DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management
[21X.LLA93100.L16100000.PN0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Secretary’s Order 3401, Comprehensive Analysis and Temporary Halt on all Activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Relating to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska State Office, Anchorage, Alaska, intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the September 2019 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS. The Supplemental EIS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Program, including by addressing the deficiencies identified in Secretary’s Order 3401.

DATES: This Notice initiates the public scoping process for the Supplemental EIS. Comments on issues, impacts, and potential new alternatives to be analyzed may be submitted in writing until October 4, 2021. The BLM will announce on its website any additional venues for commenting during scoping.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:
- Website: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/102555/510.
- Mail: BLM, Alaska State Office, Attention—Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Serena Sweet, Project Lead, via email at blm_ak_coastalplain_supplementalEIS@BLM.GOV, or via telephone at 907–271–5960; or by mail at Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599. You may also request to be added to the mailing list for the Supplemental EIS. Additional background information and supporting documents may be found at https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/102555/510. 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. 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 area comprising the Coastal Plain includes approximately 1.6 million acres within the approximately 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In September 2019 and in connection with Public Law 115–97, Dec. 22, 2017, the BLM completed the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Final EIS. The BLM then issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program on August 8, 2020 (85 FR 51754). The ROD approved a program to implement Section 20001 of Public Law 115–97, which directed the BLM to manage the oil and gas leasing program on the Coastal Plain in a manner similar to lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (including regulations).

On June 1, 2021, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretary’s Order 3401, Section 4 of which directed “a temporary halt on all Department activities related to the [Leasing] Program in the Arctic Refuge” pending “a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Program” to “address . . . identified legal deficiencies.”

The purpose of this public scoping process is to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the significant issues, including any legal deficiencies in the Final EIS, related to an oil and gas leasing program within the Coastal Plain. Information received during this process will influence the development of the Supplemental EIS and guide the scope of the environmental analysis. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The purpose and need of the Supplemental EIS is bound by statute and remains the same as for the September 2019 Final EIS, i.e., to implement Section 20001 of Public Law 115–97. Potential new alternatives to be considered in the Supplemental EIS include, but are not limited to, those that would: Designate certain areas of the Coastal Plain as open or closed to leasing; permit less than 2,000 acres of surface development throughout the Coastal Plain; prohibit surface infrastructure in sensitive areas; and otherwise avoid or mitigate impacts from oil and gas activities.

The Supplemental EIS will evaluate impacts to various surface resources including, but not limited to, caribou, polar bears, birds, vegetation, and...
surface waters including wetlands, as well as to other uses of the Coastal Plain, including subsistence uses. The Supplemental EIS will also consider impacts from greenhouse gas emissions from any Leasing Program.

After the scoping comment period is closed, the BLM will review and consider the scoping comments received and will develop a Draft Supplemental EIS, which BLM estimates will be completed approximately 6 to 8 months after the scoping period ends. At that time the Draft Supplemental EIS will be made available for public comment for at least 45 days. After the close of the Draft Supplemental EIS comment period, BLM will develop a Final Supplemental EIS incorporating comments received on the Draft, which BLM estimates will be completed approximately 6 months after the Draft Supplemental EIS comment period ends. A record of decision selecting a program alternative from the Final Supplemental EIS would be issued no sooner than 30 days after notice of the availability of the Final Supplemental EIS is published in the Federal Register.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.9(d), 40 CFR 1501.7 (2019).

Laura Daniel-Davis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

[RR85672000, 21XR00680A2, RX.3148000001.0040000; OMB Control Number 1006–0003]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Bureau of Reclamation Use Authorization Application

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 4, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to Jason Kirby, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225–0007; or by email to jkirby@usbr.gov. Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1006–0003 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jason Kirby by email at jkirby@usbr.gov, or by telephone at (303) 445–2895. Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339 for TTY assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

1. Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—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.

Abstract: Reclamation is responsible for approximately 6.5 million acres of land which directly support Reclamation’s Federal water projects in the 17 Western States. Under Title 43 CFR part 429, individuals or entities wanting to use Reclamation’s lands, facilities, or waterbodies must apply using Form 7–2540. Examples of such uses are:

—Agricultural uses such as grazing and farming;
—commercial or organized recreation and sporting activities;
—other commercial activities such as “guiding and outfitting” and “filming and photography;” and,
—resource exploration and extraction, including sand and gravel removal and timber harvesting.

We review applications to determine whether granting individual use authorizations are compatible with Reclamation’s present or future uses of the lands, facilities, or waterbodies. When we find a proposed use compatible, we advise the applicant of the estimated administrative costs and estimated application processing time. In addition to the administrative costs, we require the applicant to pay a use fee based on a valuation or by competitive bidding. If the application is for construction of a bridge, building, or other significant construction project, Reclamation may require that all plans and specifications be signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer.

Title of Collection: Bureau of Reclamation Use Authorization Application.

OMB Control Number: 1006–0003.

Form Number: Form 7–2540.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals, corporations, companies, and State and local entities who want to use Reclamation lands, facilities, or waterbodies.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 225.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 225.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 2 hours.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 450 hours.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Each time a use authorization is requested.