

Appendix A-3: Public Hearing Materials

Proposed Searchlight Wind Energy Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Meetings

February 21 – 23, 2012



What is the proposed project?



- An approximately 200 megawatt wind energy facility and associated infrastructure proposed by Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC
- Project will produce electricity to power approximately 50,000 homes.
- An interconnection switching station proposed by Western Area Power Administration



Where is the project located?



The proposed project area is adjacent to Searchlight, approximately 60 miles southeast of Las Vegas in Clark County, Nevada

Right-of-way application area (shown in red) is the same as the area of mineral segregation at approximately 18,000 acres

If approved, the permanent project footprint would be approximately 163 acres.



What is mineral segregation?



- Segregation allows for the orderly development of valuable renewable resources and to avoid conflicts between renewable energy applications and mining
- In connection with processing these right-of-way applications, the BLM has segregated the public lands within the application area from mineral entry for a period of up to two years
- This temporary segregation does not affect valid existing rights of current mining claims



What laws authorize the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to grant rights-of-way?



- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2800
- Section 211 of Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Secretarial Order 3283 “Enhancing Renewable Energy on Public Lands”



Why is the BLM considering this project?



- The BLM is responding to applications submitted by Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC and Western Area Power Administration
- The BLM is directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to manage federal land for multiple uses
- The Energy Policy Act states the Secretary of the Interior should seek to have approved up to 10,000 megawatts of non-hydropower renewable energy project on public lands by 2015



What is the decision to be made?



- The BLM's will decide whether or not to approve the right-of-way applications
- If approved, the BLM will also include mandatory stipulations in the right-of-way grant to appropriately protect public resources



What are the project components?



- Up to 96 wind turbine generators, including concrete foundations and transformers
- Underground electrical collection and communication systems
- Two electrical substations and 6.1-mile overhead transmission line connecting the substations



Project components continued...



- A switching station and 2.6 miles of overhead transmission line (230 kV) proposed by Western Area Power Administration
- Up to four MET (meteorological) towers
 - Three were installed for wind testing under a separate right-of-way application and NEPA process
 - MET towers would remain and be a component of the project for data gathering purposes
- Operations and maintenance building
- Access roads



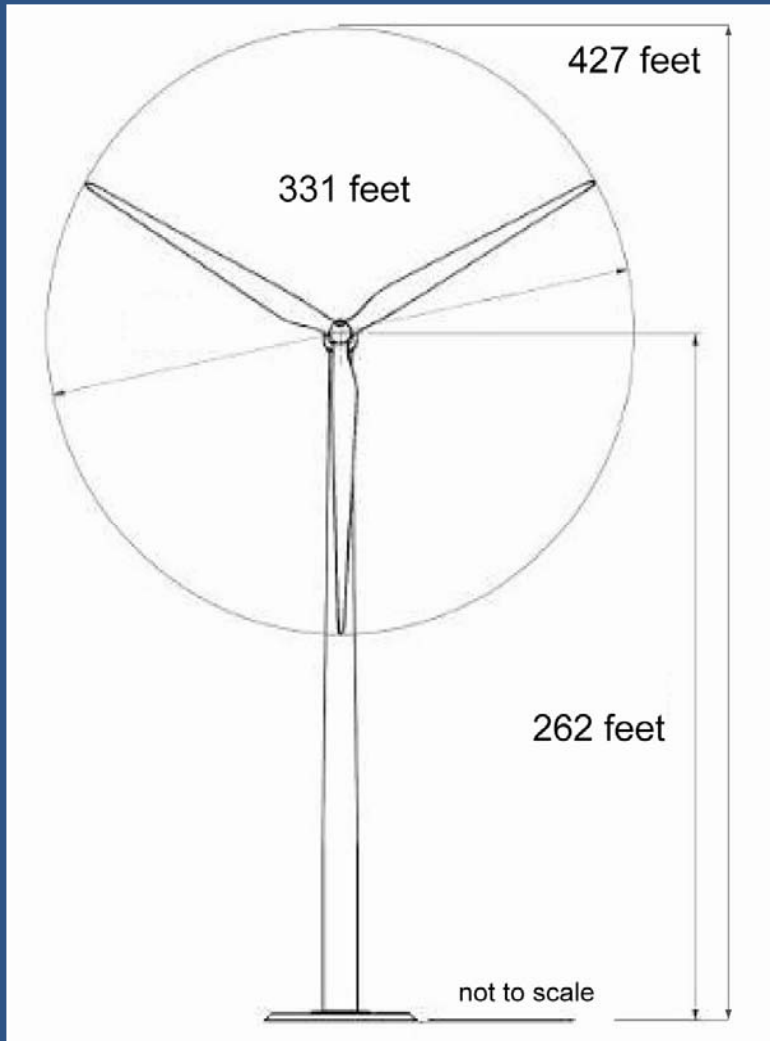
Substations versus Switching Station



- The two Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC. substations would collect the energy and transport it to the switching station
- The Western Area Power Administration switching station would transfer the energy to the grid



Wind turbine generator dimensions and installation



What are the temporary components and activities during construction?



- Two laydown areas for staging of construction equipment
- Concrete batch plant for making concrete for wind turbine generator foundations
- Portable rock crusher for making aggregate for fill and road base



What alternatives are being considered?



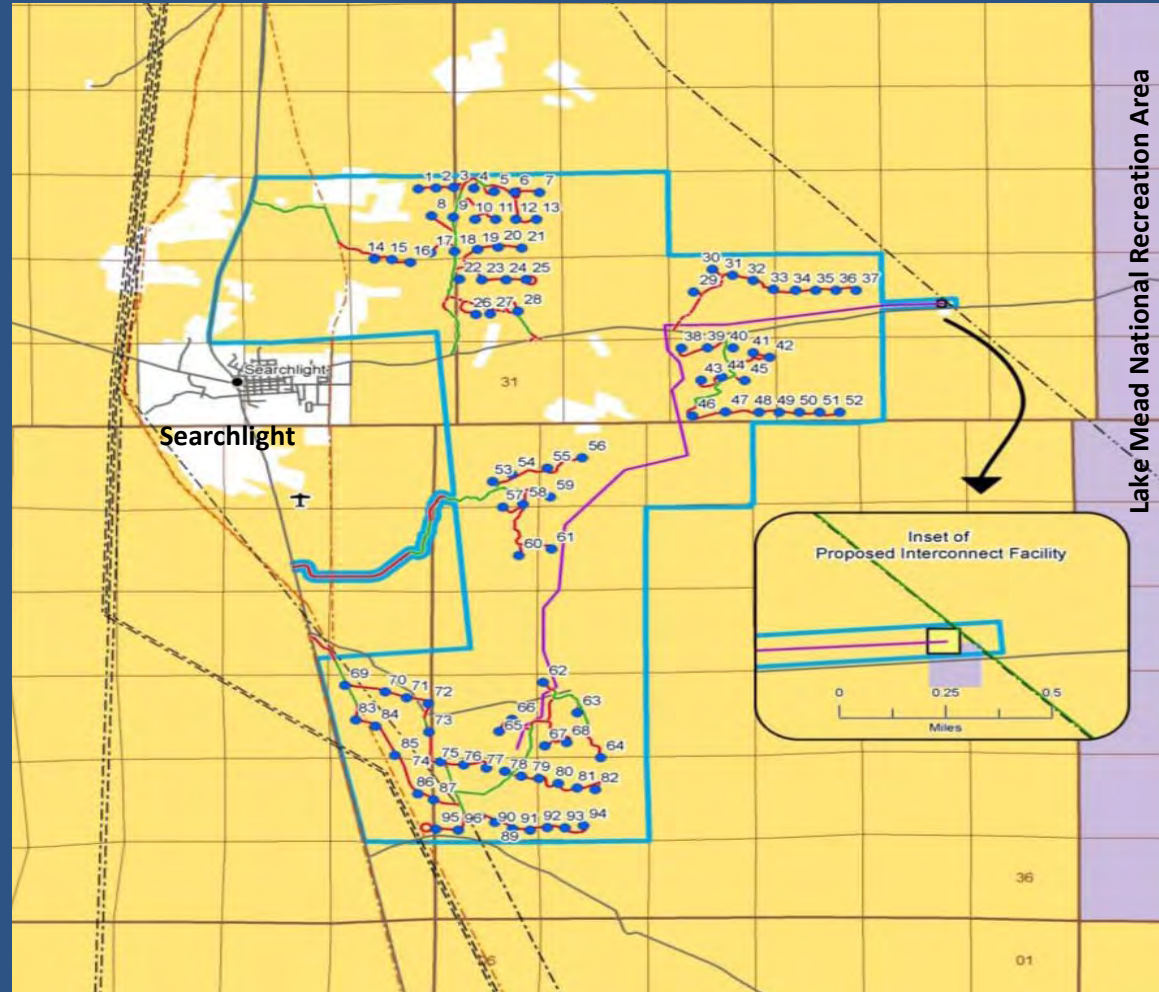
- 96 Wind Turbine Generator Layout Alternative (applicant proposed action)
- 87 Wind Turbine Generator Layout Alternative (BLM preferred alternative)
- No Action Alternative



What alternatives are being considered? (continued....)



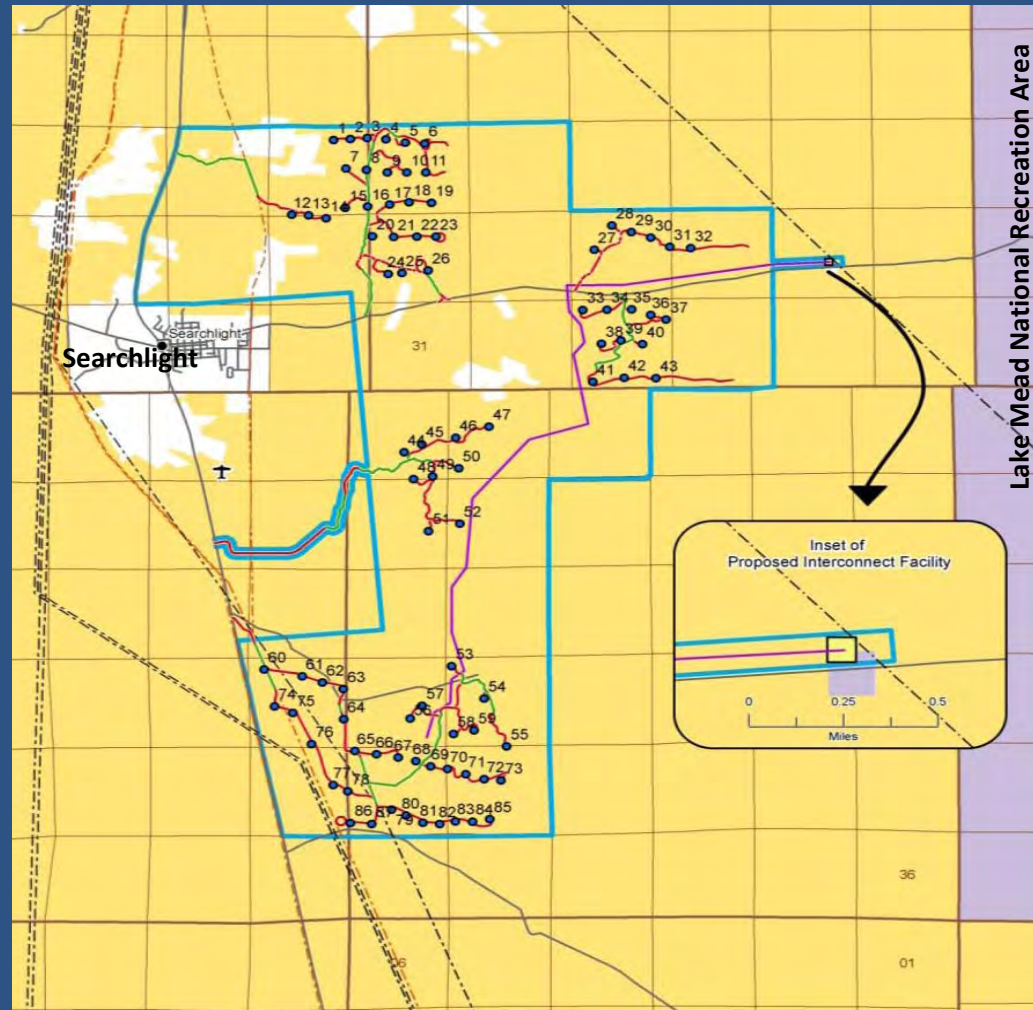
Proposed
Action:
96 Wind
Turbine
Generator
Layout
Alternative



What alternatives are being considered? (continued...)



BLM
Preferred
Alternative:
87 Wind
Turbine
Generator
Layout
Alternative



What alternatives are being considered? (continued....)



No Action Alternative – the BLM would not approve the right-of-way applications



Why is the BLM considering this location?



- Right-of-way applications received were for the Searchlight area
- The area contains good-to-excellent wind resources
- Area is close to an existing electrical transmission line
- Area topography is suitable for wind turbine generators



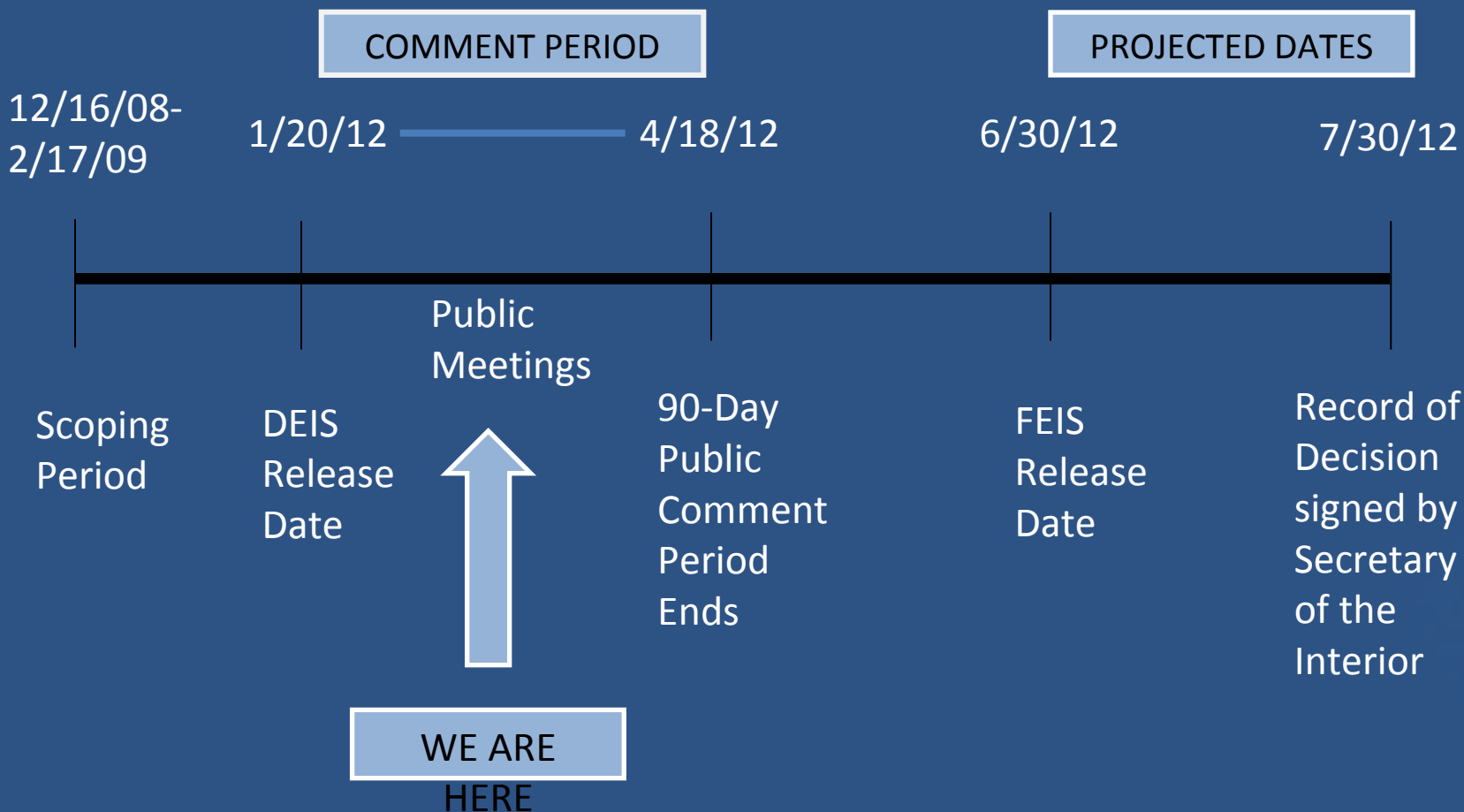
Concerns raised during public scoping



| Issue | EIS page number |
|--|-----------------|
| Water supply issues | 4-14 |
| Impacts to biological resources | 4-25 |
| Impacts to archaeological resources | 4-38 |
| Air quality impacts (dust/emissions/odors) | 4-41 |
| Land Use/Transportation | 4-51 and 4-55 |
| Visual impacts | 4-61 |
| Noise impacts | 4-79 |
| Effects on tourism | 4-92 |
| Hazardous materials impacts | 4-114 |
| Cumulative impacts | 4-127 |



Project Schedule – NEPA Process



Thank you!



The public comment period will begin shortly.



How the public comment period will work



- This portion of the meeting is to receive your comments on the proposed project
- If you wish to make a public comment, please submit a speaker request card
- Current elected officials will be invited to comment first, followed by the public
- Each person will have up to three minutes to make his/her comment



How the public comment period will work continued...



- Please be respectful and courteous
- The BLM will not be answering questions during this portion of the meeting
- Staff will be available after this portion of the meeting to answer questions
- Written comments must be postmarked by April 18, 2012 to be considered in the Final EIS



Proposed Searchlight Wind Energy Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Meeting

February 21 -23, 2012



Public Meeting Registration
WELCOME

Please Sign In



Proposed Searchlight Wind Energy Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

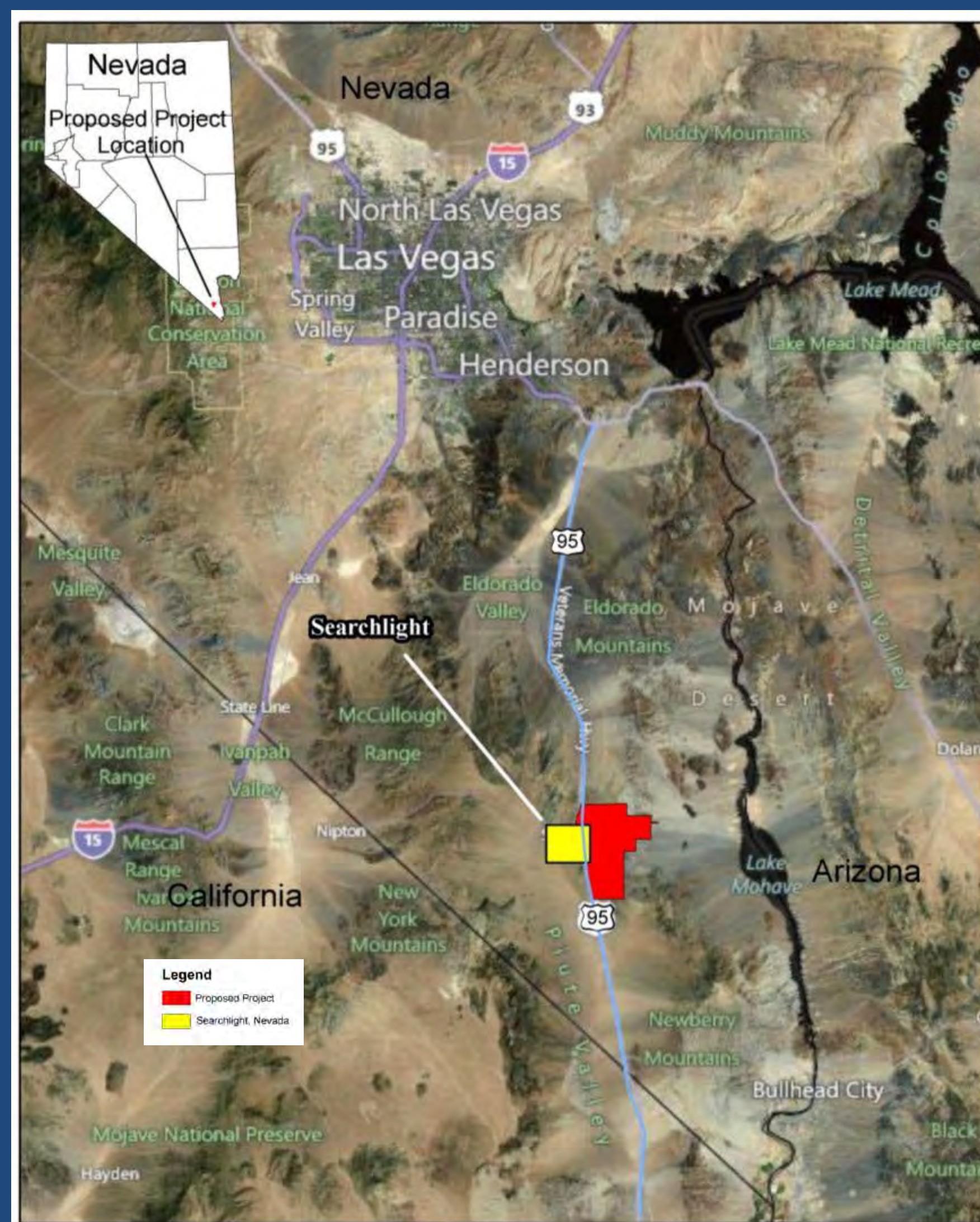
Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding to right-of-way applications: one submitted by Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 200 megawatt wind energy facility and associated infrastructure and one submitted by Western Area Power Administration to construct, operate, maintain and decommission an interconnection switching station that would conduct the power generated from the wind energy facility to Western Area Power Administration's grid system.

Project Location

The proposed wind energy facility and interconnection switching station would be:

- Approximately 1.5 miles west of the western border of Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Approximately 60 miles southeast of Las Vegas
- Approximately 40 miles north of Laughlin
- The project area is to the northeast, east, and southeast of Searchlight, Nevada



BLM Decisions to be Made

The BLM will decide whether to:

- Deny the proposed rights-of-way
- Grant the rights-of-ways, or
- Grant the rights-of-ways with modifications.

Modifications may include modifying the proposed use or changing the route or location of the proposed facilities (43 CFR 2805.10(a)(1)). The BLM will use this Environmental Impact Statement to analyze terms, conditions, and mitigation measures to determine which, if any, modifications to the proposed project would be effective and would protect resource values.

Western Area Power Administration Decisions to be Made

Western Area Power Administration, a Federal agency, is participating in the EIS process as a cooperating agency. Western Area Power Administration will use this EIS to support its decision on whether or not to construct the interconnection switching station and approve or deny Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC's interconnection request.



BLM's Purpose and Need

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Section 103(c)), public lands are to be managed for multiple use that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant ROW on public lands for systems of generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy (Section 501(a)(4)). Taking into account the BLM's multiple use mandate, the purpose and need for the proposed actions is to respond to two FLPMA right-of-way applications: one submitted by Searchlight Wind to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure and one submitted by Western to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an interconnection switching station that would conduct the power generated from the wind facility to Western Area Power Administration's electrical grid system.

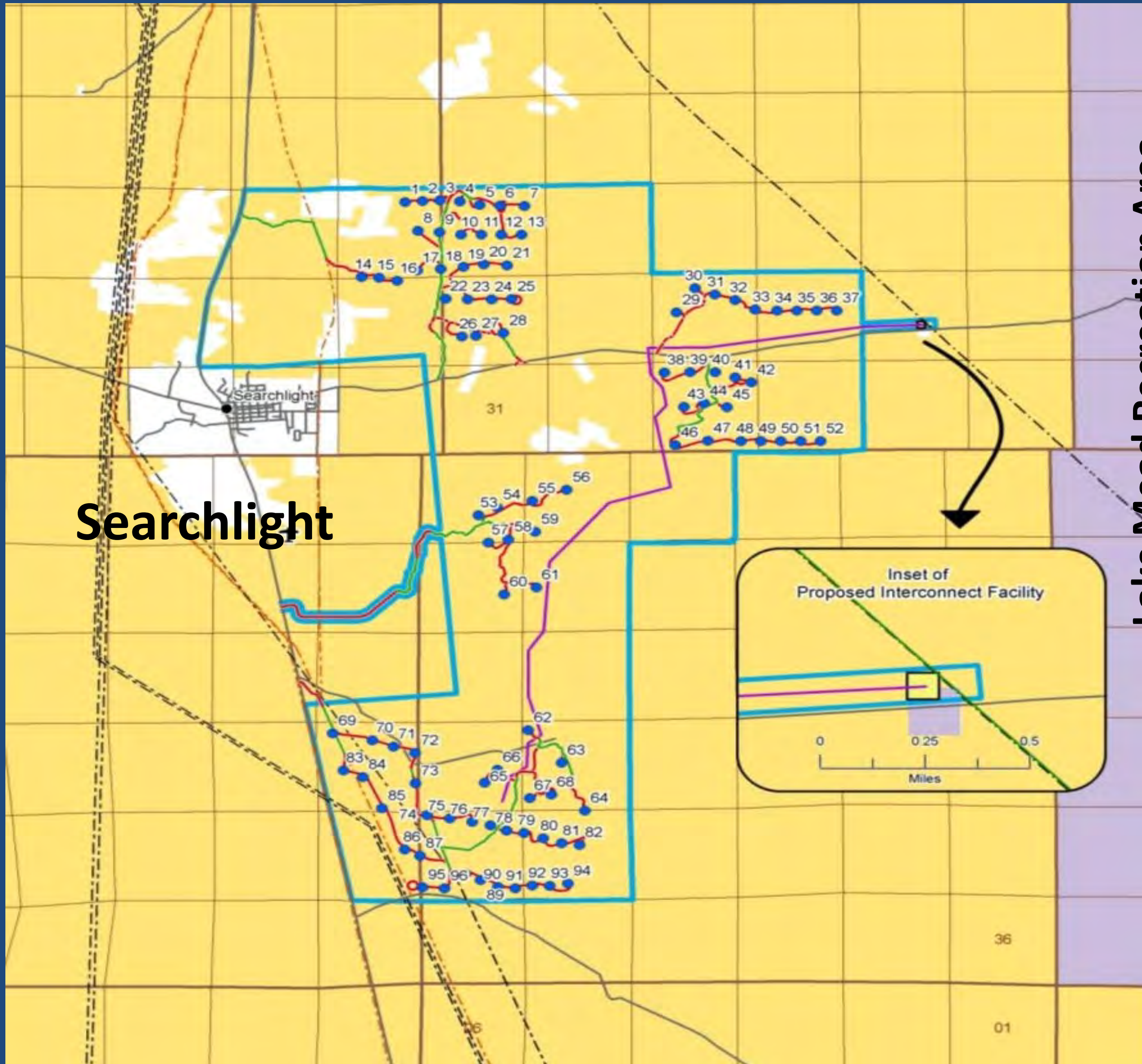
Consideration of the ROW applications would be in compliance with FLPMA, BLM right-of-way regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies. These actions would, if approved, assist the BLM in addressing the management objectives in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Title II, Section 211), which established a goal for the Secretary of the Interior to approve 10,000 MWs of electricity from non-hydropower renewable energy projects located on public lands by 2015. This proposed action, if approved, would also further the purpose of Secretarial Order 3285A1 (March 11, 2009) that establishes the development of environmentally responsible renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior.



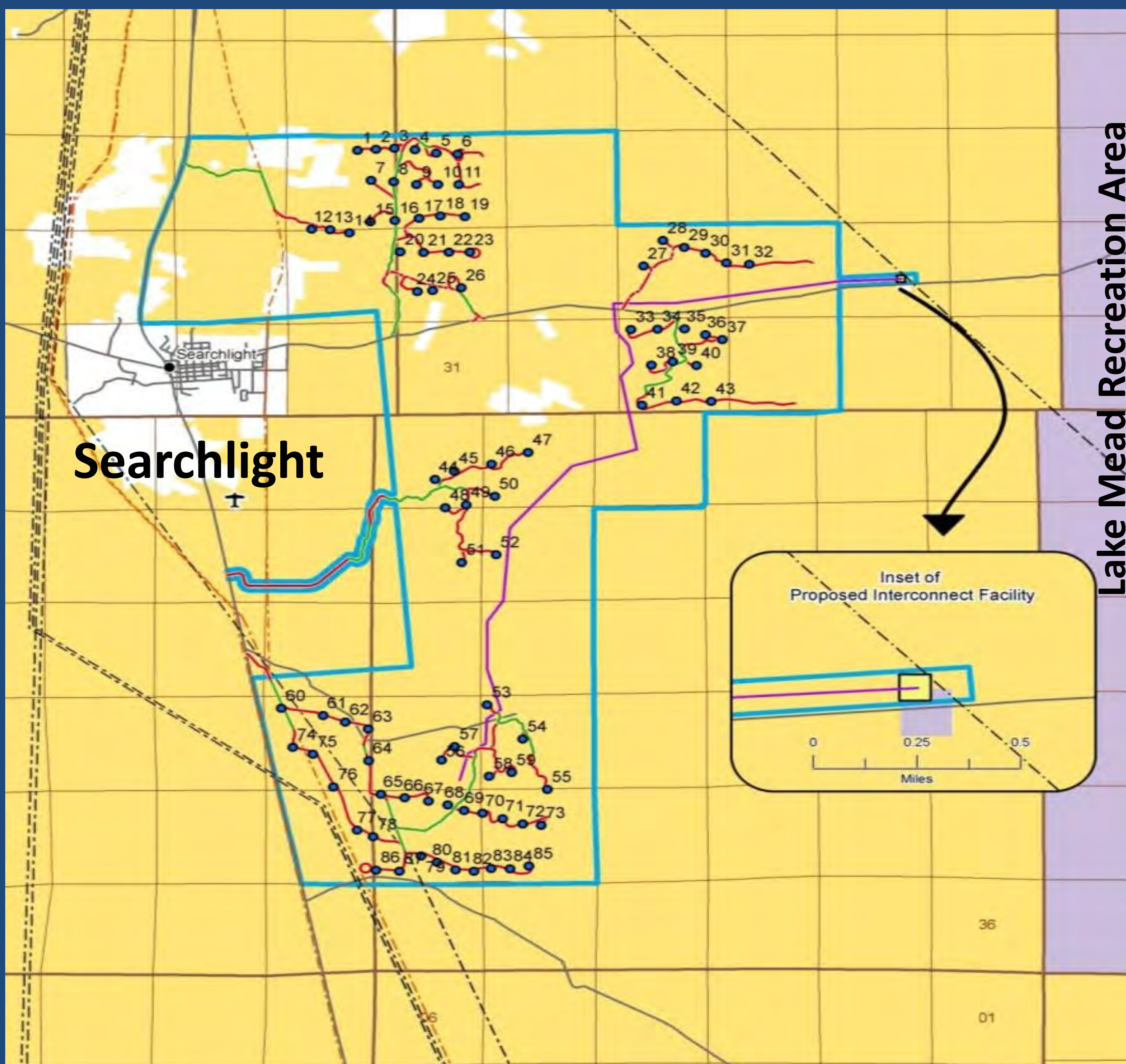
Proposed Searchlight Wind Energy Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

Proposed Action: 96 Wind Turbine Generator Layout



BLM-Preferred Alternative: 87 Wind Turbine Generator Layout



Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

Meeting Agenda

30 minutes – Open House

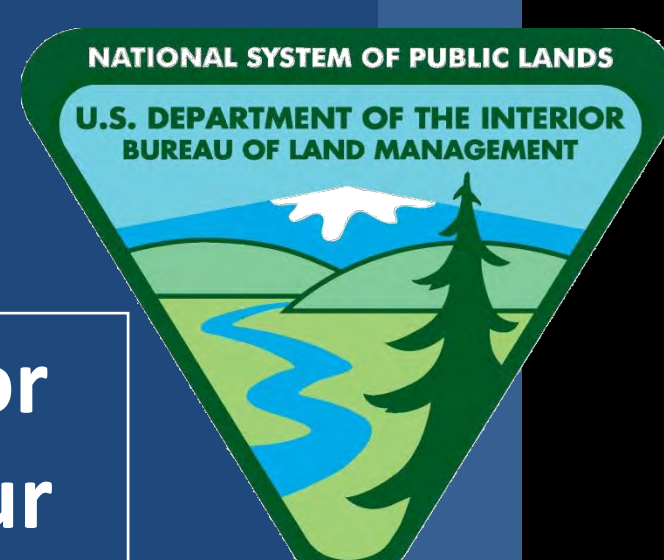
- Exhibit review with specialists available to answer questions

30 minutes – Presentation

- Welcome and introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Overview

60 minutes – Public Comment Period

Comment Disclaimer: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

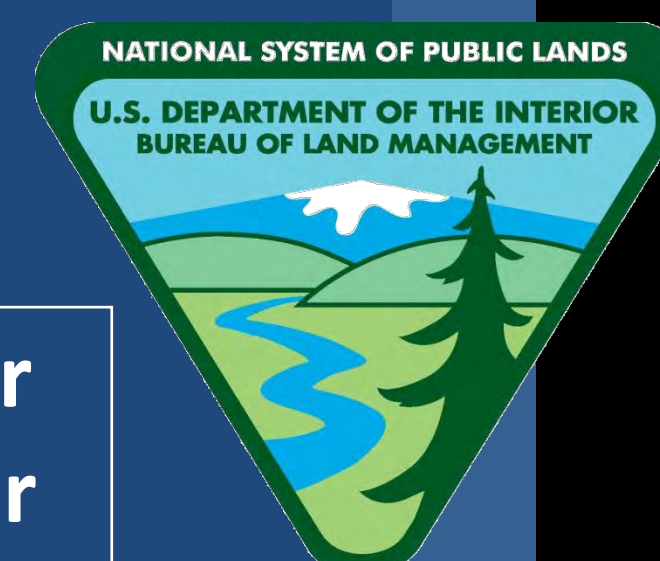


Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

How the public comment period of this meeting will work

- Your comments and questions are critical to the environmental review process. They will be addressed in the Final EIS.
- If you wish to make a public comment during the meeting, please fill out and submit a speaker registration card.
- Elected officials will be asked to provide their comments first, and then comments from the general public will follow.
- A meeting facilitator will call three speakers at a time. A speaker waiting area will be set up next to the podium. After each person has finished his/her comments, another person will be called to the speaker waiting area, so that there are always three people lined up to make their comments. We ask that you please move to the front of the room when your name is called.
- Each person is asked to limit his/her comments to three minutes. A timer is provided on the presentation screen. Additionally, a meeting facilitator will flash a green card for the first two minutes of your comment followed by a yellow card for the third minute of your comment. A red card will flash when three minutes have passed.
- Please note that at the end of the three minute comment time, the microphone may be turned off. If you run out of time to make your comments, you are encouraged to sign up again. If you sign up to make a second comment, you will be called after all other speakers if time allows. You may also submit a written comment.
- In order to give the opportunity to make public comments to as many people as possible, you cannot give your unused comment time to others.
- A second court reporter is available throughout the meeting to record your comments if you do not wish to speak publicly or if you are unable to wait until your name is called.
- Please note that we will not answer questions during the public comment period of the meeting. Resource specialists will be available during the open house period and after the public comment portion of the meeting to answer questions.

Comment Disclaimer: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA is a law that requires federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a project in their decision-making process.
- The primary purpose of a NEPA document is to serve as a decision-making tool to ensure that the policies and goals defined in NEPA are incorporated into the ongoing programs and actions of federal government.
- The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through a well-informed decision-making process.

The National Environmental Policy Act Process



Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

Biological Resources

- Cactus and Yucca
- Desert Tortoise
- Bats and Migratory Birds

How impacts will be mitigated

- A Cactus and Yucca Salvage Plan will be prepared and implemented as part of the proposed project.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will issue a Biological Opinion for the project. All terms and conditions would be implemented as part of the proposed project.
- An Avian and Bat Protection Plan will be developed. It will provide for pre-construction surveys, post-construction monitoring, and adaptive management measures.

Visual Resources

- Wind turbine generators would introduce new moving vertical structures into the existing viewshed.
- New roads would be developed.

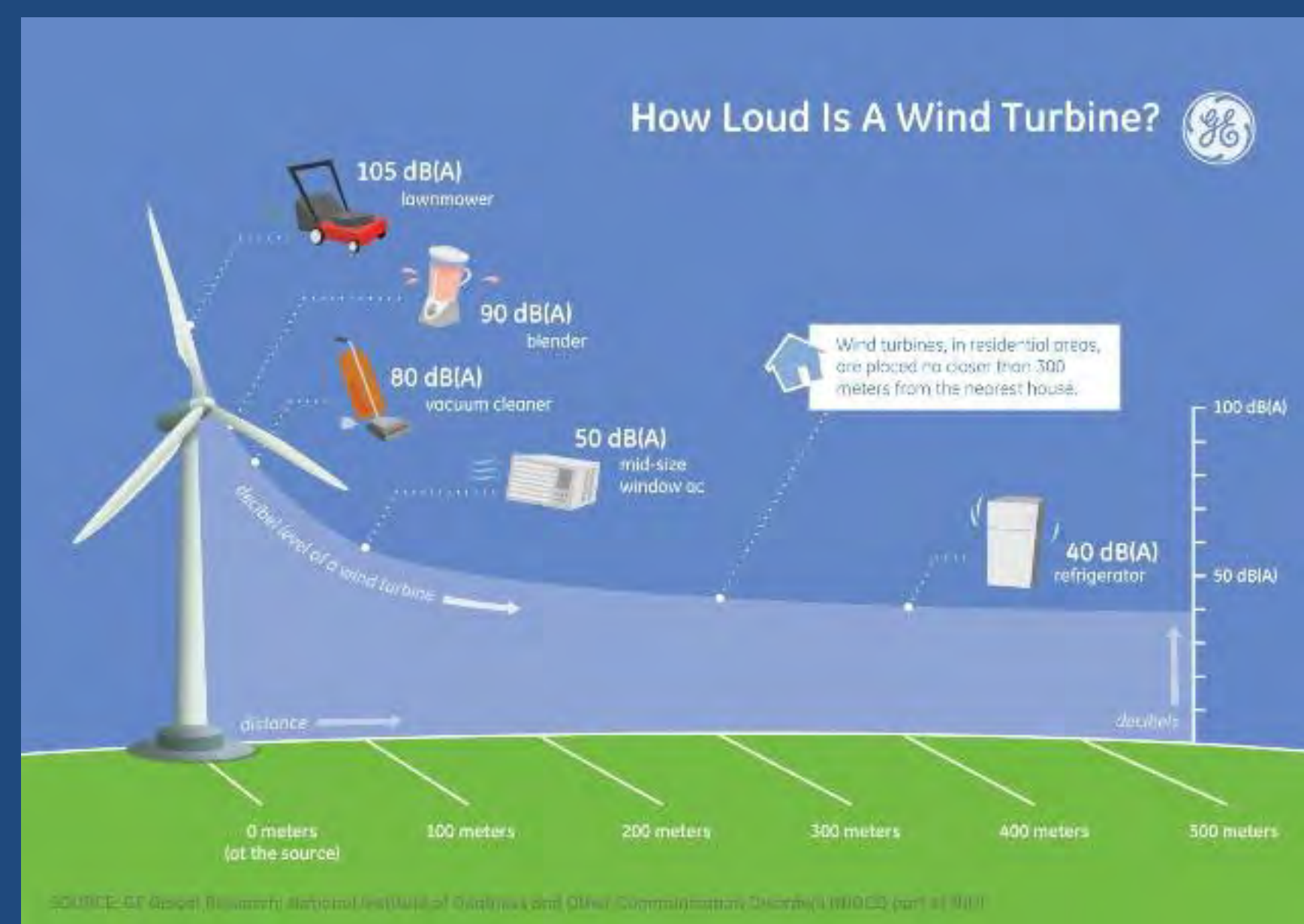
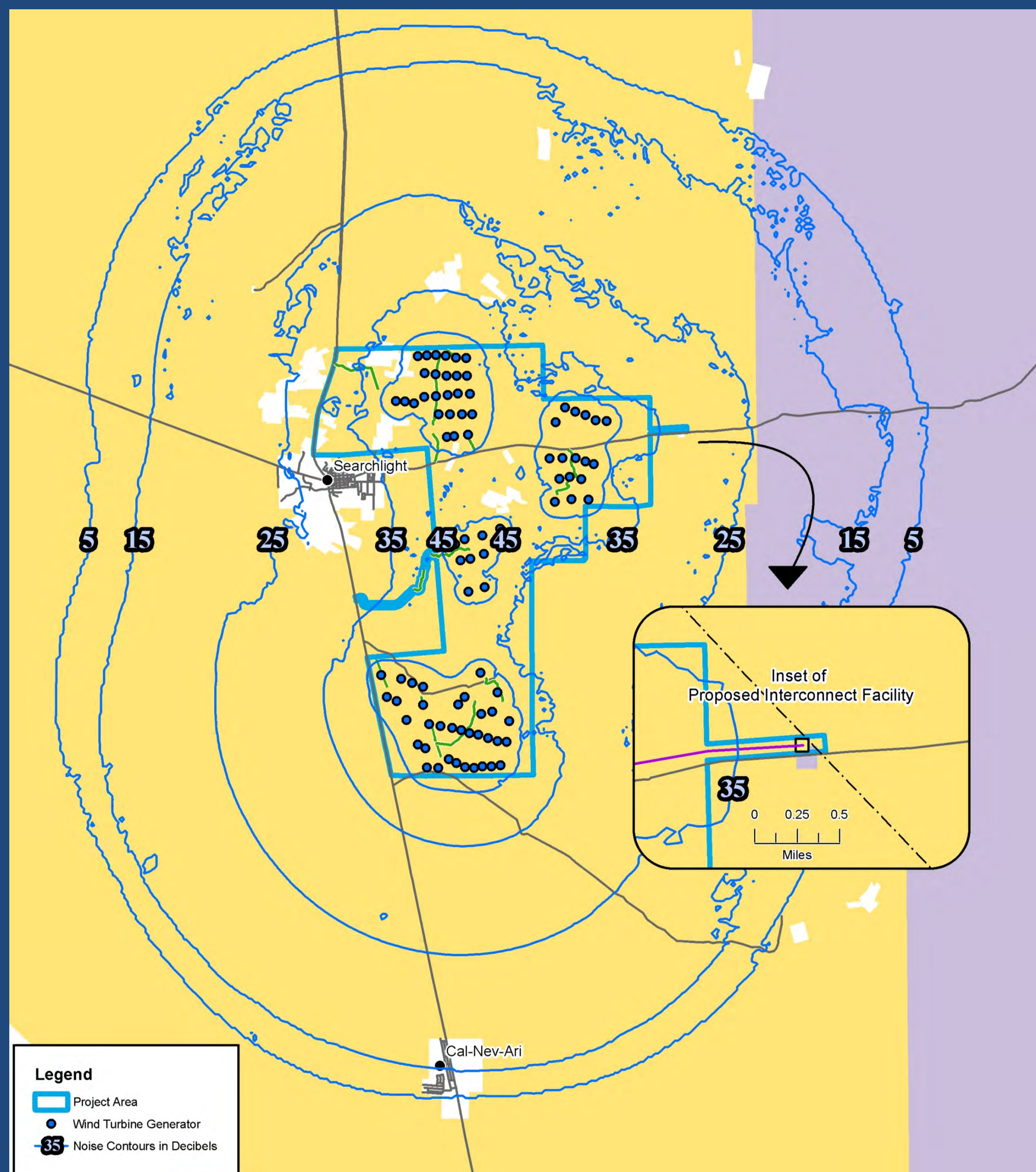
How impacts on visual resources will be mitigated

- Site disturbance will be minimized during construction.
- Structures will be painted a BLM-approved standard environmental color to help structures blend into the environment. Painting turbines will be subject to Federal Aviation Administration approval.
- Lighting on wind turbine generators would be minimized to the extent permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- New roads will be contoured into the existing topography. Asphalt and gravel colors will be selected to minimize contrast with the site's soil colors.



Impacts from Noise

- Construction Noise
- Wind Turbine Noise
- Transmission Line (Corona) Noise



How impacts from noise will be mitigated

- Construction near residences will be limited to daytime hours.
- Acoustic barriers will be installed around stationary construction noise sources to maintain a noise level not to exceed 43 dBA at nearest residences.
- Transformer equipment will use sound-dampening pads and flexible conduit couplings to reduce noise.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting

Transportation

- Construction traffic
- Damaged streets

How impacts will be mitigated

- A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared that identifies the best management practices to ensure an adequate traffic flow.
- After construction, damaged public roads will be repaired to their preconstruction condition.

Socioeconomic Benefits

- Up to 300 jobs would be created during peak construction activities.
- During construction approximately \$22 million would be spent locally (7.5% of project construction expenditures).
- Approximately \$500,000 would be spent in Clark and Mojave counties annually for operation and maintenance supplies.
- Up to 18 permanent full time jobs would be created.
- Tax revenue of \$10 - \$11 million would be paid to Clark County over the life of the project.
- Sales tax of approximately \$6 million dollars would be paid to the State of Nevada.



PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2012
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

SIGN-IN SHEET

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| Name/Organization | Address | City | State | Zip Code | Email or Phone No. | Withhold Personal Info (Yes or No) |
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| DUNCAN FISHER | PO BOX 1034 | PARKER | AZ | 85344 | (928) 216-0202 | |
| Judy Bundorf | 1800 Sterling Pt | Henderson | NV | 89012 | 702-682-9963 | |
| Wayne Bundorf | " " " " | " " " " | " " | " " | " " | |
| Thomas Casey | PO Box 1303 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | tombigfish@yahoo.com 702 297 1930 | |
| FI Morgan Inc | 2935 Kromer S Circle | Mohave Valley | AZ | 86740 | 928-346-1081 | |
| S.P.I.T. | 997 Smith Rd | Needles | CA | 92363 | 760-326-2678 | |
| Jackie Brady | 101 Civic Way | Laughlin | NV | 89029 | 702-298-0828 | |
| Deborah Murray | 101 Civic Way | Laughlin | NV | 89029 | 702 298-0828 | |
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PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2012
SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA

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| Name/Organization | Address | City | State | Zip Code | Email or Phone No. | Withhold Personal Info (Yes or No) |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jerry Cross | 505 E COTTONWOOD DR | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | JCROSS@YAHOO.COM | |
| Giorgina Hrabak | P.O. Box 1213 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | Yes |
| Reth McART | P.O. Box 1213 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | Yes |
| Jeanne Marie Mendicino | PO Box 104 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | |
| LAURA CUNNINGHAM | PO Box 70 | BEATTY | NV | 89003 | | YES |
| Russell Coon | Box 902 | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | | NO |
| Deborah Murrig | 101 Civic Way | Searchlight | NV | 89008 | 702 298-0828 | No |
| GARY KORSER | 500 S/R 164 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | |
| Janet Bishop | P.O. BOX 292 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | |
| Miko Besley | PO Box 192 | LL | IL | IL | | |
| Aime Duffin | PO Box 582 | CA NEVADA | IL | 89059 | | YES |



PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

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SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| ELLEN ROSS | 214 E. SHILOH AVE LAS VEGAS NV | LAS VEGAS | NV | 89123 | (702) 239-0625 | |
| Robbie Claborn | 157 E. Hobson | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | 702 297-9257 | |
| GILBERT GATES | 300 WATERBURY | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | 702-297-1157 | |
| David Mesenbrink | 324 S. Montana | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | 702 569 7323 | |
| Sally Coon | PO Box 902 | " | " | " | 702-373-4968 | |
| Donna Anderson | Hobson Box 14 | Nelson | NV | 89046 | 702-291-0014 | |
| C.L. Anderson | ✓ | ✓ | NV | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Jon Palmer | PO BOX 81 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | 909 957-2237 | |
| Verlie Dorte | Box 187 | SEARCHLIGHT | | 89046 | | |
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PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2012
SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Leslie COON | 475 ORLANDO ST | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | LeslieCoon74@yahoo.com | |
| TOM HILL | 570 E. ENCINATAS ST | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | | |
| DIANE Kendall | 185 E. Surprise | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | diakendall@gmail.com | |
| Richard Hill | Box 72 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | rhill1483@gmail.com | |
| Jackie Brady | 101 Civic Way | Laughlin | NV | 89029 | jab@clarkcountynv.gov | |
| Cheryl Cross | POB 702 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | Cross@hotmail.com | |
| Landy Walters | 250 Addition St P.O. Box 175 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | swalters705@gmail.com | |
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SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA**

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|-------------------|------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Paula Johansen | 526 Hauents Walk | LV | NV | 89178 | Johansen.paula@nhcai.com | No |
| Jessie Rinella | 654 Otono Dr | B City | WV | 89005 | jessie-rinella@nps.gov | Yes |
| James Eaton | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | jeaton979@gmail.com | Yes |
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|-------------------|--|-------------|-------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sylvia Beyer | PO Box 1263 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | — | yes |
| Wayne Dupont | 1800 Stamper Stamper | Henderson | NV | 89012 | | Yes |
| Thomas Casey | PO Box 1303 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | tombigfish@yahoo.com 702 297 1930 | No |
| Eleanor Skoob | 480 Diamond | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | ELLIES83@AOL.com | Yes - |
| K. Debbie | PO Box 582 | CAL-NEVADA | NV | 89039 | bkdebbie@earthlink.net | YES |
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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dana Taraglione | | | | | | |
| Kimberly McColeary | PO Box 1471 Searchlight NV 89046 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | Kmccoleary@aol.com | NO |
| XXXXXXXXXX | 1325 Dills Cove Rd | Sx/12 | NC | 28779 | - | Yes |
| John H Weaver | 4415 E ADDITION PO Box 917 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | | no |
| Thomas Mitchell | Las Vegas | | NV | 89149 | thomasmnv@yahoo.com | No |
| Jo " | " " | | NV | " | " | |
| Gunn & Beizer | Searchlight 3 Renegan Rd | | NV | | -- | Yes |
| Judy Bundorf | 1800 Jesterling Pt Ct | Henderson | NV | 89012 | jbundorf@cox.net | |
| KEVIN EMMERKAT | Box 70 BEATTY NV 89003 | BEATTY | NV | 89003 | | . |
| PAUL Stephens | OREGON CODE PO Box 1214 | SEARCHLIGHT | NV | 89046 | - | YES |



PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 23, 2012
 SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA
 Boulder City,

SIGN-IN SHEET

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|--|------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|---|------------------------------------|
| Steve Leck | 9504 Amber Valley | LAS VEGAS | NV | 89134 | | Yes |
| M.C. Craig Pyper Colorado River Comm | 555 R Washington #1100 | LV | NV | 89101 | epyper@crcc.nv.gov | NO |
| Thomas Casey | PO Box 1303 | Searchlight | NV | 89046 | tomastbigfish@yahoo.com 702 297 1930 | No |
| Sara Muffat | 333 LV Blvd S | LV | NV | 89101 | sara_muffat@rcid. state.gov | N |
| Don Bryce | 1814 Irene Dr | Px | NV | 89005 | dbryce@usbr.gov | N |
| Wayne Burdorf | 1800 Saratoga Point | HN | NV | 89012 | | Yes |
| Sams Eric | 654 Otis Dr | BC | NV | 89005 | | Yes |
| Sisse R.ella | " " | " " | " " | " " | | Yes |
| Age N Pinkertu | 1306 Manita | BC | NV | 89005 | | |
| Jim Howland | 601 Nevada Way | BC | NV | 89005 | | - |



PROPOSED SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY ²³ 22, 2012
 SEARCHLIGHT, NEVADA
 Boulder City

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| Name/Organization | Address | City | State | Zip Code | Email or Phone No. | Withhold Personal Info (Yes or No) |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ROB MRDLWKA CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY | 4266 LILY GLEN CT | NLV | NV | 89037 | RMRLWKA@BIOLOGICALDIVERSITY.ORG | N |
| Donald Moffat | 2201 Redwood ST #3003 | LV | NV | 89146 | | |
| Tory Rambur | 329 Mount Hope St Hawenau NV | H | N | 89014 | trambur@nclanvegas.com | N |
| Judy Bunker | 1800 Sterling Pt at Henderson | NV | | | | |
| ELLEN ROSS | 214 E. SHELBOURNE AVE. | | N | 89023 | 2ellen@att.net | N |
| JOHN AERMI HUNT | 8180 PARADISE ST | LV | NV | 89123 | | N |
| TIM CARLSON | 3404 CALEDONIA TORRE | LV | NV | 89102 | TIM@PBZCORP.COM | — |
| HARISH AGARWAL | 9417 Rock Garden Cr. | LV | NV | 89178 | Agarwal@clarkcountyNV.gov | |
| Bryan Moore | 601 Nevada Hwy Boulder City | Boulder City | NV | 89005 | bmoore@nps.gov | No |



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

How to make the most of this meeting

- If you wish to make a public comment during the meeting, please fill out and submit a speaker registration card. Elected officials will be asked to provide their comments first. Public commenters will be called in the order that their request cards were submitted, so we encourage you to please sign up early.
- At least one court reporter will be available during the entire meeting to record your comments privately if you do not wish to speak publicly.
- Please note that we will not answer questions during the public comment period of the meeting. Resource specialists will be available during the open house period and, if time allows, after the public comment period if you would like to ask questions.
- Please be polite and courteous during the project presentation and public comment periods of the meeting so everyone can hear what is being said.
- Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available at the sign in desk for you to review or take home with you.

How to provide written comments

Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- By placing your written comment in the comment boxes provided at this meeting
- By faxing your comment to (702) 515-5023
- By emailing your comment to blm_nv_snd_searchlightwindenergyEIS@blm.gov
- By mailing your comment to:

Gregory Helseth
Renewable Energy Projects Manager
BLM Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Comments must be postmarked by April 18, 2012 to ensure that they will be considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Comment Disclaimer: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Making effective comments

Your comments and questions are critical to the environmental review process. They will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

- Are there additional issues that need to be considered
- Is there additional information, data, or analysis which should be considered
- Is information, data, or analysis incorrect or not thoroughly considered?

Below are several tips for making effective comments:

- Be brief so the reviewer does not miss the point of your comment.
- Be specific so the reviewer clearly understands your concerns. Say “I am concerned about how this will affect...” rather than just saying “Don’t do this.”
- Know your subject so the comments are both focused and accurate
- State the facts and back them up where possible. Be sure to reveal your sources of information to help make your point.
- Be honest and realistic. Distortions of facts or misstatements may cause the reviewer to question the accuracy of your other statements. Requests that are not legal or feasible also reduce the credibility of your comments.
- Be polite. Even though you may be upset about a proposal, try to state your opinion objectively. Communication is increased by extending the same courtesies to agency staff that you expect from them

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is NEPA?

NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. All proposed actions affecting public lands or resources must be reviewed for NEPA compliance. NEPA procedures ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken.

2. What is an EIS?

"EIS" is the abbreviation for environmental impact statement, a document prepared to describe the effects of proposed activities on the environment. "Environment," in this case, is defined as the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that the "environment" considered in an EIS includes land, water, air, structures, living organisms, environmental values at the site, and social, cultural, and economic factors.

An "impact" is a change or consequence that results from an activity. Impacts can be positive or negative, or both. An EIS describes impacts, as well as ways to "mitigate" impacts. To "mitigate" means to lessen or remove negative impacts.

Therefore, an EIS, is a document that describes the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed action. It also describes impacts of alternatives, as well as plans to mitigate the impacts.

3. Why was an EIS written for the project?

This level of analysis is conducted for major federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The purpose of an EIS is to ensure that the policies and goals of NEPA are used in the ongoing programs and actions of the federal government.

4. Has the BLM made a decision on project approval?

No. NEPA and other regulations establish procedures to ensure proper consideration of environmental concerns, but they do not dictate a particular result or decision. "The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment." A decision will not be made until the NEPA process has been completed, meaning the BLM will not make a decision until completion of the Final EIS. The BLM will then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) to document the decision.

5. When will my comment be addressed?

All comments that are received or postmarked by April 18, 2012 will be considered and addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

6. Does my comment matter?

Yes. The BLM will take public comments into consideration when making their decision. You are a very important part of the environmental review process for this project.

7. Why isn't the BLM answering/addressing the public's questions/concerns in today's meeting?

The BLM is answering/addressing questions and comments during the open house session and after the public comment portion of the meeting if time allows. This is a public hearing as required under NEPA and is more formal than a public scoping meeting where the agency is seeking input on the proposal. The BLM wants to give the opportunity to make a public comment to as many people as possible. Responding to comments during this meeting would take up a lot of the meeting time and would not allow as many people to make a comment. Additionally, by responding to comments and questions in the Final EIS, BLM will have the opportunity to do additional research, if necessary, and to formulate accurate and thorough responses.



8. What alternatives were considered?

- **Proposed Action:** 96 Wind Turbine Generator Layout Alternative
- **BLM Preferred Alternative:** 87 Wind Turbine Generator Alternative
- **No Action Alternative**

9. What is the difference between the Proposed Action and the BLM-preferred alternative?

The 96 Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) Layout Alternative is the "Proposed Action," which means it was proposed by the applicant, Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC. Based on the findings in the DEIS, BLM determined the 87-WTG Layout Alternative to be the Preferred Alternative because it would have less land disturbance, less effect on sensitive biological resources, and still meet the Purpose and Need for the project. In addition, the 96 WTG Layout Alternative would exceed the threshold for particulate matter emissions during construction, even after mitigation, whereas the 87-WTG Alternative Layout would not exceed those thresholds.

10. What is wind energy?

The terms "wind energy" or "wind power" describe the process by which the wind is used to generate mechanical power or electricity. Wind turbines convert the kinetic energy of the wind into mechanical power. This mechanical power can be used for specific tasks (such as grinding grain or pumping water) or a generator can convert this mechanical power into electricity to power homes, businesses, schools, and the like.

11. How much energy will the facility produce?

According to the American Wind Energy Association, 1 megawatt (MW) of wind-generated power can supply electricity to approximately 240 to 300 households per year. If the project is approved, the Searchlight Wind Energy Project would produce enough energy to power approximately 50,000 homes.

12. Will access to the project area be restricted?

Public access would not be restricted in the project area after construction. During construction, some areas may be restricted for safety reasons. Restricted areas may include areas with exposed trenches, turbine assembly sites, construction staging areas, or other areas with potential hazards.

13. Do wind turbines pose a safety hazard?

Unlike most other generation technologies, wind turbines do not use combustion to generate electricity, and hence don't produce air emissions. The only potentially toxic or hazardous materials are relatively small amounts of lubricating oils and hydraulic and insulating fluids. Therefore, contamination of surface or ground water or soils is highly unlikely. The primary health and safety considerations are related to blade movement and the presence of industrial equipment in areas potentially accessible to the public. Like all electrical generating facilities, wind generators produce electric and magnetic fields.

**Please deposit your comment form into one of the boxes provided at the meeting or
Fold, tape top of form, and mail your comments to the address below:**

Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office
ATTN: Gregory Helseth
Renewable Energy Project Manager
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301

Place
Stamp
Here

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