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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVS01000. L51010000.PQ0000. LVRWF09F1840; N

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94470; MO# 4500053894

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TAS: 14X5017] Notice of Intent for Minerals Segregation and Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project , Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office (LVFO), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed wind project located on public lands west of Searchlight, Nevada. Publication of this notice initiates the beginning of the scoping process, to solicit public comments, identify issues, and segregates the lands from mineral entry for a period of 2 years.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process and mineral segregation

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Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until (90 days from publish) MMDD, 2017. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media and the BLM website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>.

Comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or

15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later, to be included in the Draft EIS. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS. This notice also segregates the lands identified herein effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register

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ADDRESSES: Submit comments related to the project by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: xxxEIS@blm.gov
- Fax: (702) 515-5010, attention Nicollee Gaddis
- Mail: BLM, Las Vegas Field Office, Attn: Nicollee Gaddis, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130–2301

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, send requests to: Nicollee Gaddis, Renewable Energy NEPA Coordinator, at telephone (702) 515-5136; or address 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

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2301; or email ngaddis@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 applicant, Crescent Peak Renewables, LLC (CPR), has requested a right-of-way authorization for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the wind energy generation project

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CPR
(N
-94470)

The CPR consists of the construction, operation, and de-commissioning of wind turbine generators (WTG) and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 500 MW on four sites constructed in two phases. The project area is located on 32,531 acres of public land and extends 22 miles (35.4 kilometers [km]) north to south, and 5 miles (8 km) east to west, adjacent to the California/Nevada border.

The proposed project would include up to 200 WTGs that would be erected on tubular monopole towers supported on concrete foundations. Each WTG would have a maximum generating capacity between 1.5 to 4.5 MW (expected range being 1.7 to 3.5 MW); for each WTG, there would be an adjacent step-up transformer that would increase the voltage of the electricity from 570–1,000 volts to approx. 34.5 kilovolts (kV); A 34.5-kV electric collection system, primarily located underground; access roads; operations and maintenance (O&M) facility; up to four on-site electrical collection substations owned and operated by CPR and associated control facilities to increase the voltage of the electricity to a level between 66 kV and 500 kV for transmission; one Project interconnection substation (Project Substation) owned and operated by CPR or a utility for interconnection with the area transmission grid; an overhead transmission line would transmit the 66 kV to 500 kV electricity from the collection substations to a Project Substation at an interconnection point either with the existing Eldorado-Mojave 500-kV transmission system or with the Valley Electric 230-kV transmission system approximately 15 miles north of the project; staging, laydown yards, and batch plant areas; and up to 20 permanent meteorological towers.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to ascertain the relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and to guide the process for developing

the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: threatened and endangered species, visual resource impacts, recreation impacts, socioeconomic effects, and cumulative impacts. The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 United States Code 470(f)) 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 National Historic Preservation Act.

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.

Mineral Segregation Final Rule The Final Rule, published in the Federal Register (78 FR 25204) on April 30, 2013, amended the BLM regulations found in 43 CFR 2090 and 2800. These provisions allow the BLM to temporarily segregate from mining operations on the public land, by publication of a Federal Register notice. The segregation is necessary to prevent the filing of mining claims in the project area that

would hinder the development of the project and increase costs to the development of the project. This temporary segregation does not affect valid existing rights of mining claims located before this segregation notice. Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations of a temporary nature which would not impact lands identified in this notice may be allowed with the approval of an authorized officer of the BLM during the segregate period.

The lands segregated under this notice are legally described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Clark County, Nevada

NV

-1

T. 28 S., R. 62 E.,

sec. 18, All

se

c. 19, All

sec. 30, All

sec. 31, N1/2, W1/2SW1/4

T. 28 S., R. 61 E.,

sec. 13, All

sec. 14, All

sec. 15, SE1/4NE1/4, SE1/4SW1/4, SE1/4

sec. 22, All

sec. 23, All

sec. 24, All

sec. 25, All

sec. 26, All

sec. 27, All

sec. 33, E1/2E1/2

sec. 34, All

sec. 35, All

sec. 36, All

T. 29 S., R. 61 E.,

sec. 1, N1/2

sec. 2, N1/2

sec. 3, N1/2
T. 29 S., R. 62 E.,
sec. 6, NW1/4

NV

-2

T. 27 S., R. 61 E.,
sec. 27, E1/2, E1/2W1/2

6

sec. 33, SE1/4NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4
sec. 34, All

T. 29 S., R. 62 E.,
sec. 3, All
sec. 4, All
sec. 5, E1/2NE1/4
sec. 6, S1/2SE1/4
sec. 7, All
sec. 8, All
sec. 9, All
sec. 10, N1/2NE1/4
sec. 16, N1/2NE1/4, n1/2NE1/4
sec. 17, All
sec. 18, All

T. 28 S., R. 60 E.,
sec. 1, SW1/4, W1/2

NW

1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, S1/2SE1/4
sec. 12, All
sec. 13, E1/2

NV

-3

T. 29 S., R. 62 E.,
sec. 6, SW1/4
T. 29 S., R. 61 E.,
sec. 1, S1/2
sec. 2, S1/2
sec. 3, S1/2

sec. 10, All
sec. 11, All
sec. 12, All
sec. 13, All
sec. 14, All
sec. 15, All
sec. 22, All
sec. 23, All
sec. 24, All
sec. 25, All
sec. 26, All

NV

-4

T. 29 S., R. 62 E.,

sec. 32, SE1/4SE1/4

sec. 33, NW1/4SE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, S1/2NE1/2,
S1/2NW1/4, S1/2

T. 30 S., R. 62 E.,

sec. 3, All

sec. 4, All

sec. 5, All

sec. 6, All

7

sec. 8, All

sec. 9, All

sec. 10, All

sec. 15, All

sec. 16, All

sec. 22, All

sec. 23, All

sec. 24, All

sec. 25, All

sec. 26, All

sec. 36, All

T. 30 S., R. 63 E.,

sec. 30, All

sec. 31, All
T. 31 S., R. 63 E.,
sec. 6, All

As provided in the Final Rule, the segregation of lands in this notice will not exceed 2 years from the date of publication unless extended for up to 2 additional years, through publication of a new notice in the Federal Register . Termination of the segregation occurs on the earliest of the following dates: upon issuance of a decision by the authorized officer granting, granting with modifications, or denying the application for a ROW; automatically at the end of the segregation; or upon publication of a Federal Register notice of termination of the segregation. Upon termination of segregation of these lands, all lands subject to this segregation will automatically reopen to appropriation under the public land laws.

(Authority: 43 CFR 2800 and 2090)

Gayle Marrs-Smith

Las Vegas Field Manager

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2; 43 CFR 1610.5