

Peer Review of Solar at the Central Arizona Project (CAP) White Paper

Date: July 6, 2016

Originating Office: Research and Development Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mail Code 08-10000, PO Box 25007, Denver CO 80225

Reclamation Roles:

Director or Delegated Manager: Levi Brekke, Chief, Research and Development Office, Bureau of Reclamation

Peer Review Lead: Erin Foraker, Renewable Energy Research Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation

Subject and Purpose: Reclamation's Research and Development Office funded a project in conjunction with its Phoenix Area Office to write a white paper that examines and identifies the issues on placing solar over the Central Arizona Project canal systems. This study was to inform Reclamation of the potential impacts to its operation and maintenance (O&M) of the canal system, cost impacts on O&M, benefits, and other areas of concern or issues of interest in this area. The Phoenix Area Office planning and engineering groups jointly developed the white paper based on Reclamation's authorities to operate and maintain this canal system and features. This was not intended to be a full appraisal-level investigation nor a feasibility level study.

The purpose of this Peer Review Plan is to facilitate stakeholder and expert review of the white paper to enhance its content.

Impact of Dissemination: The white paper is not considered influential or highly influential scientific information as defined by Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and the Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14 Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments. The nexus of this determination is that this document may provide a clearer understanding of the concerns associated with this topic, however there is no known decision or policy that will be affected by its dissemination. This peer review is considered discretionary based upon Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14.

Peer Review Scope: This discretionary peer review is focused on the white paper's summary and analysis of available information supported by O&M experience, canal design, and potential research needs. Peer reviewers are asked to provide responses relative to the questions below:

Question 1. Based on your experience, does the white paper accurately reflect canal owner or operator experience for placing a structure over the canal or along its right of way? Does the white paper accurately reflect impacts to O&M including inspections, canal access, and structural integrity?

Question 2. What (if any) other information might have been considered to support the analysis summarized in the white paper?

Question 3. Are there other important research needs associated with solar over canals or along its rights of way that were not identified in this report?

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers: The review will take place on Reclamation's Peer Review Agenda website. Public, expert, and stakeholder review will occur concurrently through targeted invitations from Reclamation. Canal owners and operators, engineers, and other relevant experts dedicated to the engineering or operations of canals and associated structures will be asked to nominate potential peer reviewers. The expert peer reviewers will have least 10 years of experience with canals, including such fields as canal design, canal construction, and canal operation. Public comments will not be provided to the expert peer reviewers. Reviewers will be given attribution for their comments and not remain anonymous.

Number of Peer Reviewers: It is anticipated that no more than 10 peer reviewers will be utilized.

Timing of review: July 12, 2016 to August 5, 2016

Delivery of findings: Following the review period, the Peer Review Lead will deliver the findings as an appendix to the white paper. At a minimum, this will include a description of the peer review process, subject being reviewed, and reviewer comments. Reclamation will publish this completed peer review summary document on the peer review website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>).

Applicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA): This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice from the reviewers as a group.

Agency contact: Erin K. Foraker, Reclamation's Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Research Coordinator (eforaker@usbr.gov).