

Appendix E

*Summary of Verbal Public Comments from
Scoping Meeting on January 5, 2011, El Centro,
California*

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Scoping Meeting 1-5-11

Verbal Comment Summary Transcript

Meeting Location: Imperial County Board Room
940 Main Street, Suite 211
El Centro, California 92243

Audio length: 00:19:21

Verbal Speakers

- Edie Harmon 00:16:00
- Richard Hamilton 00:08:00
- Tim Kelley 00:10:20
- Cynthia Mancha 00:13:33
- Bridget Nash-Chrabasz 00:14:25
- Roberto Avila 00:16:46
- Rebecca Pollock 00:17:48

Name: Edie Harmon

Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 00:16:00

Comment Summary

1. Attended a meeting for the Tule Wind project and recalled hearing Jeffery Childers say that wind energy is unreliable and that you would have to build a gas-fired power plant of equal size because wind doesn't always blow.
2. Does pattern have a Power Purchase Agreement? If so, with whom?
3. The energy would not be used locally it would be transmitted to San Diego, remote for the source of use.
4. Public health impacts associated with large scale wind energy development. There have been cases in the US, Canada, and Europe where people had to abandon their homes due to adverse health effects attributed to wind development. Would Pattern be willing to buy all the homes in Ocotillo if this were to happen?

5. There was a conference in Canada last fall that dealt with health effects caused by large scale wind development, such as flicker and sleeplessness. Some studies show that homes need to be 5 miles away from the turbans other studies say five miles. Existing homes and approved lots lie within proximity to the proposed project.
6. Fully protected species, golden eagles, have been sighted in on power polls in the No Mirage area. USFWS have documented a nesting pair of golden eagles within 2 1/2 miles of the site.
7. Based on observations made by individuals that reside in the area, there are also a large number of birds-of-prey species in the project area. There is a large number of owl species. Where and how were the biological surveys conducted? Where surveys conducted to actually look for the species in question or were they conducted base on some sort of transect and protocol that would not necessarily put the biologist at the right place at the right time to observe sensitive species.
8. Article in Canada discussed how owl populations are crashing because the owls have be eating rodents that have ingested rodenticides, warfarin.
9. The Jacumba Mountains have one of the largest owl roosting areas she has ever seen.
10. Only one person in the community will make money off of the project because one of the turbans is located on private property. She does not see how the project would be a particular benefit to the Ocotillo and No Mirage communities. The (Ocotillo) community would be essentially surrounded by the project.
11. The project would extend from the Coyote Mountain Wilderness to the Jucumba Mountain Wilderness and upto the Anza Borrego State line, which happens to be some of the best undisturbed biological resources in Imperial County an area that is not torn-up by roads. The project would not only construct the turbines, but it would also have to construct roads throughout the area. The project would disturb additional land to bring large construction equipment (semis) onsite, and may disturb existing washes.
12. There are many people in the Ocotillo and No Mirage area that do not drive after dark and have requested that there be a public meeting during the day time hours at the old Ocotillo community center.

Name: Richard Hamilton

251 West Imperial Highway
County of Imperial, CA

Audio Start Time: 00:08:00

Comment Summary

1. Owner of the land that the one private turbine is going to go on.

2. I don't want any of the turbines built because when I purchased his property in 1981 it was a beautiful valley. I didn't want the railroad constructed or the first set of power lines that came through because they changed the nature of the area. I don't want the turbines constructed for the same reason. The changes are going to be dramatic and hard for everyone to take because we have a beautiful view of the valley. However, I have children and grandchildren that will benefit from the development. I'm not going to be selfish enough at my age to restrict this opportunity for Ocotillo to become a landmark area in Southern California for power generation. Is it going to ruin the view? Of course. Is it going to ruin it for future generations? Of course. My only request is for Pattern to mitigate, as much as possible, the visual impact of the towers. If that is some type of a painting scheme that matches into whatever, I have no idea. Now, they are going to be very apparent if they are white. The (transmission) towers that SDG&E constructed, that I have to look at every day, are galvanized. I suspect that the second set will be galvanized. The best we can do is mitigate the visual impact of the towers.

Name: Tim Kelley

1024 State Street, Suite B

Audio Start Time: 00:10:20

Comment Summary

1. Representing the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Goal is to implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan of the region, which was supported by County, IID and the cities of Imperial County. They promote companies to come to Imperial County and make investments here. Pattern is one of those companies. One of the things we do not do is bring in industries that would not be compatible with existing industries. We want to protect agriculture and were very involved in promoting renewable energy. The Summit Blue Report shows Imperial County to be unique. Imperial County is the only place where you can generate geothermal, wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, etc. The opportunities for wind for wind in Imperial County, although this site has great opportunities for wind the rest of the County does not. We do welcome Pattern Energy. We have been meeting with Pattern, identifying challenges that may come about. We appreciate this opportunity for the public to voice their concerns.

Name: Cynthia Mancha

1002 E. Main Street
El Centro, CA

Audio Start Time: 00:13:33

Comment Summary

1. Representing EW Corporation
2. I'm here to give the perspective from the private sector. EW Corporation is a local steel fabricator and machine shop. We support renewable energy projects that stimulate the local economy

through the purchase of goods and services during the construction phase as well as throughout the life of the project. Throughout the last year, EW Corporation was able to employ over 100 skilled workers with activities or activities directly through renewable energy. We look forward to continued renewable energy projects in Imperial County and job creation.

Name: Bridget Nash-Chrabascz

Audio Start Time: 00:14:25

Comment Summary

1. Looking at this fact sheet, I have a question here about the target construction start date of September 2011. I realize that this is a target date, but I get a little bit nervous when I see projects coming in with only 9 months for (the NEPA process). 90 day for DEIS, 45 days for Scoping, time for consultants to put together EIS, time for meaningful consultation doesn't add up to 9 months.
2. Particularly concerned with adequate time for consultation with the tribes. This happens to be a sensitive area biologically as well as culturally. As BLM is well aware, it can take years.
3. What happens if the start date is pushed back to December or later? How was this date determined?
4. In Campo, the blades that are on the met towers (wind turbines) are toxic. That if they fall down you can't touch them. Will the materials used for this particular project be toxic? If so, what will be done about that?

Name: Roberto Avila

El Centro

Audio Start Time: 00:16:46

Comment Summary

1. Representing Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
2. Been involved with workforce development for over 20 years. I've seen alternative energy projects, as an opportunity to provide our youth with goals in mind as far as new technology coming in, career paths for them and that kind of development. Obviously, you need to take into account the concerns of the residents and community. But, I see this as being beneficial, coming into the new century. I would like to see this supported once everything is weighed.

Name: Rebecca Pollock

El Centro

Audio Start Time: 17:48:00

Comment Summary

1. Representing Nelson Construction
2. How with the BLM and Pattern communicate with us (the community) throughout the stages of this project?