

Question Report- Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Virtual Forum 12/8/2021

Question Details		
#	Question	Answer(s)
1	I have a statement/questions i like to put out there during the public portion of the presentation.	If you have a question you would like answered, please type that in the Q&A box and a response will be provided. If you would like to make a comment during public input, your name can be added to the speaker list.
2	can you add me to the speakers list	Absolutely, will do.
3	Has Candela decided what type of PV modules would be used?	The information Candela has provided is included within the preliminary plan of development. The BLM has posted the preliminary Plan of Development for the project online at the following link: https://www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-hold-virtual-public-information-forums-rough-hat-clark-county . Additional information on the proposed project can be found in the Plan of Development and at that website.
4	What is the status of any mining claims that would be affected by the project; are they active, what minerals are involved (are they critical minerals, and who could be affected)?	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 – Las Vegas Field Office Attn: Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Variance 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
5	How long will construction last?	Candela Renewables estimates that construction would take approximately 12 to 18 months. Additional information on the project including more detail on the schedule estimate, can be found in the preliminary Plan of Development, which BLM has included online at the following website: https://www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-hold-virtual-public-information-forums-rough-hat-clark-county . A link to the website has been added in the chat.
6	the project applicant has claimed that they will be paying property tax, my understanding is row is not taked in NV, so will they? and does it affect payment in lieu of taxes?	The BLM does not have authority relating to payment of taxes by a project sponsor.
7	Variance Factors what does this curtail?	live answered
8	my concern is that this project will lower the water table and that i will have to hire a driller to lower my well. because of this project you will cause me additional expanse to have a well dug deeper.	Candela Renewables has stated in their preliminary Plan of Development that water would primarily be needed for the construction phase of the project. Water use after construction would be relatively low during operation. Candela Renewables has estimated approximately 800 acre-feet of water for construction and approximately 16-acre feet per year for operation. Water would be provided by either developing an onsite well, following State of Nevada requirements, or delivering water for a local provider via truck or pipeline. 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 Variance 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.
9	this area is somewhat remote, does the applicant bear any responsibility as far as emergency services to their project?	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 – Las Vegas Field Office Attn: Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Variance 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
10	Has BLM establish a National Trail Management Corridor for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail consistent with BLM Policy Manual 6280?	live answered
11	it would be helpful if you answered all the questions out loud	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 – Las Vegas Field Office Attn: Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Variance 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr Las Vegas, NV 89130
12	What would be done to mitigate the loss of desert habitat in the project footprint?	Mitigation measures have not been developed at this time. Currently, we are requesting information about potential impacts within the site. If the project receives a favorable Variance Determination and the environmental review/National Environmental Policy Act process is initiated, relevant mitigation would be identified and addressed as part of the environmental review process. Additionally, applicable design features required by the Solar PEIS include methods to minimize the effects to biological resources.
13	Can you clarify if that means 5 miles from the OSNHT centerline or 2.5 miles from the centerline?	live answered
14	who bears responsibility for the security of the project?	live answered

	<p>15 how would anyone know to apply for this land use if the blm is not advertising those lands for sale or for use</p>	<p>The applicant, Candela Renewables, identified and applied for the proposed project site. The lands being requested in the application were identified in the Solar PEIS as Variance lands, where solar energy development applications can be considered on a case-by-case basis. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the Variance process that was identified in the Solar PEIS. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the Variance 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>16 Will you amend the RMP for this? Gemini Solar was also a VRM Class III and got a full plan amendment with a 90 day comment period.</p>	<p>live answered</p>	
	<p>17 Is this the norm, building so close to residential areas considering this project is 2400 acres with other projects adding additional acreage?</p>	<p>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. The Solar PEIS also designated variance areas on BLM-administered public 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. This Solar PEIS amended the existing Resource Management Plans for the individual offices affected.</p> <p>The planning for the proposed Rough Hat Clark County Project involves the solar application process, including application prioritization, the application evaluation process and variance process, and the National Environmental Policy Act process. Currently we are at the application evaluation process, which included 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>Information on the BLM land use planning process can be found at the following website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/planning-101</p>	
	<p>18 Would there be any ground cover or post-construction ground treatment within the project to maintain habitat value of the area during and after project development?</p>	<p>It is anticipated that most of the site would be mowed instead of graded. It is anticipated that this would result in shorter-term impacts to vegetative resources, soils, and small mammal, bird, and reptile habitat.</p>	
	<p>19 that doesn't really respond to the issue of people not being able to deal with all this technology and would like to hear your answers</p>	<p>A video of the meeting will be posted and can be reviewed following the meeting. There will also be an opportunity for providing public input following the Q&A. If you would like to make a comment during the Public Input session we can add your name to the speaker list.</p>	
	<p>20 I would like to know how or why this project will be so close to Pahrump. It does not seem wise to stop any development to the town. This part of town is the most active as far as housing and this will be a hazard to all of us on this end of town because of air quality and water being removed from this areas.</p>	<p>The applicant, Candela Renewables, identified and applied for the proposed project site. The lands being requested in the application were identified in the Solar PEIS as Variance lands, where solar energy development applications can be considered on a case-by-case basis. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the Variance process that was identified in the Solar PEIS. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the Variance 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>21 again how did they identify that site without someone advertising those sites</p>	<p>The applicant, Candela Renewables, identified and applied for the proposed project site. The lands being requested in the application were identified in the Solar PEIS as Variance lands, where solar energy development applications can be considered on a case-by-case basis. The BLM is currently considering the appropriateness of the application utilizing the Variance process that was identified in the Solar PEIS. The current public input meetings and public input period are a critical piece of the Variance 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>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. The Solar PEIS also designated variance areas on BLM-administered public 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. This Solar PEIS amended the existing Resource Management Plans for the individual offices affected.</p>
	<p>22 again the issue of trying to read tiny type on our phones means your answers are unreadable - it's an access issue</p>	<p>I am sorry that you are having trouble reading the responses on your device, we are doing our best to provide responses to the questions being received. The answers can also be reviewed later as part of the video that will be posted and a transcript can be provided.</p>	
	<p>23 Why not disperse smaller projects instead of concentrating large projects?</p>	<p>live answered</p>	

		<p>Candela Renewables has stated in their preliminary Plan of Development that water would primarily be needed for the construction phase of the project. Water use after construction would be relatively low during operation. Candela Renewables has estimated approximately 800 acre-feet of water for construction and approximately 16-acre feet per year for operation. Water would be provided by either developing an onsite well, following State of Nevada requirements, or delivering water for a local provider via truck or pipeline.</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 Variance 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>	
24	How much water will this project replace to the local community.		
25	How many neighbors of proposed projects are in favor of this?	<p>The BLM is currently seeking public input on the Rough Hat Clark Project. The public input will help inform the BLM's decision on whether to continue processing the application, and then initiate the environmental review process. The project receives a favorable determination and continues into the environmental review process, there will be additional public input opportunities during that process.</p>	
26	Will desert tortoises be allowed to re-enter the site? If so, how do they get across Tecopa Road	<p>If the project is approved, desert tortoises would be impacted by the construction of the solar facility. The BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service work in coordination to reduce those impacts by requiring that tortoises be translocated prior to construction of the solar facility. The BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Trout Canyon and Stump Springs Translocation Areas that can potentially be used as recipient sites for the tortoises from the Rough Hat Clark project. Measures to reduce impacts could include post construction monitoring for 12 months, health assessments, treatment if needed. Specific measures would be developed in a desert tortoise translocation plan during the environmental review process.</p>	
27	Hello, I registered to comment, Can you put me on that list?	<p>There are two pages of registered speakers. We have you on the list to comment.</p>	
28	I don't need to speak.	<p>Thanks for letting us know, please let us know if you decide you would like to speak.</p>	
29	Format moved on without answering all questions.	<p>We will continue to answer questions in the Q&A during the meeting. Please feel free to continue to submit questions.</p>	
30	I will email comment. This format is of concern.	<p>Just in case you are not seeing the responses being provided, there is a response linked to the question that you need to click on to expand it. In addition to accepting comments during the meeting, the BLM is accepting comments through December 22, 2021. Please submit questions/comments through: Email: BLM_NV_SND_EnergyProjects@blm.gov Mail: BLM – Las Vegas Field Office Attn: Rough Hat Clark County Solar Project Variance 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89130</p>	
31	I do not have a comment at this time. My name may have been entered into the "speaker" section in error. Thank you	<p>Thank you for letting us know. Please let us know if you change your mind.</p>	
32	You must be having technical problems.	<p>Please let us know if you are experiencing a technical problem and we'll try to assist in resolving it.</p>	