
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

Mr. Jeffrey Durocher
Wind Permitting Manager
Iberdrola Renewables
1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 700
Portland, OR 97209
(sent via email: Jeffrey.Durocher@iberdrolausa.com)

April 7, 2010

Subject: Tule Wind Project - Data Request No. 2

Dear Mr. Durocher:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has identified additional information required in support of the East County Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects EIR/EIS analysis. Please provide requested information in Attachment A regarding clarifying information presented in PEA Section 3.2 Aesthetics/Visual Resources, the Visual Resources Report, and project graphics in support of the aesthetics/visual resources section. We would appreciate your response to this data request no later than April 21, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact me at 415.355.5580 or aei@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Iain Fisher
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Cc: Greg Thomsen, BLM (GThomsen@blm.gov)
Thomas Zale, BLM (Thomas_Zale@blm.gov)
Jeffery Childers, BLM (Jeffery_Childers@blm.gov)
Shannon D'Agostino, HDR (Shannon.D'Agostino@hdrinc.com)

PEA Section 3.2 Aesthetics/Visual Resources

1. Text (page 3.2-45) states that as a result of the Tule Wind Project, visual impacts to county lands in the area of Ribbonwood Road north of I-8 would be significant and unmitigable however, no photos from this location are provided to substantiate this statement. Existing and simulated photos from this identified critical viewpoint are not provided in either the PEA Section 3.2 (Aesthetics/Visual Resources) or in the Visual Resources Report. Please provide an existing conditions photo and a visual simulation photo depicting viewable project components from this critical viewpoint in jpeg format.
2. PEA Section 3.2.8, regarding project alternatives, please provide simulations showing differences between the proposed project and Alternatives 2 and 3 for the 138kV line from Ribbonwood Road, Old Highway 80 or I-8, including the O&M/Substation facility co-located on Rough Acres Ranch if visible from a critical viewpoint.

Visual Resources Report

3. Please provide the following information: Table of Contents, including List of Figures, List of References, List of Agencies and Persons Consulted, and date of report. Also, was the BLM consulted during selection of KOPs/critical viewpoints?
4. Text (page 13) states that the BLM's Visual Contrast Rating System was used to determine the potential visual impacts of the proposed facilities on the existing environment and that the analysis for the Visual Resources Study was documented using visual contrast rating worksheets. Please provide the referenced Visual Contrast Rating Worksheets.
5. For each KOP, describe specifically: a) where the KOP is located; b) which agency plans/policies apply; c) what project features will be seen (e.g. number of turbines, miles of access roads, collector system, etc.); d) what distance zone each of the project features will be viewed from; e) the visual sensitivity of the seen landscape given view exposure and viewing distances and angles. Also, please make sure reference to KOPs in the text and in photo descriptions are consistent.
6. For each KOP explain whether a given KOP will/will not be consistent with each of the applicable agency plans and policies and the reasons why.

Project Graphics/Photos in Support of PEA Section 3.2 Aesthetics and Visual Resources and in support of the Visual Resources Study

7. Please provide all maps/graphics referenced in PEA Section 3.2 and included in Visual Resources Study in jpeg format. Jpegs of some photo simulations have been provided, but the existing conditions photos are missing. Please reference the existing photographs and simulations by KOP name/number and name the jpeg files accordingly. In their current state, the jpegs are titled differently than the Visual Report KOP map titles, and none have figure numbers. In addition to existing photos and simulated photos from Ribbonwood Road north of I-8 (item 1 above), please provide the following existing conditions photos in jpeg format:

- I-8 at McCain Valley Road (page 19 of Visual Resource Study)
- Boulevard Substation Tie-In (page 20 of Visual Resources Study)
- McCain Valley Road (page 21 of the Visual Resources Study)
- McCain Valley Road at Rough Acres Ranch (page 22 of the Visual Resources Study)
- McCain Valley Road at Lark Canyon OHV Area and Campground (page 23 of the Visual Resources Study)
- McCain Valley Road at Carrizo Gorge (page 24 of the Visual Resources Study)
- Visual Impact Map (page 25 of the Visual Resources Study).