

New Mexico State Land Office

Patrick H. Lyons, Commissioner of Public Lands



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LAND COMMISSIONER PATRICK LYONS AND SUNEDISON SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO

Hobbs -- SunEdison, North America's largest solar energy services provider, has identified 560 acres of state trust lands in Lea and Eddy counties as sites for two 10 megawatt (MW)/11MW (DC) photovoltaic solar power plants and today signed three option agreements to encumber the land from the New Mexico State Land Office, Commissioner of Public Lands Patrick Lyons announced. Two additional sites located on adjacent privately-owned lands will complete the 50MW/55MW (AC) solar project.

The utility-scale, ground-mount system is expected to be fully operational on the five 10MW (AC) sites by the end of 2011. The installations will generate electricity to power more than 10,000 homes during its first full year of operation.

The five installations will be built, financed, and maintained by SunEdison and Xcel Energy has committed to a 20-year solar power services agreement (SPSA).

"The partnership between the Land Office, SunEdison, and Xcel Energy will help New Mexico further its efforts to meet renewable portfolio standards, as well as create jobs, and generate revenue for our public schools and universities," Commissioner Lyons said. "Lea County's EnergyPlex is now a consortium of the nation's most significant players in the energy industry."

Lisa Hardison, of the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County said, "It is a tremendous win for the EnergyPlex to be selected as the home for one of the nation's largest solar projects. We are especially thankful for Commissioner Lyons support of this project, as Lea County continues to grow and diversify its economy."

"SunEdison is proud to see solar realized in the state of New Mexico," said Rick Gilliam, Vice President of Government Relations for SunEdison. "This is a win for local economies, job creation, and the citizens who deserve clean energy solutions."

Commissioner Lyons and the State Land Office manage 9 million acres of surface estate and 13 million mineral acres held in trust to support public education. Revenues earned from energy production, farming and ranching, and community and business development on trust lands support public schools, seven universities, the New Mexico Military Institute, the New Mexico School for the Deaf, the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, public building repair and construction, and water conservation projects.

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