



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Western Region  
2600 N. Central Avenue, Fourth Floor Mailroom  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Aiya Solar Project, Clark County, NV

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

**ACTION:** Notice

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**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as Lead Agency, with the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Tribe), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and US Fish and Wildlife Service as cooperating agencies, intend to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Aiya Solar Project located on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, Clark County, Nevada. This notice also announces public scoping meetings-one at the Moapa River Indian Reservation and one at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office-to identify potential issues and content for inclusion in the EIS.

**DATES:** In order to be fully considered at this stage of the environmental review process, written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must be delivered to the address(es) provided below by January 30, 2015. The public scoping meeting on the Moapa River Indian Reservation will be held on January 14, 2015 and the public scoping meeting at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office will be held on January 15, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail, e-mail, hand carry, telephone, or telefax written comments to either Mr. Chip Lewis, Acting Regional Environmental Protection Officer, BIA Western Regional Office Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Center Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050; telephone: (602) 379-6782; fax (602) 379-3833; email [chip.lewis@bia.gov](mailto:chip.lewis@bia.gov); or Mr. Paul Schlafly, Natural Resource Officer, BIA Southern Paiute Agency, 180 N. 200 E., Suite 111 or P.O. Box 720, St. George, UT 84771; telephone: (435) 674-9720; fax: (435) 674-9714; email: [paul.schlafly@bia.gov](mailto:paul.schlafly@bia.gov). Please include your name, return address and the caption "EIS Scoping Comments, Aiya Solar Project," on the first page of your written comments. Individual respondents may request confidentiality; however, anonymous comments will not be considered.

Both public meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The January 14<sup>th</sup> public scoping meeting will be held in the Tribal Hall on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, 1 Lincoln Street, Moapa, NV 89025. The January 15<sup>th</sup> public scoping meeting will be held in the conference room of the BLM Southern Nevada District Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV 89130. Each meeting is anticipated to last approximately two hours, with light refreshments provided.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed Federal action, taken under 25 U.S.C. 415, is the BIA approval of a solar energy ground lease for approximately 1,000 acres and associated agreements entered into by the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians with Aiya Solar Project, LLC for the construction and operation of a 100 megawatt (MW) solar project using photovoltaic (PV) technology. The solar project would be located entirely on Moapa tribal lands. A short transmission line associated with the Project will be located on Federal lands administered and managed by the BLM. The EIS will provide a framework for the BIA and the BLM to make determinations and take their respective federal actions. The federal action for the BIA would be to approve or deny a lease and any associated rights-of-way (ROW) on tribal lands for the proposed solar facility, and for the BLM to approve or deny grants of ROW for the proposed transmission line. The EPA may adopt the documentation to make decisions under their authority and the Moapa Band may also use the EIS to make decisions under their Tribal Environmental Policy Ordinance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the document for consistency with the Endangered Species Act, as amended and other implementing acts.

**AUTHORITY:** This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and Section 46.305 of the Department of Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, by part 209 of the Departmental Manual.

Mr. Bryan Bowker  
Director, Western Region  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 12/22/14