

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Programmatic Design Features for Socioeconomic Impacts

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential socioeconomic impacts from solar energy development identified and discussed in Sections 5.17.1 and 5.17.2 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

- S1-1** Project developers shall coordinate with the BLM and other Federal, state, and local agencies to identify and minimize potential socioeconomic impacts.
- (a) Identifying socioeconomic impacts shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- Assessing the potential for socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed project in coordination with the BLM and other qualified experts. Project developers shall collect and evaluate available information describing the socioeconomic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed project, as needed, to predict potential impacts of the project.
 - Evaluating socioeconomic impacts as part of the environmental impact analysis for the project and considering options to minimize and/or mitigate impacts in coordination with the BLM.
- (b) Methods to minimize socioeconomic impacts may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Developing a community monitoring program that would be sufficient to identify and evaluate socioeconomic impacts resulting from solar energy development. Measures developed for monitoring may include the collection of data reflecting the economic, fiscal, and social impacts of development at the state, local, and tribal level.
 - Developing community outreach programs that would help communities adjust to changes triggered by solar energy development.
 - Establishing vocational training programs for the local workforce to promote development of skills required by the solar energy industry.
 - Developing instructional materials for use in area schools to educate the local communities on the solar energy industry.

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- Supporting community health screenings.
- Providing financial support to local libraries for the development of information repositories on solar energy, including materials on the hazards and benefits of commercial development. Electronic repositories established by the project developer could also be of great value.