

Rawhide Prairie Solar 20 MW solar facility

FAQ

What are you proposing?

Rawhide Prairie Solar will be a 20-megawatt (MW_{AC}) photovoltaic (PV) plant constructed adjacent to the existing 30 MW_{AC} Rawhide Flats Solar project. The project will feature a battery energy storage system that will feed up to 1 megawatt of electricity onto the transmission system for two hours (2 MWh).

What facilities will be constructed as part of Rawhide Prairie Solar project?

The project will be built on eight parcels within the Rawhide Energy Station's 4,560-acre, industrially-zoned campus. It will include PV modules mounted on single axis tracker systems. Each set of panels will include at least one pad-mounted inverter and transformer. Energy from the PV modules will flow through a proposed 34.5 kilovolt underground line that will extend from the Solar Collection Switchgear to the existing Rawhide substation.

Will transmission lines be built as part of this project?

No overhead electrical lines are planned for this project.

What is the battery energy storage system?

Some of the energy produced from the PV solar plant will be stored for use during non-generating hours in a lithium-ion battery near the existing Rawhide substation. The battery system will be approximately 33 feet long, 6 feet wide, and about 10 feet tall.

What are the advantages of locating the project on the Rawhide Energy Station site?

- Ample unused land is available and capable of accommodating a wide range of generation capacities and designs
- The site is relatively flat, unshaded and has existing infrastructure, e.g., road access, water and sewer
- A trained workforce exists at the Rawhide Energy Station
- No new transmission lines would be required
- Facilities for electrical interconnection exist at the site

Will this project fit in with the character of the area?

The facility will complement the existing, 30 MW PV Rawhide Flats solar generating installation, Rawhide Unit 1, and five natural gas generating units.

Who are the project owner and developer?

Platte River has partnered with DEPCOM Power (DEPCOM) to construct the project.

How many jobs will be created?

During the approximately eight-month construction phase of the project, DEPCOM will source both skilled and non-skilled local labor. The peak workforce onsite at any given time will be in the range of 200 – 300.

Will the project create more traffic?

Normal construction worker traffic and several truck deliveries per day will occur throughout the construction process. No additional traffic is expected during normal operations because the solar site will not be a manned facility. During the operation phase, the unmanned facility will generate no more than five trips per week for routine and periodic maintenance utilizing lightweight trucks and cars.

Will the project use water?

Once operational, no water will be used. DEPCOM will use a dry brush technique to clean the solar panels.

What are the benefits of the project?

The electricity produced by the project could power approximately 4,000 homes each year and increase the non-carbon energy mix serving Platte River's owner communities. Construction of the project will benefit local construction companies and businesses through the purchase of supplies and services, ranging from lodging and food to equipment.

Will there be a glare?

Very little. To maximize the output of the solar cells, the glass face of a standard crystalline PV panel is designed with greater than 95 percent transmission. Anti-reflective coating on the glass, which is used in the manufacturing process, increases transmission even further. As a result, nearly 97 percent of the light that strikes a solar panel is absorbed and turned into electricity, leaving minimal reflection.

Will there be loud noises generated from the project?

The project will not generate noise while operating. Noise generation will be largely limited to the construction phase of the project. An adequate buffer distance exists to minimize noise effects on adjacent land uses.

Will there be any impacts to biological resources?

The project is expected to result in only minor effects, primarily due to construction activities. No critical habitat areas will be impacted by the project. Areas of the site have been disturbed by construction of the Rawhide Energy Station and prior agricultural activities and no special-status species will be adversely affected. The acreage of long-term loss of habitat and native vegetation would be less than 200 acres.

Will there be any impacts to cultural resources?

All areas with potentially-eligible cultural resources will be avoided.

What is the estimated construction timeline?

Once permits are approved, approximately eight months of construction time will ensue. About one month of this time will be used for site prep and mobilization. Construction is scheduled to begin in Q3 of 2019 and should be completed by Q1 of 2020. Following construction, it will take approximately five to six months to demobilize and complete any final sitework.