

the subject of a separate plan. The Eastern Colorado RMP will provide management direction for approximately 658,200 acres of BLM-administered surface land and approximately 3,311,900 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate. The decision area includes all BLM public lands and approximately 2,673,000 acres of split-estate Federal minerals on private, local government, and State lands. It does not include National Forest System land and other Federal land where the BLM does not make planning decisions about oil and gas management and other uses. The BLM typically adopts the requirements determined by those Federal surface-managing agencies when leasing the associated mineral estate; while such lands are within the planning area, they are outside the decision area for this RMP.

The approved RMP emphasizes balancing resources and resource use among competing human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity across the landscape, including plant, wildlife, and fish habitat. This plan has four geographic landscapes with distinct management and incorporates a balanced level of protection, restoration, and enhancement, as well as the use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses with an emphasis on local community visions for the future of public lands.

Through this collaborative planning effort, the approved RMP describes the actions to guide future management and meet desired resource conditions. The preferred alternative for the draft plan was carried forward into the final with modifications.

The BLM provided the proposed RMP/final EIS on July 7, 2023, for a 30-day public protest period and received five protest letters. The BLM's Assistant Director for Resources and Planning resolved all protests. Responses to protest issues have been compiled and documented in a Protest Resolution Report (see **ADDRESSES**). No changes to the Eastern Colorado proposed RMP/EIS were necessary as a result of protests.

The BLM provided the proposed RMP/final EIS to the Governor of Colorado for a 60-day Governor's consistency review. No inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs were identified during the Governor's consistency review of the proposed RMP/final EIS. No changes to the Eastern Colorado proposed RMP/EIS were necessary as a result of the Governor's consistency review.

The decisions limiting camping are implementation decisions and are appealable under 43 CFR part 4. These decisions are contained in Tables II-16 and II-17 of the approved RMP. Any party adversely affected by the proposed camping limitations may appeal within 30 days of publication of this Notice of Availability pursuant to 43 CFR, part 4, subpart E. The appeal must be filed with the Royal Gorge Field Manager at the above listed address. Please consult the appropriate regulations (43 CFR, part 4, subpart E) for further appeal requirements.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2)

**Douglas J. Vilsack,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_MT\_FRN\_MO4500177558]

#### Notice of Proposed Filing of Plats of Survey; South Dakota

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed official filing.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of surveys for the lands described in this notice are scheduled to be officially filed 30 calendar days after the date of this publication in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana. The surveys, which were executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Region, Aberdeen, South Dakota are necessary for the management of these lands.

**DATES:** A person or party who wishes to protest this decision must file a notice of protest in time for it to be received in the BLM Montana State Office no later than February 20, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the plats may be obtained from the Public Room at the BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101, upon required payment. The plats may be viewed at this location at no cost.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joshua Alexander, BLM Chief Cadastral Surveyor for South Dakota; telephone: (406) 896-5123; email: [jalexand@blm.gov](mailto:jalexand@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay

services for contacting Mr. Alexander. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lands surveyed are:

#### Fifth Principal Meridian, South Dakota

T. 124 N., R. 53 W.,  
Sec. 21.

A person or party who wishes to protest an official filing of a plat of survey identified earlier must file a written notice of protest with the BLM Chief Cadastral Surveyor for South Dakota at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The notice of protest must identify the plat(s) of survey that the person or party wishes to protest. The notice of protest must be received in the BLM Montana State Office no later than the date described in the **DATES** section of this notice; If received after regular business hours, a notice of protest will be considered filed the next business day. A written statement of reasons in support of the protest, if not filed with the notice of protest, must be filed with the BLM Chief Cadastral Surveyor for South Dakota within 30 calendar days after the notice of protest is received.

If a notice of protest of the plat(s) of survey is received prior to the scheduled date of official filing or during the 10 calendar day grace period provided in 43 CFR 4.401(a) and the delay in filing is waived, the official filing of the plat(s) of survey identified in the notice of protest will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. Upon receipt of a timely protest, and after a review of the protest, the Authorized Officer will issue a decision either dismissing or otherwise resolving the protest. A plat of survey will then be officially filed 30 days after the protest decision has been issued in accordance with 43 CFR part 4.

If a notice of protest is received after the date described in the **DATES** section of this notice and the 10-calendar-day grace period provided in 43 CFR 4.401(a), the notice of protest will be untimely, may not be considered, and may be dismissed.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a notice of protest or statement of reasons, you should be aware that the documents you submit—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available in their entirety at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. chapter 3)

**Joshua F. Alexander,**  
Chief Cadastral Surveyor for South Dakota.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_NV\_FRN\_MO4500175965]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Libra Solar Project, Lyon and Mineral Counties, NV

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance 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) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Libra Solar Project, Lyon and Mineral Counties, Nevada.

**DATES:** To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the final EIS, please ensure that the BLM receives your comments within 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

**ADDRESSES:** The Draft EIS is available for review on the BLM National NEPA Register Website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022592/570>.

Written comments related to the Libra Solar Project may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **BLM National NEPA Register Website:** <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022592/570>.
- **Email:** [blm\\_nv\\_ccdo\\_libra\\_solar@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_ccdo_libra_solar@blm.gov).
- **Mail:** Attn: Libra Solar Project, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at the BLM National NEPA Register website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022592/570> and at the BLM Carson City District Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melanie Hornsby, BLM Project Manager,

telephone (775) 885-6024; address 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701; email [blm\\_nv\\_ccdo\\_libra\\_solar@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_ccdo_libra_solar@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Hornsby. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Libra Solar LLC (Applicant) submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 700-megawatt alternating current solar photovoltaic power generating facility with battery storage and associated components on approximately 5,114 acres of BLM-managed land in Mineral and Lyon counties, Nevada. The proposal also includes the development of a 24.1-mile-long generation tie line, of which 22.9 miles would be located on BLM managed lands, to connect the solar site to the Fort Churchill Substation in Lyon County. The total right-of-way requested for the project is 5,778 acres. The project would sit approximately 55 miles southeast of the Reno metropolitan area, 11 miles southeast of the town of Yerington, 7 miles west of U.S. Route 95, and 8 miles east of State Route 208.

#### Purpose and Need

The BLM's purpose and need is to respond to the ROW application submitted by the Applicant under FLPMA Title V (43 U.S.C. 1761) (serial number NVNV105844599, legacy serial number NVN-099846). The need for this action is to fulfill the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA and its ROW regulations to manage the public lands for multiple uses, including the generation of electric energy. FLPMA, as amended, established a multiple-use mandate for the BLM's management of Federal lands, including "systems for generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy, except that the proponent shall also comply with all applicable requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Federal Power Act, including part I thereof (41 Stat. 1063, 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r)." (43 U.S.C. 1761(a)(4)). The BLM must consider compliance with FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, the BLM NEPA Handbook (BLM 2008), Department of Interior NEPA regulations, and other applicable Federal and State laws and policies.

#### Proposed Action and Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative

The BLM has analyzed the No Action Alternative, the proposed Action as submitted by the Applicant, and three action alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, the solar facility, generation tie-line, battery storage, substation, and associated facilities would not be developed because the BLM would not issue the ROW grant. The three action alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS are as follows: Action Alternative 1: Major Drainage Avoidance, Fenced Corridors, and Vegetation and Topography Maintenance; Action Alternative 2: Alternative Supplemental Access During Construction; and Action Alternative 3: Alternative Gen-tie Connecting to proposed Greenlink West. Action Alternative 1 includes the use of specific construction methods to reduce impacts to vegetation, drainage, and topography within the solar array areas. Action Alternative 2 focuses on reduction of impacts associated with East Walker Road (the project's mostly unpaved access road) by providing supplemental access during construction. Action Alternative 3 entails connecting the generation tie-line from the project to the proposed Greenlink West Transmission Project through a new switching station under the proposed Greenlink West line, which would reduce impacts to air, vegetation, soils, wildlife, visual resources, and other resource areas from the 24.1-mile-long generation tie-line under the Proposed Action.

The BLM Preferred Alternative is a modification of the Proposed Action that combines Action Alternative 1 and Action Alternative 2 for the use of specific construction methods, as well as provides supplemental access to reduce total traffic on East Walker Road during construction. An overlay of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative since it reduces many of the resource impacts, including to vegetation communities, wildlife, hydrology, and other resources. It also allows for faster and more successful restoration at decommissioning, allowing for future uses of the land under multiple use. Alternative 2 reduces traffic impacts as well. Several additional action alternatives were considered, including alternative sites, technologies, and methods, but were eliminated as described in Chapter 2: Proposed Action of the Draft EIS.

#### Design Features and Mitigation

This section includes Applicant-committed design features and mitigation measures. Key mitigation for