



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243-4561

December 21, 2009

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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dr. Jerry Pell
Principal NEPA Document Manager
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pall:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received applications for rights-of-way for two separate, but related, proposed projects in eastern San Diego County. The first of these is for San Diego Gas and Electric Company's proposed East County (ECO) Substation near Jacumba, California. The proposed ECO substation would involve construction of a new 500/230/138 kV substation on about 58 acres of private land, a rebuild of the existing Boulevard substation, and construction of a new 13.3-mile-long 138 kV transmission between the two substations. The new 138 kV transmission line would traverse approximately 1.5 miles of public land managed by the BLM. The existing White Star communications facility located about 14 miles northwest of the proposed ECO substation would also be rebuilt as part of this project.

The second project is Iberdrola's proposed Tule Wind project in McCain Valley, California. The proposed project site is located on approximately 15,492 acres of land under multiple jurisdictions. The proposed project includes turbines, access roads, electrical collector and transmission lines, a substation, MET towers and storage yards/operations and maintenance facilities. The total number of wind turbines involved in the project could vary depending on the size of the turbines ultimately selected for the project. Iberdrola proposes to produce a total of 200 megawatts and to deliver them via a new transmission line that would connect to the proposed ECO substation at the rebuilt Boulevard substation.


The BLM and the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are planning to jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that evaluates both the proposed ECO Substation and, as a connected action, the proposed Tule Wind project. Upon completion of the joint EIR/EIS, the BLM will render two decisions, one for each of the proposed projects, and will document these in two distinct Records of Decision.

The EIR/EIS for the proposed proposed ECO Substation and Tule Wind project will also address the proposed Energia Sierra Juarez Transmission Line as a connected action. As you know, the

Department of Energy is currently evaluating the Presidential permit application for this proposed gen-tie between the La Rumorosa Wind Project in Mexico and the proposed ECO substation. For this reason, and in accordance with the regulations at 40 CFR 1501.6, we are writing to request you to participate in environmental review process for these projects as a Cooperating Agency because your agency either has jurisdiction by law, special expertise, or both.

Thank you for your careful and prompt consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Thomas Zale at (760) 337-4420.

Sincerely,



Daniel Steward
Acting Field Manager

Enclosures – Maps of proposed ECO substation and Tule Wind project