

geographic location information so that we can authorize a Deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor to survey the claims or sites.

(2) Mineral patent application. Under 43 CFR 3862, 3863, and 3864, a mineral patent applicant must file certain proofs of ownership to demonstrate clear title to the claim(s) or millsite(s), bonafide of development, and the existence of a commercial mineral deposit subject to the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. BLM used Form 3860-2 for title verification until Congress implemented a moratorium on new mineral patent applications.

Based on BLM's experience administering the General Mining Law, we estimate the public reporting burden to complete Form 3860-5 is one hour and for adverse claims or protests it is two hours. BLM estimates that we receive 28 mineral survey applications and 3 protests annually, with a total annual burden of 62 hours. The respondents are owners of unpatented mining claims and mill sites upon the public lands, reserved mineral lands of the United States, National Forests, and National Parks. The frequency of response is once for each mineral survey, each application for patent, and each filing of a protest or adverse claim. Since October 1, 1994, Congress passes an annual moratorium which prevents the BLM from processing mineral patent applications unless the applications were grandfathered under the initial legislation. This moratorium does not affect mineral surveys, contests, or protests to existing mineral patent applications.

Any member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, a copy of BLM Form 3860-5 by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of a public record.

Dated: April 5, 2005.

**Ian Senio,**

*Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-7069 Filed 4-7-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-04-5101-ER-F345; N-78803]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Initiate the Public Scoping Process

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS and conducting public scoping meetings for the proposed Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project.

**DATES:** The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice and will end 60 days after its publication. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS should be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the scoping period. This scoping notice will be distributed by mail on or about the date of this notice. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site at <http://nv.blm.gov>.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301, (fax (775) 289-1910). Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to have your name added to the EIS mailing list, contact Bruce Flinn at the Ely Field Office (see **ADDRESS** above), telephone (775) 289-1903.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed Clark, Lincoln and White Pine

Counties Groundwater Development Project is proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and would be located in central and eastern Nevada, in Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties. The proposed project would develop and convey groundwater rights as they are permitted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in Coyote Spring, Tikaboo North, Delamar, Dry Lake, Cave, Spring, and Snake Valleys. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities could range between approximately 125,000 and 200,000 acre-feet per year.

The proposed facilities include groundwater production wells, water pipelines, pumping stations, and water treatment, power, and other appurtenant facilities. The facilities would be generally located within and/or across the following public lands:

Mt. Diablo Meridian (MDM):

Cave Valley—Townships 5-9 North and Ranges 63-64 East, various sections

Coyote Spring Valley—Townships 9-15 South and Ranges 62-63 East, various sections

Delamar Valley—Townships 4-8 South and Ranges 62-64 East, various sections

Dry Lake Valley—Townships 1-4 South, Townships 1-7 North and Ranges 63-65 East, various sections

Garnet Valley—Townships 17-18 South and Range 63 East, various sections

Hamlin—Township 9 North and Range 69 East, various sections

Hidden Valley (north)—Townships 15-17 South and Range 63 East, various sections

Lake Valley—Townships 6-7 North and Ranges 65-67 East, various sections

Las Vegas Valley—Township 19 South and Ranges 62-63 East, various sections

Pahranaagat Valley—Townships 4-6, 8 and 9 South and Ranges 59-63 East, various sections

Snake Valley—Townships 9-10 North and Ranges 69-70 East, various sections

Spring Valley—Townships 7-16 North, and Ranges 65-68 East, various sections

Tikaboo Valley North—Townships 6-7 South, Ranges 58-59 East, various sections

Steptoe Valley (power line)—Townships 14-17 North, Ranges 64-65 East, various sections

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of

Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301.

Dated: February 2, 2005.

**Gene A. Kolkman,**

*Ely Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 05-7104 Filed 4-7-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-NV-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Conservation Helium Sale

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice Implementing a Supplemental Conservation Helium Sale.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this action is to continue implementation of the terms of the Helium Privatization Act (HPA) of 1996 dealing with the disposal of the Conservation Helium Reserve. The HPA requires the Department of the Interior to *offer for sale*, beginning no later than 2005, a portion of the Conservation Helium stored underground at the Cliffside Field, north of Amarillo, Texas. The Department of the Interior, in consultation with the private helium industry, has determined that private companies, with refining capacity along the crude helium pipeline, will need a supply of helium in excess of that available from their own storage accounts and that available from crude helium extractors in the region. Given the current market, Conservation Helium sold in this sale will cause minimal market disruption.

**DATES:** Submit bids and other documentation as required in Notice on or before May 9, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit your bids and other documentation as required in this Notice to the Bureau of Land Management; Amarillo Field Office; 810 S. Fillmore, Suite 500; Amarillo, TX 79101-3545; Attention: Crude Helium Sales Analyst.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Connie H. Neely, (806) 356-1027.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### 1.01 What Is the Purpose of the Sale?

The purpose of this sale is to continue implementation of the terms of the HPA of 1996 dealing with the disposal of the Conservation Helium Reserve. The HPA

requires the Department of the Interior to *offer for sale*, beginning no later than 2005, a portion of the Conservation Helium stored underground at the Cliffside Field, north of Amarillo, Texas. The Department of the Interior, in consultation with the private helium industry, has determined that private companies, with refining capacity along the crude helium pipeline, will need a supply of helium in excess of that available from their own storage accounts and that available from crude helium extractors in the region. This is a supplemental sale of the excess helium offered for sale in September 2004 that the Department will conduct to dispose of the Conservation Helium stored underground at the Cliffside Field. The annual sales and Supplemental Sale are being conducted in a manner intended to prevent pure helium market disruptions from occurring to end users; shortages of crude helium to pure helium refiners; and an oversupply of crude helium on the market for crude helium extractors. Subsequent sales may be adjusted as needed.

#### 1.02 What Terms Do I Need To Know To Understand This Sale?

*Allocated Sale*—That portion of the annual sale volume of Conservation Helium that will be set aside for purchase by the Crude Helium Refiners.

*Annual Conservation Helium Sale*—The sale of a certain volume of Conservation Helium to private entities conducted annually beginning no later than 2005.

*Bidder*—Any entity or person who submits a request for purchase of a volume of the Annual Conservation Helium Sale and has met the qualifications contained in part 1.05 in this Notice.

*BLM*—The Bureau of Land Management.

*Conservation Helium*—The crude helium purchased by the U.S. Government under the authority of the Helium Act of 1960 and stored underground in the Cliffside Field.

*Crude Helium*—A partially refined gas containing about 70 percent helium and 30 percent nitrogen. However, the helium concentration may vary from 50 to 95 percent.

*Crude Helium Refiners*—Those entities with a capability of refining crude helium and having a connection point on the crude helium pipeline and a valid Helium Storage Contract as of the date of a Conservation Helium Sale.

*Excess Volumes*—Allocated sale volumes not requested by the Crude Helium Refiners.

*Helium Storage Contract*—A contract between the BLM and a private entity allowing the private entity to store crude helium in underground storage at the Cliffside Field.

*HPA*—The Helium Privatization Act of 1996.

*In-Kind Crude Helium*—Conservation Helium purchased by private refiners in exchange for like amounts of pure helium sold to Federal agencies and their contractors in accordance with the HPA.

*MMcf*—One million cubic feet of gas measured at standard conditions of 14.65 pounds per square inch (psi) and 60° F.

*Mcf*—One thousand cubic feet of gas measured at standard conditions of 14.65 psi and 60° F.

*Non-Allocated Sale*—That portion of the annual sale volume of Conservation Helium that will be offered to all qualified Bidders.

*Supplemental Sale*—If all the Conservation Helium offered for sale is not sold during the annual sale, then an additional sale will be conducted to offer for sale the remaining volumes not purchased during the annual sale.

#### 1.03 What Volume of Conservation Helium Will Be Offered in the Supplemental Conservation Helium Sale?

The volume of helium available for this sale is 1,610 MMcf. In accordance with the HPA, this volume was determined by subtracting the volume sold in the October 2004 sale from the total volume offered for sale.

#### 1.04 At What Price Will the Conservation Helium Be Sold?

The Conservation Helium will be sold at the same price as In-Kind Crude Helium. In accordance with the HPA, this price covers helium debt repayment and its escalation by the Consumer Price Index since the helium debt was frozen in 1995. Additionally, the price includes administrative and storage costs associated with the Conservation Helium calculated on a per Mcf basis. For Fiscal Year 2005 that price is \$54.50 per Mcf.

#### 1.05 Am I Qualified To Purchase Conservation Helium at This Sale?

Any person, firm, partnership, joint stock association, corporation, or other domestic or foreign organizations operating partially or wholly within the United States who meets one or more of the following requirements is qualified to submit a purchase request:

- Operates a helium purification plant within the U.S., or