



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Southern Nevada District Solar Application Prioritization Process

Fact Sheet—Southern Nevada District Office, Nevada

To help identify resource conflicts and potential issues with new solar and wind project proposals, BLM Southern Nevada District Office implemented two Instruction Memorandums to provide step-down guidance to standardize large-scale renewable energy right-of-way application processing and to prioritize applications that have the fewest resource conflicts and the greatest likelihood of success in the permitting process. Prioritizing projects with the fewest resource conflicts are anticipated to be less costly and less time-consuming to process. The purpose of this effort is to follow a consistent and standardized process to screen each application in accordance with established BLM Policy and take into account the specific considerations that are unique to Southern Nevada.

Currently, the Southern Nevada District Office has 26 pending renewable energy applications on public land it manages.

An interdisciplinary team reviews each project to determine if the screening criteria, local considerations, or resource concerns, outlined in Instruction Memorandum SNDO-2020-001, were present, using the developed “Renewable Energy Project Priority Determination Worksheet” to document the process. With information documented by the interdisciplinary review team, the project priority recommendation is then provided to the BLM Authorized Officer, who uses the information, coupled with the priority recommendation, to make a priority determination. Each determination is then submitted for concurrence by the BLM Southern Nevada District Manager. Once a project is prioritized, the district can then use this information to create a workplan that will direct how to proceed with processing the various applications for renewable energy development in Southern Nevada.

In August 2020, the Copper Rays Solar Project was rated High Priority.