

CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination activities the BLM has carried out with interested agencies, organizations, Tribes, and individuals while preparing the Draft EIS. The NEPA and CEQ regulations require the public's involvement in the decision-making process as well as allowing for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement is outlined in Title 43 CFR, Part 1610.2.

During the early phases of the scoping process, the BLM determined that an EIS would be required to comply with the NEPA prior to taking action on Solar Millennium's right-of-way application. An EIS is the most detailed and complex of NEPA documents, and it includes requirements for significant public coordination and involvement throughout its preparation and review. The NEPA and CEQ require the BLM to identify any potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action so the BLM can consider them when making its final decision.

5.1 Public Involvement Process

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the steps necessary to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists agencies in: (1) broadening the information base for decision-making, (2) informing the public about Proposed Actions, alternatives, and potential long-term impacts that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives, and (3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies. Public participation in the EIS process is required by the NEPA at four specific points: 1) issue scoping, 2) review of the Draft EIS, 3) review of the Final EIS, and 4) receipt of the Records of Decision.

5.1.1 Scoping

The public was provided two 30-day scoping periods to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. The first scoping period opened on July 13 and closed on August 12, 2009. As it was not possible to conduct public scoping meetings within this time period; a second notice was published in the Federal Register on September 17, 2009 (Volume 74, Number 179, Page 47820), reopening public scoping. This reopened scoping period was announced as ending on October 19, 2009. Four scoping meetings were held from August 17 through August 24, 2009 in Beatty, Amargosa Valley, Pahrump, and Las Vegas and one information meeting was held in Beatty on September 22, 2009. There was a total attendance among all meetings of 298 people. The BLM collected stakeholder comments at public meetings as well as comments sent via fax or mail. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping was combined with issues identified by the BLM and forms the scope of this EIS.

5.1.2 Draft EIS Review

The 45-day comment period for public review of the Draft EIS will begin with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM will distribute press releases announcing the dates, locations, and times of the public meetings to local and regional print and broadcast media. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Southern Nevada District Office website at: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>, and distributed to agencies and individual who have requested copies.

5.1.3 Final EIS

After the public comment period for the Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be prepared. This document will include descriptions of public comments and indicates how they were addressed in the Final EIS. A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register announcing completion of the Final EIS. Per 40 CFR 1506.10 a 30-day waiting period is required between the publication of the Final EIS and issuance of the ROD.

5.2 Formal Consultation with Interested Agencies and Tribal Government

Federal and state agencies were contacted individually to gather input for the EIS. Other resource management agencies were consulted at the federal and state levels to identify common concerns related to the Proposed Action or Alternatives. Cooperating agencies on this EIS include the DOD, DOE, NPS, USACE, NDOW, and Nye County.

A BA is being prepared for the Proposed Action and will be submitted to the USFWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (1973). A species list was requested from the USFWS at the beginning of EIS development. The species list identified any plant and wildlife species listed as threatened, endangered or candidate species within the Project area. At the request of the USFWS, rare plant, sensitive wildlife species, and desert tortoise surveys have been conducted within the Project area. The BLM will continue to coordinate with the USFWS throughout the EIS process.

The BLM consulted with Native American Tribes that have ancestral ties to, or traditional culture use of, Project area lands. On June 17, 2009, the BLM mailed formal letters to the following tribal groups:

- Pahrump Paiute Tribe
- Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

The consultation letter, with attachments that explained each proposal in more detail, described the Proposed Action, in addition to five other renewable energy projects being proposed in the

Pahrump and Amargosa Valleys of Nye County, Nevada. The BLM requested (1) tribal input regarding any concerns about traditional cultural practices or other issues that might be affected by the Proposed Action, (2) information on how they would like to be involved in the planning process, and (3) names of other individuals that should be notified or consulted about the Project.

On August 5, 2009, the same tribes were e-mailed information about the Project's scoping meetings if they wanted to attend and make comments. A field trip with a representative of the Timbisha Shoshone into the Project area was conducted on September 17, 2009. At this time, no tribal verbal or written religious or cultural concerns have been expressed for this proposed Project area.

5.3 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons To Whom Copies of the EIS Were Sent

This section lists the agencies, officials, and other interested parties who requested copies of the Draft EIS. The BLM filed copies with the EPA, who publishes a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The BLM also distributed paper and electronic (on CD-ROM) copies to federal agencies, key state agencies, elected officials, local libraries, and other requesting parties. The BLM will provide copies to other interested organizations or individuals on request.

5.3.1 Federal Government

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9
U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5.3.2 State Government

Nevada State Clearinghouse – The Nevada State Clearinghouse distribute copies of government documents to various State Offices for comment. This agencies include Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Nevada Division of Water Resources among others.

5.3.3 Local Governments

Clark County
Nye County

Amargosa Planning Commission
City of Boulder City
City of Henderson
City of Las Vegas
City of North Las Vegas
Town of Beatty
Town of Laughlin
Town of Pahrump
Town of Searchlight

5.3.4 Tribal Governments

Pahrump Paiute Tribe
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

5.3.5 Other Organizations

Amargosa Conservancy
American Sand Association
BEC Environmental
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Telephone Company
Defenders of Wildlife
Desert Survivors
Desert Tortoise Council
Embarq
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 357
Ironworkers, Local 433
Las Vegas Distance Riders
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Las Vegas Valley Water District
League of Women Voters
Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company
Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada
National Park Conservation Association
Nevada Conservation League
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Northwestern University, Environmental Policy and Cultural Program
NV Energy
Off-Road Business Association
Pahrump Valley Times

Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 525
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Red Rock Audubon Society
Sierra Club, Nevada Field Office
Sierra Club, Southern Nevada Group
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter
Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council
Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Southwest Gas Company, Right-of-Way Department
Sustain-ability, Incorporated
University of Nevada – Las Vegas, School of Life Sciences
Valley Electric Association
Western Lands Project

5.3.6 Elected Government Officials

Jim Gibbons, State of Nevada Governor
Ed Goedhart, Nevada Assembly
Mike McGinness, Nevada Senate
Shelley Berkley, Nevada 1st District, U.S. House of Representatives
Dean Heller, Nevada 2nd District, U.S. House of Representatives
Dina Titus, Nevada 3rd District, U.S. House of Representatives
John Ensign, U.S. Senate
Harry M. Reid, U.S. Senate

5.3.7 Availability

Copies of the Amargosa Farm Road Solar Energy Project EIS are available for public inspection at the following public libraries and BLM offices.

Amargosa Valley Library
829 E. Farm Rd.
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

Beatty Library
400 North Fourth St.
Beatty, NV 89003

Pahrump Community Library
701 East St.
Pahrump, NV 89048

BLM, Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502

BLM, Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Denver Federal Center Library
West 6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Building 50
Lakewood, CO 80225

5.1 List of Preparers and Reviewers

5.1.1 BLM Core Interdisciplinary Team and Technical Specialty

5.1.1.1 BLM – Nevada State Office

- Ron Wenker – State Director
- Amy Leuders – Associate State Director
- JoLynn Worley – Public Affairs
- Erin Eastvedt, Renewable Energy Project Coordinator

5.1.1.2 BLM – Pahrump and Las Vegas Field Offices

- Mary Jo Rugwell – District Manager
- Patrick Putnam – Field Manager
- Gregory Helseth – Renewable Energy Project Manager
- Mark Chandler – Realty Specialist
- Gayle Marrs-Smith – Assistant Field Manager
- Hillerie Patton – Public Affairs Specialist
- Jayson Barangan – Natural Resource Specialist
- Michele Bilodeau – Environmental Coordinator
- Lisa Christianson – Environmental Protection Specialist
- Fred Edwards – Botanist
- Dave Fanning – Geologist
- Susan Farkas – Planning and Environmental Coordinator
- Krystal Johnson – Burro Specialist
- Amanda Hamlin – Administrative Professional
- Sarah Peterson – Hydrologist
- Meghan Magill – Hydrologist
- Marc Sanchez – Recreation Planner
- Kathleen Sprowl – Archaeologist
- Jeff Steinmetz – Lead Planning and Environmental Coordinator

5.1.2 EIS Contractor and Subcontractors

Name	Degree(s)	Professional Discipline/Expertise	Years of Experience
Karen Anderson	BA	Document Production, QA/QC	26
Emily Belts	BA	Land Use, Recreation, Transportation, SMA	4
Garlyn Bergdale	MLA, BS	Senior NEPA Reviewer	33
Glenn Darrington	PhD, MA, BA	Historic and Cultural Resources	22
Avril Fabian	MLA, BS	Land Use, Recreation, Transportation, Special Management Areas	5
Sandra Fairchild	BS, AA	NEPA Project Manager, Air Quality, Water Resources, Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste	26
Kristi Gardner		Document Production, QA/QC	12
Barbara Garrison	BS	Biological Resources	27
Rebecca Halbmaier	MSC, BA	Historic and Cultural Resources	8
Mathew Hamilton	MS, BS	Environmental Justice, Socioeconomic Resources	12
Chris Harris	B.S.	Visual Resources	5
Amy Jerome	MBA, BS	Senior NEPA Reviewer	12
Michael Kirby	PhD, MS, BS	Geologic Hazards and Mineral Resources, Soils, Paleontological Resources	20
N. Conrad Langley	MLA, BFA	Visual Resources	12
Diana Nickels	AA	Document Production/Graphics	21
Alison Pruett	MS, BS	Biological Resources	3
Michael Burrill – LFR	BA	Environmental Land Use Noise Compatibility	20
Kevin Fowler – LFR	BA	Environmental Noise Control	4
Guy Roemer – GeoTrans	BS, MS	Water Resources, Groundwater Modeling	13
Matt Sauter	MS, BA	Geologic Hazards and Mineral Resources, Soils	2
Marc Schwartz	MLA, BS	Visual Resources	10
Mickey Siegel	MCRP, BS	Management	30
E. Linwood Smith	PhD, MS, BA	Biological Resources	35
Paul Trenter	BSLA	Management	23

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