

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Programmatic Design Features for Mineral Resources

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential impacts on mineral resources from solar energy development identified and discussed in Sections 5.8.1 and 5.8.2 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

- MR1-1** Project developers shall consult with the BLM in the early phases of project planning to identify potential impacts on mineral development activities and ways to minimize potential adverse impacts.
- (a) Assessing impacts on mineral resources shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- Identifying active mining claims or mineral development activities and potential for mineral development in proximity to a proposed project. In coordination with the BLM, developers shall consult existing land use plans and updated inventories.
 - Evaluating impacts on mineral development 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.
- MR1-2** All solar energy development ROWs shall contain the stipulation that the BLM retains the right to issue oil and gas or geothermal leases with a stipulation of no surface occupancy within the ROW area. Upon designation, SEZs will be classified as no surface occupancy areas for oil and gas and geothermal leasing.

Site Characterization, Siting and Design, Construction

- MR2-1** Solar energy development projects shall be located to minimize conflicts with valid existing mineral rights and/or ongoing mineral development.