

SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY, LLC Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC Facility is the second wind energy project ever approved for construction on public lands in Nevada.



Photo: Visual simulation from Cotton Wood Cove Road, mile marker 4

VITALS :

Location: Searchlight, NV, 60 miles southeast of Las Vegas

Technology: 87 2.3-megawatt (MW) Siemens wind turbines

Electricity production capacity: 200 MW

Company: Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC (Duke Energy Systems)

BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Create approximately 275 construction jobs and up to 15 permanent operation jobs.
- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 70,000 homes (Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC is in negotiations for a power purchase agreement).
- ✓ Be located on approximately 9,300 acres of land managed by the BLM in Clark County, Nevada. The BLM oversees 2.7 million acres of land in Clark County, including more than 1.5 million managed for conservation.
- ✓ Generate an estimated \$18.6 million in tax revenue from property and sales tax for local public agencies over the life of the project.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS AND MITIGATION: The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community, and other interested stakeholders to advance an environmentally sound project.

- ✓ **Smaller footprint:** The BLM worked with Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC to design the project footprint to occupy only 152 to 160 acres of total disturbance.

- ✓ **Visual Resource Management:** BLM will require the use of soil and rock stain on restored areas of the Western Area Substation to reduce the visible color contrast between bare soil and vegetation.
- ✓ **Protecting Wildlife:** Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC worked closely with the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife to develop an innovative Avian and Bat Protection Plan to implement robust monitoring and conservation measures that will avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to bat and avian species.
- ✓ **Protecting Cultural Resources:** BLM entered into a Programmatic Agreement with the Nevada State Historical Preservation office. In this agreement the applicant will widen the search for traditional cultural properties from 2 miles to 8 miles. This agreement also includes an ethnographic study of the region and a Kiosk for historic information about mining in the area.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process.

THE BIG PICTURE: Secretary Salazar established a Department-wide goal to complete the environmental reviews for 10,000 MW of renewable energy by 2012. The Department surpassed this goal and, to date, has approved more than 11,500 MW on public lands. The Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC project is one of the initiatives that will help bring Nevada and this nation one step closer to a clean energy economy.