

Question Report-Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/15/2021

Question Details		
#	Question	Answer(s)
1	I want to know what is the revenue that the BLM receives from leasing the public land?	live answered
2	this will not use the Trout Canyon substation?	live answered
3	Who has allowed this to be so close to homes,schools and the town of Pahrump?	live answered
4	Which Native American tribes will be consulted?	live answered
5	By what method will the BLM reach out to or communicate with Native American tribes?	live answered
6	Who specifically in the Native American tribes will be consulted and what does the consultation entail?	live answered
7	Where would BLM deposit displaced Tortoises?	live answered
8	where will the power be shipped to?	live answered
9	What year would the equipment be disassembled?	live answered
10	Has setting dispersed use standards (acres of solar per square mile) been considered to mitigation impacts on the desert environment and current users?	live answered
11	Is Naturally Occurring Asbestos in soil and dust regulated in Nevada?	A: Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
12	What would the BLM require of the applicant in terms of mitigating the over 5000 acres of Mojave land being totally destroyed?	live answered
13	How does the BLM propose that the applicant attempt to mitigate toxic dust?	live answered
14	how many Mojave yuccss will be destroyed?	live answered
15	how much water will be required to maintain this project on an ongoing basis, including but not limited to the ongoing washing of the solar panels to be installed?	live answered
16	Which roads will be used for construction traffic?	live answered
17	What is the current BLM acreage rate for this area?	live answered
18	I recently relocated to Pahrump from another state and am very concerned that this will drastically& negatively effect my property and home values. With millions of acres why next to an existing town?	live answered
19	How would the applicant be required to restore the site?	live answered
20	How would the applicant restore the ancient desert crust?	live answered
21	What positive effect will this project have on the Pahrump community?	live answered
22	How would the applicant be required to compensate Pahrump residents for the incalculable reduction in quality of life?	live answered
23	will all mesquite be avoided?	live answered
24	Is BLM and/or solar company going to transplant yuccas and cacti after the botanical survey of the project gets approved?	live answered
25	That did not answer the question. HOW specifically would the applicant attempt to restore the cryptobiotic desert crust?	live answered
26	Why is this project so close to residential areas?	live answered
27	Will the botanical survey be available to the public? If so, when and where?	If the project receives a favorable application evaluation determination and the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process is initiated, the botanical survey would be included as an appendix to those environmental review documents when they are made available for public comment.
28	Who is the BLM officer that will communicate with each Native American tribal government?	live answered
29	will desert tortoises on the site be recounted because surveys happened in extreme drought conditions. are you worried about undercount?	Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
30	Has a variance request ever been denied?	live answered
31	Who at the BLM determines whether the application receives a favorable outcome?	Because the Copper Rays Solar Project is not subject to the Solar PEIS Variance Process, the BLM authorized officer, the Pahrump Field Office Manager, makes the determination on the application.
32	How does the BLM plan to determine whether the project proceeds?	The BLM is responsible for making the determination on whether to continue processing the solar project application with input from the public, other agencies, and the Tribes. Currently, the project is being reviewed under the application evaluation determination process. It is estimated a determination will happen early in 2022.

33	What addl opportunities are available to oppose this application?	The current public input period, for providing input to inform the application evaluation determination, is open through January 7, 2022. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the project, the BLM would continue processing the application by initiating an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. That process would include public comment opportunities for Scoping and for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The environmental review would also involve consultation and coordination with local, federal, and state agencies and tribal governments.	
34	It sounds as if the BLM acreage use rate is negotiable?	CALENDAR YEARS 2021 - 2025 RIGHT-OF-WAY RENTAL SCHEDULE RE-ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY ZONES https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2021-005 Nye County is in Zone 4 and the 2022 Per Acre Rate for Solar Energy Development is \$103.98 per acre	
35	I won't be speaking today	Thanks for letting us know.	
36	Actually I will speak	Thanks for letting us know.	
37	How will this project impact the water table? How much water are you requesting to use in this project?	Copper Rays Solar, LLC has stated in their preliminary Plan of Development that the most probable source of construction and operations-phase water for the proposed project would be water leased or purchased from either a public or private entity utilizing existing water rights, either within the Pahrump Valley Basin or trucked from the Las Vegas area. The project does not anticipate drilling any new water wells. The Nevada Division of Water Resources is responsible for the allocation of water resources within the State of Nevada. If the project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, the BLM will consider impacts from water use during the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process. BLM considers water, both surface and groundwater, within the broader context of all resources on BLM administered lands and their interaction as they relate to BLM responsibilities.	
38	I've been registered to speak in err (speaker #4, Roben Armstrong) for this round. I do not wish to speak at this time. Thank you.	Thanks for letting us know.	
39	Given that the electric generation only serves California customers, will the Environmental analysis take a hard look at reasonable project alternatives closer to the project customers and the grid there, instead of just what is more convenient and less costly to the applicant based on California? Plenty of other sites meet the project need and comply with NEPA, regardless of applicant profit.	The project sponsor, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, has indicated that a purchaser for the power proposed to be generated from the project site has not been identified yet. The Copper Rays solar project proposes to interconnect to the Gamebird substation, which would allow the power to be provided to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Valley Electric Association systems (Nevada).	
40	no questions/comment	Thank you!	
41	Looks like at least water, riparian, recreation, tortoise, and controversy have shifted this process plainly into an Environmental Impact Statement with a true range of alternatives warranted for multiple sites, including outside Nevada.	If the project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, processing of the application would continue and an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process would be initiated. The range of alternatives to be analyzed would be developed as part of the environmental review process.	
42	How do I see a recording of this meeting?	Yes, this meeting is being recorded in its entirety. The link to The recorded meeting will be published in one to two business days. Thank you for asking.	
43	How many other solar propoals are being evaluated within the surrounding 300 miles to this site?	Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130	
44	The proportion of proposed generation to CalISO vs. Valley Electric needs to be disclosed in the context of project purpose and range of alternatives. Electric demand current and forecasting needs to occur for Valley Electric proportion. Questions and comments via these early Zoom meetings also need to be on the record and in the scoping report.	Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130 All comments and questions will be included in the project record and posted on the project website.	
45	Is Nevada going to start regulating Naturally Occuring Asbestos in soil the way CA does?	BLM does not have authority to regulate Naturally Occurring Asbestos. If there is a favorable application evaluation determination made for the project, the BLM would continue processing the application by initiating an environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process.	During this process, the BLM would consult with other agencies that deal with management of air quality and who would be able to provide more input into this concern.
46	Does BLM care about human quality of life?	Yes, we do. The BLM is currently requesting information about potential impacts that could be caused by the project. If the project receives a favorable application evaluation determination, as part of the environmental review/NEPA process, potential impacts on resources related to the quality of human life would be analyzed, including consideration of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation to reduce impacts.	

		<p>Thank you for your question. We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response. We also encourage you to submit your question/comment through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>	
47	How far can the valley fever bacteria travel in air?		
48	Is there a reason to place this project near a town	<p>The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).</p>	
49	Why are the Pahrump band of Paiutes not being consulted?	<p>The BLM is consulting with Federally Recognized Tribes. Additionally, the BLM is interested and values input from Federal, state, and local agencies and the public, to help inform the application evaluation for the Copper Rays Solar Project.</p>	
50	Are all letters and comments available to the public? Are transcripts from all the hearings available? Are all documents related to the project between developers and BLM made available?	<p>BLM is committed to an accessible public meeting experience. To ensure this, SNDO follows a standard process and agenda for virtual meetings. Meetings are recorded and posted with closed captions. Input during public comment is transcribed and included as part of the public comment period. Questions are taken using the Zoom Q&A feature and are answered by a mix of typing some answers which all participants can see as well verbally answering some questions which participants can hear. Questions are answered in both formats to ensure as many questions as possible are answered during the meeting time. Zoom Q&A and chat features are 508 and WCAG compliant and video of meeting is closed captioned. Phone in options are available and instructions are included specifically for those using that functionality to provide comment.</p> <p>A phone number is provided on the news release and website to ask questions outside meeting times. Questions and comments may also be emailed and mailed until the January 7, 2021 deadline</p>	
51	Is Nevada an Energy Colony of California? This project is.	<p>Thank you for your comment. If you would like, please sign up to give a verbal comment or you can also submit the comment using the methods below: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Pahrump Field Office Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>	
52	we have 8 minutes so please answer!		
53	Is that a yes that this project needs to be near town?	<p>The applicant, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, identified and applied for the proposed project site. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the application evaluation process identified in the right-of-way regulations. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the application evaluation process and will inform BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application (initiate the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process).</p>	
54	you should answer that last comment		
55	so how much of this is open to the public and where do we find it?	<p>Information is available on the website provided. If you additional questions you may use the email provided.</p>	
56	I'm afraid this doesn't answer what i asked	<p>We responded to your second question - please let us know if you have additional questions.</p>	
57	Can you characterize the relationship that Nicholas has with each of the Native American tribal governments?		
58	If the Pahrump band of Paiutes were federally recognized, would they then also be consulted?		