



New study on Ivanpah solar project released

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A new environmental study on BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah solar project is available for public comment.

The Bureau of Land Management is asking for public input on extra information added to its draft environmental impact report on BrightSource Energy's 400 megawatt Ivanpah Solar Electric Generation System near the California-Nevada border. The BLM is analyzing the environmental impacts of scaling the project back by 12 percent and moving it closer to Interstate 15. Public comment ends May 31.

In response to concerns over impacts to the California desert tortoise, BrightSource energy decided in February to reduce its project size from 4,000 acres to about 3,600 acres, said Keely Wachs, BrightSource spokesman. The amount of electricity the project is expected to produce has also decreased to 392 megawatts from 440.

The Sierra Club asked the BLM to consider moving the project closer to Interstate 15, which could contain lower quality tortoise habitat. However, BLM officials determined that there is no environmental benefit to move the project, according to the environmental document.

The supplemental draft environmental impact statement is available at www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/needles/nefo_nepa.html. For more information, call Tom Hurshman, BLM project manager, at 970-240-5345.

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