

Chevron Energy Solutions, Lucerne Valley

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to satisfy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and is considering a California Desert Conservation Area plan amendment to allocate approximately 516 acres of BLM-managed public lands as suitable for development and operation of a solar photovoltaic energy generation facility approximately eight miles east of Lucerne Valley in rural San Bernardino County, California.

The project, if approved by the BLM, could include two phases of construction for the 45-megawatt (MW) thin-film photovoltaic plant. Phase I would consist of up to 180,000 photovoltaic panels with a generating capacity of 20 megawatts (MW). Phase II, with a generating capacity of 25 MW, would be similarly configured. If approved, construction for the project is proposed to begin December 1, 2010.

Related structures would include the construction of a new switchyard, control/maintenance building, and parking area. This facility would be accessed through an adjacent county road. A BLM open route on the project site may be realigned, but would remain designated as an open route. This solar project would be connected to an existing adjacent 33-kiloVolt (kV) distribution system adjacent to the proposed site.

Project Area Map:

Cooperating Agencies: BLM is inviting tribal, state and local governments, as well as federal agencies to serve as cooperating agencies on the project. Cooperating agencies will be involved throughout the process and play a key role in development of the EIS and Plan Amendment.

Public Involvement: There are two formal comment periods. Public participation is important for the development of the EIS. These formal comment periods include a 30-day scoping period which is currently on-going started July 23, 2009 and ends August 22, 2009. After the release of the Draft EIS there will be a 90-day public comment period on the document. Although not an official comment period, after the release of the Final EIS, a 30-day protest period will occur.

Current Activity: As stated above, the formal scoping period has begun. The public is invited to submit comments **NOW**. BLM public scoping meetings will be held **July 29** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley CA 92356 and **July 30** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Family Life Public Enterprise Center, Conference Room 13, 1505 W. Highland Ave, San Bernardino CA 92411. The meetings allow the public to learn more about the project and BLM's processes. It also allows the public to provide oral and written comments at the meetings. The public can also e-mail written comments to <mailto:lucernesolar@blm.gov> or mail to Greg Thomsen, Project Manager, CA Desert District Office, BLM, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9046. Comments can be submitted through August 22, 2009.

Related Documents

Notice of Intent: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-17571.pdf>

Press release for NOI:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/july/CDD0955_lucernesolar_meetings.html

Change Of Meeting Location:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/july/CDD0958_lucernevalley_meeting_change.html

Scoping Meeting Information: coming soon

Scoping Meeting Handouts: coming soon

Scoping Report: expected Fall 2009

Notice of Availability (NOA) Draft EIS: expected Winter 2009-10

Press Release for Draft EIS NOA: expected Winter 2009-10

Draft EIS: expected Winter 2009-10

Draft EIS Public Meeting Information: Winter 2010

Draft EIS Public Meeting Information Meeting Handouts: Winter 2010

Notice of Availability Final EIS:

Press Release for Final EIS NOA:

Final EIS:

Notice of Availability Record of Decision:

Press Release for Record of Decision NOA:

Record of Decision: