

- Kemmerer Field Office, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, WY 823101.
- Rawlins Field Office, at 1300 North Third, PO Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301.
- Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sherri Thompson, BLM Project Manager, at (303) 239-3758, (sherri_thompson@blm.gov), Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 or Mitchell Leverette, BLM Division Chief, Solid Minerals, at (202) 452-5088, (mitchell_leverette@blm.gov), Bureau of Land Management, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision in the ROD selects Alternative B as the Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments, which would amend 10 land use plans in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to make approximately 2 million acres of lands containing oil shale resources available for application for commercial leasing and approximately 430,000 acres available for application for commercial leasing of tar sands.

Because of the strategic importance and multiple state involvement in the process, the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior approved the proposed plan amendments on November 17, 2008.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5-1.

Dated: November 17, 2008.

C. Stephen Allred,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. E8-28348 Filed 11-26-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-910-09-1739-NSSI]

Call for Nominations: North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Advisory Panel, Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Call for Nominations for the North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Advisory Panel.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a call for nominations to serve on the North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Advisory Panel in accordance

with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix.

DATES: Submit a completed nomination form and nomination letter to the address listed below no later than 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Payne, Ph.D, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (AK-910), c/o Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, phone (907) 271-3431, or john_f_payne@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Science Technical Advisory Panel is to advise the North Slope Science Oversight Group on issues such as identifying and prioritizing inventory, monitoring and research needs, and providing other scientific as requested by the Oversight Group. The Oversight Group consists of the Alaska Regional Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Minerals Management Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service; the BLM-Alaska State Director; The Commissioners of the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources; the Mayor of the North Slope Borough and the president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Advisory to the Oversight Group are the Regional Executive, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Director, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and the Regional Directors of the National Weather Service and U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The Science Technical Advisory Panel shall consist of a representative group of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Alaska Native entities, conservation organizations, and academia, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. The members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following disciplines: North Slope traditional and local knowledge, landscape ecology, petroleum engineering, civil engineering, geology, botany, hydrology, limnology, habitat biology, wildlife biology, biometrics, sociology, cultural anthropology, economics, ornithology, oceanography, fisheries biology, and climatology.

The duties of the Science Panel are solely advisory to the Oversight Group, which will give direction to the Science Panel regarding priorities for decisions needed for the Department of the

Interior's management. Duties could include the following:

- Advise the Oversight Group on science planning and relevant research and monitoring projects;
- Advise the Oversight Group on scientific information relevant to the Oversight Group's mission;
- Review selected reports to advise the Oversight Group on their content and relevance;
- Review ongoing scientific programs of North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) member organizations on the North Slope at the request of the member organizations to promote compatibility in methodologies and compilation of data;
- Advise the Oversight Group on how to ensure that scientific products generated through NSSI activities are of the highest technical quality;
- Periodically review the North Slope Science Plan and provide recommendations for changes to the Oversight Group;
- Provide recommendations for proposed NSSI funded inventory, monitoring and research activities to the Oversight Group;
- Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group; and
- Coordinate with groups and committees appointed or requested by the Oversight Group to provide science advice, as needed.

The Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative shall serve as the Designated Federal Officer of the Science Technical Advisory Panel.

Qualifications and Procedures Required for Nomination

All membership shall consist of professionals with advanced degrees and a minimum of five years of work experience in Alaska in their field of expertise, preferably in the North Slope region. Professionals will be selected from among those disciplines and entities described above. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel. Members will be appointed for three-year terms. At the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, Science Technical Advisory Panel members may be reappointed indefinitely.

How To Nominate

Individuals may nominate themselves to the Science Technical Advisory Panel. You may obtain nomination forms from the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (see address above), or from <http://www.northslope.org>. To make a nomination, or self nominate, you must

submit a completed nomination form with a letter of reference that describes the nominee's qualifications to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel. The professional discipline the nominee would like to represent should be identified in the letter of nomination and in the nomination form. Nominees may be scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Alaska Native entities, conservation organizations, and academia. Nominees selected to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel will serve only in their professional capacity and will not serve to represent any group, agency or entity with whom they may be affiliated. The Executive Director shall collect the nomination forms and letters of reference and distribute them to the Oversight Group of the North Slope Science Initiative. The Oversight Group will submit their recommendations through the Bureau of Land Management to the Secretary of the Interior who has the responsibility for making the appointments. Members of the Science Technical Advisory Panel will serve without monetary compensation. Members will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at the current rate for Government employees.

Certification

I hereby certify that the establishment of the Science Technical Advisory Panel for the North Slope Science Initiative is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior, and in compliance with Section 348, Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-58).

Thomas P. Lonnie,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States, Including Proposed Amendments to Selected Land Use Plans LLW0350000.L1430000.PN0000

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Energy (DOE) as co-lead agencies, and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the Department of the Interior (DOI) as cooperating Federal Agencies (the Agencies) announce the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States (Final PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0386) that also proposes to amend 138 land use plans.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the State of Wyoming, and the Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties and conservation districts in Wyoming are also cooperating agencies. The Department of Commerce (DOC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are consulting agencies.

The Agencies prepared the Final PEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; the DOE NEPA regulations, 10 CFR Part 1021; Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements, 10 CFR Part 1022; the BLM planning regulations, 43 CFR subpart 1610; and applicable FS planning regulations.

Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005), Public Law 109-58, directs the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior, in consultation with FERC, states, tribal or local units of governments, as appropriate; affected utility industries; and other interested persons to designate, under their respective authorities, corridors on Federal land in the 11 Western States for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines as well as electricity transmission and distribution facilities; perform any environmental reviews that may be required to complete the designation of such corridors; and incorporate the designated corridors into relevant agency land use and resource management plans or equivalent plans.

The 11 Western States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

DATES: Copies of the Final PEIS were distributed beginning November 20, 2008 to Members of Congress, American Indian Tribal governments, state and

local governments, other Federal agencies, and organizations and individuals who are known to have an interest in the Final PEIS.

The DOI, USDA and DOD would issue separate Records of Decision (ROD) to amend selected land use plans for the purpose of designating EPA 2005 Section 368 corridors no sooner than 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the Final PEIS. BLM's ROD must also await a 60-day Governors' Consistency Review in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.3-2.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for compact discs (CD) or printed copies of the Final PEIS to: West-wide Energy Corridor Final PEIS, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 S. Cass Avenue, Bldg. 900, Mailstop 4, Argonne, IL 60439; by toll-free fax: 1-866-542-5904; or order online at <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>.

The Final PEIS consists of a stand alone Summary, the PEIS Chapters (Volume 1-648 pages), the Appendices (Volume 2-564 pages), Maps (Volume 3-148 pages), and Comments and Responses (Volume 4-174 pages). The Final PEIS Volume 3 map atlas is printed on 11x17-inch paper. The CD version of the Final PEIS includes the map atlas in PDF format. The most powerful and flexible version of the map data is available on the project Web site (<http://corridoreis.anl.gov>). The Web site maps are available within a geographic information system (GIS) database that allows users to merge, enlarge, and view multiple map-data layers. Software and instructions to use the GIS data are user-friendly and available for free download on the Web site. The Final PEIS is available on the project Web site at <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>, on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.gc.energy.gov/pepa>, and at the following reading room locations:

- The BLM state and field offices and FS regional offices in the 11 Western States, and
- The DOE Freedom of Information Act Office and Reading Room, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585; phone 202-586-3142.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the Final PEIS, please contact Kate Winthrop, BLM, WO-350, MS 1000 LS, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; by phone: 202-452-5051; or by e-mail: kate_winthrop@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agencies prepared the Final PEIS to implement Section 368 of EPA 2005 to designate preferred locations for future