

Mohave County Wind Farm Project

PUBLIC MEETINGS

On the Draft Environmental
Impact Statement

May 2012

BLM

Kingman Field Office / Arizona



Roles and Responsibilities

Proponent: BP Wind Energy North America, Inc. (BP Wind Energy)



- Developing, constructing, operating, and decommissioning the project (as the project proponent)

Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (as the lead federal agency)
- Serving as project lead agency for Section 106 and Section 7 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act and Endangered Species Act, respectively
- Issuing right-of-way grants on BLM lands authorizing the project (if approved)



Roles and Responsibilities

Each agency provides information and environmental analyses based on special expertise or jurisdiction by law



Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

- Issuing right-of-way grant on Reclamation lands authorizing the project (if approved)
- Participating as cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS



Western Area Power Administration (Western)

- Approving or denying interconnection with an existing transmission line owned and operated by Western
- Participating as cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS
- Developing, operating, and maintaining the interconnection switchyard.



Roles and Responsibilities

Other Cooperating Agencies

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Mohave County
- National Park Service
- Hualapai Tribe (a governmental entity)



Why is BLM Hosting Public Meetings?

- BP Wind Energy applied for rights-of-way to construct and operate a wind farm project on public and federal lands administered by BLM and Reclamation.
- Use of federally administered land is a federal action that requires BLM to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by analyzing impacts of the proposed project.
- Meetings are part of BLM's efforts to present findings of the analysis and to solicit written comments from the public.

Background

- NEPA is our basic national charter for protection of the environment and requires analysis and documentation on the environmental issues related to a project and its alternatives.
- Environmental issues include ecological, aesthetic, historical, cultural, economic, social, and health impacts.
- Public scoping to identify project issues was initiated on November 20, 2009.
- BP Wind Energy modified the application with BLM to exclude certain public lands and include land administered by Reclamation.
- Additional public scoping meetings were announced and the public was again invited to identify additional issues.

NEPA Process

- BLM has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify the project's impacts and measures to mitigate those impacts.

WE ARE HERE

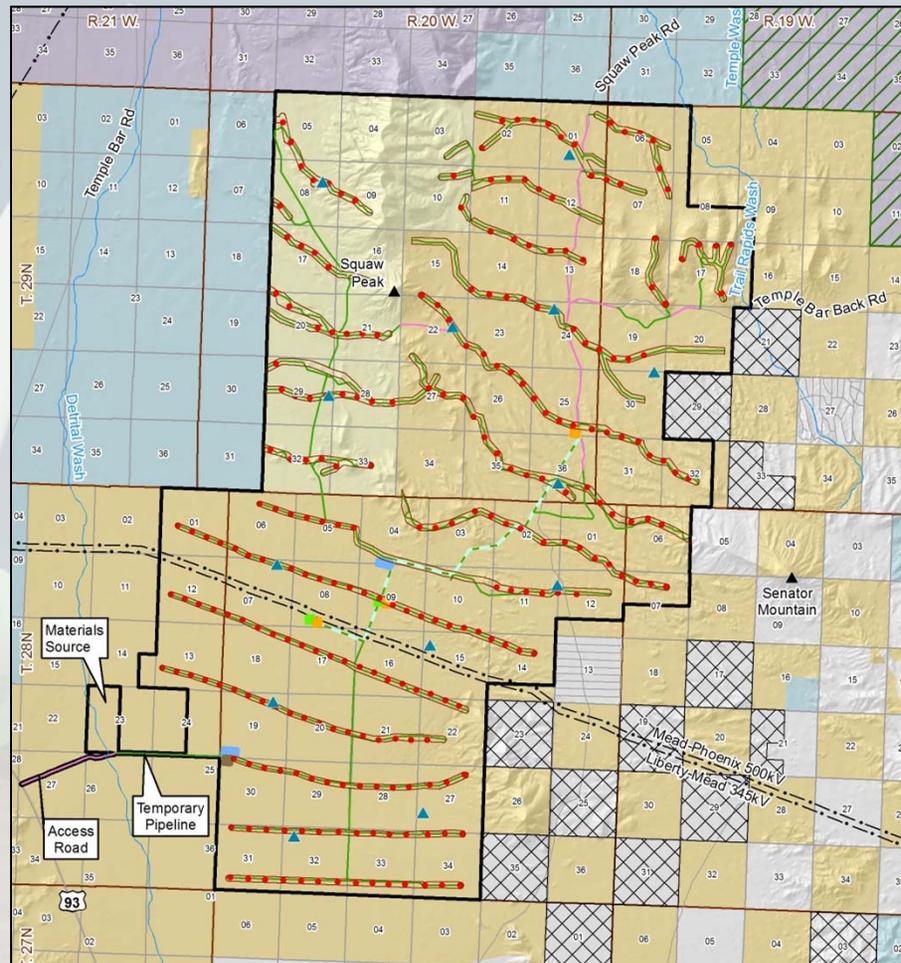


Purpose of this Public Meeting

- To describe the changes in the proposed project and alternatives since the Public Scoping Meetings
- To describe the impact analysis
- To provide the public, tribes, and other interested parties and agencies the opportunity to become informed about the analysis findings
- To provide information and tools for the public to submit written comments on the analysis in the Draft EIS
- To supplement the National Historic Preservation Act requirement to seek public input

Project Location

- 40 miles north of Kingman, Arizona
- Nearest to White Hills, Arizona
- Located on BLM and Reclamation lands



Project Components



- Turbines (up to 283) generating up to 500 megawatts of power
- Underground and/or overhead 34.5 kilovolt (kV) collection system between turbines
- Overhead 345kV or 500 kV transmission line to interconnect to existing transmission lines
- 345kV or 500kV substations and switchyard
- Distribution line for power during construction, and to power the operations and maintenance building

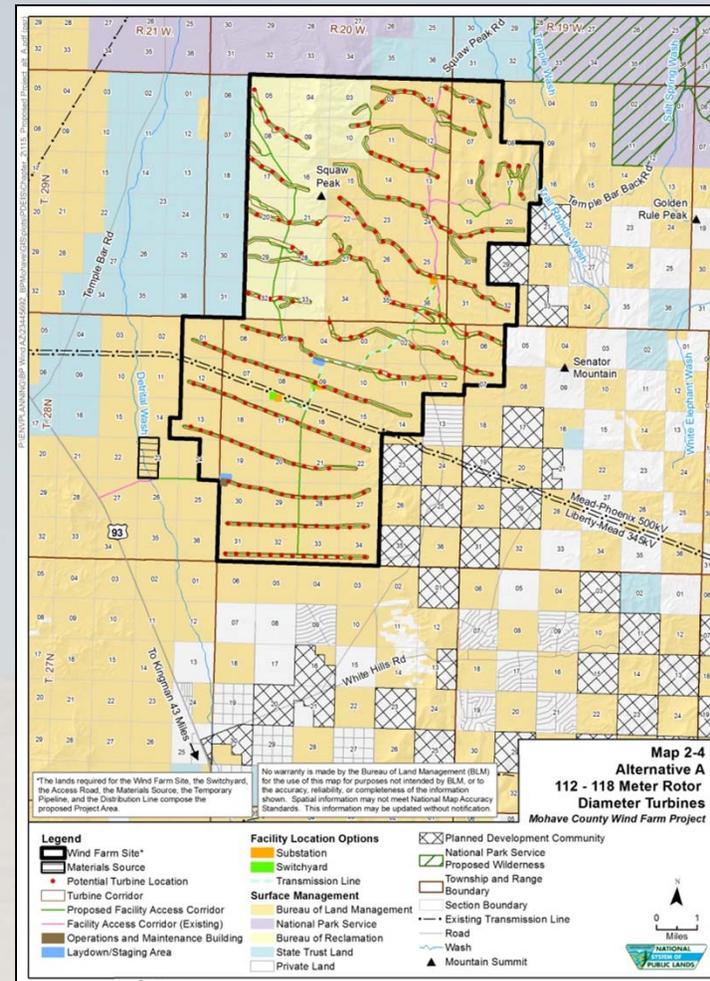
Project Components

- Access road and project roads
- Operation and maintenance building and layout yard
- Materials source
- Meteorological towers
- Concrete batch plant (temporary)
- Water pipeline (temporary)



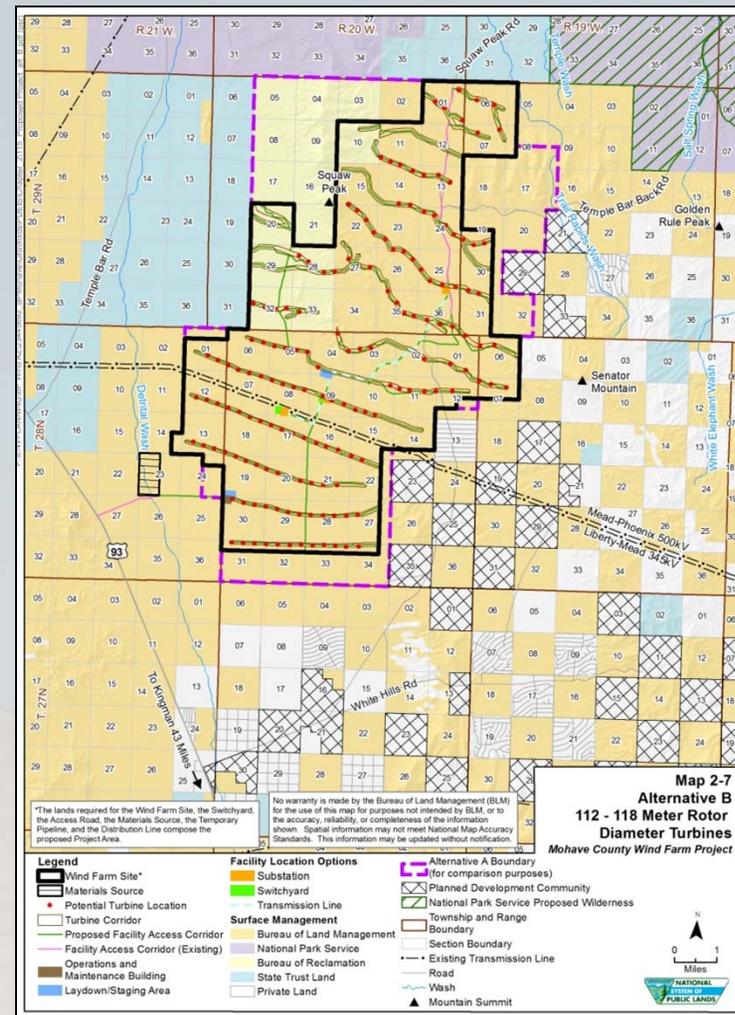
Alternative A – Proposed Action

- 38,099 acres of BLM managed land
- 8,960 acres of Reclamation managed land
- Up to 283 white turbines
- 425MW or 500MW of power production (depending on the interconnection)



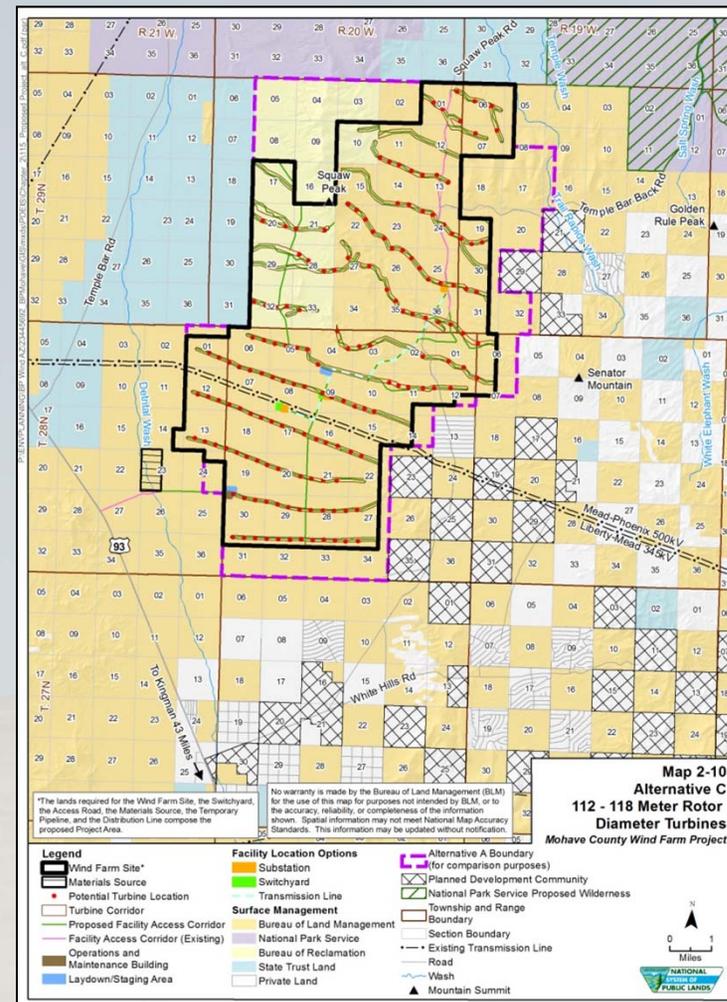
Alternative B

- 30,872 acres of BLM managed land
- 3,848 acres of Reclamation managed land
- Up to 208 white or gray turbines
- Fewest turbines near Lake Mead NRA; greater setback from private land than Alt. A



Alternative C

- 30,178 acres of BLM managed land
- 5,124 acres of Reclamation managed land
- Up to 208 white or gray turbines
- Greatest setback from private land; fewer turbines near Lake Mead NRA than Alt. A



Alternative D – No Action

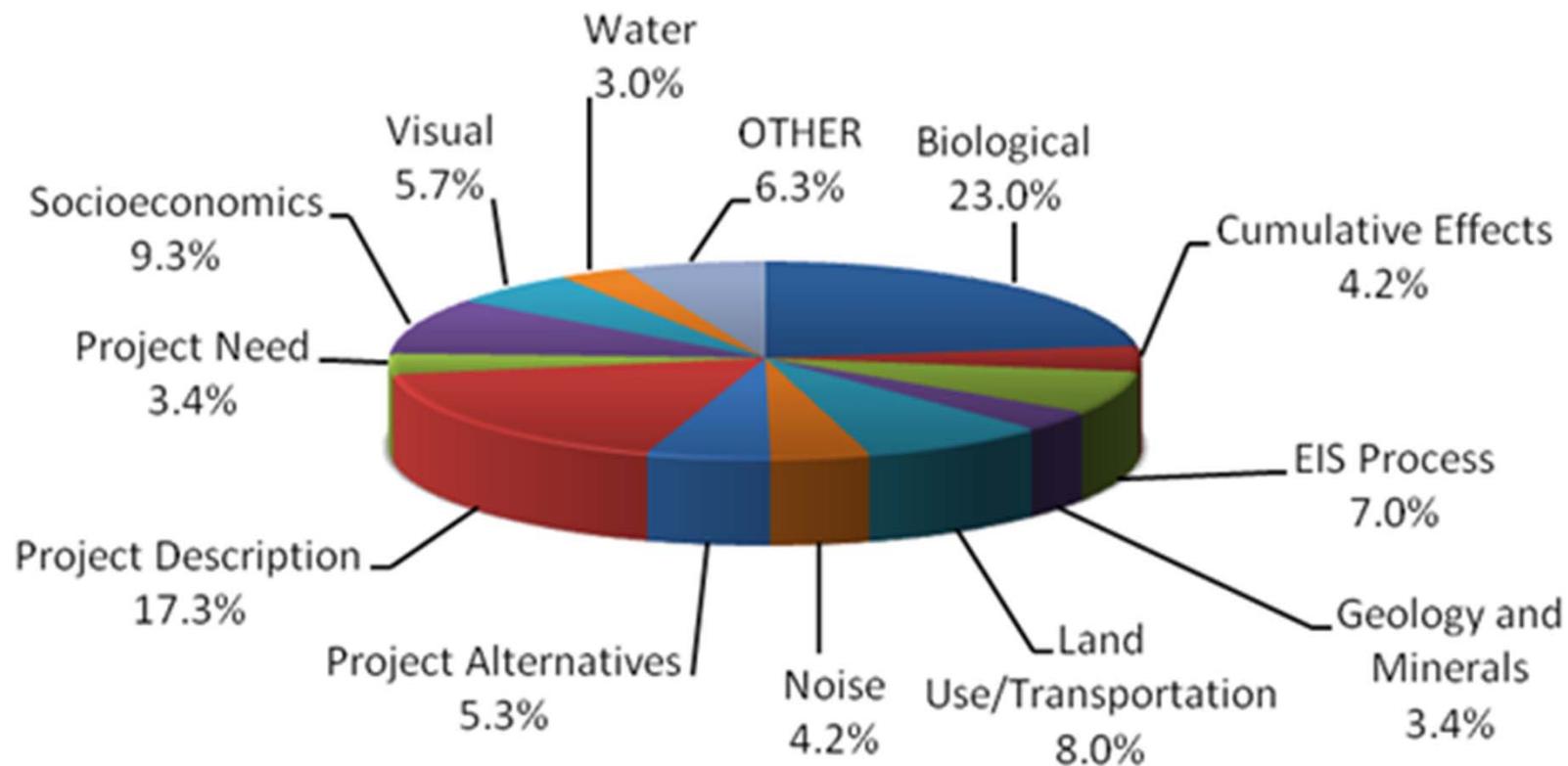
- The project would not be built
- Project purpose and need to develop more power through renewable energy projects would not be met
- Taking no action would not preclude the opportunity to satisfy the purpose and need through other renewable energy projects

Project Options

- In addition to three project area action alternatives, project options include:
 - Turbine color – Use white or gray
 - Transmission line – Interconnect with one of two existing transmission lines in the project vicinity
 - Collector line placement – Bury collector lines underground, or construct both underground and overhead facilities



Summary of Issues Raised During Public Scoping



Impact Assessment

- Impacts are defined as modifications to the environment over existing conditions.
- The degree of impact is defined as:
 - Temporary: 2 years or less
 - Short-term: up to 5 years after construction
 - Long-term: more than 5 years after construction
 - Permanent: beyond project decommissioning
- Impacts were assessed with consideration that Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented as directed in the *Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development of BLM Administered Lands in the Western States*.



Impact Analysis Assumptions

- Design features would reduce impacts.
- Project roads may increase use of the area and would result in indirect impacts.
- Construction would take 12-18 months.
- Construction would occur primarily Monday-Friday during daylight hours.
- Blasting could occur during construction.
- Revegetation would be successful and include all disturbed areas.
- Decommissioning would be 30 years after project commissioning.



General Project Impacts

- **Climate and Air Quality**
 - Temporary pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions
- **Geology, Soils, and Minerals**
 - Permanent surface and subsurface disturbance; soil erosion
- **Water Resources**
 - Increased disturbance and sediment loads; impact to jurisdictional waters; sediment erosion and transport; potential spills and leaks from equipment; project water use during construction; project facilities would modify natural surface flow
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Potential impact on historic sites dependent on turbine and facility siting; visual impacts to traditional cultural resources
- **Paleontological Resources**
 - No known paleontological localities within the project area but paleontological resources may be present



General Project Impacts

- **Biological Resources**

- Vegetation clearing and loss; fragmentation or degradation of habitat; potential introduction and spread of noxious weed and invasive plant species; potential human-sourced wildland fire ignitions; entrapment, injury, and/or death of animals; noise and human activity could lead to displacement of individual animals, mask communication, or impede detection of predators



- **Land Use**

- Temporary access restrictions and possible traffic delays to neighboring land users; increase in noise and dust which may impact nearby residences; alteration of the landscape; localized negligible impacts on forage for grazing livestock; potential impact to take-off and landing patterns at Triangle Airpark; reduction in opportunity for natural vistas for recreation experience



General Project Impacts

- **Transportation and Access**
 - During construction/decommissioning: increase in vehicular traffic, potential traffic delays, and OHV use would be limited in project area
- **Social and Economic Conditions**
 - Negligible economic impact on grazing rental leases, recreation numbers and visitor expenditures; increase in local jobs and tax revenue in Arizona
- **Environmental Justice**
 - Positive impact on local low-income population in terms of potential employment and income; potential minor impacts to quality of life related to changes in air and water quality, visual resources, traffic, and recreation
- **Microwave, Radar, and other Communications**
 - No interference with microwave beam paths; likely no impact to radars and military operations; no hazard to navigable airspace when turbines are white and lighted at night



General Project Impacts

- **Visual Resources**

- Strong visual contrast against the existing landscape both day and night; turbine hazard lighting would create strong contrast against night skies; landscape character altered affecting views from traditional locations identified by the Hualapai Tribe, residences, recreation areas, and surrounding roads



- **Public Safety, Hazardous Materials, and Solid Waste**

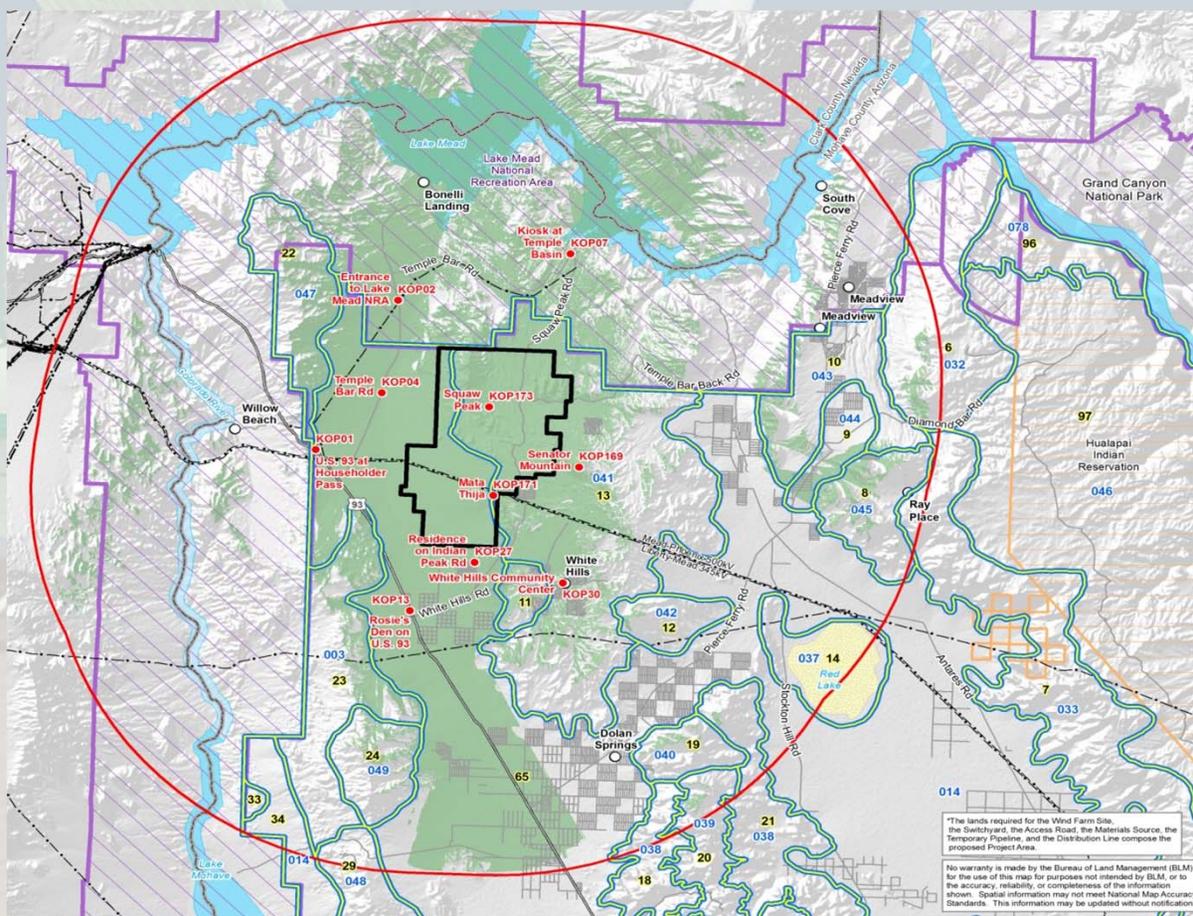
- Temporary potential risk to workers from construction and blasting activities; risk of public accessing construction areas; increased traffic and potential for accidents. Life of project: potential risk from spills or exposure to fuels, lubricants, combustion emissions, and solid waste; possible equipment failure

- **Noise**

- Temporary construction and blasting noise; long-term noise levels of less than 45 dBA outside of the wind farm site application area

Key Observation Points

Photographic simulations were completed from the viewpoints shown on the map below.



Cumulative Impact Analysis

- Cumulative impacts were assessed by considering the impacts from this project along with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the general vicinity.
- The impacts from this project, combined with other proposed nearby projects, will generally increase the impacts discussed.
- Resource-specific cumulative impacts are presented in the Draft EIS.

Decisions to be made in the Record of Decision (ROD)

- BLM and Reclamation would separately approve, deny, or approve as modified, rights of way for development of the Project on BLM or Reclamation administered lands.
- Western would approve, deny, or approve as modified the interconnection request if the Project interconnects with one of the existing transmission lines operated by Western.

How You Can Participate

- There is a 45-day public review period for this Draft EIS.
- Please submit your comments on or before June 11, 2012.
- Comments referencing a specific section or page number, offering information sources, addressing impact analysis methods, or explaining how a particular element of the project would affect you are often most helpful.
- Please include the subject line “Mohave County Wind Farm Draft EIS” on all comments submitted by mail, e-mail, and facsimile.
- Please be aware that your comments and any identifying information on the comment form may be made publicly available. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

How You Can Participate

- Submit written comments to:
 - Fax: (602) 417-9452, Attn: Jackie Neckels
 - E-mail: KFO_WindEnergy@blm.gov
 - Mail:
Bureau of Land Management
Renewable Energy Coordination Office
Jackie Neckels
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4427
- Contact BLM Contracted Project Manager, Jerry Crockford at (505) 360-0473
- Project Website at <http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/wind/mohave.html>

BLM

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