



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001  
AUG 25 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability – Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project, Coconino County, Arizona (Action by 15 days from the date of this letter)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a draft EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposal by 8 Minute Energy (8ME) and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to construct, operate, and maintain the APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project (Project) wholly located on the Navajo Nation near Page, Arizona. The Project would interconnect the proposed Red Antelope Solar Project, also located with the Navajo Nation (Nation), to the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) Switchyard. 8ME has filed an interconnection request with APS at the NGS Switchyard for the solar project. The NTUA would construct and operate the Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project, which would include three approximately 12-mile 500 kV gen-tie lines that will deliver the energy to the point of interconnection. The NGS Switchyard is part of the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS), which is partially owned by the federal government. Reclamation is responsible for the federal interest in the NSTS and must approve the interconnect into the NGS Switchyard.

The draft EA considers the impacts of Reclamation's approval of the interconnection at the NGS Switchyard as well as impacts from the gen-tie lines. The draft EA is available for public review and comment on the Phoenix Area Office web site at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>. A paper copy or compact disc of the draft EA can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (480) 216-9914 or via email at [nolsker@usbr.gov](mailto:nolsker@usbr.gov).

Comments are due within 15 days of the date stamp on this memorandum. All comments should be submitted to Attn: APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie, 2514 Tournament Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108 or via email to [rschroeder@envalue.us](mailto:rschroeder@envalue.us).

If you have questions, or would like to discuss the project, please contact Ms. Nichole Olsker, Environmental Protection Specialist, via email at [nolsker@usbr.gov](mailto:nolsker@usbr.gov) or by calling (480) 216-9914.

By law, the names and addresses of those providing comments are available for public review. However, individuals may request that their personal identifying information be withheld from

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ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. These requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunication relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point of contact in the United States.

Sincerely,

DARION  
MAYHORN

Digitally signed by  
DARION MAYHORN  
Date: 2022.08.22  
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Darion T. Mayhorn  
Acting Area Manager