

Quartzsite Solar Energy Project

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

January 2010

January 26, 2010 – Yuma, Arizona

January 27, 2010 – Parker, Arizona

January 28, 2010 – Quartzsite, Arizona

NEPA Process

- QSE has two pending applications with Federal agencies (Western and BLM)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Western and BLM to analyze potential impacts of the proposed project
- Other environmental laws also will be complied with

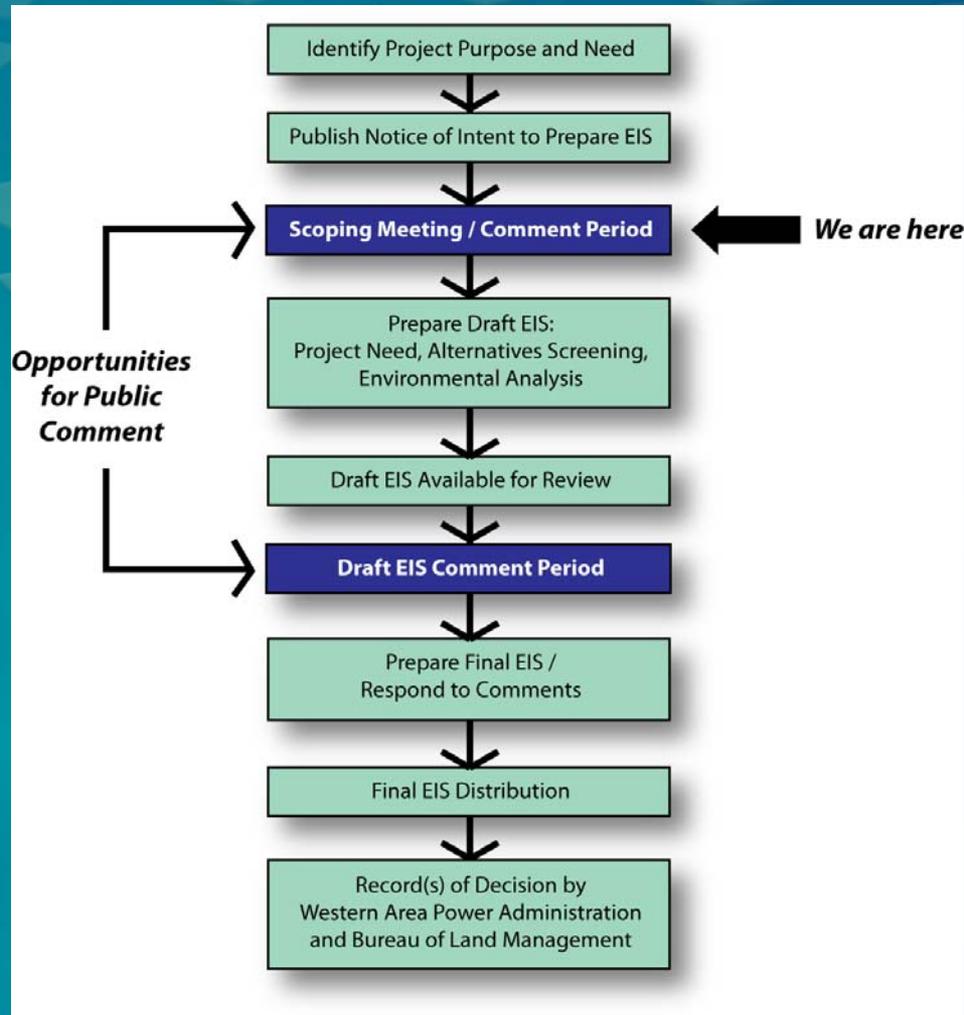
Western – Lead Federal Agency

- Responding to request to interconnect with Western's power transmission system
- Will develop the EIS and coordinate with other interested agencies
- Substation would be owned, operated, and maintained by Western
- BLM right-of-way grant for substation would be issued to Western
- Following NEPA process, Western will issue a Record of Decision

BLM – Cooperating Agency

- Right-of-way application to construct and operate a solar project on federal land administered by BLM
- BLM Yuma Resource Management Plan
 - Dunes Wildlife Habitat Management Area
 - Visual Resource Management Class III
- Following the NEPA process, BLM will issue a Record of Decision

NEPA Process



Purpose of Public Scoping

- To introduce and describe the proposed project
- To provide the public, tribes, and other interested parties and agencies the opportunity to express comments and concerns
- To identify issues that should be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- To identify feasible alternatives that should be evaluated in the EIS

Natural Resources to be Analyzed

- Vegetation
- Wildlife and habitat
- Special status species
- Water resources
- Geology, minerals, and soils
- Paleontological (fossil) resources
- Air quality



Cultural Resources to be Analyzed

- Prehistoric sites
- Historic sites
- Traditional cultural places, particularly of importance to Native Americans



Human Environment Resources to be Analyzed

- Land uses
- Recreation
- Visual resources
- Noise
- Social and economic conditions
- Environmental justice
- Public health and safety



Proposed NEPA Schedule



How You Can Participate

- Sign in at the scoping meeting
- Provide comments by filling out a comment form at the scoping meeting
- Or, sending comments by:
 - Mail
 - E-mail
 - Fax
 - Website
(www.wapa.gov/transmission/quartzsitesolar.htm)
- Submit comments by February 16, 2010

Contact Information

- Ms. Mary Barger, NEPA Document Manager
- Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
- Fax: 602-605-2630
- QuartzsitesolarEIS@wapa.gov
- Phone: 602-605-2524

How You Can Participate

- Public scoping - ends February 16
- Public meetings and 30-day review period on Draft EIS
- Mailing list and newsletter updates throughout the project



How to Make Your Comments Most Effective

One comment can make a difference.

- Identify specific information that should be considered during the EIS process.
- Offer a specific idea of how to address a particular concern.
- Speak to a project team member if you have any questions on project information.