

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

September 1, 2010

**SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD):** July 14, 2010.

**B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER:** Sacramento District, Searchlight Wind Energy, SPK-2010-00252.  
Name of water being evaluated on this JD form: unnamed tributaries of El Dorado Valley Dry Lake

**C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

State: Nevada County: Clark City: Searchlight

Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat: 35.496 N, Long: -114.909 W

Universal Transverse Mercator: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nearest waterbody: El Dorado Dry Lake.

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: None.

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): \_\_\_\_\_.

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc.) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form. List other JDs: Drainages associated with the Colorado River are analyzed separately.

**D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: July 14, 2010.

Field Determination. Date(s): April 15, 2010.

**SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

**A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.**

There **Pick List** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.**

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

**1. Waters of the U.S.**

**a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):<sup>1</sup>**

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters<sup>2</sup> (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

**b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:**

Non-wetland waters: \_\_\_\_\_ linear feet \_\_\_\_\_ width (ft) and/or \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

Wetlands: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

**c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: **Pick List** and **Pick List****

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):<sup>3</sup>**

- Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: **The proposed project is located in Eldorado Valley, located south of Henderson, Nevada. This 530 square mile area is an intrastate hydrologic basin and is isolated from TNWs by the McCullough Range on the west, the Eldorado Mountains on the east, the Highland Range on the south, and the Black Hills and River Mountains on the north.**

<sup>1</sup> Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

<sup>3</sup> Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

Several ephemeral washes traverse the project site, runoff from which drains into Dry Lake which does exhibit an ordinary high-water mark. However, these hydrographic features do not cross state lines and are not used for interstate commerce. The drainages associated with the El Dorado Valley Dry Lake were determined to be non-jurisdictional based on a lack of interstate commerce and any connection to traditional navigable waters. Several past determinations have been made in this area, including drainages that are associated with this jurisdictional determination. Several of the upstream sections were submitted to EPA and HQ under SPK-2009-0045. In addition, SPK-2010-0396 also addressed jurisdiction within the El Dorado Valley and was also determined to be non-jurisdictional.

### **SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS**

- A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs: NOT APPLICABLE
- B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS: NOT APPLICABLE
- C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION: NOT APPLICABLE
- D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE: NOT APPLICABLE
- E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):<sup>4</sup>

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
- from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
- which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
- Interstate isolated waters. Explain: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other factors. Explain: \_\_\_\_\_.

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: \_\_\_\_\_ linear feet \_\_\_\_\_ width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.  
Identify type(s) of waters: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Wetlands: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

F. **NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS:**

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
- Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
- Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). The drainages would not have been considered jurisdictional based solely on the Migratory Bird Rule based on their lack of habitat.
- Other: (explain, if not covered above): \_\_\_\_\_.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): NA

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): \_\_\_\_\_ linear feet \_\_\_\_\_ width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: \_\_\_\_\_ acres. List type of aquatic resource: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Wetlands: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): NA

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): **5400** linear feet \_\_\_\_\_ width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: \_\_\_\_\_ acres. List type of aquatic resource: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Wetlands: \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

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<sup>4</sup> Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

**SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.**

**A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):**

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Newfields, 2009. Jurisdictional determination for Boulder City Solar Energy Project, Clark County, Nevada.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
  - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
  - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Corps navigable waters' study: \_\_\_\_\_.
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: \_\_\_\_\_.
  - USGS NHD data.
  - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Boulder City SW
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: \_\_\_\_\_.
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: \_\_\_\_\_.
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- FEMA/FIRM maps: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: \_\_\_\_\_ (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs:  Aerial (Name & Date): \_\_\_\_\_  
or  Other (Name & Date): \_\_\_\_\_.
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: SPK-2009-0045 (May 29, 2009), SPK-2010-396 (June 29, 2010).
- Applicable/supporting case law: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other information (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:** The proposed project is located in Eldorado Valley, located south of Henderson, Nevada. This 530 square mile area is an intrastate hydrologic basin and is isolated from TNWs by the McCullough Range on the west, the Eldorado Mountains on the east, the Highland Range on the south, and the Black Hills and River Mountains on the north. Several ephemeral washes traverse the project site, runoff from which drains into Dry Lake which does exhibit an ordinary highwater mark. However, these hydrographic features do not cross state lines and are not used for interstate commerce.

Table of Waters Associated with the El Dorado Valley: