

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the closing date of the public comment period on the scope and implementation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Moapa Paiute Power Generating Station and Associated Facilities (previously referred to as the Crystal Power Generating Station * * *) announced in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, July 19, 2000, (FR 44806-44807) has been extended from August 18, 2000, to October 1, 2000. In addition, two more public scoping meetings will be held on the content of the EIS. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also wishes to announce that the Bureau of Land Management will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. All other information in the earlier notice remains the same.

DATES: Comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must arrive by October 1, 2000. The public scoping meetings will be held on September 19, 2000, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and September 20, 2000, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand carry written comments to either (1) Amy L. Heuslein, Regional Environmental Protection Officer, Western Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Environmental Quality Services, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, Arizona 85001, Telephone (602) 379-6750 or Telefax (602) 379-3833, or (2) Deborah Hamlin, Realty Specialist, Southern Paiute Field Station, P.O. Box 720, St. George, Utah 84771, Telephone (435) 674-9720 or Telefax (435) 674-9714.

The September 19, 2000, public scoping meeting will be held at the Tribal Hall, Number 1 Lincoln Street, Moapa Indian Reservation, Moapa, Nevada. The September 20, 2000, public scoping meeting will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of the North Las Vegas Airport, 2730 Airport Drive, North Las Vegas, NV 89032.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy L Heuslein, (602) 379-6750 or Deborah Hamlin, (435) 674-9720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to Section 1503.1 of the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 437 *et seq.*) Department of the Interior Manual (510 DM1-7) and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Public Comment Solicitation

Interested persons may submit written comments regarding the scope and implementation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Moapa Paiute Power Generating Station and Associated Facilities to the location identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. You may also comment via the Internet to AmyHeuslein@bia.gov or DeborahHamlin@bia.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that your message was received, contact us directly at (602) 379-6750 or (435) 674-9720, respectively.

Comments, including the names and home addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the above addresses during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or your address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals representing themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: August 25, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-1652-00]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Livestock Grazing Management on Allotments Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah

(A plan amendment may be required because alternatives considered could, if selected, modify grazing management currently administered under existing Management Framework Plans)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice to conduct scoping for livestock grazing management on allotments administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah.

A plan amendment to the BLM Paria, Vermilion, Zion, and Escalante Management Framework Plans (MFPs) may be required because alternatives considered during the preparation of the EIS could, if selected, modify grazing management and allocations currently managed under portions of the MFPs.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the BLM, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument will be preparing an EIS to analyze the impacts of domestic livestock grazing through renewing grazing permits on 76 allotments managed by GSENM.

The issues anticipated include: (1) Potential impacts to vegetative communities, wildlife, riparian/wetland areas, and soil resources; (2) potential impacts to archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources; (3) potential impacts to recreation activities; (4) potential impacts to the socio-economics of Kane and Garfield Counties; (5) potential impacts on grazing permittees.

Alternatives identified at this time include: (1) issuing livestock grazing permits based on the present permittee applications for permit renewal; (2) issuing new permits with the same terms and conditions as the expiring permits (No Action Alternative); (3) issuing a new permit with modifications to the existing terms and conditions; and (4) a no grazing alternative.

DATES: This notice announces the beginning of the public scoping period.

If you have information, data or concerns related to the potential impacts of livestock grazing management or have suggestions for additional alternatives, please submit them to address below. Public scoping comments will be accepted on or before November 15, 2000. Three public scoping open house information sessions will be held on:

—September 18, 2000, 7–9 pm, Kanab, Utah;

—September 20, 2000, 7–9 pm, Salt Lake City, Utah; and

—October 4, 2000, 7–9 pm, Escalante, Utah.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be sent to: Monument Manager,

Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 180 West 300 North, Kanab, Utah 84741, ATTN: Livestock Grazing EIS. Public scoping open house locations are:

—Kanab City Library, 533 East 300 South, Kanab, Utah;

—Salt Lake City Marriott University Park Hotel—Ballroom 1, 480 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, Utah; and

—Escalante Community Center, 85 North 100 West, Escalante, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

GSENM, Chris Killingsworth, Assistant Monument Manager Biological Resources, 180 West 300 North, Kanab, Utah 84741, telephone (435) 644-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will cover permit renewal and grazing management on 76 allotments managed by GSENM, including allotments within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and on adjoining BLM lands. This process will conform with the regulations for grazing public rangelands, the fundamentals for rangeland health, and Utah's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Office in Kanab, Utah and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They may be published as part of the EIS and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sally Wisely,

Utah State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-00-2822 JL]

Emergency Motor Vehicle Closure of BLM-Administered Public Lands, Sweetwater County, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Motor Vehicle Closure of BLM-Administered Public Land

Disturbed or Damaged by Wildfire Suppression Activity within the Wildhorse Basin Wildfire, Black Butte Wildfire, Sage Creek Wildfire, and Sheep Mountain Wildfire areas; BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby gives notice that, effective immediately, all tacks and land surface disturbance made fire fighting vehicles and equipment while suppressing the 36,762-acre Wildhorse Basin Wildfire, 1,844-acre Black Butte Wildfire, 1,377-acre Sage Creek Wildfire, and the 34,346-acre Sheep Mountain Wildfire, off of existing roads and trails, are closed to all motorized vehicle use to help reclaim the land to pre-existing fire conditions.

A Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan has been completed for these burned areas and some of the implementation actions include re-seeding areas with native vegetation and constructing water bars on primary and secondary fire control lines. Areas disturbed or damaged by heavy fire fighting equipment will be signed closed to motor vehicle use. Motorized vehicle travel on these distributed areas could cause unacceptable levels of soil erosion, impair wildfire habitat and cultural resources, and jeopardize the overall burn rehabilitation effort.

In addition, parts of the existing Cherokee Trail (a National Register of Historic Places eligible property) and parts of some existing two-track trails that were damaged by suppression activity will be temporarily closed to enhance reclamation efforts and reduce erosion.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This motor vehicle use closure is effective August 31, 2000 and will remain in effect until further notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stan McKee, Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901. Telephone: (307) 352-0201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Wildhorse Basin Wildfire began with a lighting strike on July 2, 2000. The fire encompassed 36,762 acres of federal, state, and private lands. The Black Butte Wildfire began with a lightning strike on July 3, 2000. The fire encompassed 1,844 acres of federal and private lands. The Sage Creek Wildfire began on July 13, 2000 and is suspected to be human caused. It burned 1,377 acres of federal and private lands. The Sheep Mountain Wildfire began with a lightning strike on August 10, 2000, and encompassed 34,346 acres of federal, state, and private lands.

The Green River Resource Management Plan off-highway vehicle (OHV) designation for all the burn areas is "limited" to existing roads and trails. This OHV designation remains unchanged by this use closure. Except for parts of the Cherokee Trail and parts of a few existing two-tracks trails that were damaged by firefighting equipment, motor vehicle traffic will continue to be allowed on roads and trails in the burned areas that existed before the areas were burned. Off-highway vehicle disturbance and tracks made by firefighting equipment could be erroneously viewed as existing roads and trails. Potential damage to watersheds, cultural resources, and valuable wildfire habitat could occur if these disturbed areas and tracks are used for motor vehicle travel. Due to the fragile nature of the burned areas and potential natural resource damage by motorized vehicle use, the BLM has found it necessary to notify and remind the public that motor vehicle travel is still prohibited off the existing roads and trails in burned area and that the off-highway vehicle disturbance and tracks made by firefighting equipment are not roads and trails.

Signs will be placed throughout the burned areas identifying the tracks, trails, and disturbed areas that are closed to motor vehicle travel. Maps will be available for the public at the Rock Springs Field Office and other locations in Sweetwater County.

The emergency closure applies to select BLM-administered lands within the Wildhorse Basin Wildfire, Sage Creek Wildfire, and Sheep Mountain Wildfire area, Sweetwater County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Rock Springs, Wyoming, in Ts. 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 N., Rs. 101, 104, 105, 106, 107 W., Sixth Principal Meridian. The emergency closure applies to select BLM-administered lands within the Black Butte Wildfire, Sweetwater County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming, in Ts. 18, 19 N., R. 101 W., Sixth Principal Meridian.

The closure prohibits the use of all motorized vehicles off the existing roads and trails and on damaged two-track trails as described above, with the following exceptions of:

(1) Any Federal, State, or local officers engaged in fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement activities;

(2) BLM employees engaged in official duties;

(3) Adjacent landowners, ranchers, and fence contractors accessing their land and/or performing approved work.

Authority for closure orders is provided under 43 CFR 8364.1.