

Question Report-Copper Rays Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/16/2021

Question Details		
#	Question	Answer(s)
1	How many solar projects and how many acres of public lands are under consideration, aside from Copper Ray, within a 300 mile area of Copper Ray. I asked this yesterday, with no answer.	Currently, the Southern Nevada District Office has 26 pending renewable project applications and receive more on a regular basis. Information about pending solar applications can be found by querying BLM's Land & Mineral Report System (LR2000) found at https://reports.blm.gov/reports/LR2000/ . If you would like assistance with LR2000, please contact the Southern Nevada District at 702-515-5000.
2	Why Pahrump?	live answered
3	Why near a residential area?	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).
4	What does it mean that Copper Rays is not a variance land? Can you explain what variance land is?	live answered
5	What elements is the BLM aware of that could be present in the dust associated with the Copper Rays solar project?	live answered
6	Who is the developer behind the copper rays solar project?	live answered
7	How close will the new powerlines to Gamebird substation be to private residents?	live answered
8	Under business entity, what is your business listed as?	live answered
9	I was advised by a past recreation planner to remove routes within this project area for both cultural and biological concerns or my permit would not be approved. These were existing 24" wide motorcycle trails. How can this project dodge those concerns? Or have these concerns gone away and if so please explain why?	live answered
10	Are you calling the destruction of over 50,000 Mojave yuccas a low resource conflict?	live answered
11	How many Joshua trees are there on the proposed project site?	live answered
12	If this project goes through, how will BLM and the project mitigate recreation loss?	live answered
13	Why doesn't BLM propose some kind of overarching plan for the public to review and evaluate instead of letting developers go about submitting applications one at a time in a way that is most profitable for them?	Although the proposed projects are located in a similar area, BLM received individual applications for the three stand-alone projects. Each has potential site-specific resource concerns. Since the applications are stand-alone projects, once the application evaluation process is complete, including completion of the public information forums for each project, the BLM will make individual determinations for each application. In addition to the public information forums, each project will have a public input period that would provide time before and after the public forums for additional public input. For the Copper Rays Solar Project, the public input period would span November 22 to January 7, 2022. For the Rough Hat Clark project, the public input period would span November 15 to December 22, 2021. Dates for input vary by project due to holidays within each input period but all are longer than 30 days.
14	Is there a detailed map showing street names?	live answered
15	Why doesn't BLM have a game plan for this, instead of letting it be driven by corporations, with NEPA issues at the end of the decision making process?	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).
16	Will Copper Rays connect to Gridliance transmission line?	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.
17	But WHY Pahrump. I heard your verbiage but it does not make sense. So, in lay mans terms I ask again, WHY in Pahrump	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).

		As part of considering an application for a solar energy development project, the BLM seeks input from the public, coordinates with local, Federal, and state agencies and consults with Tribal governments. The BLM also has various BLM resource specialists that review and provide input on review and analysis. All of the above input, coordination, and consultation is valuable to inform BLM decisions on the application.		
18	How many people at the BLM are involved in the decision making process?			
19	Where is the energy collected being used?	live answered		
20	Is variance all public land not in a SEZ that has no other formal protection?	The Solar PEIS identified solar energy zones/designated leasing areas, in addition to providing for applications to be considered in Variance areas. For projects in variance areas and subject to the variance process, the BLM will consider those applicable variance factors described in the Solar PEIS. The variance factors include documentation about the proposed project related to land use plan documents, project use of existing facilities and roads, design features, environmental resources (like fish and wildlife habitat, visual resource management, wilderness, hydrologic resources), access and recreational opportunities, and applicant coordination with state and local governments for permitting requirements. The Copper Rays solar project was considered a pending application under the Solar PEIS. As such, applications submitted prior to publication of the Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS would not be subject to any decisions adopted by the Solar PEIS Record of Decision.	The Copper Rays application is not subject to the variance process requirements of the Solar PEIS.	
21	where is the corporation from?	The project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov		
22	Are the business holders of the solar company US citizens ?	The project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov		
23	Water source will be?	live answered		
24	50,000 yuccas not 5,000!	Thank you for the clarification to your earlier question - this was also clarified live for the record.		
25	Does the BLM consider their job to be "processing applications"?	No. The BLM will review the applications in accordance with all laws, regulations and policies, including robust public engagement.		
26	Solar panel will be provided by whom?	The project sponsor, Copper Rays Solar, LLC, has indicated that a supplier for solar panels for the proposed project has not been identified yet. It is very early in the consideration of the Copper Rays Solar Project, in most cases procurement of solar panels would not occur until a project has been approved.		
27	How can you determine low conflict when you have not conducted full surveys?	The Copper Rays project Prioritization Determination Worksheet provides details on the resources considered in making the determination and can be posted on the project website.		
28	So Copper Ray LLC is NOT listed as a solar company?	It looks like you may have left the "s" off "Rays". The project sponsor is Copper Rays Solar LLC. Information about Copper Rays Solar LLC as a Nevada business can be found on the Nevada Secretary of State website - www.nvsos.gov		
29	How old can the Mojave Yucca be, in the opinion of BLM scientists?	live answered		
30	What would BLM ask the construction crew to do in order to "mitigate" the dust hazard?	live answered		
31	How can you have already determined low or high priority status when you have not yet finished resource surveys? How many rare Parish club-cholla cacti are found on the site? This is a sensitive species.	live answered		
32	Is this company related to Rough Hat Solar?	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		
33	Jimmy Lewis (You): I was advised by a past recreation planner to remove routes within this project area for both cultural and biological concerns or my permit would not be approved. These were existing 24" wide motorcycle trails. How can this project dodge those concerns? Or have these concerns gone away and if so please explain why?	live answered		
34	Will building resources, such as water and dust mitigation, come from the town of Pahrump, or will Copper Rays provide their own resources?	The BLM has posted the preliminary Plan of Development for the project online at the following link: https://go.usa.gov/xekXI . Additional information on the proposed project can be found in the Plan of Development and at that website.		

	<p>Do you attempt to evaluate affects on mental health in the community caused by the destruction of nature and open space within their habitat?</p> <p>35</p>	<p>•This question is important and can offer another perspective to the Copper Rays Solar Project. Please email this comment/question to the project email address: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov so that it can be further reviewed.</p>		
	<p>Would they really truck water from Vegas? They are using 350,000 gallons a day during Yellow Pine construction</p> <p>36</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
	<p>Be real - Las Vegas does not have water to spare for this project - Pahrump does NOT want our water used for this project. We do not want you drilling wells</p> <p>37</p>	<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:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p>		
	<p>Because the desert tortoise surveys took place last April/May in a record breaking drought year, the accuracy of the surveys is questionable. Will the BLM require the applicant to redo desert tortoise surveys in more reasonable conditions?</p> <p>38</p>	<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:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail:</p> <p>BLM – Pahrump Field Office</p> <p>Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project</p> <p>4701 N Torrey Pines Dr</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>		
	<p>What country is going to supply Copper Ray solar panels</p> <p>39</p>	<p>live answered</p>		
	<p>Since Pahrump is not using the energy produced, what is the benefit of this project to our town?</p> <p>40</p>	<p>live answered</p>		
	<p>WHY place this near a residential area?</p> <p>41</p>	<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>		
	<p>So biological and cultural types of concerns are not considered in this pre application process?</p> <p>42</p>	<p>The planning for the proposed Copper Rays Project involves the solar application evaluation and the National Environmental Policy Act process, if a favorable application evaluation determination is made. Currently we are at the application evaluation process, which includes coordination with Federal, state and local governments, tribes, and public outreach. 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, which includes further scoping and review opportunities for agencies, tribes, and the public.</p>		
	<p>Is it proven that many Desert Tortois do not survive relocation. Do you see that as a problem since they are a protected species ?</p> <p>43</p>	<p>live answered</p>		
	<p>Since there is a high density of projects that are side by side, does each project consider the others in the pre application process?</p> <p>44</p>	<p>live answered</p>		
	<p>Again, why place this near a residential area?</p> <p>45</p>	<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>		

		<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:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail:</p> <p>BLM – Pahrump Field Office</p> <p>Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project</p> <p>4701 N Torrey Pines Dr</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>		
46	<p>Please answer this one: Because the desert tortoise surveys took place last April/May in a record breaking drought year, the accuracy of the surveys is questionable. Will the BLM require the applicant to redo desert tortoise surveys in more reasonable conditions?</p>	<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:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail:</p> <p>BLM – Pahrump Field Office</p> <p>Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project</p> <p>4701 N Torrey Pines Dr</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>		
47	<p>Very concerned that we would approve a project that may be buying solar panels/and more from a country that does not support human rights and is known for child labor. I feel strongly that source of panels should be known before approval!</p>	<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:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail:</p> <p>BLM – Pahrump Field Office</p> <p>Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project</p> <p>4701 N Torrey Pines Dr</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>		
48	<p>can i speak as well?</p>	<p>Yes, you will be listed as a speaker.</p>		
49	<p>Please feel free to answer my quesitons to aletarn@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Answers to the questions that you submitted were provided in writing. You may be having trouble viewing the responses. Under your question, there is a "show all" link that is blue, if you click that link, the BLM response should show. If you would like, we can also send the responses to the email address you have provided.</p>		
50	<p>Is there a reason or normal process that this application is 11 years or so old before moving to this point? thx.</p>	<p>The application for the Copper Rays Solar Project was received by the BLM on September 9, 2010. To look at the siting of solar comprehensively, the BLM and the United States Department of Energy approved the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS) in six Southwestern States. The Solar PEIS designated Solar Energy Zones that are well suited for utility-scale production of solar energy. Then the Southern Nevada District issued policy implementing regulations for prioritization of applications based on known resource conflicts. The Copper Rays Solar Project priority for processing decision was issued last year. The BLM is now proceeding with applicaiton evaluation for the project. We welcome input from the public on this evaluation.</p>		
51	<p>I think you are trying to skirt around the licnese informaiton. Please - just answer my questions - What country do the holders of this company live in?</p>	<p>We strive to provide the best information and at this moment we don't have an immediate response.</p> <p>We encourage you to submit your question/comment through:</p> <p>Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov</p> <p>Mail:</p> <p>BLM – Pahrump Field Office</p> <p>Attn: Copper Rays Solar Project</p> <p>4701 N Torrey Pines Dr</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>		
52	<p>I cannot find the license information for this company I went to www.nvsos.gov it's NOT there</p>	<p>Here is a direct link to the website:</p> <p>https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineBusinessAndMarkSearchResult</p>		
53	<p>there is NO business listed under Copper Hat or hats on esos.nv.gov Please offer the business license type</p>	<p>Here is a direct link to the website:</p> <p>https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineBusinessAndMarkSearchResult</p>	<p>From the esos.nv.gov site - search "Copper Rays Solar LLC"</p>	<p>There are two separate projects named "Copper Rays" and "Rough Hat" solar projects. This public meeting is regarding the "Copper Rays" project.</p>
54	<p>Has the impact of electromagnetic radiation, which reduces life expectancy; along with respiratory issues from dust been of high priority research regarding the health of residents living in close proximity to the proposed solar farms?</p>	<p>This question is important and can offer another perspective to the Copper Rays Solar Project. Please email this comment/question to the project email address: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov so that it can be further reviewed.</p>		
55	<p>Can we expect rolling brown outs in Pahrump from the energy pulled from the grids connected to the solar farms?</p>	<p>The BLM has no authority over operation of the electrical grid.</p>		