THE BLM PERSPECTIVE

The Bureau of Land Management's
Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
and Renewable Energy Applications Status

Objectives

- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Overview
- Status of CA renewable energy applications
- Public feedback

Solucar Tower, Seville, Spain; Wikipedia Commons

Recently Completed PEISs

- Wind Energy (2005)
  - amended 52 BLM land use plans
- Geothermal Leasing (2008)
  - amended 114 BLM land use plans
- West-Wide Energy Corridors (2009)
  - amended 92 BLM land use plans
- Coming soon: Solar Energy (2010)

Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

Purpose: to facilitate utility-scale solar energy development on public lands

Goals: to identify reasonable forseeable regional and national development scenarios for solar energy; to amend up to 58 BLM land use plans in 6 states; to identify best management practices; and to adopt mitigation measures

Solar PEIS: Partners

- Joint project: Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Contractor: Argonne National Laboratory

- Multiple cooperating agencies
  - California state agencies (CEC, CPUC, CDF&G et al)
  - Department of Defense
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Arizona Department of Game and Fish
  - Nevada Division of Wildlife
  - Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
- You – public feedback

More Information:

- Solar PEIS: http://solareis.anl.gov/
  - Sign up for email notifications
- BLM Solar Energy information: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/solar_energy.html
- California Solar Energy information: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/energy/solar.html

Solar PEIS: Timeline

- Notice of Intent published May 2008
- Formal Scoping through July 15, 2008
- 11 public meetings (5 in California); 600 participants; 16,000 comments
- Draft PEIS: August 2009
- Final PIES: Summer 2010

Solar PEIS: Current Status

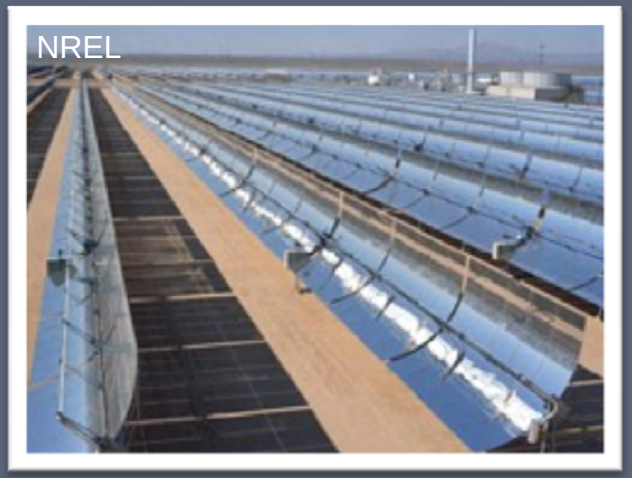
- Preliminary chapters released for internal review
  - Chapter 4 – Affected Environments
  - Chapters 1 and 3 – Introduction and Technology Overview to be released for editing soon
- Fine tuning alternatives
- Coordination with ongoing efforts
  - California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI)
  - Western Governors' Association Renewable Energy Zones

BLM Renewable Energy Applications in California

California Renewable Energy Summary Statistics as of March 2009		
	Wind	**Solar**
Total applications	**92**	**71**
Total acres	**976,931**	**638,452**
Approximate MW	N/A	47,981
CDD applications	63	69
CDD acres	442,666	635,812
Central CA apps	4	1
Central CA acres	17,308	1,920
Northern CA apps	25	1
Northern CA acres	516,957	720

Current Development

- Solar
  - Needles – Ivanpah
  - El Centro, Barstow – Stirling
- Wind
  - Eagle Lake
- Transmission
- Geothermal and biomass



Regional Coordination

- Collaborations and agreements
  - Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative
  - Department of Defense
  - Desert Managers' Group
  - Master agreements
  - Other local and tribal collaborations

Recent and Anticipated Changes

- Renewable Energy Coordination Offices (RECO)
  - Increasing capacity to coordinate processing with applicants and state agencies
  - Increasing capacity to plan strategically and expedite permitting
  - Staff
    - Renewable Energy Project Managers in California Desert District (CDD) and State Office

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Thank you!

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