

the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until October 21, 2013. The date(s) and location(s) of scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the Maricopa Solar Park Project by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [BLM\\_AZ\\_Maricopasolar@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov).
- *Fax:* 623-580-5580.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office, Attention: Joe Incardine/ Maricopa Solar Park Project, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027-2929.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joe Incardine, National Project Manager, telephone 801-539-4118; address Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office, 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027-2929; email [jincardi@blm.gov](mailto:jincardi@blm.gov). Contact Mr. Incardine if you wish to add your name to our mailing list.

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:** The applicant, Marisol Energy 2, LLC (Marisol), has requested a right-of-way authorization to develop and operate the Maricopa Solar Park Project, a photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant with a planned generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts. Marisol is a sister company of the Italian-based Siderurgica Investimenti. Siderurgica Investimenti is the holding company of an industrial group operating at an international level in the sectors of steel

and metal production, renewable energy, and natural gas.

The project would be located on approximately 1,730 acres of BLM-managed land within the Phoenix District Office, Lower Sonoran Field Office in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Phoenix. The proposed project would consist of one or more phases, based upon potential power purchase agreement(s) with electrical utility companies. The project proposes to use mono/polycrystalline or "thin film" PV modules, which would be mounted on horizontal single-axis trackers or on fixed mounting systems. The type of PV modules and mounting systems selected by Marisol would maximize efficiency and energy production. The facility would have an onsite high-voltage substation, with high-voltage power transformers stepping up energy to 345-kilovolts. Electrical energy from the onsite switchyard would be delivered to the existing Pinal West Substation through one or two new high-voltage transmission lines, each 2.3-miles long. The facility is proposed to operate for a grant term of 30 years. Additional applicable permits from Federal, State, and local agencies would be required.

As the project is located outside of a solar energy zone identified in the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, a variance application was required. Marisol submitted its variance application for consideration to the BLM Arizona State Office and the BLM Washington Office. A public information meeting was held in Maricopa, Arizona, on February 5, 2013. The BLM Washington Office approved the Marisol variance application in June 2013.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Impacts to cultural resources, visual resources, grazing allotments, recreation, and local wildlife corridors. The project site is adjacent to the Sonoran Desert National Monument, a unit of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help with the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the

proposed project will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Native American tribal consultation will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian Trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with 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, 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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7.

**Raymond Suazo,**

*Arizona State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-32-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOS00000 L16100000.DJ0000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Proposed Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office and San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (LRMP/Final EIS) for the San Juan Public Lands Planning Area in Colorado, and by this notice is announcing its availability. The LRMP/Final EIS is a jointly prepared BLM and

United States Forest Service (USFS) document and also addresses management of National Forest System lands administered by the San Juan National Forest. Release of the USFS document is addressed under a separate notice.

**DATES:** The BLM planning regulations provide that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's LRMP/Final EIS. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes it in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Tres Rios Field Office LRMP/Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State and local government agencies; and interested parties. A list of the locations where copies of the LRMP/Final EIS are available for public inspection can be found in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Interested persons may also review the LRMP/Final EIS on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/landmanagement/planning>, [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc/land\\_use\\_planning.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc/land_use_planning.html).

All protests to the BLM must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, P.O. Box 71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383.

Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, 20 M Street SE., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shannon Manfredi, Plan Revision Team Leader, telephone 970-385-1229; 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301; email [smanfredi@fs.fed.us](mailto:smanfredi@fs.fed.us). For BLM-specific issues, contact Gina Jones, BLM Southwest District NEPA Specialist, telephone 970-240-5381; 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401; email [gmjones@blm.gov](mailto:gmjones@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:** The BLM planning area is located within Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, San Juan, and San Miguel counties in southwestern

Colorado. Approximately 504,400 surface acres and 704,300 acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the BLM Tres Rios Field Office are addressed by the proposed management decisions in the LRMP and analyzed in the Final EIS. The lands within the planning area are currently managed under the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan, as amended. The current RMP was approved in 1985 and has been amended seven times. The BLM inventoried Wilderness Study Areas in 1980, recommended to Congress in 1991, and manages them consistent with BLM Manual 6330-Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness until such time that Congress makes a final wilderness decision.

The BLM worked extensively with communities, interested and affected publics and cooperating agencies to develop the LRMP/Final EIS. Cooperating agencies include the Town of Rico, Colorado. Comments received from the public on the Draft LRMP/Draft EIS and from internal agency review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the LRMP/Final EIS. Based on public comments, the BLM identified the need to prepare a Supplement to the Draft EIS to consider the Reasonable Foreseeable Development potential of oil and gas in the Gothic Shale Gas Play. In addition to the Supplement, public comments resulted in the addition of updated information and clarifying text, but did not substantially change proposed land use plan decisions. The following four alternatives are analyzed in the Final EIS:

Alternative A represents the continuation of current management direction under the existing San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan (1985), as amended. Alternative B, the proposed alternative, provides for a mix of multiple-use activities, with a primary emphasis on maintaining most of the large, contiguous blocks of undeveloped lands; enhancing various forms of recreation opportunities; and maintaining the full diversity of uses including mineral development and rangeland vegetation management. Alternative C provides for a mix of multiple-use activities with a primary emphasis on maintaining the undeveloped character of the planning area. Management of resource uses would be more constrained than proposed under Alternatives A, B and D. In some cases and in some areas, uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources. Alternative D, provides for a

mix of multiple-use activities, identifying the most lands for maximum development to produce a higher level of commodity goods and services compared to the other alternatives.

The proposed LRMP (Alternative B) would establish two Areas of Environmental Concern (ACEC), Gypsum Valley and Anasazi Culture Area, totaling approximately 14,274 acres to provide special management to protect relevant and important cultural, historic, scenic, and natural resource values. The proposed plan would also apply protective management to approximately 11,869 acres of inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics in two different areas. Public lands available for renewable energy development, mineral development, land use authorization, systems of designated travel routes, and other uses would be provided for under the proposed plan, which would delineate and, as necessary, apply limitations on these uses. In addition, management parameters and prescriptions would be applied to a variety of natural, cultural and visual resources including air and water quality; wildlife habitat; forests and woodlands; and other components of the biological, physical and cultural environment.

Copies of the Tres Rios Field Office LRMP/Final EIS are available for public inspection at the Web sites listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above, and at the following locations:

- San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301
- Dolores Public Lands Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323
- Columbine Ranger District, 367 Pearl Street, Bayfield, CO 81122
- Pagosa Ranger District, 180 Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
- BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215
- USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms St., Golden, CO 80401
- Libraries in the following locations in Colorado: Cortez; Durango; Pagosa Springs; Dove Creek; Norwood; Silverton; Colorado State University, Ft. Collins; University of Colorado, Boulder; and Fort Lewis College, Durango.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the LRMP/Final EIS may be found in the "Dear Reader" Letter of the LRMP/Final EIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Emailed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under

these conditions, the BLM will consider the emailed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emails to [bhudgets@blm.gov](mailto:bhudgets@blm.gov). All protests, including the follow-up letter to emails, must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address as set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Before including your phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5.

**Helen M. Hankins,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310&dashJB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVS03000. L51010000.ER0000. LVRWF1304100; N-85801, N-89530, N-90050, and N-90823; MO# 4500053894; TAS: 14X5017]

#### Notice of Availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Silver State Solar South Project, Clark County, NV

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment for the Silver State Solar South Project located on public lands east of Primm, Nevada, and by this notice is announcing its availability.

**DATES:** BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's Final Supplemental EIS/Proposed RMP Amendment. A person who meets the

conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Silver State Solar South Project Final Supplemental EIS/Proposed RMP Amendment have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to other stakeholders including the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and the Pahrump Paiute Tribe. Copies of the Silver State Solar South Final Supplemental EIS/Proposed RMP Amendment are available for public inspection at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. Interested persons may also review the Final Supplemental EIS/Proposed RMP Amendment on the Internet at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm\\_programs/energy/Silver\\_State\\_Solar\\_South.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm_programs/energy/Silver_State_Solar_South.html). All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, P.O. Box 71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383

Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, 20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM Washington, DC 20003

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Christ, Renewable Energy Project Manager, telephone 702-515-5136; address 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301; or email [nchrist@blm.gov](mailto:nchrist@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:** Silver State Solar Power South, LLC, has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a 250-350 megawatt (MW) solar energy generation facility within a 13,184-acre area of public land east of Primm, Nevada. The ROW application is assigned BLM case number N-89530. This application expands on ROW application N-85801. The proposed solar energy project would consist of photovoltaic (PV) panels and related infrastructure ROW

appurtenances, including a substation and switchyard facilities, and would produce about 250 MWs of electricity under the BLM Preferred Alternative. The solar field and infrastructure would consist of single-axis tracker systems or fixed panels, an underground and overhead electrical power collection system, two step-up transformers, 230 kilovolt (kV) and 220 kV transmission lines, an operation and maintenance area, a switchyard, paved access and maintenance roads, flood and drainage controls, and a fire break. If approved, the Silver State Solar South Project would have a footprint of between 2,427 acres and 3,881 acres, depending on the EIS alternative chosen and the final site configuration. The ROW grant would only be issued for lands needed for project development; no ROW would be granted for the remaining acreage within the application area.

The Final Supplemental EIS addresses new information associated with N-89530 and updates as necessary the consideration of N-85801, which was analyzed in the Final EIS for the Silver State Solar Energy Project, a 400-MW PV solar energy facility. The BLM approved a Record of Decision on October 12, 2010, for the Silver State Solar Energy Project, and authorized ROW N-85077 for the construction and operation a 50 MW PV solar energy facility on 618 acres of BLM-administered lands, which represented the first phase of project development and became the Silver State Solar North Project. The Record of Decision did not authorize ROW application N-85801, which is now included as part of the Silver State Solar South Project, along with ROW application N-89530. The BLM would need to amend the October 1998 Las Vegas RMP to address proposed changes in land and resource use within the Jean Lake/Roach Lake Special Recreation Management Area in order to approve ROW application N-89530. The BLM has considered additional changes that would amend the Las Vegas RMP, including a proposed nomination for an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the Ivanpah Valley, and a Visual Resource Management change within the project boundary from Class III to Class IV.

The Final Supplemental EIS analyzes five alternatives, including a no action alternative (Alternative A) and four action alternatives. Alternative B is Silver State's original proposal (as described in their Plan of Development dated July 2011). This alternative was introduced in initial scoping meetings and does not include perimeter roads. Alternative B would disturb up to 3,881