



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Western Region
2600 N. Central Avenue, Fourth Floor Mailroom
Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Eagle Shadow Mountain Solar Project, Clark County, NV.

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as Lead Agency, with the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Tribe), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as cooperating agencies, has filed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Eagle Shadow Mountain Solar Project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, Clark County, Nevada. This notice also announces that the DEIS is now available for public review and that two public meetings will be held at the Moapa River Indian Reservation and the BLM Southern Nevada District Office to solicit comments on the DEIS.

DATES: In order to be fully considered at this stage of the environmental review process, written comments on the DEIS must be delivered to the address(es) provided below by September 24, 2019. The public meeting on the Moapa River Indian Reservation will be held on September 3, 2019 and the public meeting at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office will be held on September 4, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, email, hand carry or telefax written comments to Mr. Chip Lewis, Regional Environmental Protection Officer, BIA Western Regional Office Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Center Avenue, 4th Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004-3008; telephone: (602) 379-6782; fax (602) 379-3833; email: chip.lewis@bia.gov. Please include your name, return address and the caption "DEIS Comments, Eagle Shadow Mountain Solar Project," on the first page of your written comments. Individual respondents may request confidentiality; however, anonymous comments will not be considered.

Both public meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The September 3rd public meeting will be held in the Tribal Hall on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, 1 Lincoln Street, Moapa, NV 89025. The September 4th public meeting will be held in the conference room of the BLM Southern Nevada District Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV 89130. Each meeting is anticipated to last approximately one and a half hours with light refreshments provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The proposed Federal action, taken under 25 U.S.C. 415, is BIA's approval of a 2,200 acre solar energy ground lease and associated agreements entered into by the Band with 326MK 8me LLC (ESM Solar or Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of 8Minute Energy, to provide for construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of an up-to 300 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation facility located entirely on the Reservation and specifically on lands held in trust by BIA for the Band. A proposed 230 kilovolt (kV) generation-tie transmission line required for interconnection would be located on Reservation lands, Reservation lands administered and managed by BLM, BLM lands, and private lands owned by NV Energy for which the Applicant has requested that the BIA and BLM approve rights-of-way (ROWs) authorizing the construction and operation. Together, the proposed solar energy facility, transmission line, and other associated facilities make up the proposed ESM Solar Project.

The solar facility would generate electricity using PV panels. Also included would be inverters, a collection system, a potential battery storage system, an on-site substation, an operations and maintenance building, and other related facilities. The PV panels will be mounted on single-axis tracking systems that are set on steel posts embedded in the ground. No water will be used to generate electricity during operations. Water will be needed during construction for dust control and a minimal amount will be needed during operations for panel washing, administrative, and sanitary water use on site. The water supply required for construction and operation of the Project would be leased from the Band from adjacent wells. Access to the ESM Solar Project will be provided via existing roads from North Las Vegas Boulevard. The overhead 230 kV generation-tie transmission line, approximately 12.5 miles long, would connect the solar project to NV Energy's existing Reid-Gardner 230kV substation.

Construction of the ESM Solar Project is expected to take approximately 16 to 18 months. The Applicant would operate the energy facility for 30 years, with two options to renew the lease for an additional 5 years each, if mutually acceptable to the Band and Applicant.

The purposes of the ESM Solar Project are to: (1) help to provide a long-term, diverse, and viable economic revenue base and job opportunities for the Band; (2) help the state of Nevada and region meet renewable energy needs; and (3) allow the Band, in partnership with the Applicant, to optimize the use of the lease site while maximizing the potential economic benefit to the Band.

The BIA and BLM will use the EIS to make decisions on the land lease and ROW applications under their respective jurisdiction; the EPA may use the document to make decisions under its authorities; the Band may use the EIS to make decisions under its Environmental Policy Ordinance; and the USFWS may use the EIS to support its decision under the Endangered Species Act.

LOCATIONS WHERE THE DEIS IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: The DEIS will be available for review at: BIA Western Regional Office, 2600 North Central Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona; BIA Southern Paiute Agency, 180 North 200 East, Suite 111, St. George, Utah; and the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The DEIS is also available on-line at: <http://www.ESMSolarEIS.com>.

AUTHORITY: This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and Section 46.305 of the Department of Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, by part 209 of the Departmental Manual.



Mr. Bryan Bowker
Director, Western Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 8/9/19