

Moapa Solar Energy Center Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The Moapa Solar Energy Center Project is the second utility-scale solar project approved on tribal trust land in the country.

VITALS

Location: Moapa River Indian Reservation
Clark County, Nevada

Technology: Photovoltaic (PV)

Electricity production capacity: 200 megawatts

Company: Moapa Solar LLC



FEDERAL ACTIONS

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will approve a solar energy ground lease and associated agreements between Moapa Solar LLC and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Tribe), including associated rights-of-ways (ROWs) and easements for ancillary facilities on tribal land.
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will approve ROWs for an access road and transmission lines on BLM-managed lands as well as portions of a water pipeline and transmission lines within a BLM-managed utility corridor within the Reservation.

BY THE NUMBERS - The project is expected to:

- Generate enough electricity to power approximately 60,000 homes
- Create up to 500 jobs during peak construction and up to 10 permanent jobs
- Be built on approximately 850 acres of tribal land, about one percent of Tribe's 71,954 acres which are held in trust by the U.S. government
- Include a 230-kilovolt transmission line to the Harry Allen Substation

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE TRIBE

- The project will generate lease income and revenue for the tribe over the 50-year term.
- The project will create new jobs and employment opportunities for Tribal members
- The project will develop sustainable renewable resources

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BIA has worked closely with federal, state, tribal and local partners, members of the conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance an environmentally responsible project.

- **Early Planning:** The project has several plans in place to reduce or minimize impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife, including a Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan, Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy, Raven Control Plan, Restoration and Revegetation Plan, and a Weed Management Plan.

- Smart Design: Electric transmission poles will be designed to be avian safe in accordance with the most recent technology; a post-construction study will be implemented to monitor and report possible bird strikes during project operation.
- Monitoring: Qualified biologists will monitor construction; all desert tortoises will be monitored in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) standards.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Moapa Solar Energy Center Project will advance tribal economic competitiveness and job creation, serve as an example of tribal energy self-sufficiency and sustainability, and encourage further renewable energy projects on tribal trust land. It is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. As of May 7, 2014, the Department of Interior has approved 29 solar projects, 11 wind projects, and 12 geothermal projects that, combined, will generate more than 14,000 megawatts, power up to 4.8 million homes and generate thousands of jobs. The State of Nevada is working to achieve a 25% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2025.