

Now we're going to discuss the governing and consultation principles of the Solar PA. We have Kathy Pedrick from the Arizona State Office to elaborate on this topic.

Kathy.....

Stipulation 2 of the Solar PA contains 4 governing principles as you will see in the next 2 slides. These principles were designed to increase the efficiency and timeliness of the process and they include:

First, the Section 106 and the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process will be coordinated to meet the requirements of both laws and will be completed within the NEPA process timeframes.

Secondly, all parties in the process will seek opportunities to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of Section 106. They will seek the best methods to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.

Third, in the spirit of efficiency and effectiveness, the parties will seek to utilize current electronic technology to transfer and share documents.

Fourth, the BLM and the SHPOs will continue to support and promote use of digital information; and to meet document standards established by the BLM and the respective states.

Stipulation 3 outlines the consultation principles identified in the Solar PA.

These principles outline the timeframes for consultation and review. The principles include the following: the BLM will seek the views of Consulting parties, which can include the public as well as the Solar PA signatories and concurring parties

Special emphasis will be given to the early identification and consideration of landscape-level resources

These landscape level resources go beyond individual archaeological and historic buildings and structures, and may include Traditional Cultural Properties, trails, farmsteads or ranches.

Stipulation 3.B acknowledges the BLM's responsibility for government to government consultation during the implementation of the Solar PA.

More specific procedures and opportunities for tribal involvement can be found in each stage of the Section 106 process.

The BLM will consult with tribes throughout the life of a solar project, including the application phases, development plans, monitoring requirements, and decommissioning and reclamation steps.

Consultation will start early and will include the following principles:

The BLM will work with the tribes on ethnographic or other studies as required to identify areas of religious and cultural significance

The BLM will combine consultations on multiple projects where possible and appropriate.

For example in Arizona, we have consulted on as many as three separate renewable energy projects in meetings with tribes.

Additionally, the public plays an important role in the management of public lands, and the Solar PA recognizes the role of the public in the Section 106 process

The BLM will strive to keep the public informed through public meetings, traditional media and social networks.

Public notification of site specific solar development applications is required under the Solar PA.