

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Programmatic Design Features for Lands and Realty

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential impacts on lands and realty from solar energy development identified and discussed in Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

- LR1-1** Project developers shall consult with the BLM in the early phases of project planning to identify potential land use conflicts and constraints.
- (a) Identification of potential land use conflicts shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- Identifying potential land use conflicts in proximity to the proposed project. In coordination with the BLM, developers shall consult existing BLM land use plans and local land use plans, as well as with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies; affected tribes; and adjacent property owners.
 - Identifying legal access to private, state, and Federal lands surrounding the solar facilities and the potential to create areas that are inaccessible to the public.
 - Considering the effects on the manageability and uses of public lands around boundaries of solar energy facilities.
 - Considering the potential effects on prime and unique farmland.
 - Evaluating land use impacts and constraints as part of the environmental impact analysis for the project and considering options to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse impacts in coordination with the BLM.
 - Providing notification to existing BLM ROW authorization holders within solar energy development areas, pursuant to Title 43, Part 2807.14 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (43 CFR 2807.14), to inform them that an application that might affect their existing ROW has been filed and request their comments.
 - Proposed solar energy developments within one-quarter mile of any project boundary will require issuance of a Chain of Survey Certificate in conformance with the Departmental standard. In some cases, Land Description Reviews, Certificates of Inspection and Possession, Boundary Assurance Certificates, resurveys,

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re-monumentation, and/or referencing of Public Land Survey System (PLSS) corners may be required before the start of any action.

- (b) Methods to minimize land use conflicts and constraints may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Informing project personnel of all laws and regulations that they may be subject to, such as international borders, limitations on the removal of salable materials such as stone or wood from a project site for personal use, and use of vehicles off of the project site in limited access areas. This information should be incorporated into a Worker Education and Awareness Plan (WEAP) that is provided to all project personnel prior to entering the project worksite. The WEAP shall be provided on a regular basis, covering multiple resources, to ensure the awareness of key mitigation efforts of the project worksite during all phases of the project's life. The base information the WEAP provides shall be reviewed and approved by the BLM prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed and incorporate adaptive management protocols for addressing changes over the life of the project, should they occur.

Site Characterization, Siting and Design, Construction

LR2-1 Solar facilities shall be sited, designed, and constructed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on BLM land use planning designations.

- (a) Methods to minimize impacts on BLM land use planning designations may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Locating existing designated transmission corridors within the area of a proposed solar energy development project in consultation with the BLM. Reviewing future transmission capacity in the corridor to determine whether the corridor should be excluded from solar energy development or whether the capacity of the designated transmission corridor can be reduced. Options to partially relocate the corridor to retain the current planned capacity or to relocate the solar energy project outside the designated corridor may be considered.
 - Identifying and protecting evidence of the PLSS and related Federal property boundaries prior to commencement of any ground-disturbing activity. This will be accomplished by contacting the BLM Cadastral Survey to coordinate data

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research, evidence examination and evaluation, and locating, referencing, or protecting monuments of the PLSS and related land boundary markers from destruction. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of the Federal boundary evidence, the responsible party shall immediately report the incident, in writing, to the Authorizing Official. The BLM Cadastral Survey will determine how the marker is to be restored. In rehabilitating or replacing the evidence the responsible party will be instructed to use the services of a Certified Federal Surveyor (CFedS), whose procurement shall be per qualification-based selection, or to reimburse the BLM for costs. All surveying activities will conform to the Manual of Surveying Instructions and appropriate state laws and regulations. Local surveys will be reviewed by Cadastral Survey before being finalized or filed in the appropriate state or county office. The responsible party shall pay for all survey, investigation, penalty, and administrative costs.

- Considering opportunities to consolidate access to and other supporting infrastructure for single projects and for cases where there is more than one project in close proximity to another in order to maximize the efficient use of public land and minimize impacts.