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Dated: May 3, 2019.

Patricia Hawes Coleman,

Acting Executive Director, Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate.

[FR Doc. 2019-09834 Filed 5-10-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6166-N-01]

Mortgage and Loan Insurance Programs Under the National Housing Act—Debenture Interest Rates

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces changes in the interest rates to be paid on debentures issued with respect to a loan or mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration under the provisions of the National Housing Act (the Act). The interest rate for debentures issued under Section 221(g)(4) of the Act during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2019, is 3 1/8 percent. The interest rate for debentures issued under any other provision of the Act is the rate in effect on the date that the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date that the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. The interest rate for debentures issued under these other provisions with respect to a loan or mortgage committed or endorsed during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2019, is 3 3/8 percent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Olazabal, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 5146, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 402-4608 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 224 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715o) provides that debentures issued under the Act with respect to an insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) of the Act) will bear interest at the rate in effect on the date the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or

initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. This provision is implemented in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 203.405, 203.479, 207.259(e)(6), and 220.830. These regulatory provisions state that the applicable rates of interest will be published twice each year as a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section 224 further provides that the interest rate on these debentures will be set from time to time by the Secretary of HUD, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, in an amount not in excess of the annual interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield of all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of maturities of 15 or more years.

The Secretary of the Treasury (1) has determined, in accordance with the provisions of Section 224, that the statutory maximum interest rate for the period beginning January 1, 2019, is 3 3/8 percent; and (2) has approved the establishment of the debenture interest rate by the Secretary of HUD at 3 3/8 percent for the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2019. This interest rate will be the rate borne by debentures issued with respect to any insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4)) with insurance commitment or endorsement date (as applicable) within the first 6 months of 2019.

For convenience of reference, HUD is publishing the following chart of debenture interest rates applicable to mortgages committed or endorsed since January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
9 1/2	Jan. 1, 1980	July 1, 1980.
9 7/8	July 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981.
11 3/4	Jan. 1, 1981	July 1, 1981.
12 7/8	July 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982.
12 3/4	Jan. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983.
10 1/4	Jan. 1, 1983	July 1, 1983.
10 3/8	July 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984.
11 1/2	Jan. 1, 1984	July 1, 1984.
13 3/8	July 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985.
11 5/8	Jan. 1, 1985	July 1, 1985.
11 1/8	July 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1986.
10 1/4	Jan. 1, 1986	July 1, 1986.
8 1/4	July 1, 1986	Jan. 1 1987.
8	Jan. 1, 1987	July 1, 1987.
9	July 1, 1987	Jan. 1, 1988.
9 1/8	Jan. 1, 1988	July 1, 1988.
9 3/8	July 1, 1988	Jan. 1, 1989.
9 1/4	Jan. 1, 1989	July 1, 1989.
9	July 1, 1989	Jan. 1, 1990.
8 1/8	Jan. 1, 1990	July 1, 1990.
9	July 1, 1990	Jan. 1, 1991.
8 3/4	Jan. 1, 1991	July 1, 1991.
8 1/2	July 1, 1991	Jan. 1, 1992.
8	Jan. 1, 1992	July 1, 1992.
8	July 1, 1992	Jan. 1, 1993.

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
7 3/4	Jan. 1, 1993	July 1, 1993.
7	July 1, 1993	Jan. 1, 1994.
6 5/8	Jan. 1, 1994	July 1, 1994.
7 3/4	July 1, 1994	Jan. 1, 1995.
8 3/8	Jan. 1, 1995	July 1, 1995.
7 1/4	July 1, 1995	Jan. 1, 1996.
6 1/2	Jan. 1, 1996	July 1, 1996.
7 1/4	July 1, 1996	Jan. 1, 1997.
6 3/4	Jan. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997.
7 1/8	July 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998.
6 3/8	Jan. 1, 1998	July 1, 1998.
6 1/8	July 1, 1998	Jan. 1, 1999.
5 1/2	Jan. 1, 1999	July 1, 1999.
6 1/8	July 1, 1999	Jan. 1, 2000.
6 1/2	Jan. 1, 2000	July 1, 2000.
6 1/2	July 1, 2000	Jan. 1, 2001.
6	Jan. 1, 2001	July 1, 2001.
5 7/8	July 1, 2001	Jan. 1, 2002.
5 1/4	Jan. 1, 2002	July 1, 2002.
5 3/4	July 1, 2002	Jan. 1, 2003.
5	Jan. 1, 2003	July 1, 2003.
4 1/2	July 1, 2003	Jan. 1, 2004.
5 1/8	Jan. 1, 2004	July 1, 2004.
5 1/2	July 1, 2004	Jan. 1, 2005.
4 7/8	Jan. 1, 2005	July 1, 2005.
4 1/2	July 1, 2005	Jan. 1, 2006.
4 7/8	Jan. 1, 2006	July 1, 2006.
5 3/8	July 1, 2006	Jan. 1, 2007.
4 3/4	Jan. 1, 2007	July 1, 2007.
5	July 1, 2007	Jan. 1, 2008.
4 1/2	Jan. 1, 2008	July 1, 2008.
4 5/8	July 1, 2008	Jan. 1, 2009.
4 1/8	Jan. 1, 2009	July 1, 2009.
4 1/8	July 1, 2009	Jan. 1, 2010.
4 1/4	Jan. 1, 2010	July 1, 2010.
4 1/8	July 1, 2010	Jan. 1, 2011.
3 7/8	Jan. 1, 2011	July 1, 2011.
4 1/8	July 1, 2011	Jan. 1, 2012.
2 7/8	Jan. 1, 2012	July 1, 2012.
2 3/4	July 1, 2012	Jan. 1, 2013.
2 1/2	Jan. 1, 2013	July 1, 2013.
2 7/8	July 1, 2013	Jan. 1, 2014.
3 5/8	Jan. 1, 2014	July 1, 2014.
3 1/4	July 1, 2014	Jan. 1, 2015.
3	Jan. 1, 2015	July 1, 2015.
2 7/8	July 1, 2015	Jan. 1, 2016.
2 7/8	Jan. 1, 2016	July 1, 2016.
2 1/2	July 1, 2016	Jan. 1, 2017.
2 3/4	Jan. 1, 2017	July 1, 2017.
2 7/8	July 1, 2017	Jan. 1, 2018.
2 3/4	Jan. 1, 2018	July 1, 2018.
3 1/8	July 1, 2018	Jan. 1, 2019.
3 3/8	Jan. 1, 2019	July 1, 2019.

Section 215 of Division G, Title II of Public Law 108-199, enacted January 23, 2004 (HUD's 2004 Appropriations Act) amended Section 224 of the Act, to change the debenture interest rate for purposes of calculating certain insurance claim payments made in cash. Therefore, for all claims paid in cash on mortgages insured under Section 203 or 234 of the National Housing Act and endorsed for insurance after January 23, 2004, the debenture interest rate will be the monthly average yield, for the month in which the default on the mortgage occurred, on United States Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years, as found

in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H-15. The Federal Housing Administration has codified this provision in HUD regulations at 24 CFR 203.405(b) and 24 CFR 203.479(b).

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2019, is 3⅜ percent.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

Authority: Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: May 6, 2019.

Brian D. Montgomery,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047;
FXES113040000EA-123-FF04EF1000]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Scrub-Jay and Eastern Indigo Snake, Volusia County, FL; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Duke Energy

Florida, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to construction in Volusia County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant’s proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) and the Service’s preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as “low-effect,” categorically excluded, under the National Environmental Policy Act. To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for review.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before June 12, 2019.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: You may obtain copies of the documents online in Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by any of the following methods:

- **Online:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047.

- **U.S. mail or hand-delivery:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin M. Gawera, by telephone at (904) 731-3121 or via email at erin_gawera@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Duke Energy Florida, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) incidental to the construction of a solar power plant (project) in Volusia County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant’s proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) and the Service’s preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as “low-effect,” categorically excluded, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and

low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review.

Project

The applicant requests a 10-year ITP to take the scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to the conversion of approximately 13.45 acres of occupied scrub-jay and 307.1 acres of occupied snake foraging and sheltering habitat for the construction of a solar power plant located on a 916.2-acre parcel, Parcel ID numbers 802900000050, 802800000020, 802000000030, 802000000070, 802000000050, 802000000060, 802100000010, 802100000080, 802100000012, 802000000020, 802000000010, and 801600000032, in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, Volusia County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the scrub-jay through the contribution of \$412,296.30 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy and to mitigate for take of the eastern indigo snake through a contribution of \$50,000.00 to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida’s Eastern Indigo Snake Conservation Fund.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made available to the public. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant’s project, including land clearing, infrastructure building, landscaping, and the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, would individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the scrub-jay, the eastern indigo snake, and the environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily concluded that the ITP for this project would qualify for categorical exclusion and the HCP is low effect under our NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.205 and 46.210. A low-effect HCP is one that would result in (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts that, when considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects,