



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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Townsite Solar Project Transmission Line
Clark County, Nevada
DOE/EA-1960**

AND

**ADOPTION OF U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2013-0052-EA)**

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration

ACTION: Adoption of an Environmental Assessment and Issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact

BACKGROUND: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) is responding to an interconnection and land grant request by KOWEPO America (KOAM) for the Townsite Solar Power facility and a 2.75-mile-long, 230-kV generation tie line from the facility to Western's Mead Substation. The interconnection request is for a maximum of 180 megawatts (MW) generated by photovoltaic solar panels, and based on the site's solar regime, the proposed facility will have an average annual output of 40 MW. The land grant is for a 2.75-mile-long, 200-foot-wide corridor across Western withdrawn land. The planned facilities are located four miles southwest of Boulder City in Clark County, Nevada.

Western cooperated with the lead Federal agency, which was the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office (BLM), in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed the Townsite Solar Facility, associated spur roads, geotechnical testing, four alternative transmission line routes, three of which crossed BLM land, and a no action alternative. The EA is titled "Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2013-0052-EA DOE/EA-1960 Townsite Solar Project Transmission Line." On June 28, 2013, BLM issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on the analysis in EA and a Record of Decision selecting Alternative B as described in the EA. This alternative consists of Townsite Solar Facility, spur roads, geotechnical testing, and a 2.75-mile-long generation tie line across Western withdrawn land to Mead Substation.

Western and BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Nevada Office) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding the Federal action's effects to the Desert Tortoise, Mohave Population. On September 26, 2013, Western agreed to abide by the terms of the Programmatic Biological Opinion (File No. 84320-2013-F-0105) as amended on June 25, 2013 to include this Federal action. Western and BLM consulted with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On August 29, 2013, the Nevada SHPO concurred with a finding of no adverse effect regarding the Federal action (Undertaking #2013-2770). Western and

BLM checked the Federal Emergency Management Agency national flood maps, and determined that floodplains or wetlands are not present, thus the Federal action will not affect these types of resources.

ADOPTION: Western reviewed BLM's "Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2013-0052-EA DOE/EA-1960 Townsite Solar Project Transmission Line" dated June 28, 2013 and concluded that the EA adequately describes Western's action, is satisfactory for DOE purposes, and that the BLM's public involvement process is equivalent to DOE's. Western hereby adopts the attached BLM EA as a DOE Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA-1960. Western incorporates this EA by reference.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analysis contained in DOE/EA-1960, Western determined that its action to approve the interconnection request and issue a land grant does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Additional information and copies of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

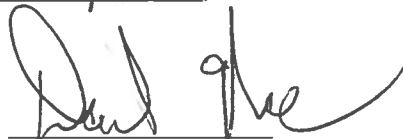
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The EA and FONSI can be downloaded from Western's website at: www.wapa.gov/dsw/environment/

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact:

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