

land, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law.

Joseph R. Balash,

Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVB02000-L19200000-ET0000; N-94970; LR0RF1709500; MO# 4500111101]

Notice of Application for Withdrawal in Nye County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE) has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), requesting that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw 361 acres of public lands to assist the DOE to carry out its responsibilities regarding public health, safety, and national security in connection with a past underground nuclear detonation in Hot Creek Valley, Nye County, Nevada. Publication of this Notice temporarily segregates the lands, subject to valid existing rights, for up to two years from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws and the mineral-leasing laws. The two-year segregation will provide the BLM and the DOE sufficient time to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will analyze the environmental effects of the requested withdrawal and any alternatives in order for the BLM to make a recommendation to the Secretary of Interior on the requested withdrawal.

DATES: Comments regarding this withdrawal proposal must be received by July 30, 2018. The BLM welcomes comments regarding the environmental consequences of the proposed withdrawal, for consideration in preparation of the EA.

ADDRESSES: Comments pertaining to this Notice should be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* BLM_NV_BMDO_Tonopah-Withdrawal@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 775-482-7810.
- *Mail:* BLM Nevada State Director, Attn: NV 930 CNTA Withdrawal, Bureau of Land Management, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wendy Seley, Project Lead, Tonopah Field Office, Attn: DOE Withdrawal, 1553 South Main Street, P.O. Box 911, Tonopah, NV 89049; email: wseley@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-775-861-6511 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to fulfill its obligations under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201) regarding public health, safety, and national security in connection with a past underground nuclear detonation, the DOE requests that the 361 acres of public lands be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws and mineral leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.

The AEA requires the DOE to take necessary measures to protect human health and the environment from nuclear contamination, and provides broad authority for the DOE to do so. The AEA states, in part, that DOE may “establish by rule, regulation, or order, such standards and instructions to govern the possession and use of special nuclear material, source material, and byproduct material as the Commission may deem necessary or desirable to promote the common defense and security or to protect health or to minimize danger to life or property” (42 U.S.C. 2201(b)).

This application is to withdraw lands adjacent to and surrounding land and interests withdrawn under Public Land Order (PLO) No. 4338, published in the **Federal Register** Volume 32, No. 241, December 14, 1967. The PLO established the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) for an underground nuclear test. The test, which was conducted in 1968, resulted in a determination that the site was unsuitable for further nuclear tests. DOE requests a new withdrawal of lands adjacent to and surrounding the 1967 withdrawal in order to prevent disturbance to residual subsurface contamination. The BLM will hold a 90-day scoping period to identify issues and begin preparing an EA to analyze the impacts of the proposed withdrawal.

As required by section 204(b)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1714(b)(1), and the BLM regulations at

43 CFR part 2310.3-1, the BLM is publishing the Notice that DOE has requested the withdrawal of the following described lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 9 N. R. 51 E., Unsurveyed,

Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23. It is an irregular bounded portion of land being described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point which is north 35°15'30" west, 14,986.1 feet from the southeast corner of township 9 north, range 51 east.

THENCE, north 89°43'10" west, a distance of 6602.5 feet.

THENCE, north 0°16'30" east, a distance of 6602.6 feet.

THENCE, south 89°43'10" east, a distance of 6602.5 feet.

THENCE, south 0°17'20" west, a distance of 6602.6 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

BASIS OF BEARING: Mean geodetic bearings referenced to the true meridian.

EXCEPTING those portions withdrawn by PLO No. 4338 (UC-1 withdrawal).

The area encumbered by the existing withdrawal contains approximately 640 acres.

The area encumbered by the new withdrawal is 361 acres in Nye County.

This proposed withdrawal would fully encompass the use-restriction and compliance boundaries established by DOE. The objective of the compliance boundary is to protect the public and environment from exposure to groundwater contamination by the underground nuclear test. The objective of the use-restriction boundary is to restrict access to subsurface materials, including groundwater. The proposed withdrawal for 20 years would maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment, and would ensure that DOE's ongoing, long-term site characterization studies of the CNTA are not invalidated or otherwise adversely affected.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency agreement, or cooperative agreement would not adequately constrain non-discretionary uses which could result in permanent loss of significant values and threaten public health, safety, and Federal investment in the long-term monitoring program established for the CNTA.

There are no suitable alternative sites because the lands contain the specific area surrounding the underground nuclear test site, and Federal improvements described in the application.

No water rights will be required for this withdrawal.

The legal descriptions and the maps depicting the lands are available for public inspection at the following offices: BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

89502; BLM Tonopah Field Office, 1553 South Main Street, Tonopah, Nevada 89049.

Information regarding the proposed withdrawal will be available for public review at the BLM's Tonopah Field Office, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For a period until May 1, 2020, subject to valid existing rights, the public lands described in this Notice is segregated, for up to two years, from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws and the mineral-leasing laws, unless the application/proposal is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date.

Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations may be allowed during the period of segregation, but only with the approval of the authorized officer and, as appropriate, with the concurrence of DOE.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1714(b)(1) and 43 CFR 2300

Michael J. Herder,

Acting State Director, Nevada.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLORN03000.L63100000.DB0000.
17XL1116AF.252Z.HAG 17–0170]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement in Lane County, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Siuslaw Field Office, Northwest Oregon District, intends to prepare the Hult

Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Through this Notice, the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This Notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments may be submitted in writing until May 31, 2018. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through email and the ePlanning website. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* blm_or_no_publiccomments_nepa@blm.gov; ATTN: Panchita Paulete, Hult Dam and Reservoir Safety EIS.
- *Fax:* 541–683–6981; ATTN: Panchita Paulete, Planning and Environmental Coordinator.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite E, Springfield, OR 97477–7909.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Northwest Oregon District's Springfield Interagency Office located at 3106 Pierce Parkway in Springfield, Oregon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Panchita Paulete, Planning and Environmental Coordinator; 541–683–6976; blm_or_no_publiccomments_nepa@blm.gov Contact Ms. Paulete if you wish to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1(800) 877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Hult Reservoir is located within the Lake Creek fifth-field watershed, near the community of Horton, Oregon, within the Siuslaw Field Office of the Northwest Oregon District at Township 15S, Range 7W, Sections 23 and 26, in Lane County, Oregon.

The Hult Reservoir is a 41-acre man-made lake, approximately a half-mile long and less than a quarter-mile wide. The reservoir's depth ranges from approximately 15 feet to 35 feet, and

contains another 10 to 15 feet of soft, silty sand. Below depths of 25 to 43 feet, it is estimated that the foundation of the reservoir consists of landslide deposits, which generally include cobbles, boulders, and large rock beds. The dam is an earthen dam which consists of loose rock placed on the downstream face.

The dam and spillway at Hult Reservoir were originally constructed in 1950 to create a holding pond for logs by the Hult Timber Company. These lands were transferred to the BLM in 1994. During severe winter weather, the amount of rainfall in the catchment area contributes substantially to the water levels in the reservoir. The dam requires constant monitoring and adjustment of the outflow valve by BLM engineers to avoid overwhelming the current water level controls in place. Since the transfer of ownership, costly renovations to the dam (*e.g.*, grouting, reinforcement structures, and monitoring devices) have been ongoing to address structural and safety concerns.

In July 2012, the BLM completed a Comprehensive Dam Evaluation on the dam and spillway at Hult Reservoir, which found eleven potential failure modes presenting unacceptable high risks for dam failure, five of which warrant expedited action to address. These evaluations of the dam infrastructure also identified that the dam and spillway are currently at an elevated cumulative risk posed by all possible failure modes and associated potential life loss. In 2016, the BLM implemented improvements to the dam infrastructure, which improved some elements presenting cumulative risk. However, there is still a need to address the remaining cumulative safety risks associated with the dam at Hult Reservoir.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of infrastructure failure at Hult Dam from excessive water and sediment loading, within the scope of what the BLM could reasonably fund and within the scope of the BLM's jurisdiction.

The EIS will analyze a range of alternatives to provide for a long-term management approach. The EIS will analyze a No Action alternative that would analyze the continued management and standard maintenance of Hult Dam in the current conditions. Some potential action alternatives include:

- Improving the existing dam infrastructure: This alternative would retain all existing dam infrastructure, but would implement patches, reinforcements, or other additions