

Silver State North Solar Project

Clark County, Nevada, USA

Developer:	First Solar
Size:	50MW (AC)
Status:	Permitting
Type:	Ground-Mount
Power Output For:	~9,000 local homes per year
CO₂ Displacement:	~42,000 metric tons per year (~8,000 cars off the road)

Project Timeline



Project at a Glance

- 50MW (AC) of clean, renewable power
- Located on approximately 600 acres of BLM-administered public land
- Approximately 300 construction jobs created
- No water used during electricity generation
- No air emissions
- Minimal noise
- Low visual impact
- Panels recycled after useful lifespan

Overview

First Solar, a leading manufacturer of photovoltaic solar panels and premier provider of solar solutions, is developing a 50 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar project located on approximately 600 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Clark County, Nevada near Primm. The Silver State North Solar Project, initially developed by NextLight Renewable Power, LLC., is now being completed by First Solar which acquired NextLight on July 12, 2010. When fully operational, the project will generate enough clean solar energy to serve the needs of about 9,000 local homes per year, displacing approximately 42,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually—the equivalent of taking about 8,000 cars off the road. The project site is strategically located near a major transmission hub and is adjacent to an existing power plant and transmission line corridor. NV Energy has contracted to purchase the project's output.

The BLM, which is the lead agency for review under the National Environmental Policy Act, issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement in September 2010. The U.S. Department of the Interior issued a Record of Decision and Right of Way Grant in October 2010. Construction on the Silver State North project began in June 2011.

Location





Community

First Solar is committed to being a good neighbor through our community involvement and through the environmentally sensitive design of our solar projects. We will continue to engage neighbors, community groups, environmental groups, and business organizations to ensure that Silver State North remains a valued and respected business in Clark County.

The Silver State North Solar Project will generate state and local tax revenues, provide wages from up to 300 construction jobs and about five ongoing monitoring and operations positions, and create benefits for many local businesses. First Solar will seek to provide employment opportunities for qualified local residents.

Project Benefits

- Contributes to Clark County's leadership in renewable energy
- Generates wages and benefits for approximately 300 construction jobs and about five ongoing operation and maintenance positions
- Increases state and local tax revenues
- Indirectly benefits dozens of businesses in Clark County

Environment

First Solar projects have a low environmental impact. When in operation, our systems generate electricity with no water use, no air emissions, and no waste production, and have the smallest carbon footprint of any PV technology. Silver State North is being designed to minimize visual impacts as well. Mounted to metal racks, the PV panels will be no higher than seven feet above ground. They will be able to withstand adverse weather conditions, including the high winds and periodic flooding found in the region. The Silver State North site was carefully selected after an extensive environmental review. The availability of land near existing electrical transmission lines, the amount of sunlight, and current land uses were also important considerations in the siting decision.

Construction planning for the project will include the implementation of appropriate dust control measures, as well as truck routes that will minimize traffic.

First Solar's Approach

Clean. When in operation, First Solar systems generate electricity with no air emissions, no waste production, and no water use, and have the smallest carbon footprint of any PV technology.

Affordable. By driving down the cost of solar generation, First Solar continues to make new strides in meeting the worldwide demand for clean, renewable energy.

Sustainable. First Solar's proven business model delivers viable energy solutions on a global scale—environmentally and socially, as well as financially.

Global. With a worldwide footprint of manufacturing and project development capabilities, First Solar is able to scale renewable energy solutions to meet the diverse needs of nations around the globe.

Questions or Comments

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