

Section 8 Rental Assistance Programs Announcement of Awards for Fiscal Year 2023					
PHA #	Housing Agency	Address	Units	HAP Award	Fee Award
<b>Pre-payment Vouchers</b>					
KS001	KS: KANSAS CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY	1124 NORTH NINTH STREET, KANSAS CITY, KS 66101	86	\$ 817,716	\$ 26,600
FL072	FL: HA DELAND	1450 SOUTH WOODLAND BOULEVARD SUITE 200A, DE LAND, FL 32720	133	\$ 209,576	\$ 16,400
<b>Total for Pre-payment Vouchers</b>			<b>219</b>	<b>\$ 1,027,292</b>	<b>\$ 43,000</b>
<b>Termination/Opt-out Vouchers</b>					
AR170	AR: JACKSONVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY	PO BOX 734, JACKSONVILLE, AR 72076	48	\$ 307,837	\$ 2,400
CA056	CA: SAN JOSE HOUSING AUTHORITY	505 WEST JULIAN STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95110	56	\$ -	\$ 11,200
CO001	CO: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER	1035 OSAGE ST, DENVER, CO 80204		\$ 60,514	\$ -
CO911	CO: COLORADO DIVISION OF HOUSING	1313 SHERMAN STREET ROOM 518, DENVER, CO 80203	13	\$ 134,123	\$ 1,800
CT020	CT: DANBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY	2 MILL RIDGE ROAD P.O. BOX 86, DANBURY, CT 06810	(9)	\$ (48,359)	\$ 800
DC001	DC: D.C HOUSING AUTHORITY	303 7TH STREET, WASHINGTON, DC 20024	38	\$ 741,233	\$ 7,000
GA006	GA: HA ATLANTA GA	230 JOHN WESLEY DOBBS AVE. NE, ATLANTA, GA 30303	44	\$ 450,083	\$ 8,800
GA901	GA: GEORGIA DEPT. OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS-RENTAL ASSIST.	60 EXECUTIVE PARK SOUTH, NE SUITE 250, ATLANTA, GA 30329	193	\$ 2,037,061	\$ 38,600
HI901	HI: HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY	1002 NORTH SCHOOL ST., HONOLULU, HI 96817	8	\$ 118,769	\$ 1,600
IA129	IA: NORTHWEST IOWA REGIONAL HA	P O BOX 446 919 2ND AVENUE, SW, SPENCER, IA 51301	41	\$ 165,093	\$ 6,200
IL087	IL: HSG AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SHELBY	P O BOX 252, SHELBYVILLE, IL 62565	6	\$ 21,486	\$ 1,200
IL101	IL: DUPAGE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY	711 EAST ROOSEVELT ROAD, WHEATON, IL 60187	78	\$ 927,978	\$ 15,600
IN022	IN: BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY	1007 N SUMMIT STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404	30	\$ 216,151	\$ 6,900
MI073	MI: GRAND RAPIDS HSG. COMM.	1420 FULLER AVE SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507	7	\$ 25,453	\$ 1,400
MI901	MI: MICHIGAN STATE HSG. DEV. AUTH.	P.O. BOX 30044, LANSING, MI 48909	66	\$ 56,002	\$ 13,200
MN034	MN: WORTHINGTON HRA	819 TENTH STREET, WORTHINGTON, MN 56187	16	\$ 89,750	\$ 1,400
MN219	MN: SOUTH CENTRAL MULTI COUNTY HRA	422 BELGRADE AVENUE, SUITE 102, NORTH MANKATO, MN 56003	16	\$ 96,079	\$ 1,800
MO002	MO: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	3822 SUMMIT, KANSAS CITY, MO 64111	26	\$ 205,689	\$ 2,200
MT001	MT: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BILLINGS	2415 1ST AVE NORTH, BILLINGS, MT 59101	23	\$ 151,866	\$ 2,800
MT901	MT: MT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	POB 200545 301 S. PARK, HELENA, MT 59620	19	\$ 117,395	\$ 2,400
ND011	ND: GREAT PLAINS HOUSING HOUSING AUTHORITY	300 2ND ST NE - 200, JAMESTOWN, ND 58401	21	\$ 102,705	\$ 2,200
ND049	ND: WALSH COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY	600 E 9TH ST, GRAFTON, ND 58237	4	\$ 16,936	\$ 800
NE104	NE: COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY	2554 40TH AVENUE, COLUMBUS, NE 68601	8	\$ 46,059	\$ 1,600
NE114	NE: BEATRICE HOUSING AUTHORITY	205 NORTH 4TH STREET, BEATRICE, NE 68310	22	\$ 76,747	\$ 4,400
NH010	NH: KEENE HOUSING	831 COURT STREET, KEENE, NH 03431	9	\$ 63,216	\$ 1,600
NH901	NH: NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSING FINANCE AUTH	P.O. BOX 5087, MANCHESTER, NH 03108	7	\$ 81,794	\$ 1,400
NY001	NY: HA OF SYRACUSE	516 BURT STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202	7	\$ 12,280	\$ 1,400
NY409	NY: CITY OF BUFFALO	C/O RENTAL ASST CORP 470 FRANKLIN ST, BUFFALO, NY 14202	12	\$ 83,743	\$ 1,400
OH022	OH: GREENE METRO HSG AUTH	538 NORTH DETROIT ST., XENIA, OH 45385	21	\$ 135,667	\$ 4,200
OK073	OK: TULSA HOUSING AUTHORITY	P O BOX 6369, TULSA, OK 74148	104	\$ 657,035	\$ 19,800
OK099	OK: MUSKOGEE HOUSING AUTHORITY	220 N 40TH, MUSKOGEE, OK 74401	92	\$ 463,978	\$ 18,400
OR027	OR: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF MALHEUR COUNTY	959 FORTNER ST, ONTARIO, OR 97914	13	\$ 90,611	\$ 2,400
SD011	SD: MADISON HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	111 S. WASHINGTON AVE., MADISON, SD 57042	24	\$ 8,065	\$ 3,400
TN001	TN: MEMPHIS HOUSING AUTHORITY	P.O. BOX 3664, MEMPHIS, TN 38103	299	\$ 2,183,657	\$ 42,000
TX537	TX: HALE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY	P. O. BOX 99 123 E. 6TH ST., PLAINVIEW, TX 79073	19	\$ 86,982	\$ 2,000
VA038	VA: BIG STONE GAP REDEVELOPMENT AND	HOUSING AUTHORITY P.O. BOX 536, BIG STONE GAP, VA 24219	42	\$ 195,164	\$ 8,400

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PHA #	Housing Agency	Address	Units	HAP Award	Fee Award
VT001	VT: BURLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY	65 MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON, VT 05401	13	\$ 11,902	\$ 2,200
WA008	WA: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER	2500 MAIN STREET, #200, VANCOUVER, WA 98660	52	\$ 493,105	\$ 10,400
WI237	WI: PORTAGE COUNTY HA	1001 MAPLE BLUFF RD SUITE 1, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482	49	\$ 223,316	\$ 7,000
WV037	WV: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF MINGO COUNTY	P O BOX 120 5026 HELENA AVENUE, DELBARTON, WV 25670	4	\$ 5,300	\$ 800
<b>Total for Termination/Opt-out Vouchers</b>			<b>1,541</b>	<b>\$ 10,911,565</b>	<b>\$ 262,200</b>
<b>PD Relocation Vouchers</b>					
MD002	MD: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BALTIMORE CITY	417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21201	38	\$ 670,620	\$ 9,600
<b>Total for SRO-Relocation/Replacement</b>			<b>38</b>	<b>\$ 670,620</b>	<b>\$ 9,600</b>
<b>Total for Multifamily Housing Conversion Actions</b>			<b>2,941</b>	<b>\$ 23,348,001</b>	<b>\$ 528,800</b>
<b>Grand Total TPV HAP and Fees</b>			<b>12,694</b>	<b>\$ 139,642,219</b>	<b>\$ 528,800</b>

[FR Doc. 2024-08440 Filed 4-18-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-C

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of the Secretary**

[BLM\_HQ-FRN\_MO4500178304]

**Adoption of Categorical Exclusions Under Section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of adoption of categorical exclusions under section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior (Department) is adopting the United States Forest Service's (USFS) categorical exclusion for short-term mineral, energy, or geothermal investigations and the Department of the Navy's (DON) categorical exclusion for pre-lease upland exploration activities for oil, gas, or geothermal reserves, (e.g., geophysical surveys) pursuant to section

109 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to use for proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approval of geothermal exploration operations. This notice describes the limited categories of proposed actions for which the BLM intends to use the USFS and DON categorical exclusions and details the consultation between the respective agencies.

**DATES:** The adoption takes effect on April 19, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lorenzo Trimble, Geologist—National

Geothermal Program Lead, National Renewable Energy Coordination Office (330), telephone: 775-224-0267, or email: [ltrimble@blm.gov](mailto:ltrimble@blm.gov).

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. National Environmental Policy Act and Categorical Exclusions

NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, as amended) requires all Federal agencies to consider the environmental impact of their proposed actions before deciding whether and how to proceed. 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4332. NEPA's aims are to ensure that agencies consider the potential environmental effects of their proposed actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process. 42 U.S.C. 4332. NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 (CEQ regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review for a proposed action. Where required, these levels of review may be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS), an environmental assessment (EA), or by reliance on a categorical exclusion. 40 CFR 1501.3. If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency will prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision. 40 CFR 1502, 1505.2. If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or where the level of significance is unknown, the agency will prepare an EA, which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS. 40 CFR 1501.5. Following preparation of an EA, the agency may reach a finding of no significant impact if the analysis shows that the action will have no significant effects. 40 CFR 1501.6. If, following preparation of an EA, the agency finds that the proposed action may have significant effects, it will prepare an EIS before issuing any decision to authorize the action.

Under NEPA and CEQ's implementing regulations, a Federal agency can establish categorical exclusions—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the

human environment—in its agency NEPA procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336(e)(1); 40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d). If an agency determines that a categorical exclusion covers a proposed action, the agency then evaluates the proposed action for any extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. 40 CFR 1501.4(b). Responsible Officials in the Department's bureaus evaluate proposed actions for the presence of extraordinary circumstances in accordance with the Department's NEPA implementing regulations at 43 CFR 46.205 and 46.215. If no extraordinary circumstances are present or if further analysis determines that the extraordinary circumstances do not involve the potential for significant environmental impacts, the agency may rely on the categorical exclusion to approve the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2), 40 CFR 1501.4. If any extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency may nonetheless categorically exclude the proposed action if it determines that there are circumstances that lessen the impacts or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects. 40 CFR 1501.4(b)(1).

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to “adopt a categorical exclusion listed in another agency's NEPA procedures for a category of proposed agency actions for which the categorical exclusion was established.” 42 U.S.C. 4336c. To adopt another agency's categorical exclusion under section 109, the adopting agency: (1) identifies the relevant categorical exclusion listed in another agency's (“establishing agency”) NEPA procedures “that covers a category of proposed actions or related actions”; (2) consults with the establishing agency “to ensure that the proposed adoption of the categorical exclusion for a category of actions is appropriate”; (3) “identifies] to the public the categorical exclusion that the [adopting] agency plans to use for its proposed actions”; and (4) documents adoption of the categorical exclusion. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. This notice documents the Department's adoption of the USFS categorical exclusion for short-term mineral, energy, or geothermal investigations and the DON categorical exclusion for pre-lease exploration activities for use by the BLM.

The Department's NEPA procedures are found at 43 CFR part 46. These procedures address compliance with NEPA. The Department maintains a list of categorical exclusions available to all

Department bureaus and offices at 43 CFR 46.210. Additional Department-wide NEPA policy is found in the Departmental Manual (DM), in chapters 1 through 4 of part 516, available at <https://www.doi.gov/document-library>. The NEPA procedures for individual bureaus in the Department are published in additional chapters of part 516 of the DM. Chapter 11 of the 516 DM sets forth the BLM's NEPA procedures, and the BLM categorical exclusions are listed in 516 DM 11.9 and 11.10. (See <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/departmental-manual/516-dm-11-managing-nepa-process-bureau-land-management>.)

### II. Identification of the Categorical Exclusions

#### *USFS Categorical Exclusion for Short-Term Mineral, Energy, or Geophysical Investigations*

The USFS categorical exclusion for short-term mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations is found at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8), and states as follows:

Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads. Examples include but are not limited to:

(i) Authorizing geophysical investigations which use existing roads that may require incidental repair to reach sites for drilling core holes, temperature gradient holes, or seismic shot holes;

(ii) Gathering geophysical data using shot hole, vibroseis, or surface charge methods;

(iii) Trenching to obtain evidence of mineralization;

(iv) Clearing vegetation for sight paths or from areas used for investigation or support facilities;

(v) Redesigning or rearranging surface facilities within an approved site;

(vi) Approving interim and final site restoration measures; and

(vii) Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and the construction of 1/3 mile of temporary road; clearing vegetation from an acre of land for trenches, drill pads, or support facilities.

The USFS conducts review of any proposed reliance on its categorical exclusion according to its extraordinary circumstances review protocol found at 36 CFR 220.6.

#### *DON Categorical Exclusion for Pre-Lease Upland Exploration Activities for Oil, Gas or Geothermal Reserves*

The DON categorical exclusion for pre-lease exploration activities is found at 32 CFR 775.6(f)(39), and states as follows:

“Pre-lease upland exploration activities for oil, gas or geothermal reserves (e.g., geophysical surveys).”

The DON conducts review of any proposed reliance on its categorical exclusion according to its extraordinary circumstances review protocol found at 32 CFR 775.6(e).

#### *Proposed Department Category of Actions*

Both the USFS and the DON categorical exclusions allow for pre-leasing exploration activities, geophysical surveys, or geophysical investigations. Those activities are included in the BLM’s definition of geothermal “exploration operations.” See 43 CFR 3200.1. The DON categorical exclusion broadly allows activities meeting the BLM’s definition of geothermal “exploration operations,” but specifies that these be conducted at the pre-leasing stage. Both the USFS and DON categorical exclusions could be applied to the BLM’s approval of geothermal exploration operations as provided for under the regulations implementing the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 as amended, 30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*, Public Law 91–581, 84 Stat. 1566, and the Department intends for the BLM to use these adopted categorical exclusions exclusively to facilitate approval of such geothermal exploration operations, and not to use them for oil and gas or other mineral activities. Geothermal exploration operations do not contact or directly test a geothermal resource. The BLM Geothermal Resource Leasing regulations are found at 43 CFR part 3200 and include provisions defining the scope of *geothermal exploration operations* as follows:

. . . any activity relating to the search for evidence of geothermal resources, where you are physically present on the land and your activities may cause damage to those lands. Exploration operations include, but are not limited to, geophysical operations, drilling temperature gradient wells, drilling holes used for explosive charges for seismic exploration, core drilling or any other drilling method, provided the well is not used for geothermal resource production. It also includes related construction of [routes] and trails, and cross-country transit by vehicles over public land. Exploration operations do not include the direct testing of geothermal resources or the production or utilization of geothermal resources.

43 CFR 3200.1. (The substitution of the term “routes” reflects current BLM terminology indicating the limited use and temporary nature of resource access routes.)

The BLM intends to rely on these adopted categorical exclusions as appropriate to support approval of

Notices of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Exploration Operations (Form 3200–9) (NOIs). Requirements for reclamation are provided on Form 3200–9 and in the applicable regulations (See 43 CFR 3251.11(g)). Applications for NOI permits may be submitted for conforming activities on any federal lands or interests in lands open to geothermal development (43 CFR 3250.11) and do not require a lease. The NOI permit application and the associated regulations governing geothermal exploration operations permitting do not expressly limit the timeframe for activities. However, if the BLM were to rely on the adopted USFS categorical exclusion to approve such a permit, those exploration activities would have to be concluded within a 1-year timeframe. Implementation of reclamation plans can take longer, however, and may require extended monitoring to evaluate the success of the reclamation.

Responsible Officials in the Department will be able to rely on either the USFS or the DON categorical exclusions, as appropriate, to process NOIs for qualifying geothermal exploration operations. Responsible Officials in the Department will document such reliance, including describing how the proposed action conforms to the terms of whichever (the USFS or DON) categorical exclusion is relied upon, in accordance with any applicable Departmental NEPA or BLM NEPA or geothermal program guidance.

#### **III. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances**

When applying these categorical exclusions, Responsible Officials in the Department will evaluate the proposed actions to ensure evaluation of whether there are any extraordinary circumstances. The Department’s extraordinary circumstances are listed at 43 CFR 46.215 and include, in part, consideration of impacts on public health and safety; natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas; unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources; unique or unknown environmental risks; precedent for future decision-making; historic properties; listed species or critical habitat; low income or minority populations; access by Indian religious

practitioners to, and for ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites and the physical integrity of those sites; and contribution to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of invasive weeds or non-native invasive species. Responsible Officials in the Department are required to review any proposed action for which they intend to rely on a categorical exclusion, as provided at 43 CFR 46.205, by comparing it with the list at 43 CFR 46.215 and documenting that review in accordance with any applicable Departmental or bureau NEPA or program guidance.

The Department’s list of extraordinary circumstances is comparable to those of the USFS, found at 36 CFR 220.6(b) and of the DON, found at 32 CFR 775.6(e); therefore, Responsible Officials in the Department intending to rely on either the USFS or the DON categorical exclusion will need to review the proposed action only in accordance with the Department’s NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.205 and 46.215. The Responsible Official will assess whether an extraordinary circumstance is present, and if so, whether there are circumstances that lessen the impacts or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b). If the Responsible Official cannot rely on a categorical exclusion to support a decision on a particular proposed action due to extraordinary circumstances, the Responsible Official will prepare an EA or EIS, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b)(2) and 43 CFR 46.205(c).

#### **IV. Consultation With USFS and DON and Determination of Appropriateness**

In January and February of 2024, the Department consulted with the USFS and the DON about the appropriateness of the Department’s adoption of their respective categorical exclusions. Those consultations each included a review of the USFS’s and the DON’s experience in establishing and applying the categorical exclusions, as well as the types of actions for which the BLM plans to use the categorical exclusions. Based on those consultations and reviews, the Department has determined that the types of activities the BLM proposes to authorize as geothermal exploration operations are substantially similar to the geothermal resource-related activities for which the USFS and the DON have applied their respective categorical exclusions. Accordingly, the impacts of the BLM-authorized geothermal exploration operations, including the types of pre-lease exploration activities described in the DON categorical exclusion and the examples of activities described in the

USFS categorical exclusion, would be substantially similar to the impacts of these USFS and the DON actions, which are not significant, absent extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, the Department has determined that its proposed use of the USFS and the DON categorical exclusions to support BLM permitting decisions for qualifying geothermal exploration operations, as described in this notice, is appropriate. BLM will not rely on either the USFS or the DON categorical exclusions to support approval of other mineral or non-geothermal energy activities. Extending the BLM's use of the USFS and the DON categorical exclusions to other mineral or non-geothermal energy activities would require the agency to complete a separate process to adopt those categorical exclusions for that purpose in accordance with the requirements of Section 109 of NEPA.

#### V. Notice to the Public and Documentation of Adoption

This notice serves to identify to the public and document the Department's adoption of the USFS categorical exclusion for short-term mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and the DON categorical exclusion for pre-lease upland exploration activities for oil, gas, or geothermal reserves and identifies the types of actions to which Responsible Officials in the Department will apply the categorical exclusions, including only approval of permitting for geothermal exploration operations, and the considerations Responsible Officials in the Department will use in determining whether an action is within the scope of the categorical exclusions. Upon issuance of this notice, the adopted USFS and DON categorical exclusions will be available to the Department for the BLM to rely upon to authorize geothermal exploration operations and will be accessible in 516 DM 11, found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/what-informs-our-plans/nepa> and at <https://www.doi.gov/oepc/nepa/categorical-exclusions>.

#### VI. Proposed Text for the Departmental Manual

The Department will add the following text to chapter 11 of part 516 of the Departmental Manual:

##### 11.11 Categorical Exclusions Adopted Through NEPA Section 109

Responsible Officials will document reliance on the categorical exclusions listed below, including describing how the proposed action conforms to the terms of the categorical exclusion relied upon and application of extraordinary

circumstances review consistent with 43 CFR 46.215.

#### A. Geothermal Exploration Operations

The Department has adopted the following categorical exclusions for the limited purpose of approving Notices of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Exploration Operations (Form 3200–9).

(1) U.S. Forest Service, 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8):

Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of temporary road, or use and minor repair of existing roads. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(i) Authorizing geophysical investigations which use existing roads that may require incidental repair to reach sites for drilling core holes, temperature gradient holes, or seismic shot holes;

(ii) Gathering geophysical data using shot hole, vibroseis, or surface charge methods;

(iii) Trenching to obtain evidence of mineralization;

(iv) Clearing vegetation for sight paths or from areas used for investigation or support facilities;

(v) Redesigning or rearranging surface facilities within an approved site;

(vi) Approving interim and final site restoration measures; and

(vii) Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and the construction of  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile of temporary road; clearing vegetation from an acre of land for trenches, drill pads, or support facilities.

and

(2) Department of the Navy, 32 CFR 775.6(f)(39):

Pre-lease upland exploration activities for oil, gas, or geothermal reserves, (e.g., geophysical surveys).

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4336c)

**Stephen G. Tryon,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

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**BILLING CODE 4331–29–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_NF\_FRN\_MO4500178506]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for the GridLiance West Core Upgrades Transmission Line Project in Nye and Clark Counties, Nevada

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**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 (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the GridLiance West Core Upgrades Transmission Line Project and by this notice is providing information announcing the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS.

**DATES:** This notice announces the opening of a 90-day comment period for the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS beginning with the date following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 90-day comment period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

The BLM will hold two public meetings. One meeting will be held at the Pahrump Nugget Hotel and Casino, 681 NV–160, Pahrump, NV 89048 on Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time. A second meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time. Additional information on the meetings, including how to register, can be found on the BLM National NEPA Register at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2025248/510>.

**ADDRESSES:** The Draft RMP Amendment/EIS is available for review on the BLM National NEPA Register at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2025248/510>.

Written comments related to the GridLiance West Core Upgrades