



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001  
June 30, 2025

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability – Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) Queue 317 Interconnection for the Painted Desert Power Project (Project), in Coconino County, Arizona (Action by 30 days from the date of this letter)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a draft EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Project. Painted Desert Power, LLC (PDP) is proposing to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Project, a 750-megawatt photovoltaic solar generating and battery energy storage system with a generation intertie (gen-tie) that would connect the Project to the existing Moenkopi Switchyard. The Project is located approximately 4-miles east of the unincorporated town of Cameron, Arizona, within the Cameron and Coalmine Canyon Chapters of the Navajo Nation.

PDP has filed an interconnection request with APS at the Moenkopi Switchyard which is a part of the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS) and is partially owned by the federal government. Reclamation is responsible for the federal interest in the NSTS and must approve the interconnection into the Moenkopi Switchyard. PDP has also filed a right-of-way (ROW) application with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Project gen-tie to interconnect the Project to the Moenkopi Switchyard via a 4.6-mile 500 kilovolt gen-tie line, and to improve the existing BIA Route 6730 to the Project solar generation site. A short portion of the gen-tie ROW crosses lands that Congress excluded (herein referred to as excluded lands) from the Reservation for water-power and power-site purposes but provided the Navajo Nation an exclusive right to occupy and use the excluded lands. Because of the excluded land status, either the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must issue a separate ROW across these excluded lands, or the BIA must modify its overall gen-tie ROW to account for the unique status of these excluded lands.

The draft EA considers the potential impacts of Reclamation, BIA, and BLM's proposed actions and is available for public review and comment on the Phoenix Area Office web site at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>. A paper copy of the draft EA can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (623) 773-6422 or via email at [erader@usbr.gov](mailto:erader@usbr.gov).

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INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

Comments are due within 30 days of the date at the top of this letter. All comments should be submitted to Attn: Mike Fitzgerald, Barr Engineering Co., 776 East 2nd Avenue, Durango, Colorado 81301, or via email to [fitz@barr.com](mailto:fitz@barr.com). By law, the names and addresses of those providing comments are available for public review. However, individuals may request that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. These requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions, or would like to discuss the project, please contact Ms. Evi Rader, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (623) 773-6422 or via email at [erader@usbr.gov](mailto:erader@usbr.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunication relay services.

Sincerely,

SEAN  
HEATH

Digitally signed by SEAN  
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Date: 2025.06.26  
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Acting  
For Alexander B. Smith  
Area Manager