

---

# 2008 Solar Annual Review Meeting

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy  
Development on BLM-Administered Lands in Six Western States

(Session: Industry Thoughts on DOE's CSP Program, April 24)

---

Heidi Hartmann, Argonne National Laboratory,  
[hmhartmann@anl.gov](mailto:hmhartmann@anl.gov); 630-252-6487



# Relationship to Solar Program Goals

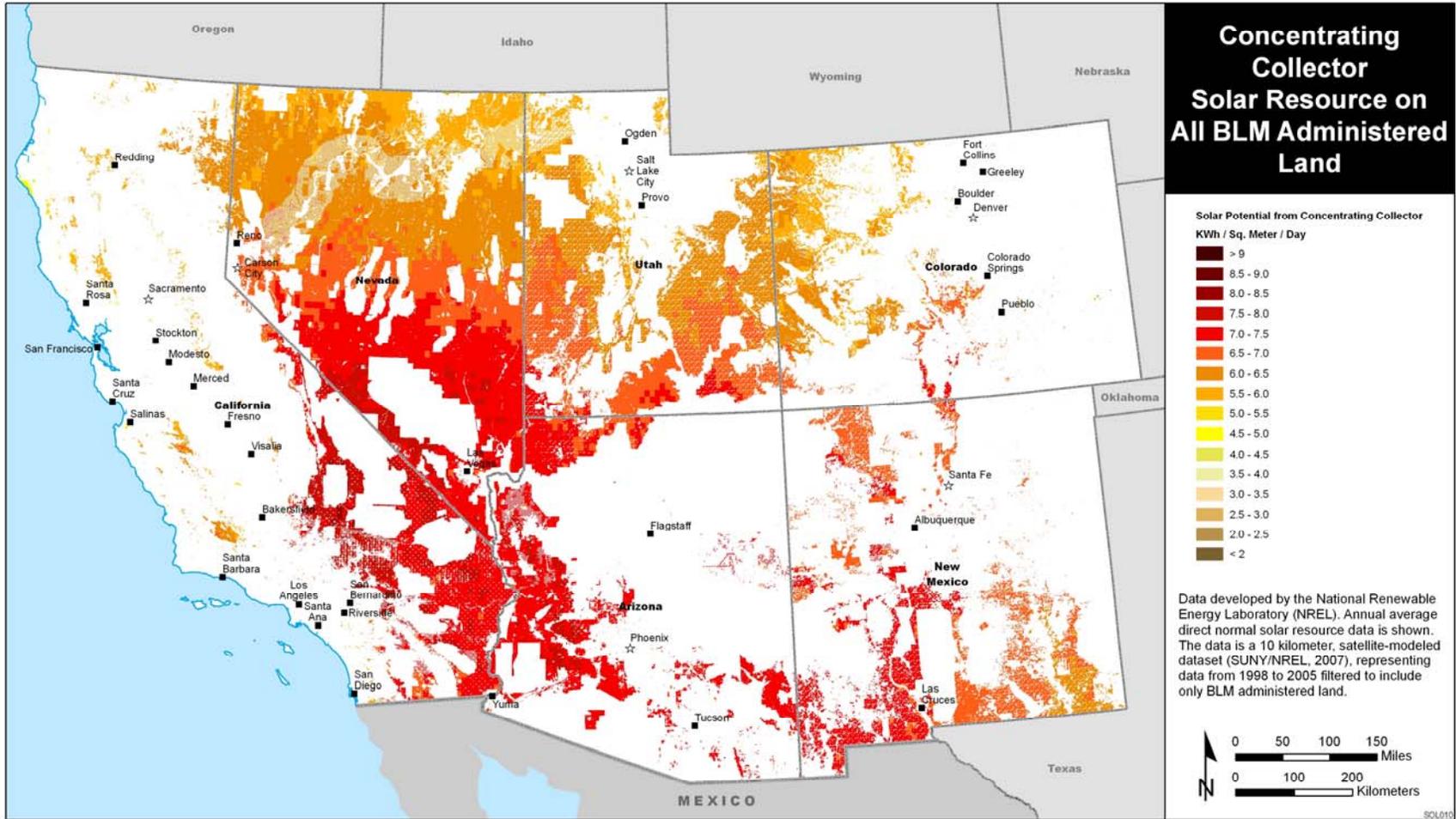


## Goals:

**By facilitating utility-scale solar developments, the EIS will increase deployment of solar technologies, and ultimately help to reduce costs of solar energy to competitive levels.**

## Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

- a) This EIS will evaluate impacts associated with utility-scale solar energy development on BLM-administered public lands in six western states (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah). The EIS will also evaluate transmission access constraints for these lands.**
- b) EIS will evaluate impacts of CSP systems (horizontal trough, dish engine, and power tower) and PV systems (tilted flat plate and CPV).**
- c) BLM, DOE, CEC, CPUC, possibly others.**
  - a) Argonne National Laboratory;**
  - b) National Renewable Energy Laboratory**



# FY08 Progress Report



## 1. What has been accomplished thus far?

- a) Scope of EIS defined broadly to evaluate utility-scale solar development in Western states with high solar potentials.
- b) NOI to be published in May; scoping meetings planned in multiple locations, probably in June.

## What will be accomplished in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters?

- a) Public Scoping Meetings to be held and Scoping report completed; Project website to be launched ([solarpeis.anl.gov](http://solarpeis.anl.gov)); alternatives defined; impact evaluations started.
- b) NREL modeling will project the amount of solar power generated on BLM lands in each state over the next 20 years, and on what timeline.

# How will the PEIS Achieve Its Goals?



## 1. PEIS will help developers identify land available and most favorable for development:

- a) Environmentally
- b) Economically (using NREL model)
- c) With respect to transmission constraints

## 2. Time to Development Decreased:

- a) BLM land use plans will be amended (one less administrative step)
- b) Developers will have better roadmap of environmental considerations and required mitigation measures.
- c) Policies will be clear.

# Future Activities



## 1. FY09 Planned Activities

- a) Identify the land suitable for solar projects
- b) Identify where transmission is most accessible to those lands suitable for solar
- c) Publication of Draft EIS (April 09)
- d) Response to Public Comments and revision of Draft EIS: Begins July 2009

## 2. FY10 and Beyond Ideas

- a) Publication of Final EIS – January 2010
- b) BLM's Record of Decision will amend land use plans to facilitate solar development on public lands.
- c) EIS land use designations and transmission analyses may help prioritize locations for future development.
- d) EIS designed to support evaluations for interconnecting utility-scale solar projects with transmission lines (WAPA).