

(1) Liquefied Natural Gas pipeline easement to Columbia Liquefied Natural Gas along the northeastern boundary (along Gunston Road); and

(2) Dominion Energy electrical easement along the northeastern boundary.

All areas not under a lease at the SRMA are available for public use.

Submit comments on this proposal to lease to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Only written comments will be considered properly filed. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifiable information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from the public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Adverse comments will be evaluated by the BLM Eastern State's State Director, 20 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comment, this realty action will become the final determination of the BLM as to each one of the two decisions stated above.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2920.4.

**Dean Gettinger,**

*District Manager, Northeastern States District.*

[FR Doc. 2019-19634 Filed 9-12-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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ER0000.LVRWA19A3240]

#### **Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Ten West Link 500-Kilovolt Transmission Line Project and Proposed Amendments to the Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan and the California Desert Conservation Area Plan; Maricopa and La Paz Counties, Arizona, and Riverside County, California**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has

prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ten West Link 500-Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project and Amendments to the Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and by this notice is announcing its availability.

**DATES:** The BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's Proposed Plan Amendments. A person who meets the conditions and wishes to file a protest must do so within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The Final EIS and Proposed Plan Amendments are available on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://go.usa.gov/xU6Be>. Hard copies of the Final EIS and Proposed Plan Amendments are available for public inspection at the BLM Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004, the BLM Yuma Field Office, 7341 East 30th Street, Suite A, Yuma, AZ 85365, and the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed Plan Amendments may be found online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-plan-protest> and at 43 CFR 1610.6-2.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lane Cowger, Project Manager, telephone: 602-417-9612; address: BLM, Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004; email: [blm\\_az\\_azso\\_10westlink@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_azso_10westlink@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Mr. Cowger. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with Mr. Cowger. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM prepared the Final EIS for the proposed Ten West Link 500-kV Transmission Line Project and proposed amendments to the Yuma Field Office RMP and the CDCA Plan to respond to DCR Transmission's request for a right-of-way (ROW) across public land to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 500kV transmission line between the Arizona Public Service Delaney Substation near Tonopah in Maricopa County, Arizona, and the Southern California Edison Colorado

River Substation near Blythe in Riverside County, California. The BLM's purpose and need for the action is to respond to an application for a ROW and decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the ROW.

Portions of the Proposed Action and/or Action Alternatives would not be in conformance with the Yuma RMP and the CDCA Plan. Therefore, the BLM considered amending these plans in connection with its consideration of DCR Transmission's ROW application.

The Agency Preferred Alternative identified in the FEIS is 125.0 miles long. This alternative is predominantly within BLM-designated utility corridors or adjacent to existing infrastructure and draws on the environmental analysis and stakeholder input to avoid sensitive environmental resources and important recreational uses on public lands. The Agency Preferred Alternative avoids the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and Tribal lands. It minimizes impacts to local communities and the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground, and provides interconnections for future energy development projects. The Agency Preferred Alternative includes an amendment to the Yuma RMP to allow ROWs outside of designated BLM utility corridors based on project-specific analysis. The Agency Preferred Alternative would also require an amendment to the CDCA Plan to allow construction of the Ten West Link project within 0.25-mile of occurrences of Harwood's eriastrium, a BLM special status plant species.

Issues identified as part of the NEPA and planning process and addressed in the Final EIS/Proposed Plan Amendments includes soil, biological, visual, and cultural resources, Tribal concerns, land use, recreation, socioeconomics, and environmental justice. Comments received from the public and internal BLM review, on the Draft EIS and Plan Amendments were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Final EIS and Proposed Plan Amendments. Changes to the Final EIS include incorporation of more detailed project design and engineering information and clarification of the proposed Yuma and Lake Havasu Field Office RMP Amendments considered by the BLM for each alternative, including the Agency Preferred Alternative.

The Final EIS analyzes in detail the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts for a range of alternatives including the No Action, Proposed Action, Interstate 10, BLM Utility Corridor, Avoidance, and Public Lands Emphasis alternatives and includes the proposed RMP and Plan amendments described for the

Preferred Alternative, as well as amendments to the Yuma and Lake Havasu Field Office RMPs for visual resource management classes for some alternative route segments.

DCR Transmission has filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to site the transmission infrastructure in California. The CPUC approval or denial of the CPCN application is a discretionary decision. Under California law, the CPUC would be required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before issuing the CPCN. The CPUC is currently a cooperating agency in the BLM's NEPA analysis. Pursuant to the Public Resources Code 21083.5 and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3) Section 15221, the CPUC may rely upon this EIS in lieu of all or any part of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Furthermore, this Notice of Availability serves as the notice that the CPUC will consider the EIS in its decision-making process relevant to issuance of the CPCN (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15225).

All protests must be in writing and submitted as set forth in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections above. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, please be aware that your entire protest, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5.

**Raymond Suazo,**

*Arizona State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2019-19871 Filed 9-12-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-32-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLORV00400.L16100000.MQ0000.19X.HAG 19-0114]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area Rangeland Health Management Actions Environmental Impact Statement To Analyze Rangeland Health Management Actions in the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area of the Malheur Field Office, Vale District, Oregon**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Malheur Field Office, Vale District, Vale, Oregon, intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and, by this notice, is announcing the beginning of the public scoping period for the analysis of rangeland health management actions in the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area (LCGMA).

**DATES:** The BLM requests that comments be submitted by October 15, 2019. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meeting(s) will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media and the BLM website, [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov).

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <https://go.usa.gov/xQeac>.
- *Email:* [BLM\\_OR\\_VL\\_Louse\\_Canyon\\_GMA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_VL_Louse_Canyon_GMA@blm.gov).
- *Fax:* 541-473-6213.
- *Mail:* LCGMA, c/o Vale District BLM 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918. Attention: Todd Allai or Dustin Fowler.

Documents associated with this proposal are available at the Malheur Field Office, BLM Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918, or at <https://go.usa.gov/xQeac>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Project leads Todd Allai, 541-473-6355, or Dustin Fowler, 541-473-6250, via phone or via email at: [BLM\\_OR\\_VL\\_Louse\\_Canyon\\_GMA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_VL_Louse_Canyon_GMA@blm.gov). Please contact Mr. Allai or Mr. Fowler to have your name added to the project 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 BLM Vale District is initiating an EIS in order to analyze alternative livestock management and restoration actions that would allow the district to make progress toward meeting Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Standards and Guidelines) in the LCGMA. The alternatives will consider grazing practices, permit renewals, and the implementation of rangeland restoration and rangeland improvement projects. Proposed rangeland management actions include: Alternative grazing systems and schedules, upland sagebrush habitat restoration, and riparian habitat restoration.

The LCGMA is comprised of five grazing allotments (536,434 acres) in Malheur County, Oregon, and two grazing allotments (11,262 acres) in Humboldt County, Nevada. The Greater Sage-grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision for Oregon identified the entire planning area as habitat for Greater Sage-grouse. Seventy-four percent of the planning area is identified as priority habitat, and the remaining twenty-six percent of the planning area is classified as general habitat. Approximately twenty percent of the LCGMA was impacted by the 2012 Long Draw fire.

An OR/WA Standards and Guidelines evaluation of the area was completed in 2018 and can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xQeac>. The evaluation determined that certain OR/WA Standards and Guidelines are not being met within the LCGMA. Preliminary determinations of causal factors in not meeting standards identify wildfire and invasive annual grass species as likely significant causal factors for not meeting or making progress toward upland-related standards. Existing permitted livestock grazing is identified as a likely significant causal factor for not meeting or making progress toward meeting riparian and aquatic habitat-related standards. The BLM is proposing to analyze actions that support proper livestock grazing management practices and improve the ecological condition of the LCGMA to address making progress toward attainment of OR/WA Standards and Guidelines.

Through the public scoping process, the BLM is seeking input on issues,