

According to the application filed for the Belle Ayr 2000 tract, the maintenance tract would be mined to maintain production at the existing Belle Ayr Mine. The tract is also contiguous to an existing lease at the Caballo Mine.

The Belle Ayr 2000 tract is bounded on three sides by existing coal leases at the Belle Ayr and Caballo Mines. Under the approved mining plans for these two mines, a large portion of the tract will be disturbed when the adjacent leases are mined in order to recover all of the coal in those leases.

The Draft EA analyzes two alternatives. The Proposed Action is to issue a maintenance lease for the Belle Ayr 2000 tract as applied for to the successful bidder at a competitive sealed bid sale. The second alternative, Alternative 1, is the No Action Alternative, which assumes that the application for the Belle Ayr 2000 tract is rejected.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EA because it is the Federal agency that would recommend approval or disapproval of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) mining plan for the Belle Ayr 2000 LBA tract to the Secretary of the Interior, if a lease is issued for the tract.

During the scoping process, the issues that were identified related to this lease application included: The potential for conflicts with recovery of coalbed methane resources in the coal; potential cumulative impacts of increasing mineral development in the PRB; validity and currency of resource data; public access; potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern; potential cumulative air quality impacts; potential impacts of nitrogen oxide emissions resulting from blasting of coal and overburden; and cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable actions such as the construction and operation of the DM&E railroad in the cumulative analysis.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street 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. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Alan Rabinoff,

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-910-0777-XX]

Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice: Joint meeting of the Front Range, Northwest, and Southwest Resource Advisory Councils.

SUMMARY: The next meeting of the three Colorado Resource Advisory Councils will be held on Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1, 2001, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado.

DATES: The joint meeting will be held Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: For further information on the joint meeting, contact Sheri Bell, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado; Telephone (303) 239-3670. For information on the Southwest RAC, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at (970) 240-5335. For information on the northwest RAC, contact Lynn Barclay at (970) 826-5096. For information on the Front Range RAC, contact Ken Smith at (719) 269-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The three Colorado Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) will meet on January 31 and February 1, 2001, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, Colorado. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, ending at 4:30 p.m. that same day. The meeting will reconvene Thursday, February 1 at 8 a.m., ending at approximately 12 noon. Discussion will include fire management, off-highway vehicles, recreation guidelines and processes for coordinating multi-council efforts. In addition, several topics of general interest will be presented to the councils by guest speakers. Time will be made available for the RACs to meet

individually, if needed, at the end of the joint meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at the meeting. Time for public comment will be provided at 4 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2001. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of council meetings are maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Offices in Craig, Grand Junction, Montrose, and Canon City, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: December 22, 2000.

Duane Johnson,

Acting Little Snake Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-26-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting and tour of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting and tour will be held on January 25-26, in Yuma, Arizona. The business meeting will be held in the BLM Yuma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road. It will begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The agenda items to be covered include the review of the December 12, 2000 meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; Update on National Off-Highway Vehicle Use Strategy and RAC Discussion of OHV Guideline; Update on Wildland Urban Interface Issues and Outreach Efforts; Discussion of New RAC Working Group Assignments; Update Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams; Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion of future meetings. A public comment period will

be provide at 11:30 a.m. on January 25, 2001, for any interested publics who wish to address the Council. On January 26, the RAC will tour BLM public land in the Yuma Wash Study Area. The tour will highlight some of the resource monitoring efforts for the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9215.

Michael A. Ferguson,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-01-5101-ER-F323; N-66472, N-73726, N-66150, N-61191]

Notice of Realty Action—Clark County, NV; Notice of Intent for a Table Mountain Area Environmental Impact Statement Focusing on Wind Power Projects and Other Planned Energy Projects, Notice of Public Meetings, Request for Interest In a Right-of-way for a Wind Array, and Request for Other Potential Applications for Power Generating Facilities Not Known to the Bureau of Land Management

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), notice of EIS public scoping meetings for construction of an array of wind turbines and ancillary facilities, and other power generating facilities, in the Table Mountain Area of Clark County, Nevada, a request for interest in acquiring a right-of-way for an array of wind turbines and ancillary facilities, and a request for other potential applications for power generating facilities not known to the Bureau of Land Management in the same area.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS and conducting scoping meetings on Table Mountain, Shenandoah Peak and Potosi Peak area to assess the potential impacts of a proposed right-of-way for an array of wind turbines and ancillary facilities, and possible rights-of-way for other power generating facilities. The area is essentially encompassed by Sandy

Valley, Goodsprings, Jean, and Primm, Nevada.

This Notice is also a call for parties interested in competitively bidding for an opportunity to apply to have a right-of-way application for wind power development to be analyzed in an EIS.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Table Mountain area is located in the extreme southern part of Nevada essentially encompassed by Sandy Valley, Goodsprings, Jean, and Primm, Nevada. The site is located in the Springs Mountain Range at an elevation of approximately 5,000 feet. The area is accessible by Inter-state Highway 15, State Highway 161 and a Clark County road that passes through Sandy Valley. Existing dirt roads throughout the area provide access to microwave towers, radio towers, weather station, transmission lines and numerous mining claims.

The proposed wind power development area encompasses approximately 4,500 acres of public lands. The legal description of the public land proposed to be available for wind power development is as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian

- T. 24 S., R. 57 E.
 Sec. 13, E $\frac{1}{2}$.
 T. 24 S., R. 58 E.
 Sec. 5, S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 6, S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 7, All;
 Sec. 8, All;
 Sec. 18, All;
 Sec. 19, All;
 Sec. 29, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 30, All;
 Sec. 31, N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 32, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 33, All;
 Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 35, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 25 S., R. 58 E.
 Sec. 2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 3, All;
 Sec. 4, All;
 Sec. 5, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 9, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 10, All;
 Sec. 15, All;
 Sec. 16, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The extent of other potential applications for power generating facilities is unknown at this time, but may include power lines and a substation located along the perimeter of the area described above.

All applicants will share in the cost reimbursement and preparation of the EIS through the Record of Decision, and construction.

Written Expressions of Interest

With publication of this notice and until the end of the NOI comment

period, the BLM is accepting written expressions of interest for taking part in a competitive auction for a preference right to file a right-of-way application for a site on which to construct, operate, and maintain an array of wind turbines. All except the successful bidder's proposed project would be eliminated from being considered in the EIS. Thus, the unsuccessful bidder(s) could invest their capital elsewhere and a more focused EIS could be provided. Written expressions of interest filed and received after the comment period closes will be returned.

Information specific to written expressions of interest for taking part in a competitive auction for a preference right to file a right-of-way application for a site to construct, operate, and maintain an array of wind turbines is available in writing, by telefax, or on e-mail by visiting the BLM, Las Vegas home page at www.nv.blm.nv/vegas.

Competitive Auction for a Preference Right

The preference right competitive auction will be held on February 8, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The bidding process shall be an oral auction. A \$16,500 sealed bid must be submitted to be qualified to take part in the oral auction. The opening bid will be considered to be the \$16,500 sealed bid, and will be determined by draw. Bid raises will be at increments dictated by the participating bidders. The last bid taken will be considered the high bid. It is to be noted that this bidding is to determine which interested party will be considered the applicant and have their proposal evaluated in the EIS. The successful bidder would become the applicant and would submit a build out plan (Plan of Development). The Plan of Development (POD) would be in sufficient detail to develop the proposed action for the EIS. This information will also be presented at the second round of public meetings, see below.

The POD would include a detailed schematic illustrating the proposed locations of the turbines, power cables, roads, telecommunication system, substations, and related facilities. Detailed drawings of the turbines and their support structures are required. The POD would include a weed inventory and management plan, storm water pollution control plan, hazardous materials spill prevention and control plan, emergency services plan, reclamation plan, and mitigation measures designed to reduce anticipated impacts. It would also include an electric transmission and wheeling plan