



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Renewable Energy Application Process

Southern Nevada District Office



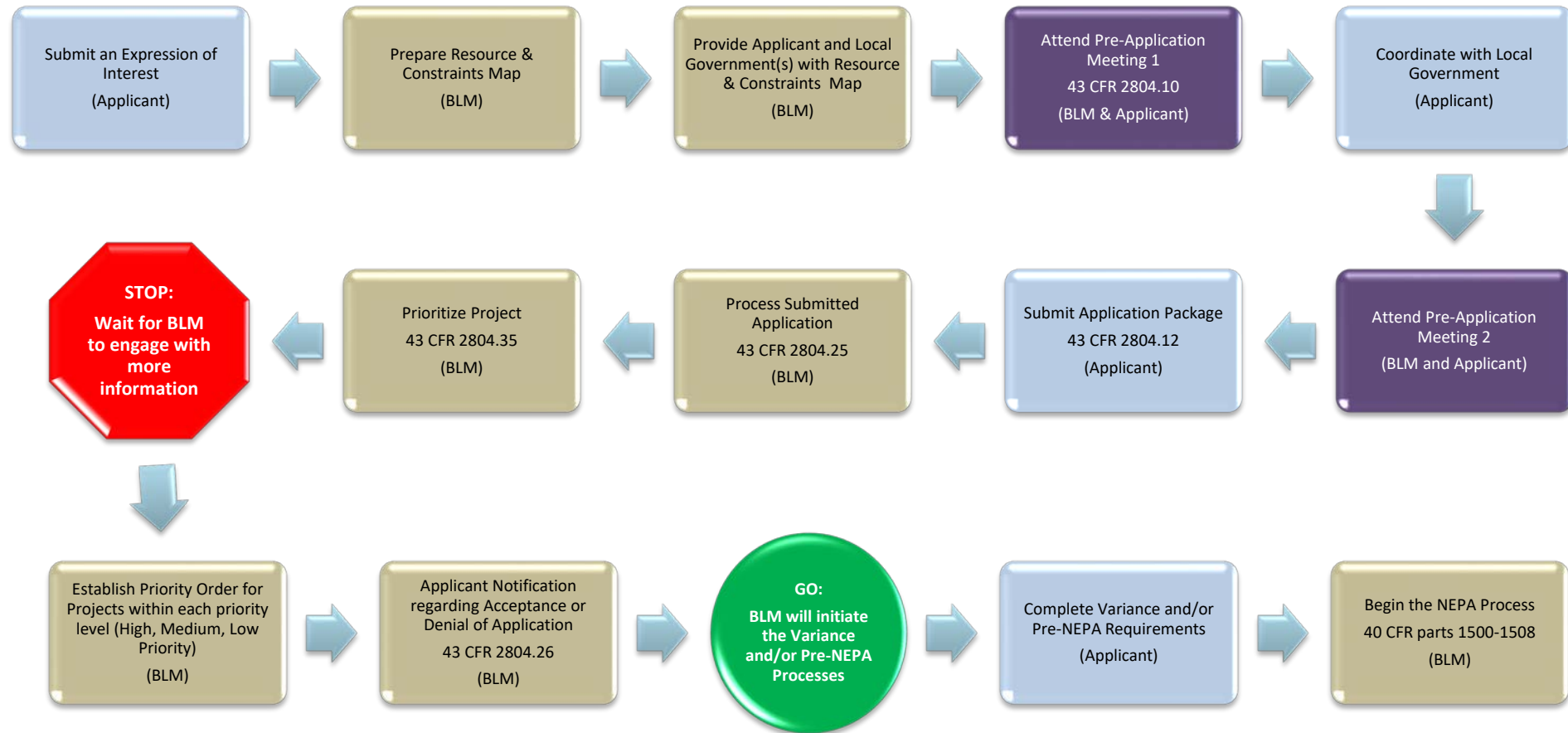


# Renewable Energy Application Policy

- Code of Federal Regulations
  - [43 CFR 2804](#)
- Solar Energy PEIS ROD
  - <http://blmsolar.anl.gov/documents/>
- Southern Nevada District Office Instructional Memorandums
  - IM-2019-002
  - IM-2020-001



# Application Process Flow Chart



**NOTE:** Should the need arise BLM may determine to proceed with a Competitive Variance Process in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.23



# Submit an Expression of Interest

- Applicant provides BLM with
  - GIS shapefile or KMZ
  - Brief project description
    - Who is developing this project?
    - What type of technology is being proposed?
    - Where is the project located?
    - When do you hope to have a completed proposal?
    - Why is the project being proposed?
    - Why is the project located in that location?
    - How will the project be constructed?



# Resource & Constraints Map

- BLM will prepare a resources & constraints map to answer:
  - Is the project in an exclusion area?
  - Is the project in a Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) or Designated Leasing Area (DLA)?
  - Does the project overlap with an existing application or other land use authorization?
  - What are the general constraints from the Resource Management Plan (RMP)?
  - Are there other resource constraints to consider?





# Pre-Application Meeting 1

- Attendees
  - Applicant's Project Manager
  - Others determined necessary by the applicant
  - BLM Energy and Infrastructure Team
    - Project Manager
    - Planning & Environmental Coordinator
    - Realty Specialist
    - Archaeologist/Tribal Liaison
    - Biologist
- Objectives:
  - Project overview from applicant
  - Initial constraints and opportunities of the site location from BLM
  - Provide the applicant with local government POC



# Coordination with Local Government

- Applicant to coordinate with local governments to gauge their level of support for the project
- Applicant will need to provide BLM with documentation that this has occurred and the results of this coordination
- Early coordination with local governments is required



# Pre-Application Meeting 2

- Attendees
  - Applicant's Project Manager
  - Others determined necessary by the applicant
  - BLM's Authorized Officer
  - BLM Energy and Infrastructure Team
  - BLM Resource Specialists
- Objectives
  - Review results of local government coordination
  - Details regarding constraints, opportunities, and potential resource impacts
  - Review application requirements





# Application Package

- Application Package
  - SF299
  - Application filing fee
  - Initial Plan of Development
    - Project siting and design
    - Measures to avoid and minimize impacts identified during the pre-application meetings
    - Associated actions or facilities



# Process Application Package

- 43 CFR 2804.25
  - Serialize application
  - Review application and Plan of Development (POD) for completion pursuant to policy
  - BLM will provide a date to notify the applicant of the application's priority level



# SNDO Prioritization Process

- Southern Nevada District IM-2020-001
- Purpose
  - Create a fair and transparent process for prioritization
  - Increase consistency in the review of applications by creating a standard process to conduct this review
  - Provide transparency in the decision-making process



# Prioritization Background

- Many demands of the public lands managed by the Southern Nevada District
- BLM recognizes the need and desire for renewable energy projects
- Manage public lands in accordance with our multiple use mandate



# SNDO Prioritization Policy

- 43 CFR 2804.35
  - Established screening criteria
  - BLM will prioritize applications
    - May re-categorize based on new information
  - Three categories (high, medium, low)
- Local considerations
- Resource considerations



# Priority Decision

- Applicant notification regarding their application priority
  - Prioritization worksheet





# STOP

- At this point, please wait for BLM to notify you that they are ready to go further with your project
- Please do not reach out to BLM specialists requesting their assistance in the review of protocols, qualifications, or report reviews.



# Changing an Application's Priority

- BLM may re-categorize any application based on new information received
  - surveys
  - public meetings
  - other data collection
  - after any changes to the application
- New information would be included, and the application would be re-prioritized



# Establish Priority Processing Order

1. Obligations to authorized projects
2. Obligations to projects in process
3. Solar Energy Zones & Designated Leasing Areas
4. High priority applications
5. Medium priority applications
6. Low priority applications



# ***Competitive Variance Process***

- BLM Consideration
  - When two or more competing applications or expressions of interest in the same area
- Process is outlined in 43 CFR 2804.30



# GO: Notification of Acceptance

- Applicant notification of application acceptance
- Notification will include
  - Statement that BLM is prepared to process your application
  - Variance process requirements as required
  - Required resources surveys and protocols
  - Specialist contact Information
  - Other requirements to complete prior to initiating the NEPA Process



# Questions

- Please email questions related to policy or process you would like answered during the virtual workshop to Kirsten Cannon at [k1cannon@blm.gov](mailto:k1cannon@blm.gov)
- Q&As will be posted on Southern Nevada District's homepage within a week