

requested a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Daggett Ridge Wind Farm. The proposed energy facility would generate 82.5 megawatts (MW) of renewable power using wind resources. The project would include approximately 10 miles of new roads. It would also include one substation on private land. The project would require the BLM to approve an amendment to Southern California Edison's current Slash X ROW to allow telecommunication use. It would also require the BLM to approve two amendments to the Boulder Canyon Project permit to allow: (1) The construction and installation of additional poles within the existing ROW for telecommunication use; and (2) a new 500-foot line from the proposed Seaggett Substation, which would include the replacement of one pole on BLM-managed land. The proposed project would involve new or expanded utility corridors. The proposed project would use 1,577 acres of BLM-managed land and 380 acres of private property, all of which is located in unincorporated San Bernardino County, southeast of Barstow and southwest of Daggett, California. It will have a total of 33 wind turbines—28 on BLM-managed land and five on private land.

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 process for developing the EIS/EIR. At present, the BLM and the County have identified the following preliminary issues: Special status species, vegetation communities, special area designations, cultural resources, social impacts, visual resources, cumulative effects and areas of high potential for renewable energy development.

Authorization of this proposal may require amendment of the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended). By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, predicated on the findings of the EIS. If a land use plan amendment is necessary, the BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including

impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes, and other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's or the County's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM or the County to participate as a cooperating agency.

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 public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Thomas Pogacnik,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, California State Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 048880, LLCAD06000, L51010000, ER0000, LVRWB09B2510]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment for the NextEra Ford Dry Lake Solar Power Plant, Riverside County, CA and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, together with the California Energy Commission (CEC), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Staff Assessment (SA), which may also include an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended), and by this notice are 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/SA and possible plan amendment. Comments

on issues may be submitted in writing until December 23, 2009. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings, information hearings, and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html> and the CEC's Web site at: http://energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar/index.html. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS/SA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS/SA.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the NextEra Ford Dry Lake Solar Power Plant Draft EIS/SA by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html> or http://energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar/index.html.

- **E-mail:** CAPSSolarNextEraFPL@blm.gov or mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us.

- **Fax:** (760) 251-4899.

- **Mail or hand delivery:** Mike Monasmi, Project Manager Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, CEC, 1516 Ninth Street, MS-15, Sacramento, California 95814 or Allison Shaffer, Project Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, BLM, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Allison Shaffer, BLM Project Manager, telephone (760) 833-7100; address 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262; e-mail

CAPSSolarNextEraFPL@blm.gov or Mike Monasmi, CEC Project Manager, telephone (916) 653-8236; address 1516 9th Street, MS-15, Sacramento, CA 95814; e-mail mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant, NextEra, LLC has requested a right-of-way authorization to develop an 1,800-acre, 250-megawatt (MW) solar generation facility, including a substation, administration facilities, operations and maintenance facilities, evaporation ponds, surface storm water control facilities, and temporary construction lay-down areas.

The project is located approximately 25 miles west of the city of Blythe, California, on BLM-managed lands. The project area is south of the Palen/McCoy Wilderness Area and north of Ford Dry

Lake and Interstate 10. The project consists of two independent solar electric generating facilities with a combined electrical output of 250 MW. Electrical power would be produced using steam turbine generators fed from solar steam generators. The solar steam generators receive heated transfer fluid from arrays of parabolic mirrors that collect energy from the sun. The project would use a wet cooling tower for power plant cooling. Water for cooling tower makeup, process water makeup, and other industrial uses such as mirror washing would be supplied from on-site groundwater wells. Project cooling waste water would be piped to lined, on-site evaporation ponds. If approved, project construction would begin in late 2010.

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 process for developing the EIS/SA. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: special area designations, air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, special status species, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues.

Authorization of this proposal may require amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, predicated on the findings of the EIS. If a land use plan amendment is necessary, the BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project. The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

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 public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Tom Pogacnik,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, BLM California State Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA-049016, LLCAD05000, L51010000, ER0000, LVRWB09B2990]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Solar Millennium Ridgecrest Solar Power Project, Kern County, CA and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment and Staff Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ridgecrest Field Office, together with the California Energy Commission (CEC), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Staff Assessment (SA), which may include an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended, and by this notice are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Draft EIS/SA and possible plan amendment. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until December 23, 2009. The dates and locations of scoping meetings, information hearings, and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, the BLM Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest.html>, and the CEC's Web site at http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html. In order to be considered in

the Draft EIS/SA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS and SA.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Solar Millennium Ridgecrest Draft EIS and SA by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest.html> or http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html.

- **E-mail:** CARSP@blm.gov or esolorio@energy.state.ca.us.

- **Fax:** BLM (951) 697-5299 or CEC (916) 654-3882.

- **Mail:** BLM California Desert District, 22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553, *Attn:* Janet Eubanks; or California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street, MS-15, Sacramento, California, 95814, *Attn:* Eric Solorio.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Ridgecrest Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Janet Eubanks, Project Manager, at (951) 697-5376; or 22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553; or e-mail Janet_Eubanks@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Solar Millennium, LLC, has applied for a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct and operate a parabolic trough, solar thermal, generating facility with a capacity of 250 megawatts. The project would connect to the existing Southern California Edison 230-kilovolt (kV) Inyokern/Kramer Junction transmission line. About a mile long portion of this 230 kV transmission line and about a mile long portion of a 115 kV line would be realigned to avoid the project area. The approximately 3,920-acre proposed ROW would contain two solar fields, a power block, construction areas, a dry-cooling tower, steel transmission towers with associated transmission lines, access roads, three covered water tanks, an underground water pipeline, a water treatment facility, an electrical switchyard, a land treatment unit for bioremediation of any soil that may be contaminated by heat transfer fluid, an office, a warehouse, a parking lot, and facility perimeter fencing. The project would be located approximately five miles southwest of