

Skeleton Creek Solar Project Scoping Meeting Transcript

March 30, 2021, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm CT

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00:00:45.870 --> 00:00:55.980

Meg Perry (SWCA Environmental Consultants [SWCA]): Welcome to those of you who've already joined us, my name is Meg Perry. I'll be facilitating the session and we'll be getting started at the top of the hour in just a couple minutes. Thanks for joining.

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00:02:44.340 --> 00:02:45.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): All right, hello, and welcome.

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00:02:47.280 --> 00:02:58.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): My name is Meg Perry with SWCA and I'll be facilitating this meeting tonight focused on the Skeleton Creek Project Environmental Impact Statement.

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00:03:00.180 --> 00:03:02.790

Meg Perry (SWCA): And hosted by the Rural Utilities Service.

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00:03:03.930 --> 00:03:12.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): I see we've got a few folks already joined us and we may be expecting just a few more based on

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00:03:13.470 --> 00:03:14.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): the numbers we had registered.

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00:03:15.870 --> 00:03:22.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): So we'll give it just another minute and then turn over to words of welcome from the Agency.

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00:04:27.870 --> 00:04:33.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): All right, we'll go ahead and get started. First of all, thank you to all of you for joining the meeting.

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00:04:34.860 --> 00:04:48.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): We are recording the session, so now would be the time if you're not comfortable being recorded to sign off and the recording will be available afterwards, at the same website where you registered to attend.

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00:04:50.760 --> 00:05:04.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): At this time I'll turn to Barbara Britton with Rural Utilities Service for a words of welcome and then I'll walk through the agenda and share some housekeeping notes before we dive into the evening's program. Barbara, go ahead.

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00:05:06.180 --> 00:05:13.860

Barbara Britton (USDA Rural Utilities Service [RUS] Engineering and Environmental Staff [EES]): Thank you, Meg. Greetings everyone, I want to thank you for attending today's environmental impact statement scoping meeting

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00:05:14.250 --> 00:05:23.550

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): for NextEra Energy's proposal for the Skeleton Creek Solar and Battery Storage Project. I'm Barbara Britton, the Director of the Engineering and Environmental Staff.

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00:05:24.120 --> 00:05:29.550

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): Our office is housed in USDA's Rural Development Agency in the Rural Utilities Service.

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00:05:30.210 --> 00:05:44.160

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): The Rural Utilities Service provides financial assistance to rural community communities throughout the country for water and waste disposal, electricity, and telecommunications. Our office, the Engineering and Environmental Staff,

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00:05:45.180 --> 00:05:54.960

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): processes environmental reviews under rural developments regulations of 77 CFR 1970, our environmental policies and procedures.

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00:05:56.070 --> 00:06:07.020

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): We process approximately \$9 billion in reviews for rural infrastructure, every year. I'm particularly looking forward to today's meeting

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00:06:07.410 --> 00:06:19.860

Barbara Britton (USDA RUS EES): and this discussion regarding this important project and impact statement, so thank you all for joining, we really look forward to hearing your comments and feedback. And with that I will turn it back over to Meg.

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00:06:21.690 --> 00:06:22.470

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you very much.

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00:06:24.390 --> 00:06:34.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): I will just walk through a little overview of the program for this afternoon's meeting. We're currently in welcome and logistics, we'll turn in just a few minutes

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00:06:36.480 --> 00:06:51.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): to, well we just heard agency opening remarks. We'll turn in just a couple minutes to the presentations that will cover the National Environmental Policy Act process and timeline for this project, proposed project overview, and

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00:06:53.130 --> 00:06:56.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): some information about the preliminary analysis and alternatives

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00:06:57.630 --> 00:07:10.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): so far, and then, following the presentation we'll have time for any questions and comments from participants and I'll walk through how to participate via Zoom at that point.

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00:07:11.880 --> 00:07:21.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we will stay on the line through eight o'clock central for anyone who wishes to join and share additional comments and questions at any time during that period.

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00:07:22.650 --> 00:07:23.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): So just

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00:07:24.900 --> 00:07:26.460

Meg Perry (SWCA): a reminder or

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00:07:27.780 --> 00:07:34.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): to kind of reiterate what Barbara already mentioned, the purpose of this meeting is to learn a bit more about

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00:07:35.220 --> 00:07:49.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): the Skeleton Creek Solar Project, to understand that NEPA process, and to learn how to provide public comments on the Environmental Impact Statement, in addition to the option to share comments on today's call.

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00:07:54.030 --> 00:07:59.460

Meg Perry (SWCA): You as an attendee are in listen-only mode on this webinar.

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00:08:00.630 --> 00:08:20.760

Meg Perry (SWCA): So during the presentation, you can ask questions by using the Q&A feature, you should see a little Q&A button in your Zoom black Zoom ribbon that has two little talk bubbles, so if you click on that Q&A, you have the option to type in questions as they come up and then

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00:08:22.170 --> 00:08:27.480

Meg Perry (SWCA): the agency and other presenters will be able to address those following the presentation.

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00:08:28.560 --> 00:08:36.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): If you're calling in on the phone, you will have the opportunity to ask verbal questions after the presentation using the raise hand function.

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00:08:37.890 --> 00:08:41.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): And for those on the phone, star nine is the

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00:08:42.480 --> 00:08:50.790

Meg Perry (SWCA): touchpad way to raise your hand in the Zoom room. And I'll be sharing a few little bits of information and reminders in the chat

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00:08:51.420 --> 00:09:04.410

Meg Perry (SWCA): that you can see throughout the meeting. So that's just a little orientation to the Zoom features. So we'll be looking for those, any questions coming in, via the Q&A throughout the presentation and following it.

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00:09:05.490 --> 00:09:13.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then, once the presentations conclude we'll open the floor for questions and comments. So thanks once again for being here and

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00:09:14.460 --> 00:09:19.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): I will turn it to Kristen to begin the presentations.

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00:09:20.940 --> 00:09:31.680

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Good evening, thanks for joining us. I'm just going to talk a little bit about the NEPA process in general. RUS is going to be evaluating the

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00:09:32.310 --> 00:09:43.740

Kristen Bastis (RUS): applicant's funding request through an environmental impact statement and the environmental impact statement process includes public scoping, asking the public

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00:09:44.490 --> 00:09:59.160

Kristen Bastis (RUS): what they want the Agency to consider while reviewing this proposal, so we need your comments to help determine the issues and alternatives to analyze in the environmental impact statement. And we have a schedule here, it's kind of a,

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00:10:00.780 --> 00:10:01.530

Kristen Bastis (RUS): um,

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00:10:03.300 --> 00:10:07.020

Kristen Bastis (RUS): a generalized schedule, it doesn't have, you know, exact months and days.

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00:10:08.460 --> 00:10:12.840

Kristen Bastis (RUS): But it gives you a general idea of what the timeline for the review process is.

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00:10:14.460 --> 00:10:23.190

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And there'll be another public comment period in the winter of 2021 when the draft EIS is published.

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00:10:25.710 --> 00:10:29.370

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And then, a record of decision will be the conclusion of the process.

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00:10:35.160 --> 00:10:36.540

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Next slide.

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00:10:38.040 --> 00:10:56.400

Kristen Bastis (RUS): All right, and along with the NEPA process is where we're doing, we're taking care of the National Historic Preservation Act or the Section 106 process right alongside the NEPA process, so both cultural and natural resources get considered together.

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00:10:58.320 --> 00:11:07.650

Kristen Bastis (RUS): We also need your input regarding historic properties for the cultural resource section of the EIS and for Section 106 process itself.

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00:11:08.580 --> 00:11:27.000

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And this is part of the initiation of the Section 106 process and we're identifying consulting parties and historic properties, so if you have anything to contribute about historic properties in the area that are significant, please let us know about those.

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00:11:28.560 --> 00:11:44.490

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And then the determination of eligibility is done by Agency staff and then also assessing adverse effects, but we do that in consultation with the consulting parties, the State Historic Preservation Office,

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00:11:45.750 --> 00:11:48.240

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Tribal Historic Preservation Offices,

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00:11:49.950 --> 00:12:02.640

Kristen Bastis (RUS): and other interested parties, and then we'll resolve those adverse effects and determine if mitigation is required, and then add the results of that Section 106 process to that EIS.

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00:12:03.690 --> 00:12:08.610

Kristen Bastis (RUS): So that's just kind of an overview of the two processes that are

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00:12:09.840 --> 00:12:18.330

Kristen Bastis (RUS): required by law and regulation for federal agencies to consider when completing an undertaking.

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00:12:21.030 --> 00:12:21.600

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Next.

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00:12:24.000 --> 00:12:25.650

Kristen Bastis (RUS): So we have a little

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00:12:27.450 --> 00:12:48.150

Kristen Bastis (RUS): information here about how to comment, we do want to hear from you, we have a specific email set up, SkeletonCreekSolarPublicComments@usda.gov, that is live right now and being monitored. And due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hard copies of mail will not be collected.

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00:12:55.500 --> 00:13:00.990

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Please comment via email, and then, I believe,

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00:13:04.650 --> 00:13:05.910

Kristen Bastis (RUS): oh okay, that's me.

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00:13:07.110 --> 00:13:15.000

Kristen Bastis (RUS): So some of the issues under consideration are listed here. I'm not going to read you the slide, but I'll give you a few moments to take a look at that.

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00:13:15.960 --> 00:13:29.730

Kristen Bastis (RUS): These are from our regulations, these are the things that we are supposed to consider as a federal agency. Of course, we can add additional ones, if the public feels that it's appropriate to do so.

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00:13:34.980 --> 00:13:48.300

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And, of course, this presentation will be available for you on our website, it's up there now actually. So if you haven't gotten a chance to look through all these issues, you can definitely refer to that.

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00:13:53.130 --> 00:14:08.850

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And then, again, our email address and our website where all this information is posted. Currently we have the Site Selection Study, the Notice of Intent that was published in the Federal Register on March 15,

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00:14:10.860 --> 00:14:14.610

Kristen Bastis (RUS): and this presentation, are all up on this website right now.

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00:14:23.700 --> 00:14:28.800

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And I will turn the presentation over to Bridgette from NextEra.

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00:14:30.810 --> 00:14:41.880

Bridgette Valeron (NextEra Energy Resources [NEER]): Thank you, Kristen. So I'm Bridgette Valeron, I'm the Environmental Services Project Manager with NextEra, supporting the Skeleton Creek

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00:14:42.270 --> 00:14:51.270

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): Solar and Battery Storage Project. I've been with NextEra for almost 5 years now, permitting projects in Oklahoma, Texas, and Minnesota.

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00:14:51.810 --> 00:15:00.870

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): And I will be available to answer any questions related to any environmental studies or the environmental permitting that we're doing for the project.

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00:15:01.500 --> 00:15:14.970

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): I wanted to introduce Elinore Beitler, who is our Project Developer for the site. She has been with NextEra for 4 years, and she is going to go through an introduction of NextEra, as well as the project.

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00:15:21.810 --> 00:15:22.770

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Okay.

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00:15:24.780 --> 00:15:25.590

Elinore Beitler (NEER): well.

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00:15:28.500 --> 00:15:34.710

Elinore Beitler (NEER): I am Elinore Beitler. Thank you Bridgette for that introduction. I

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00:15:36.060 --> 00:15:48.930

Elinore Beitler (NEER): will be introducing NextEra. So who are we? We are, as you can see from the screen, the world's number one generator of wind and solar. We're pretty much all over the US, 37 different states.

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00:15:50.490 --> 00:15:51.210

Elinore Beitler (NEER): But

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00:15:52.590 --> 00:15:57.480

Elinore Beitler (NEER): we have development going on in quite a few more

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00:16:00.000 --> 00:16:00.150

Elinore Beitler (NEER): and

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00:16:00.390 --> 00:16:02.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): Elinore, are you able to turn your video on or not?

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00:16:02.070 --> 00:16:06.630

Elinore Beitler (NEER):, Yeah, it says the host won't, it says the host has to do it.

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00:16:08.730 --> 00:16:10.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, Jen can help us.

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00:16:10.920 --> 00:16:11.460

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Yeah.

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00:16:13.500 --> 00:16:15.690

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Kind of what I was fumbling around with at the beginning.

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00:16:20.580 --> 00:16:21.300

Elinore Beitler (NEER): There we are.

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00:16:22.500 --> 00:16:23.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): Now we see you.

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00:16:23.520 --> 00:16:35.670

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Okay, I thought it was my computer again. Anyway, so hi, Elinore Beitler, I work for NextEra, primarily in Oklahoma as the lead developer on all of our

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00:16:36.330 --> 00:17:02.040

Elinore Beitler (NEER): solar, wind storage projects in this state. And overall NextEra is in, as you can see, 37 states, we have developments going on in closer to 40. Nationwide, we have about 54,000 megawatts of energy in the ground and we started as an arm of Florida Power and Light in 1925 but the real

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00:17:03.510 --> 00:17:15.330

Elinore Beitler (NEER): entity that we are today, NextEra Energy Resources, started early 2000s with our first project in Oklahoma, it was a wind project in 2003. So we've really been around

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00:17:16.320 --> 00:17:34.200

Elinore Beitler (NEER): the clean energy industry for a while and we feel pretty confident that we know what we're doing, we know how to handle renewable energy sites and we know how to develop them in, you know, a friendly manner, in conjunction with a whole host of stakeholders, including, you know,

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00:17:35.250 --> 00:17:40.230

Elinore Beitler (NEER): the federal government and different SHPO/THPO and environmental offices. So

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00:17:41.940 --> 00:17:44.430

Elinore Beitler (NEER): with that, I think we can go to the next slide.

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00:17:48.510 --> 00:18:00.030

Elinore Beitler (NEER): So a little bit about specifically what we're here to talk about, Skeleton Creek Solar, it will be a 250-megawatt solar project, so quite large,

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00:18:00.780 --> 00:18:17.550

Elinore Beitler (NEER): with a 200-megawatt 4-hour battery, so that's an 800-megawatt-hour storage facility. All of it will be located in Garfield County, and the project area, the application area, is about 12,000 acres.

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00:18:18.900 --> 00:18:22.950

Elinore Beitler (NEER): And that will be used for various components of the project,

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00:18:24.300 --> 00:18:35.580

Elinore Beitler (NEER): solar collection, T-line, substation, the battery, but really that type of important area of the project area will be only around 6,500 acres.

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00:18:36.390 --> 00:18:52.620

Elinore Beitler (NEER): So still pretty big, one of the bigger sites in Oklahoma for solar, one of the biggest batteries in the country currently that's been announced, so it's a awesome project, really at the forefront of the industry, and I think we're all excited to be going down this road with everyone here.

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00:19:01.290 --> 00:19:11.610

Elinore Beitler (NEER): So, more on what this project actually will look like. Currently, we are laying out the panels and

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00:19:12.630 --> 00:19:31.980

Elinore Beitler (NEER): organizing everything so that we can avoid as much as possible and have as close to zero impacts as possible. Our T-line is about 1 to 2 miles long, so in terms of T-line, it's not long at all, and we'll have a substation, a laydown yard,

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00:19:33.090 --> 00:19:38.610

Elinore Beitler (NEER): and it will all connect into the existing OG&E Woodring Substation in Garfield County.

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00:19:44.940 --> 00:20:01.200

Elinore Beitler (NEER): We do have a contract on this project, it's with Western Farmers, it's for 20 years, and Western Farmers is a muni in Oklahoma, they have 17 different

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00:20:02.910 --> 00:20:15.000

Elinore Beitler (NEER): major areas that they send power to as well as Altus Air Force Base, and a few in New Mexico. So they're very well renowned, very well-known company in

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00:20:15.630 --> 00:20:27.480

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Oklahoma and they have a good track record of procuring renewable energy assets for their portfolio and for their energy needs. So we're very excited to be doing business with them, they're a great partner.

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00:20:28.440 --> 00:20:33.570

Elinore Beitler (NEER): And, you know, we're looking forward to the project as a whole. It's all very, all very exciting.

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00:20:37.200 --> 00:20:56.670

Elinore Beitler (NEER): And, you know, cool, we're talking about it, but when is it going to happen? So we're looking at the start of 2020 summer to really get into construction. On a project this scale, it'll take about 18 months with commercial operation date hopefully around December 2023.

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00:20:58.200 --> 00:21:02.160

Elinore Beitler (NEER): So it'll, it'll be a nice chunk of time that we're in construction.

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00:21:03.210 --> 00:21:10.410

Elinore Beitler (NEER): But I think that we'll be able to get everything nicely wrapped up hopefully, fingers crossed, by December 2023.

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00:21:19.260 --> 00:21:19.860

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): I think it's, yep go ahead.

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00:21:20.430 --> 00:21:27.030

Elinore Beitler (NEER): So with that, I will give it over to Sue. Sue, you're already on, so if you want to jump on.

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00:21:27.630 --> 00:21:41.220

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Great. Good afternoon all, my name is Sue Wilmot, I'm with SWCA Environmental Consultants and we are the consulting firm that is, that has been hired to prepare the EIS under the direction of the RUS.

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00:21:41.760 --> 00:21:49.140

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): I wanted to take the next few slides to briefly discuss the purpose and need, the project purpose and need,

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00:21:49.470 --> 00:21:57.870

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): issues and alternatives that have been developed to date prior to the Notice of Intent being published, and the scoping meeting.

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00:21:58.500 --> 00:22:10.350

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): But before diving in, I want to note that everything I touch on briefly here is addressed in a lot more detail in the documents that are noted on this, this screen, so the Alternatives Evaluation Study,

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00:22:10.950 --> 00:22:19.740

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): as well as the Site Selection Study. That document is on RUS' website, so you can go there, download it, and get a lot more detail

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00:22:20.130 --> 00:22:28.620

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): on the topics I'm going to cover over the next few slides, and that does include a more detailed project description as well, in case you're, you're looking for that.

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00:22:29.340 --> 00:22:36.270

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): The last thing I wanted to note was that these preliminary studies are predominantly based on publicly available information.

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00:22:37.560 --> 00:22:46.590

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So as we're working through this, if you're aware of additional information we should consider for the EIS, please do provide that either during today's call

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00:22:47.010 --> 00:23:02.250

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): or in a subsequent scoping letter. What has also been informed by some very early site investigation we've done with regards to aquatic and cultural resources in portions of the application area. So with that, we'll go on to the next slide.

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00:23:06.540 --> 00:23:15.030

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So this slide just provides a really brief overview of what is provided in the Alternatives Evaluation Study, I just want to point out that does include

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00:23:15.390 --> 00:23:25.260

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): more detailed information on the project's purpose and need, in particular the sort of the need for power by Western Farmers. So there's

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00:23:25.740 --> 00:23:35.940

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): quite a lot of information in there regarding that. It also includes information regarding alternatives which we'll touch on in just a moment, so for now we'll jump on to the next slide.

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00:23:40.800 --> 00:23:47.340

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So I want to touch briefly on the project purpose and need first because NextEra does have a PPA

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00:23:47.790 --> 00:24:00.480

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): with Western Farmers. The project's purpose and need is really built around Western Farmers' need for power, so Western Farmers' objective is to provide safe,

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00:24:00.900 --> 00:24:09.780

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): adequate, and reliable power to its members at lowest, the lowest reasonable cost, so this project will allow NextEra

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00:24:10.260 --> 00:24:20.100

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): to provide Western Farmers with the additional generation capacity they need to help them achieve that goal. Additionally, the project is consistent

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00:24:20.760 --> 00:24:35.130

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): with the State's legislative declarations to support renewable energy within the State of Oklahoma. And, you know, it's actually also consistent with our new administration's emphasis on renewable energy as well.

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00:24:36.360 --> 00:24:36.900

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Next slide.

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00:24:39.630 --> 00:24:45.120

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So Alternative Evaluation Study considers a wide range of alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.

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00:24:45.510 --> 00:24:53.940

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): In this case, under the No Action, the project would not be constructed, so we wouldn't have any associated project related impacts, but

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00:24:54.540 --> 00:25:09.540

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): it is, I think, important to also recognize that means that Western Farmers would lose the generation capacity that this project could provide and would also forgo an opportunity to expand their renewable energy portfolio.

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00:25:10.560 --> 00:25:11.100

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Next slide.

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00:25:14.790 --> 00:25:21.780

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So in addition to No Action Alternative, the AES evaluates a range of other potential action alternatives

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00:25:22.230 --> 00:25:32.340

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): that are identified in RUS' instructional guidance, and they're listed briefly on the screen. Again, there's a lot more information in the actual document, if you want to,

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00:25:33.300 --> 00:25:42.570

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): if you want to download and read that but, but to just briefly touch on these. So load management are activities electric utilities can implement

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00:25:42.900 --> 00:26:02.490

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): that are really designed to encourage customer behavior change in terms of modifying their level or patterns of electricity usage. Distributed generation evaluates fuel cells, micro turbines, or internal combustion as a potential source of energy.

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00:26:03.930 --> 00:26:18.990

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): The AES also evaluates whether Western Farmers could repower or uprate any other generations units they may own or operate or likewise could they participate in another company's generation project to meet their needs.

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00:26:20.190 --> 00:26:34.380

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Nonrenewable fuel sources are evaluated for natural gas, nuclear, and coal and likewise renewable energy sources are considered for wind, hydropower, geothermal, and biomass.

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00:26:34.770 --> 00:26:46.080

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): And then, finally, the AES also evaluates whether Western Farmers could meet their needs through another Power Purchase Agreement or by just increasing transmission capacity.

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00:26:46.680 --> 00:26:57.570

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So for each of these alternatives that the study looks at whether they're capable of achieving three main criteria. Are they technically and economically feasible?

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00:26:58.320 --> 00:27:05.220

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): With regards to natural resources, are they available in the application area? And then, can they meet the project purpose and need?

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00:27:05.730 --> 00:27:18.180

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): And again, the discussion of that is in the AES, but ultimately that document made the preliminary decision to not carry forward any of these listed

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00:27:18.690 --> 00:27:28.980

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): alternatives because they fail one or more of those criteria. That being said, as is often expressed in the NEPA world. alternatives development is the heart

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00:27:29.610 --> 00:27:41.370

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): of our NEPA documents, right? So this is definitely a topic that we want to hear from you all, if you have additional information on these or other alternatives that you want to be considered as part of the EIS,

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00:27:42.120 --> 00:27:52.590

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): please do provide comment, either in today's meeting or in a subsequent written letter. We definitely would love to hear from you and get your input on this. Next slide.

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00:27:56.310 --> 00:28:08.700

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So I'm going to jump now to the Site Selection Study. Again, this slide provides an overview of what's in that study. Its notable differences from the alternative study is that this one's really focused on

142

00:28:09.780 --> 00:28:24.060

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): developing a better understanding of what resources are in the study area that we're looking at, as well as identifying location-based alternatives that we may want to carry forward in the EIS. Next slide.

143

00:28:29.070 --> 00:28:45.690

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Thanks. So as we, as was mentioned earlier, NextEra has identified a roughly 12,000-acre application area that they are looking at for this project, so I'm actually going to turn the presentation back over to Elinore now for a few minutes to talk about how they identified that area.

144

00:28:49.710 --> 00:29:00.420

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Okay, thanks Sue. So we had a conversation with Western Farmers about what they were looking for in a solar project to add to their

145

00:29:00.900 --> 00:29:12.840

Elinore Beitler (NEER): increasing demand for electricity, and one of the things that they were looking for was a interconnection point, a node, that they were comfortable with and have experience with and,

146

00:29:13.650 --> 00:29:30.090

Elinore Beitler (NEER): you know, can trust that their daily interactions are something that they can help predict and understand. So one of those nodes is Woodring Substation. So going off of that, we like to keep a

147

00:29:31.350 --> 00:29:41.940

Elinore Beitler (NEER): T-line, a gentie line, as short as possible for solar because solar can't handle quite as much infrastructure as a wind project or other type of

148

00:29:42.510 --> 00:29:53.820

Elinore Beitler (NEER): energy project. So with a specific node and a short T-line, meaning our substation and connection have to be fairly close together,

149

00:29:54.360 --> 00:30:00.180

Elinore Beitler (NEER): it really narrowed down where we could place our solar project. And then based off of

150

00:30:00.750 --> 00:30:19.110

Elinore Beitler (NEER): previous land acquisition and efforts in that area, we had some relationships that we decided to reach back out to. And between those three things, which again are the interconnection point, having a shorter T-line, and previous relationships with landowners, we zeroed in on this area.

151

00:30:20.670 --> 00:30:27.840

Elinore Beitler (NEER): And one of the main reasons we liked this area and we were okay with the Woodring node is because it had a lower congestion,

152

00:30:28.410 --> 00:30:43.170

Elinore Beitler (NEER): which just means we can actually put power onto the grid, there's room. And there is a pretty high solar irradiance so a good resource. And that's why we settled on this particular Woodring Substation.

153

00:30:47.520 --> 00:30:48.210

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Thanks, Elinore.

154

00:30:48.270 --> 00:30:48.690

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Yeah, no problem.

155

00:30:49.440 --> 00:30:51.420

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): I think we can go the next slide then.

156

00:30:52.800 --> 00:31:02.700

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So again, as I mentioned, the objective for the Site Selection Study is to really better understand potential resources and issues in our study area, so the slide provides just

157

00:31:03.390 --> 00:31:17.280

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): an overview of the resources that were evaluated in that Site Selection Study. And I was going to run through a little bit more detail on some of these over the next few slides, so we can go on to the next one.

158

00:31:18.630 --> 00:31:27.390

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Thanks. So again, I'm going to talk briefly about some of these resources, but you can also read more in that Site Selection Study.

159

00:31:28.290 --> 00:31:46.860

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): With regards to threatened and endangered wildlife species, we do have a potential for four federally listed wildlife species to occur, but we do not have any designated critical habitat or known state-listed species within our application area.

160

00:31:48.240 --> 00:31:58.050

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): The application area does, however, contain a variety of land covers that may be used by non-regulatory regulated wildlife, including bat species,

161

00:31:58.560 --> 00:32:11.550

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): migratory species, so it is an issue that we will take a look at. We don't, however, have any known federally or state-listed plant species in the application area.

162

00:32:12.870 --> 00:32:20.220

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): With regards to water resources, the application area has one named aquatic feature, Skeleton Creek,

163

00:32:20.640 --> 00:32:39.000

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): as well as numerous intermittent streams throughout the application area. It also contains both 100-year floodplain and wetlands, so that's a topic we'll be looking at, looking at in more detail. For water use, the area actually is, a lot of the

164

00:32:40.080 --> 00:32:54.840

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): groundwater serves as drinking water source for the county. That being said, we have not found any information that identifies designated areas for groundwater protection, so things like sole source aquifers or

165

00:32:55.950 --> 00:33:05.280

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): aquifer recharge zones, we're not, we have not identified any of those in the application area. For geology and soils, the application area is pretty flat in general to

166

00:33:06.210 --> 00:33:25.800

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): gentle rolling. We don't have any mapped karst resources, karst of course is, you know, a geological feature capable of supporting sinkholes and caves, but we do have hydric soil, soils that are prone to flooding and or ponding in the application area. Next slide.

167

00:33:28.080 --> 00:33:41.010

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): Thanks. With regards to cultural historic resources, to date we don't, do not have any documented archaeological sites, cemeteries, listed historic properties

168

00:33:42.000 --> 00:33:47.490

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): within the application area, although as Kristen mentioned earlier in this presentation,

169

00:33:48.000 --> 00:33:57.300

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): the RUS will be engaging in the Section 106 process in parallel with this NEPA process to help inform that topic

170

00:33:57.870 --> 00:34:14.220

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): as we move forward. We don't have any tribal owned land, but we do anticipate there may be some tribes that have interest in the project. So again, the RUS will be engaging in Government-to-Government consultation with those tribes as part of this process as well.

171

00:34:15.390 --> 00:34:21.750

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): With regards to land use, we have not it's, it's, it's all, you know,

172

00:34:22.560 --> 00:34:35.160

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): it's most, pretty much all private land that's what's happening in the application area. We have not identified any public parks, wildlife management areas, you know, major scenic view ways or byways.

173

00:34:35.820 --> 00:34:49.500

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): But there is a significant proportion of prime farmland and at least based on FAA's sort of preliminary screening tool, the project falls within Vance Jackson's Military airspace and

174

00:34:49.950 --> 00:34:59.970

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): potentially within the range of long-range radar, so again, that will be a topic that we evaluate as the EIS moves forward.

175

00:35:00.720 --> 00:35:13.920

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): And then finally with regards to kind of the social economics, quality of life, environmental justice, the county does have a history of supporting renewable energy projects, there are multiple projects currently in operation.

176

00:35:14.760 --> 00:35:23.820

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): The population itself is predominantly Caucasian, pretty even male-to-female ratio, and at least based on

177

00:35:24.840 --> 00:35:28.560

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): an early look at the census data we don't see any

178

00:35:29.910 --> 00:35:49.980

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): significant differences in at least, at least the proportion of residents below the poverty line in the county relative to the state. But, again, we will, the EIS will definitely take a closer look at potential impacts to environmental justice populations as this EIS moves forward as well.

179

00:35:51.180 --> 00:35:51.390

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): All right.

180

00:35:52.770 --> 00:35:54.030

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): I think we move to the next slide.

181

00:35:55.080 --> 00:36:01.140

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): This is just a couple pictures of the application area just to kind of help folks get a sense of,

182

00:36:02.820 --> 00:36:06.630

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): you know, what it looks like out there in terms of landcover and views.

183

00:36:07.380 --> 00:36:25.920

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So the left-hand picture is actually a picture of Skeleton Creek and while it's very pretty, the reality is that the majority of the application area looks like the pictures on the right. It is, you know, open agricultural, you know, grass grassland landcover. So, can move to the next.

184

00:36:27.900 --> 00:36:40.230

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So again, after evaluating the potential resources and issues that are potentially out in our application area, the Site Selection Study does identify

185

00:36:40.710 --> 00:36:49.350

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): a range of potential location-based alternatives within the application area and this process was really based on both sort of the

186

00:36:49.950 --> 00:37:02.070

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): estimated acreage of each alternative, you know, in terms of what could potentially be placed in the application area, as well as trying to make sure that there was sufficient difference between the alternatives

187

00:37:02.550 --> 00:37:14.520

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): to warrant potentially being a standalone alternative. So the study ultimately came to identify four potential location-based alternatives which are shown on the screen.

188

00:37:15.600 --> 00:37:19.140

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): These are briefly compared in the study in terms of

189

00:37:20.460 --> 00:37:33.840

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): evaluating how, how they score for some key resource metrics. That being said, I did want to note that NextEra is currently revising or refining their site plan.

190

00:37:34.350 --> 00:37:43.800

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): And that site plan will ultimately determine both, sort of, where our Proposed Action is, you know, what its boundary is within the application area,

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00:37:44.250 --> 00:37:52.140

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): as well as the number and/or location of other action alternatives that can be reasonably sited within the application area.

192

00:37:52.770 --> 00:38:00.660

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So I do anticipate that these location-based alternatives will be refined as the EIS moves forward.

193

00:38:01.380 --> 00:38:06.570

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): But we will ensure that the draft EIS fully describes that alternatives development process, so

194

00:38:07.230 --> 00:38:23.280

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): when you, when you're, when you have a chance to review that document, you can provide feedback to make sure it fully explains how that process came about. So that is my last slide, I think at this point I'll turn it back over to Meg.

195

00:38:27.330 --> 00:38:27.660

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great.

196

00:38:28.110 --> 00:38:33.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you Sue and thanks to all the presenters for sharing that background information on the project and

197

00:38:34.500 --> 00:38:37.500

Meg Perry (SWCA): the NEPA process that is in progress.

198

00:38:38.880 --> 00:38:56.550

Meg Perry (SWCA): At this time, we are, have just concluded presentations and will turn to questions and comments. I see we have one question already that's come in through the Q&A, certainly welcome others, and just as a reminder,

199

00:38:58.260 --> 00:39:06.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): if you'd like to type a question in, you can click that Q&A button in Zoom with the two talk bubbles and type your question in and then we'll have

200

00:39:08.070 --> 00:39:09.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): the appropriate person respond.

201

00:39:10.860 --> 00:39:20.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or you can raise your hand using the raise hand button at the bottom of your screen or, depending on your version of Zoom, you may see that raise hand option

202

00:39:20.640 --> 00:39:32.280

Meg Perry (SWCA): if you click on participants down at the bottom of that window. And for those on the phone, you can use star nine to raise your hand and let us know that you'd like to chime in. So,

203

00:39:34.530 --> 00:39:40.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): certainly invite clarifying questions on the presentations and any other questions or comments that

204

00:39:41.310 --> 00:39:43.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): participants would like to share at this time.

205

00:39:45.420 --> 00:40:02.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): And while everyone is giving that some thought, we can go ahead and turn to the question submitted so far from Patrick Rich and I think Bridgette is going to share an answer there, so Bridgette, if you want to come back on video.

206

00:40:03.930 --> 00:40:13.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): The question from Patrick was, does the project area overlay any federal or Indian Trust mineral estate? So what can you tell us about that, Bridgette?

207

00:40:14.550 --> 00:40:23.520

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): Thank you Meg, and the project does not overlay any federal land or any Indian Trust mineral estate that we are aware of.

208

00:40:26.220 --> 00:40:26.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, thank you.

209

00:40:35.280 --> 00:40:38.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): Other questions or comments at this time?

210

00:40:40.800 --> 00:40:43.230

Meg Perry (SWCA): Raise your hand or type into that Q&A.

211

00:40:53.430 --> 00:40:56.910

Meg Perry (SWCA): I recognize you may need a minute to get your thoughts together so I'll

212

00:40:58.710 --> 00:41:04.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): give folks a few seconds to think that you might have a question.

213

00:41:41.370 --> 00:41:43.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great, I see a couple good questions coming in here.

214

00:41:55.470 --> 00:41:56.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, it looks like

215

00:41:59.400 --> 00:42:08.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): Bridgette is ready to answer the question that Bryan Noblitt submitted, hope I'm pronouncing names correctly, apologies if I'm

216

00:42:10.080 --> 00:42:18.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): messing any names up there. So the question was, have any estimates for impacts to waters of the U.S. been calculated?

217

00:42:20.340 --> 00:42:30.360

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): So we are still currently working on the layout and design of our project, so we have not calculated those impacts as of yet.

218

00:42:30.930 --> 00:42:45.210

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): We will be continuing to do some follow up survey and then we'll develop those calculations from there, and we'll certainly coordinate with the Corps of Engineers on any anticipated impacts.

219

00:42:45.780 --> 00:42:58.500

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): Right now, the project is being sited such that our solar panels are avoiding any aquatic features and so really we're mostly looking at our

220

00:42:59.220 --> 00:43:13.980

Bridgette Valeron (NEER): potential access roads, underground collection lines, or transmission line locations that may cross over or underneath or go across the aquatic features.

221

00:43:15.810 --> 00:43:21.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so it sounds like that waters of the U.S. assessment would come a little bit later in the process.

222

00:43:23.970 --> 00:43:31.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. And then Elinore, it looks like you were ready to share an answer to Melissa Davis' question, who asked,

223

00:43:32.820 --> 00:43:45.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): I am the project manager for County projects with ODOT, we have a bridge project slated for construction in FY 25 on Fox Drive just west of South 54th on Skeleton Creek.

224

00:43:46.530 --> 00:43:52.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Do you anticipate any transmission lines in that area or any other obstacles that could interfere with bridge construction?

225

00:43:53.760 --> 00:44:17.190

Elinore Beitler (NEER): Well, I'm not exactly sure where that specific location is, but I know that Fox Drive is a little bit more north going east-west than where the project is currently located, so I can tentatively say I don't believe that that should interfere with transmission line construction.

226

00:44:18.210 --> 00:44:27.900

Elinore Beitler (NEER): And in terms of deliveries, that's something that we always work with ODOT anyways to understand exactly where their projects are and where we can,

227

00:44:28.410 --> 00:44:40.710

Elinore Beitler (NEER): you know, have trucks or other hauling vehicles move in and out of the project site. So I am happy to talk with you more offline, Melissa, I think my information is readily available or someone from

228

00:44:41.940 --> 00:44:43.680

Elinore Beitler (NEER): here on the presentation can give it to you.

229

00:44:44.850 --> 00:44:47.820

Elinore Beitler (NEER): But I think we should be okay with that for now.

230

00:44:49.260 --> 00:44:56.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, great, and good to raise those kinds of things at this stage, everyone can be aware, thank you.

231

00:44:58.710 --> 00:45:03.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, and then Sue, did you want to address Patrick Rich's question,

232

00:45:05.310 --> 00:45:09.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): which was, will you be tiering to or incorporating by reference

233

00:45:09.330 --> 00:45:24.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): any portion of the March 2020 BLM land use plan RMP for the Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas planning decisions area, or using the USGS-developed Rapid Ecoregional Assessment for the Southern Great Plains?

234

00:45:25.410 --> 00:45:28.920

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): So I'll say, Patrick, that we have not

235

00:45:29.940 --> 00:45:37.560

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): got, gotten quite that far down the analysis step yet, but I do appreciate you

236

00:45:38.790 --> 00:45:57.690

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): noting those documents, so we will absolutely take a look at them and see what information out of that may be applicable for us to incorporate or tier to in our EIS. Obviously NEPA encourages tiering, where, you know, where appropriate, so we will definitely take a look at that.

237

00:46:00.420 --> 00:46:00.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great.

238

00:46:09.330 --> 00:46:16.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): Good questions and helpful to have these, this kind of information at this stage in the process, so thank you.

239

00:46:18.720 --> 00:46:20.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): Other questions or comments?

240

00:46:35.310 --> 00:46:43.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): And just as a reminder, if you're on the phone, you can use star nine to raise your hand if you'd like to share a question or comment from the phone.

241

00:46:45.060 --> 00:46:47.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): We'll know that you're there and invite you to unmute.

242

00:47:12.840 --> 00:47:14.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): And while folks are thinking, I'll just reiterate

243

00:47:16.770 --> 00:47:20.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): what was mentioned earlier that the website link that I shared in the chat

244

00:47:21.780 --> 00:47:31.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): includes links, if you go to that site, that's kind of the home for this project, and you can find the slides that were presented on today's meeting, as well as

245

00:47:33.630 --> 00:47:44.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): the analyses that have been conducted thus far, so that's a good resource for background information and to come back to as the process proceeds.

246

00:47:50.610 --> 00:47:55.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm not seeing any other hands up or other questions coming in, so.

247

00:48:06.990 --> 00:48:21.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just kind of a last call for those who are on at the moment to raise your hand or chime in if you have something else you'd like to share or ask before we run through next steps. We're certainly not in a hurry to rush off so,

248

00:48:22.860 --> 00:48:25.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): welcome other questions or comments, if you have them.

249

00:48:41.070 --> 00:48:45.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks Melissa, I see that your note in the Q&A and

250

00:48:47.100 --> 00:48:53.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): it sounds like Elinore can follow up with you offline about that bridge project, so thank you.

251

00:48:57.180 --> 00:49:07.410

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, well, just a few other reminders that the public comments are welcome through April 19 at the email you see

252

00:49:07.950 --> 00:49:28.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): on the screen right now and I'll put that in the chat as well. For those listening on the phone, the email is SkeletonCreekSolarPublicComments@usda.gov. So hopefully, that's a little long, but hopefully memorable so SkeletonCreekSolarPublicComments@usda.gov.

253

00:49:29.730 --> 00:49:49.320

Meg Perry (SWCA): And so, those are, those are welcome anytime through April 19. And the next public involvement opportunity will be in association with the draft Environmental Impact Statement coming in late 2021. So in terms of what to expect,

254

00:49:52.350 --> 00:49:55.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): coming next, that's what's on the horizon for this project.

255

00:49:57.930 --> 00:49:58.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

256

00:50:01.440 --> 00:50:04.680

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I see a request for some information

257

00:50:08.220 --> 00:50:12.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): from Patrick, so I think Sue can follow up with you on that, Patrick.

258

00:50:15.570 --> 00:50:15.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great.

259

00:50:21.060 --> 00:50:23.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): Any other questions or comments at this time?

260

00:50:30.270 --> 00:50:32.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or Sue, did you want to, oh no okay, you're gonna follow up with Patrick offline.

261

00:50:34.800 --> 00:50:35.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, thank you.

262

00:50:41.670 --> 00:50:55.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): All right, well, once again appreciate everyone's attention and interest in this project and the NEPA process. The team will be staying on the line to address any questions or comments that might come up.

263

00:50:57.330 --> 00:51:03.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): But I think this concludes the formal program that we have planned for the meeting. So,

264

00:51:04.980 --> 00:51:13.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): look forward to hearing from you all via the written comments if you'd like and we will stick around to answer any other questions or comments

265

00:51:15.210 --> 00:51:16.230

Meg Perry (SWCA): as they arise.

266

00:51:18.030 --> 00:51:18.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks everyone.

267

00:57:25.440 --> 00:57:27.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, Sue, is this one that you can answer or

268

00:57:28.890 --> 00:57:29.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): is it better for Kristen?

269

00:57:32.430 --> 00:57:35.730

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): I can, I can start an answer

270

00:57:39.210 --> 00:57:47.850

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): and try and speak on NextEra's behalf. At this point, all good, okay, at this point, I believe, NextEra is still

271

00:57:49.830 --> 00:58:06.870

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): defining and refining their site plan, so I don't know if they've made any decisions regarding the specific components of the project, including the solar modules, Paul, that that you asked about.

272

00:58:08.550 --> 00:58:20.580

Sue Wilmot (SWCA): We can certainly follow up after this scoping meeting and ask NextEra, if they have, if they have purchased them already at this point. I don't know, but we can find out.

273

00:58:23.040 --> 00:58:25.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks, Sue. And

274

00:58:25.350 --> 00:58:31.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): Kristen, if you have any additional information to share that would be great, otherwise we can make a note to follow up with,

275

00:58:31.770 --> 00:58:34.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): with Paul to share that answer.

276

00:58:38.730 --> 00:58:45.270

Kristen Bastis (RUS): This is Kristen, yeah, I don't have anything to add to that. I was gonna say kind of a similar thing that Sue said.

277

00:58:45.810 --> 00:58:47.910

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, great Thank you.

278

01:02:46.890 --> 01:02:52.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks Brooke, I see your latest question so we'll respond in just a moment.

279

01:03:31.920 --> 01:03:32.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

280

01:03:34.050 --> 01:03:34.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): All right, Go ahead, Kristen.

281

01:03:37.050 --> 01:03:39.150

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Can you guys see me or am I black?

282

01:03:39.450 --> 01:03:40.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): No, we're not seeing you.

283

01:03:46.320 --> 01:03:58.410

Kristen Bastis (RUS): Okay well, I'll just talk, I'm sorry that you can't see me. So the reason that we do environmental impact statements for projects is to analyze the impacts

284

01:04:00.450 --> 01:04:06.420

Kristen Bastis (RUS): of any project, so it's not concern

285

01:04:07.440 --> 01:04:15.510

Kristen Bastis (RUS): with solar, in particular, but it's any type of infrastructure project that's being put into place.

286

01:04:17.040 --> 01:04:20.040

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And we look at different kinds of things,

287

01:04:21.120 --> 01:04:31.950

Kristen Bastis (RUS): air quality issues if there are any or, for example, solar panels that are grouped together in a large area can

288

01:04:34.410 --> 01:04:37.890

Kristen Bastis (RUS): cause birds to think the area is water,

289

01:04:40.530 --> 01:04:45.720

Kristen Bastis (RUS): and so that can be an issue with migratory birds trying to find a place to land

290

01:04:47.250 --> 01:04:48.540

Kristen Bastis (RUS): and get food and water.

291

01:04:50.160 --> 01:05:02.610

Kristen Bastis (RUS): But there are ways to mitigate that, and so we look at the project as a whole and look at all the concerns that can come about with the construction of that project.

292

01:05:10.770 --> 01:05:17.790

Kristen Bastis (RUS): So I hope that answered your question, Brooke, and I see that Paul has asked how many acres.

293

01:05:19.440 --> 01:05:36.900

Kristen Bastis (RUS): The exact design hasn't been made yet, but the application area is over 12,000 acres and there are four alternatives and they range in size from 4,000 to 6,000 acres.

294

01:05:38.400 --> 01:05:41.100

Kristen Bastis (RUS): And that is the entire

295

01:05:42.480 --> 01:05:47.340

Kristen Bastis (RUS): developed project area, not only the solar panel area.

296

01:05:50.460 --> 01:05:51.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great, thanks Kristen.

297

01:07:32.040 --> 01:07:34.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): And for your reference as kind of a follow up to that,

298

01:07:36.300 --> 01:07:44.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): in the slides that are posted online, slide eight includes some more information about the specific issues that will be analyzed

299

01:07:45.150 --> 01:09:01.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): in the process, and slide 11 has a little bit more general project information, like the acreage. So there's some point of reference there, slides eight and 11.

300

01:09:58.020 --> 01:10:07.200

Kristen Bastis (RUS): So Paul, I see that you're asking for the address for the farm. Right now, the property is private land,

301

01:10:08.220 --> 01:10:16.710

Kristen Bastis (RUS): so I don't want to give the address of it, but there are maps available on the slides on the website.

302

01:10:23.640 --> 01:10:27.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, thanks Kristen, that should give an idea of the general area.

303

01:10:28.140 --> 01:10:28.620

Kristen Bastis (RUS): yeah.

304

01:10:30.000 --> 01:10:30.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks.