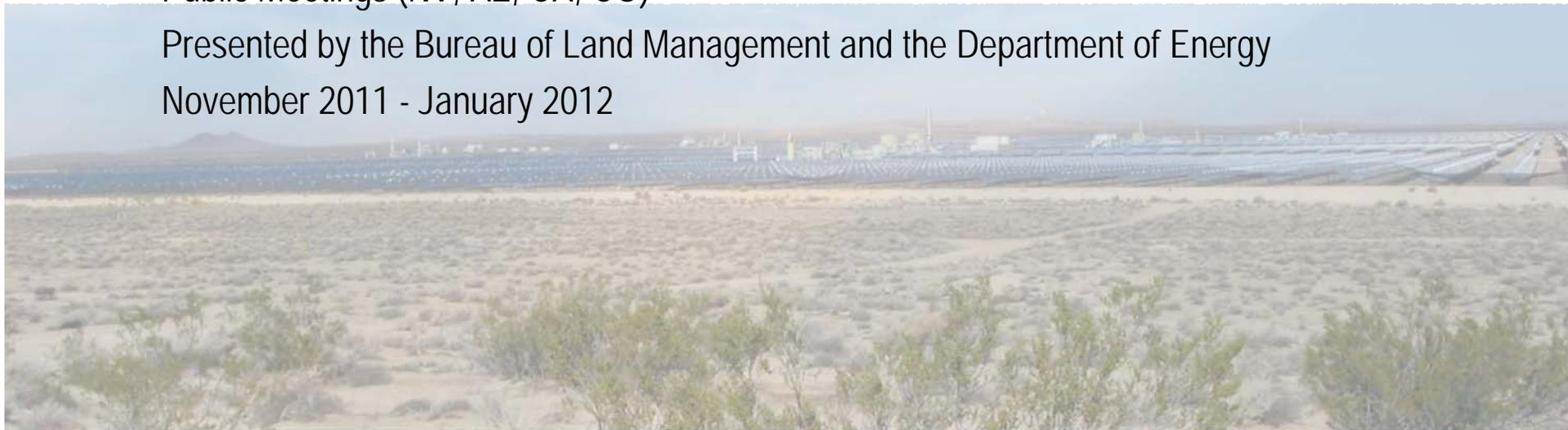


Supplement to Draft Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

Public Meetings (NV, AZ, CA, CO)

Presented by the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Energy

November 2011 - January 2012



Solar Energy Development PEIS

Objectives:

- Facilitate near-term utility-scale solar energy development on public lands
- Minimize potential negative environmental, social and economic impacts
- Flexibility to consider a variety of solar projects (location, size, technology)
- Optimize existing transmission infrastructure and corridors
- Standardize and streamline the authorization process

Timeline:

- Dec 17, 2010 - Draft PEIS published
- May 2011 – Comment period closed
 - 14 public meetings held
 - 80,500+ comments received
- July 2011 - Secretary announces plan to supplement the Draft PEIS
- Oct 28, 2011 - Supplement published
- Jan 27, 2012 – Comment period for Supplement closes
- July 2012 – Final PEIS expected
- Oct 2012 - Record of Decision expected

Elements of Solar Energy Program

- Land use plan amendments that identify exclusion areas for utility-scale solar energy development
- Land use plan amendments that identify priority areas for solar energy development that are well suited for utility-scale production of solar energy (i.e., solar energy zones or SEZs)

Land use plan amendments that identify areas potentially available for utility-scale solar energy development outside of SEZs (i.e., variance areas)

- Land use plan amendments that establish design features (i.e., mitigation requirements) for solar energy development on public lands to ensure the most environmentally responsible development and delivery of solar energy (some may be SEZ-specific, as necessary).

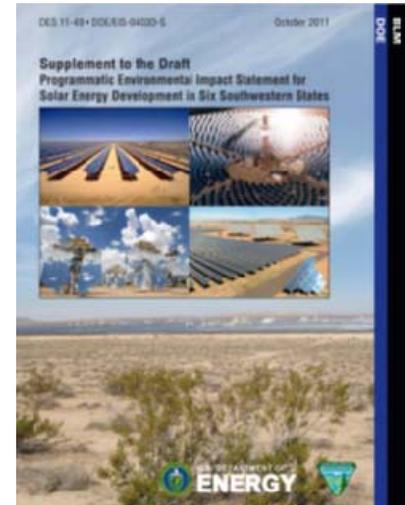
Supplement to Draft PEIS

Supplement:

- Modifies the Draft PEIS by placing greater emphasis on development within Solar Energy Zones (SEZ)
- Incorporates key feedback from industry, the environmental community, and the general public

Key Changes/Components:

- Includes a firm commitment to continue to process pending applications
- Refines SEZs to be carried forward into the Final PEIS
- Proposes a clear process for identifying new SEZs
- Describes the authorization process and incentives for projects in SEZs
- Identifies additional data that could further facilitate development in SEZs
- Describes expanded transmission analysis for SEZs
- Proposes a variance process for developing projects outside of SEZs
- Announces rulemaking process for competitive leasing in SEZs



Existing Applications

Approved Projects:

- 10 solar projects, 4,232 MWs
- 3 linear rights-of-way for solar projects on private lands, 700 MWs

Pending Applications:

- 79 first-in-line applications (685,000 acres/ 33,300 MWs)
 - 31 AZ; 20 CA; 25 NV; 3 NM; 0 CO; 0 UT (as of 8/15/11)
 - 13 solar priority projects for 2011 and 2012

New Applications:

- Projects filed after June 30, 2009 in SEZs are considered to be new even if they are no longer in a proposed SEZ per the Supplement.

Application Location	Filing Date	Type	Processing Approach
Inside SEZs	Before June 30, 2009	Pending	Continued processing under existing policies
	After June 30, 2009	New	Subject to Solar PEIS ROD including competitive process
Outside SEZs	Before publication of Supplement	Pending	Continued processing under existing policies
	After publication of Supplement	New	Subject to Solar PEIS ROD including variance process

Solar Energy Zones (SEZs)

17 SEZs totaling 285,417 acres

- Reduced from 24 SEZs, 677,400 acres in Draft PEIS
 - 7 SEZs dropped:
 - AZ, Bullard Wash
 - CA, Iron Mountain and Pisgah
 - NV, Delamar Valley and East Mormon Mtn
 - NM, Mason Draw and Red Sands
 - 8 SEZs reduced:
 - CA, Riverside East
 - NM, Afton
 - CO, DeTilla Gulch, Fourmile East, and Los Mogotes East
 - NV, Amargosa, Dry Lake, Dry Lake Valley North

State	Draft SEZs	Acres	Supplement SEZs	Acres
AZ	3	13,735	2	6,465
CA	4	339,090	2	153,627
CO	4	21,050	4	16,308
NV	7	171,265	5	60,395
NM	3	113,052	1	29,964
UT	3	19,192	3	18,658

Modified SEZ-specific design features

- For example:
 - Amargosa SEZ – added requirement for use of low water technology
 - Gillespie SEZ – added height and reflectivity restrictions

Authorizing Projects in SEZs

Faster and Easier Permitting:

- Streamlined authorization process for future projects in the following areas: Land Use Planning, NEPA, NHPA, ESA, Tribal Consultation, Public Involvement
- Action Plans outline data gaps and additional data collection efforts for SEZs to better facilitate future development in SEZs (e.g., cultural and biological surveys)

Proposed competitive process for leasing in SEZs:

- Undertaking rulemaking to establish a competitive process for offering public lands for solar and wind development
- ANPR published Dec 27, 2011 (comments due Feb 27, 2012)
- Proposed Rule expected late spring 2012
- Final Rule expected Dec 2012*

*Prior to the completion of the rulemaking process, the BLM may use its existing authority to apply competitive procedures where there are multiple applications for the same lands, including SEZs



SEZ Incentives

Facilitate Faster and Easier Permitting

- Streamlined authorization process for future projects
- Additional data collection proposed (e.g., cultural and biological surveys)

Improve and Facilitate Mitigation

- Develop regional mitigation plans comprised of goals and objectives applicable to individual SEZs that both simplify and improve the mitigation process for future projects

Facilitate the Permitting of Needed Transmission to SEZs

- Pursue a more detailed evaluation of SEZ transmission needs and impacts
- Incentives and commitments to bring transmission to SEZs

Provide Economic Incentives for Development in SEZs

- Reduce overall cost (e.g., lower cost recovery, fixed or lower MW capacity fees, longer phase-in period for rental payments, restructured bonding requirements)
- Reduce uncertainty

Identifying New SEZs

SEZ Identification Protocol

- Undertaken at the state or field office level
- Petitions for new SEZs can be submitted to BLM State Director with supporting documentation; new SEZs may also be proposed through the scoping process for RMP revisions
- Substantial stakeholder involvement
- Protocol first considers factors that support development; environmental constraints are subsequently applied
- Goal 12 -18 months from start to finish

Ongoing state-based planning efforts to identify new SEZs

- AZ Restoration Energy Design Program (1 SEZ, up to 22,000 acres; Draft Jan 2012)
- CA West Chocolate Mnts Renewable Energy Eval (SEZs TBD; Final Dec 2011)
- CA Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (SEZs TBD; Draft May 2012)
- NV Las Vegas-Pahrump RMP revision (SEZs TBD; Draft Oct 2012)
- CO Grand Junction RMP revision (SEZs TBD; Draft Sept 2012)

Exclusion Areas

- Not available for utility-scale solar rights-of-way under any conditions
- Proposed exclusions have been modified; state specific exclusions have been incorporated (see Supplement Table 2.2.-1)
- Exclusions include critical habitat and other sensitive areas
- Approximately 77.6 million acres excluded from development through the PEIS

State	Draft PEIS	Supplement	Difference
AZ	4,732,065	5,784,171	1,052,106
CA	9,300,823	9,460,726	159,903
CO	7,133,989	7,171,199	37,210
NV	31,710,005	31,553,155	-156,850
NM	8,120,037	7,491,386	-628,651
UT	16,154,146	16,135,569	-18,577
Total	77,151,066	77,596,206	445,140

Variance Areas

- Open to solar rights-of-way but developers must adhere to the variance process
- Variance process evaluates individual applications on a case-by-case basis
- The BLM will determine whether it is appropriate to continue to process a variance application or to deny the application
- Approximately 20 million acres open for variance applications

State	Draft PEIS	Supplement	Difference
AZ	4,485,944	3,397,007	-1,088,937
CA	1,766,543	1,354,559	-411,984
CO	148,072	111,059	-37,013
NV	9,084,050	9,207,288	123,238
NM	4,068,324	4,292,279	223,955
UT	2,028,222	1,962,671	-65,551
Total	21,581,154	20,324,863	-1,256,291

Variance Process

- Participate in two pre-application meetings with BLM
- Cost recovery required
- BLM will consider:
 - Financial and technical capability of the applicant
 - Ability to use existing SEZ(s)
 - Use of disturbed or previously disturbed lands
 - Opportunity to combine federal and non-federal lands for optimum siting
 - Special circumstances such as expansion or repowering of an existing project
 - Presence of resource conflicts (e.g., tortoise density)
 - Consistency with priority conservation and/or restoration objectives
- BLM will coordinate with appropriate federal, state, tribal & local govts
- BLM may require a pre-scoping public meeting
- Variance applications will be evaluated by BLM field and state offices and will require BLM Director concurrence for continued processing

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario

- Retains RFDS from the Draft (24,000 MWs / 214,000 acres)
 - RFDS based on simplifying assumptions: 50% of State Renewable Portfolio Standards from solar and 75% located on BLM lands
 - RFDS and available lands presented in acres

State	RFDS	SEZs & Variance	SEZ only
AZ	21,816	3,397,007	6,465
CA	138,789	1,354,559	153,627
CO	19,746	111,059	16,308
NV	15,309	9,207,288	60,395
NM	7,497	4,292,279	29,964
UT	10,971	1,962,671	18,658
Total	214,128	20,324,863	285,417

California Summary

SEZs:

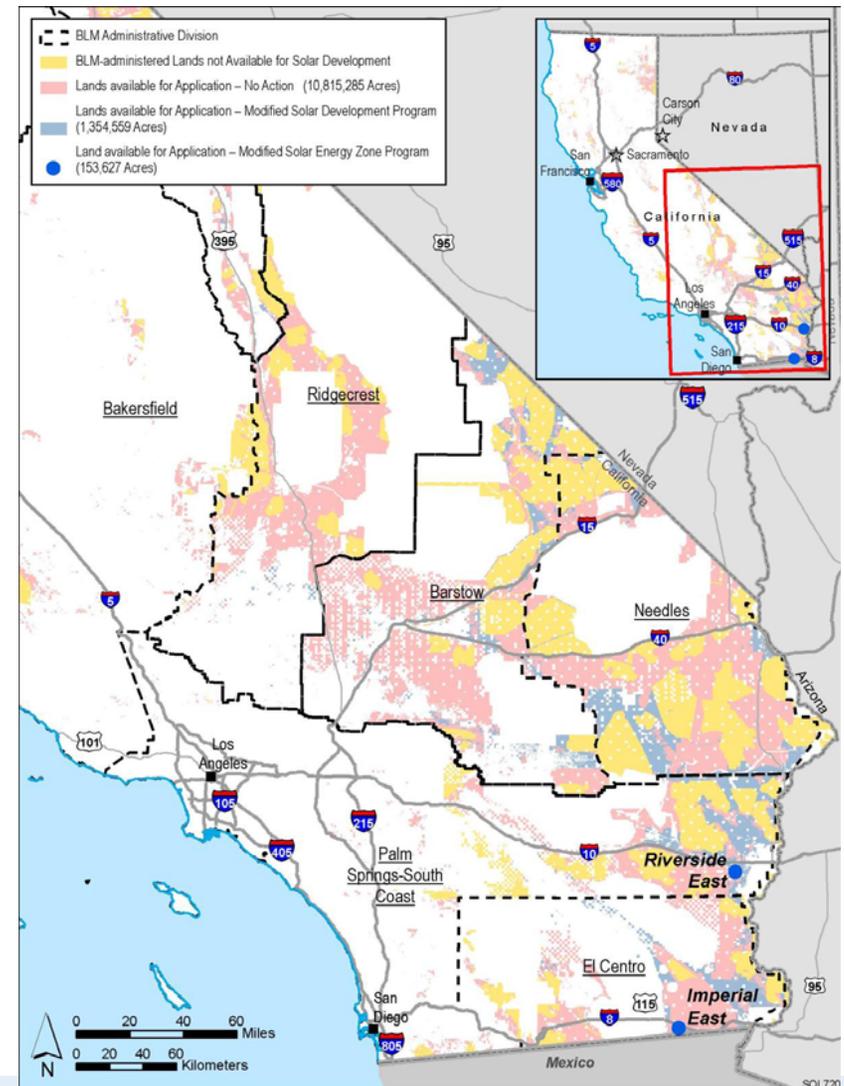
- Iron Mountain & Pisgah dropped
- 2 SEZs remain, 153,627 acres
 - Riverside East (reduced)
 - Imperial East
- Ongoing Efforts
 - CA West Chocolate Mnts Renewable Energy Evaluation (SEZs TBD)
 - CA Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (SEZs TBD)

Exclusions:

- 9,460,726 acres proposed for exclusion
- Additional 159,903 acres from Draft PEIS
 - Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument
 - NPS transfer of lands adjacent to parks
 - Sage Grouse bi-state popul. priority habitat

Variance Areas:

- 1,354,559 acres where a variance application can be considered



Colorado Summary

SEZs:

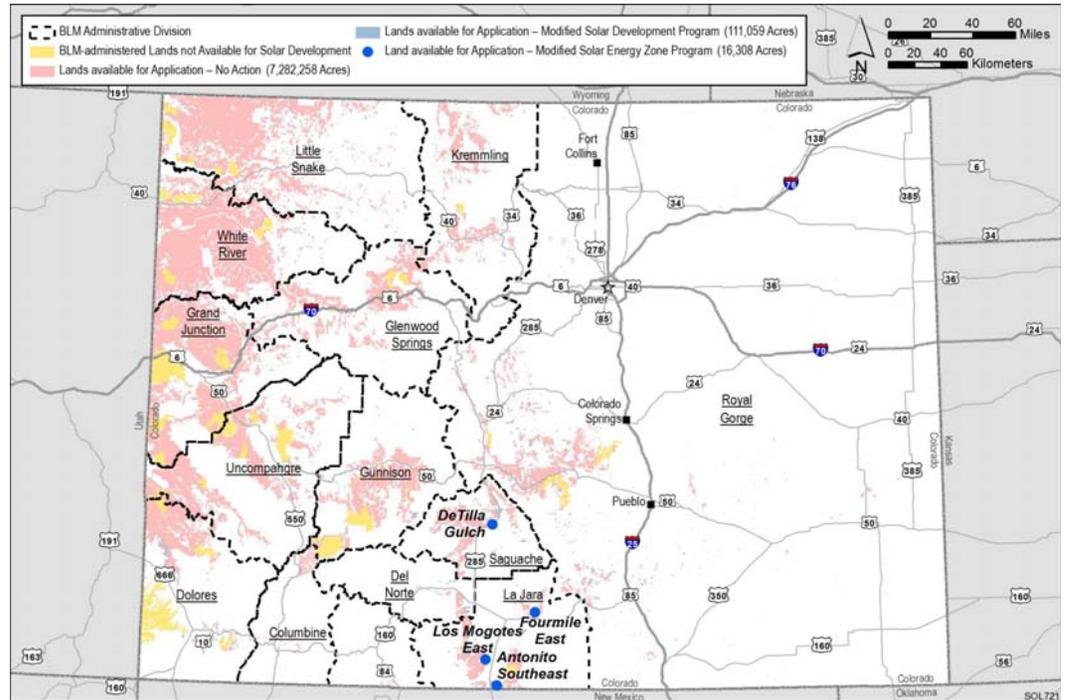
- No SEZs dropped
- 4 SEZs remain, 16,308 acres
 - DeTilla Gulch (reduced)
 - Fourmile East (reduced)
 - Los Mogotes East (reduced)
 - Antonito Southeast
- Ongoing Efforts
 - CO Grand Junction RMP Revision (SEZs TBD)

Exclusions:

- 7,171,199 acres proposed for exclusion
- Additional 37,210 acres from Draft PEIS
 - Located in San Luis Valley

Variance Areas:

- 111,059 acres where a variance application can be considered



Nevada Summary

SEZs:

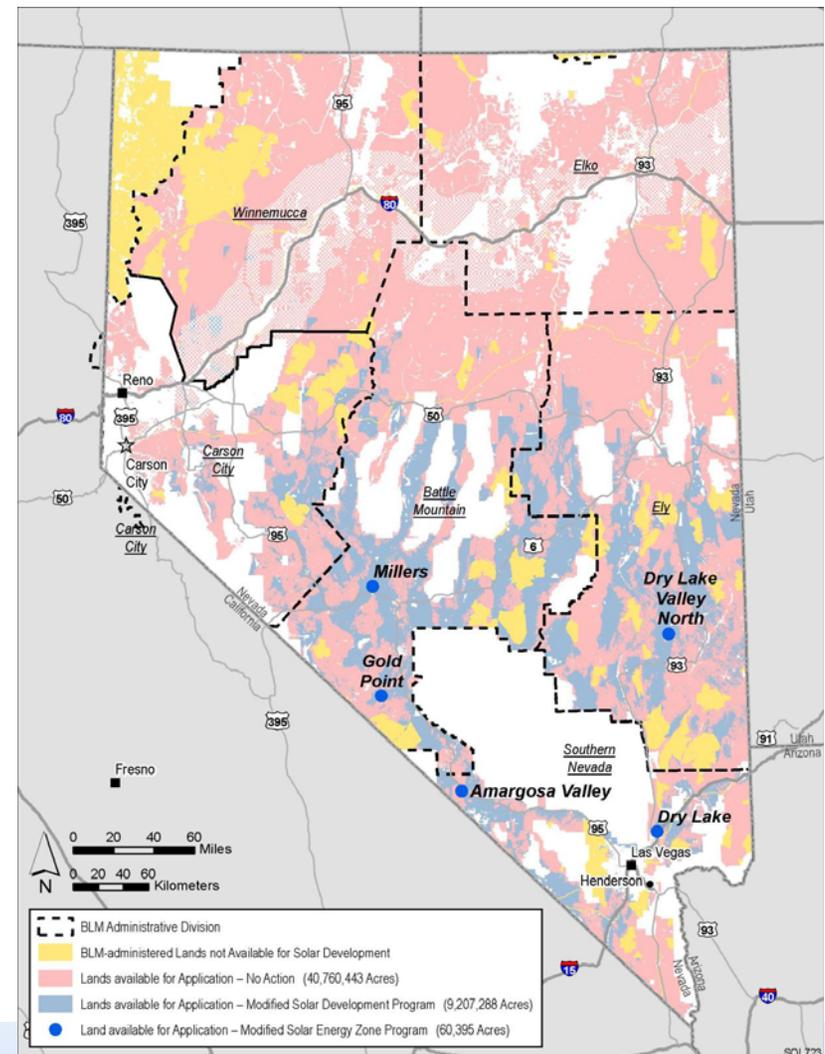
- Delamar Valley & East Mormon Mtn dropped
- 5 SEZs remain, 60,395 acres
 - Amargosa (reduced)
 - Dry Lake (reduced)
 - Dry Lake Valley North (reduced)
 - Gold Point
 - Millers
- Ongoing Efforts
 - NV Las Vegas-Pahrump RMP Revision (SEZs TBD)

Exclusions:

- 31.5 million acres proposed for exclusion
- Reduced by 156,850 acres from Draft PEIS
 - Special Recreation Management Areas
 - Greater Sage Grouse priority habitat
 - Sage Grouse bi-state popul. priority habitat

Variance Areas:

- 9.2 million acres where a variance application can be considered



New Mexico Summary

SEZs:

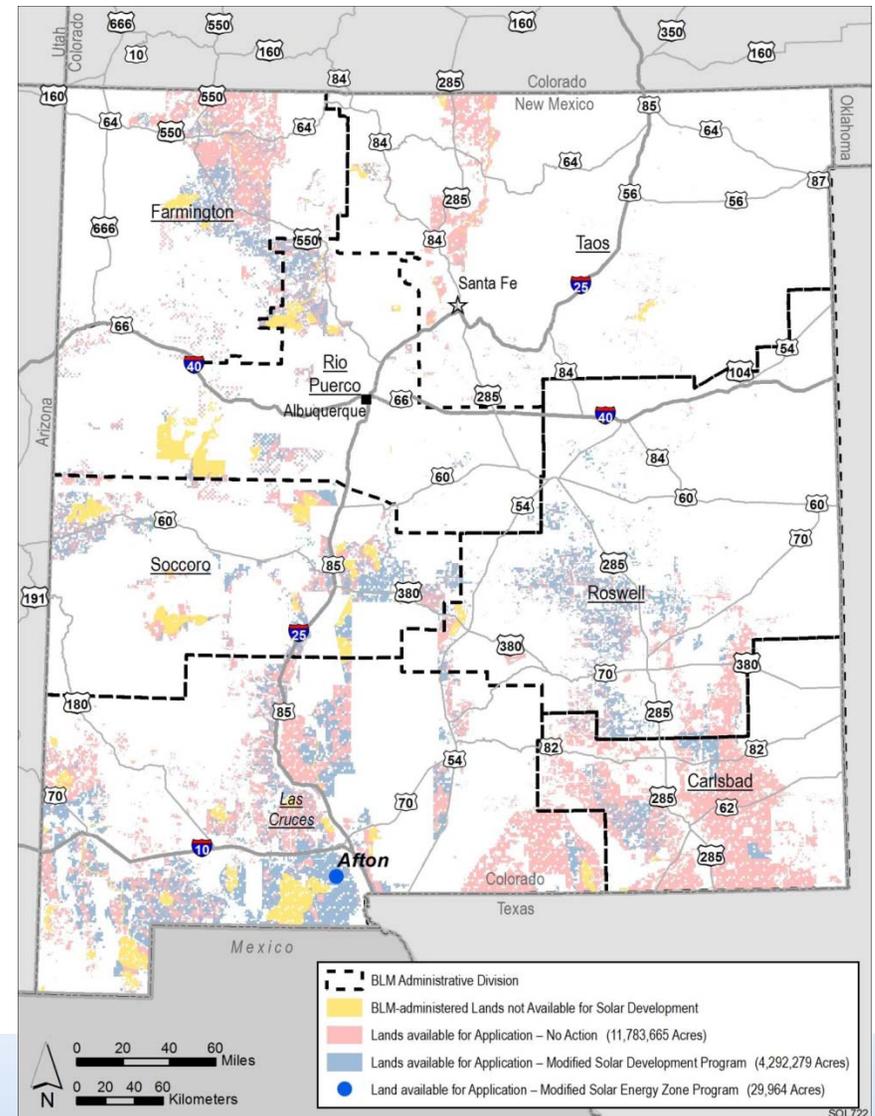
- Mason Draw & Red Sands dropped
- 1 SEZ remains, 29,964 acres
 - Afton (reduced)
- Ongoing Efforts
 - None

Exclusions:

- 7,491,386 acres proposed for exclusion
- Reduced by 628,651 acres from Draft PEIS
 - New exclusions identified (e.g., cultural resources)
 - GIS corrections from Draft PEIS

Variance Areas:

- 4,292,279 acres where a variance application can be considered



Utah Summary

SEZs:

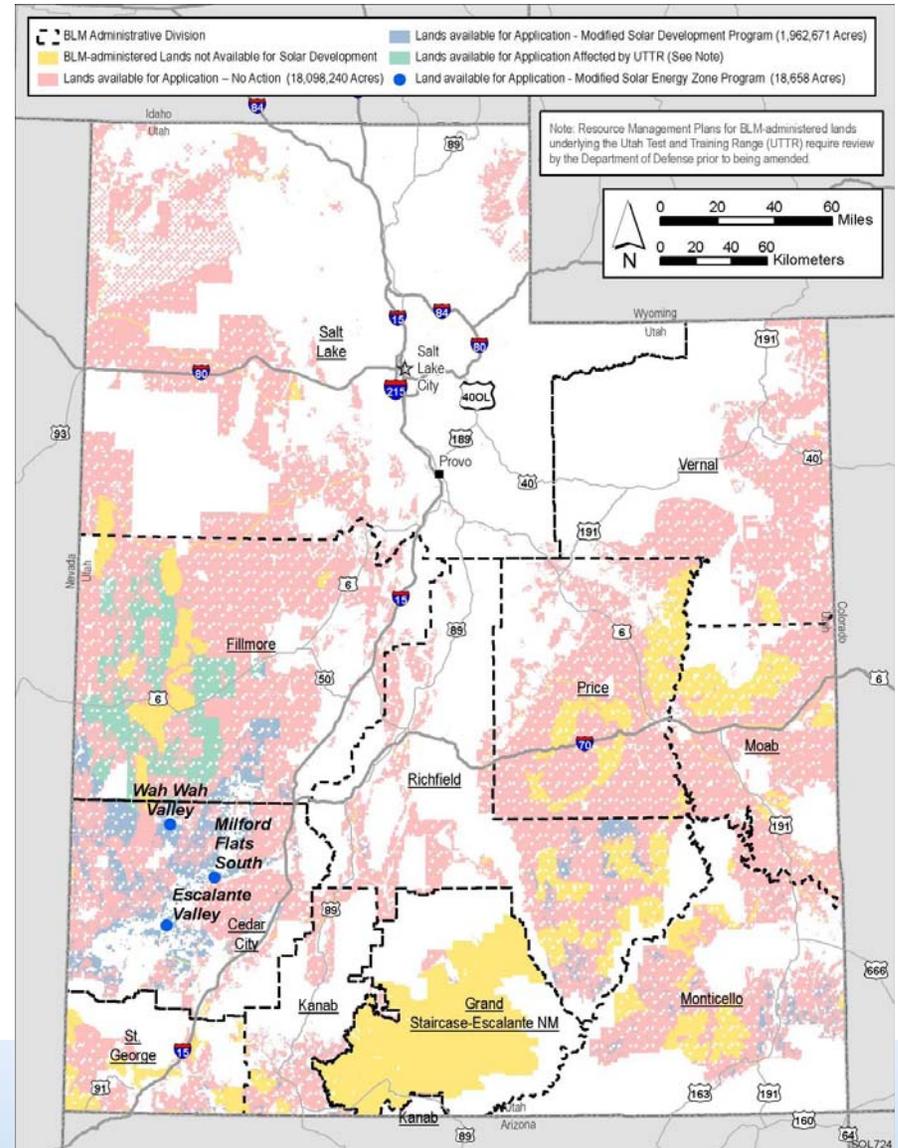
- No SEZs dropped
- 3 SEZs remain, 18,658 acres
 - Escalante Valley
 - Milford Flats South
 - Wah Wah Valley
- Ongoing Efforts
 - None

Exclusions:

- 16,135,569 acres proposed for exclusion
- Reduced by 18,577 acres from Draft PEIS
 - Sage Grouse priority habitat

Variance Areas:

- 1,962,671 acres where a variance application can be considered



Proposed DOE Programmatic Environmental Guidance

- The Proposed Programmatic Environmental Guidance is based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in Chapter 5 of the Solar PEIS. It also incorporates lessons learned from past NEPA processes of multiple DOE offices, and from project successes and failures.
- The Guidance is intended to have two uses:
 - For use by DOE in its strategic and decision-making processes.
 - For use by Solar Project Developers when siting and developing projects.



Next Steps

- Continue processing of pending solar applications
- Receive public comments
 - 90-day public comment period ends January 27, 2012
- Receive comments on ANPR for competitive leasing, closes Feb 27, 2012
- Hold public meetings (Nov 2011-Jan 2012)
 - Las Vegas, Nevada (11/30)
 - Phoenix, Arizona (12/1)
 - El Centro, California (12/7)
 - Palm Desert, California (12/8)
 - Alamosa, Colorado (1/11)
- Continue to work with cooperating agencies to refine exclusion areas, variance process, monitoring & adaptive management plan, and mitigation strategies
- Conduct additional SEZ data collection
- Prepare and publish Final PEIS – expected July 2012
- Sign Record of Decision – expected Oct 2012

Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS

INFORMATION CENTER

HOME ABOUT THE EIS GETTING INVOLVED SOLAR ENERGY SOLAR ENERGY ZONES MAPS DOCUMENTS

NEWS • FAQs • GLOSSARY • E-MAIL SERVICES

The project website (<http://solareis.anl.gov>) provides access to:

- The Supplement, Draft Solar PEIS, and other project documents
- Information on the EIS process
- Information on solar energy resources and technologies
- Information on the proposed SEZs as revised
- GIS data, maps, and mapping tools
- Project schedule
- Project updates
- Email notifications



How to Comment

There are 3 ways to provide comments:

- At the public meetings
- Via the project website: <http://solareis.anl.gov>
- Via mail

Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2012

(The agencies have no plans to extend the comment period, and it is unlikely that any late comments can receive consideration)

How to Submit Written Comments

Use the online comment form on the project website (preferred):

<http://solareis.anl.gov/involve/comments>

– Can attach files up to 15 MB

To submit other written comments and/or supplemental materials:

Mail to:

Solar Energy Draft PEIS

Argonne National Laboratory

9700 S. Cass Avenue – EVS/240

Argonne, IL 60439



Providing Oral Comments at this Meeting

Sign up to speak at registration desk:

- Speakers will be called in the order they sign up
- Unregistered speakers will follow

Making an oral comment:

- State your name and affiliation
- 5-minute limit, additional time as schedule allows

Comments will be recorded in transcripts that will be posted on the project website.

For More Information

Visit the project website:

- <http://solareis.anl.gov>

Contact the Federal agencies:

- Shannon Stewart, BLM Washington Office
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- Jennifer DeCesaro, Department of Energy
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