

Comment submission: You may submit written comments on the low-effect screening form, the draft low-effect habitat conservation plan, and the ITP application by one of the following methods:

- **Electronically:** fw2_hcp_permits@fws.gov.

- **By hard copy:** Submit by U.S. mail or hand-deliver to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 East 21st Street, Tulsa, OK 74129; or faxing 918-581-7467.

We request that you send comments by only the methods described above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 East 21st Street, Tulsa, OK 74129; or by telephone at 918-382-4500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), we advise the public that:

1. We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have gathered the information necessary to determine impacts related to potentially issuing an incidental take permit (ITP) and have determined the proposed action qualifies as a low-effect habitat conservation plan (HCP) and is categorically excluded from the NEPA process; and

2. American Electric Power (AEP; the Applicant) has developed and proposes to implement its draft HCP, as part of the ITP application, which describes the measures the Applicant has agreed to take to minimize and mitigate the effects of American burying beetle incidental take to the maximum extent practicable under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), section 10(a)(1)(B), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

The requested permit, which would be in effect for a three-year period, if granted, would authorize American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) incidental take as a result of rebuilding two portions of the Fixico point of delivery (POD) to Weleetka electric transmission line. The proposed incidental take may occur along 21.5 miles of the existing Fixico POD to Weleetka transmission line in Hughes, Okfuskee, and Seminole Counties, OK, as a result of activities associated with the Applicant's construction (existing pole removal and new pole installation) and maintenance activities. Such actions may require disturbance within potential American burying beetle habitat. American Electric Power has proposed to mitigate the impacts to 124.416 acres of suitable American burying beetle habitat, including 124.4 acres of temporary impacts and 0.016

acres of permanent change. These habitat acres will be mitigated in perpetuity according to Service-approved mitigation ratios through purchasing credits at an approved conservation bank. Additionally, avoidance and minimization measures, including limiting clearing in temporary work areas, relieving soil compaction, and revegetating temporary and permanent cover change impacts with native vegetation will be implemented after construction is completed.

The ESA, section 9 and its implementing regulations prohibit taking fish and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, section 4. However, the ESA, section 10(a) authorizes us to issue permits to take listed wildlife species where such take is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities and where the applicant meets certain statutory requirements.

Comments Publicly Availability

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority: We provide this notice under the ESA, section 10(c) (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNM920000 18X L51040000.RB0000]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NMNM111949, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reinstatement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, Cimarex Energy Company timely filed a petition for reinstatement of competitive oil and gas lease NMNM 11949, Eddy County, New Mexico. The lessee paid the required rentals accruing from July 1, 2014, the date of termination. No leases were issued that affect these lands. The Bureau of Land Management proposes to reinstate this lease.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julieann Serrano, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Branch of Adjudication, Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508, (505) 954-2149, jserrano@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS 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 lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals and royalties of \$10 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year, and 16-2/3 percent, respectively. The lessee agrees to additional or amended stipulations. The lessee paid the \$500 administration fee for the reinstatement of the lease and \$159 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessee met the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The BLM is proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to the:

- Original term and conditions of the lease;
- Additional and amended stipulations;
- Increased rental of \$10 per acre;
- Increased royalty of 16-2/3 percent; and
- \$159 cost of publishing this Notice.

Authority: 43 CFR 3108.2-3

Julieann Serrano,

Supervisory, Land Law Examiner.

[FR Doc. 2018-02349 Filed 2-5-18; 8:45 am]

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