

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Programmatic Design Features for Wildland Fire

The following design features have been identified to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential fire risks that could be affected by solar energy development as identified and discussed in Sections 5.4.3.1 and 5.4.3.2 of the Draft and Final Solar PEIS.

General

WF1-1 Project developers shall coordinate with the BLM and other appropriate fire organizations early in the project planning process to determine fire risk and methods to minimize fire risk.

- (a) Identifying fire risk shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- Assessing the potential for fire risk associated with the proposed project in coordination with the BLM and other appropriate fire organizations. Developers shall consult existing land use plans and fire management plans.
 - Evaluating fire risk as part of the environmental impact analysis for the project and considering options to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate such risk in coordination with the BLM.
- (b) General methods to minimize fire risk shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Developing and implementing fire management measures that include providing worker training.
 - Incorporating key elements to mitigate the potential for fire into a 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 fire mitigation efforts of the project worksite during all phases of the project's life. The information provided in the WEAP shall be reviewed and approved by 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.
 - Incorporating inspection and monitoring measures, including adaptive management protocols, into the POD and other applicable plans to monitor and respond to fire risk during construction, operations, and decommissioning of a solar energy development.

BLM Solar Energy Program Design Features

Site Characterization, Siting and Design, Construction

WF2-1 Solar facilities shall be sited and designed to minimize fire risk.

- (a) Methods to minimize fire risk may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Siting and designing the solar facilities to ensure sufficient room for fire management within the ROW and its facilities to minimize the risk of fire moving outside the ROW and the risk of fire threatening the facility from outside.
 - Consulting fire management personnel to determine actions, both active and passive (e.g., vegetation manipulation), that may minimize the need for protective responses by the BLM and state and local fire organizations.
 - Developing and implementing measures to integrate vegetation management to minimize the potential to increase the frequency of wildland fires and prevent the establishment of non-native, invasive species on the solar energy facility and its transmission line and roads.