



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office

1661 S. 4th St.

El Centro, CA 92243

www.ca.blm.gov



June 28, 2013

In Reply Refer To
2830-03 (P)
CACA-051552
CAD000.06

NOTICE

Pattern Energy Group, LP : Ocotillo Express Wind
Project :
John Calaway, Vice President : CACA-051552
1600 Smith Street, Suite 4025 :
Houston, TX 77002-7357 :

Process for Returning Turbines to Service

During the evening of May 15, 2013, a rotor blade from wind turbine #156 of the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility (OWEF) Project fell to the ground landing near the turbine base. Early in the morning on May 16, 2013, a Pattern Energy Group, LP (Pattern) employee contacted the El Centro Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inform us of this incident and to apprise us that in an exercise of caution, turbine operations had been stopped at all 112 Siemens Energy (Siemens) SWT-2.3-108 wind turbines until further inspections and investigations were completed. There were no injuries or damages to sensitive environmental resources as the result of this incident.

On May 24, 2013, the BLM issued a Notice of Temporary Suspension of Operations to Pattern pursuant to 43 CFR 2807.16. This was done as a safeguard to ensure that the suspension of turbine operations remains in effect until such time as Pattern files a written request for permission to resume activities and the BLM issues a written authorization to proceed with those operations. The suspension order applied only to turbine operations and did not apply to ongoing reclamation or other authorized activities associated with the project.

On May 28, 2013, Pattern submitted a written request that the BLM remove the temporary suspension and provided a root cause analysis (RCA) report prepared by Siemens documenting the inspections of the OWEF turbines, review of design and manufacturing methods and records, and corresponding test results. Also, Pattern submitted an initial return to service plan (RSP) to the BLM. Subsequently, the BLM selected the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as our independent technical reviewer. Based upon BLM and NREL's review of the RCA, RSP, and supporting documentation, the BLM determined that the suspension would remain in effect

until all inspections were complete, more data were presented and a final RCA and an approved RSP package was completed.

On June 12, 2013, a final Siemens RCA report was submitted to the BLM that identified further secondary factors that led to blade separation. Pattern also submitted a revised RSP package that included a draft Return to Operation (RTO) form and additional documentation provided by Siemens. The BLM provided feedback to Pattern on the RTO form to be submitted for each turbine and RTO document check list cover letter.

This notice describes the process by which the BLM will authorize individual OWEF turbines to return to service. The notice does not lift the temporary suspension for the entire project. Instead, the following process will be required for returning OWEF turbines to service:

For each turbine, Pattern will submit a completed RTO form and Supporting Documentation (see enclosed examples) with the signatures of the authorized Siemens and OWEF representatives. The BLM's Authorized Officer will review the RTO Form and Supporting Documentation and as appropriate, will sign the RTO Form authorizing that turbine to be returned to service. In this manner, individual turbines will be removed from the OWEF temporary suspension order.

In the Ocotillo Wind Restart Communications Plan dated June 2013, Pattern expressed its intent to, "communicate with Ocotillo and No Mirage residents and Imperial Valley project stakeholders prior to the restarting of Ocotillo Wind project turbines so they know what caused the blade separation and what measures are being implemented to ensure that it will not happen again." Please provide documentation that the communications plan has been implemented with the submittal of the first RTO Form to the BLM.

Thank you for your adherence to the temporary suspension order, the suspension removal process as provided for above, and for your continuing cooperation with the BLM. Please contact Brian Paul, BLM Renewable Projects Manager, at rpaul@blm.gov or (760) 337-4445 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Zale
Field Manager

Enclosures: BLM Approved Return to Operation (RTO) Form
BLM Approved RTO Document Checklist Cover Letter

Cc: Greg Miller, BLM Supervisory RECO Projects Manager
R. Brian Paul, BLM RECO Projects Manager
Carrie L. Simmons, BLM ECFO Assistant Field Manager, Resources

Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility

Turbine # _____ Supporting Documentation Request for Return to Operation/Commissioning for Bureau of Land Management – El Centro Field Office

Blade Inspection Check list (Form ZCH xxxxx or Form W597 Inspection of Blade, on-site)

Blade Position A
Blade Position B
Blade Position C

Root Upgrade Kit, Check List, Siemens form ZCH 1037115

Blade Position A
Blade Position B
Blade Position C

Photo Documentation of Root Upgrade (Bolts external and internal)

Blade Position A
Blade Position B
Blade Position C

As applicable: 5% Independent inspector overcheck of Root Upgrade Installation. Inspector certification and sign-off.

* for turbines where any of the 3 blade inspections documented a web-start delaminations (Q1, Q2, Q3 or Q4), that blade will be removed and replaced and the supporting documentation for that turbine will utilize a separate supporting documentation package for Return to Service.

DISCLOSURE NOTICE

Please note that the information in this package is confidential information, including trade secrets, which are not subject to public disclosure and should not be disclosed in response to Freedom of Information Act and public records requests, or otherwise disclosed to the public. In the event that any person requests disclosure of the enclosed confidential business information, please notify us in writing prior to any disclosure, indicating the nature and source of the request for disclosure, and providing reasonably opportunity to object to the request.