

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Decision Memorandum

**Playa Solar Tortoise Fence Extension
DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2015-0115-DNA
N-93306-03**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
702-515-5000



Table of Contents

1. Decision Memo	1
1.1. Introduction	1
1.1.1. Proposed Action	1
1.2. NEPA Documentation	1
1.2.1. Summary of NEPA	1
1.2.2. Summary of DNA Findings	2
1.3. Decision	2
1.4. Authorizing Official:	2

Chapter 1. Decision Memo

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Proposed Action

Invenergy Fence. This segment of fence crosses approximately 0.73-mile of public land administered by the BLM. The northern end would connect to the Highway 93 desert tortoise fence segment identified in the Highway 93 Fence EA (March 2015) and the southern end would connect to the proposed Playa Solar Project desert tortoise fence in the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (see Playa Solar Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence Project Plan of Development [POD], July 2015). This segment of desert tortoise fence was evaluated as part of the EA for the Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project (June 2015) proposed by Invenergy. In addition, that Project went through Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation with the USFWS and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer.

NV Energy Fence. This fence consists of two short segments of desert tortoise fence (segment 1A approximately 135-feet in length and segment 1B approximately 535-feet in length). Section A connects the Playa Solar tortoise fence to the existing NV Energy Harry Allen Substation tortoise fence. Section B connects the substation tortoise fence to the existing NV Energy Harry Allen Generating Station tortoise fence. Both sections are located on public land administered by the BLM. Approval by Nevada Energy would be required for the two sections because of their connection to the substation fence. If Playa Solar cannot get approval from NV Energy, a 0.74-mile tortoise fence (Option 2) would be constructed around the substation. The southern end would connect to the proposed Playa Solar Project desert tortoise fence and the northern end would connect to the Harry Allen Generating Station tortoise fence. One or more tortoise guards may be required to maintain access along NV Energy's several transmission line service roads crossed by the fence (see Playa Solar Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence Project Plan of Development [POD], July 2015). The NV Energy desert tortoise fencing was evaluated as part of the EA for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Center (June 2015) proposed by NV Energy. In addition, that Project went through ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS and the NHPA Section 106 consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer.

1.2. NEPA Documentation

1.2.1. Summary of NEPA

The construction of the tortoise fence was analyzed in the following NEPA documents as proposed by the individual applicants. First Solar LLC has elected to build portions of the tortoise fence and described in DNA #DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2015-0115 to facilitate their overall project construction schedule.

Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0125-EA, Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project (Parcel 1); December 2014.
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0126-EA, Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project (Parcels 5 and 5); December 2014.
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0127-EA, Playa Solar Project (Parcels 2, 3 & 4); December 2014.

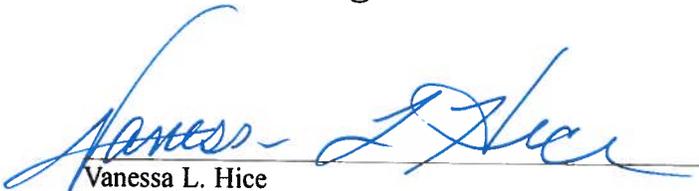
1.2.2. Summary of DNA Findings

The subject desert tortoise fence segments are features of the Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project (see section 2.2.5.5 of the Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project EA) and the Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project (see section 2.2.5.5 of the Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project EA). The geographic areas and resources conditions addressed in the analysis for the Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project and Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project EAs fully cover the subject desert tortoise fence segments.

1.3. Decision

Based on information in the DNA DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2015-0115 and consultation with my staff, I am approving the proposed action as it is in conformation with NEPA documents DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0125 & DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0126 and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

1.4. Authorizing Official:



Vanessa L. Hice

Assistant Field Manager Division of Lands

8/24/15
Date