



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXA0-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability – Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Fria Grid Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project), Maricopa County, Arizona

Dear Interested Party:

The United States (U.S.) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a final EA describing the potential environmental effects of the proposed interconnection of the Project to the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS) at the Westwing Substation, operated by the Arizona Public Service. Reclamation is part owner of the NSTS, and all interconnection requests for the NSTS that result in a Large Generator Interconnection Agreement must be approved by the Regional Director of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Basin.

Reclamation initially solicited input from the public on the proposed action to assist in identifying key issues and defining the scope of the action and environmental analysis. On September 9, 2024, scoping letters were sent to potentially interested parties, including neighboring property owners, Native American tribes, local, state, and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. No comments were received.

A draft EA was released on June 10, 2025, that presented the proposed project, existing conditions in the project area, and the environmental effects that would be reasonably expected from implementing the Proposed Action and No Action alternative. A Notice of Availability was sent to interested parties (including neighboring property owners within 0.25 miles of the Project); Native American tribes; local, state, and federal agencies; and non-governmental organizations contacted during the public scoping process. Information was also made available on the Reclamation website. Three comment letters were received resulting in minor, editorial changes to the final EA.

Reclamation has determined that its proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is recorded in a FONSI. The final EA and FONSI can be viewed at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

To obtain paper copies of the final EA and FONSI, or for any additional information regarding this project, please contact Mr. Dominic Graziani, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office, at (623) 773-6250 or via email at dgraziani@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

Acting Alexander B. Smith
For Area Manager