



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

Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Background

Fact Sheet—Southern Nevada District Office, Nevada

In 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Department of Energy issued the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS) in six Southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.) The comprehensive Solar PEIS facilitated the permitting of solar energy development projects on federal public land in a more efficient, standardized, and environmentally responsible manner.

The Solar PEIS designated Solar Energy Zones that are well suited for utility-scale production of solar energy and also designated variance areas on BLM-administered lands that are outside of the Solar Energy Zones and not otherwise excluded by the Solar PEIS. Variance areas are available for utility-scale solar energy development and are evaluated through the BLM's established variance process, as described in the Solar PEIS Record of Decision (ROD) Appendix B, Section B.5 ([https://blmsolar.anl.gov/variance/process/.](https://blmsolar.anl.gov/variance/process/))

The BLM considers right-of-way applications for utility-scale solar energy development in variance areas on a case-by-case basis based on environmental considerations; coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and tribes; and public outreach.