

cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*), Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*), Texas blind salamander (*Typhlomolge rathbuni*), fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*), San Marcos gambusia (*Gambusia gorzei*), Peck's Cave amphipod (*Stygobromus pecki*), Comal Springs dryopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*), ground beetle (*Rhadine exilis*), ground beetle (*Rhadine infernalis*), Helotes mold beetle (*Batrises venyivi*), Cokendolpher Cave harvestman (*Texella cockendolpheri*), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina baronia*), Madla Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina madla*), Braken Bat Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina venii*), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina vespera*), Government Canyon Bat Cave spider (*Neoleptoneta microps*), Tooth Cave spider (*Leptoneta myopica*), Bee Creek Cave harvestman (*Texella reddeni*), Bone Cave harvestman (*Texella reyesi*), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle (*Batrises texanus*), and Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion (*Tartarocreagris texana*) within Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Permit TE-217655

Applicant: Rachel Barlow, Austin, Texas. Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of the following species: Ground beetle (*Rhadine exilis*), ground beetle (*Rhadine infernalis*), Helotes mold beetle (*Batrises venyivi*), Cokendolpher Cave harvestman (*Texella cockendolpheri*), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina baronia*), Madla Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina madla*), Braken Bat Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina venii*), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver (*Cicurina vespera*), Government Canyon Bat Cave spider (*Neoleptoneta microps*), Tooth Cave spider (*Leptoneta myopica*), Bee Creek Cave harvestman (*Texella reddeni*), Bone Cave harvestman (*Texella reyesi*), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle (*Batrises texanus*), Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion (*Tartarocreagris texana*), Tooth Cave spider (*Neoleptoneta myopica*), Tooth Cave ground beetle (*Rhadine persephone*), and Coffin Cave mold beetle (*Batrises texanus*) within Texas

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: June 19, 2009.

Brian A. Millsap,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E9-16137 Filed 7-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLAZP02000.L51010000.ER0000.
LVRWA09A2400; AZA-34187]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Sonoran Solar Energy Project, Maricopa County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address potential effects of a proposed solar energy project by Boulevard Associates, LLC and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process and soliciting input on the identification of issues.

DATES: The BLM will announce public scoping meetings to identify relevant issues through news media, newspapers, and BLM's Web site (<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html>) at least 15 days prior to each meeting. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS, including a 45-day public comment period.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

- Mail: Sonoran Solar Energy Project,
- ATTN: Joe Incardine, National Project Manager, BLM Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027-2929.
- Electronic Mail: sonoransolar@blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the BLM process or to have your name added to the mailing list, send requests to: ATTN: Sonoran Solar Energy Project, BLM Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027-2929, or call Joe Incardine, 801-524-3833, or e-mail: Joe_Incardine@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will

influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Boulevard Associates, LLC has applied to BLM for a right of way (ROW) on public lands to construct a concentrated solar thermal (CST) power plant, a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, water supply facilities, a natural gas pipeline, an access road, and other related facilities in the Little Rainbow Valley, east of State Route 85, and south of the Buckeye Hills and the town of Buckeye in Maricopa County, Arizona. The facility would be expected to operate for approximately 30 years. A ROW grant for the construction, operation, and maintenance of this Project would be required from BLM. Additional applicable permits from Federal, State and local agencies may also be required.

Boulevard Associates, LLC would construct up to 375 megawatts (MW) of solar thermal electrical generation with options for natural gas backup and/or thermal storage capabilities. The solar facility would consist of solar fields made up of single-axis-tracking parabolic trough solar collectors. Each collector contains a linear parabolic-shaped reflector (glass mirrors) that focuses the sun's direct radiation on a heat collection element located at the focal point of the parabola. The collectors would track the sun from east to west during the day to ensure the sun is continuously focused on the linear receiver. A heat transfer fluid would be heated as it passes through the receivers and then circulated through a series of heat exchangers to generate high-pressure superheated steam. The steam would power a conventional steam turbine generator which produces electricity. The plant would be made up of one or more power blocks. Each power block would be located near the center of its respective solar field and would contain multiple feedwater heaters, steam generators, steam superheaters, and feedwater pumps.

To optimize the output capacity of the project, both natural gas backup and/or thermal energy storage would be used as needed. Natural gas backup would include the addition of a partial or full load burner arrangement that would generate additional steam when solar energy is absent or insufficient by itself. Annual output from natural gas would be limited to 25 percent of annual capacity to ensure that the plant remains predominantly a solar powered facility. Thermal energy storage would provide the option of transferring some or all of the solar energy into molten salt contained in insulated tanks. Using heat exchangers and pumps designed for

molten salt, the heat could later be extracted to provide generation when the demand for power exceeds the available generation from solar energy, essentially time shifting the solar power to respond to electric demands.

Wet cooling technology would be used for cooling the power generating equipment. Recirculating wet cooling systems use about 6 to 13 acre-feet per year per MW for a system with 3 hours of thermal storage. A mechanical draft cooling tower, cooling water circulating pumps, circulating water piping, valves, and instrumentation would also be located within the facility. Multiple evaporation ponds would be constructed to hold discharge from the cooling towers and steam cycle that can no longer be recycled back into the plant.

The Project would be connected to the electrical grid using a newly constructed, 3 to 4 mile, 500 kV generation tie-line with a point of interconnection at the existing Jojoba Substation, west of the proposed Project site and operated by the Salt River Project. If any upgrades would be required to the Jojoba Substation as a result of this Project, those upgrades would be included in the EIS analysis and ROW grant. The new transmission line and other related facilities that would be developed specifically for this Project would be included in the EIS analysis and included in the ROW grant as appropriate.

The EIS for the Project will analyze the site-specific impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, and hazardous materials handling. The EIS will also analyze land use, noise, paleontological resources, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, waste management, wildlife corridors, health and human safety, and fire protection. Additionally, information on facility design engineering, efficiency, reliability, transmission system engineering and transmission line safety and nuisance will be included in the EIS. Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. It is anticipated that the EIS process will be completed by December 2010.

To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 30 days after the last public meeting. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 the public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If the ROW were to be approved by BLM, the concentrated solar thermal power plant facility on public lands would be authorized in accordance with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Regulations at 43 CFR part 2800.

(Authority: 43 CFR part 2800)

Helen M. Hankins,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. E9-15974 Filed 7-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYP00000-L13200000-EL0000, LLWYP00000-L51100000-GA0000-LVEMK09CK320, LLWYP00000-L51100000-GA0000-LVEMK09CK340, LLWYP00000-L51100000-GA0000-LVEMK09CK370; WYW164812, WYW174596, WYW172388, WYW172685, WYW173408, WYW176095]

Notice of Availability and Notice of Hearing for the Wright Area Coal Draft Environmental Impact Statement That Includes Four Federal Coal Lease-by-Applications, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Wright Area Coal project that contains four Federal coal Lease-by-Applications (LBAs), and by this Notice is announcing a public hearing requesting comments on the DEIS, on the Maximum Economic Recovery (MER), and on the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the Federal coal resources.

DATES: To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Wright Area Coal DEIS, MER, and FMV within 60 days following June 26, 2009, the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** [74 FR 30570]. The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m.

MST, on July 29, 2009, at the Clarion Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Hwy., Gillette, Wyoming.

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

- *E-mail:* casper_wymail@blm.gov.

Please include "Wright Area Coal DEIS—Sarah Bucklin" in the subject line.

- *Fax:* 307-261-7587, Attn: Sarah Bucklin.

- *Mail:* Wyoming High Plains District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Sarah Bucklin, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604.

- Written comments may also be hand-delivered to the BLM Wyoming High Plains District Office in Casper.

Copies of the DEIS are available at the following BLM office locations: BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009; and BLM Wyoming High Plains District Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. The DEIS is available electronically at the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfdocs/WrightCoal.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Bucklin or Mike Karbs, BLM Wyoming High Plains District Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. Ms. Bucklin or Mr. Karbs may also be reached at (307) 261-7600 or by e-mail at casper_wymail@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS analyzes the potential impacts of issuing leases for six Federal coal maintenance tracts serialized as WYW164812 (North Hilight Field Tract), WYW174596 (South Hilight Field Tract), WYW172388 (West Hilight Field Tract), WYW172685 (West Jacobs Ranch Tract), WYW173408 (North Porcupine Tract), and WYW176095 (South Porcupine Tract) in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming. The BLM is considering issuing these six coal leases as a result of four applications filed in accordance with 43 CFR part 3425 between October 2005 and September 2006. Supplementary information by tract is as follows:

North and South Hilight Field Tracts

On October 7, 2005, Ark Land Company applied for Federal coal reserves in two maintenance tracts encompassing approximately 4,590.19 acres and 588.2 million tons of coal as estimated by the applicant. The tracts are adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine operated by Thunder Basin Coal Company. BLM determined that the application would be processed as two separate tracts. The tracts are referred to