



Department of the Air Force
Scientific Advisory Board

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE WASHINGTON DC

Test Range Compatibility II Study (Quick Look)

Abstract

The Air Force's Western Test Ranges are an essential resource for the U.S., critical to establishing and maintaining the U.S. military's technological edge. These ranges are irreplaceable, and demands for their use continue to grow. However, property on and nearby these ranges is also attractive for other purposes, including the installation of alternative energy facilities.

In October 2009 the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board recommended ways for the Air Force to better address proposed developments, particularly alternative energy developments. However, before these recommendations could be implemented, the Air Force was asked to respond to a particular proposal for solar thermal energy development in the Coyote Springs area.

It is important to assess the compatibility of this proposed development with test and training operations.

The study will:

- 1) Document and describe the Coyote Springs solar thermal system design, in as much detail as currently exists.
- 2) Review current and potential future usage of the airspace in the Coyote Springs area for testing and training.
- 3) Perform a preliminary assessment of the potential impact from the proposed solar thermal system on test and training activities, including:
 - Assess the impact of the solar thermal system on ground-based radar systems, airborne infrared sensors, and flight operations, using conservative assumptions relative to the energy system where detailed information is not available.
 - Assess potential impacts of flight operations on the solar thermal system and its associated infrastructure and operations.