

DOCKETED

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Genesis Solar Energy Project

Bird and Bat Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting Notes

Date: March 26, 2015

Host: California Energy Commission, TAG Co-Chair; meeting was conducted via conference call

TAG Members Present:

Anwar Ali, Ph.D., Co-Chair, California Energy Commission (CEC)
Amy Fesnock, Co-Chair, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Thomas Dietsch, Ph.D., USFWS
Magdalena Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Winifred Perkins, NextEra
Luke Goguts, NextEra

Other Staff and Invited Guests Present:

Carol Watson, CEC
Kim Marsden, BLM
Jody Fraser, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Shankar Sharma, Ph.D., CDFW
Eric Knight, CEC
Kenneth Stein, NextEra
Pam Bullard, NextEra
Wally Erickson, WEST
Tracey Johnson, Ph.D., WEST
Paul Rabie, WEST

1. Procedural Issues

Topics discussed included the exploring the need for alternate TAG members, who should attend the TAG meetings, meetings schedules and meeting location.

- **TAG meeting attendees:**
 - The meeting discussed who needs to attend TAG meetings. According to the BBCS, one permanent member from CEC, BLM, CDFW, and USFWS and two members from NextEra shall be represented in the TAG.
 - Consultant and guests shall be invited as needed according to the guidelines of the BBCS.
 - CEC recommended that while alternate members can attend the meetings, only permanent members shall participate in the discussions during the meetings and maintain the one vote rule i.e. only permanent members are allowed to vote.
 - NextEra requested to allow more NextEra personnel to attend the TAG meetings depending on the topics discussed to be updated on the monitoring process.

- USFWS and CDFW also requested the participation of their alternate members. USFWS requested to make meetings an open process allowing participation of USFWS representatives.
- To accommodate these requests CEC suggested use of WebEx to allow more people to listen-in while limiting participation of attendees.
- No consensus was reached on this issue.
- Alternate TAG members: Discussed the possibility of assigning alternate TAG members. Parties agreed to nominate alternate members and parties identified the following alternate members:
 - Carol Watson, CEC
 - Kim Marsden, BLM
 - Jody Fraser, USFWS
 - Shankar Sharma, Ph.D., CDFW
- Meeting schedules: Four quarterly meetings preferably timed when the seasonal reports are available. The TAC co-chairs could call for additional meeting if warranted.
- Meeting Locations: No agreement on locations of TAG meetings.

2. Overview of Spring 2015 Post-construction Monitoring:

Dr. Tracey Johnson, of WEST Inc., provided an overview of BBCS implementation:

- Sampling design:
 - Unit 1: consists of 8 blocks with 2 sampling units each consisting of 8 rows of SCA (total of 16 sampling units). Unit 2: composed of 9 blocks (2 of which are smaller blocks; the smallest block with one sampling unit) for a total of 19 sampling units.
- Monitoring plan include search of:
 - Power blocks and ACC Units: Walking around the perimeters of power blocks and searching underneath of ACC units for both Units 1 and 2. USFWS requested that search to be conducted inside the bower lock areas and above ACC units because lots of mortalities usually occur above these areas. NextEra indicated that biologists would not be authorized to enter these areas and that only accessible areas should be searched due to safety concerns. CDFW indicated the that ACC units posed danger to the bats at Ivanpah Solar and that bats were observed at Genesis during construction and requested to pay more attention to the ACC areas for mortalities.
 - Perimeter fencing monitoring: Presented maps for proposed inside and outside fence monitoring locations. Different portions of fence were proposed for either side of the fence for Units 1 and 2. Combination of inside and outside monitoring comprising the total length of the perimeter fence (considered by WEST100% fence monitoring). There were concerns that this approach does not represent a good sampling of the fence and the proposed samples are non-random whereas WEST indicated that samples were large enough.
 - Conducting the monitoring by driving inside the perimeter fence at 5 mph was approved by BLM and CEC. Concerns were raised during the meeting that the feather spots on the outside of the perimeter would not be visible from inside.

- It was agreed that approach would be reevaluated based on the results of seasonal monitoring
- Gen-Tie and Distribution Transmission Lines: Pedestrian surveys to be conducted on 300 meter segments representing the 25% of the total length of each line)
- Monitoring Schedule:
 - Carcass Searches:
 - Clearance survey was conducted between on March 5 and 7, 2015.
 - Spring season monitoring started on March 11, 2015.
 - Carcass efficiency trials began on March 25, 2015. Two trials at along gen-tie line (with half total sample size for each) and three trials in solar troughs.
- Clearance Survey Results:
 - One unknown carcass (medium to large size) was found on the nets north evaporation pond; and one depredated and scavenged Mourning Dove at the Gen-Tie line.
- Update on Spring Post-construction Monitoring Results up to March 26, 2015:
 - Unit1: One European starling at the power block, one unknown species at the SCA's (photographs were taken; waiting on the State Scientific Collection Permit is issued for full identification), and unknown feather spot at the inner perimeter of the eastern fence.
 - USFWS requested that the "unknowns" be identified to the Genus level.
- Evaporation Pond monitoring: USFWS requested weekly monitoring of the evaporation ponds. It was indicated that the ponds would be monitored according to the BIO-21. With regard to monitoring of the netting, Luke has indicated that although it is a not a requirement, nettings monitoring is done daily as part of their facilities inspection.

3. Data Availability

- Seasonal monitoring data: NetxEra and WEST shall have raw data and other data readily available to CEC, BLM, USFWS and CDFW.

4. Recommendations for review of the seasonal reports:

The meeting discussed the schedule for submittal of the spring season summary report and provided the following recommendations:

- WEST and NextEra to provide a draft seasonal reports and/or presentations at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled seasonal monitoring.
- TAG members provide comments on the report and discuss their comments on the draft report at the next quarterly TAG meeting.
- TAG members recommend changes to reports if necessary. West to prepare a final report.
- The TAG members review the final report and approve it. The approved final seasonal report will be published at the project website the California Energy Commission.

5. Other issues:

- Request was made to include that any clumped feathers with flesh attached must be counted as mortality.
- It was agreed that the number of size groups used for searcher efficiency and carcass persistence trials would be re-visited based on the results of the future seasonal monitoring at Desert Sunlight and Genesis.

6. Schedule for Next TAG meeting: July 2015