



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

October 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Vidal Solar Interconnection Project (DOE/EA-2170)

Dear Interested Party:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) invites you to review and comment on the *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Vidal Solar Interconnection Project*. The document tracking number is DOE/EA-2170. The Project is located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Vidal, an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County that is located just east of U.S. Route 95, just north of the Riverside County border, and just west of the Colorado River. The Vidal Energy Project site encompasses 1,090 acres within 23 privately-owned parcels and WAPA's Proposed Action would take place within the southeastern corner of the solar Project footprint. WAPA prepared the Draft EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 process, Endangered Species Act Section 7 process, and Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain management and 11990 – Protection of Wetlands.

The Draft EA can be viewed at the project website:

<https://www.wapa.gov/transmission/transmission-environmental-review-nepa/vidal-solar/>.

Comments can be emailed to rhopkins@wapa.gov or submitted in writing to the following address:

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region
ATTN: Rebecca Hopkins (CD&E), NEPA Document Manager
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005

Comments will be accepted from 10/07/2024 to 11/06/24 WAPA will respond to substantive comments in the final EA.

If you need alternative accommodations to obtain copies of the document or have questions about the environmental review process, please contact me at (470) 922-1736.

Thank you for your interest in this Project. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hopkins
Environmental Project Manager
Civil Design & Engineering, Inc.