



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

MAR 19 2019

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Public Comment and Historic Properties Review for WAPA's AZ Solar 1 Interconnection Project, La Paz County, Arizona (DOE/EA-2098)

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) invites you to review and comment on the *Draft Environmental Assessment for the AZ Solar 1 Interconnection Project* as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The document tracking number is DOE/EA-2098. The project is located near Salome, La Paz County, Arizona.

What is an Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is concise public document that discusses the need for a project, alternatives considered, and environmental impacts. It contains a description of a project with associated resource protection measures. A federal agency circulates a Draft EA to obtain public comment prior to preparing a Final EA.

Where Can You Read the Draft EA?

You can access the Draft EA online at the following websites:

www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/Arizona-Solar-1-Interconnection-Project.aspx or
www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments

You can read a review copy at the Centennial Public Library located at 69725 Centennial Park Road, Salome, AZ 85348. They are open from 9 am to 4 pm on Mondays and from 10 am to 6 pm on Thursdays. Their phone number is (928) 859-4271.

You can ask WAPA for a copy by using the contact information below.

How Can You Comment?

WAPA would like to hear your comments about the Draft EA. Please make your comments as specific as possible. Comments that are solution-oriented and provide specific examples are effective. For more advice, see Page 27 in *A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: Having Your Voice Heard*, which is available at: www.energy.gov/nepa/downloads/citizens-guide-nepa-having-your-voice-heard-ceq-2007.

You can provide comments in writing, by phone, or via email at the contact listed below. WAPA will consider all comments received or postmarked on or before Monday, April 29, 2019. WAPA will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region
ATTN: Matthew Bilsbarrow, NEPA Document Manager
PO Box 6457; Phoenix, AZ 85005

Email: DSW-EA2098PublicComment@wapa.gov

Phone: (602) 605-2536

If you include your name and address with your comment, please be aware that WAPA could be required to release them under the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish us to withhold this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments, and we will honor the request to the extent allowable by law. WAPA will accept comments submitted anonymously.

Who is Involved in this Project?

WAPA is a federal power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy that operates and maintains transmission lines, such as the Little Harquahala to Harcuvar Transmission Line, in accordance with the Federal Power Act. WAPA is the lead federal agency for the project and is working cooperatively with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lake Havasu Field Office, which manages the land under the existing transmission line, and Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, which holds the easement for the line. AZ Solar 1, LLC is a private developer proposing the AZ Solar 1 facility.

What is Being Proposed, and Where is it Located?

WAPA is responding to a request from AZ Solar 1, LLC to interconnect a proposed photovoltaic solar plant near Salome, La Paz County, Arizona, to its electrical transmission system (Figure 1). The project consists of two components:

WAPA proposes to approve an interconnection request, enter into an interconnection agreement, and implement three types of project-related upgrades: 1) install two new pole structures within the existing transmission line right-of-way; 2) add guy wires and anchors to three existing pole structures; and 3) make control or communication improvements at existing facilities.

AZ Solar 1 proposes to build, operate, maintain, and decommission a 32.5-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy generation facility on a 480-acre parcel of private land. An optional 27.5 megawatts of photovoltaic solar energy generation and 20 megawatts of battery storage may be added based on market considerations. AZ Solar 1 proposes to maintain a less than 100-foot-long aerial connection across BLM land from their facility to WAPA's transmission line.

What Happens Next?

Thank you for your interest in WAPA's work. We look forward to receiving your comments on the Draft EA. WAPA will respond to the comments in the Final EA, which is expected in early July 2019.

Sincerely,


Sean Berry,
Environmental Manager

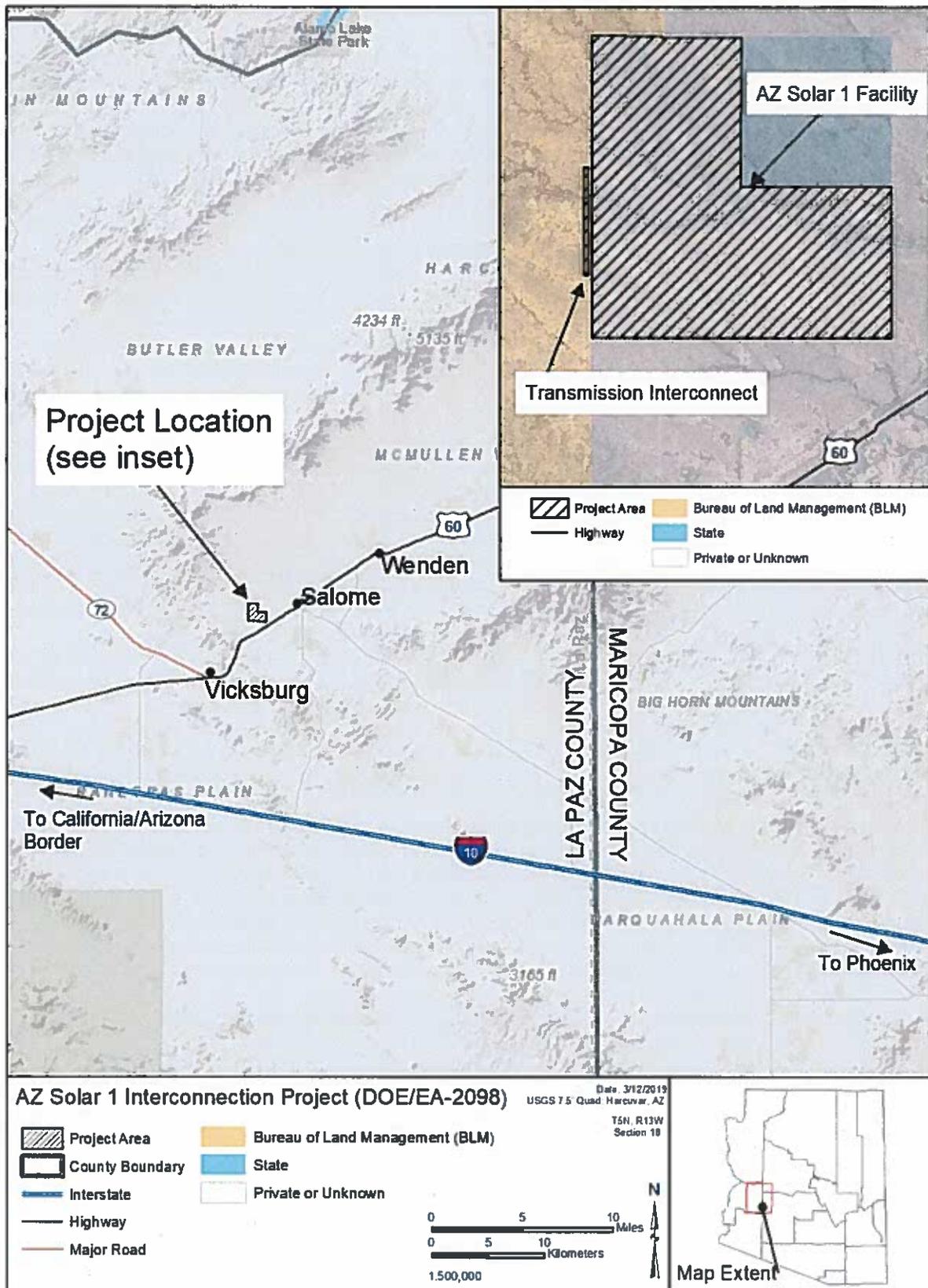


Figure 1. Project Location.