

- Hays County Precinct 3 Office, 14306 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX; 78676, and
- Hays County Precinct 4 Office, 101 Old Fitzhugh Rd, Dripping Springs, TX, 78620.

Persons wishing to review the application or draft ROD may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4012, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the 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

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

December 7, 2010.

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 2011-11761 Filed 5-12-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWY922000-L13200000-EL0000; WYW161248]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the Belle Ayr North Coal Tract described below in Campbell County, Wyoming, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the First Floor Conference Room (Room 107), of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mavis Love, Land Law Examiner, or Tyson Sackett, Acting Coal Coordinator, at 307-775-6258, and 307-775-6487, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Alpha Coal West, Inc. (formerly RAG Coal West, Inc.), Gillette, Wyoming. The coal resource to be offered consists of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following described lands located approximately 10 miles south-southeast of Gillette, Wyoming and east of State Highway 59.

T. 48 N., R. 71 W., 6th Principal Meridian

Sec. 17, lots 13 and 14;
Sec. 18, lots 17 through 19 inclusive;
Sec. 19, lots 5 through 19 inclusive;
Sec. 20, lots 3 through 7 inclusive and lots 9 through 16 inclusive;
Sec. 21, lots 13 and 14;
Sec. 28, lots 3 through 6 inclusive; and
Sec. 29, lots 1 and 6.

Containing 1,671.03 acres, more or less, in Campbell County, Wyoming.

The tract is adjacent to Federal and private leases along the northern lease boundary of the Belle Ayr mine, and to Federal leases along the southwestern lease boundary of the Caballo mine, and to the Caballo West LBA along the north. It is also adjacent to additional unleased Federal coal to the west and north. The tract is crossed by Bishop Road along its northeastern boundary.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining. Features such as Bishop Road, utilities, and pipelines can be moved to permit coal recovery. In addition, numerous producing coal bed natural gas wells have been drilled on the tract. The estimate of the bonus value of the coal lease will include consideration of the future production from these wells. An economic analysis of the future income stream from the coal lease will consider reasonable compensation to the gas lessee for lost production of natural gas when the wells are bought out but by the coal lessee. The surface estate of the tract is owned by Alpha Coal West, Inc.

The tract contains surface mineable coal reserves in the Wyodak-Anderson

coal zone currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing mines. On the LBA tract, there is one recoverable seam, the Wyodak, which ranges from about 72 to 78 feet thick. The Wyodak seam is continuous over the entire tract with no outcrops or subcrops. Overburden depths to this seam range from 278 to 317 feet thick on the LBA tract. The tract contains an estimated 221,734,800 tons of mineable coal. This estimate of mineable reserves includes the main seam mentioned above but does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing coal less than 5 feet thick. Also, it does not include the adjacent private leases although these are expected to be mined in conjunction with the LBA tract. The total mineable stripping ratio of the coal in bank cubic yards per ton is about 4.2:1. Potential bidders for the LBA tract should consider the recovery rate expected from thick seam mining.

The Belle Ayr North LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality on an as-received basis is 8,542 British Thermal Units per pound containing about 0.34 percent sulfur. These quality averages place the coal reserves in the lower part of the range of coal quality currently being mined in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds the BLM's estimate of the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be hand delivered. The BLM Wyoming State Office Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 4 p.m. local time, on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale. The lease that may be issued as a result of this coal lease sale will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payment to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal produced by surface mining methods and 8 percent of the value of the coal produced by underground mining methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.250.

Bidding instructions for the tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are available from the BLM Wyoming State Office at

the address above. Case file documents for case WYW161248 are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

Donald A. Simpson,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 048810, LLCAD06000,
L51010000.FX0000, LVRWB09B2600]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Palen Solar I, LLC's Palen Solar Power Plant (PSPP) and Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance 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 Proposed California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Palen Solar Power Plant project and by this notice is announcing its availability.

DATES: The publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Notice of Availability (NOA) of this Final EIS in the **Federal Register** initiates a 30-day public comment period. In addition, the BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations at 43 CFR 1610.52 may protest the BLM's Proposed CDCA Plan Amendment. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the EPA publishes its notice in the **Federal Register**. The protest procedures are described in the "Dear Reader" letter accompanying the Proposed Plan Amendment/Final EIS.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Palen Proposed CDCA Plan Amendment/Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, state, and local government agencies and to other stakeholders. You may send your comments to the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262. Copies are also available for public inspection at this address. Interested persons may also

review the document at the following Web site: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/Solar_Projects/Palen_Solar_Power_Project.html. All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail: BLM Director (210),
Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383.
Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210),
Attention: Brenda Williams, 20 M Street, SE., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Allison Shaffer, BLM Project Manager, telephone (760) 833-7100; 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262 or e-mail CAPSSolarPalen@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS 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: Palen Solar I, LLC (Palen), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Solar Millennium, Inc., has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to the BLM for development of the proposed Palen project, consisting of two parabolic-trough solar thermal power plants, each of which has a "solar field" comprised of rows of parabolic mirrors focusing solar energy on collector tubes. The tubes would carry heated oil to a boiler that sends live steam to a steam turbine. The project would be built in 2 phases which are designed to generate in total approximately 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity at full development. The proposed ROW would encompass approximately 5,200 acres; the disturbed area would encompass approximately 3,107 acres. The project is in Riverside County, California, 10 miles east of Desert Center along Interstate 10 halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe.

The major components and features of the proposed Palen project include the two power plants, an access road, operations facilities (office, warehouse, etc.), a switchyard, an electrical transmission line (which will connect to Southern California Edison's planned Red Bluff substation, 10 miles west of the Palen project site), and two water wells. This dry-cooled power plant would use approximately 300 acre-feet of water per year for feed water makeup, dust control, domestic uses, and mirror

washing obtained from on-site water wells.

The BLM's purpose and need for the Final EIS is to respond to Palen's application for a ROW grant to construct, operate, and decommission a solar thermal facility on public lands in compliance with FLPMA, the BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable Federal laws. The BLM will decide whether to grant, grant with modification, or deny a ROW to Palen for the proposed project. The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), while recognizing the potential compatibility of solar generation facilities with other uses on public lands, requires that all sites proposed for power generation or transmission not already identified in the plan be considered through the plan amendment process. If the BLM decides to grant a ROW for this project, the CDCA Plan would be amended as required. In response to the application received from Palen, the BLM's proposed action is to authorize the Palen project and amend the CDCA Plan to identify the project area as suitable for solar energy production.

In addition to the proposed action, the BLM is analyzing the following action alternatives: Two reconfigured 500-MW alternatives designed to reduce impacts to desert washes, dune habitat, and the Mojave fringe-toed lizard, and a smaller 375-MW alternative. The reconfigured 500-MW alternative that has as an option to use 240 acres of private land, if available, is the preferred alternative. The Final EIS also analyzes a no action alternative that would not approve a CDCA Plan amendment and two no project alternatives that reject the project, but amend the CDCA Plan to: (1) Designate the project area as available to future solar energy power generation projects; or (2) designate the project area as unavailable to future solar energy power generation projects. The BLM will take into consideration the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Secretarial Orders 3283—"Enhancing Renewable Energy Development on the Public Lands", and 3285A1—"Renewable Energy Development by the Department of the Interior" in responding to the PSPP application.

The Final EIS evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed PSPP and CDCA Plan Amendment on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, land use, noise, paleontological resources, public health, socioeconomics, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, wilderness characteristics, impacts to Joshua Tree National Park, and other resources.