

Quartzsite Solar Energy Project

Newsletter 1



January 2010

Introduction

Quartzsite Solar Energy, LLC (QSE), a subsidiary of Solar Reserve, proposes to construct a 100 megawatt (MW) solar-powered generating station in La Paz County, Arizona.

QSE has submitted an interconnection request to Western Area Power Administration (Western) to connect the proposed facility with Western's power transmission system. QSE also has submitted a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Consideration of these applications is considered a major federal action; therefore, Western, as lead federal agency, is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to identify potential impacts of the project. BLM will serve as a cooperating agency during preparation of the EIS.



Project Description

As shown on the map, the project would be located about 10 miles north of Quartzsite, Arizona on approximately 1,450 acres of BLM administered land. The project would use concentrating solar "power tower" technology equipped with storage. With this technology, the solar field, which is comprised of mirrors, is arranged in a circular pattern around a central tower. The mirrors reflect the sun's energy onto the tower and steam is created, which then powers a conventional steam turbine generator. The project will include up to 17,500 mirrors, and one 538-foot concrete tower topped with a 100-foot solar receiver and maintenance crane (for a total height of 638 feet). Other project

facilities include storage tanks, operations and maintenance buildings, access roads, 230-kilovolt (kV) electrical substation, and a 230 kV transmission line to interconnect to Western's existing transmission system.

Public Scoping

Public scoping is the first step in the EIS process. During the 30-day public scoping period, Western encourages agencies and the public to provide comments and identify issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the EIS. The first opportunity to provide comments is at the public scoping meetings listed below.

Please plan to attend one of the following meetings. All meetings will be held in an open house format from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with a brief presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 26 Wednesday, January 27

BLM, Yuma Field Office
2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd
Yuma, AZ

Blue Water Casino
11300 Resort Dr
Parker, AZ

Thursday, January 28

Quartzsite Town Hall
465 N. Plymouth Ave
Quartzsite, AZ

Please submit written scoping comments by February 15, 2010.

Email: quartzsitesolarEIS@wapa.gov

Fax: (602) 605-2630

Or mail to: Ms. Mary Barger, NEPA

Document Manager

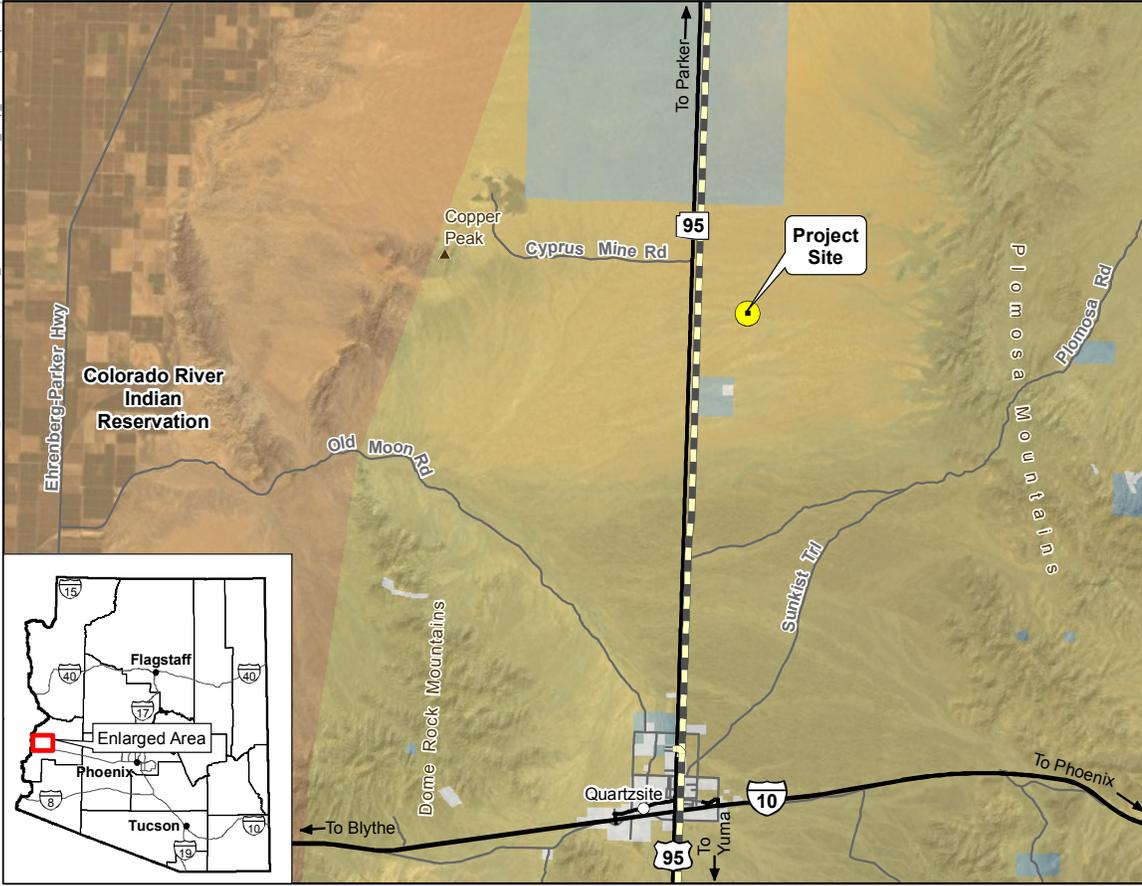
Western Area Power

Administration

P.O. BOX 6457

Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6457

For more information please visit www.wapa.gov/transmission/quartzsitesolar.htm

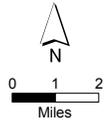


**Project Site:
Quartzsite Solar
Energy Project**

Legend

- Project Site
 - Transmission Line
 - Interstate/U.S. Highway/State Route
 - Local Road
 - City/Town
- Surface Management**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Indian Reservation
 - State Trust Land
 - Private Land

Source:
Transmission Line: Platts, A Division of the McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. - POWERmap (Platts analytical database: 2009)
Base Map: ALRIS 1997 - 2008, ADOT 2009, ESRI 2008
Imagery: ESRI 2009



See inside for important meeting announcement!

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