



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

SEP - 4 2014

SUBJECT: Scoping Letter for an Environmental Assessment for Western's Cliffrose Solar Energy Interconnection Project (DOE/EA-1989)

Dear Interested Party:

This letter invites you to provide input on environmental issues associated with the above-mentioned Federal action, which is further described below.

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is a Federal power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that operates and maintains transmission lines and associated facilities in accordance with the Federal Power Act, Section 211, and our Open Access Transmission Service Tariff. Western is responding to a request from Longview Solar, LLC, to interconnect their proposed Cliffrose Solar Energy Project located south of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona to Western's electrical transmission system at Griffith Substation (see attached map). Western will determine whether or not to approve the interconnection request based on available transmission capacity, and the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system; Western lacks authority over the requester's electrical generation methods, equipment or location. If the request is approved, Western will enter into an interconnection agreement/contract to add new equipment, add an additional bay, and reconfigure existing equipment at Griffith Substation. Western may also need to add, move, or modify structures associated with the Griffith Peacock and Griffith McConnico 230-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Lines. Western will prepare an Environmental Assessment of the Federal action for public review.

Longview Solar proposes to construct, operate and maintain a 45 Megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar power facility on a 350-acre parcel of private land. The facility consists of solar panels, mounting structures, access roads, an underground electrical collection system, a collector substation, an approximately 2-mile-long 230-kV generation tie line, and ancillary structures. A corridor for the tie-line has not yet been determined; preliminary corridor options are represented in the attached map. The Arizona Corporation Commission's Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee and Mohave County are permitting authorities. Longview Solar's facilities are not part of the Federal action, but their impacts will be presented alongside that of the Federal action as part of a comprehensive analysis in the Environmental Assessment.

We anticipate that construction could begin as soon as Fall 2015. This start date depends on the completion of planning efforts described below and assumes no significant environmental impacts are identified.

Further information is available online at:

<http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/environment/CliffroseSolarEnergyProject.html>

Planning requirements Western will address include, but are not limited to:

- **Clean Water Act:** Western will assess the Federal action's impacts, if any, to floodplains and wetlands and comply with the requirements of applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits. Longview Solar may separately apply for and abide by such permits for their facilities.
- **Endangered Species Act:** Western will evaluate threatened, endangered and other special status species and their habitat that could be affected by the Federal action and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as needed. Western will conduct a biological survey of areas impacted by the Federal action, if needed.
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** Western will serve as lead Federal agency in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment of the Federal action and its impacts. Longview Solar's facilities and their impacts will be presented alongside that of the Federal action as part of a comprehensive analysis.
- **National Historic Preservation Act:** Western will serve as the lead Federal agency for Section 106 consultations with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian tribes, and consulting parties for the Federal action. Western will conduct an intensive pedestrian (Class III) survey of the area of potential effect for ground disturbance, if needed. Arizona Corporation Commission's Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee and Mohave County may consult separately with the SHPO, Indian tribes, and interested parties under the State Historic Preservation Act regarding permits for Longview Solar's facilities.

Get Involved

We would like to know of any issues, concerns, and suggestions you may have regarding the Federal action. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review processes mentioned above. Comments can be provided in writing, by phone, or in person at the public scoping meeting (information below). Please submit your comments by October 17, 2014.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region

ATTN: Matthew Bilsbarrow, NEPA Document Manager

PO Box 6457

Phoenix, AZ 85005

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Come to the Open House

Western will host a public open house to allow the public and interested parties an opportunity to learn about the Federal action, the NEPA process, and to ask questions. The meeting will be held at the following date, time, and location.

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 6:00–8:00 pm
Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites
3031 E. Andy Devine Avenue
Kingman, Arizona 86401

We look forward to receiving your comments on the Federal action and hope that you will be able to attend the public scoping meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Marianito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Marianito
Environmental Manager

attachment (map)

Cliffrose Solar Interconnection Project

DOE/EA-1989

Legend

-  Solar Site Boundary (Longview Solar)
-  Longview Solar Generation Tie Line Options
-  Existing Energy Project
-  Existing Substation (Western)
-  Existing 230kV Transmission Line
-  Existing 69kV Transmission Line

Land Ownership

-  BLM
-  State
-  Private

General Reference Features

-  Local Road
-  Railroad
-  Streams/Washes
-  Township Boundary
-  Section Boundary

