



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001
OCT 06 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXAO-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability (NOA) – Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the Proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project, Coconino County, Arizona

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a Final EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposal by 302PN 8me LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of 8 Minute Energy, and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to construct, operate, maintain, and eventually decommission the APS Queue 255 Interconnection and Gen-Tie Project (Project), located on the Navajo Nation near Page, Arizona. The Project would interconnect the proposed Red Antelope Solar Project, also located with the Navajo Nation, to the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) Switchyard.

The Final EA considers the impacts of Reclamation's approval of the interconnection at the NGS Switchyard as well as impacts from the gen-tie lines. Reclamation has determined that the proposed project 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>. A paper copy or compact disc can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (480) 216-9914 or via email at nolsker@usbr.gov.

Reclamation initially solicited input from the public on the proposed project to assist in identifying key issues and defining the scope of the EA. On March 11, 2022, Reclamation conducted scoping via mail (to 50 potentially interested agencies, organizations, tribes, and neighbors to the Proposed Action), newspaper notices (in both the Navajo Times and Lake Powell Chronicle), and internet publication. Within the 15-day scoping period, Reclamation received one comment from the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office indicating that they did not have jurisdiction over the Project.

Following scoping, Reclamation issued a Draft EA 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 the No Action Alternative. The Draft EA was released on August 25, 2022, initiating a 15-day public comment period. Reclamation mailed the Notice of Availability letters to 50 participating agencies, organizations, tribes, and neighbors

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

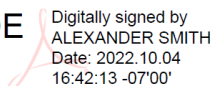
to the Proposed Action. The NOA and Draft EA were also advertised in local newspapers and on Reclamation's website. During the 15-day comment period, no comments were received.

For additional information regarding this project, please contact Ms. Nichole Olsker, Environmental Protection Specialist, via email at nolsker@usbr.gov or by calling (480) 216-9914.

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Sincerely,

ALEXANDE
R SMITH



Digitally signed by
ALEXANDER SMITH
Date: 2022.10.04
16:42:13 -07'00'

Alexander Smith
Acting Area Manager