

Laughlin Meeting Transcripts

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9 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
10 OF
11 PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT
12 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
13 PUBLIC MEETINGS
14

15 Held at Clark County Regional Government Center
16 101 Civic Way
17 Laughlin, Nevada 89029
18

19
20 Tuesday, February 21, 2012
21 6:00 p.m.
22
23
24

25 Reported by: Angela Campagna, CCR #495

1 IN ATTENDANCE:
2 ROBERT B. ROSS, JR.
Field Manager
3 Bureau of Land Management
4 GREGORY L. HELSETH
Renewable Energy Project Manager
5 Bureau of Land Management
6 STEPHANIE LOCKE
Senior Environmental Scientist
7 New Fields
8

PUBLIC COMMENTS BY

9
DUNCAN FISHER
10 PHILLIP SMITH
THOMAS CASEY
11 RONALD VAN FLEET, SENIOR
WAYNE BUNDORF
12 JUDY BUNDORF
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1 FEBRUARY 21, 2010

2 LAUGHLIN NEVADA

3 * * * * *

4 MR. ROSS: Welcome everyone. I may not use
5 the microphone but I'm Bob Ross. I'm the field
6 manager for the Las Vegas field office. Welcome to
7 this hearing on the Searchlight Wind Energy Project
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Your comments
9 are really important to us and your comments will be
10 addressed in the final environmental impact
11 statement. I want all of you to know that we have
12 not made a decision, the BLM has not made a decision
13 on this project yet. So your comments will be very
14 important to us and we want to hear what you have to
15 say today.

16 I do want to welcome any elected officials or
17 representatives of elected officials and that would
18 include any tribal officials or their
19 representatives. And then we have a pretty small
20 group. Do we have any tribal chairman here? No,
21 okay. Why don't you just kind of maybe still kind
22 of tell us who you're representing, what tribe
23 you're representing, if you could, please.

24 MR. FISHER: My name is Duncan Fisher from the
25 Colorado River Indian tribes, actually, not really

Comments noted.

1 representing the tribes. I'm representing all of
2 the Native Americans. That is the way I feel about
3 it. I was mainly concerned about the project that
4 is down south of Laughlin here, and I guess it's not
5 going to be mentioned tonight, but that is what I'm
6 concerned. And I'm here to meet the people that are
7 going to be dealing with that area. So a lot of you
8 folks probably will be dealing with it. But that's
9 my concern is that the other project still in this
10 area that you guys are looking at here, there is
11 still concern on my behalf too. So I'm from a
12 Native American point.

13 MR. ROSS: Thank you. Any other
14 representatives of elected governments? Okay. With
15 that, I will introduce Ron Van Fleet representing
16 Fort Mojave Tribe as a monitor, tribal monitor.

17 MR. SMITH: My name is Phillip Smith. I'm a
18 member of the Colorado Indian Tribe, Parker,
19 Arizona. I don't live here. I just drove down
20 there. I live in Needles all my life. And but my
21 concerns is also up this area because our people
22 used to live up this area long time ago in the past.
23 It was still been there except they were all taken
24 out by the soldier. We're not here for the right
25 choice but taken out. And my concern is what was

Comment noted. Impacts to wildlife are discussed throughout Section 4.4-Biological Resources Impacts.

1 left out there in the desert what was really out
2 there, I still go out, I'll bring that up a little
3 later on. Anyhow, I'm a member of the Colorado
4 River Indian Tribe Arizona.

5 MR. ROSS: Thank you very much. Thank you for
6 coming and I'll introduce the BLM staff here. Greg
7 Helseth is the project manager for Searchlight Wind
8 Energy project. Greg will be providing about a 20
9 minute presentation on the project before we get
10 into your testimony, your comments. Stephanie Locke
11 is representing our contractors for the
12 environmental impact statement, and Stephanie will
13 be facilitating our meeting tonight. And we'll get
14 into the presentation real quick. But, once again,
15 your comments are very critical to this
16 environmental review of this project, and we do look
17 forward to hearing from you. We take your comments
18 very seriously and BLM will respond to each and
19 every contact in the final EIS. I don't know, it's
20 going to take us too long to set up for this
21 meeting, I think I'll turn it over to Greg. And
22 after Greg, Stephanie will go through some rules in
23 terms of how we'll conduct the rest of the hearing
24 tonight. So thank you.

25 MR. HELSETH: Thank you very much, Bob. Can

1 everyone hear me? Okay. I don't need the
2 microphone necessarily. Thank you everyone for
3 showing up this evening. We're here on February
4 21st, it's our first meeting on this project for the
5 Searchlight Wind, LLC project about wind turbines.

6 What is the proposed project. It's
7 approximately 200 megawatts of wind energy from
8 Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC, a wholly owned
9 subsidiary of Duke Energy.

10 The project will provide electricity to power
11 approximately 50,000 homes. An inter connect
12 switching station proposed by Western Air Power
13 Administrators would send that power to the grid.
14 The project is located in Searchlight. The yellow
15 square here is the town of Searchlight. The red,
16 the area in red is the proposed boundary or the
17 application boundary. I know it's a little hard to
18 see, if you can't see it up front or in the back.
19 Basically Las Vegas is right here. We're down in
20 here, and that is the town of Searchlight. It's
21 basically if it's going to be approved, it would be
22 163 acres. That red area is about 19,000 acres. So
23 you have from an application boundary and there from
24 there we pared down to what the actual turbines
25 where the area potentially affects. The land has

1 been segregated for mineral entry. We do this
2 because if there is a mining claim put on the site
3 during the application process, the mining claim
4 would have the right of way. So we segregate the
5 land for mineral entry so that any mineral --
6 basically that means for two years somebody couldn't
7 put in an application for applying for minerals in
8 that area in the red that I showed you back in here.
9 So basically the area here in the red is the area
10 that I'm talking about that has been segregated for
11 mineral entry. It has to do with connection to
12 processing the right of way application and it's
13 only temporary segregation.

14 So what laws authorize the Bureau of Land
15 Management to grant right of ways. Those would be
16 the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.
17 Some information there, Section 211 of the Energy
18 Policy Act 2005, there is a secretarial order 3283
19 enhancing renewable energy on public lands. Those
20 are some of the things we have to work for for
21 processing this application. So we're considering
22 this project because we're responding to an
23 application from Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC and
24 Western Area Power for a substation. They were
25 directed by the Federal Land Policy Management Act

1 to manage the lands on federal managed lands on
2 federal land for multiple uses. The Energy Policy
3 Act that I mentioned previously, it's a secretarial
4 order, the secretary of the interior has put out an
5 order saying he would like to see 10,000 megawatts
6 by the year 2015. So that is megawatts of renewable
7 energy non-hydro, so wind solar, geothermal, those
8 would all fall into that category.

9 So what is the decision to be made. The BLM
10 will decide whether or not to approve this right of
11 way application. As Bob mentioned earlier, we have
12 not made a decision on this application. If
13 approved, the BLM will also include mandatory
14 stipulations in the right of way grant. Those are
15 things that we would like to see done, mitigation,
16 stuff like that for specific parts of the project if
17 it's approved.

18 So what are the project components. There are
19 up to 96 wind turbine generators including the
20 concrete foundations, the underground electrical,
21 communication system and two electrical substations
22 with 8.7 miles of overhead transmission lines. When
23 the project originally started in 2008 when the
24 application came in, the application was actually
25 for 161 wind turbines, but during the time of

1 scoping there was a lot of people that were
2 concerned with that number of turbines, so it was
3 pared down to 141. And then that number was pared
4 down to what we have down today, either the 96
5 alternative, the 87 alternative or no action
6 alternative. So some more components of what we're
7 looking at is up to four meteorological towers. You
8 may have seen meteorological towers. They are about
9 198 feet tall. They have some guide wires. Those
10 have been up for three years measuring the wind
11 telling Wind Energy whether or not they have a good
12 resource. So those are currently up. They would
13 stay in the configuration if the project was built
14 as continuous monitoring devices as part of the
15 project. So it would be wrapped into the project.
16 Of course, there would be the need for operation and
17 maintenance building and access roads to get in and
18 out to the turbines.

19 What does a typical wind turbine look like for
20 this project? The applicant is selecting the
21 Siemens 2.3. Those are roughly 427 feet. When you
22 take the tip of the blade from the very, very top of
23 the blade to the ground, it's about 427 feet. It's
24 got a 331 rotor swept area and just to the nasal --
25 the nasal you're looking at 262 feet. So those are

1 basically the height of the typical turbine. What
2 you would have here is the typical wave that way
3 that the turbines are installed. First they
4 excavate down and then they put in the rebar and get
5 ready for concrete pour, and then they do a concrete
6 pour leaving the center cap up, and then they
7 reclaimate [sic] the area back so that it basically
8 they backfill over the top of this. So this is all
9 below ground for kind of the base so that this has
10 good support. Also, included are a couple of lay
11 down areas. Those are just for staging and building
12 kind of go together like erector sets. The concrete
13 batch plant is for concrete making the concrete,
14 like I mentioned before, and getting it to the site
15 and portable rock crushers is making for aggregate
16 and fill. Any rock that is extra would be left on
17 site and then they would work with the minerals
18 group as to what to do with any of that rock. But
19 no rock would come off site.

20 So all the alternatives that are being
21 considered again are the 96, the 87 and no action
22 alternative. First map shows us the 96 alternative.
23 So here is the town of Searchlight. Here is a
24 cluster of turbines, some here and out here, this is
25 Cottonwood Cove, that goes to Lake Mahog down here,

1 and there is the Lake Mead National Recreation area.
2 And then this is the road that -- so Laughlin is
3 down here, but here is the road that comes up
4 through Searchlight. That is the first alternative
5 that we're looking at.

6 The second alternative looks very similar to
7 the first but it has less turbines so it has less of
8 an impact, less footprint, a lower impact footprint.
9 Most of the difference is right in this area of
10 where some of those turbines have been taken out.
11 So 87 and 96 you're only talking, what, nine
12 turbines there, but it is a reasonable alternative
13 for that.

14 Of course, the no action alternative is
15 possible where the BLM could select a no action,
16 meaning that basically we don't want to select the
17 project, there is too many environmental hazards.
18 So the right of way applications were received for
19 the Searchlight area. The area contains good to
20 excellent wind resources. The area is close to
21 existing transmission lines and the area topography
22 is suitable for wind turbine generators, so it's
23 really hilly. It does not suit well for solar,
24 because then you would have to go up and down and
25 shadows. So just this kind of topography is good

1 for a wind turbine site.

2 So concerns that were raised during the public

3 scoping meeting are some water supply issues and

4 these are some pages where we're going to find a lot

5 of that resource data. So back in scoping when we

6 did scoping, if you're interested in visual impacts,

7 you would find them around page 461. Basically this

8 just pretty much what this slide is for to tell you

9 where you can find that information on that stuff.

10 What we're in is in the NEPA process, this is really

11 right about where we're at. So this is why we

12 started back in 2008, 2009. We got those comments.

13 And then the applicant did a lengthy study for an

14 inter connect between Nevada Energy and Western

15 Power. And after we came back after that inner

16 connect study, we got the DEIS ready. We were able

17 to get the information together and we're right here

18 in the public meetings of this product came out on

19 the 20th of January. We'll take comments right up

20 until the 18th of April. If you have a comment and

21 just so long as it's postmarked by the 18th of

22 April, we'll still take that comment. After we get

23 through this process on the 12th, we're going to

24 move into what we call the FEIS. That is the final

25 environmental impact statement. What you have

1 before you today is the Draft Environmental Impact
2 Statement. Once we get a final done, there is a
3 little bit of time in between here where we
4 eventually reach a recorded decision, and that would
5 be signed by the secretary of interior, as I
6 mentioned earlier. So I want to thank you for your
7 attention. I'm going to turn it over to Stephanie
8 and the public comment period will begin shortly.

9 MS. LOCKE: As Bob said before, my name is
10 Stephanie Locke. And does anybody have any trouble
11 hearing me, because that would be the first time
12 ever. And, don't worry, I'm going to go over how
13 the rest of this meeting is going to go and we'll
14 have plenty of time. If you didn't fill out a
15 speaker registration card and you would like to
16 choose to speak, you're going to have time to do
17 that tonight. So this portion of the meeting that
18 we're moving into is to receive your comments. The
19 BLM wants to hear them. The floor will be yours and
20 each commenter will have three minutes to speak. I
21 have my colleague right here is Andy. I was going
22 to say my coworker but he's my colleague. Andy's
23 going to help us out and there will be a timer on
24 the screen that will flash three minutes. He has a
25 couple of cards, a green card that will be your

1 first two minutes of speaking, a yellow card which
2 just let's you know you have a minute left, and then
3 a red card when your time has been exceeded.

4 The BIM will not be answering questions during
5 this portion of the meeting. This is your portion
6 to make your comment. You can ask a question but
7 that question will be addressed in the final
8 environmental impact statement. If you wish to make
9 a comment during this meeting, there is a speaker
10 request card that you need to fill out. I have
11 three here, so we're going to have three people
12 speak first. If you choose, if you have just
13 decided that maybe, hey, I want to speak, just go to
14 the back table and fill out a card and one of my
15 coworkers or colleagues will run that right up to
16 me. Elected officials, I don't think we have any
17 elected officials here today, we'll go in the order
18 of the cards that we receive. Please be respectful
19 and courteous to everybody. They may have
20 difference of opinions. That is fine. This is the
21 purpose of this meeting is to get everybody's
22 opinion, okay.

23 Staff will be available after this portion of
24 the meeting if the comment period doesn't go too
25 long, and they can answer questions directly at that

1 time. As Greg and Bob said, written comments need
2 to be postmarked and to the BLM if you're sending
3 them by snail mail. If you're answering them
4 on-line, you can send them right on April 18th.
5 Just to let you know, there is some information on
6 the back sign-in table that directs -- that gives
7 you ways to comment so you can e-mail the BLM. You
8 can fill out a comment card and fax it in. You can
9 fill out a comment card and leave it here at the
10 meeting today, and you can fill out a comment card
11 and mail it in. All right. At this time let's take
12 a short two minute break. If anybody would like to
13 fill out a speaker registration card and has not
14 already done so, please go to the back table. I'm
15 going to organize these cards and then we'll start
16 with the comment portion.

17 (Short break.)

18 MS. LOCKE: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen --
19 Sean, did anybody else fill out an additional
20 speaker card?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not at this point.

22 MS. LOCKE: Also, I would like to mention, if
23 you do not wish to make your comment in front of
24 this group, we have a court reporter at the back of
25 the room here and she'll be happy to take your

1 comment during this portion of the meeting if you're
2 quiet. And then after this portion of the meeting,
3 of course, you can make your comment in private as
4 well, okay. And with that, Mr. Thomas Casey. And
5 just give me a minute so you get your full amount of
6 time and the podium is yours.

7 MR. CASEY: Thomas Casey. I tried my end to
8 keep this to three minutes. I'll run over. I want
9 to address my comments around the Lake Mead National
10 Recreation. Decades ago the land around the two new
11 reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Mojave were given to
12 the National Park Service to preserve, protect and
13 provide recreational opportunities for generations
14 to come, hopefully for many more yet to come.
15 Opportunities here include boating, houseboating,
16 fishing, hiking, camping, backpacking, bird
17 watching, hunting, back country exploration via off
18 road vehicle for those who would seek rest from
19 their busy world, a wilderness experience in this
20 stark but beautiful desert environment is available
21 here, and many do seek such an experience, 300,000
22 visitors a year by the report. And that's just at
23 Cottonwood Cove and the lake side slash water side
24 desert experience is much different outside the Lake
25 Mead National Recreation area we have. And nowhere

The potential impacts identified in the comment are described in the EIS in the following sections: Section 4.12-Socioeconomic Impacts Section 4.9-Visual Resources Impacts, and Section 4.11-Recreation Impacts.

1 is that more evident in Laughlin, Nevada. Just
2 south of the Lake Mead National Recreation Boundary,
3 I think a lot about Lake Havasu not far that stream,
4 what a desert lake experience that is. Then what we
5 have here in the Lake Mead National Recreation area
6 on Lake Mead and Lake Mojave, it is different here.
7 It is a special place in the Lake Mead National
8 Recreation area. And the National Park Service is
9 here to keep it that way and preserve what those
10 with great foresight have given us. Now comes an
11 energy development project, massive heavy industry
12 to be built on the lands directly adjacent to the
13 national recreation area, indeed, on its most
14 eastern boundary of the project would start one and
15 a half miles uphill from the entrance station on
16 Cottonwood Cove Road. Every time I would leave
17 Cottonwood Cove I would get to -- I would get to
18 stare at those -- these towers 427 and a half feet
19 tall, the transmission towers now in place six or
20 nine of them on one side of the road, 11 or 15 on
21 the other in the hill above and just over the hill.
22 And no more would I boat on Lake Mojave from
23 Cottonwood Cove or up lake from Katherine's Landing
24 from this direction from the south and not see the
25 hand of man on the skyline to the west. And in

1 those on that skyline in the Eldorado Mountain hills
2 dozen of these towers would be visible. And by the
3 way, at night, too, all these towers, every one of
4 them would be appropriately marked with FAA lighting
5 beacons for aviation safety.

6 MS. LOCKE: Thank you for your comment. Next
7 I would like to call Ronald Van Fleet.

8 MR. VAN FLEET: Ronald Van Fleet, Senior, Fort
9 Mojave Tribe. Just like to say that we're very
10 disturbed at this time as tribal member speaking for
11 Timothy Williams, we've gone through this over and
12 over again that the tribe was not invited to this
13 meeting. The tribe was not notified. 2008, yes,
14 they did a survey of the area. They weren't told
15 what was being built at that time. That is a sacred
16 area. There are villages that are in that area, I
17 think would run into the same problems we run in now
18 with the Genesis project down in Blythe where they
19 had to shut down. We're in litigation. Somebody is
20 going to make some money here. From the tribes with
21 the tribes, you know, that was contacted by another
22 person, another group that this was happening here
23 today and tomorrow up in Searchlight, you know,
24 there are artifacts. Just because we're on the Fort
25 Mojave tribe, we're not just allocated to that

The BLM consultation for Searchlight Wind Energy Project was formally initiated via letter correspondence on December 17, 2009. Letters were sent to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, the Pahrump Paiute Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, and the Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe. At the time the DEIS was prepared, Tribal consultation was still underway. The Final EIS summarizes the consultation that was completed and the tribal comments that were received after the DEIS was written.

1 reservation boundary. Reservation boundaries do not
2 hold us to that land right there. We go from the
3 river to the ocean and to the ocean that way and as
4 far as up here up to Las Vegas, I guess in that
5 area. But my people come from Cottonwood. My
6 relatives come from Cottonwood. This is home, this
7 area you're talking about. And I've been following
8 spiritual running. We did spiritual running to
9 Ivanpah, from Ivanpah to Spirit Mountain, the spirit
10 trails run down this valley run through this valley
11 into Spirit Mountain into five, six, seven different
12 tribes honor that mountain right their, spirit
13 mountain right here Chemehuevi, and we're greatly
14 disappointed. And, you know, it's coming like a
15 landslide all the wind towers, the solar generators
16 I think the cultural depth right now they are in
17 Palm Springs the tribes are coming together with the
18 federal government so we can put all of our sacred
19 sites on the map so we can work with you. Yes, we
20 have some project on our reservation. Yes, we're
21 looking for wind power on our reservations but not
22 on pristine desert floor not -- you know, those wind
23 mills, they kill bats right where do they get the
24 DT's, the pressure from the blades will kill the
25 bats. And when you kill the bats, you cut off the

Comment noted. Impacts to bats are addressed in Section 4.4-
Biological Resources Management.

1 cycle of life there. You don't have no bats, you
2 don't pollinate the trees. And if this is a
3 recreation area, then, you know, what are you going
4 to do with the cottonwoods? What about the trees on
5 the lake? The bats are pollinators. They pollinate
6 everything and that is just only one that Palm
7 Springs, there is like 300 birds a day that they
8 find from the wind tower with the Sierra clubs about
9 a month ago. You know, it's just not a good deal.
10 We need to research it maybe a little bit more.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. LOCKE: Thank you for your comment. Next
13 is Phillip Smith.

14 MR. SMITH: My name is Phillip Smith, member
15 of the Colorado River Indian Tribe, Parker, Arizona.
16 And I'm Chemehuevi. We're all up in area all around
17 the desert Barstow down to Palo Verde all the way to
18 Vegas Paiutes Chemehuevi Southern Paiutes. We have
19 a lot of them up that way. And my concern we're
20 talking about down here, yes, I was invited by the
21 BLM which Shoshones and Paiutes and what the other
22 tribes were at the Searchlight area when this first
23 came about, but we were only shown the towers out
24 there and talked a little bit about the towers and
25 talked about the other windmills that had come in.

1 We were never on the field trip. I don't call it a
2 field trip. We asked about anybody doing any
3 studies on the cultural sites. Yes, could you show
4 us, well, the guy's on vacation now. So I don't
5 know where they are at. So there you go, a lack of
6 input. And since the summer heat was coming up,
7 this was not a finished job; however, we're finding
8 back and get to learn about some of these areas. I
9 went out myself, seen the trail out there, seen
10 turtle burrows out there. And I started to learn
11 about the earth because we're from the area, the
12 eagles, the eagles that is a little north of here
13 and the sighting of a California Condor coming into
14 this, the area, unconfirmed sightings, you put these
15 big wind mills in there, what is the harm going to
16 be to the eagles or these other things. And
17 trenches for the turbines, you have also animals
18 underground and for native people the animals can't
19 speak for them self. They can't protect themselves.
20 What about us? We just going to, what, just
21 diminish them. No. Indian people don't look at it
22 that way. These things are put out in the desert by
23 the creator. He created the one that put these out
24 in the desert. That's where it is to be all of
25 these things. I know there is sites that cultural

Comment noted. Impacts to wildlife are discussed throughout Section 4.4-Biological Resources Impacts.

1 sites in the area and going to go out there and
2 re-find them over again and don't like the idea that
3 tribes were not really invited. They might say,
4 yes, they were. You can't name what single tribe
5 that put an input on this. I can count on that
6 today, there is not one single tribe that put an
7 input on the areas there because they are not
8 properly contact, don't go to the tribe and meet
9 with the tribe at their areas because this is
10 government. The government the way you're doing it
11 is not government to government the way I look at it
12 and the rest of us. I see my time running short. I
13 also want to know if this is another one of Obama's
14 fast track project.

15 MS. LOCKE: Thank you for your comment.

16 MR. BUNDORF: My name is Wayne Bundorf. I
17 live in Henderson, Nevada. I also have a home in
18 the desert off the grid and this is really
19 surprising to me that we like visualize what is
20 going to happen there. I think that Cottonwood Cove
21 will be kind of wiped off the map and let me tell
22 you why, because it's a 14 mile trip in and back.
23 The trucks which will have lots of trucks. I read
24 in this in the report here 300 cubic yards of
25 concrete. Each foundation would require

The BLM consultation for Searchlight Wind Energy Project was formally initiated via letter correspondence on December 17, 2009. Letters were sent to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, the Pahrump Paiute Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, and the Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe. At the time the DEIS was prepared, Tribal consultation was still underway. The Final EIS summarizes the consultation that was completed and the tribal comments that were received after the DEIS was written.

This project has been designated a priority project by the BLM.

The project plan of development describes two potential sources for the concrete necessary for WTG foundations; 1) purchasing it ready made and transported to the site, or 2) operating an on-site batching plant. If the former option is chosen, then the water for the mix would likely originate from a commercial concrete vendor. As there are no existing commercial ready-mix concrete companies in either of the three subject basins, the concrete would probably originate in Las Vegas Valley. If the on-site plant option is selected, then water for the mix would have to either be purchased from SWS, LVVWD, or be purchased from a willing seller.

1 approximately 300 yards of concrete. Now, when you
2 dig in a hard rock area, it's hard to dig the hole
3 just right and in here it's also mentioned possibly
4 engineered blasting. This means dynamite. And this
5 300 yards may change. We'll say it doesn't change
6 just for we got approximately somewhere between 87
7 and 97, we'll say there is 90 wind generators built
8 300 yards at 27,000 square yard cubic yards of
9 concrete. Where does the water come from? These
10 trucks going in and out if the batch plan is set up
11 on the hill, they go down the hill, they come back
12 up. People traveling there the road is supposed to
13 be 36 feet wide. The most dangerous thing we could
14 is drive in our car and the speed of the trucks will
15 be approximately 15, 20 miles an hour going down the
16 hill or coming up the hill, maybe less. The people
17 are used to driving about 45 on that road and this
18 will I think just prevent them from the front end of
19 going down there. They won't fight the traffic if
20 there is an accident. It can happen especially with
21 a job this size and roads blocked and they are down
22 there, then they can't get out. So this all runs
23 through their mind. Is there some place else they
24 can go, yes. They will go to another, they will go
25 to the Lake Mead National Recreation or come down

A Traffic Management Plan (MM-TRAN-1) would be prepared to address effects on local traffic. The Plan would include the following element: To minimize the effects on local and Lake Mead traffic the Transportation Plan will mandate the use of flagmen or escort vehicles to control and direct traffic flow, and provide schedules that show roadway work will be done during periods of minimum traffic flow. The Traffic Management Plan also includes making provision for access for emergency vehicles. The Traffic Management Plan would be a stipulation of the ROW Grant.

Comment noted. Impacts to wildlife are discussed throughout Section 4.4-Biological Resources Impacts.

1 here because maybe it's their day off, who knows.
2 That is just one part of the trucks, the concrete.
3 The towers from what I've seen on the road, the
4 towers there are three pieces, there is three more
5 trucks. The blades they have double trailers that
6 haul them. They are over 100 feet long and you can
7 just picture the road is up at the top there is a
8 very sharp curve and then it comes down. I don't
9 know whether they are going to cut straight road
10 down the hill or what is going to happen, but the
11 blades are a big problem. And people will pass
12 because they don't want to go 15 miles an hour and
13 that is where we run into the possibility of
14 accidents. Also, the generator itself is hauled in
15 by trailer. Some of the machinery is giant coming
16 in there. So there is a whole lot of things that
17 I'm not covering. Rattle snakes, you should have
18 some help if you get bit down there, because when
19 you start grading they are going to dig them up.
20 The rats are another thing. The desert is full of
21 pack rat nests and they are going to come to town as
22 soon as they hear you coming. Thank you.

23 MS. LOCKE: Thank you for your comment.

24 MS. BUNDORF: Judy Bundorf. One of my
25 concerns is this is advertised as a 200 megawatt

The proposed facility has a 200 MW design capacity. The proposed action is to construct eighty-seven 2.3 MW WTGs or $87 \times 2.3 = 200.1$ MW.

1 generating station or farm and that's the name plate
2 rating. Everything I read says that you'll be lucky
3 to get 30 percent of that number. So it will not
4 serve the 60,000 houses or whatever. It will serve
5 one third of that. Has there been any geology
6 testing, any drilling, any trenching? Because I'm
7 guessing that that granitic rock out there will be a
8 real challenge. And number three, I guess the
9 answer was, no, is there a power purchase agreement
10 between Searchlight Wind, LLC and any utility
11 company? And if there's not a power purchase
12 agreement, why would we do this? Thank you.

13 MS. LOCKE: Thank you for your comment, Sean,
14 was there any other speakers? Okay. At this time
15 we have time left in the meeting, so the BLM
16 specialist will be available to answer questions or
17 talk to you. If you feel like you did not get your
18 entire comment in your three minutes, there will be
19 the court reporter in the back of the room and this
20 court reporter will also be available. So you are
21 welcome to speak to either one of them to finish
22 your comment. Okay. At this time, Bob, would you
23 like to adjourn the meeting?

24 MR. ROSS: Thank you again for coming. Your
25 comments are very important to us. I do have

The existing Geological environment was presented in EIS Section 3.1-
Geology, Soils, and Minerals. Geotechnical testing would be conducted
at each WTG location prior to construction.

The Applicant does not have a current power purchase agreement. They
have submitted an application for a ROW to BLM who is required to
process the application in accordance with BLM, FLPMA and NEPA
requirements.

1 business cards and I do respond to e-mail questions
2 and feel free to call me on the telephone at office
3 and Greg is also available to respond to comments
4 and thank you again very much. We'll be here and
5 available to talk with you as well, so thank you.

6 * * * * *

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8 Attest: Full, true, accurate transcript of
9 proceedings.

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12 ANGELA CAMPAGNA,
CCR #495

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