

Pre-Application Meetings

Renewable Energy Projects



February 20, 2013

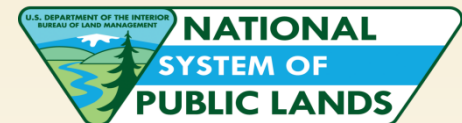
Pre-Application meetings

43 CFR 2804.10(a) and IM 2011-061, Solar and Wind Energy Applications – Pre-Application and Screening

“BLM will require prospective applicants schedule and participate in at least two pre-application meetings”

Record of Decision for the Solar Programmatic EIS

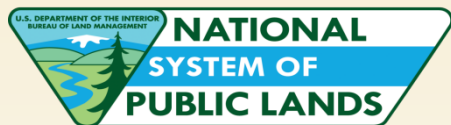
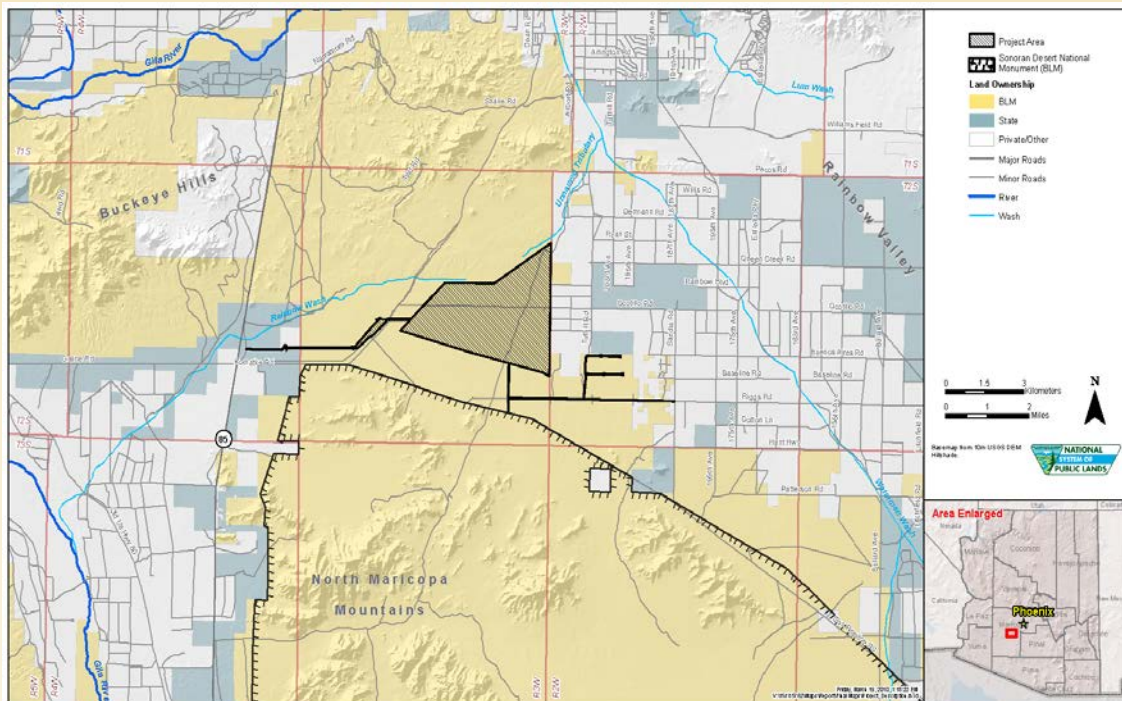
Adds a pre-application public meeting



Information and Data

Prior to the 1st meeting the BLM would like:

- A project description
- A map
- GIS data
- Schedule projections
- Ancillary facilities – interconnections etc.



1st Pre-Application Meeting

With the BLM and will screen the proposal for:

- Land use plan management objectives
- land use constraints
- identify known resource issues
- Will also discuss the right-of-way process and requirements
 - Cost recovery
 - Application requirements
 - Public involvement
 - Consultation
 - Time frames
 - Variance process (solar)



2nd Pre-Application Meeting

Will involve:

- Federal Agencies - BLM, NPS, FWS, DoD, BOR, FS
- Tribal Governments
- State agencies
- County and local governments



Intent of the 2nd Pre-Application Meeting



- Disclose the information and issues that were reviewed in the 1st pre-application meeting.
- Gather information from the other parties, known issues, constraints, etc.

Benefits

The pre-application meetings will benefit the agencies but also the proponent.

- The agencies will be able to identify their conflicts with the proposal.
- The potential applicant will be able to gauge the issues and constraints for their feasibility analysis.
- Will eliminate or reduce surprises from both sides.
- Good opportunity to find a new location



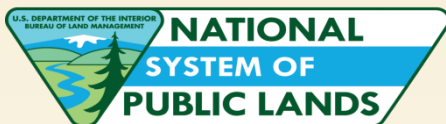
3rd Pre-Application Meeting (Solar)

- As part of the Variance process in the Record of Decision for the Solar Programmatic EIS requires potential proponents to hold a public pre-application meeting.
- The intent is to gather information from the local residents and the public in general
- There should be at least one meeting in the community closest to the proposed site.
- Presented will be – proponent information, description of the proposed project, location, maps, known resource concerns, etc.
- The BLM will present their role and the next steps



Benefits of the 3rd pre-application meeting

- Great opportunity to get information on those unknown/unidentified resources, such as:
 - Local land uses
 - Public land uses – hiking, walking, camping, etc.
 - Neighbors and their concerns
 - Public view and sentiment
 - Unknown issues or history in the area



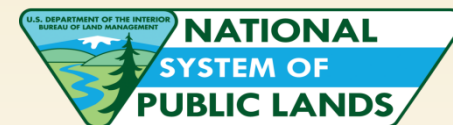
Next steps

- If sensitive resources were identified, the proponent has a good opportunity to find a new location.
- Submit an official application with a Plan of Development (POD).
- Start the National Environmental Policy Act process
- Notice the public
- Public scoping meetings...

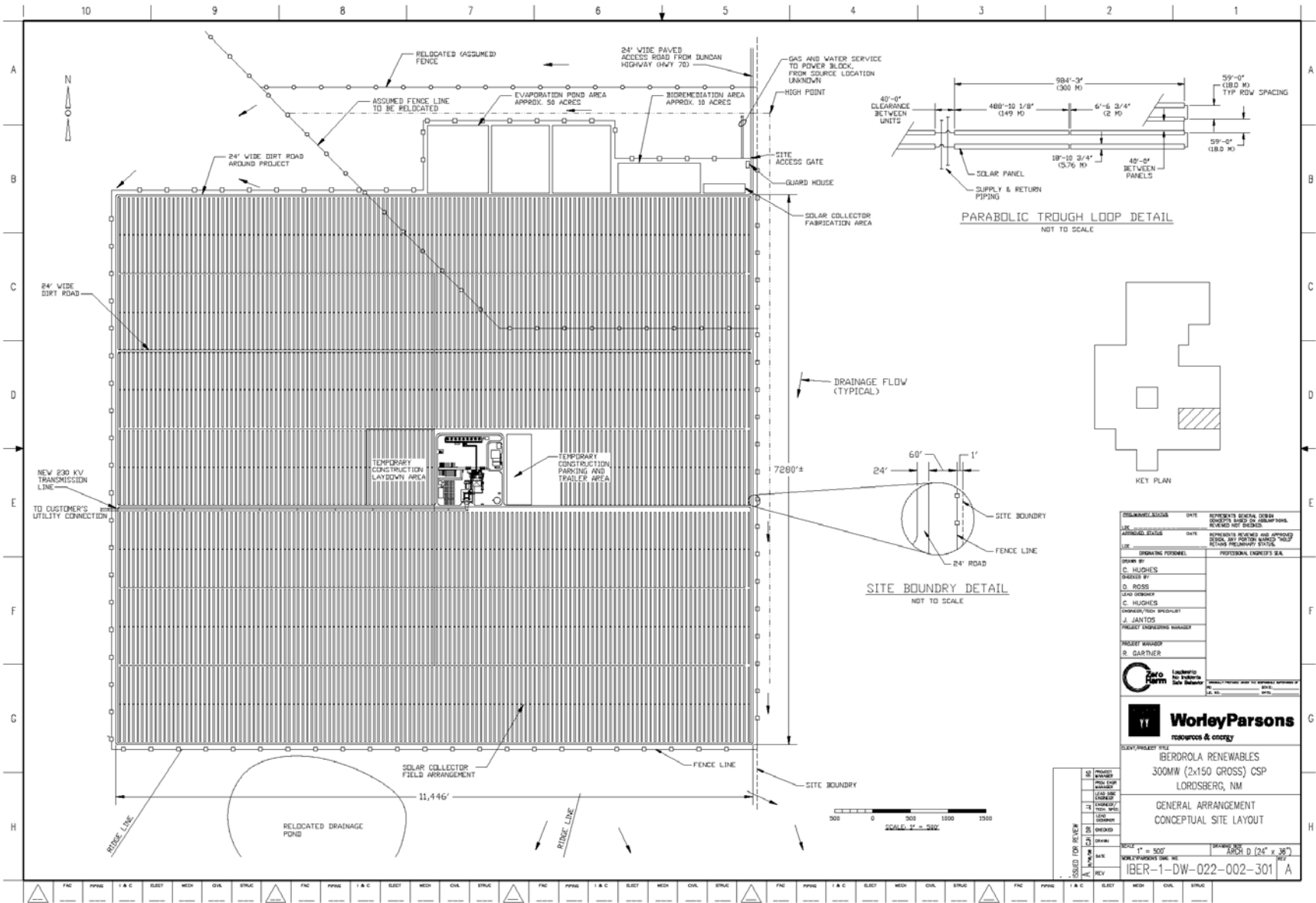


Plan of Development (POD)

- The POD must have enough information to adequately capture the scope of the proposal to start the environmental analysis. (More detail equals a more efficient process.) This would include:
 - schematic with enough detail to capture the slope, topography, drainage, access roads, facility layout, terrain, ancillary facilities.
 - Estimate the amount of earth to remove, erosion control measures etc.
 - Detailed description of how the project will be constructed – start to finish.
 - Detailed description of safety measures, environmental protection measures, proposed mitigation, etc.
 - Description of proposed use of local resources, such as gravel, water, soil, etc.
 - Amount of grading needed, vegetation removal, etc.

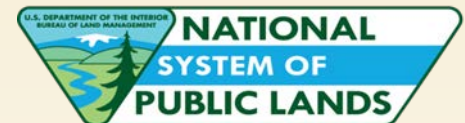


Schematic Example



POD

- The POD is basically a detailed narrative, with maps and schematics, of how the project will be built (using responsible practices) from start to finish.
- The BLM will review the application and POD then:
 - If inadequate request a revision, allowing 60 days.
 - If still inadequate allow 30 days for refinement.
 - The application is denied if still inadequate.
 - If adequate, we proceed with acceptance of the application and the start of the NEPA process.



POD

- The POD is dynamic through the process allowing for changes and refinement.
- The POD will be complete at time of issuance of the right-of-way grant (if approved). (outstanding specific plans can be conditioned with a notice to proceed stipulation)
- The POD, as part of the grant, will include associated specific plans, such as:
 - Reclamation plan
 - Vegetation treatment plan
 - Wildlife mitigation plans
 - Cultural protection plans
 - Unanticipated discoveries plan
 - Monitoring and compliance plan

