



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Department of Defense
and
The Department of the Interior
on
Renewable Energy and a
Renewable Energy Partnership Plan**

I. Purpose

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to help DoD develop renewable energy in the interests of greater installation energy security and reduced installation energy costs and to help meet DOI goals of increasing renewable energy generation from public lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

II. Background

Energy security is critical to our national security. Renewable energy, when combined with advanced micro-grid and storage technologies, can significantly enhance the energy security and reduce the energy costs of DoD installations. In concert with the missions of both the DoD and the DOI, DoD and DOI have developed a partnership to work cooperatively for safer, cleaner, and more secure energy supplies. As part of that partnership, DOI and DoD will work cooperatively to facilitate appropriate, mission-compatible renewable energy development on public lands withdrawn for defense-related purposes ("Withdrawn Lands") and other onshore and offshore areas near or adjacent to DoD military installations.

III. Partnership Plans

A. Offshore Wind Partnership Plan

Offshore wind is an abundant renewable energy resource available to most DoD coastal installations on the Atlantic coast, on the Pacific coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in Hawaii. Properly sited wind generation on the OCS has the potential to produce 4000 GWs of power that is relatively close to key load centers on the mainland. If improperly sited, offshore wind

development could impact military missions; therefore DOI and DoD will continue to work closely together to identify areas most appropriate for offshore wind development.

In addition to identifying and addressing mission compatibility issues, DoD involvement could provide benefits to an offshore wind project. For example, a DoD installation could provide a landing site (security and land for a substation) for generation transmitted from an OCS renewable energy facility. Additionally, an offtake contract with the military could mitigate some financial risk to a project by providing a significant customer whose energy needs are predictable and consistent. Neither the DoD nor DOI, however, would directly develop a project nor commit in advance to purchase power as an incentive to the project's financing.

Partnership Plan: To facilitate the development of wind energy offshore, the DoD and DOI (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) will collaborate on the following actions:

1. To encourage a dialogue with industry, the DoD and DOI will co-chair an offshore wind military/industry forum before October 1, 2012, to initiate the sharing of information among the military, other Federal agencies, and industry—with the goal of advancing offshore wind projects. The Department of Energy (DOE) and other relevant Federal agencies, state, local, and Indian tribal governments, and other stakeholders, including industry, will be invited to participate.
2. The DoD and DOI will investigate existing contract and management authorities to achieve mutual renewable energy goals and identify required changes in existing authorities as necessary.

B. Installation Renewable Energy Partnership Plan

The DoD has numerous installations. These installations comprise both fee owned lands (i.e., lands that constitute “Property” under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act) and Withdrawn Lands. In some locations, fee owned and Withdrawn Lands are interspersed, presenting some challenges for the siting of renewable energy projects. Issues regarding the development of renewable energy on lands withdrawn for defense-related purposes are currently being addressed through the Interagency Land Use Coordinating Committee (ILUCC). Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages other public lands adjacent to or near military installations that have significant renewable energy potential, often in the form of solar and geothermal resources. The DOI and DoD will continue to work closely together to identify and analyze areas that are mission compatible and appropriate for renewable energy development.

There are significant proven or potential solar, wind, geothermal and biomass resources on or in the vicinity of DoD installations throughout the West. Electrical power produced from these renewable resources, when combined with advanced microgrid and storage technologies, could support DoD needs for energy security and reduce the cost of energy. DoD is exploring ways in which such power could be provided directly to a single installation or may be wheeled across a network of DoD installations. Certain larger projects could involve the sale of excess power to the grid, provided appropriate measures are taken to ensure installation security.

Through the ILUCC, DoD and DOI will continue to work together to facilitate the development of renewable energy on Withdrawn Lands by seeking legislative clarification on the real property and resource aspects of such projects.

Partnership Plan: To facilitate the development of renewable energy in the southwest and other regions, the DoD and the DOI (BLM) will implement the following short-term measures:

1. The DoD and the BLM will develop a pilot interagency process for the authorization of solar energy projects at Barry M. Goldwater Range East (Air Force) Barry M. Goldwater Range West (Marine Corps), Ft. Irwin Front Gate (Army), Fort Irwin Red Pass Lake (Army)Fort Irwin Goldstone Sites (Army) and the Yuma Proving Ground (Army). This process will reflect DoD and DOI's agreement with respect to determination of lead agency, interagency approval and sharing of consideration. This process will also identify any additional statutory authority that may be necessary or desirable to enable the effective development of such projects.
2. The BLM and DoD will develop an interagency coordination process to develop geothermal resources at a candidate military installation that is compatible with the military mission.
3. The BLM and the DoD will form a working group to develop a joint geothermal unitization action plan for the DoD's installations.
4. The DoD and the DOI will work together within the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan process.
5. The DoD, in cooperation with the BLM, will identify potential renewable energy areas on withdrawn lands that could be used for development to support future DoD and DOI planning efforts.
6. The DOI, in cooperation with DoD, will include such potential renewable energy areas, as appropriate, in future BLM landscape planning efforts for renewable energy zones.

C. Alaska Initiative

DOI chairs the Interagency Working Group on Coordination on Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska that the President established under Executive Order 13580; DoD is a key member of the Interagency Working Group. DOI and DoD are working together under the auspices of the Interagency Working Group to increase renewable energy production opportunities in Alaska, with a special focus on developing renewable energy for use on Federal facilities in Alaska, including military bases. In that regard, DoD is chairing the renewable energy subgroup focused on Federal facilities. DoD also will assist DOI in DOI's and the Working Group's ongoing efforts to develop standardized, small-scale renewable energy packages that can help address power needs for remote, off-grid locations, including potential deployment in isolated Native Alaskan villages.

IV. Administrative Provisions

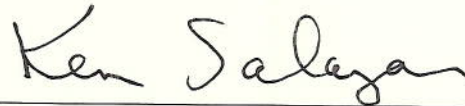
1. Nothing in this MOU is intended or will be construed to limit, expand, or affect in any way the authority or legal responsibilities of the DoD or DOI.
2. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the DoD or DOI to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress. Nor does this MOU obligate DoD, DOI or the United States Government to spend funds on any particular project or purpose.
3. This MOU is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

V. Authorizing Signatures and Dates



Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense

Date: *July 20, 2012*



Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date: *July 20, 2012*