

Antonito Southeast Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)  
SEZ-Specific Design Features

(from Solar PEIS ROD, Section A.4.2)

- *Lands and Realty*: Management of the 1,240-acre (5.0-km<sup>2</sup>) area of public land west of the proposed SEZ boundary should be addressed as part of the site-specific analysis of any future solar development within the SEZ.
- *Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics*: The SEZ-specific design features for visual resources for this SEZ should be adopted, as they would provide some protection for visual related impacts on the Old Spanish Trail, the CTSR, and the San Antonio WSA.
- Early consultation should be initiated with the entity responsible for developing the management plan for the Sangre de Cristo NHA to understand how development of the SEZ could be consistent with NHA plans/goals.
- *Recreation*: As projects are proposed for the SEZ, the potential impacts on tourism should be considered and reviewed with local community leaders.
- *Water Resources*: Groundwater analyses suggest full build-out of wet-cooled technologies is not feasible; for mixed-technology development scenarios, any proposed wet-cooled projects would have to reduce water requirements to less than approximately 1,000 ac-ft/yr (1.2 million m<sup>3</sup>/yr) in order to secure water rights and comply with water management in the San Luis Valley.
- *Wildlife (Birds)*: If present, prairie dog colonies (which could provide habitat or a food source for some raptor species) should be avoided to the extent practicable.
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: Construction should be curtailed during winter when big game species are present, particularly within elk severe winter range.
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: Disturbance near the elk and mule deer resident population areas should be avoided.
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: Where big game winter ranges intersect or are within close proximity to the SEZ, use of motorized vehicles and other human disturbances should be controlled (e.g., through road closures).
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: Development in the 253-acre (1-km<sup>2</sup>) portion of the SEZ that overlaps the pronghorn summer concentration area should be avoided.
- *Visual Resources*: The development of power tower facilities should be prohibited within the SEZ.
- *Visual Resources*: Special visual impact mitigation shall be considered for solar development on lands in the SEZ visible from and within 3 mi (5 km) of the centerline of the West Fork of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail.
- *Visual Resources*: Special visual impact mitigation shall be considered for solar development on lands in the SEZ visible from and within 3 mi (5 km) of the CTSR ACEC and San Antonio WSA.

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- *Paleontological Resources:* Avoidance of PFYC Class 4 or 5 areas is recommended for development within the proposed Antonito Southeast SEZ (i.e., the 4-acre [0.016-km<sup>2</sup>] parcel in the north part of the SEZ). Where avoidance of Class 4 or 5 deposits is not possible, a paleontological survey or monitoring would be required by the BLM.
- *Cultural Resources:* Development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) may be needed among the BLM, Colorado SHPO, and other parties, such as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to address the adverse effects of solar energy development on historic properties. The agreement may specify avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures. Should a MOA be developed to solve adverse effects on the Old Spanish Trail or the West Fork of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, the Trail Administration for the Old Spanish Trail (BLM-NMSO and National Park Service [NPS] Intermountain Trails Office, Santa Fe) should be included in the development of that MOA.
- *Cultural Resources:* Additional coordination with the CTSR Commission is recommended to address possible mitigation measures for reducing visual impacts on the railroad.