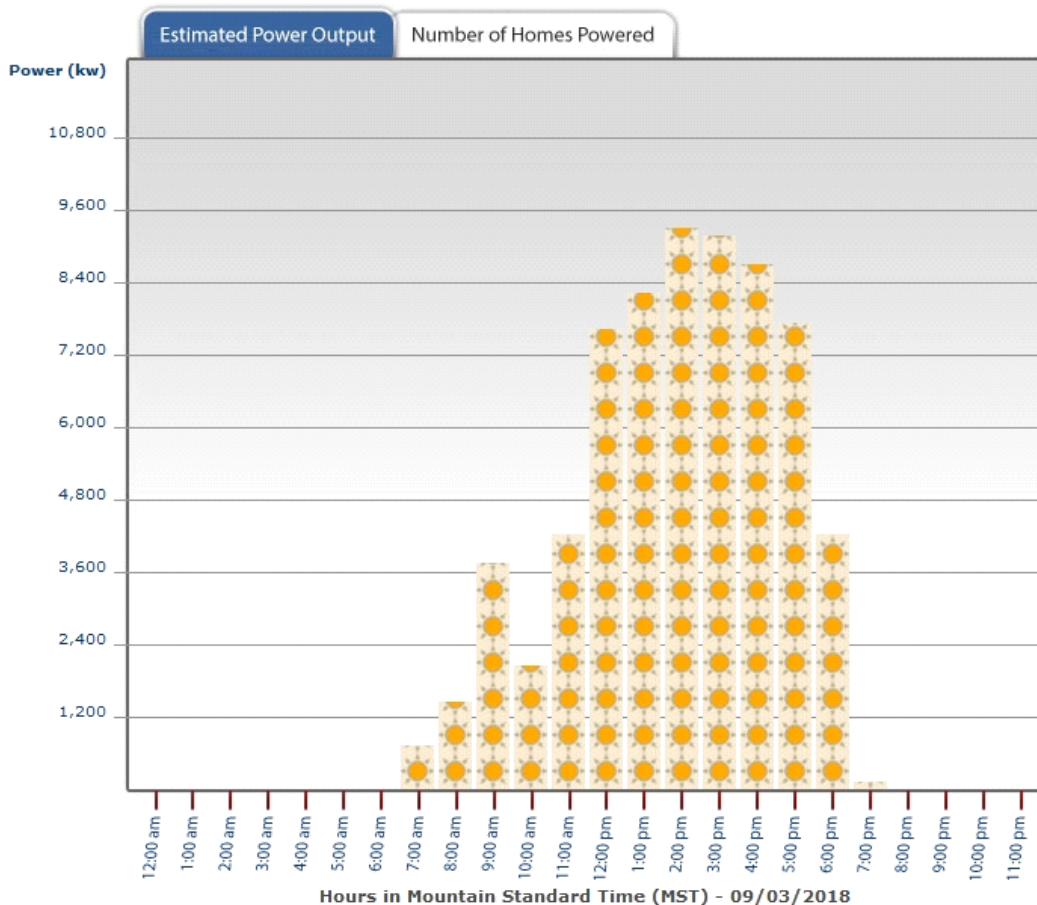


Who is Responsible for the Las Cruces Centennial Solar Farm?

Dave Tofsted

I ask this question because although **SunE EPE1, LLC** is listed as the Project Owner at <https://www.epelectric.com/renewable-energy/SE01>, are they responsibly taking care of this subsidized farm? The contractor gets a subsidy when they install the equipment. They also get accelerated depreciation. After that, are they keeping up the maintenance so this facility can operate at maximum efficiency? After all, El Paso Electric has to buy any power produced, no matter how much is produced. On September 3rd I traveled to this site to see what was happening. The plot below shows how much power was generated on that day.



The rated (nameplate) power of the farm is 12 Mega-Watts. The farm's output in the morning was low due to clouds. But these cleared off by mid-day, so the afternoon power output should have been at 12 MW.

Why isn't maximum power achieved in the clear afternoon? Let's look at some photos. This first photo shows a large number of panels are not properly aligned.



This shot shows panels oriented in at least 3 different directions relative to the sun coming in from the left. On the right side of the photo are numerous panels pointing west when they should be facing south. On the left the extent of this problem can be seen in the blowup below where at least 12 rows of panels are pointing west.



These panels are fitted on swivel mounts and should follow the sun, but these motors are either broken or are not being powered correctly.

We need to make sure that when we provide these subsidies we are getting our money's worth.