

**THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**  
**WASHINGTON**

ORDER NO. 3283

SIGNATURE DATE: January 16, 2009

Subject: Enhancing Renewable Energy Development on the Public Lands

**Sec. 1 Purpose.** This Order facilitates the Department's efforts to achieve the goal Congress established in Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to approve non-hydropower renewable energy projects on the public lands with a generation capacity of at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity by 2015. It also clarifies Departmental roles and responsibilities to accomplish that goal and increase renewable energy development on the public lands.

**Sec. 2 Policy.** The Department supports the permitting of environmentally responsible wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal operations and required electrical transmission facilities on the public lands. The Department recognizes that the development of renewable energy resources on the public lands will increase domestic energy production, provide alternatives to traditional energy resources, and enhance the energy security of the United States.

**Sec. 3 Authority.** This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58).

**Sec. 4 Responsibilities.**

a. The Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management has the lead responsibility for implementing the provisions of this Order and meeting the congressional goals for renewable energy development on the public lands. This includes:

(1) designating an appropriate number of Renewable Energy Coordination Offices to support the permitting of environmentally responsible wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal operations and electrical transmission facilities on the public lands;

(2) ensuring that the processing and permitting of renewable energy projects complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and all other laws and regulations;

(3) improving efficiencies in the processing of renewable energy applications and the consistent application of renewable energy policies;

(4) developing Best Management Practices for renewable energy projects on the public lands to ensure the most environmentally responsible development of renewable energy;

(5) recovering costs in the processing of renewable energy applications and the monitoring of authorizations under the provisions of Section 304 and Section 504 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA);

(6) allocating resources to support the processing and permitting of renewable energy projects; and

(7) improving interagency coordination with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, and State agencies to facilitate the processing and permitting of renewable energy projects on the public lands.

b. The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, along with the other Program Assistant Secretaries, as appropriate, will provide staff support and assistance as necessary to facilitate the permitting of wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal operations and required electrical transmission facilities on the public lands. Assistance may include entering into interagency Memoranda of Understanding and/or Agreements to improve interagency coordination and to facilitate the permitting of wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal operations and required electrical transmission facilities on the public lands. The agreements may include provisions for the use of cost recovery accounts to support the work of the Department in processing individual renewable energy applications and provide for co-location of staff within Renewable Energy Coordination Offices.

**Sec. 5 Delegation.** The authorities of the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management to carry out the responsibilities of this Order may be further delegated.

**Sec. 6 Implementation.** The Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order, in coordination with the Department's other Program Assistant Secretaries, as appropriate.

**Sec. 7 Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first. In the absence of any of the foregoing actions, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on October 1, 2015. The termination of this Order will not nullify implementation of the requirements and responsibilities effected herein.

/s/ DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
Secretary of the Interior