Solar Application Processing Flowchart

Is application in an SEZ?* —Yes→ **Was application filed before 06/30/2009?** —Yes→ **Application considered "pending".** → **Not subject to Solar PEIS ROD. Existing BLM guidance applies for processing (IM 2011-059, 060, 061).** → **Conduct NEPA, and if necessary, land use planning. Note, BLM has authority to deny application without full NEPA (IM 2011-061).**

Was application filed before 06/30/2009? —No→ **Application considered "new".** → **Subject to Solar PEIS ROD. Competitive procedures apply in SEZs.** → **Rulemaking for competitive leasing process effective January 18, 2017.*** → **Successful bidder from competitive process will be subject to NEPA.**

Is application in an SEZ?* —No→ **Was Application filed prior to publication of Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS 10/28/2011?** —Yes→ **Application considered "pending".** → **Not subject to Solar PEIS ROD. Existing BLM guidance applies for processing (IM 2011-059, 060, 061).** → **Conduct NEPA, and if necessary, land use planning. Note, BLM has authority to deny application without full NEPA (IM 2011-061).**

Was Application filed prior to publication of Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS 10/28/2011? —No→ **Application considered "new".** → **Is project located in an exclusion area?**

Is project located in an exclusion area? —Yes→ **BLM would not accept application per direction in Solar PEIS ROD.**

Is project located in an exclusion area? —No→ **Variance Process described in the Solar PEIS ROD applies.** → **Applicant must demonstrate the project's viability through the variance process.** → **Per BLM State Director determination, is the project appropriate for continued processsing?**

Per BLM State Director determination, is the project appropriate for continued processsing? —No→ **BLM denies the variance application.**

Per BLM State Director determination, is the project appropriate for continued processsing? —Yes→ **BLM State Director forwards determination to BLM Director for concurrence.**

BLM State Director forwards determination to BLM Director for concurrence. —Director Does Not Concur→ **BLM denies the variance application.**

BLM State Director forwards determination to BLM Director for concurrence. —Director Concurs→ **Conduct NEPA, and if necessary, land use planning.**

*BLM may continue to identify new SEZs through RMP revision or a proponent- or stakeholder-driven petition process. Additionally, future applications in Solar PEIS-identified SEZs may be given consideration as nominations to initiate competitive bid procedures in these SEZs. Rulemaking was completed and became effective January 18, 2017. SEZs are identified as designated leasing areas in the new Rule.