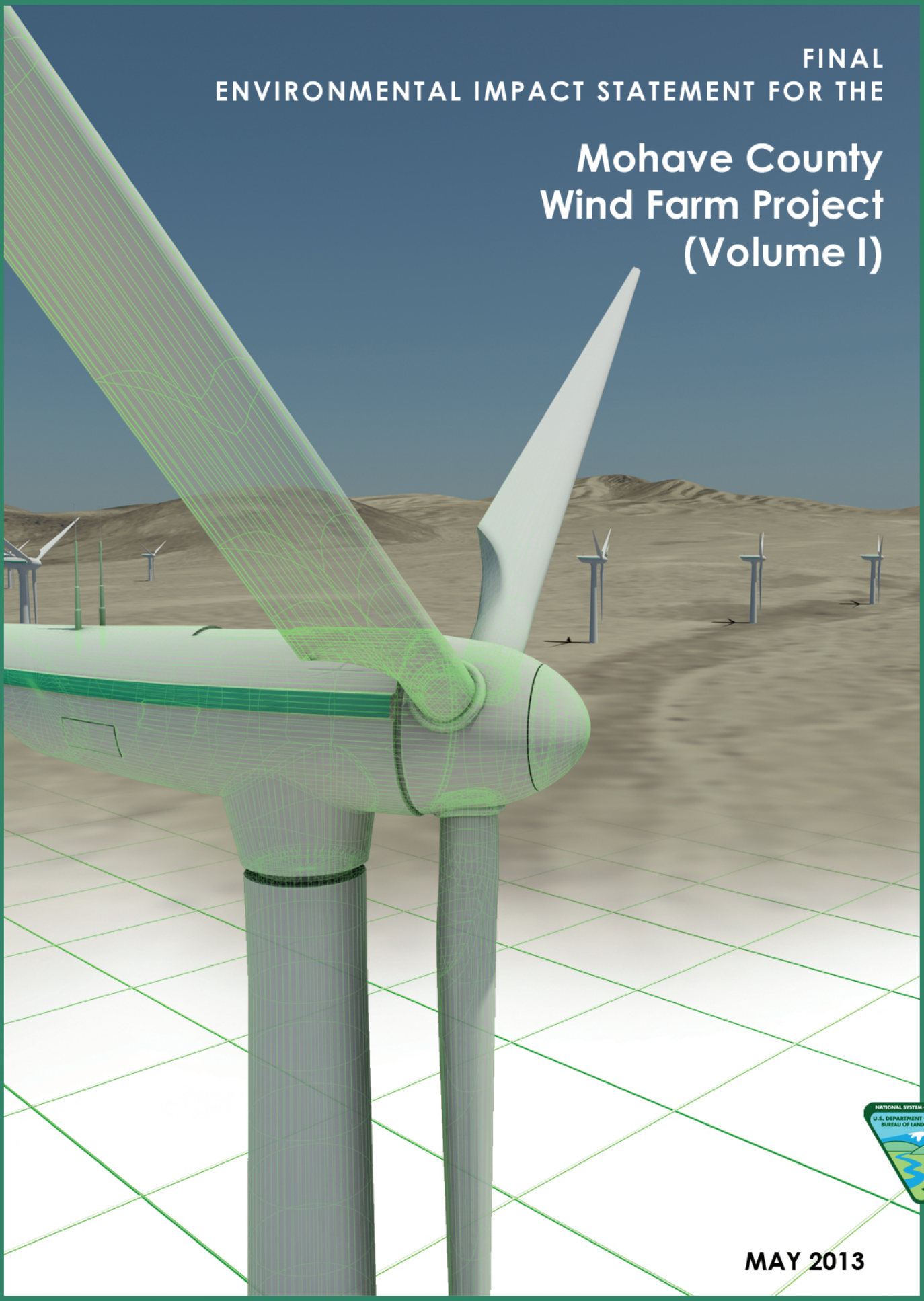
BLM

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE

Mohave County Wind Farm Project (Volume I)



Kingman Field Office / Arizona

MAY 2013

BLM/AZ/PL-13/003

MOHAVE COUNTY WIND FARM PROJECT
MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Lead Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Jurisdiction:	Colorado River District, Kingman Field Office, Arizona
Cooperating Agencies:	Bureau of Reclamation – Lower Colorado Region Western Area Power Administration – Desert Southwest Customer Service Region National Park Service – Lake Mead National Recreation Area Arizona Game and Fish Commission Hualapai Tribe – Department of Cultural Resources Mohave County Arizona – Board of Supervisors

Type of Action:	Draft	( )	Final	(X)
	Administrative	(X)	Legislative	( )

For More Information: Jerry Crockford, BLM Contracted Project Manager
Mohave County Wind Farm FEIS
Telephone (505) 360-0473

ABSTRACT: BP Wind Energy North America Inc., submitted right-of-way applications to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure in the White Hills area of northwestern Mohave County, Arizona. BP Wind Energy applied to Western Area Power Administration to interconnect the proposed project to one of two transmission lines crossing the Project Area. The proposed wind farm site would occupy 38,099 acres of public land managed by the BLM, Kingman Field Office, and 8,960 acres of Federal land managed by the Reclamation. The proposed Project would produce up to 500 MW of power. This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes in detail the environmental effects of five alternatives:

- Alternative A – proponent's proposed action
- Alternative B – a reduced wind farm site footprint that encompasses approximately 30,872 acres of BLM-managed land and 3,848 acres of land managed by Reclamation
- Alternative C – a reduced wind farm site footprint that encompasses approximately 30,178 acres of BLM-managed land and 5,124 acres of land managed by Reclamation
- Alternative D –No Action, in which BLM would not authorize construction and operation of the wind energy facility
- Alternative E – a reduced wind farm site footprint that encompasses approximately 35,329 acres of BLM-managed land and 2,781 acres of land managed by Reclamation

These alternatives were developed in response to issues and concerns raised during scoping and in response to comments on the Draft EIS. The agencies' preferred alternative is Alternative E – a reduced footprint that combines elements of Alternatives A and B. BLM, Reclamation, and Western will not issue Records of Decision, making a decision on the Project or interconnection, for at least 30 calendar days following the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. For information about the project or to view the Final EIS, visit http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/wind/mohave.html.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Boulevard
Kingman, Arizona 86401
www.az.blm.gov

April 29, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
2800 (LLAZC01000)
AZA- 32315AA

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mohave County Wind Farm Project (Project). BP Wind Energy North America Inc., submitted right-of-way applications to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure in the White Hills area of northwestern Mohave County, Arizona. BP Wind Energy also applied to Western Area Power Administration to interconnect the proposed Project to one of two transmission lines crossing the Project Area. The proposed wind farm site would occupy up to 38,099 acres of public land managed by the BLM, Kingman Field Office, and 8,960 acres of Federal land managed by Reclamation.

The Final EIS represents a refinement of the Draft EIS in response to public and agency comments. This document was prepared by the BLM as the lead federal agency, in consultation and cooperation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, 43 CFR Part 46), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended.

The Final EIS is available for download from the BLM project website at:
http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/wind/mohave.html

A copy of the Final EIS is also available for review during regular business hours at the following locations:

- BLM Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Blvd., Kingman, AZ 86401
- BLM Arizona State Office, One N. Central Ave, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004
- Boulder City Library, 701 Adams Blvd., Boulder City, NV 89005
- Dolan Springs Community Library, 16140 Pierce Ferry Road, Dolan Springs, AZ 86441
- Kingman Mohave County Library, 3269 North Burbank Street, Kingman, AZ 86402
- Kingman Valle Vista Community Library, 7264 Concho Dr. Ste. B, Kingman, AZ 86401
- Hualapai Cultural Center, 880 W. Route 66, Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Final EIS does not trigger a formal public comment period. The BLM, however, may choose to review any comments submitted during the 30-day availability period following the Environmental Protection Agency publication of the NOA in the *Federal Register*, and use them to inform the agency's Record of Decision. Please note that the BLM will consider such comments only to the extent practicable and will not respond to comments individually.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

KFO_WindEnergy@blm.gov
Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Renewable Energy Coordination Office,
Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427

Please identify on the envelopes and the subject line of the email "Mohave County Wind Farm Final EIS."

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives, or officials of organizations or business, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in the Project. We appreciate your contribution to this process.

Sincerely,

Ruben Sánchez
Field Manager