



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001  
OCT 13, 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.13

## Memorandum

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers  
Area Manager

**LESLIE MEYERS**

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MEYERS  
Date: 2021.10.08 08:37:04 -0700'

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility and the Interconnection of its Electrical Transmission System to the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS) at the 230-kilovolt (kV) Westwing Substation in Peoria, Maricopa County, Arizona

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as a cooperating agency, prepared an EA for the proposed construction of a BESS facility in Peoria, Arizona, and interconnection to the electrical transmission system. The nearest available transmission line for a large generator interconnection is the NSTS 230-kV Transmission Line at Westwing Substation, located immediately south of the proposed BESS facility. This NSTS 230-kV line was built by Reclamation and is operated by Arizona Public Service (APS). Reclamation has adopted the EA and prepared a separate FONSI for Reclamation actions regarding the proposed action. Reclamation has determined that the proposed project does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The final EA and FONSI can be viewed at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/> and paper copies are also available upon request.

WAPA initiated the public scoping period on September 25, 2019 with a letter to potentially interested parties, including adjacent landowners, public interest groups, local governments, tribes, and state and Federal agencies. WAPA also created a website specifically for the project where interested parties could access current information about the proposed action and the environmental review process. Comments were accepted on the project until October 25, 2019. No public scoping meetings were held. A total of 18 comments were received during scoping concerning a range of environmental and impacts analysis issues. WAPA addressed the scoping comments in appropriate sections in the EA as applicable.

A Draft EA was released on June 23, 2021, initiating a 30-day public comment period which concluded on July 23, 2021. The Draft EA was made available on WAPA's Project website and

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ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

postcard notices were sent to approximately 700 landowners in the Project area to inform them of its availability. Reclamation provided notice of the Draft EA and comment period on the Phoenix Area Office website, with a link to WAPA's Project website where comments could be submitted. Comments were accepted via email, postal mail, and telephone. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period, and no updates or additional analysis were required to the Proposed Action.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action will not significantly impact the environment, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Kelly Bergin, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (623) 773-6422 or via email at [kbergin@usbr.gov](mailto:kbergin@usbr.gov).

WBR: KBergin:SHolloway:09/22/2021:Ext.6422

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