

5.0 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter summarizes the consultation and coordination activities conducted with agencies, organizations, tribes, and individuals for the proposed Searchlight Wind Energy Project. The primary goal of the NEPA public involvement process is to ensure that all interested and affected parties are aware of the Proposed Project.

For the purposes of public involvement, the NEPA process is divided into two phases: the scoping period and the DEIS review period. The scoping period includes the initial presentation of the Proposed Project to the public and opportunities for the public and agency representatives to provide comments on the Proposed Project. The Draft EIS review period presents the public with opportunities to comment on the document. More information on these phases is presented in the sections below.

5.1 Public Involvement Process

5.1.1 Scoping

The BLM published the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on December 16, 2008, denoting the beginning of the scoping period for the project. The scoping period ended on February 17, 2009, totaling 60 days, which exceeds the BLM minimum requirement of a 30-day scoping period.

The public and many agencies were notified of the scoping period and comment opportunities through a newsletter distributed to approximately 814 people on January 16, 2009. The initial mailing list was provided by the BLM LVFO and included addresses of current local elected or municipal officials, federal and state agencies, potentially interested Native American tribes, and other interested parties. All post office box holders in zip codes 89046 (Searchlight, Nevada) and 89039 (Cal-Nev-Ari, Nevada) were sent a copy of the newsletter. The newsletter provided information for submitting comments via mail, fax, and e-mail, and included the direct contact information for the BLM Project Manager, Mark Chandler. The mailing list will be supplemented throughout the Proposed Project to include those who provide scoping comments, attend meetings, or express to the BLM their interest in the project through the project website or direct request.

Announcements for the public scoping meetings were published in a variety of local newspapers (Table 5-1). Meeting times and locations were also posted on the BLM website at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm_programs/energy.html.

Table 5-1. Public Meeting Advertisements

Publication	Area of Coverage	Print Date
Las Vegas Review Journal	Las Vegas, Southern Nevada	January 12 and 18, 2009
Boulder City News	Boulder City, Nevada	January 15, 2009
Laughlin Time	Laughlin, Nevada	January 14, 2009
Desert Flyer (posted flyers)	Laughlin to Nelson, Nevada	January 12, 2009

Public meetings are required when there is a substantial “environmental controversy concerning the proposed action or substantial interest in holding the [meeting]” or when there is a “request for a hearing by another agency with jurisdiction over the action” (40 CFR 1506.6). Public scoping meetings locations, dates, and number of attendees are provided in Table 5-2. In accordance with BLM requirements, sign-in sheets were provided and attendees were encouraged to sign in. A total of 113 participants attended the scoping meetings

1 **Table 5-2. Public Meeting Information.**

Meeting Location	Date	Attendance
Searchlight Community Center 200 Michael Wendell Way Searchlight, Nevada 89046	Tuesday, January 27, 2009	73
William G. Bennett Elementary School 2750 South Needles Hwy Laughlin, Nevada 89029	Wednesday, January 28, 2009	4
Boulder City Library 701 Adams Blvd. Boulder City, Nevada 89005	Thursday, January 29, 2009	36

2 Subsequently, another project presentation meeting was held at the Searchlight Town Hall on June 25,
3 2009, and 56 government officials and residents attended the meeting.

4 A total of 66 comment submissions were received. Individual issues within each comment were classified
5 into 14 main categories. Table 5-3 summarizes the number of comments received on each of the 14 main
6 issue categories.

7 **Table 5-3. Summary of Public Scoping Comments**

Main Issue	Total Comments
Air quality	19
Biological resources	82
Cultural/archaeology	16
Cumulative effects	8
Hazardous materials/safety	1
Land use/transportation	32
Noise vibrations	16
Process	12
Project alternatives	41
Project description	33
Project need	2
Socioeconomics	45
Visual resources	40
Water	7

8 Comments received during scoping assisted BLM in determining the issues and impacts to be analyzed in
9 this EIS document. Please see the *Searchlight Wind Energy Project Scoping Summary Report* (URS
10 2009) for more detailed information on scoping activities and comments received during scoping
11 (Appendix A).

12 **5.1.2 Environmental Impact Statement**

13 After DEIS publication, agencies, organizations, tribes, and jurisdictions will be provided an
14 opportunities to comment on this DEIS.

15 **5.2 Formal Consultation with Interested Agencies and Tribal** 16 **Government**

17 **5.2.1 Federal, State, and Local Agencies**

18 The following federal, state, and local agencies were consulted during preparation of this DEIS:

- 1 • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 2 • National Park Service
- 3 • Western Area Power Administration
- 4 • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 5 • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 6 • Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
- 7 • Nevada Department of Wildlife
- 8 • Nevada Department of Transportation
- 9 • Nevada State Division of Water
- 10 • Nevada Division of Minerals
- 11 • Nevada State Historic Society
- 12 • Nevada State Clearinghouse
- 13 • Clark County Department of Air Quality
- 14 • Clark County Desert Conservation Program

15 **5.2.2 Native American Religions Concerns**

16 Native American consultation is an ongoing process being conducted by BLM staff in accordance with
17 provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and the
18 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Native Americans are concerned with the
19 public distribution of information regarding the location and nature of many traditional places. Specific
20 information provided to BLM is held as confidential.

21 The BLM consultation for the SWEP was formally initiated via letter correspondence on December 17,
22 2009. Letters were sent to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Fort
23 Mojave Indian Tribe, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, the Pahrump Paiute Tribe,
24 the Hualapai Tribe, and the Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe. On February 14, 2010, letters were again sent to
25 these tribes, and to the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, inviting them to participate on field trips to the SWEP
26 area planned for March 18 and 23, 2010. On March 18, 2010, representatives of the Chemehuevi Tribe,
27 Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and Hualapai Tribes participated in a field visit to the project area. On March 23,
28 2010, members of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Chemehuevi Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone Tribe attended
29 a project field trip. On April 9, 2010, another field trip was conducted to accommodate the Mojave Tribe.
30 The Mojave were also invited to attend a VRM simulation photo trip to the Christmas Tree Pass
31 Communication Site in the Newberry Mountains to replicate the view of the SWEP area from Spirit
32 Mountain, a sacred peak and registered Traditional Cultural Property. However, they were unable to
33 attend on the planned day.

34 Tribal consultations are still on-going for this project. Tribal representatives may wish to visit some of the
35 sites or other areas of significance to them described in the cultural resources technical report (Stegner
36 and Bevill 2011). When these visits and/or consultation are complete the information will be incorporated
37 into this document (Sprowl personal communication July 2011).

38 In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.7, BLM coordinated with the following tribes.

- 39 • Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- 40 • Colorado River Indian Tribes
- 41 • Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- 42 • Hualapai Tribe
- 43 • Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe,
- 44 • Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
- 45 • Moapa Band of Paiutes
- 46 • Pahrump Paiute Tribe

- 1 • Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

2 5.2.3 Nongovernmental Organizations

3 The following nongovernmental organizations provided comments during the public scoping period:

- 4 • Searchlight Airport
 5 • Western Watersheds Project
 6 • Western Lands Project

7 5.3 Preparers and Contributors

8 Table 5-4 lists individuals who participated in the preparation and review of this DEIS:

Table 5-4. List Of Preparers And Contributors

Name	Responsibility
BLM - Las Vegas Field Office	
Bob Ross	Field Manager
Greg Helseth	Project Manager
Nancy Christ	Environmental Coordinator
Michele Bilodeau	Environmental Coordinator
	Geology, and Soils Minerals
Kathleen Sprowl	Paleontology/Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns
	Water Resources
Mark Slaughter	Biological Resources
Jayson Barangan	Biological Resources
Lisa Christianson	Air Quality
	Transportation and Public Access
Mark Chandler	Land Use/Visual Resources
	Noise
	Recreation
	Social and Economic Conditions/Environmental Justice
	Human Health and Safety
BLM – Nevada State Office	
Janell Bogue	Legal and NEPA review
Greg Russell	Legal and NEPA review
BLM – Washington D.C. Office	
Shannon Stewart	Solicitor review
Western Area Power Administration	
Todd Rhodes	Cooperating Agency review
Dave Swanson	
Jessica Herndon	
Bill Werner	
Matt Mueller	
Carla Cristelli	
National Parks Service	
Jim Holland	Cooperating Agency review
NewFields Team	
Ken MacDonald	Project Manager/Biological Resources/Social and Economic Conditions
Albert Ridley ¹	Geology, Soils, and Minerals/Air Quality
Randy Keyes ¹	Geology, Soils, and Minerals/Water Resources/Air Quality

Table 5-4. List Of Preparers And Contributors

Name	Responsibility
Anne DuBarton	Paleontology/Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns/Land Use/Recreation
Courtney Brooks ¹	Water Resources
Stephanie Locke	Biological Resources/Visual Resources
Sean Milne	Biological Resources
Kim Hutson deBelle ²	Transportation/Land Use/Noise/Recreation
Richard Gardner, Ph.D. ³	Social and Economic Conditions/Environmental Justice
Randy Kyes ¹	Human Health and Safety
Jill Irwin ⁴	Technical Editing
Tony Agresti ⁵	Noise
Lionel Collins & Sawyer	
Linda Bullen, Esq.	Legal and NEPA review
URS Corporation	URS was involved in early stages through summer of 2010, including preparation of early draft sections of this document. However, URS has not been involved with changes to the document since that time.

¹Ninyo and Moore ²CB4 Consulting, LLC ³BootStrap Solutions ⁴Irwin Writing/Editing ⁵TRC

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