Dear Mr. Koster,

On June 7, 2021, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain District Tonopah Field Office, received your application to construct, operate, and maintain a solar development project across public lands. While reviewing your application, our office did not notice any substantial deficiencies needing resolution at this time. Therefore, the BLM has determined that your application, as of the date of this letter, is considered complete under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 2803.10 and 43 CFR 2804.12, unless an unexpected deficiency is identified at a later time. If that happens, the BLM will notify you immediately.

Additionally, under 43 CFR 2804.35, the BLM will prioritize solar and wind energy applications based on high-, medium-, and low-priority categories. The BLM reviewed your application based on these high-, medium-, and low-priority categories. The BLM’s evaluation of your application is currently categorized as a low priority. The BLM’s rationale for this priority ranking is based on the following:

- The project as proposed is near or adjacent to lands designated by Congress, the President, or the Secretary for the protection of sensitive viewsheds, resources, and values. The project as proposed is adjacent to Death Valley National Park.
- The project as proposed is located in sensitive habitat areas, including important species use areas, riparian areas, or areas of importance for Federal or State sensitive species. The project as proposed is located in high value Desert Tortoise habitat as identified by the United States Geological Service.
- The project as proposed contains lands currently designated as Visual Resource Management Class III.

Interior Region 10 - California-Great Basin
California*, Nevada*, Oregon*
* Partial
The BLM asks that you schedule a meeting with us at your earliest convenience to discuss the timelines, due dates, and expectations for this application based on the prioritization ranking of your application. When scheduling a meeting with the BLM, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- High-priority applications are given processing priority over medium- and low-priority applications (43 CFR 2804.35(a));
- Medium-priority applications are given priority over low-priority applications (43 CFR 2804.35(b));
- Low-priority applications may not be feasible to authorize (43 CFR 2804.35);
- The BLM will generally prioritize workloads associated with processing new right-of-way (ROW) lease nominations filed under 43 CFR Part 2809 ahead of workloads associated with processing new ROW grant applications submitted under 43 CFR Part 2804, including those grant applications that are classified as “high-priority” (43 CFR 2809.10(d)).

For your awareness, the Battle Mountain District is currently processing 20 ROW grant applications for renewable energy testing or development under 43 CFR Part 2804 as well as nominations for two Designated Leasing Areas (Solar Energy Zones) under 43 CFR Part 2809. Please be aware that the BLM may re-categorize your application based on new information received through surveys, public meetings, or after any changes to the application. If you have any questions, please contact Cassandra Albus, Supervisory NRS, at (775) 482-7807 or by email at calbus@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

PERRY WICKHAM

Perry B. Wickham
Field Manager