



United States Department of the Interior



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500
2.1.4.17

August 8, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability – Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project – Coconino County, Arizona (Action by 30 days from the date of this letter)

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), describing the potential impacts of CO Bar Solar, LLC's proposed interconnection of the CO Bar Solar Complex to the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS) at the Moenkopi to Cedar Mountain 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, referred to as the CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project (or Interconnection Project) (Figure 1). Reclamation is a part owner of the NSTS and must approve any interconnection requests.

The CO Bar Solar Complex will consist of several utility-scale, photovoltaic solar energy generation facilities with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW) located approximately 30 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. The Interconnection Project would deliver power generated by the CO Bar Solar Complex to the existing Arizona Public Service (APS)-operated Moenkopi to Cedar Mountain 500-kV transmission line, which crosses through the CO Bar Solar Complex. The proposed point of interconnection is a planned APS 500-kV line tap and switchyard. The Interconnection Project would include collection lines, a collector substation, intertie line(s), improvements within the APS 500-kV switchyard, and temporary laydown areas; maximum output to the NSTS would be 1,000 MW (Figures 1 and 2).

The Interconnection Project would also include improvements to approximately 4.5 miles of roads managed by the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Coconino National Forest (COF); therefore, the Forest Service is participating as a cooperating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act review. CO Bar Solar, LLC, has submitted a special use permit application to the COF for improvements to National Forest Service Road (NFSR) 417 and NFSR 9003 (Figure 1). Aaron Mayville, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official for the portion of the Interconnection Project on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The COF considers this request in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 251, Subpart B, and if approved, would issue a separate decision and the special use permit for long-term use of National Forest lands. The activities proposed on NFS lands are a project implementing the COF's land management plan and are not authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. As such, proposed activities occurring on NFS lands are subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process at subparts A and B of 36 CFR 218. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a designated public comment period established by the lead agency are eligible to file an objection under 36 CFR 218.

The Draft EA is available for public review on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office website at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>. A paper copy or CD of the Draft EA can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (623) 773-6216 or by emailing Mr. Dominic Graziani at dgraziani@usbr.gov.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL


Comments are due within 30 calendar days of the date on this letter. All comments should be submitted to: Bureau of Reclamation, ATTN: CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project, 1645 South Plaza Way, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 or via email to cobarinterconnectionea@swca.com.

Please be aware that by law, your name, address, and other personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. Individuals may request that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so; however, we will honor your request 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 Mr. Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office, at (623) 773-6216 or via email at dgraziani@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. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point of contact in the United States.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDE
R SMITH



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ALEXANDER SMITH
Date: 2023.07.30
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Alexander B. Smith
Area Manager

Enclosure

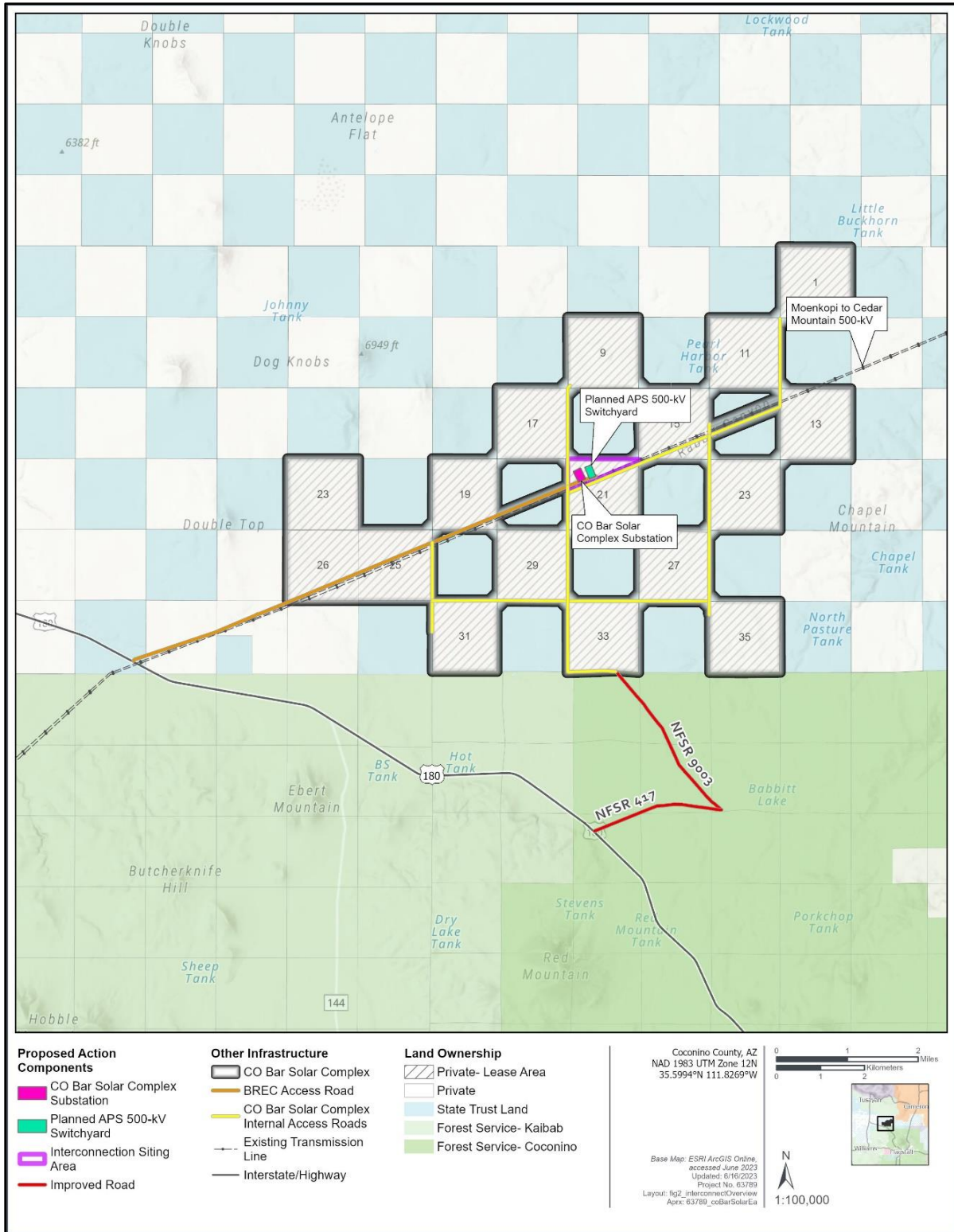


Figure 1. CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project overview.

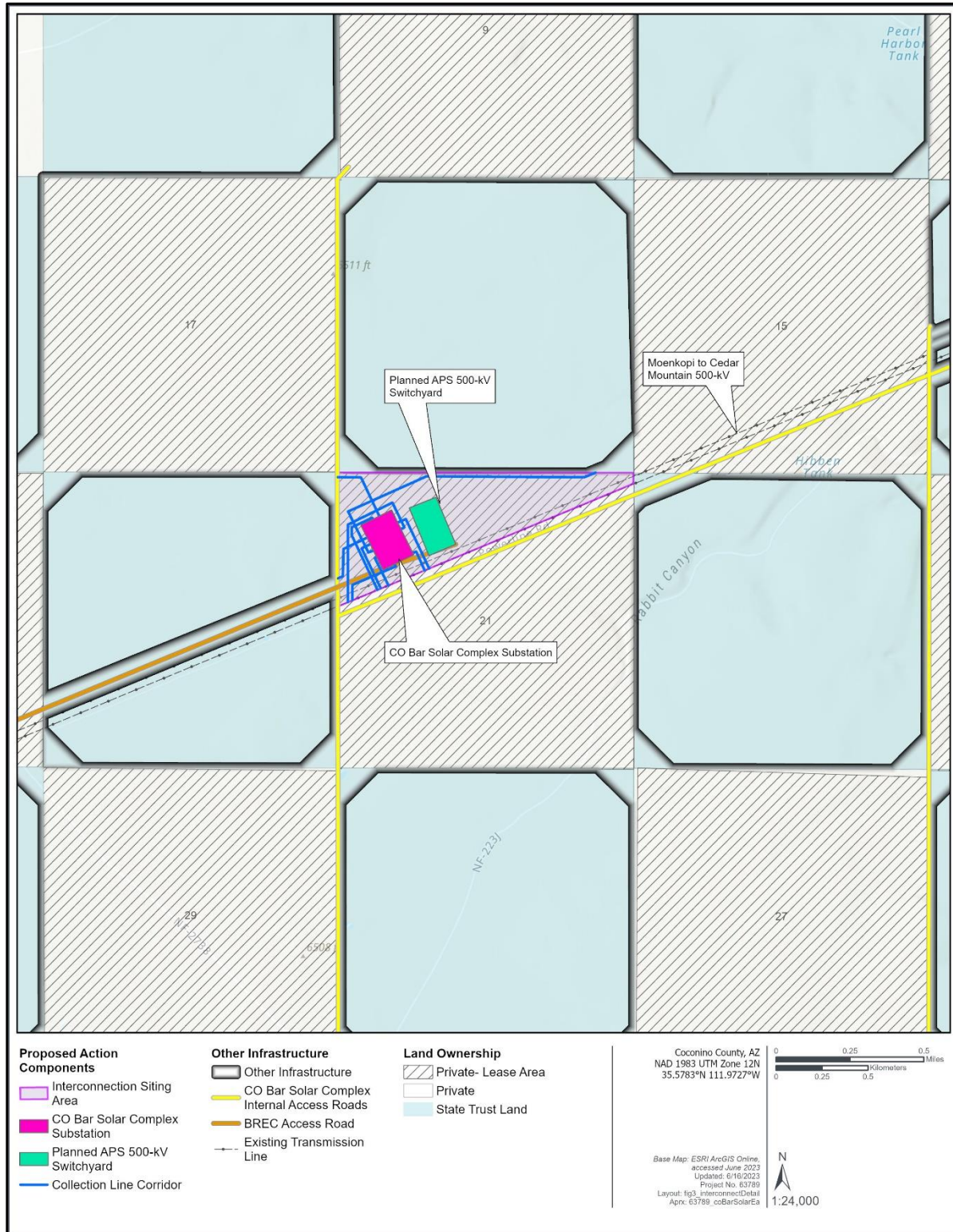


Figure 2. CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project detail.