The U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) and Fort Huachuca collaborated with Tucson Electric Power (TEP) to develop an 18 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC)* solar energy project at Fort Huachuca, AZ. The project’s Phase I became commercially operational in January 2015, and Phase II became commercially operational in January 2017.

About Fort Huachuca

Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona is 75 miles southeast of Tucson and 15 miles from the U.S. Mexico border. The installation covers 100,539 acres, 964 square miles of restricted airspace, and 2,575 square miles of electronic ranges. Fort Huachuca also includes more than 5.5 million square feet of operational facilities, more than 1,000 family housing units, three remote airstrips, and three schools. Libby Army Airfield’s 12,001-foot concrete runway is the centerpiece of the Army’s sixth busiest continental U.S. airfield.

Fort Huachuca is home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Network Enterprise Technology Command, Electronic Proving Ground, Joint Interoperability Test Command, Communications Electronics Command, and Information Systems Engineering Command. The installation supports more than 50 one-of-a-kind tenants and missions with national-level requirements, including unmanned aircraft systems, training and operations, military intelligence, and cybersecurity.

Fort Huachuca is a vital national asset supporting joint and interagency teams with critical aviation, intelligence, signal, and cyber enablers. Located near joint strike capabilities, Fort Huachuca is strategically positioned to support complex mission command operations and exercises.

* Alternating Current (AC) is provided to consumers. Inverters convert the direct current (DC) from solar panels to AC and losses occur during conversion.

Project Details

- The project is located on approximately 68 acres of land in the Fort Huachuca cantonment area.
- The Army and TEP signed a 30-year easement to facilitate the project.
- TEP contracted with industry partner E.ON for the system’s design, engineering, procurement and construction management.
- TEP financed, owns, operates, and maintains the large-scale energy solar project.
- Fort Huachuca will continue to procure power from TEP through an existing General Services Administration (GSA) Areawide contract.
- As the utility provider, TEP streamlined the interconnection process through its Fort Huachuca substation, thereby reducing interconnection costs and improving system reliability.
- An estimated 150 workers were employed during the construction of the solar array.
About OEI

The OEI, under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, serves as the Army’s central program management office for the development, implementation, and oversight of privately financed, large-scale, energy projects focused on enhancing energy resilience on Army installations. OEI collaborates with industry, public utilities, and other stakeholders to implement projects that include energy generation, storage, and control capabilities. These “islandable” capabilities can support critical operations in the event of a grid outage, enabling the Army to achieve the levels of mobility and lethality to maintain its tactical and strategic edge. For more information about OEI, visit: www.oei.army.mil.

About TEP

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) provides safe, reliable power to 417,000 customers in the Tucson, Arizona metropolitan area. TEP has worked with customers to develop nearly 275 MW of solar generating capacity, enough to meet the annual electric needs of 58,000 homes. This success has earned TEP repeated recognition among the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) Top 10 Utility Solar Rankings, as well as the honor of being named SEPA’s 2012 Investor Owned Utility of the Year. TEP and its parent company, UNS Energy Corporation, are subsidiaries of Fortis, which owns utilities that serve more than 3 million customers across Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean.

About E.ON

E.ON contracted with TEP to develop this large-scale energy project. E.ON’s diversified business consists of renewables, conventional and decentralized power generation, natural gas, energy trading, and retail and distribution. With its broad energy mix, E.ON owns almost 68 gigawatts of generation capacity and is one of the world’s leading renewables companies.