From: Shoop, Gregory P
To: Mouritsen, Karen E; Wilkinson, Patrick; Nelson, Andrea
Subject: Notes from Burke Confirmation Hearing
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:34:55 PM
Attachments: Notes from Burke confirmation hearing.docx

Hi,

Attached are the notes I took from Marcilynn's hearing today. (b) (5)

Greg Shoop
(T) 202-912-7063
(M) 719-429-1433
gshoop@blm.gov

March 20, 2012

Confirmation Hearing for Marcilynn Burke
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

NOTE: not a verbatim transcript

Bingaman: OSM/BLM consolidation—possible to consolidate and improve efficiency but preserve independence and able to carry out responsibilities?

Answer: Yes, OSM able to regulate and BLM able to issue leases

Barrasso: You were member of Defenders of Wildlife litigation committee; isn't that like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse?

Answer: Yes, member of committee for 1 year.

Barrasso: Do agree with legal positions Defenders of Wildlife took while there?

Answer: Participation was minimal; didn't relate to my agencies—NPS issues. Not ultimate decision maker on cases.

Barrasso: Wildlands policy and leasing reforms—common theme in your work to block access to public lands.

Answer: Common theme is balance.

Murkowski: NPR-A planning—what should be the priority, use the land for o&g development or set aside for conservation?

Answer: Rarely "either/or" answers. BLM looking at how to development o&g while protecting resources.

Murkowski: ANWR—law says no more wilderness in Alaska, but FWS likely to recommend wilderness when they're done with their plan. What is your view of no more wilderness, and how is planning effort not in conflict with the law?

Answer: FWS not under me. Can't give my legal opinion on conflict with the law, that's the Solicitor's job.

Wyden: What do you think about using public lands as place to development best management practices for energy development?

Answer: Engaged in efforts to work with industry, states and environmental groups to develop model rule on fracking. Focus on disclosure, well integrity and management of flowback water.

Wyden: Renewable energy—do you support a consistent approach, process?

Answer: Agree that consistency is important.

Hoeven: Fracking rule—what are the major components?

Answer: Disclosure, well integrity and management of flowback water.

Hoeven: Concerned that production declining on public lands; how to address?

Answer: Still holding quarterly lease sales; # of APDs approved by not used. Production—(flubbed answer here, but what she meant to say was that in Hoeven's state of North Dakota, state and private lands attracting significant production, and if you take away the pull of that resource, federal production would not have dropped. She then attempted to describe the variability in ONRR's production numbers, based on when you look at the data.)

Hoeven: How would you work with industry to increase development on federal lands? Willing to meet with people working to develop the resource?

Answer: Have been to Dickinson and met with industry and Tribal reps. Fracking rule has opportunity to allow technology to continue to be used by assuring the public we're taking all precautions.

Hoeven: Can we produce more on federal lands and achieve stewardship goals?

Answer: Yes, and committed to doing that.

Hoeven: Fracking rule—where states have primary regulatory authority?

Answer: working in concert with other regulators

Bingaman: Fracking rule—hear that there might be a 2nd permit required; while rule not public yet, can you give us some insight?

Answer: looking at alternatives

Bingaman: Potash and o&g conflicts in NM—will you assure that all parties will be considered?

Answer: Yes, all stakeholders will be heard.

Franken: Fracking research by USGS—how will you guarantee that o&G companies will pay for activitites?

Answer: Asked BLM what fees industry pays: mitigation, proposed inspection fee...would work with committee on how activities are funded.

Franken: Get me a list of o&g activities <u>not</u> paid for by o&g companies, in 60 days?

Answer: Yes.

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Leff, Craig S
Subject: RE: weekly
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:06:00 AM

Thanks, I just saw the Daily story.
Daily is a good feature!

From: Leff, Craig S
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:33 AM
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: weekly

I haven't forgotten. Still waiting for the grazing info – likely later today.
BLM Daily Story pasted below on the 19 projs that the BLM nominated with hotlinks to the proj descriptions. The winners were:

- Phoenix District Youth Initiative, nominated by the Bureau of Land Management.
- Ute Learning Garden, nominated by the Bureau of Land Management.
- Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership, nominated by the Bureau of Land Management.

BLM State Offices Nominate 19 Partnerships for Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award

Tomorrow, October 18, Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes will present the 2012 winners of the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award at a special ceremony in Washington D.C. Three of 19 nominations submitted by the BLM's State Offices will be recognized at that time...

Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument project, BLM-Utah. Escalante River Watershed Partnership partners and a Utah Conservation Crew removed Russian olive along the Escalante River. *Photo: Amber Hughes, Botanist, BLM*

The Partners in Conservation Awards, established by Secretary Ken Salazar in 2009, recognize partnerships that promote conservation on our treasured landscapes, preserve natural and cultural resources, bring innovative approaches to resource management, and that engage diverse entities and youth in accomplishing the Department's mission. Read more about the award and ceremony: http://oneinterior.doi.net/oneinterior/News/All-DOI-Employees-Partners-in-Conservation-Awards-Ceremony-October-18-2012.cfm .

All 19 projects nominated by the BLM's State Offices are inspiring examples of conservation, partnership and youth engagement in action. Through the links below, read more about the nominated projects. Check back tomorrow for highlights of the three 2012 Partners in Conservation Award winners.

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BLM-Arizona

- Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership - Protecting Las Cienegas National Conservation Area

- Protectors of the Desert's Treasures - Friends of Ironwood Forest National Monument

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BLM-California

- BLMer Builds Defensible Space, Partnerships to Combat Fire

BLM-Colorado

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BLM-Eastern States (Florida)

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- Protecting Waterways: The Snake River Land Conservation Partnership

Montana

- Wild Horses Benefit From Partnerships in Pryor Mountains

BLM-Nevada

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BLM-New Mexico

- Oil Industry Partner Promotes Conservation along with Oil, Gas, and Potash Development

BLM-Oregon

- Restoring Oregon's Southern Coastal Watershed

- Preserving Historic and Pre-historic Artifacts in Southeastern Oregon

Project Photos on BLM-Oregon's Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/blmoregon/sets/72157631786782607/

BLM-Utah

- Utah Youth Explore, Restore the Wonders of the BLM's First National Monument

- Field Institute Helps Protect Rock Art and Rock Climbing at Indian Creek

BLM-Wyoming

- Restoring the North Platte River

- Working Group Benefits Sage-Grouse, Other Species in Southwest Wyoming

Craig Leff
BLM Communications
202-208-6913 (office)
202-549-9218 (cell)

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Leff, Craig S
Subject: weekly

Craig, remember you are going to get me info on the conservation award winners and the number of grazing allotments impacted by drought and/or fire.
Thanks, Karen

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
MIB Room 6631
202-208-5444
Cell 202-329-2030

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Barlan, Bryce
Subject: Question for weekly report --
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:18:00 AM

Rich, we talked about discussing the BLM Director's Awards in the short report. Below is the list of awardees and their office. I don't have the info on what they did, though I am sure I can very easily get it. But the list is kind of long. How do you think we should proceed? An opening sentence congratulating the awardees, then a list of their names and offices? It might get really long if we try to write more about what each of them did.
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Karen Mouritsen
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MIB Room 6631
202-208-5444
Cell 202-329-2030

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Anderson, Michael D
Subject: FW: Director"s Awards Ceremony: Oct 25th - 2:00pm - M Street - Room 4017
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:21:00 AM

From: Walker, Claudia B **On Behalf Of** Pool, Michael J
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 11:04 AM
To: BLM_WO_Everyone
Subject: Director's Awards Ceremony: Oct 25th - 2:00pm - M Street - Room 4017

Please join me for the third annual BLM Director's Awards, recognizing BLM employees for their individual and team accomplishments in leadership, innovation, and extraordinary public service. This year's winners exemplify the very best about our agency and are individuals who readily go above and beyond the call of duty each day. I encourage all of you to attend the event if on **Thursday, October 25 at 2:00 pm in Room 4017 in the High Desert Conference Room at 20.** Following the ceremony, everyone is invited for light refreshments and to meet the award winners.

Awards will be given in seven different categories:

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The Bureau's employees are our greatest resource so please mark your calendars and join me in honoring our colleagues on Thursday, October 25th at 2:00 pm. Thank you.

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To: Anderson, Michael D
Subject: RE: Director"s Awards Ceremony: Oct 25th - 2:00pm - M Street - Room 4017
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:34:00 AM

Sure

From: Anderson, Michael D
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: Director's Awards Ceremony: Oct 25th - 2:00pm - M Street - Room 4017

Thanks, Karen! If I get Rich's approval, may I ride the shuttle over/back with you, and possibly Bryce?

Michael

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:21 AM
To: Anderson, Michael D
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From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cunningham, Celina P
Subject: for short report
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:23:00 AM

Today I attended the BLM Director's Award ceremony, where I met several BLM employees from field and State Offices who received these awards. The BLM Director's Awards recognize employees who have excelled during the past year in leadership, both internal and external, in stewardship of the natural resources, team accomplishments, service to the public, diversity and safety. The accomplishments of the employees who won the awards are impressive and an excellent reminder of both the challenges our employees face and the innovations they develop to address these challenges.

More information – I would not include in the write up but for your background.

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MIB Room 6631
202-208-5444
Cell 202-329-2030

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: "Pat.Watkins@mms.gov" (Pat.Watkins@mms.gov)
Subject: FOIA
Date: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 10:52:00 AM

Pat, Celina and Bryce and I were looking at the FOIA on potash yesterday. We all have a lot of emails. Do you have a method for us to give the emails to you? Paper? PDF?
Thanks, Karen

Karen Mouritsen
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MIB Room 6631
202-208-5444
Cell 202-329-2030

From: Leff, Craig S
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: weekly
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:32:42 AM

I haven't forgotten. Still waiting for the grazing info – likely later today.
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- Working Group Benefits Sage-Grouse, Other Species in Southwest Wyoming

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To: Leff, Craig S
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Cell 202-329-2030

From: Cardinale, Richard
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Cc: Barlan, Bryce
Subject: RE: Question for weekly report --
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 4:02:27 PM

I would not go into a great deal of detail in the report. Short and sweet about what the award represent – that is, why BLM gives these awards and a general description of the award recipients. Bottom line: I would do a 4-5 sentence paragraph at the most.

Rich

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:18 AM
To: Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Barlan, Bryce
Subject: Question for weekly report --

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From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Mussenden, Paul; Ishee, Mary Katherine; Lassiter, Tracie L; Brunson, Vatima S; Davis, Vermell; Davis, G. Vermell; Mouritsen, Karen E; Whitlock, Jenna; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully
Subject:	Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, April 19, 2012 5:58:22 PM
Attachments:	Weekly Report to the Secretary 4_19_12_FINAL.docx

Jamey and Elliot,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
April 19, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

Two years ago this Friday, April 20th, the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill occurred. Its significance, from the perspectives of loss of life and environmental and economic impacts, cannot be overstated. As is so often the case, tragedy serves as a catalyst for positive change. Since that tragic day, under your leadership and through the hard work and dedication of your senior leadership team and our employees, we have developed and implemented a suite of significant reforms in an effort to address the deficiencies that contributed to the explosion. Fundamental to those efforts was the re-organization of the former MMS and the subsequent formation of BOEM and BSEE. These two bureaus are now functioning as separate, distinct entities, each with its respective mission and organizational structure. We continue to address issues related to interdependencies, and how best to clarify responsibilities so that our stakeholders fully understand the roles and responsibilities of both organizations.

In less than two years, we have implemented significant reforms and raised the standards for safety and environmental protection through our safety and drilling rules, many as the result of the numerous reports, studies, and investigative efforts that ensued after the DWH event. As the recently released Oil Spill Commission report notes, Interior has done a good job implementing the recommendations of the Commission. The "report card" from the Commission ranked the Department much higher than industry or Congress in addressing safety and environmental concerns. As in any organization, ongoing self-examination and assessment yields many benefits. To this end, we will continue to address identified needs and improvements by developing effective solutions and reforms. These efforts will occur while we continue to facilitate offshore energy resource exploration, development, and production in an environmentally responsible and scientifically sound manner.

On April 16, members of my staff and BSEE Director Jim Watson met with representatives of the Government of Norway, including Minister of Labour Hanne Bjurstrom and the Director of Norway's Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA), Magne Ognedal. Minister Bjurstrom and her staff were here to discuss offshore oil and gas activity and were particularly interested in discussing safety challenges in the petroleum industry in light of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, including the new safety standards developed and implemented in the aftermath of that event. During the meeting, Minister Bjurstrom expressed her country's interest in renewing a Memorandum of Understanding between her ministry and BSEE on sharing information and practices about offshore development, with growing emphasis on the Arctic. This news is most welcome. Any opportunities we have to partner with and learn from other countries inures to our mutual benefit.

On April 18, I delivered remarks at an event in Raleigh, North Carolina. The "First in Flight, First in Wind" conference was co-hosted by the Sierra Club, North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light, and Meredith College. There is great excitement in my home state about the potential of wind energy. Many of the participants expressed a desire to do whatever it takes to help move North Carolina toward leasing and development. I then returned to Washington on April 19

where I gave the keynote address before the spring conference of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators. Although I was asked to focus my remarks on offshore oil and gas development, I took the opportunity to discuss the Administration's overall efforts to promote a more secure energy future through our "all of the above" energy approach. In so doing, I highlighted the critical role that the Department of the Interior plays in helping our Nation meet it growing energy needs.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of Apr. 23, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office April 23 through Noon on April 25. On the afternoon of April 25, participate in an event commemorating 200 years of the General Land Office at the BLM's Eastern States office in Springfield, VA. From the evening of April 25 through April 27, travel to northeast PA to tour abandoned mine sites and participate in a tree planting event.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of April 30, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - On Feb. 24, BOEM issued a press release for the **Rhode Island Area of Mutual Interest (RIAMI)** Area Identification. On Mar. 27, BOEM received the draft EA from the contractor. The EA is currently undergoing BOEM review. On Apr. 16, the SOL's office received the revised Block Island transmission package with further comments from BOEM. The next step for the transmission package is to publish the Request for Information (RFI).
  - **Offshore Maine.** On Mar. 16, Statoil met with BOEM and expressed interest in starting avian and other studies this spring. On Mar. 26, BOEM provided an Information Memo to the Secretary's office about Statoil's current status. BOEM has drafted a response to Senator Collin's Mar. 8 letter about expediting the application process. The response is currently undergoing review in BOEM.
  - The comment period for the Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI) for the **Atlantic Wind Connection** (AWC) transmission proposal closed on Feb. 21. BOEM received no applications. As a result, BOEM has drafted a Determination of No Competitive Interest, which is undergoing review within the SOL office.
  - The comment period for the **MD and VA Calls** closed on Mar. 19. In response to the MD Call, there were 5 comments and 6 nominations. In response to the VA Call, there were 8 comments and 9 nominations. BOEM is analyzing the level of interest from the comments and will hold task force meetings later in the spring.

- The comment period for the **MA Call** closed on Mar. 22. In response to the MA Call, there were 32 comments and 10 expressions of interest. BOEM is analyzing the comments and will hold a task force meeting in late spring.
- On Mar. 29, the first **SC Task Force** meeting was held. BOEM Dep. Dir. Cruickshank attended.
- On Apr. 3, the second **NY Task Force** meeting was held. ASLM Burke attended, and BOEM discussed the NY Power Authority's unsolicited application. The next step will be to issue an RFI.
- BOEM is nearing completion of its recommendations for the format of **Offshore Wind Auctions**. This decision is critical to the preparation of Notices of Sale and Proposed Notices of Sale for the leases we are planning to offer by the end of 2012. The ASLM will be briefed on the auction format issue on Apr. 19.

Knowledge Transfer Workshop: On Apr. 11, BOEM, BSEE, and DOE hosted a knowledge transfer workshop to learn from the European offshore renewables experience and from traditional oil and gas industry operations in order to better inform offshore renewable energy development in the U.S. More than 150 people attended the workshop and engaged in a robust discussion about the opportunities to build upon collaborative relationships between the U.S. and international industry partners, traditional and renewable energy developers, academic institutions, and government agencies.

OSM, BLM, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONNR) Continue Progress on Proposed OSM-BLM Consolidation: On Apr. 11, the OSM-BLM Executive Consolidation Team—comprised of officials from the two bureaus and ONRR—met to discuss the next steps on the proposed OSM-BLM consolidation. The Team also discussed the timeline for developing a detailed implementation plan for the Secretary's decisions on the recommendations in the *Report for the Secretary on the Proposed BLM/OSM Consolidation* (the Report). On Apr. 13, Secretary Salazar issued Secretarial Order 3320, which directs implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report. The four sub-teams that developed the substantive basis for the recommendations are meeting to determine next steps for the consolidation efforts within in each team's purview.

DoD - DOI Renewable Energy Collaboration: DAS Baca, together with representatives of the BLM, Steve Black, and Ted Boling met with Deputy Secretary Hayes on Apr. 12 to discuss draft legislation that would enable the development of renewable energy resources on lands withdrawn military purposes. After submitting the draft legislation to the Deputy Secretary, we plan to schedule a meeting with Deputy Under Secretary for Defense Dorothy Robyn to discuss the draft legislation.

Rapid Response Transmission Team Meeting to Implement Transmission Cabinet Directives: On Apr. 18, DAS Baca participated in a meeting of the Interagency Rapid Response Transmission Team. The team is preparing recommendations for the Transmission Cabinet on opportunities to address the challenges in evaluating and authorizing electric transmission lines. The team has identified a number of challenges in this area, particularly where more than one Federal agency is involved in the permitting decision. These challenges with multiple Federal agencies include conflicting or inconsistent processes, resource management standards, and

policy direction. The team will present its recommendations to the Transmission Cabinet at a meeting currently proposed for May 8.

APD Process Workshop – On Apr. 25 and 26, BLM will hold an APD workshop at the BLM-CO State Office to determine the data elements and workflow processes that to be used as part of the agency's proposed automated tracking system. The system is designed to reduce the review period for drilling permits. On Apr. 3, the Secretary announced the BLM's initiative during his visit to ND.

Keystone XL Pipeline – On Apr.10, TransCanada informed the BLM of its plans to file another application with the Department of State for a Presidential Permit under Executive Order 13337 before the end of the month. The new application proposes the same U.S.-Canadian international border crossing and routing through MT and SD. The BLM expects TransCanada to update its application accordingly and will continue processing the ROW for the pipeline for those portions that cross public lands in those states.

New Mexico Potash – An external group of oil and gas and potash industry representatives has sent you a letter suggesting changes to the Secretarial Order on potash and requested a meeting with you.

Ongoing Projects:

- Western Oregon
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Royalty Rate Rule
- DOI/DON Joint Action Plan
- GAO High Risk Report
- Extractive Industries Technology Initiative (EITI)

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Cardinale, Richard
To: Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Mussenden, Paul; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Whitlock, Jenna; Davis, Vermell; Davis, G. Vermell
Subject: Potential Topics for the Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 6:25:09 PM

The Weekly Report is posted to the sharepoint. Based on our Major Projects meeting yesterday here is the list of potential topics for this week's report:

Atlantic Wind Update
Onshore Order #3
Status of Draft DoD/DOI withdrawal legislation
Status of OSM/BLM consolidation
Potash – Status of efforts to amend existing Secretarial Order
AD – 78

Topics of Personal Message:

Two-year anniversary of Deepwater (brief summary of milestones/improvements since)
ASLM Review of AD-78
Meeting with Norwegian Minister of Labour
MAB's presentations before Sierra Club et. al in NC and AIPN Spring Conference [placeholders]
Last Week's Knowledge Transfer Workshop hosted by BOEM, BSEE, and DOE

If you think of additional details for either section of the report, please let me know. Thanks in advance for your hard work on this report.

Rich

From: Lassiter, Tracie L
To: Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K; Mussenden, Paul; Mouritsen, Karen E; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce
Cc: Brunson, Vatima S
Subject: Burke, Marcilynn Calendar, April 30-May 6
Date: Monday, April 30, 2012 10:59:27 AM
Attachments: Burke Marcilynn Calendar.ics

Burke, Marcilynn Calendar
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov
Monday, April 30, 2012 – Sunday, May 06, 2012
Time zone: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
(Adjusted for Daylight Saving Time)

April 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Busy | Tentative | Out of Office | Free | Outside of Working Hours

April 2012

Mon, Apr 30

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Weekly Senior Staff Meeting
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	County of San Bernadino v. United States Briefing w/ASLM
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	**Free**
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Administrative Professionals Day
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Ned- Mid-Year Review
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Mailbox
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Briefing on BOEM Central GOM Sale 216/222 Final Notice of Sale and Record of Decision on EIS (DIAL-IN (b) (5) , code: (b) (5)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	ASLM Major Projects Meeting
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

May 2012

Tue, May 01

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	SCI Indocrinations
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ASLM Eagle Horizon 12 Briefing
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Sylvia- Mid-Year Review
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	1:00pm-2:00pm: Potash Meeting (Staff: David Hayes, Laura Davis, Bob Abbey, Hilary Tompkins Ned Farquhar, Marcilynn Burke, and Jack Haugrud)
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BLM/ASLM Weekly Directors Meeting
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	ADMIN TIME
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Wed, May 02

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	**Free**
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Dr. Mikkilineni
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Senior Staff Weekly Hot Topics Mtg.
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Paul- Mid-Year Review
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BSEE/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	**Free**
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	BOEM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Thu, May 03

All Day	Tracie-(b) (6)
Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**Free**
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ASLM Senior Staff Meeting
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ADMIN TIME

	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH w/ Saman
	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
■	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	OSM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
	3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	**Free**
■	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Rich- Mid-Year Review
	4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
	After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Fri, May 04

	All Day	Tracie- (b) (6)
	Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
■	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Weekly Politicals Meeting
■	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	ADMIN TIME
■	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	WHBC Weekly Call
■	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch with Marcilynn Burke
	1:15 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
	After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Sat, May 05 – Sun, May 06

	Before 9:30 AM	**Free**
■	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Free**
■	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH
	After 1:00 PM	**Free**

Thanks,

Tracie L. Lassiter
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Land & Minerals Management
1849 C. Street, NW, Room 6615
Washington, DC 20240
(o) 202-208-6734
(f) 202- 208-3619
Tracie_Lassiter@ios.doi.gov

From: Barlan, Bryce
To: Brunson, Vatima S
Cc: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW:
Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 10:37:14 AM
Attachments: 66 0 BLM-ASLM Agenda for 20120611.doc

Please include Karen only on all the documents you share with me regarding this particular report.

Thank you, I appreciate it.

Bryce Barlan
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
Office: 202-208-4114
Fax: 202-208-6243
bbarlan@blm.gov

From: Brunson, Vatima S
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 10:34 AM
To: Barlan, Bryce
Subject:

I am not sure if you want it only or if you want all analysts to have it as well. Please forward as appropriate and let me know for the future.

Thanks,

BLM-ASLM Agenda
June 11, 2012

I. Executive Travel:

Mike Pool, Acting Director – Acting BLM Director Mike Pool will be in the office and attending regularly scheduled meetings June 11 and June 18-22. Mike will be out of the office at the Governor's Sage Grouse Meeting in Denver June 12-16.

Neil Kornze, Acting Deputy Director – Acting BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze will be in the office and attending regular scheduled meetings June 11-16 and June 18-22.

Janine Velasco, Acting Deputy Director – Acting BLM Deputy Director Janine Velasco will be in the office and attending regular scheduled meetings June 11-16 and June 18-22.

II. Hot topics/major issues:

WO-100 – Director's Office

- **No Change: Release of 2012 PILT Payments:** DOI is scheduled to release the 2012 (PILT) on June 14.

- ***Update:*** **Secretary's Potash Order:** The working group met today to evaluate the JITC comments and will be working on a consolidated draft by the end of the week.

WO-200 – Renewable Resources & Planning

Wild Horse and Burro

- ***Update:*** **BLM-NV Jackson Mountain Wild Horse Gather (HMA):** BLM-NV has moved up the scheduled gather from early July to June 7, 2012 because of deteriorating rangeland conditions caused by drought. The Appropriate Management Level (AML) range for the Jackson Mountains HMA is 130-217 adult wild horses. The current population is over 900 animals (including this year's foals). The BLM plans to capture and remove approximately 630 excess wild horses in order to be in compliance with the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. The gather is anticipated to last for 20 days. The gather is not anticipated to be any more controversial than a typical gather. The BLM-NV has been proactive about reaching out to the local communities regarding the situation and hosted a tour in early May. In addition, wildlife cameras have been installed to monitor the horses and water is being brought in to avoid any dehydration issues with the herd.

- ***Update:*** **FOIA Request:** Debbie Coffey, a wild horse activist that has been critical of the wild horse and burro program, has requested a copy of the BLM documentary "The Story of America's Wild Horses and Burros." Former BLM Director Abbey distributed 38 copies of the documentary to selected stakeholders on May 31, 2012, which included critics of the wild horse program.

Forestry

- *New:* **BLM-OR Potter Elk Timber Sale:** The decision document for the Potter Elk Timber Sale was issued by the Salem District. The Environmental Assessment (EA) proposes harvesting approximately 13 mmbf of timber on 385 acres in Polk County, OR. The sale units were analyzed in two separate EAs (McFall/Potter EA – completed in 2007 and Upper Siletz EA – completed in 2010). The sale utilizes a Pechman exemption (which exempts certain projects from pre-disturbance surveys), and may become controversial as the majority of the stands are 78-79 years old very close to the 80 year cutoff for the exemption. The sale is scheduled for a June 29 auction.

Recreation

- *New:* **BLM-NV Burning Man Special Recreation Permit:** The Black Rock Field Office has completed the Burning Man 2012-2016 Special Recreation Permit EA and signed the FONSI on June 1, 2012. The proposed action is for a 1-year permit for 2012, rather than a 5-year permit, as requested by the proponent. While the EA is approved for 5 years, the BLM is issuing a 1-year Special Recreation Permit (SRP) because Black Rock City, LLC is currently on probation due to non-compliance of their 2011 SRP.

Tribal Consultation

- *No Change:* **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule Tribal Meeting in Tulsa, OK (June 12):** The BLM has scheduled a meeting specifically for tribes on the development of a proposed hydraulic fracturing rule.

- *No Change:* **BLM-MT Hydraulic Fracturing Rule Tribal Meeting in Billings, MT (June 14):** The BLM has scheduled a meeting specifically for tribes on the development of a proposed hydraulic fracturing rule.

Resource Management Planning

- *New*: **BLM-AK White Mountain RMP:** BLM-AK is proposing to issue a supplement to the Eastern Interior Draft RMP to include a new alternative that would analyze hard rock mineral leasing in the White Mountain National Recreation Area (NRA). This alternative had been considered but eliminated from detailed analysis in the Draft RMP because it was believed that no one would qualify for hard rock mineral leasing in the White Mountain NRA under existing regulations. However, after receiving public comments, BLM-AK determined that some individuals could qualify for hard rock mineral leasing, and that it was necessary to analyze a new alternative. This supplement will be controversial as currently there is no hard rock mineral leasing in White Mountain NRA and the new alternative would open 161,000 acres to hard rock mining in areas that include popular trails and recreational cabins, prime wildlife, and fish habitat, and important scenic, wilderness, and cultural and historical areas. Proponents of hard rock mineral leasing, including the State of Alaska, are interested in the high potential for placer gold and rare earth development. The BLM Director was briefed on May 29, 2012 and the Notice of Availability for the supplement is currently in the DOI Solicitors Office.

- *New:* **BLM-MT Chamberlain Watershed Assessment:** The Missoula Field Office is scheduled to complete the Chamberlain Watershed Assessment on June 15. The assessment is a landscape-level look at a 20,570-acre area comprising the Chamberlain and Wales Creek watersheds in the Blackfoot River basin near Ovando in northwestern MT. It provides a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of conditions and issues on BLM-administered public lands as well as some adjacent non-BLM lands. The assessment considers past and present resource conditions and trends, identifies desired future conditions, and recommends actions that are needed to move towards or achieve those desired future conditions. The recommendations incorporate management area direction, guidance found in the Resource Area Management Plan, and BLM policies. The final report will be posted to the Missoula Field Office website.

WO-300 – Minerals & Realty

Renewable Energy

- *Update:* **BLM-CA Genesis Solar Project:** The U.S. District Court of Southern California on May 24, 2012, held a hearing on a request by the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to stop cultural resources clearance work on the 250-MW Genesis Solar project located in Riverside County, CA. The Genesis Solar project was approved by the Secretary in November 2010. The Court did not grant the request for a TRO but allowed limited cultural resources clearance work to continue, with a follow up report submitted to the Court on June 1, 2012. The Court also set a hearing for June 25 on the request by the CRIT for an injunction on construction of the project.

Oil and Gas

- *New:* **BLM-CO February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** On June 11, BLM-CO plans to announce a 2-week scoping period for its Feb. 14, 2013 oil and gas lease sale. The next opportunity for public involvement is scheduled for mid-August 2012 with the release of the preliminary EA.

- **No Change: BLM-NV Oil & Gas Lease Sale**: On June 12, BLM-NV will offer for lease 59 parcels covering 99,000 acres in White Pine and Esmeralda counties. The protest period ended April 9, 2012; no protests were received.

- *Update*: **BLM-Eastern States Oil & Gas Lease Sale:** On June 14, the BLM-Eastern States will offer for lease 87 parcels covering 92,853.30 acres of Federal lands in Alabama (43,038.30 acres), Arkansas (217.50 acres), Louisiana (23,432.70 acres), and Mississippi (26,164.80 acres). This sale does include some areas within the Talladega National Forest, which are solely managed by the USFS. The protest period ended on April 16, 2012 and one protest was received by the deadline. In addition, 28 protests were received after the deadline. Since the protest period ended, one FOIA request as well as a NOI was received from the initial protest group. The basis of the protests included concerns about the adequacy of the forest plan in analyzing oil and gas leasing, water issues, hydraulic fracturing, and adequate public notice and access to information and maps. The EIS shows that hydraulic fracturing will not be an activity on Talladega lands for lease. All protests are expected to be resolved before the lease sale.

Transmission

- ***Update:*** **Southline Transmission Line Project** – (Sponsored by Southline Transmission, LLC (SLT) and Western Area Power Administration). The project consists of a 240-mile, new construction of a double circuit 345-kV, and a 120-mile upgrade of an existing115-kV transmission line to double circuit 230-kV transmission line between Afton, New Mexico and Saguaro, Arizona. BLM conducted six public scoping meetings and two agency scoping meetings in NM and AZ in early May 2012, which included a formal presentation describing the project and the NEPA process, followed by an opportunity for the public to provide oral comments and a Q&A session. The over-riding concern raised at each meeting was how the Southline Project would be analyzed in relationship to the SunZia Transmission Project. The two projects have the potential to overlap for over 100 miles along the I-10 corridor. Six special interest groups and local government agencies and several members of the public requested an extension of the Southline scoping comment period so they had time to review the recently released SunZia DEIS to make informed scoping comments. BLM extended the comment period for 30-days which now ends on July 5, 2012.

III. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rio Puerco Field Office, New Mexico	2/6/12 cleared Exec. Sec. Requested publication date from NMSO.
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Wright Area West Hilight Field Coal Lease-by-Application and Environmental Impact Statement, Wyoming	3/15/11 cleared Dept. Waiting on WYSO to provide publication date.
Notice of Availability of the Clear Creek Management Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, California	4/18/12 Cleared Dept., Waiting on CASO to provide publication date.
Notice of Availability of the Alta East Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, Kern County, California.	4/30/12 cleared Dept., Waiting on CASO to provide publication date.
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Pattern Energy Group's Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility and California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, Imperial County, CA	Will publish in *Federal Register* on 6/13/12.
ANPR for Management of Waste Mine Methane	Delivered to ASLM on 12/5/2011, cleared 1/13/2012. Delivered to Exec. Sec. 1/19/2012. Sent to OMB for clearance.
Coal Rule	Signed by ASLM

	1/18/2012. Delivered to Exec. Sec. 1/19/2012. Sent to OMB for clearance.
Partial Revocation of a Secretarial Order Dated, Payette Boise Reclamation Project, Idaho.	Delivered to ASLM on 1/10/2012. Returned to BLM for correction 1/17/2012. With BLM for Correction.
Notice of Availability for a Supplement to the Eastern Interior Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Leasing of Hardrock Minerals in the White Mountains National Recreation Area, Alaska	5/21/12 in DOI (Lands and Minerals) Solicitor's office.
Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Lower Sonoran and Sonoran Desert National Monument, Arizona	Will publish in *Federal Register* on 6/15/12.
Notice of Availability of the Final Land Use Analysis and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the East Lynn Lake Coal Lease by Applications WVES-50556 and WVES 50560, Wayne County, West Virginia	Published in *Federal Register* on 6/11/12.

IV. Congressional Contact:

- *New*: **BLM-MT/Dakotas State Director Courtesy Visits to Congressional Delegations:** Jamie Connell, Montana/Dakotas State Director, will conduct courtesy meetings with members of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations the week of June 18.

- *New*: **BLM-AZ State Director Courtesy Visits to Congressional Delegation**: The week of June 25, Ray Suazo, Arizona State Director will conduct courtesy meetings with members of the Arizona congressional delegation.

V. Pending Information Memo or Decision Memo for Secretary or Deputy Secretary:

Format	Topic	ASLM Delivery	Final Delivery

VI. Major Upcoming Meetings/Announcements:

-

VII. Packages pending with ASLM

Item	Date Sent to ASLM	Briefing (Date)
Petition Application for withdrawal,	5/14/2012	

Alamo Mountain NM		
Proposed Withdrawal, Parting of the Ways, WY	5/4/2012	
Partial Revocation, USFS Roadside Zone withdrawal, SD	5/4/2012	
Partial Revocation, Power Site 109, MT	5/4/2012	
Partial Revocation, Air Navigation Site 189, AK	5/4/2012	
Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; New Mexico (Wind Mountain ACEC)	5/17/12	
Petition/Application for Proposed Withdrawal, Cornudas Mountain ACEC, New Mexico	5/16/12	
Notice of Proposed Partial Revocation and Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction, Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site, Oregon	5/18/12	
Public Land Order No. ; Extension of Public Land Order No. 6928, Wyoming (Crandall Creek Administrative Site)	4/20/12	

From: Pollet, Jolie
To: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: Potash Order - surname update
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 5:51:17 PM

Marcilynn, Ned and Rich –

Bryce and I completed a preliminary review of the Draft Secretary's Potash Order and discussed some of our questions with BLM. BLM intends to have the surnaming package to us tomorrow (Wednesday). The Departmental briefing on the draft Order is planned for Friday.

As soon as I get the electronic version of the order, I will send it out to you so we can begin our concurrent review of the document. Please let me know if you need additional information. Thanks!

Jolie

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Pollet, Jolie
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: URGENT: Need Front Hall review/surname of Budget QFRs from 2.28.12 Hearing
Date: Friday, June 29, 2012 8:18:34 PM

Karen - I will definitely get to your items on Monday - I don't think the potash order came in today for surnaming today... I had very productive meetings at the BLM office this afternoon. Have a good weekend and day off Monday!!

Jolie

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Pollet, Jolie
Subject: FW: URGENT: Need Front Hall review/surname of Budget QFRs from 2.28.12 Hearing

Jolie, here is the second thing you could read if you have time on Monday – these are budget questions.

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Nelson, Andrea
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:13 PM
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW: URGENT: Need Front Hall review/surname of Budget QFRs from 2.28.12 Hearing
Importance: High

Karen – occasionally we used to give Jenna a heads-up on key documents that will need ASLM clearance. Let me know if you prefer that we not send to you. I'll be pushing the QFRs through the BLM's front hall next week, as tactfully as I can.
Hope you are staying cool over there at MIB!
Andrea

Andrea Nelson
Deputy Division Chief
BLM Legislative Affairs
202-912-7431
anelson@blm.gov

From: Nelson, Andrea
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Pool, Michael J; Velasco, Janine; Lin, Janet H; Kornze, Neil G; Boddington, Celia
Cc: Hanson, Joshua F; Winston, Beverly S; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick
Subject: URGENT: Need Front Hall review/surname of Budget QFRs from 2.28.12 Hearing
Importance: High

Mike, et al – attached for your review and surname are draft responses to Questions for the Record

from the 2.28.12 BLM Budget hearing before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. OCL is requesting that we move these QFRs as expeditiously as possible.

The QFR set has one unnumbered and 10 numbered questions, that have already been approved as follows:

Alton Coal Mine	Juan Palma, BLM-UT-SD
1-7, OR/WA	OR/WA-SD
8, MRB	*OCL to coordinate BLM, FWS, BIA*
9, San Juan Islands	AD-NLCS
10, China Mountain	Ray Brady, Energy Team/Jessica Rubado, National Sage Grouse Coordinator;
	Steve Ellis, ID-SD.
WO-620	Patrick Wilkinson
AD-300	Tim Spisak
AD-200	Ed Roberson

The red clearance folder will be delivered to the front hall on Monday morning. It contains the hard copy of Attachment 3, which also is attached to this email.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 202-912-7431, or Patrick Wilkinson, Legislative Affairs Division Chief, at 202-912-7429.

Thank you,
Andrea

Andrea Nelson
Deputy Division Chief
BLM Legislative Affairs
202-912-7431
anelson@blm.gov

From: Pollet, Jolie
To: Ishee, Mary K
Cc: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: long weekly report
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 11:58:51 AM

Thanks for sending – were you also going to send the short report so I can review the potash entry, as well as see if there was any other BLM news in the short report that should make it into the long report? Thanks.

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Ishee, Mary K
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Pollet, Jolie
Subject: FW: long weekly report

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Ishee, Mary K
Subject: long weekly report

Here are my changes on the un-merged version. I can insert into your document when you are ready or make the changes into your document.
I am going down to the BLM at 10:30 for 15 or 20 minutes.

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Pollet, Jolie
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW: weekly report - potash entry
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 12:45:49 PM

Karen – this is what I gave Rich for the short report.

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Pollet, Jolie
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Cardinale, Richard (Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: Barlan, Bryce
Subject: weekly report - potash entry

Rich – here is a first cut at a potash entry for the Weekly Report.

- **Potash:** ASLM has been working with the BLM in reviewing the draft Secretary's Order (SO) addressing potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The NOA for the draft SO will be published in the Federal Register July 13. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to facilitate development of potash, and oil and gas resources in the Area.

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Pollet, Jolie
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: weekly report - potash entry
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 1:02:49 PM

Great- thank you!!

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Pollet, Jolie
Subject: RE: weekly report - potash entry

Thanks. Here is what I put in the long report

- ***New: Potash Secretarial Order:*** *On July 13, the BLM will publish a NOA for the availability of the draft Secretary's Order (SO) addressing potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to facilitate development of potash, and oil and gas resources in the Area.*

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Pollet, Jolie
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 12:46 PM
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW: weekly report - potash entry

Karen – this is what I gave Rich for the short report.

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Pollet, Jolie
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Cardinale, Richard (Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: Barlan, Bryce
Subject: weekly report - potash entry

Rich – here is a first cut at a potash entry for the Weekly Report.

- **Potash:** ASLM has been working with the BLM in reviewing the draft Secretary's Order (SO) addressing potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The NOA for the draft SO will be published in the Federal Register July 13. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to facilitate development of potash, and oil and gas resources in the Area.

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Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From: Ishee, Mary K
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW: Weekly Report
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 4:33:59 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 07-05-12_Draft.docx

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From: Cardinale, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Burke, Marcilynn
Cc: Ishee, Mary K
Subject: Weekly Report

Marcilynn,

Attached please find the draft Weekly Report to the Secretary for your review. I hope you enjoy your 4th and that you're power is soon restored.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
July 5, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

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On July 3, I surnamed the draft Secretarial Order (SO) that addresses potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The NOA for the draft SO will be published in the Federal Register on July 13. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to the facilitate development of potash, and oil and gas resources in the Area. The draft Secretarial Order seeks to promote the efficient development of potash and oil and gas resources, while minimizing conflicts between the industries and ensuring the safety of operations. Thank you for your leadership in urging industry to develop a plan for moving forward and congratulations to the many BLM employees who played a role in the development of the draft Secretarial Order.

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II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of July 9, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) . In the office July 11 – 13.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6)

Week of July 16, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – Travel to Wyoming to tour a number of BLM sites, including the Chokecherry Sierra Madre wind energy project site and transmission corridors for Gateway West, Gateway South, and Transwest Express. Travel will also include tours of abandoned and

prospective uranium mines and tours of various coal mining sites.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6)

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

- **Congress Passes, President Signs Transportation Bill with AML Rider Attached:** On June 29, Congress passed a transportation bill with a rider that limits AML funding made available to certified states and tribes to $15 million per year for each certified state or tribe. Certified states and tribes are those entities that have completed reclamation of AML sites within their jurisdictions. Certified states, most notably Wyoming, have reacted negatively, as have supporters of the 2006 amendments. In FY 2012, Wyoming received nearly $150 million in certified state funding. This rider has generated widespread coverage in coalfield media and in environmental publications as opponents have raised significant objections. On July 11, OSM senior leadership will be briefed on the rider's the impacts.

- **Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition**: OSM will brief Departmental senior officials on July 12 regarding the current status of the Petition. The Tennessee Attorney General sent a letter dated June 26 notifying Director Pizarchik that he believes the changes in petition boundaries proposed by OSM "undermine the very values the State is seeking to protect in its petition." OSM is evaluating the letter and will draft an appropriate response, which will likely occur after the July 12 briefing.

- ***Update:*** **Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** On June 20, OSM conducted a teleconference with Federal partners, including the Department of the Interior Secretary's staff, the Solicitor's Office, Army Corps, EPA, and FAA to discuss each agency's position prior to a meeting with VA Senator Mark Warner and Congressman

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Morgan Griffith. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential paths for the Breaks Regional Airport Authority to proceed with expansion/reconstruction of the Grundy Municipal Airport into the Breaks Regional Airport. A meeting with Senator Warner is tentatively scheduled for July 12.

(b) (5)

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Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Ishee, Mary K
Date: Friday, July 06, 2012 10:26:00 AM
Attachments: ASLM Week Ahead Report 7-5-2012 DRAFT CLEAN km.docx

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Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
July 8 – July 14, 2012

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

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DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6)

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewables

- *New:* **BLM-CA Alta East Wind Project:** *BLM released the draft EIS for the Alta East Wind Project in Kern County, CA, on June 29, with a comment period ending Sept. 27. The project could generate up to 318 MW, and would include wind turbines, access roads, and energy collection lines on a 2,592-acre site, 568 acres of which are private lands under the jurisdiction of Kern County. The project is controversial due to its location near California Condor and Golden Eagle habitat.*
- *Update:* **BLM-WY Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Project:** *BLM released the Final EIS for the 3,000 MW Chokecherry/Sierra Madre wind project on July 2. This 2012 priority project includes 227,638 acres of Federal, state and private lands south of Rawlins, WY and will be the largest wind farm facility in the United States.*

Wild Horse & Burro

- *New:* **BLM-MT/DK Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Gather:** *The BLM-MT has begun a gather in the Pryor Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) to remove 40 horses from the HMA which will help adjust the herd sex ratio to 50:50 male to female. BLM is using food and water as bait to attract the animals. The current wild horse population in the HMA is approximately 170 adult wild horses, which exceeds the established AML of 90-120 horses, excluding the current year foals. The BLM will also administer PZP fertility control treatments to mares within the HMA.*
- *New:* **BLM-OR Wild Horse Gather:** *On July 1, the BLM-OR began gathering approximately 20 wild horses in an area adjacent to the Paisley Desert HMA. BLM is using water to attract the animals to a trap. A field check on June 12, 2012, found three dead*

horses and one in very poor condition due to low water in the area. BLM will consider hauling water or moving the horses into the HMA if water trapping is not successful.

Solids

- ***Update:*** **BLM-WY North Porcupine Coal Lease Sale:** On *June 28, 2012, BTU Western Resources, Inc., a subsidiary of Peabody, submitted a successful bid of $793,270,310.80 ($1.10 per mineable ton) for the North Porcupine Coal Tract in Cheyenne. The tract covers 6,364 acres and contains an estimated 721 million tons of recoverable coal.*
- ***New:*** **Potash Secretarial Order:** *On July 13, the BLM will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft Secretarial Order (SO) addressing potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The SO focuses on "co-development" to promote the efficient development of potash and oil and gas resources while minimizing conflicts.*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- ***New:*** **Deepwater Well Containment Drill:** *BSEE is planning a deepwater well containment drill or deployment in July as requested by the Secretary. MarineWell Containment Company (MWCC) will be the well containment service company and Shell has been confirmed as the lead operator. On June 14, BSEE conducted a planning session with MWCC and Shell in Houston on the deployment of the capping stack and associated operations. The estimated timeframe for the deployment of the capping stack is July 22 to August 5, 2012.*
- ***New:*** **McMoRan Production Test of Davy Jones Ultra-Deep Gas Discovery:** *McMoRan Exploration Company perforated and flow tested the ultra-deep (approximately 29,000 feet subsea) Davy Jones No. 1 well in South Marsh Island Block 230 located in only approximately 20 feet of water. If successfully completed, this well could prove to be a new ultra-deep shallow water gas frontier in the Gulf of Mexico due to its shallow water but deep well depth.*
- ***New:*** **New 5-year contract for Ohmsett:** *On June 30, a new contract for the operation and maintenance of Ohmsett was awarded to MAR. On July 2, BSEE issued a press release announcing the new contract.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- ***Update:*** **2012 - 2017 Five Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** *On June 28, the Proposed Final Program (PFP) was sent to Congress. The PFP, together with the Final Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), has been posted on BOEM's website. The EPA and BOEM NOAs will both be published in the Federal Register on July 6.*
- ***Update:*** **MA & RI Wind Energy Areas**: *On July 2, DOI announced the NOA of the Draft EA for the RI/MA Area of Mutual Interest. The EA is scheduled for publication in early July. On May 24, the Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 consultation for the MA and RI wind energy areas was sent to the consulting parties for signature. As of July 2, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Tribe, ACHP, and the RI and MA SHPOs have sent their*

signatures; however, the Aquinnah have not signed. Public information meetings are expected to be held the week of July 16.

- ***New:*** **Fifth and final Lophelia II cruise**: *On July 13 – July 28, the fifth and final Lophelia II cruise will start the investigation of deep coral ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico. The investigation will include oil and gas platforms that are currently producing. BOEM is working with NOAA and partners to post updates from the cruise as it progresses.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- ***New:*** **Transportation Bill limits AML payments :** *The transportation bill expected to be signed by the President on July 6 limits Abandoned Mine Land (AML) mandatory funding available to a certified state or tribe to $15 million per year. Certified states and tribes are those which have completed reclamation of all coal AML sites within their jurisdictions. Because of how moneys are allocated within the AML fund, the language will also reduce grants to uncertified states and tribes. The provision constitutes a major change to the AML program amendments Congress passed in 2006. Certified states, most notably Wyoming, have reacted negatively, as have supporters of the 2006 amendments. The Department is working with OMB to review the impact of this provision.*
- ***New:*** **Tribal Consultation with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation on Proposed OSM Rulemaking on Title IV Limited Liability:** *On June 5, 2012, the Chairman of the Hopi Tribe requested government-to-government consultation with OSM to discuss a proposal to revise the regulatory requirements for certified AML programs to receive limited liability protection for certain non-coal reclamation and public facility construction projects. On July 10, OSM will hold government-to-government consultation with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation, who was invited to participate, in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.*
- ***Update:*** **Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition**: *OSM is scheduled to brief the Department June 12 on boundary changes and other issues related to the TN LUM. By letter dated June 26, the TN Attorney General notified OSM Director Pizarchik that he believes the change in petition boundaries proposed by OSM undermines the values the State is seeking to protect in its petition. OSM is reviewing the letter. OSM is continuing to work with cooperating agencies to prepare the draft EIS for the petition.*
- ***Update:*** **Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** *On July 12, OSM is tentatively scheduled to meet with Senator Warner, VA Congressman Griffith, and Federal agencies to discuss potential means for resolving issues related to the proposed expansion/reconstruction of the Grundy Municipal Airport into the Breaks Regional Airport. On June 20, 2012, OSM and the Department met with the other Federal agencies involved in this issue (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and the FAA) to discuss each agency's position on the matter prior to the meeting with the Congressional members.*

WEEK AHEAD – July 8 – 14, 2012

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, July 11

- *New:* **BLM-UT Mineral Mountain Wind Project Meeting:** *The BLM-UT will meet with enXco Development Corporation in Cedar City to discuss the proposed Mineral Mountain Wind Energy Project, which would consist of up to 44 wind turbines—28 located on BLM-administered lands—with a maximum output of 80MW. Six of the proposed wind turbines would be located on Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II lands with the remaining turbines located on VRM Class III lands.*

Friday, July 13

- *New:* **BLM -WY Methane Recovery Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:** *Staff from the BLM-WY will attend a commissioning and ribbon cutting ceremony for Solvay Chemicals' new methane recovery project at the company's trona Mine near Green River, WY. Methane is released when trona is mined, and is typically vented into the atmosphere. This new project harnesses methane to power mine equipment and marks the first time a methane recovery project has been developed for trona-mining operations. The nearly 20 million tons of trona mined annually from Wyoming's Green River Basin account for more than 90 percent of the trona mined in the U.S., and is used to make glass, detergent, and pharmaceuticals.*
- **No Change: Hydraulic Fracturing Rule Tribal Meeting in Ft. Berthold, ND:** The BLM has scheduled a tribal consultation meeting on the proposed hydraulic fracturing rule in Ft. Berthold, ND.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Nothing to report.**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Monday, July 9 - Thursday, July 12

- **No change: BSEE Unannounced Oil Spill Equipment Inspections:** BSEE Pacific Region will conduct unannounced oil spill response equipment inspections in the Los Angeles/Long Beach and Ventura/Santa Barbara areas (CA). Representatives from the US Coast Guard National Strike Force Coordination Center, USCG Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach and California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response will be participating in the inspections.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Nothing to report.**

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Sunday, July 15

- *Update:* **Annual Helium Facility Shutdown:** The Cliffside Helium Enrichment Unit helium facility in Amarillo, TX, which is operated by the BLM, is scheduled to undergo annual maintenance over a 10-12-day period. This event is extensively planned and coordinated to ensure that disruption to the helium marketplace is minimal. Annual shutdowns have occurred since 2003 to conduct routine maintenance, and reduce the risk of unpredictable shutdowns. Private refiners should be able to restore any reduced volume or inventory resulting from the shutdown in about one week. *Corning Industries has contacted Acting Assistant Secretary Burke, the White House, Senator Hagan, and staff of the House Natural Resources and Senate Energy Committees, expressing concern over the disruption of supplies. On June 29, Acting Assistant Secretary Burke spoke by phone with Senator Hagan, and on July 2, she met with Corning representatives. BLM is working with Corning and the owners of the facility to attempt to address Corning's concerns.*

Monday, July 23-Wednesday, July 25

- *New:* **National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Meeting:** *The NLCS will hold a three-day, field-based workshop in Albuquerque, NM, to discuss changes to the policy manuals and implementation of the NLCS 15-year Strategy.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, July 16 - Tuesday, July 17

- **No Change: Offshore Wind Outreach in MA and RI:** Director Beaudreau and BOEM staff will host public information sessions to provide an overview of the EA and next steps in the leasing process for the RI/MA Area of Mutual Interest. The sessions are scheduled to take place in Narragansett, RI and New Bedford, MA.

Wednesday, July 18

- *New: American Petroleum Institute (API) meeting: Director Beaudreau will speak at the API Upstream Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Monday, July 16 - Friday, July 20

- *New:* **Coast Guard Training at Ohmsett:** *The US Coast Guard (USCG) will hold its Oil Spill Response Technician (OSRT) Training at Ohmsett. This course will be based on National Strike Force (NSF) qualification requirements and the curriculum will include actual oil spill recovery and viscous oil transfer on a variety of USCG oil recovery and ancillary systems.*

Wednesday, July 25 – Friday, August 3, 2012

- *New:* **HALO Sea Barrier Defense tested at Ohmsett:** *HALO's system is designed to handle multiple high impact incidents. The barrier can also be used as a platform to mount video surveillance cameras along the upper surface, provide sonar equipment attachment points underneath, drop netting to the seafloor to prevent diver attacks, and incorporate other deterrents such as lighting, sensors, and audible devices. Two HALO Sentinel barrier*

sections were recently tested at Ohmsett. A third barrier section will be added in this continuation of previous tests.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Friday, July 20

- ***Update:*** **Pinabete Mine Permit Application:** *OSM anticipates publishing the NOI to prepare an EIS for the BHP Navajo Coal Company's (BNCC's) permit application for the Pinabete Mine on the Navajo Reservation in NM, and for the related lease amendment and associated transmission line rights of way renewals for the nearby Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP). OSM is the lead agency on the EIS and the BIA, BLM, US Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, EPA and the Navajo Nation are cooperating agencies. Scoping meetings for the draft EIS are scheduled to occur in nine locations in New Mexico and Arizona in mid-August 2012. The EIS is expected to be controversial.*

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Pollet, Jolie
Subject: RE: weekly report - potash entry
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 1:02:00 PM

Thanks. Here is what I put in the long report

- ***New: Potash Secretarial Order:*** *On July 13, the BLM will publish a NOA for the availability of the draft Secretary's Order (SO) addressing potash mining and oil and gas operations in New Mexico's Designated Potash Area. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to facilitate development of potash, and oil and gas resources in the Area.*

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Pollet, Jolie
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 12:46 PM
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: FW: weekly report - potash entry

Karen – this is what I gave Rich for the short report.

****

Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

Renewable Resources Branch Chief
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Renewable Resources Branch Chief
BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Pollet, Jolie; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Lassiter, Tracie L; Anderson, Michael D
Subject:	Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, July 05, 2012 4:55:28 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 07-05-12_FINAL.docx

Jamey and Elliot,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
July 5, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

This week began with two big announcements for wind energy – onshore and offshore: the release of the Final EIS for the proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Farm in Wyoming as well as the publication of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rhode Island and Massachusetts offshore Area of Mutual Interest (AMI). These announcements represent important milestones. They demonstrate our commitment to diligence in completing environmental reviews of proposed wind energy projects. They also reflect the tangible progress we are making in moving forward with the development of potentially the largest onshore wind farm facility in the U.S. and to holding one of the first offshore wind lease sales in the AMI. The beneficial impacts of these renewable energy projects will chart the course for future renewable energy development efforts. I want to commend Mike Pool and Tommy Beaudreau, as well as the dedicated employees of the BLM and BOEM, for their hard work and perseverance as these and many other projects move forward. As you stated, these efforts will put us at the forefront of a renewable energy revolution.

On July 3, I surnamed the draft Secretarial Order (SO) that addresses potash mining and oil and gas operations in the Secretary's Potash Area in New Mexico. The NOA for the draft SO will be published in the Federal Register on July 13. The SO is built on a foundation of "co-development" that promotes efforts to the facilitate development of potash and oil and gas resources in the Area. The draft Secretarial Order seeks to promote efficient development, while minimizing conflicts and ensuring the safety of operations. Thank you for your leadership in urging industry to develop a plan for moving forward and congratulations to the many BLM employees who played a role in the development of the draft Secretarial Order.

The BLM has recently received extensive interest from members of Congress and end users of Federal helium resources regarding the agency's scheduled maintenance shutdown of the Cliffside Helium Enrichment Unit (CHEU) in Amarillo, Texas on July 15, 2012. The BLM operates the CHEU, but it is owned by private helium distributors who are serviced by the BLM's pipeline. The scheduled shutdown is designed to perform preventative maintenance activities, including specific human safety repairs. The shutdown is anticipated to last no more than ten days.

Representatives of Corning Inc. have contacted the White House and members of Congress, including the Office of NC Senator Kay Hagan, and staff of our authorizing committees to express their views concerning the shutdown schedule. On July 2, I met with representatives of Corning, together with members of my staff and the BLM, to discuss Corning's specific concerns. While BLM maintenance activities are taking place, the supply provided by the wholesale distributors that own the CHEU plant is expected to decrease, which means the demand by end users, such as Corning, may not be met in the short-term – at least from Federal

helium resources. Corning appreciated the time spent with them and requested that they be kept apprised of the BLM's upcoming maintenance schedule.

I also spoke with Sen. Hagan on June 29. She expressed concern about the potential impacts of the plant maintenance and asked that we do all that we could to minimize those impacts. We have also briefed staff from the White House, Senator Hagan's office, the House Natural Resources Committee, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and will keep them apprised of developments.

Thank you for your continued interest in for the Department's wildland fire fighting efforts. Your leadership and support are greatly appreciated by the many bureaus and offices that play a role in this important work. Last Sunday's crash of a C-130 aircraft that was equipped for Modular Airborne Fire Fighting was a stark and tragic reminder of the inherent dangers our wildland firefighters face each time they deploy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the four North Carolina National Guard airmen who lost their lives while fighting the White Draw fire in southwest South Dakota.

Finally, thank you for hosting the July 4th celebration at the Department. It was my first time viewing the show from atop MIB, and you were right that it is the best view in town! On a personal note, I'm off to San Francisco to walk 39.3 miles in two days as part of the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. I've raised almost $5,000 for this worthy cause, and I'm ready to hit the pavement!

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III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
    - As of July 3, the **Programmatic Agreement** for MA and RI WEAs has been signed by all the parties except the Aquinnah. Director Beaudreau intends to call representatives of the Aquinnah to discuss their concerns by July 6. On July 2, BOEM announced the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the **RI/MA**

Area of Mutual Interest. The NOA was published in the Federal Register on July 3.

- On June 21, representatives of the **Cape Wind** project met with BSEE staff on oil spill response plans (OSRPs) for a pre-survey meeting. Cape Wind is scheduled to begin offshore survey activities in Nantucket Sound in early to mid-July. BOEM has requested that BSEE review an OSRP in the event that pollution from offshore wind equipment or a vessel is discharged.

- BOEM anticipates publication of the **ME** Request for Interest (RFI) in the Federal Register in late July. BOEM is currently responding to comments received from the SOL's office.

- **Review of Pending IG and GAO Reports:** We continued to work with the ASLM Bureaus on responses to a number of GAO and OIG reports: **GAO Reports:** Offshore Oil and Gas Permitting since *Deepwater Horizon*); Phosphate Mining on Federal Lands; Financial Assurances for Uranium Mining on Federal Lands; DOI Hiring, Retention and Training of Key Oil and Gas personnel. **OIG Reports:** ROWs on Federal Lands; Oil and Gas Leasing on Indian Lands.

- **Congress Passes, President Signs Transportation Bill with AML Rider Attached:** On June 29, Congress passed a transportation bill with a rider that limits AML funding made available to certified states and tribes to $15 million per year for each certified state or tribe. Certified states and tribes are those entities that have completed reclamation of AML sites within their jurisdictions. Certified states, most notably Wyoming, have reacted negatively, as have supporters of the 2006 amendments. In FY 2012, Wyoming received nearly $150 million in certified state funding. This rider has generated widespread coverage in coalfield media and in environmental publications as opponents have raised significant objections. On July 11, DOI and OSM senior management will brief OMB on the rider's the impacts.

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- ***Update:*** **Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** On June 20, OSM conducted a teleconference with Federal partners, including the Department of the Interior Secretary's staff, the Solicitor's Office, Army Corps, EPA, and FAA to discuss each agency's position prior to a meeting with VA Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Morgan Griffith. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential paths for the Breaks Regional Airport Authority to proceed with expansion/reconstruction of the Grundy Municipal Airport into the Breaks Regional Airport. A meeting with Senator Warner is tentatively scheduled for July 12.

Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Ishee, Mary K
To: Mouritsen, Karen E; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, G. Vermell; Pollet, Jolie; Barlan, Bryce
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 7:48:20 PM
Attachments: ASLM Week Ahead Report 7-5-2012 DRAFT CLEAN.docx

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Here is the draft week ahead report I have sent to MAB for review, fyi. Thanks for your help!

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
July 8 – July 14, 2012

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

Week of July 9, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) . In the office July 11-13.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
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Week of July 16, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – Travel to Wyoming to tour a number of BLM sites, including the Chokecherry Sierra Madre wind energy project site and transmission corridors for Gateway West, Gateway South, and Transwest Express. Travel will also include tours of abandoned and prospective uranium mines and tours of various coal mining sites.
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Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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SHPOs have sent their signatures; however, the Aquinnah have not signed. Public information meetings are expected to be held the week of July 16.

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Friday, July 20

- ***Update:*** **Pinabete Mine Permit Application:** *OSM anticipates publishing the NOI to prepare an EIS for the BHP Navajo Coal Company's (BNCC's) permit application for the Pinabete Mine on the Navajo Reservation in NM, and for the related lease amendment and associated transmission line rights of way renewals for the nearby Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP). OSM is the lead agency on the EIS and the BIA, BLM, US Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, EPA and the Navajo Nation are cooperating agencies. Scoping meetings for the draft EIS are scheduled to occur in nine locations in New Mexico and Arizona in mid-August 2012. The EIS is expected to be controversial.*

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Pollet, Jolie
Cc: Ishee, Mary K
Subject: RE: potash blurb
Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 4:32:00 PM

Ok, we added the blurb. MK, we gave you a choice so you can delete one of the two potash entries.

Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Pollet, Jolie
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Karen – can you please add this to the short report? I wasn't sure where to stick it in. Thanks.

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Jolie Pollet
On temporary assignment with DOI ASLM (June 18-July 13)
cell phone 907-223-6930
desk phone 202-208-5348

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BLM - Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK

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potential support of both industries is historic – particularly in light of the long and contentious history of this issue.

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To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, G. Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; Lin, Janet H; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Lew, Shoshana M; Robson, Bonnie; Benner, Lee; Bryant, Jeryne; Watson, James A; Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G; Owens, Glenda H.; Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A.; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cruickshank, Walter; Lindow, Emily R
Subject:	ASLM Week Ahead Report
Date:	Friday, July 06, 2012 11:47:02 AM
Attachments:	ASLM Week Ahead Report 7-6-2012 FINAL.docx

Jamey and Elliott, attached please find ASLM's week ahead report for July 8-14.

Thanks and have a nice weekend.

Mary Katherine

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Friday, July 20

- ***Update:*** **Pinabete Mine Permit Application:** *OSM anticipates publishing the NOI to prepare an EIS for the BHP Navajo Coal Company's (BNCC's) permit application for the Pinabete Mine on the Navajo Reservation in NM, and for the related lease amendment and*

associated transmission line rights of way renewals for the nearby Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP). OSM is the lead agency on the EIS and the BIA, BLM, US Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, EPA and the Navajo Nation are cooperating agencies. Scoping meetings for the draft EIS are scheduled to occur in nine locations in New Mexico and Arizona in mid-August 2012. The EIS is expected to be controversial.

From:	Ishee, Mary K
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Julie; Pollet, Jolie; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Lassiter, Tracie L; Cardinale, Richard; Anderson, Michael D
Subject:	RE: Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, July 12, 2012 8:31:57 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 07-12-12 FINAL docx.docx
Importance:	High

Jamey and Elliot, attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thanks,

Mary Katherine

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
July 12, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

This week we continue to press forward on a number of fronts in the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy for safe and responsible energy production. In that vein, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on today's announcement in New Mexico with Senators Bingaman and Udall of your Draft Secretarial Order on potash development. This Draft Secretarial Order provides a mechanism for the potash and oil and gas industries to work together and has support from both industries. As such, it represents an historic accomplishment, addressing conflicts that have existed for decades. It demonstrates the power of determined cooperation to effectuate positive change, in this case better enabling the efficient development of important domestic mineral and energy resources while ensuring the equally important safety of operations.

Another example this week of successful cooperation in promoting efficient energy development was a productive discussion with the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding the MOU for onshore and offshore renewable energy. Deputy Secretary Hayes, DAS Baca, and I met with representatives of the DoD to prepare for your meeting with Secretary Panetta on July 20. We are also working on draft legislation to outline a process for authorizing renewable energy projects on lands withdrawn for military purposes, and disposition of the revenues from the renewable energy projects. Our numerous discussions with the DoD over the past few months have resulted in a better understanding of the issues each of our departments face. We have seen the benefits of this better understanding in developing the MOU and draft legislation, but also expect it to serve both agencies well in moving forward on future energy projects.

We have likewise been working with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to address challenges it has identified that DOI faces in the management of oil and gas resources. In February 2011, DOI was listed for the first time in GAO's "High-Risk" Report for deficiencies in its oversight of onshore and offshore oil and gas operations. GAO's report specified ongoing challenges in three broad areas: revenue collection, human capital and reorganization. ASLM, ASMPB and the involved bureaus - BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and ONRR - have been working to develop a comprehensive, strategic, and cross-bureau approach to addressing the problem areas GAO identified, both as one of DOI's "priority goals" in the budget process and as a collaborative effort of the ASLM/ASPMB co-chaired Production Coordination Committee. On July 10, Deputy Secretary Hayes, DAS Pam Haze and Directors Watson, Beaudreau, and Pool met with OMB and GAO to present updates of DOI initiatives and plans related to management of Federal oil and gas resources. This update included an explanation of the Department's overall strategy of setting priority goals, as well as specific accomplishments in each of the identified three areas. We also identified next steps, including commitment and involvement of top DOI leadership, and ongoing communication with GAO to detail our progress.

My office also worked with BOEM and BSEE to issue a response to a recent draft GAO report on offshore oil and gas permitting and other issues since *Deepwater Horizon*. Challenges associated with the reorganization of BOEM, BSEE, and ONRR was one of the factors that caused Interior to be included in GAO's High Risk Report. BOEM and BSEE identified concerns regarding GAO's use of limited data in the draft report, particularly as it applies to processing times for plans and permits., After our discussions with GAO, it has agreed to publish in its final report DOI-supplied updates to plans and permitting data in addition to the DOI response letter to the draft GAO report which outlines DOI's overall concerns.

GAO has also initiated a review of DOI's hiring, training and retention of key skilled positions for oversight and management of oil and gas activities, another issue that caused Interior to be included in GAO's High Risk Report. GAO held an entrance conference with DOI on June 19, and held follow-up meetings with BOEM, BSEE, and BLM. This GAO report will address the human capital issues identified in GAO's High Risk List.

In the meanwhile, we continue to move forward proactively with offshore oil and gas development under post-*Deepwater Horizon* reforms. I am reviewing this week the Proposed Notice of Sale for the Gulf of Mexico Western Planning Area (WPA) Sale 229. This sale will be the first in the new 2012-2017 5-Year Program and is another demonstration of the effectiveness of ongoing operations within the reorganized BOEM. BOEM expects to publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by July 23. The sale is tentatively scheduled for November 28, 2012.

I am looking forward to participating in the upcoming deepwater well containment drill being planned by BSEE. Director Watson and BSEE staff have devoted extensive time and effort to this high priority activity, including meeting regularly with Shell and Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC) to discuss plans and ensure realistic operations. The Interior Operations Center will be involved in the capping stack deployment test in the Gulf of Mexico July 22 – August 5, and Congressional staff and foreign visitors are expected to observe the event.

On the confirmation front, I met with Senator Barrasso on July 12. We discussed his concern about my work for the Defenders of Wildlife, the wild lands policy, and oil and gas leasing reform. He stated that he was concerned not just about Defenders, but about what he saw as a general pattern of closing access to the public lands. I explained that goal is not to close access, but rather to provide for access in the appropriate places, times, and manner.

Another issue of particular interest to Wyoming is a provision that was included in the transportation bill signed by the President on July 6. The provision caps Abandoned Mine Land (AML) payments to certified states and tribes at $15 million per year. Certified states and tribes are those that have completed reclamation of all coal AML sites within their jurisdictions. The most significant impact will be funding provided to Wyoming, since Wyoming is the only certified state that receives over $15 million per year. The Department and OMB are reviewing the potential impact of this amendment. On July 11, OSM and other DOI staff briefed OMB on the provision's likely impacts. This issue is continuing to receive legal review within the Department.

Last but certainly not least, I continue to follow the news reports and briefings on the fire situation in the West. I am heartened that the fires in Colorado have been mostly contained, but I am following the efforts to stabilize the burned areas and protect water and other resources. Once again I want to say how impressed I am with the BLM and other Federal and state firefighting employees who perform these difficult and important jobs. The Administration's decision to make Federal health insurance available to temporary frontline firefighters highlights the gratitude we collectively feel to those who are undertaking this dangerous work.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of July 16, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – Travel to Wyoming to tour BLM renewable and conventional energy sites July 16 - 19. In the office July 20.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6) expecting to return to the office part-time late in the week.

Week of July 23, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office July 23 – 27. In Louisiana for deepwater well containment exercises July 28 – 30.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6) , expecting to be at the office part-time.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - As of July 3, the **Programmatic Agreement** for MA and RI WEAs had been signed by all the parties except the Aquinnah. Director Beaudreau called representatives of the Aquinnah to discuss their concerns on July 10. BOEM is continuing to work with the Aquinnah to attempt to address their concerns. On July 2, BOEM announced the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the **RI/MA Area of Mutual Interest.** The NOA was published in the Federal Register on July 3. Director Beaudreau will be leading public information and other meetings in RI and MA on July 16 and 17 to provide an overview of the EA and discuss next steps in the leasing process.
  - BOEM anticipates publication of the **ME** Request for Interest (RFI) in the Federal Register in late July. Leadership from BOEM and the SOL are addressing final issues.
  - BOEM anticipates making an electronic lease offer to **Bluewater Wind Delaware**, LLC, on July 17. The lease comprises 96,430 acres within the Delaware Wind Energy Area. The company will have 10 business days to accept, reject, or seek modification of the lease terms and conditions.
- **BLM-NV Spring Valley Wind Dedication:** BLM-NV will host a dedication to celebrate completion of the first wind energy generation facility to be constructed on public lands in Nevada. Acting BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze will speak at the dedication. Construction of the 150-MW Spring Valley wind project began in 2011 and is expected to be

completed in August 2012. The project is on 7,673 acres of public lands 30 miles east of Ely, NV and consists of 75 wind turbines and an electrical substation. It will use an existing 230kV transmission line for distribution.

- **DOI to be Cooperating Agency on Keystone Pipeline EIS:** The DOI accepted an invitation from the Department of State (DOS) to be a cooperating agency on the supplemental EIS that will be prepared for TransCanada's new application for a Presidential Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project. The proposed route presented in the new application—which would cross the U.S.-Canada border into MT, run through SD, and terminate in NE—differs from the one proposed in the original application, which was denied in January 2012. The supplemental EIS will consider the newly proposed route, as well as information or studies issued since the EIS was issued in August 2011. The BLM and the FWS will be the Department's primary representatives in this review.

- **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition**: On July 11, OSM briefed the ASLM regarding the status of the petition and the proposed boundaries, and briefed COS Laura Davis and others in the Department July 12. The Tennessee Attorney General sent a letter on June 26 stating that the changes in petition boundaries that OSM has proposed undermine the values the State is seeking to protect in its petition. This letter represents a change in the State's position as reflected in its February 2012 letter in which it stated that it had "no objection" to OSM proposed boundaries and agreed that OSM's proposed map "was more accurate" than its own.

- **Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** On July 12, OSM and OCL met with Senator Warner, VA Congressman Griffith, Federal agencies and local and state officials to discuss potential means for resolving issues related to the proposed expansion/reconstruction of the Grundy Municipal Airport into the Breaks Regional Airport. Senator Warner requested that the agencies hold a follow-up meeting next month to evaluate progress on resolving legal and factual disagreements.

- **Hearing on Stream Protection Rule (SPR):** The House Committee on Natural Resources is scheduled to hold a hearing July 19 on the SPR to examine: 1) the status of the proposed SPR and the March 2010 settlement with plaintiffs concerning the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule, and 2) "the failure of the Department to comply with the official Congressional subpoenas for documents" related to the SPR. Director Pizarchik will testify. At the current time, the hearing consists of a single panel.

- **Congressional Briefing on BLM Renewable Energy Program:** On July 12, BLM briefed majority staff of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and minority staff of the Senate Budget Committee on the BLM's renewable energy program. House Oversight Committee Chairman Issa and Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Sessions wrote to you on May 29 inquiring about DOI's relationship to the DOE Loan Guarantee Program, specifically as it relates to seven BLM-approved renewable energy projects.

- **Oversight Hearing on BLM's Helium Program:** On July 20, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold an oversight hearing on the

BLM's helium program. Tim Spisak, Deputy Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, will be the BLM witness.

Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Ishee, Mary K
To: Ishee, Mary K; Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Mussenden, Paul; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, G. Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; Lin, Janet H; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Lew, Shoshana M; Robson, Bonnie; Benner, Lee; Bryant, Jeryne; Watson, James A; Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G; Owens, Glenda H.; Shawley, Dianne M; Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A.; Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: RE: ASLM Week Ahead Report
Date: Friday, July 13, 2012 12:48:34 PM
Attachments: ASLM Week Ahead report 7-13-2012 FINAL.docx
Importance: High

Jamey and Elliott, attached is ASLM's week ahead report.

Thanks,

Mary Katherine

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
July 15 – July 21, 2012

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

Week of July 16, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – Travel to Wyoming to tour BLM renewable and conventional energy sites July 16 – 19. In the office July 20.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6) , expecting to return to the office part-time late in the week.

Week of July 23, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office July 23 – 27. In Louisiana for deepwater well containment exercises July 28 – 30.
DAS Baca – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6) , expecting to be in the office part-time.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Oil & Gas

- *New:* **Oil Shale and Tar Sands Final Programmatic EIS (PEIS):** *The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the final PEIS is expected to publish in the FR in late July, which will initiate a 30 day public availability period. Under the Preferred Alternative, the BLM will continue to support the research and development of oil shale and tar sands resources. Approximately 461,965 acres would be available for future oil shale leasing consideration (35,308 acres in CO; 252,181 acres in UT; and 174,476 acres in WY); and 91,045 acres in eastern UT would be available for future tar sands leasing consideration.*

Wild Horse & Burro

- *New:* **BLM-NV Jackson Mountain Wild Horse Gather:** *BLM-NV concluded helicopter gather operations for the Jackson Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA), capturing and removing approximately 630 wild horses.*

Solid Minerals

- *New:* **BLM-UT Alton Coal EIS:** *On July 10, BLM-UT announced plans to develop a supplement to the Draft EIS for the proposed Alton Coal Mine, which BLM expects will be available for review in early 2013. In Nov. 2011, BLM-UT released the draft EIS for Alton Coal's lease by application (LBA) for a 3,576- acre tract located in Kane County, UT, 10 miles south of Bryce Canyon National Park. During the public comment period,*

the BLM received approximately 177,000 comments, indicating significant controversy regarding potential impacts to air quality and wetlands, and protection measures for the greater sage-grouse.

- ***New:*** **Secretarial Order on Potash:** *On July 12, the Secretary announced the release of the Draft Secretarial Order on Oil and Gas and Potash Development within the Designated Potash Area, Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico. This order promotes efficient development of potash and oil and gas resources, while minimizing conflicts and ensuring safety of operations. Industry representatives have been working together to propose a mutually acceptable path forward to help end decades of contention on this issue.*

Transmission

- ***New:*** **DOI to be Cooperating Agency on Keystone Pipeline EIS:** *DOI accepted an invitation from the Department of State (DOS) to be a cooperating agency on the supplemental EIS for TransCanada's new application for a Presidential Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project. The proposed route which would cross the U.S.-Canada border into MT, run through SD, and terminate in NE, differs from the originally proposed route that was denied in January 2012. The BLM and the FWS will be the Department's primary representatives in this review.*
- ***Update:*** **Gateway West Transmission Project:** *This project consists of a proposed 1,100 mile, 500/230kV transmission line in WY and ID, that is intended to relieve operating limitations, increase capacity, and improve reliability of the grid, allowing for the delivery of up to 3,000 new megawatts. On June 29, the BLM released a draft sage-grouse analysis, which was not included in the Draft EIS, for a 30-day public review. The BLM plans to release the Final EIS to cooperating agencies in August, 2012. The Rapid Response Transmission Team is coordinating with BLM's Washington Office and the SOL to develop recommendations regarding various issues.*

Congressional

- ***New:*** **Renewable Energy Briefing for Committee Staff:** *On July 12, the BLM and OCL briefed majority staff of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and minority staff of the Senate Budget Committee on the BLM's Renewable Energy program. This briefing is a follow-up to the BLM's Jan. 20 briefing to minority staff of the Senate Budget Committee. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Issa and Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Sessions wrote to Secretary Salazar on May 29 inquiring about DOI's relationship to the DOE Loan Guarantee Program, specifically as it relates to seven BLM-approved renewable energy projects. The Congressional correspondence included document requests that are being coordinated by the Department.*

Miscellaneous

- ***New:*** **BLM-CO "Over the River" temporary art project:** *The Over the River Corporation (OTR) requested that the BLM amend the current OTR permit to provide for the OTR exhibition in August 2015, rather than in August 2014, as authorized in the EIS and Record of Decision. The BLM will treat the request to change the exhibition date as*

a request to renew the permit, which the BLM will consider when the current permit expires in 2014.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- ***Update:*** **Deepwater Well Containment Drill:** *BSEE is planning a deepwater deployment test in the Gulf of Mexico July 22 – Aug. 5. Director Watson will be onsite for the test. Members of Congress and foreign dignitaries have been invited to view the test from the command center in Louisiana. Acting Assistant Secretary Burke will oversee operations from the command center in DC. The Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC) will be the service company and Shell is the lead operator. BSEE has met with them regularly to develop objectives and discuss plans. Shell and MWCC will install a parking pile on the seafloor in over 7,000 feet of water to replicate a subsea wellhead the third week of July in preparation for the deployment test.*
- ***New:*** **Meeting with NASA:** *BSEE will meet with NASA July 12 to learn more about NASA's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program and to discuss the possibility of using UASs for monitoring of oil rigs and oil spills.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- ***Update:*** **2012 - 2017 Five Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** *On June 28, the Proposed Final Program (PFP) was sent to Congress. The PFP, together with the Final Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), has been posted on BOEM's website. The Notice of Availability of the EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 6 and the Notice of Availability of the 5 Year Program was published on July 13, 2012.*
- ***Update:*** **MA & RI Wind Energy Areas**: *On July 2, DOI announced the NOA of the EA for the RI/MA Area of Mutual Interest. Public information meetings will be held July 16-17, 2012. On May 24, the Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 consultation for the MA and RI wind energy areas was sent to the consulting parties for signature. As of July 12, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Tribe, ACHP, and the RI and MA SHPOs have signed the agreement; however, the Aquinnah have not signed.*
- ***Update: Rhode Island Offshore Wind Transmission Project:*** *BOEM received no submissions indicating competitive interest for the Block Island Transmission System (BITS) ROW grant in response to a Request for Competitive Interest that was published in the Federal Register on May 23, 2012. The determination of no competitive interest Federal Register notice is in surnaming.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- ***Update:*** **Transportation Bill Limits AML Payments:** *The transportation bill signed by the President on July 6 caps Abandoned Mine Land (AML) mandatory funding available to a certified state or tribe at $15 million per year. Certified states and tribes are those that have completed reclamation of all coal AML sites within their jurisdictions. Wyoming will be the state most significantly impacted because it is the only state which receives over $15 million per year. The Department and OMB are reviewing the provision and how monies are allocated within the AML fund. The Department briefed OMB on this provision on July 11.*

- ***New:*** **Marfork Coal Company Appeal:** *OSM is preparing a decision in response to an appeal by the State of WV regarding a permit extension issued by the State to Marfork Coal Company for its Eagle No. 2 mine in Raleigh County, WV. In February 2012, OSM issued a Ten-Day-Notice (TDN) to the State in response to a citizen's complaint alleging that Marfork's permit for the Eagle No. 2 mine had terminated due to the company's failure to initiate surface mining operations within three years of permit issuance, as required under SMCRA and the WV surface coal mining program. The State asserts that, despite the fact that Marfork had not initiated surface mining operations within the required 3 year period, because the State had not properly notified the company of the expiration as required under WV's coal program, the State's extension of the permit to June 2013 was appropriate. On June 8, the OSM's Charleston Field Office Director determined that the State's retroactive approval of permit extensions was not allowed under SMCRA or State law, and on June 8 the state appealed the Field Office decision to the Appalachian Regional Director. The Regional Director anticipates issuing a decision on this appeal within the next several weeks.*
- ***Update:*** **Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** *On July 12, OSM met with Senator Warner, VA Congressman Morgan Griffith, other Federal agencies, and state and local officials to discuss potential means for resolving issues related to the proposed expansion/reconstruction of the Grundy Municipal Airport into the Breaks Regional Airport. Senator Warner has requested that the various agencies hold a follow-up meeting next month to evaluate progress in resolving legal and factual disagreements.*
- ***Update:*** **Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition**: *On July 12, OSM briefed the Department on the current status of the Petition, including revised Petition boundaries. The TN Attorney General sent a letter on June 26 stating that changes in petition boundaries proposed by OSM would undermine values the State is seeking to protect in its petition. This represents a change from the State's earlier position in which it agreed that OSM's proposed map was more accurate than its own. OSM is preparing a response to the Attorney General's letter. OSM continues to work with its contractor and cooperating agencies to develop the Draft EIS and Petition Evaluation Document for the Petition.*

WEEK AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Sunday, July 15

- ***Update*:** **Annual Helium Facility Shutdown:** *The BLM's helium facility in Amarillo, TX, is scheduled to undergo annual maintenance over a 10-12-day period. This event is extensively planned and coordinated to ensure that disruption to the helium marketplace is minimal. Annual shutdowns have occurred since 2003 to conduct routine aintenance. Helium deliveries will continue during the scheduled shutdown. A short-term reduction of crude helium may result in reduced allocations from private companies to their customers. Corning Industries has expressed concern over the disruption of supplies, and has contacted House and Senate authorizing committees, Senator Hagan, and the White House. Acting Assistant Secretary Burke and BLM have met with Corning, and BLM is working with Corning to try to address Corning's concerns.*

Monday, July 16 – Thursday, July 20

- *New:* **BLM-WY ASLM Tour:** *Acting Assistant Secretary Burke will tour conventional and renewable energy projects in WY July 16-20. She will visit a coal mine in the Powder River Basin, uranium mining districts, and wind and transmission projects.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, July 16 - Tuesday, July 17

- **No Change: Offshore Wind Outreach in MA and RI:** Director Beaudreau and BOEM staff will host public information sessions to provide an overview of the EA and next steps in the leasing process for the RI/MA Area of Mutual Interest. The sessions are scheduled to take place in Narragansett, RI and New Bedford, MA.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Wednesday, July 18

- *New:* **Alaska Regional Interagency Working Group (ARIWG) Meeting:** *BSEE Alaska personnel will attend a meeting of the ARIWG in Anchorage. The meeting is intended to provide updates on Federal agency activities relating to Shell Offshore, Inc's., exploration activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Thursday, July 19

- *New:* **Hearing on Stream Protection Rule:** *The House Committee on Natural Resources invited Secretary Salazar and Director Pizarchik to provide testimony at a July 19 hearing to examine: 1) the status of the proposed Stream Protection Rule and the March 2010 settlement with plaintiffs concerning the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule, and 2) "the failure of the Department to comply with the official Congressional subpoenas for documents" related to the SPR. Director Pizarchik will testify. At the current time, the hearing consists of a single panel.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, July 23-Wednesday, July 25

- **No Change: National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Meeting:** The NLCS will hold a three-day, field-based workshop in Albuquerque, NM, to discuss updates to nine policy manuals and implementation of the NLCS 15-year Strategy.

Tuesday, August 7

- *New:* **National Clean Energy Summit 5.0 Power of Choice:** *The fifth annual National Clean Energy Summit will bring together clean energy visionaries and leaders, public officials, business executives and entrepreneurs, investors, students, and the media to*

discuss how to empower the public with tools to promote the clean energy economy, increasing jobs and our energy independence. The day-long clean energy summit will be hosted by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Secretary Ken Salazar and President Bill Clinton are scheduled to speak.

- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Oil & Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-WY will auction 117 Parcels totaling 61,518 acres at an oil and gas lease sale in Cheyenne, WY. The protest period ended on June 8; 3 protests were received. Protests filed identify concerns with parcels being within or in proximity to Greater sage-grouse habitat, Golden Eagle habitat, and a National Historic Trail. BLM-WY is currently working on a protest response and will have one available prior to lease issuance.*

Wednesday, August 8

- ***New:*** **BLM-NV Spring Valley Wind Dedication:** *BLM-NV will host a dedication to celebrate completion of the first wind energy generation facility to be constructed on public lands in Nevada. Acting BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze will speak at the dedication. Construction of the 150-MW Spring Valley wind project began in 2011 and is expected to be complete in August 2012. The project is on 7,673 acres of public lands 30 miles east of Ely, NV and consist of 75 wind turbines and an electrical substation. It will utilize an existing 230kV transmission line for distribution.*

Thursday, August 9

- ***New:*** **BLM-CO Oil & Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CO will auction 1 parcel totaling 921 acres at an oil and gas lease sale in Lakewood, CO. The protests period ended on June 11; No protest were filed. The sale is not expected to be controversial.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Nothing new to Report**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Wednesday, July 25 – Friday, August 3

- **No Change: The HALO Sea Barrier Defense will be tested at Ohmsett:** HALO's system is designed to handle multiple high impact incidents. The barrier can also be used as a platform to mount video surveillance cameras along the upper surface, provide sonar equipment attachment points underneath, drop netting to the sea floor to prevent diver attacks, and incorporate other deterrents such as lighting, sensors, and audible devices. Two HALO Sentinel barrier sections were recently tested at Ohmsett. A third barrier section will be added in this continuation of previous tests.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Farquhar, Ned; Baca, Sylvia; Ishee, Mary K; Mouritsen, Karen E; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell
Subject:	FW: ASLM/BLM/BOEM/BSEE/OSM action items
Date:	Monday, August 20, 2012 5:25:10 PM
Attachments:	8 24 12 Policy Calendar - Interior ASLM.xls

All,

Attached is the spreadsheet that Ken Lane sent out this morning showing major actions for our bureaus. Thus far, BLM has sent it's updates. I will forward under separate e-mail. Please note that this is a good look ahead at items of significance, some of which will be coming our way.

Rich

From: Lane, Kenneth
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Cardinale, Richard; Lillie, Thomas; Feldgus, Steven H; Lew, Shoshana M; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Krauss, Jeff; Lindow, Emily R
Subject: ASLM/BLM/BOEM/BSEE/OSM action items

Good morning everyone,

Need your updates to this policy calendar by COB Wednesday.

Thanks

Ken Lane
Senior Advisor to the Secretary,
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
Room 6142
202-208-7435 phone

Name of Announcement	Agency/ component	High Priority?	Current Status/ Next step	Final action/ expected date	Mandatory or discretionary?	Brief Description
August						
Oil Shale Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) Leases	DOI		Issue Environmental Assessment--August	Issue leases--Fall/Winter	Discretionary	The preliminary BLM EA for the 2nd round of oil shale RD&D leasing went out for 30-day public comment on May18. After the EA is completed there will be other activities associated with protest/appeals as well as issuing the leases. These leases are controversial because they replace larger leases initially proposed by the previous Administration in the last days in office which Secretary Salazar canceled shortly after becoming Secretary. Oil shale proponents opposed cancellation of the previous proposed lease and continue to advocate for their reinstatement and express their opposition to the more balanced lease program established by this Administration.
Final Five Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program	DOI	Y	June 28 - Submitted to Congress and POTUS for 60 day review	Implement the Final Plan -- August 27	Discretionary	On August 27, the Secretary will implement the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil &Gas Leasing Program 2012-2017. As mandated by the OCS Lands Act, the Proposed Final Program must be submitted to Congress. The Secretary may implement the Program in 60 days.
Area ID for Eastern GOM Sale 225	DOI	Y	In surnaming process	Announce the Area ID--by Mid August	Discretionary	By mid-August, BOEM will announce the Area ID for Eastern Gulf Sale 225, The sale is scheduled for 2014.
Area ID for Western GOM Sale 233	DOI	Y	In surnaming process	Announce the Area ID--by August 27	Discretionary	August 27 is the last possible day for the Director's decision on the Area ID. Target sale date is August 28, 2013.
Shell Arctic Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs)	DOI	Y	Additional information being received	Announce decision(s)--TBD	Discretionary	On January 31, Shell submitted incomplete Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) for two wells: one in the Beaufort Sea and one inthe Chukchi Sea. On April 17, Shell submitted additional information for those two APDs, and also submitted eight additional APDs, bringing the total to 10. BSEE is currently reviewing a total of ten APD's, four in the Beaufort and six in the Chukchi.
Safety and Environmental Management Systems II (SEMS II) (AA04)	DOI	Y	To OMB for review--August 15	Issue final rule--(T) TBD	Discretionary	BSEE is coordinating with US Coast Guard (USCG) on preparation of the rule. USCG has been invited to observe a SEMS audit. BSEE and USCG are working on a meomorandum of understanding to address roles and responsibilities.
September						
Hydraulic Fracturing Rule	DOI	Y	Proposed rule issued May 11; Public comment period to be extended additional 60 days from July 10 to September 10	TBD	Discretionary	BLM proposes a hydraulic fracturing fluid disclosure/well integrity/water resource protection rule, as referenced in the President's SOTU. The proposed rule has already generated extensive media and industry coverage. Some in the industry oppose a federal rule, claiming additional regulation is not necessary and/or state regulations are preferred. Other industry leaders have (quietly) expressed support for a federal disclosure rule.
Secretarial Order on Potash	DOI	Y	Published draft Order for 30-day public review--July 12	Issue final Order--Late September	Discretionary	Certain public lands in southeastern New Mexico contain deposits of both potash (potassium compounds, primarily used as agricultural fertilizer) and oil and gas, and the sequencing of production of these resources has long been a source of serious conflict. The new draft Secretarial Order seeks to address issues raised in long-running litigation over a 1986 Secretarial Order, and is greatly informed by discussions with and proposals made by the Joint Industry Technical Committee (JITC) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The revised Order will reflect consensus between the two industries on how to develop their respective resources.
Offshore Drilling Blowout Preventer (BOP) Rule	DOI	Y	In development	Issue draft rule--Late September/early October	Discretionary	BSEE is developing a proposed rule to be announced this fall to strengthen the operating and safety standards of BOPs used in offshore drilling based upon lessons learned from the various investigations into the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Macondo well blowout. The proposed rule is intended to ensure (1) BOPs are able to cut whatever is in their way and completely seal off the well; (2) better maintenance for BOPs, just as is expected for a jet engine; (3) better sensors on BOPs to communicate what is happening at the bottom of the sea; and (4) proper training of BOP operators to handle any contingency.

NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale	DOI	Y	Publish Notice of Sale--late September/no later than October 5	Sale date--November 7	Mandatory	In 2011, the President directed annual National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska annual oil and gas lease sales be conducted. This is the second annual lease sale since the President's directive.
Proposed Notice of Sale for Central Gulf Sale 227	DOI	Y	In process	Publish Notice of Availability for Proposed Notice of Sale--September 19	Discretionary	On September 19, BOEM will publish the Notice of Availability for Proposed Notice of Sale, Central Gulf Sale 227. The sale is tentatively scheduled for March 2013.
Delaware Commercial Lease for Wind Energy	DOI	Y	Non-competitive lease offer transmitted to Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC on July 17	sign commercial lease agreement--by end of September	Discretionary	Around the end of September, BOEM expects Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC, to sign a commercial lease agreement for a wind energy facility offshore Delaware. BOEM proceeded with a noncompetitive lease agreement after Bluewater submitted the only valid expression of commercial interest in response to the bureau's formal request for interest.
Southern Nevada Water Delivery System	DOI		Issue Final EIS--August 3	Issue ROD--September	Discretionary	BLM is preparing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a rights-of-way across public lands application by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). SNWA is proposing a system of regional water facilities and pipelines to transport water to the Las Vegas Valley. The final EIS selects a preferred alternative that includes only 4 of the 5 valleys requested by SNWA, but it is anticipated that SNWA supports the preferred alternative. The BLM will use the final EIS when rendering a decision whether to grant the requested rights-of-way. The BLM's action is to either grant or deny the request for rights-of-way across public land. The Final EIS will be available for public comment for 30 days.
October						
Final Notice of Sale (NOS) for Western Planning Area (WPA) Sale 229	DOI	Y	Publish Final Notice of Sale (NOS) in FR October 29	Lease sale--November 28	Discretionary	This is the Final NOS for the first lease sale in the Final Five Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2012-2017. On October 29, BOEM will publish the Final NOS for Western GOM Sale 229 to the Federal Register. The lease sale is scheduled for November 28, 2012.
Eagle Permit Rules	DOI	Y		Issue final fee/tenure rule--Mid-October	Discretionary	FWS is developing a final rule changing its 2009 Eagle Permit Rule in connection with wind energy development (implementing the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act) to extend the term of eagle "take" permits from a maximum of 5 years to up to 30 years, with an increase in the permit fee to approximately $36,000. Wind energy proponents will be supportive of the rule. The comment period for the proposed rule was extended from May 8 to July 12 (as was the comment period for a related Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for additional changes to the 2990 Eagle Permit Rule; if warranted by the comments, a proposed rule to change additional provisions of the 2009 rule would happen sometime in 2013, not 2012).
Pending						
Chokecherry/Sierra Madre (Wyoming) Wind Energy Project	DOI	Y	FEIS 30-day review and protest period ended July 30	Issue ROD--late summer/early fall	Discretionary	3,000 MW wind energy project to be developed by the Power Company of Wyoming, includes approx. 227,638 acers of federal, private and State lands and 1,000 wind turbines. The project would be the largest wind project on federal lands in the U.S. and would proivde enough renewable energy electricity generation to power approx. 1 million homes. The project is a 2012 DOI priority renewable energy project.
Oil Shale Rule	DOI	Y	Issue proposed rule--TBD; OMB and DOI are trying to resolve issue related to royalty rate provision	Issue final rule--November	Mandatory	In response to a lawsuit challenging 2008 regulations, per settlement agreement, DOI decided to revise the existing regulations to propose the removal of any royalty and to propose increasing the number of environmental reports needed from an applicant prior to leasing and development. BLM missed a May 15 (settlement agreement) deadline to issue a new proposed rule relating to the commercial development of oil shale. No action yet from plaintiffs, although they could trigger a 30-day dispute resolution process required before re-activating the lawsuit.

Coal Methane Capture Rule	DOI		BLM responded to OMB on July 18 to extensive EPA comments	Issue ANPR--TBD	Discretionary	BLM proposes to establish a program to capture, use, or destroy waste mine methane from federal coal leases and federal leases for other solid minerals. The proposed ANPR is at OIRA for review.
Production Safety Systems/Lifecycle Analysis (AA10)	DOI	Y	Proposed rule under agency review; Expect to start OMB review in August	Publication date TBD	Discretionary	BSEE--Fixes Best and Safest Technology (BAST) concerns in 30 CFR 107. Implements lifecycle analysis for critical equipment.

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cardinale, Richard; Davis, Vermell; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully
Subject: FW: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 6:45:00 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-23-12 final.docx

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Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

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Submitted by: Sylvia V. Baca, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-3671; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
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Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-23-12 final.docx

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From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully; Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: start of the shory weekly.
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 1:47:00 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-30-2012 DRAFT.docx

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Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
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Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
August 3023, 2012

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Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Sept. 10 and 11. Travel to Sacramento, CA on the evening of Sept. 12 through Sept. 14, to speak at the Western Regional Partnership meeting.
DAS Farquhar – In the office Sept. 10-13. (b) (6), (b) (5)

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - (b) (5)
  -

(b) (5)

- On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. In its response, Bluewater requested a modification of certain terms of the lease and a meeting with BOEM. Among the items Bluewater seeks to modify are the size of the lease area, various stipulations and survey requirements, and milestones associated with regulatory filings. On Aug. 21, BOEM held a meeting with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

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- **Secretarial Order on Potash and Oil and Gas Co-development** – On July 13, the BLM initiated a 30-day comment period for a draft Secretarial Order identifying how co-

development of potash and oil and gas resources should be conducted in Eddy and Lea Counties, NM. The comment period was extended for 15 days and will close on Aug. 31.

Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan

Submitted by: ~~Sylvia V. Baca~~Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting ~~Deputy~~ Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-~~3671~~2422; Cell: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Judy; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, August 30, 2012 5:31:26 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-30-2012.docx

Hi Jamey,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
August 3023, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

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I spent the past two weeks traveling to California and Oregon, with my travels ending with a trip to Tennessee yesterday. In Knoxville, I met with the

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burned. As of Aug. 16, the fires had impacted 76 grazing allotments, burning more than 50 percent of the acreage in these allotments, over 853,000 acres; over 100,000 AUMs have been lost. On Saturday, the BLM's Oregon State Office made a decision to conduct an emergency gather of almost half the 350 horses in the Paisley area of southeastern Oregon near Lakeview, due to dwindling natural water sources and infeasibility of hauling water over rough roads.

(b) (5)

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

(b) (5)

Week of September 3, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Sept. 5-7.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of September 10, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Sept. 10 and 11. On Sept. 12, making presentation to the Johns Hopkins University Energy Policy and Climate Forum in Washington, DC. Travel to Sacramento, CA on the evening of Sept. 12 through Sept. 14; to ~~speak at~~co-host the Western

Regional Partnership annual meeting.
DAS Farquhar –(b) (5), (b) (6)

~~1~~4In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

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(b) (5)

- On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. In its response, Bluewater requested a modification of certain terms of the lease and a meeting with BOEM. Among the items Bluewater seeks to modify are the size of the lease area, various stipulations and survey requirements, and milestones associated with regulatory filings. On Aug. 21, BOEM held a meeting with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

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- **Oil Shale 2nd Round of Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D) Leases:** On Aug. 30, BLM-COolorado expects to sign the decision record for the environmental analysis prepared to support the BLM's upcoming issuance of two RD&D oil shale leases located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Issuance of these two leases demonstrates the BLM's commitment to encouraging industry to develop and test technologies aimed at developing oil shale resources on a commercial scale. These leases stem from a November 2009 call for nominations, which was a follow-up to an initial round of nominations in 2007 in which BLM issued six RD&D leases. ~~were issued.~~

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- **Secretarial Order on Potash and Oil and Gas Co-development:** The public comment period for the Potash and Oil and Gas Development Secretarial Order is scheduled to close on Aug. 31. The comment period was initiated on Jul. 13 for 30 days, but was extended for an additional 15 days at the public's request (b) (5)

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Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Im~~plementation~~plementation

Submitted by: ~~Sylvia V. Baca~~Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting ~~Deputy~~ Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-~~3671~~2422; Cell:
(b) (6)

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cunningham, Celina P
Subject: FW: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2012 3:53:00 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-23-12 final.docx

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Karen Mouritsen
BLM Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5444 desk, (202) 329-2030 cell, (202) 208-6243 fax

From: Cardinale, Richard
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 5:28 PM
To: Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Baca, Sylvia; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary

Jamey,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
August 23, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

I am writing this week in Marcilynn's stead as she has been on official travel in California and Oregon. Although Marcilynn's personal message next week will speak in greater detail about her trip, I wanted you to know that to date she has met with employees and senior management in the BOEM/BSEE Pacific Region office in Camarillo, CA. In Camarillo, she received briefings from staff and senior management regarding issues of importance in the Pacific Region and held an "all employee" meeting that covered a range of subjects. The meeting included feedback from employees on the BOEM/BSEE reorganization. She then traveled to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, CA where she received a number of high level briefings from senior management about Vandenberg's mission and its relationship to the work performed by BOEM, BSEE, and BLM. She then traveled north to tour the Fort Ord National Monument and meet with monument management and staff to discuss long-term management and community expectations for the Monument. While in northern California, she also toured the Coast Dairies property, a large privately-owned coastal property near Santa Cruz that the BLM is in the process of acquiring.

As of August 23, Marcilynn is in BLM's Medford District, meeting with BLM management and staff concerning forestry management issues and to tour two pilot projects. I am particularly glad that Marcilynn is visiting the Medford District to learn more about Western Oregon forestry issues. She will also meet with the Coquille Tribe to discuss a joint timber management project between the BLM and the Tribe. You may recall that during our December 2010 Western Oregon Forestry Summit, we discussed and reached agreement on a path forward for timber management based on the principles of ecological forestry management espoused by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. Those principles are now being tested through three timber pilot projects that we selected at the summit.

As you know, we have been closely following fire and drought issues throughout this summer. This week, the BLM reported that, as of mid-August, nearly 3 million acres of BLM-managed rangelands, woodlands, and forests have burned in the lower forty-eight. More than 2 million of these acres are in sage-grouse habitat, primarily in the Great Basin States. In contrast, 2.4 million acres burned in 2006 and 2 million acres burned in 2007. I understand that BLM is prioritizing rehabilitation work in sage grouse habitat areas to try to control the long-term impacts that may result from soil erosion, invasive grasses, and the continued drought.

As I wrap up my tenure at DOI, I have been thinking about the future of the Interagency Land Use Coordinating Committee (ILUCC), particularly since the recent execution of the MOU. We have used the ILUCC to enhance cooperation between DOI and DoD to facilitate appropriate resource management. Through the consultation processes we have set up, and through enhanced awareness of the issues, we can now resolve potential conflicts between DoD and DOI missions on withdrawn public lands. We also have begun early coordination when DoD needs to obtain Congressional approval for new withdrawals or the extension of existing withdrawals.

Finally, we are reaching agreement on principles for engaging in joint land use planning projects. All of these are significant advances in cooperation between the two Departments. As important as these steps are, I feel the most important accomplishment is DoD's enhanced awareness, at both the field and headquarters levels, of the mission, needs, and strengths of the BLM and DOI. In return, BLM and other DOI bureaus have similarly gained a greater understanding of the DoD mission, needs, and strengths.

I feel strongly that we need to continue the valuable work that the ILUCC has been performing. I have discussed some of my ideas with Acting Assistant Secretary Burke and Steve Black. I hope to leave some ideas that Assistant Secretary Burke can implement in the future.

Now that the MOU is in place, I believe it is important as we move forward to integrate and coordinate our offshore renewable energy development activities in the deliberations of the ILUCC. Additionally, I believe that the ILUCC should further understand the important role of transmission infrastructure as it will be crucial to delivering renewable energy to the grid. Finally, I want to recognize tireless efforts of Ted Boling and Aaron Moody of the Solicitor's office. The MOU would not have been possible without their guidance and perseverance, which helped ensure its successful completion.

I appreciated the opportunity to work with Steve Black and Ruchi Sadhir on the Rapid Response Transmission Team (RRTT). I have been following the progress of the nine pilot projects. In particular, I have been working with BLM-NM State Director Jesse Juen and BLM-AZ State Director Ray Suazo on issues regarding the SunZia Transmission Project, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2013. We have been working closely with the U.S. FWS and DoD to resolve the last of the remaining issues that will allow this project to move forward. Symbolically, completion of this project demonstrates that the Federal Government can permit a major transmission line in an efficient and coordinated fashion. Completion of this pilot project will mark a major milestone in achieving one of the priority RRTT projects, as well as one of the President's major infrastructure projects.

On Wednesday, August 22, I traveled to Grundy, Virginia to meet with Senator Mark Warner and local officials to discuss the progress on the Breaks Regional Airport. Together with representatives of the FAA, we presented a coordinated strategy for the airport expansion project. Recently, all parties reached agreement that the airport authority would no longer pursue an Abandoned Mine Lands Enhancement Exemption in connection with the proposed airport expansion. Instead, the airport authority will pursue a Government Financed Construction Exemption (GFE). Also, we agreed that one EIS would be prepared; the FAA will serve as the lead for the EIS and OSM will be a cooperating agency. Senator Warner was pleased that all parties have agreed on a path forward and urged the airport authority to provide the necessary documentation to the OSM and FAA.

I also have been working with Director Pizarchik and the Solicitor's office to identify a suitable number of alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIS for the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable Petition. Acting ASLM Burke will be traveling to Tennessee next week to discuss these alternatives with Tennessee Attorney General Robert Cooper.

As I approach my last day with DOI (Aug. 24), I have been reflecting on how I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with the leadership of OSM and BLM and their respective career staff to achieve the many important priority goals and initiatives of this Administration. I have served the Department of the Interior for a total of nine years in a variety of capacities in ASLM. I have witnessed first-hand the multitude of complex land management issues we are expected to effectively address within the constraints of challenging fiscal and political climates. My experience has taught me that the Department of the Interior has no greater asset than its dedicated career employees. As a westerner, I greatly appreciate the commitment and passion of our workforce in protecting America's special places. I am proud to have served alongside these dedicated professionals. Once again, thank you for the honor and privilege to serve the American people and to be a part of your team.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of August 27, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Aug. 28 & 30-31. Travel to TN on Aug. 29 to meet with the TN Attorney General on the TN Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition.
DAS Farquhar – Travel to Denver, CO, on Aug. 27-30 for facilitated leadership training. In the office on Aug. 31.

Week of September 3, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Sept. 5-7.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - On Aug. 8, BOEM held a joint **RI/MA** task force meeting to discuss the draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) in RI. On Aug. 22, BOEM received the task force's comments on the PSN. BOEM intends to publish the RI/MA PSN in Sept./Oct.
  - On Aug. 17, the SOL's office received the **VA** PSN package for review. BOEM expects to publish the VA PSN in mid-Sept.
  - On Aug. 2, BOEM held a task force meeting in **N.C.** On Aug. 16, BOEM circulated a draft of the N.C. Call for Information to the task force. Comments from the task force are due to BOEM on Aug. 23.
  - On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. In its response, Bluewater requested a modification of certain terms of the lease and a meeting with BOEM. Among the items Bluewater seeks to modify are the size of the lease area, various stipulations and survey requirements, and milestones associated with regulatory filings. On Aug. 21, BOEM held a meeting with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.
- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** The inspection and deployment test of the containment system has been

postponed and rescheduled for Aug. 26-27. BSEE anticipates being able to make a decision on Shell APDs soon after the deployment testing and inspection.

- **NPRA Oil and Gas Lease Sale** – BLM-AK is currently working on the draft lease sale configuration and NEPA review for the tracts to be offered for its upcoming lease sale. The target date for finalizing the tracts to be offered is Aug. 24. The tracts that will be made available will be consistent with the planning decisions contemplated in the preferred alternative of the current NPR-A planning effort. BLM-AK expects to submit its Federal Register Notice request for the Notice of Sale to BLM-WO by Sept. 10. The targeted publishing date is no later than Oct. 5.

- **Onshore Order Number 9 (Venting and Flaring)** – On Aug. 17, ASLM was briefed on the content of the BLM's proposed Onshore Order Number 9 draft rule. Tribal consultation is tentatively scheduled for the end of the year. The proposed rule is expected to be ready for OMB/OIRA final review by Jan. 22, 2013.

- **STRONGER (State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations) Board Meeting** – On Aug. 29 and 30, the STRONGER group will be holding their annual board meeting in Crystal City, VA. BLM has been invited to discuss the details of the hydraulic fracturing rule. STRONGER is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization made up of members of the oil and gas industry, state oil and gas regulators, and environmental organizations. Its goals are to share innovative techniques and environmental protection strategies, and identify opportunities for improvement of state oil and gas regulatory programs.

- **Oil Shale Programmatic EIS** – On Aug. 30, BLM will brief ASLM on the agency's plans to issue the Final Programmatic EIS in the Federal Register. The document addresses public comments and is currently being finalized. The PEIS must be published by Sept. 21 in order to remain on schedule for a ROD to be signed by Dec. 31,(b) (5)

- **Secretarial Order on Potash and Oil and Gas Co-development** – On July 13, the BLM initiated a 30-day comment period for a draft Secretarial Order identifying how co-development of potash and oil and gas resources should be conducted in Eddy and Lea Counties, NM. The comment period was extended for 15 days and will close on Aug. 31.

Ongoing Projects:
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan

Submitted by: Sylvia V. Baca, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-3671; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard
Subject:	RE: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, August 30, 2012 6:07:08 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 8-30-2012.docx

Jamey – please use this version. My apologies.

Celina

Celina Cunningham
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

From: Cunningham, Celina P
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 5:31 PM
To: Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, Vermell; 'Jully.McQuilliams@boem.gov'; Barlan, Bryce (bbarlan@blm.gov); Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard
Subject: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary

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Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
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(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
August 30, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, my thoughts are with the employees of BOEM and BSEE and all the residents of the Gulf Coast who are experiencing the destruction of the season's first hurricane to make landfall. BSEE's Hurricane Response Team is hard at work helping to ensure the safety of all personnel and to make sure facilities are not reopened until it has conducted all appropriate inspections.

Thank you for your leadership on the development of BOEM's Five Year Program and your approval of the Program on Monday. The Five Year Program is an important part of our comprehensive all-of-the-above energy strategy, offering more than 75 percent of the total undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources estimated for the entire OCS. I congratulate Director Beaudreau and his hardworking team on this major accomplishment.

I spent the past two weeks traveling to California and Oregon, with my travels ending with a trip to Tennessee yesterday. In Knoxville, I met with the Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper to discuss the status of the State's Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. We had a productive meeting and I assured him that we would fully and fairly consider the State's petition along with a reasonable range of alternatives. We outlined a plan for moving forward, and the State agreed to provide OSM with additional information and to work with OSM to refine the boundaries under consideration in the Petition. Once this information is provided, OSM will proceed with its evaluation of the Petition and analysis of the alternatives in an EIS.

My West Coast trip was both busy and informative. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to visit with a number of dedicated employees who are engaged in the day-to-day work of BOEM, BSEE, and the BLM. On Monday, I was in Camarillo, California where I met with the employees and senior management in the BOEM/BSEE Pacific Regional Office. Employees raised some continuing concerns about the re-organization upon which I think we should reflect as we near the one-year anniversary of the creation of BOEM and BSEE. On Tuesday, BOEM and BSEE staff accompanied me to Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), which occupies 46 miles of coastline, including part of the BLM's California Coastal National Monument. I toured the operations center for launching missiles over the Pacific and learned about how the AFB closely coordinates their missile launches with local governments and BSEE, for the safety of people on land and on the offshore oil platforms. The technology was impressive, as was the coordination by the Air Force leadership with our bureaus.

While at Vandenberg AFB, I met with a group of award-winning Airmen and presented America the Beautiful passes to them as a token of our appreciation for their work and as encouragement for them to reconnect with America's Great Outdoors. The Airmen were grateful for the passes, and we had an engaging discussion about innovation at the Department and the AFB.

After visiting Vandenberg AFB, I toured several spectacular BLM areas in California, including the Piedras Blancas Light Station, Fort Ord National Monument, and the Coast Dairies property, which the BLM will acquire from the Trust for Public Land.

Next I went to Medford, Oregon, where the BLM highlighted the complex ecological, social, and economic issues facing the region. I had an opportunity while there to visit the Pilot Joe ecological forestry project. The ability of the BLM to work though these difficult forestry issues is noteworthy and a testament to their dedication, skill and patience. I also met with leaders of the Coquille Tribe, who have partnered with the BLM on the ecological forestry project in the Coos Bay area. The Tribe expressed a desire to assume an even greater role in partnering with the Administration on forestry projects in Western Oregon moving forward.

In addition to discussing forestry issues, I also visited some of the Medford District's most spectacular landscapes, including the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Soda Mountain Wilderness, and the Table Rocks AGO project. The recreation trails and facilities at Table Rocks are heavily used by the Medford community, and the BLM is planning several new trails and facilities to handle the expected increase in visitation following its designation as an AGO project.

The BLM continues to monitor and report to me on the drought and fire situation. As of Aug. 21, a record high of more than 3.2 million acres of BLM-managed land in the lower 48 states has burned. As of Aug. 16, the fires had impacted 76 grazing allotments, burning more than 50 percent of the acreage in these allotments, over 853,000 acres; over 100,000 AUMs have been lost. On Saturday, the BLM's Oregon State Office made a decision to conduct an emergency gather of almost half the 350 horses in the Paisley area of southeastern Oregon near Lakeview, due to dwindling natural water sources and infeasibility of hauling water over rough roads.

I discussed the fire situation with the staff of the Medford District Office during my visit there. In that office, as in many others throughout the BLM and other DOI bureaus, the regular fire staff is receiving help from non-fire program employees. This assistance is invaluable for our firefighting efforts. As we continue to recognize their efforts, we should also highlight the roles of the employees who remain in the home offices and assume additional duties to cover for those who are on fire duty.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of September 3, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Sept. 5-7.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of September 10, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Sept. 10 and 11. On Sept. 12, making presentation to the Johns Hopkins University Energy Policy and Climate Forum in Washington, DC. Travel to Sacramento, CA on the evening of Sept. 12 through Sept. 14, to co-host the Western Regional

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- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - On Aug. 22, BOEM received comments from the joint **RI/MA** task force on the draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). At the request of the task force, BOEM extended the comment period on the PSN to Sept. 5. BOEM intends to publish the PSN in Sept./Oct.

  - On Aug. 17, the SOL's office received the **VA** PSN package for review. BOEM expects to publish the VA PSN in mid-to late Sept.

  - On Aug. 16, BOEM circulated a draft of the **NC** Call for Information to the task force. On Aug. 23, BOEM received comments from the NC task force on the draft Call for Information. These comments included input from the USCG, NPS, and the State of NC. BOEM has incorporated these comments, as appropriate, into the draft Call. BOEM has deferred decision-making regarding Areas 3 and 4 until after the Call for Wilmington-East, Wilmington-West, and Kitty Hawk are concluded.

  - On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. In its response, Bluewater requested a modification of certain terms of the lease and a meeting with BOEM. Among the items Bluewater seeks to modify are the size of the lease area, various stipulations and survey requirements, and milestones associated with regulatory filings. On Aug. 21, BOEM held a meeting with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** On Aug. 26-27, BSEE inspected the containment system in Bellingham, Washington. The containment system has not been certificated by the U.S. Coast Guard. On Aug. 30, BSEE announced that it will allow Shell to move forward with limited preparatory activities that are in non-oil-bearing zones and can be conducted safely prior to the certification and arrival of the containment system.

- **Oil Shale 2nd Round of Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D) Leases:** On Aug. 30, BLM-CO expects to sign the decision record for the environmental analysis prepared to support the BLM's upcoming issuance of two RD&D oil shale leases located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Issuance of these two leases demonstrates the BLM's commitment to encouraging industry to develop and test technologies aimed at developing oil shale resources on a commercial scale. These leases stem from a November 2009 call for nominations, which was a follow-up to an initial round of nominations in 2007 in which BLM issued six RD&D leases.

- **Secretarial Order on Potash and Oil and Gas Co-development:** The public comment period for the Potash and Oil and Gas Development Secretarial Order is scheduled to close

on Aug. 31. The comment period was initiated on Jul. 13 for 30 days but was extended for an additional 15 days at the public's request.

- **Update: Proposed Expansion of Grundy Municipal Airport in Virginia:** At the request of Sen. Mark Warner, the Breaks Regional Airport Authority plans to provide, by Oct. 7, a revised proposal for expanding the municipal airport in Grundy, Virginia to the Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation. The Airport Authority will also provide certain additional information to OSM by Oct. 7.

- **Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation Report for Western OR:** The BLM-OR has posted the RMP Evaluation Report that covers 2.5 million acres within 6 western Oregon BLM units under the 1995 Western Oregon RMPs (the same areas covered under the 2008 Western Oregon Plan Revisions). The Report found a need for changes in the timber, wildlife, and other programs, indicating a plan revision is appropriate. The BLM will use this plan evaluation, along with public input and the cooperating agencies process, to inform RMP revision efforts.

Ongoing Projects:
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell:
(b) (6)

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Anderson, James E
Cc:	August, Elliott D; Farquhar, Ned; Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K; Cardinale, Richard; Davis, Vermell; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, September 06, 2012 3:03:18 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-6-12.docx

Jamey – Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
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Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
September 6, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

As you know, Hurricane Isaac passed through the Gulf of Mexico oil and gas platforms without any significant damage to facilities or pollution incidents. This lack of damage is in part a testament to BSEE's strong safety standards and effective execution of shut-in procedures. Most of the oil and gas production has been returned to normal operations. I commend BSEE employees for their hard work through the storm, particularly given that some of them experienced flooded homes and loss of power. BOEM employees were similarly affected by the hurricane and have likewise weathered it out with firm resolve to continue to serve the American people.

I would like to congratulate the BLM for reaching agreement with a landowner for the first private wild horse and burro ecosanctuary, which is located near Rawlins, Wyoming. This agreement is a significant step forward in implementing the goals you have advocated for in the long-term management of the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

The BLM continues to monitor and report to me on the drought and fire situation. As of September 6, a record high of more than 3.34 million acres of BLM-managed land in the lower 48 states have burned, including 2 million acres of sage-grouse habitat. As of August 16, the fires had impacted 76 grazing allotments, burning more than 50 percent of the acreage in these allotments, over 853,000 acres. As a result, more than 100,000 Animal Unit Months have been lost.

Over the next couple of weeks, I have several trips/engagements planned. On September 12, I will be a guest speaker at Johns Hopkins Energy Policy and Climate graduate program in Washington, DC. The Master of Science program prepares the next generation of interdisciplinary professionals to address the challenges of climate change and sustainable energy systems. I look forward to sharing our energy priorities, particularly renewable energy development, with future leaders in this field. Later that day, I will travel to Sacramento, California, to co-host the 4th annual meeting of the Western Regional Partnership (WRP).

The WRP is an important resource for the Department, the Department of Defense, western states, and tribes to address proactively common goals and identify challenges relating to protecting natural resources, promoting sustainability, and preparing for military readiness. On the first day, I will participate as a principal of this group. The other principals are John Conger of DoD and Governor Herbert. On the second day, I will moderate two plenary sessions: one on endangered species listing, critical habitat, and federal land policy and another on current energy issues with tribes, Federal agencies, states, and industry. These collaborative relationships will help advance our all-of-the-above energy strategy.

I am also preparing for a trip to Alaska, where I will speak on September 19 at the 8th Annual Alaska Oil and Gas Congress at the Canadian Institute. My speech will feature the Department's role in domestic energy production in Alaska. I will also discuss recent successes and ongoing efforts in conventional energy development, such as the upcoming November NPR-A oil and gas lease sale. I look forward to sharing highlights of the trip upon my return.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge Mary Katherine (MK) Ishee's hard work and tireless dedication to the Department. This week MK is preparing for a September 13 House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Department's Drilling Moratorium Report. In her various positions in the Department over the past 3 ½ years, MK has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the goals and priorities of the Department and to the highest standard of public service. She is a strong and steady hand wherever she serves, and I am confident that she will continue to represent the Department well.

And last, but certainly not least, congratulations on clearly and persuasively articulating our role in this Administration's stewardship of the nation's natural resources and its all-of-the-above energy strategy at the Democratic National Convention!

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of September 10, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Sept. 10 and 11. On Sept. 12, deliver presentation to the Johns Hopkins University Energy Policy and Climate Forum in Washington, DC. Travel to Sacramento, CA on the evening of Sept. 12 through Sept. 14, to co-host the Western Regional Partnership annual meeting.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of September 17, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – Traveling Sept. 17 – 20. Travel to AK on Sept. 14 through Sept. 20 to address the Canadian Institute on September 19 on Federal oil and gas milestones.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6)

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - On Sept. 5, BOEM received comments from the joint **RI/MA** task force on the draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). BOEM intends to publish the PSN in late Sept. On Aug. 28, Cape Wind updated its Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan to address FWS concerns.

  - ASLM began reviewing the **VA** PSN package on Sept. 6. BOEM expects to publish the VA PSN during the week of Sept. 10.

- On Aug. 16, BOEM circulated a draft of the **NC** Call for Information to the task force. As of Sept. 4, BOEM is incorporating comments into the Call. These comments included input from the USCG, NPS, and the State of NC. BOEM deferred decision-making regarding Areas 3 and 4 until after the Call for Wilmington-East, Wilmington-West, and Kitty Hawk are concluded.

- On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. On Aug. 21 and Sept. 6, BOEM held meetings with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

- BOEM is currently reviewing the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease. BOEM anticipates publication of the RFI by early Oct.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** On Aug. 26-27, BSEE inspected the surface portion of the containment system in Bellingham, Washington. Deployment testing by the USCG and the American Bureau of Shipping for the subsurface portion of the containment system is scheduled for Sept. 6. On Aug. 30, BSEE announced that it will allow Shell to move forward in the Chukchi Sea with limited preparatory activities that are in non-oil-bearing zones and can be conducted safely prior to the certification and arrival of the containment system. On Aug. 31, Shell requested a similar limited and preparatory permit for top-hole drilling in the Beaufort Sea from BOEM.

- **BLM-CO White River Field Office Oil and Gas Plan Amendment:** On Sept. 7, the Notice of Availability for public comment on the Draft EIS for the White River Resource Management Plan Oil and Gas Amendment is scheduled to be issued. The Draft EIS analyzes four development alternatives that range from 4,603 new wells on 550 new well pads to 21,200 new wells on 2,556 new well pads. The draft plan amendment also proposes a number of possible state-of-the-art and innovative mitigation measures to minimize impacts to wildlife, air quality, and other sensitive resources. These measures include options for restricting the amount of disturbance within a given area at any one time and the use of air emission control technologies. The comment period ends on Dec. 14.

- **Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project EIS:** OSM is currently preparing an EIS for BHP Navajo Coal Company's permit application for the Pinabete Mine permit area in New Mexico. As a result extension requests received during scoping meetings in mid-August, OSM is extending the deadline for receipt of public comments from Sept. 17, 2012, to Nov. 1, 2012.

- **Patriot Coal Corporation and Environmental Groups Reach Agreement on Company's Bankruptcy**: On July 9, Patriot Coal Corporation filed for bankruptcy—the first United States coal producer to do so since coal prices started declining in early 2012. On Sept. 11, a hearing is scheduled on motions in support of transferring the bankruptcy case from the Southern District of New York to the Southern District of West Virginia. Environmental groups have reached an agreement in principle with Patriot concerning its major liability for treating selenium at several mountaintop removal mining operations in West Virginia.

- **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition:** On Aug. 29, Acting ASLM and OSM met with the TN Attorney General and other state officials, at which time the State clarified the objectives in the Petition and agreed to deliver additional technical information to OSM. On Sept. 10, the State and OSM will conduct a technical meeting to further discus the boundaries of the petition area. OSM plans to use the information gathered in the Aug. 29 meeting and the September 10 technical meeting to refine and finalize alternatives that it will analyze in the EIS for the Petition.

Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- Onshore orders
- Hydraulic fracturing rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Oil Shale PEIS and rulemaking

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Boddington, Celia
To: Mouritsen, Karen E
Cc: Lin, Janet H; Evia, Aristotle E
Subject: Hot Topics
Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 4:43:02 PM
Attachments: September 2012 BLM CA Hot Topics - Look Aheads.doc
09 11 12 BLM Nevada Hot Topics.docx
UTAH Hot Topics Sept 2012.docx
NEW MEXICO HotTopics 9-11-12.docx

Karen – hot topics per your request. Arizona to follow. Thanks, Celia

BLM Nevada Hot Topics
September 11, 2012

Drought
As of September 4, 2012, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported 100 percent of Nevada in some stage of drought with more than 70 percent categorized as severe or extreme. Projections through November indicate that the drought could persist or intensify throughout the state.

The drought conditions are causing extreme fire danger and more than 650,000 acres have burned this season on BLM Nevada lands. The low rainfall and high fire activity is also impacting preliminary priority and general Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Fire has burned 57,145 acres of PGH and 346,300 acres of PPH. This represents approximately 3% of the total Greater Sage-grouse habitat in Nevada.

In general, both forage and water are limited due to drought conditions and BLM staff continues to monitor rangeland health with cooperation from partners and permittees. Grazing permittees are preparing for changes in fall turnout, if necessary. Wild horse specialists are monitoring drought impacts throughout the state's HMAs.

The Battle Mountain District has prepared a drought response plan. The Carson City District is in the process of drafting an EA for a drought response plan to be completed by September 30, 2012, with a public comment period around mid to late October and Decision by the end of November 2012.

Greater Sage-Grouse
In February 2010 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a "warranted but precluded" finding making Greater Sage-Grouse a candidate for listing. A final listing decision is expected in FY 2015.

Major threats are habitat fragmentation and habitat loss due to fire, invasive species, conifer encroachment, development and conversion to cheat grass. A major concern of the FWS is the lack of federal regulatory mechanisms (land use plans) adequately addressing sage grouse.

To address the Greater Sage-grouse situation, BLM Nevada is implementing Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures and preparing four Sub-Regional Plan Amendments for BLM and Forest Service plans in Nevada and northeast California; Oregon, Idaho and southwest Montana; and Utah. Activities proposed on public lands within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat are also being tracked using maps developed in coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Timeline for the Greater Sage-grouse planning process:

- NOI published 12/9/2011
- Public Scoping completed 3/23/2012
- Draft EISs Published Estimated during April 2012
- Final EISs Published Estimated During December 2013
- Records of Decision Signed Estimated During September 2014

Anticipated Range of Alternatives

- Alternative A: Continue Present Management under Current Land Use Plans (No Action)
- Alternative B: National Technical Team Report Proposed Conservation Measures (BLM/FS National-Level Agency Alternative)
- Alternative C: Conservation Measures Proposed by Conservation Organizations (Public Alternative)
- Alternative D: Sub-Regional Proposed Conservation Measures (BLM/FS State-Level Agency Alternative)
- Alternative E: State Proposed Conservation Measures (State Alternative)
- Alternative F: Optional to resolve any Issues not addressed under the above alternatives.

Livestock grazing/Wild Horses

Due to a dry 2011-2012 winter, there is very limited forage in Nevada and in many areas and scarce water availability to sustain the wild horse and burro populations. There also is limited forage growth and many of Nevada's wild horse and burro populations are eating last year's leftover forage (in most cases cheatgrass) or shrub species that provide little to no nutrients.

The drought has created water supply issues (drying of springs and reservoirs) and the BLM has begun hauling or pumping of water to five herd management areas (HMAs) to sustain the animals in those areas until management actions can be taken. Most of these HMAs are on the proposed 2013 gather schedule.

Escalating drought conditions are causing the BLM Nevada to seek voluntary livestock removals and voluntary non-use from some permittees on grazing allotments. While voluntary compliance is preferred, the BLM can expect to issue specific decisions to remove livestock or temporarily close allotments to grazing.

Comstock Mining Trespass

In October 2011, Comstock Mining Inc. (CMI) submitted a right of way (ROW) application to add four road segments across public land to an existing ROW which included portions of American Flat Road. The four road segments were situated on public land between CMI's mining areas on private land and their processing facilities also on private land. The ROW application was incomplete and subsequently withdrawn by the applicant on December 20, 2011. As part of their October ROW application, CMI identified that one of the four road segments crossed "Lot 51" which has been confirmed as BLM-managed lands by NSO Cadastral Survey, however CMI is disputing this.

On May 16, 2012, the BLM conducted an inspection of the area that revealed that CMI was in trespass owing to their unauthorized use of public land and restricting of access across public land.

Since becoming aware of the trespass BLM has issued a Notice to Cease and Desist and Notice of Trespass to CMI and met with CMI's president and environmental manager to clarify the steps necessary to resolve the trespass.

Through negotiations with CMI, BLM requested two applications; one for the restricted use of American Flat Road to allow their commercial use in the interim while a full analysis was taking place on a second application. This second application would be in connection with all of their right-of-way needs in the project area and would be in support of the Plan of Development (POD) requested during negotiations.

On July 6, 2012, BLM closed trespass case NVN 091117 and issued a right-of-way for the commercial use of American Flat Road to Comstock Mining, LLC, within a restricted footprint from the processing facility on private land to Highway 342.

On August 29, the BLM received a Plan of Development/Right of Way application and maps sufficient enough to determine the level of compliance needed under NEPA and NHPA. It has been determined that an EA is the minimum level of compliance required for this project

HOT TOPICS
BLM New Mexico
September 11, 2012

SunZia Transmission Line Right-of-Way: SunZia has proposed to construct, operate, and maintain two parallel overhead 500 KV transmission lines to tap into a high-potential wind energy area in New Mexico and Arizona. The BLM completed the 90 day public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on August 22, 2012. Additionally, the BLM has completed the latest round of Cooperating Agency meetings. These meetings took place on September 5 and 6, 2012. Remaining issues are described below, however, BLM believes we are close to resolving or mitigating these concerns. The Final EIS is scheduled for completion January 2013.

The military has issues with some of the alternative routes near their lands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as well as the conservation community has raised concerns about potential impacts of overhead power lines crossing the Rio Grande and San Pedro rivers to migratory birds and an endangered species (the southwest willow flycatcher). Two Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Districts (Winkleman and Redington) have expressed concerns over impacts to sensitive areas in Arizona. The National Park Service is also providing detailed information related to visual and cultural site impacts on lands located outside the boundary of the Gran Quivira National Monument in New Mexico. BLM is optimistic that an acceptable route can be agreed upon within the existing analysis area.

Potash/Oil and Gas Development: With a legacy of over 30 years of intense litigation with the oil and gas/potash industries over access and development rights within the Secretary's Potash Area, the Joint Industry Technical Committee (JITC) was convened to seek technical solutions to address co-development issues in the potash area through a science based approach. The JITC forged pioneering and innovative ways of communicating and doing business between these two nationally important resource industries. The committee sought mutually-acceptable co-development solutions, breaking the cycle of litigation that previously defined industry relationships. Due largely to the JITC's efforts, a draft Secretarial Order to promote orderly and safe development of oil and gas and potash development was announced by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on July 12, 2012. Public comments were received on the proposal and are being reviewed and considered in the preparation of a final Secretarial Order.

Rio Puerco RMP: The BLM is revising the *Rio Puerco RMP* for the counties of Bernalillo, Cibola, Torrance, Valencia, most of Sandoval County, and portions of McKinley County. The draft RMP was published in the Federal Register on July 13. A 90-day public comment period ends on October 11, 2012. The BLM is holding public workshops in seven communities (Gallup, Grants, Moriarty, Los Lunas, Bernalillo, Albuquerque and Cuba) to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and receive input from the general public, and interested groups. At this time, it is not anticipated that the revised land use plan would be controversial. Public attention, as it may relate to controversy, could be drawn to the issues related to land disposal, rights-of-way, woodcutting, and mineral material sales.

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument Plan: The BLM has published a draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. Prehistoric Trackways National Monument is located northwest of Las Cruces, NM, in Dona Ana County. The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument was designated in the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Act to protect the high concentration of scientifically significant fossilized trackways from the Permian age located in this area. Publication of the draft RMP in the Federal Register occurred on July 13. The 90-day comment period is open until October 11, 2012. Comments are expected from off-road trail enthusiasts.

Tri-County RMP: The TriCounty RMP/EIS will revise the Mimbres RMP (1993) and the White Sands RMP (1986) for management decisions in Dona Ana, Sierra, and Otero Counties. BLM Washington Office comments are currently being addressed and incorporated into the draft. It is expected that the TriCounty RMP Federal Register Notice of Availability package will be initiated in the fall of 2012. The public is interested in a variety of multiple use issues such as off-road trails, special designations, and oil and gas development.

Name of Announcement	Agency	Timing / Target Date	Current Status	Brief description of announcement (including who may like or dislike it)
Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan and Final EIS	BLM	May 2012	The draft final EIS is undergoing final review	BLM is preparing to publish the RMP/FEIS for the Clear Creek Management Area which has been under a Temporary Closure since 2008, due to public health and safety concerns associated with naturally occurring asbestos. There will be limited support from non-motorized recreation groups, the US EPA, and Cal EPA. The California State OHV commission and OHV groups will object. BLM anticipates the FEIS will be published early winter 2012.
El Centro Field Office Notice of Availability (NOA)	BLM	Sept. 7, 2012	Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Proposed Recreation Area Management Plan, Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, and Final Environmental Impact Statement	The Plan analyzes the use and management of 215,000 acres of public lands within the ISDRA, located in southeastern Imperial County, near the California-Mexico border. The RAMP will likely be controversial: the plan proposes to close areas currently open to camping; (b) (5) The EPA is expected to publish its NOA for the RAMP on Friday, September 14, which will initiate a 30-day protest period.
Proposed Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Withdrawal Expansion	BLM		Ongoing	The expansion would result in the direct loss in public use of about 109,000 acres of public lands within the 188,000-acre Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area (OHVRA), and permanently eliminate regional and nationally recognized organized and unorganized OHV recreational event opportunities, other

				recreational activities. More than 200,000 visitors would be displaced annually due to the direct loss of open space, which also will have significant impacts to many local, regional and state economies. BLM California and U.S. Marine Corps are conducting ongoing discussions in an effort to find common ground and reach consensus on a joint proposal that will accommodate military training objectives while protecting public land resources and provide continued public use, access and recreation opportunities within Johnson Valley.
California Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Associations Organize Fund Raising to Oppose to Proposed Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Withdrawal Expansion	BLM		Ongoing	OHV organizations in the California Motorized Recreation Council (CMRC) are soliciting donations for their "Save Johnson Valley" campaign to support their lobbyist activities in Washington, DC to oppose the proposed Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Withdrawal Expansion, which as proposed could result in the direct loss in public use of public lands within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area.
Center For Biological Diversity (CBD) Issues Notice of Intent to Sue BLM	BLM	August 29, 2012	Ongoing	The CBD issued a 60-day Notice of Intent to sue the BLM for failing to reinitiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regarding BLM-permitted oil and gas operations in California that utilize fracturing (fracking) techniques. The CBD alleges fracking is environmentally destructive and current biological opinions fail to fully evaluate impacts, which may harm ESA- listed species. The suit also states the BLM must suspend all leasing and drilling activities until consultation is complete. The lawsuit could have Bureauwide implications.

Multi-agency Marijuana Eradication Operations in California	BLM	Ongoing	Ongoing	BLM continues to participate in the eradication of large scale marijuana cultivation sites on public lands throughout California as part of the Cannabis Eradication and Reclamation Team (CERT), a multi-agency task force comprised of federal, state and many sheriff's offices funded largely by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Forest Service. The CERT has had significant positive results in 2012: eradicated 94 cultivation sites on private, state and federal lands in California; removed 512,087 plants; seized 203 pounds of processed marijuana; arrested 16 suspects; confiscated 14 weapons; removed 33.6 metric tons of trash.
Renewable Energy Development	BLM	2011-2013	Ongoing	BLM-managed public lands in California currently produce more than 750 megawatts (MW) of geothermal and wind energy. The BLM has approved rights-of-way for 13 wind and solar projects in southern California on public lands and public-private lands, that once fully operational, will be capable of generating more than 7,300 MW of power, provide electricity for up to one to two million households, generate more than 12,000 construction jobs and 1,200 permanent jobs. The Ivanpah and Genesis Solar Projects and Ocotillo Express and Tule Wind Projects are expected be on line by late 2012/or summer of 2013. BLM California also is processing 24 additional wind, solar and geothermal applications that are in various stages of development. Once completed, these projects also will significantly contribute to the production of clean renewable energy and ensure the state of California will meet its goal of supplying 33 percent of its energy needs from renewable

				energy by 2020. BLM supports these goals and is working closely with California's energy and utility agencies to make appropriate public lands available to help meet the state and federal national energy plan goals. However, many of the projects are controversial and subject to multiple legal challenges. In addition, DOI is jointly funding an environmental study on biomass potential in northern California.
H.R. 4969, California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act of 2012	BLM	Sept. 11, 2012	Ongoing	BLM Assistant Director Carl Rountree will testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources in support of H.R. 4969, which would designate the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands as a mainland extension of the California Coastal National Monument, and be administered as a unit of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. The expansion encompasses 1,712 acres, which includes 1,255 acres public lands and 457 acres of private inholdings, most of which is scheduled to be acquired by the BLM. The Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands have significant cultural and natural and resources, and provides critical habitat for several threatened/endangered species. The bill was introduced by Representatives Mike Thompson and Lynn Woolsey and has broad support from local, county, state, federal, tribal, businesses, non-profit organizations, and private individuals.
H.R. 6286, Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act of 2012		August 2, 2012	Ongoing	U.S. Representative Sam Farr introduced H.R. 6286 that would designate the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) a National Recreation Area. The CCMA is managed by the BLM and encompasses approximately 75,000 acres of federal land in San Benito and Fresno

				counties, and is one of the largest naturally occurring asbestos deposits in the world. Based on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA), CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment, the BLM Hollister Field Office issued a temporary closure on May 1, 2008, to all forms of entry and public use to protect public health and safety, which generated a great deal of controversy. The report concluded that exposures to asbestos at the CCMA are above acceptable risk, and children are at greater risk because they are exposed to these high levels of asbestos at an earlier age.
Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans (ES&R)	BLM	Ongoing	Ongoing	Recent wildfires in northern-northeastern California and northwestern Nevada burned tens of thousands of acres of high quality sage-grouse habitat, which is equally important for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, wild horses and livestock grazing. BLM California and Nevada are working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Fish and Game agencies to develop and implement ES&R plans in an effort to stabilize soil conditions and reestablish native vegetation.
Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)	BLM	Ongoing	Ongoing	The DRECP is the largest land-scape planning effort in California, covering approximately 22.5 million acres of Federal and non-federal land in the Mojave and Colorado (Sonoran) deserts of southern California. The planning area covers all or portions of seven counties, including Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego. Approximately 10 million acres of the DRECP are BLM-CA administer lands in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP), Bakersfield RMP, and

				Eastern San Diego County RMP. The DRECP is being cooperatively developed by four primary agencies, BLM-CA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Energy Commission, and California Department of Fish and Game. The interagency team is currently developing the DRECP proposed action and range of alternatives for the EIS/EIR, which will be an integration of the perspectives of all four primary agencies, cooperating agencies, local governments, tribes, the renewable energy industry, utility companies, environmental community, and recreationists. Public review of the Draft EIS/EIR is expected in Spring 2013.

BLM Utah Hot Topics
September 2012

Emery County Land Use Bill Update: Emery County, Utah has been developing a county land use bill for the last couple of years. BLM Utah does not have the bill language and therefore cannot speak to what is contained in the proposed bill at this time. It is BLM Utah's understanding that Emery County has sent the bill language to the State of Utah Public Land Policy Coordination Office for their review and approval. Once the approval is given, the bill language would be submitted to the Utah State Legislature per requirements of Utah House Bill 176. Senator Mike Lee has indicated that he supports the land use bill and will introduce it in the U.S. Senate if approved by the state.

BLM Utah Dec. 2008 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Protest Resolution: The protest resolutions for the Dec. 2008 oil and gas lease sale have been drafted and are currently at the Solicitor's Office for review. BLM Utah received 321 protests on this sale. The majority of the protests were form letters but nineteen were considered substantive and required a detailed response. One of the protests on this sale was from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance involving 93 parcels, 77 of which were rescinded by Secretary Salazar.

Greater Sage-Grouse Planning and Conservation in Utah: BLM Utah manages approximately 34 percent of occupied sage-grouse habitat in Utah. BLM Utah has embarked on a land use planning effort that will involve the amendment of at least 13 RMPs and five forest plans using one Environmental Impact Statement. The initial public scoping phase ended Feb. 1. Eight public scoping meetings were hosted around the state and were held in conjunction with USFS, UDWR and USFS. BLM Utah is currently in the alternatives development phase of the process. There are currently 20 cooperating agencies on this project.

Master Lease Planning in Utah: Utah is currently conducting a stand-alone Master Leasing Plan analysis in the Canyon Country District (Moab and Monticello Field Offices). Utah differs from other states because Resource Management Plans were recently completed and other states are incorporating MLPs into ongoing planning efforts. A draft MLP is expected in July 2013 and a final in fall 2014. The Moab master leasing plan is the largest MLP in progress, involving 950,000 acres - 783,000 acres are public lands.

From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, G. Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Lassiter, Tracie L; Anderson, Michael D; Cunningham, Celina P
Subject:	Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, September 13, 2012 5:04:21 PM
Attachments:	Weekly Report to the Secretary 09-13-12 FINAL.docx

Jamey and Elliott,

Attached please find the Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
September 13, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

As we approach the final months of the first term, I am focused on your priorities for the Department and recognize the tight timeline we have to accomplish the list. While there is work still to be done, I want to recognize some of the accomplishments we have already made. Those accomplishments include the first drill bit to hit the Chukchi Sea in nearly two decades and the great success of the AGO initiative. Over the coming weeks, my team and I will be moving forward to help complete your list of priorities, particularly those related to the Administration's energy agenda for which primary oversight resides in our hallway.

In other exciting news, I want to commend OSM and BSEE for exceeding the goals set forth in the Veterans Employment Initiative to bolster recruitment and retention of veterans in the Federal workforce. OSM and BSEE are the two Interior bureaus that exceeded the targets established for the Department. Additionally, BOEM met its established goal for Veteran recruitment and retention. While we have more work ahead to increase the number of veterans in our workforce, I applaud Directors Pizarchik, Watson, and Beaudreau for leading the charge in this important initiative.

On the evening of September 12, I traveled to Sacramento to represent the Department at the Western Regional Partnership (WRP) as a co-host of the 5th annual principals' meeting. With membership from the States of AZ, UT, NM, CA, and NV as well as various Federal agencies and tribes, the WRP is a regional organization established to collaborate on energy development and military readiness. As I mentioned last week, I am leading two plenary discussions, one on energy development and one on endangered species, critical habitat, and land management. I look forward to bringing home constructive feedback on ways we can proactively address roadblocks in responsible energy development on our western public lands.

The ASLM office reviewed and cleared the Virginia offshore wind Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for anticipated publication in the Federal Register next week. I provided my surname on September 12. This PSN marks the first time that we are announcing a proposed commercial and competitive lease auction of offshore wind on the OCS. As part of our Smart from the Start Program for Atlantic Wind, this PSN moves us one step closer to achieving our goal of holding an offshore wind lease sale before the end of the year.

In addition, ASLM approved a Public Land Order for public lands adjacent to the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, near Barstow, CA. The Marine Corps is considering expanding its training area onto public lands and plans to submit proposed legislation to Congress in the near future. In the meantime, this Public Land Order will withdraw the public lands from entry under the mining laws for a period

of five years, to provide time for Congress to consider the proposal. The BLM-CA has been working closely with the Marine Corps to develop a plan that accomplishes the missions of both the BLM and the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps' plan is controversial because the proposed expansion area is part of the Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) area. Johnson Valley OHV area is heavily used by recreationists and is the site of a number of OHV races. The Johnson Valley Recreation Area has over 500,000 visitor use days per year and issues about 60 Special Recreation Group permits annually.

On September 11, DAS Ned Farquhar met with a delegation from Iraq to discuss the Administration's all-of-the-above energy strategy and the Department's role in facilitating the development of conventional and renewable energy resources on public lands and the Outer Continental Shelf. In addition to the members of the Iraqi delegation and Departmental representatives, participants also included representatives from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Department of State, Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Commerce Department's Commercial Law Development Program, and the U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

I look forward to hearing more about your exciting trip to Colorado. The unprecedented Lewis Bacon easement is a source of pride for all of us. Also, I look forward to hearing how excited the General Land Office participants were to have you join the conference.

Finally, I want to recognize Mary Katherine Ishee, who testified today before the Committee on Natural Resources, for her dedication and professionalism. MK's testimony reflects her steadfast commitment to high ethical standards and integrity, qualities that have characterized her tenure here at the Department.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of September 17, 2012

Acting ASLM Burke – Travel to AK on Sept. 14. Address the Canadian Institute's 8th Annual Oil and Gas Conference on Sept. 18 in Anchorage regarding Federal oil and gas milestones. In the office Sept. 21.
DAS Farquhar – (b) (6)

Week of September 24, 2012

Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:
Atlantic Wind:

- On Sept. 5, BOEM received comments from the joint **RI/MA** task force on the draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). BOEM intends to publish the PSN in late Sept. On Aug. 28, Cape Wind updated its Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan to

address FWS concerns. On Sept. 6, FWS concurred that the updated plan meets its concerns.

- On Sept. 12, ASLM completed reviewing the **VA** PSN package. BOEM expects to publish the VA PSN during the week of Sept. 17.

- On Aug. 1, Bluewater responded to BOEM's offer for the **DE** negotiated lease. On Aug. 21 and Sept. 6, BOEM held meetings with Bluewater to clarify stipulations. BOEM anticipates a formal response on the next round of negotiations from Bluewater by Sept. 17. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

- BOEM is currently working with the SOL's office on the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease. BOEM anticipates publication of the RFI by early Oct.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** On Aug. 30, BSEE announced that it will allow Shell to move forward in the Chukchi Sea with limited preparatory activities that are in non-oil-bearing zones and can be conducted safely prior to the certification and arrival of the containment system. On Aug. 31, Shell requested a similar limited and preparatory permit for top-hole drilling in the Beaufort Sea from BOEM. On Sept. 9, Shell began drilling the top-hole at the Burger A site in the Chukchi Sea. However, on Sept. 10, Shell was forced to temporarily abandon the top hole and move the *Noble Discoverer* drillship to avoid approaching ice. On Sept. 9, Shell began deployment testing of the containment system in Bellingham Washington. As of Sept. 12, BSEE reported that the deployment test was going well, but had not been completed.

- **BLM Well Stimulation (Hydraulic Fracturing) Rule Close of Comment Period:** On Sept. 10, the comment period for the Well Stimulation Rule ended. Approximately 75,000 comments have been received thus far. BLM expects more comments to be submitted via mail delivery postmarked by Sept. 10. BLM is in the process of reviewing and summarizing those comments already received. In coordination with the SOL's office, relevant comments will be analyzed and addressed as part of the issuance of the final rule.

- **Secretarial Order on Potash and Oil and Gas Co-Development:** On Aug. 31, the comment period on the proposed Secretarial Order ended. The BLM is in the process of reviewing and summarizing the comments received. Upon completion, BLM, in coordination with the SOL's office, will analyze relevant comments to be addressed as part of the issuance of the Secretarial Order.

- **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition:** On Aug. 29, Acting ASLM and OSM met with the TN Attorney General and other state officials, at which time the State clarified the objectives in the Petition and agreed to deliver additional technical

information to OSM. On Sept. 10, the State and OSM will conduct a technical meeting to further discus the boundaries of the petition area. OSM plans to use the information gathered in the Aug. 29 meeting and the Sept. 10 technical meeting to refine and finalize alternatives that it will analyze in the EIS for the Petition.

Ongoing Projects:

- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- Onshore orders
- Hydraulic fracturing rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Oil Shale PEIS and rulemaking

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary,
Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Ishee, Mary K
To:	Anderson, James E; August, Elliott D
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Davis, Vermell; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Lassiter, Tracie L; Anderson, Michael D; Cunningham, Celina P
Subject:	FW: Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, September 20, 2012 6:30:04 PM
Attachments:	Weekly Report to the Secretary 09-20-12 MAB FINAL.docx
Importance:	High

Jamey and Elliott,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thanks,

Mary Katherine

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
September 20, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

Last week I traveled to Sacramento to co-chair along with John Conger, Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Installations and Environment, the Western Regional Partnership's 5th Annual Principal's Meeting. Participants discussed ongoing collaborative efforts on land use planning and energy development and ideas for further collaboration. Of particular interest to me was the impact of increased military testing and training efforts in the west due, in large part, to the end of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was obvious from the presentations that the BLM leadership in the state and field offices are committed to collaboration and cooperation with partners, and I congratulate the Bureau on its outgoing efforts. Jim Kenna, BLM California State Director, and Amy Lueders, BLM Nevada State Director, both gave thoughtful presentations with suggestions for further improvements for addressing issues such as sage grouse conservation, coordinated land use planning, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Brigadier General Vincent Coglianese, Commanding General of the Marine Corps Installations West and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, invited me to tour the Marine Corps training areas and the BLM's Johnson Valley Recreation Area into which the Marines propose to expand their training. I believe this would be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the needs of the military, to reiterate our concerns, and to emphasize the importance of the partnerships with the military services.

I was in Alaska, preparing to speak to the Canadian Institute's Alaska Oil and Gas Congress, when I learned of Shell's decision to not drill into oil-bearing zones in the Arctic this year. While the mechanical problems with the containment dome aboard the Arctic Challenger barge were disappointing, I do not believe that these efforts will be in vain. I commend Jim Watson and his dedicated team of professionals for their hard work in support of this effort, including the recent APDs for the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. While Shell was unable to proceed as originally planned, BSEE did all that it could to assist and stood ready to proceed in the event that Shell obtained the requisite approvals.

On September 17, I participated in a Department-wide briefing given by Amy Lueders, BLM's Nevada State Director, on the Round 13 projects that are proposed for funding under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). The funding decisions that will be presented to you represent an excellent mix of projects that address health and safety issues, provide recreation opportunities—which are supportive of America's Great Outdoors, including several projects for underserved communities—and continue habitat restoration and protection work at a landscape level. And I am pleased to report that the interagency SNPLMA team (BLM, NPS, FWS, and U.S. Forest Service) exceeded the goal set in 2011 by then-Director Bob Abbey to make sure that projects funded in prior years are completed in a timely fashion.

Finally, I want to highlight for you the collaborative efforts of the OSM, BLM, the State of Colorado, and other state and Federal agencies to develop a three-dimensional computer model to identify acid mine drainage sources from an abandoned hard rock mine in Silverton, Colorado. The Upper Cement Creek was a hard rock gold and silver mining area from the 1870's through 1991. The BLM and the Colorado Division of Mining Reclamation and Safety (CDRMS) are using the three-dimensional model to educate the public and government agencies about acid mine drainage issues in Upper Cement Creek. OSM's Technical Innovation and Professional Services provided technical assistance with the Earth Vision software used to develop the model.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of September 24, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Sept. 24 - 25 and 28. On Sept. 26 - 27, travel to Las Vegas to present OSM and BLM mining awards at the National Mining Association's Mine Expo.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 1, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Oct. 3 – 5.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

II. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

  - On Sept. 5, BOEM received comments from the joint **RI/MA** task force on the draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). On Sept. 17, BOEM received from the State of Rhode Island suggestions for changing to the auction format. BOEM is currently evaluating the comments. BOEM intends to publish the PSN in late Sept. or early Oct. On Aug. 28, Cape Wind updated its Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan to address FWS concerns. On Sept. 6, FWS concurred that the updated plan meets its concerns. Geological and geophysical surveys are ongoing and will likely continue through Oct.

  - On Sept. 12, ASLM completed review of the **VA** PSN package. As of Sept. 18, the package is awaiting Department approval. BOEM expects to publish the VA PSN during the week of Sept. 24.

  - BOEM received written comments from Bluewater on the **DE** negotiated lease on Sept. 20. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of Sept.

  - BOEM is currently working with the SOL's office on the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease. BOEM anticipates publication of the RFI by early Oct.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** On Sept. 17, Shell announced that it will not seek to drill into oil-bearing zones for the remainder of the 2012 drilling season because the oil spill and response containment system on the Arctic Challenger barge had mechanical problems and could not receive certification.

- **Renewable Energy Update:** The BLM is reviewing issues raised during the protest period on the Final Solar Energy Programmatic EIS and anticipates presenting the Record of Decision package to you on September 27. The Renewable Energy Strike Team anticipates presenting two renewable energy projects, the Campo Verde generation line ROW and the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Farm project, to you by September 26.

Ongoing Projects:

- Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- Onshore Orders
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary,
Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cunningham, Celina P
Subject: possilbe item for the personal statement
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:14:00 PM
Attachments: BLM_WeeklyReport Sept 30 - Oct 6_Final.docx

You could put the seed purchase info in Marcilynn's personal statement – she could say something like I continue to receive updates on the fire and drought situation. Last week the BLM completed a large purchse of seeds, most of which will be used to rehabilitate lands impacted by fires.

From: Krauss, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:09 PM
To: Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Mussenden, Paul; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Ishee, Mary K; Velasco, Janine; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: BLM Weekly Report for Sept 30- Oct 6, 2012

Michael,

Please find attached the BLM Weekly Report for Sept 30 – Oct 6, 2012.

Jeff

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
September 30, 2012 – October 6, 2012
Internal Working Document

HOT TOPICS

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar PEIS:** The BLM received 16 protests on the Final Solar PEIS. Many protests stated concerns regarding the management of variance lands that are still available for development and the exclusion of lands with low solar insolation values. *Review of the protest issues has been completed.* The BLM is on schedule for signing the ROD on Sept. 27 and is working with DOI Communications on a possible signing event in the near future.

- ***Update:*** **BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Energy Final EIS:** The review of the protests has been completed; the target date for signing the ROD is Sept. 28.; The project proponent, Power Company of Wyoming, will host two open house meetings on Sept. 17 and Oct. 2 in Rawlins, WY.

- ***Update:*** **NOA for Silver State South Solar Project Supplemental EIS:** *The NOA for the draft Supplemental EIS for the 350-MW Silver State South Solar Project, located on 1,400 acres of BLM public lands in Clark County, NV, is scheduled for release Oct. 19. The project is a proposed 2013 Priority Project, identified by the White House as a Nationally Significant Project under Executive Order 13604.*

- ***Update:*** **NOA for Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project FEIS:** *The NOA for release of the Final EIS for the Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project is scheduled for Oct. 26.* The EIS identifies lands across AZ that may be suitable for the development of renewable energy. It also establishes a baseline set of environmental protection measures for such projects.

Transmission

- ***Update:*** **Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Project Delay**. This is a 305-mile 500 kV line from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho; BLM is the lead and has 23 cooperating agencies. *BLM expects a delay of about 2 months in release of the DEIS, now expected for public review in the first half of 2013. The delay is a result of addressing new BLM sage grouse policy in NEPA alternatives from the IPC application received November 2011 and the completion of visual resource inventories and cultural clearances in the summer/fall of 2012.* There are several work groups on the project (related to sage grouse, fish/streams/crossings, visuals, realty, habitat mitigation, wildlife mitigation, vegetation/weed management, Section 106 cultural, Section 7). Extensive landowner and public meetings have resulted in a better understanding of the NEPA process. The B2H project is a 305-mile 500 kV line from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho; BLM is the lead and there are 23 cooperating agencies. The project has also been identified as a pilot project for the federal interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission.

Oil and Gas

- *New:* **Roundtable Breakfast for Senator Hoeven:** *BLM-MT/DK State Director Jamie E. Connell attended a roundtable breakfast hosted by Senator Hoeven Sept. 18. The Senator was examining the challenges surrounding energy development and production in the Bakken Formation. The Senator announced plans for legislation to allow the BLM in MT, ND & SD to use special appropriated funding for pilot offices to accomplish energy related workloads in the three states. (This would expand on the energy pilot offices BLM designated as part of Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.)*

- *New:* **BLM-WY Converse County EAs:** *The Casper FO announced the availability of three EAs for proposed exploratory oil and gas development in Converse County and a small portion of Niobrara County, WY. They are the Spearhead Ranch, Highland Loop Road, and East Converse EAs. The proposals could involve drilling both horizontal and vertical wells to explore and develop the federal mineral estate. The public comment period is Sept. 17 - Oct. 17.*

- *Update:* **Jordon Cove Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline:** *The NOI for the Jordon Cover Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline was published in the Federal Register Sept. 2, and the scoping period ends Oct. 29. FERC is the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance. The BLM, USFS, and BOR are cooperating agencies. The 230-mile long proposed pipeline crosses an estimated 40 miles of BLM land. The pipeline would transport up to one billion cubic feet per day of regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the proposed Jordan Cove LNG facility in Coos Bay, OR to Malin, OR.*

Mining

- *New:* **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash**: *The BLM is analyzing comments and drafting a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern New Mexico. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order will start October 1. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments.*

- *New:* **Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project Record of Decision**: *The ROD for the Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project will be made available for review shortly. The BLM is coordinating release with DOI. The project area is 4,250 acres in Sweetwater County, WY, near Rawlins. The expected 345 acres of surface disturbance is related to construction of well fields. The Jeffery City area has been mined for uranium since the 1950s, but a price drop in the 1980s halted production. The NRC licensed the project a year ago and WY DEQ permitted it in Oct. 2011. The BLM's ROD authorizes in-situ mining, a low impact technique with significantly less environmental impact than open pit mining.*

Forestry

- *Update:* **BLM-OR Timber Sale Litigation:** *Western OR has experienced an increase in protests, appeals, and litigation relating to the timber sale program. Within the last month, three new lawsuits were received on individual timber sales. A number of protests and appeals are pending, as well as 11 current lawsuits related to western OR forest management issues. Costs associated with responses continue to escalate.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-OR/WA Buck Rising Timber Sale:** *The BLM's South River FO (Roseburg District, OR) reached an agreement with the appellants Sept. 18 on modifications to the Buck Rising Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) timber sale. The changes included the removal of three acres along the western and northwestern parts of the harvest unit. All parties agreed and signed a withdrawal/Waiver of Administrative Appeal on the Decision. The sale is part of the Roseburg Secretarial Pilot Project. The Roseburg District Pilot Project estimated volume is 8,341 MBF. The numbers are not finalized and will change once volume is removed for the modifications on Buck Rising.*

Wild Horse and Burro

- ***Update:*** **Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) *v.* DOI:** RSGA is seeking enforcement of a 1981 court order mandating the BLM to remove all wild horses from the RSGA private lands within one year except animals that RSGA voluntarily agreed to let stay on the private lands in the checkerboard area, and to remove excess horses from public lands within the jurisdiction of the BLM Rock Springs Field Office. BLM has managed horses in four HMAs that include RSGA private lands since 1981. RSGA alleges that BLM has not kept numbers at AML. *On September 17, a hearing was held to discuss settlement options. Both the BLM and the Plaintiffs requested a delay in a ruling so the parties could continue settlement discussions. The court agreed, directing the parties to submit a status report December 17, 2012.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-NV Pancake Wild Horse Gather Concluded:** *The two-day wild horse Gather in the Pancake HMA concluded Sept. 13. Operations removed 124 horses. The horses were in poor condition; they were transported to the Palomino Valley near Reno.*

Drought/Wildfire

- ***New:*** **Largest BLM Seed Purchase to be Used for Fire Rehabilitation:** *BLM-ID Boise Regional Seed Warehouse has received seed from the largest consolidated seed purchase on record for the BLM. The purchase, close to 2.7 million pounds, totaled $25.3 million, surpassing the next largest seed buy in 2007 by roughly $250,000. The majority of the seed will be used for fire rehabilitation in AZ, CO, ID, NV, OR, and UT.*

- **BLM-NV Drought Assessments:** *Permittees are taking a number of measures to reduce the impact of drought by grazing fewer cattle. For example, the BLM in Battle Mountain reports voluntary removal of 5,357 cattle. In the Ely District, permittees are preparing for fall turnout; forage and water are limited.*

- ***New:*** **ID Wildfire Burns 3,700 Acres of Timberland, But Spares Treated Areas:** *The 42,000-acre and growing Sheep Fire near Riggins, ID has burned 5,037 acres of BLM public land including 3,700 acres of timberlands and several fish-bearing streams. Areas treated last fall (salvage thinning and under burns) suffered minimal damage. Foresters from the BLM Cottonwood FO have begun evaluating rehabilitation opportunities.*

- ***New:*** **ID Congressman Visits National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC):** *The BLM hosted on Sept. 17 a tour of NIFC for Rep. Raul Labrador, a first-term House member*

whose district includes NIFC. He met with several BLM officials, as well as members of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group. Rep. Labrador received a briefing on the fire season and future outlook.

WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday, October 3

- *New:* **Cedar City, FO to Host Tour of Cameron to Milford Transmission Line:** *On Oct. 3, the BLM Cedar City Field Office in Utah will conduct an onsite tour of proposed routes for the proposed Cameron to Milford – 138 kV Transmission Line Project. The tour is open to interested members of the public.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10

- *New:* **BLM-MT/DK Preservation Summit:** *BLM-MT/DK SO will collaborate with the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Preservation Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Program to sponsor a preservation summit called "One State, Seven Nations" to be held on the campus of the Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo, MT. The summit will include a discussion of the important cultural resource and preservation issues facing the tribes.*

Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: MT/DK Public Information Meetings:** Public meetings will be held Oct. 11 in Winifred and Stanford, MT regarding the Draft Water Rights Compact for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The meetings will be conducted by the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. The Solicitor's Office, BLM-MT/DK SO, BLM Central MO District, and managers and specialists for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument will participate.

Monday, October 15-Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: Oil Shale Development Symposium**: Colorado School of Mines and the Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research, will host the 32nd Oil Shale Symposium at the Green Center on the campus of Colorado School of Mines. The Symposium will review development of oil shale resources worldwide. Attendees will include energy industry representatives as well as government, academic, and stakeholder communities. Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management Marcilynn Burke will attend.

Tuesday, October 16

- *New:* **Assistant Secretary to Tour Dolores River AGO Project:** *Rhea Suh, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, will visit the Dolores River AGO Project located within the BLM-CO Tres Rios FO on Oct. 16. Margaret Bowman of the Walton Family Foundation will also participate in the visit.*

Wednesday, October 17

- *New*: **BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-NM will hold an Oil and Gas Lease Sale Oct. 17. A total of 37 parcels totaling 16,926.61 acres in NM, Texas and Oklahoma will be sold. One protest was received from Paula Enyeart on Parcel 28 involving private surface.*

Wednesday, October 17-Thursday, October 18

- *New:* **BLM-MT/DK and Wyoming Regional Intertribal Workshop**: *The BLM Eastern MT/DK District and Wyoming High Plains District will be sponsoring a meeting of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in Spearfish SD Oct. 17 and 18. Discussions will include BLM RMP efforts and ongoing project-specific tribal consultation.*

Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, October 30

- *New:* **Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.** *The next meeting will take place October 29 and 30, 2012 in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Weekly Reports
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Davis, Vermell; Cunningham, Celina P
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-27-12
Date:	Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:08:34 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-27-12.docx

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
September 27, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

The President's all-of-the-above energy strategy is at the forefront of my mind as I consider the important milestones we have achieved this week. First, BOEM's successful rollout of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Central Gulf Lease Sale 227 is another great step in our efforts to facilitate the development of oil and gas resources in a responsible manner. The Sale, scheduled for March 2013, will offer 38 million acres of unleased area in the Central Gulf of Mexico, which could lead to the production of up to nearly a billion barrels of oil and nearly 4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Next, I pause to highlight, as you know, that we are on our way to exceeding the 10,000 MW goal for renewable energy approvals on public land, established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005—enough energy to power 3 million homes. It is fitting that we will meet this goal with two cornerstone renewable projects that exemplify your dedication to clean energy: the Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind project and the First Solar Campo Verde connected action project, which you signed on September 26. Reaching this goal—3 years early—is a tremendous accomplishment, particularly given the fact that when the President took office there were no solar energy projects approved on public land. I remember testifying at a House oversight hearing in November 2009 when I was grilled about our commitment to facilitating the development of renewable energy on public lands when there were no such projects yet authorized. I assured the Members that they would indeed see results from this Administration. Almost three years later, which this achievement on the horizon, I thank you for your steadfast commitment and the determination across the Department to meet this important goal.

Another exciting renewable energy initiative spurred by your leadership is the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development (Solar PEIS), which ASLM cleared this week. We look forward to your final review and the release of this path-forging analysis.

On October 1, we will celebrate another important milestone: the one-year anniversary of the creation of BOEM and BSEE. The work of these bureaus is instrumental in ensuring orderly resource conservation and development, as well as protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments. The anniversary provides an opportunity both to reflect on the progress of BOEM and BSEE, as well as opportunities for the future. I look forward to working with you, the bureaus, and others to build upon their efficiency and effectiveness.

And while we are charting the path to our energy future, yesterday, I—along with the BLM and OSM—saluted exemplary members of the coal industry that went above and beyond the call to reclaim mine lands and work with their communities as good neighbors. I presented the BLM's Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards and OSM's Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Awards at the National Mining Association's MINExpo in Las Vegas. These awards demonstrate that development and stewardship can go hand-in-hand.

Of note were two OSM reclamation awards given to Peabody Energy. One was for Peabody Energy's Cottage Grove Mine for proactively returning a 3,500-acre mine site to highly productive farmland and; the second was for Peabody Energy's North Antelope Mine—which I toured this summer—for its commitment to protect raptor species on its 46,000-acre mine site.

And finally, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the BLM and OSM on rising to the challenge and exceeding the Department's goals for Small Business Procurement activities in FY 2012. The BLM exceeded the Small Business goal by 21 % and OSM by 12.5 %. While BOEM and BSEE did not reach the overall Small Business Procurement goals, they are examining ways to improve in the coming year.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 1, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Oct. 3 – 5.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 9, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – On Oct. 9 – 11, travel to Virginia Beach to attend AWEA conference. Expected to address 200 developers and stakeholders at the Offshore Wind Acceleration Project session. In the office on Oct. 12.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**
  - In Oct., BOEM intends to publish the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**. BOEM is evaluating comments received on the PSN from the last RI/MA task force meeting, as well as comments received from the State of RI on Sept. 17,including comments on the auction format and the consideration of a multi-factor approach. On Sept. 6, the FWS concurred that the Cape Wind updated Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan addresses previous concerns. Geological and geophysical surveys are ongoing and will likely continue through Oct.
  - On Sept. 12, ASLM completed review of the **VA** PSN package. As of Sept. 25, the package was awaiting Department approval. BOEM has tentatively scheduled a meeting on Oct. 9 in VA Beach to explain the VA PSN. Also, BOEM has tentatively scheduled the DOI-DoD Offshore Wind Forum for Oct. 10 in VA Beach.
  - On Sept. 20, BOEM received written comments from Bluewater on the **DE** negotiated lease. BOEM is reviewing Bluewater's response and expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of the year.

- BOEM is working with the SOL's office on the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease. BOEM anticipates publication of the RFI in Oct.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill (APD):** On Sept. 17, Shell announced that it would not seek to drill into oil-bearing zones for the remainder of the 2012 drilling season because the oil spill and response containment system on the Arctic Challenger barge had mechanical problems and could not receive certification. On Sept. 20, BSEE approved limited drilling for top-hole only in the Beaufort Sea, similar to the Aug. 30 approval for the Chukchi Sea. However, Shell is not authorized to begin drilling in the Beaufort until the end of whaling season, the timing of which remain undetermined. In the Chukchi Sea, Shell completed a pilot hole to a depth of 1,400 feet at the "Burger A" site.

- **Secretarial Order on O&G and Potash Development in SE New Mexico:** On Oct. 4, the BLM will brief ASLM on how the agency intends to address the public comments on the proposed final Secretarial Order. The draft Secretarial Order was issued for a 30-day comment period on July 13. The BLM extended the comment period until Aug. 31. The BLM received 28 comment letters, which contained 40 distinct comments.

- **Proposed Expansion of Municipal Airport in Grundy, VA:** Earlier this week, the proponents of the proposed airport expansion project notified OSM that they have encountered financing difficulties. They indicated that they intend to explore other alternatives and to revise their proposal to the Commonwealth. They plan to resubmit their proposal to the Commonwealth before providing OSM with the information OSM requested in August.

Ongoing Projects:
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- Onshore Orders
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Cunningham, Celina P
To: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K
Cc: McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell
Subject: Week ahead report
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 6:42:20 PM
Attachments: Week Ahead Report 9-28-2012.docx

Hi all – thanks for all your help on this week's report. Attached is the latest version. I'm including Marcilynn and Ned in case you want to review.

Karen and Jully – there are a few pending comments/questions. Please incorporate any additional information on the sharepoint version by 10:15 tomorrow.

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
September 30 – October 6, 2012

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

Week of October 1, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Oct. 3 – 5.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

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HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

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Transmission
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Oil and Gas
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Mining

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Forestry

- *Update:* **BLM-OR Timber Sale Litigation:** ~~*Western*~~ *The BLM-OR has experienced an increase in protests, appeals, and litigation relating to the timber sale program. Within the last month, BLM-OR received three new lawsuits were received on individual timber sales.- A number of protests and appeals are pending, as well as 11 current lawsuits related to western OR forest management issues.* ~~*Costs associated with responses continue to escalate.*~~

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Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

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Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

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WEEK AHEAD

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

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Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

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WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10

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Thursday, October 11

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Monday, October 15-Wednesday, October 17

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Tuesday, October 16

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Wednesday, October 17

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, October 10

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Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

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Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 16

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From:	Farquhar, Ned
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K
Cc:	McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell
Subject:	RE: Week ahead report
Date:	Friday, September 28, 2012 8:50:31 AM
Attachments:	Week Ahead Report 9-28-2012 nf.docx

Again my edits don't show as a different color.

Should BSEE include followup on the platform fire?

NF

From: Cunningham, Celina P
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K
Cc: McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell
Subject: Week ahead report

Hi all – thanks for all your help on this week's report. Attached is the latest version. I'm including Marcilynn and Ned in case you want to review.

Karen and Jully – there are a few pending comments/questions. Please incorporate any additional information on the sharepoint version by 10:15 tomorrow.

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
September 30 – October 6, 2012

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Transmission

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Oil and Gas

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Drought/Wildfire

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Tuesday, October 16

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Wednesday, October 17

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, October 10

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Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

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From: Cunningham, Celina P
To: Weekly Reports
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; janet_lin@ios.doi.gov; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Lew, Shoshana M; Robson, Bonnie; Benner, Lee; Bryant, Jeryne; Watson, James A; Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G; Owens, Glenda H.; Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A.; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cruickshank, Walter; Lindow, Emily R; Altemus, Michele J; Marsters, Lizzie; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: ASLM Week Ahead Report
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 11:13:30 AM
Attachments: ASLM Week Ahead Report 9-28-12.docx

Attached please find the ASLM Week Ahead Report. Have a good weekend.

Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
September 30 – October 6, 2012

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

Week of October 1, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – (b) (6) In the office Oct. 3 – 5.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 9, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – On Oct. 9 – 11, travel to Virginia Beach to attend AWEA conference. Expected to address 200 developers and stakeholders at the Offshore Wind Acceleration Project session. In the office on Oct. 12.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar Programmatic EIS (PEIS):** *ASLM surnamed Sept. 25 and submitted to Exec. Sec. The BLM is working with DOI Communications on a possible signing event in the near future.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Energy Final EIS:** *ASLM surnamed Sept. 25 and submitted to Exec. Sec.*
- ***Update:*** **Notice of Availability (NOA) for Silver State South Solar Project Supplemental EIS:** *On Oct. 19, the BLM is scheduled to release the NOA for the Draft Supplemental EIS for the 350-MW Silver State South Solar Project, located on 1,400 acres of BLM public lands in Clark County, NV. The White House indentified the project as a Nationally Significant Project under Executive Order 13604, and the DOI Strike Team has recommended that it be included on the 2013 Priority Project list.*
- ***Update:*** **NOA for Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project FEIS:** *On Oct. 26, the BLM is scheduled to release the NOA of the Final EIS for the Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project. The EIS identifies lands across AZ that may be suitable for the development of renewable energy. It also establishes a baseline set of environmental protection measures for such projects.*

Transmission

- ***Update:*** **Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Project Delay:** *The B2H Project is a 305-mile 500 kV line from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho; BLM is the lead and has 23 cooperating agencies. The BLM is working on the DEIS, which was originally scheduled for release at the end of February, 2013. During the week of Sept. 17, the BLM determined there would be a 2 month delay to address additional alternatives related to an updated application submitted by Idaho Power Company in Nov. 2011, as well as to assess impacts on sage grouse. The anticipated release date is now the end of April.*

Oil and Gas

- *New:* **Mtg. With Sen. Hoeven:** *On Sept. 18, the BLM-MT/DK State Dir. attended a roundtable breakfast hosted by Sen. Hoeven to discuss challenges surrounding energy development and production in the Bakken Formation. The Senator announced plans for legislation to allow the BLM in MT, ND & SD to use special appropriated funding for pilot offices to accomplish energy-related work in the three states.*

Mining

- *New:* **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash:** *On Oct. 4, the BLM will brief the ASLM on how the agency intends to address the public comments on the proposed final Secretarial Order. The BLM received 28 comment letters, which contained 40 distinct comments.*

Forestry

- *Update:* **BLM-OR Timber Sale Litigation:** *The BLM-OR has experienced an increase in protests, appeals, and litigation relating to the timber sale program. Within the last month, BLM-OR received three new lawsuits were received on individual timber sales. A number of protests and appeals are pending, as well as 11 current lawsuits related to western OR forest management issues.*

Drought/Wildfire

- *New:* **Largest BLM Seed Purchase to be Used for Fire Rehabilitation:** *The BLM-ID has begun receiving seed from the largest consolidated seed purchase on record for the BLM of close to 2.7 million pounds, totaling $25.3 million. The BLM will use the majority of the seed for fire rehabilitation in AZ, CO, ID, NV, OR, and UT.*
- *New:* **ID Wildfire:** *As of Sept. 21, the 42,000-acre and growing Sheep Fire near Riggins, ID had burned 5,037 acres of BLM public land, including 3,700 acres of timberlands across several fish-bearing streams. Areas treated last fall (through salvage thinning and under burns) suffered minimal damage. BLM foresters have begun evaluating rehabilitation opportunities.*
- *New:* **ID Congressman Visits National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC):** *On Sept. 17, the BLM hosted a tour of NIFC for Rep. Labrador, who met with several BLM officials, as well as members of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group.*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- *New:* **Platform Fire:** *On Sept. 26, W&T Offshore Inc. reported a fire on a platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The 3-person crew safely evacuated, with one suffering minor injuries. The fire started at 10:15 am, caused by a plug blowout on the vertical heater treater. Within an hour, a field boat put out the flames and by noon the entire facility was secured and shut in. BSEE inspectors were onsite shortly thereafter to conduct interviews and inspections. A follow-up investigation is ongoing.*
- *New:* **Ice Month at Ohmsett:** *During Feb./Mar. 2013, Ohmsett will test the capacity of various skimming systems that have been identified for potential use in AK, including a dispersant effectiveness test. BSEE has made initial contacts with various industry*

groups in an attempt to obtain a representative sample North Slope crude oil, and skimmers previously identified for use in ice. It appears that BP will assist in obtaining and shipping the crude oil.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- *New:* **Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM)Lease Sale 229:** *On Oct. 26, BOEM will publish the Final Notice of Sale for WGOM Sale 229, which is the first sale in the new Five Year Program.*
- **No Change: Virginia Proposed Sale Notice for Offshore Wind:** The Proposed Sale Notice for the OCS wind energy lease sale offshore VA is ready for publication, pending a final determination from the Department on the announcement.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- *Update*: **Proposed Expansion of Municipal Airport in Grundy, VA:** *The proponents of the proposed airport expansion project in Grundy, VA, notified OSM this week that they have encountered delays in securing the financing needed to move forward with the project. The proponents have indicated that they plan to explore alternatives, and submit a revised proposal to the State. They intend to wait until they resubmit their proposal to provide OSM with the geotechnical information OSM requested in Aug. in conjunction with meetings with Sen. Warner's office.*
- *New:* **OSM Presented 2012 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards:** *On Sept. 23-26, the OSM Dir. presented OSM's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs' annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa. The Awards recognize outstanding AML reclamation and showcase exemplary reclamation techniques. Only projects funded wholly or in part and completed by approved state or tribal regulatory programs are eligible to be nominated. The five winning projects are located in IL, KY, MT, PA and UT.*

WEEK AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, October 3

- *New:* **BLM-UT to Host Tour of Cameron to Milford Transmission Line:** *On Oct. 3, the BLM-UT will conduct an onsite tour of proposed routes for the proposed Cameron to Milford – 138 kV Transmission Line Project. The tour is open to interested members of the public.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, Oct. 2

- *New:* **BOEM First Year Anniversary:** On Oct. 2, *Dir. Beaudreau will host a pizza party for employees in Herndon, VA to commemorate BOEM's one year anniversary.*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Monday, Oct. 1

- *New:* **BSEE First Year Anniversary:** *Dir. Watson, in coordination with BOEM, will host an open house to commemorate BSEE's one year anniversary, which will include Federal and state officials, industry associations, and environmental/conservation organizations. The Secretary will participate with Dir. Watson in an all-employee meeting.*

Tuesday, Oct. 2

- *New:* **Dir. to Participate in Offshore Safety Panel:** *Dir. Watson will participate in a panel discussion at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC regarding "Advancing Offshore Safety: Sharing Research, Information and Best Practices on Safety and Environmental Protection." The panel will include industry, environmental, and NGO representatives, and will be moderated by former BSEE Dir. Bromwich.*

Thursday, Oct. 4 – Friday, Oct. 5

- *New:* **Dir. to Speak at Greater Houston Partnership Mtg:** *Dir. Watson will be a luncheon keynote speaker at the Greater Houston Partnership meeting in Houston.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10

New: **BLM-MT/DK Preservation Summit:** *The BLM-MT/DK will collaborate with the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribal Preservation Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Program to sponsor a preservation summit called "One State, Seven Nations" to be held on the campus of the Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo, MT. The summit will include a discussion of the important cultural resource and preservation issues facing the tribes.*

Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: MT/DK Public Information Meetings:** The BLM will hold public meetings in Winifred and Stanford, MT, regarding the Draft Water Rights Compact for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Monday, October 15-Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: Oil Shale Development Symposium:** The Colorado School of Mines, along with the Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research, will host the 32nd Oil Shale Symposium at the campus of Colorado School of Mines. The Symposium will

review development of oil shale resources worldwide. The BLM is finalizing plans for participation in the symposium.

Tuesday, October 16

- *New:* **Assistant Secretary to Tour Dolores River AGO Project:** *Asst. Sec. for PMB Rhea Suh will visit the Dolores River AGO Project located within the administrative jurisdiction of the BLM-CO Tres Rios Field Office. The Walton Family Foundation will also participate in the visit.*

Wednesday, October 17

- *New:* **BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The BLM-NM will offer a total of 37 oil and gas lease parcels totaling 16,926.61 acres in NM, TX, and OK for sale. BLM received one protest and BLM is working to resolve the protest before the sale.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, October 10

No Change: DOD/DOI Wind Energy Forum: The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Interior will co-chair an offshore wind military/industry forum in Virginia Beach, VA. The forum is a part of an MOU between DoD and DOI designed to strengthen partnerships on renewable energy. Dir. Beaudreau will speak at the forum and DAS Farquhar will attend. The forum will take place in conjunction with the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) annual offshore wind energy conference being held at the same venue because the target audience is similar for both events. At the AWEA conference, Dir. Beaudreau is the keynote speaker and DAS Farquhar will speak at the Offshore Wind Accelerator Project meeting, a subunit of the conference.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Tuesday, October 9 – Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: Arctic Council Task Force:** BSEE will participate in the final meeting of the Arctic Council Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Task Force in Reykjavik, Iceland. The participating Arctic nations are preparing an agreement that will address an array of subjects on oil spill planning, preparedness and response. Tentative plans are to present the final agreement at the May 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Sweden.

Thursday, October 11

- *New:* **European Aviation Agency Safety Oversight Conference Keynote:** *Dir. Watson will give a keynote address via video-conference for the Safety Oversight Conference taking place in Cologne, Germany, focusing on managing safety in a performance-based environment.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 16

- ***Update:*** **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** *Acting Asst. Sec. Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area to see first-hand the area the State has requested be declared unsuitable for mining, and to meet with field staff in Knoxville.*

From: Willingham, Michele
To: Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Krauss, Jeff; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C
Cc: Nedd, Michael D; Spisak, Timothy; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Hanson, Joshua F; Winston, Beverly S; Evia, Aristotle E
Subject: WO300 Week Ahead/Hot Topics
Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012 3:35:48 PM
Attachments: WO300 Week Ahead and Hot Topics October 18 2012.docx

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Please see the WO300 Week Ahead/Hot Topics for this week.

Thanks!

Michele

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Week Ahead Report for WO-300 Minerals and Realty Management
October 18, 2012

- ***Week Ahead (2 weeks out: November 4 – November 10, 2012)***:
  - Weekly Renewable Energy Call with the BLM States, held Tuesdays at 1:00
  - Weekly National Surface Management Administration Team meeting, held Tuesdays at 3:00 pm
  - Weekly Renewable Energy Strike Team with BLM, Solicitor's Office, ASLM and DOI level representatives, held Wednesdays at 4:00
  - Upcoming oil and gas lease sales:
    - Tuesday, November 6, hosted by the Wyoming State Office
    - Wednesday, November 7, hosted by the Alaska State Office
    - Thursday, November 8, hosted by the Colorado State Office

- ***On the Horizon (2-3weeks out)***
  - Upcoming Oil and Gas Lease Sales:

NOVEMBER	
Utah	Tuesday, November 13
DECEMBER	
Nevada	Tuesday, December 11
California	Wednesday, December 12
Eastern States	Wednesday, December 13
Oregon	Cancelled

  - **December 2-7, 2012:** Northwest Mining Association's 118th Annual Meeting, Exposition and Short Courses Convention – Thoroughly Modern Mining in a Technology Based World, to be held at the Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington. Participants include representatives from BLM, Forest Service, Colorado School of Mines, as well as industry executives. Technical sessions will be held in the areas of mineral deposits, geology and exploration; business and finance; operations; environmental; and legislative and public affairs. There will also be short courses on Mining Geology and Grade Control (4-day course); Principles of Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (1-day course); and a 2-day course – Minimizing Permitting Pitfalls and Delays on Federal Lands, led by BLM and FS representatives.

WO-300 HOT TOPICS
October 18, 2012

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

New: The GAO has initiated a study on the adaptation of U.S. energy infrastructure to climate change (No. 361434) and has scheduled an entrance conference for October 22. The study will assess 1) what is known about vulnerabilities of key energy infrastructure to climate change, 2) the extent to which climate change impacts are being incorporated into energy infrastructure planning and oversight, and 3) factors influencing responses to potential climate impacts on energy infrastructure. This is a multi-agency effort and involves DOI, CEQ, Homeland Security, DOT, EPA, FERC, NOAA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Update: **Priority Project NOAs and NOIs** – A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Draft Supplemental EIS for the 350-MW Silver State South Solar project located in Clark County, Nevada, was released by EPA on October 12 and the NOA was published on October 15. The presence of nuisance mining claims on the project site was resolved on October 9, with the issuance of an Order by the Office of Hearings and Appeals that acknowledged filing of a quitclaim deed of the mining claim interests to First Solar and a declaration of the mining claims as null and void. The Silver State South Solar project is a proposed 2013 Priority project and identified by the White House as a Nationally Significant Project under Executive Order 13604.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Draft EIS for the 33-MW Casa Diablo IV geothermal project located in Mono County, California, near the town of Mammoth Lakes was submitted to the BLM WO on October 17 for review and is pending clearance. The project is located on Federal geothermal leases administered by the BLM on Inyo National Forest lands and adjacent private lands. The Forest Service is a cooperating Federal agency in preparation of the EIS for the project. The Casa Diablo IV geothermal project is a 2012 Priority project and has also been carried forward as a 2013 Priority project since a decision on the project is expected in early 2013.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Final EIS for the Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) was submitted to the BLM WO on September 19 for review and clearance. The Draft EIS for the RDEP was released in December 2011. Release of the Final EIS is scheduled for October 26.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar project located in San Bernardino County, California, was submitted to the BLM WO on September 26 for review and clearance. Release of the Draft EIS is scheduled for November 2. The Stateline Solar project is a proposed 2013 Priority project.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) for preparation of an EIS for the proposed 350-MW Soda Mountain Solar project located in San Bernardino County, California, was submitted to the BLM WO on September 26 for review and has cleared Exec Sec t forward to the Federal Register for publication. The Soda Mountain Solar project was originally proposed as a 2013 Priority project, but was later removed from the Priority list in order to provide additional time to address potential resource conflicts.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, California, was submitted to the BLM WO on September 26 for review and clearance. Release of the Final EIS is scheduled for November 23. The West Chocolate Mountains planning effort is to facilitate development of geothermal, solar and wind energy development opportunities in the area, as well as respond to a pending geothermal lease application. The Final EIS analyzes the impacts of making available approximately 20,762 acres of public land for solar and wind energy development and approximately 19,162 acres of Federal mineral estate for geothermal leasing.

Update: **Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** – The solar and wind energy competitive Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) was published in the *Federal Register* on December 29, 2011 and 60-day public comment period ended on February 27, 2012. The Regulations Team for this rulemaking effort met on March 28-

29 to begin initial discussions for preparation of the Proposed Rule. A BLM briefing on the outline of the Proposed Rule was held for the Director on April 23. ASLM briefing was held on May 2, with a follow-up briefing for Deputy Secretary Hayes scheduled for May 4. BLM held a coordination meeting with BOEM on June 13 to discuss the scope of the Proposed Rule and to compare the proposed BLM competitive leasing process to the BOEM offshore wind competitive process. OMB was briefed on June 14 on the scope of the Proposed Rule. BLM held a coordination meeting with BIA on July 12 to discuss the scope of the Proposed Rule and to compare to the BIA wind and solar resource lease regulations proposed under 25 CFR Part 162. The SOL Office completed a review of the revised regulations text on July 16 and subsequently reviewed the draft preamble. The draft Proposed Rule and Preamble package was distributed to BLM Field offices on September 6 for a 30-day field review. The Regulations Team met on October 11 to review BLM Field office comments and a final Proposed Rule and Preamble package is being prepared for surname review. It is anticipated that the surname package will be ready for circulation and review on October 26. The BLM will also be providing a copy of the draft Proposed Rule and Preamble package to the FWS and NPS for review.

No Change: **2012 Priority Project List:** The 2012 Priority Project list was released on November 28 and posted on the BLM website. The 2012 Priority Project list includes 9 solar projects, 6 wind projects, and 2 geothermal projects with a total potential capacity of 6,689 MWs.

There were no decisions issued on Priority Projects during this reporting period.

The BLM State Offices were requested on July 18 to start the review process for proposed Priority Projects for 2013. The States were requested to coordinate with the FWS, NPS, BIA and DOD and submit proposed 2013 Priority wind energy, solar energy, and geothermal projects to the WO by August 17. The States completed the review process and submitted a preliminary 2013 Priority Project list of 9 solar projects, 1 wind project and 4 geothermal projects, including connected-action projects, with a total capacity of 3,118 MWs. The preliminary list is not available for public release at this time. The DOI Renewable Energy Strike Team has begun review of the proposed 2013 Priority Project list during the Strike Team meetings on August 29, September 5 and September 12, and will forward recommendations to the Secretary in October 2012.

No Change: The **GAO study on renewable energy** (wind, solar and geothermal) permitting on Federal lands (No. 361373) is continuing. A conference call was held with GAO on May 31 to discuss a questionnaire that the GAO will be providing to BLM Field Offices on wind and solar applications and permitting timelines. The GAO on June 1 provided a list of solar and wind energy projects that will be included in the questionnaire to the BLM States for review. A follow-up GAO conference call was held on June 6 with the BLM States to discuss the questionnaire process. The questionnaire was provided to the BLM States on June 20, with a response requested by July 11, 2012. Most responses were completed by July 11 and provided to the GAO; a few questionnaires were completed by July 16. GAO is currently reviewing the information provided in the responses to the questionnaires. Follow-up discussions were held with GAO and BLM WO on August 20 and September 28 to discuss staffing and funding support to the BLM Field Offices for renewable energy permitting. GAO plans on providing a Statement of Facts on the review and conducting an exit conference during the week of October 22. A draft Report is expected to be issued at the beginning of December 2012 and a final Report in January 2013.

No Change: **Interim Temporary Final Rule (Segregation Rule package)** – The BLM published an Interim Temporary Final Rule and Proposed Rule for the segregation of lands under solar and wind energy right-of-way applications from mining claim entry in the *Federal Register* on April 26, 2011. The comment period on the Proposed Rule has ended and a draft Final Rule was prepared and forwarded to the SOL on October 10 for review. The SOL office provided review comments on January 25 on the Final Rule and revisions have been incorporated into the final surname package. The BLM Regulatory Affairs office has completed review of the final surname package and the package was returned to SOL office on May 29 for final surname. The Solicitor's office provided additional review comments on the surname package on September 24 that are currently being incorporated by BLM.

Solar Energy:

Update: **24 Solar Energy Zones** – A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal for the withdrawal of 677,384 acres of public lands within the **24 Solar Energy Zones** identified in the Solar Energy Programmatic EIS was published in the FR on April 21 for a 90-day public comment period. A temporary segregation Notice was published in the FR on June 30 that provides for segregation of lands within the Solar Energy Zones until the Proposed Withdrawal is effective.

An amended withdrawal petition/application for the Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) is planned for publication by June 2012. The final configuration of the SEZs was shaped by the public comment process on the Solar EIS, with the number of SEZs decreased from 24 SEZs (677,400 acres) to 17 SEZs (285,417). The withdrawal period would be increased from 5 years to 20 years. The amended withdrawal petition/application package was placed into the surname process on July 13. Solicitors completed review of the package on July 31; the surname package cleared the Director and is currently pending ASLM clearance. The ASLM provided comments to BLM on October 9 and the package was revised and returned to ASLM on October 15 for final clearance.

Update: **Calico Solar Project** - BLM received K Road Calico Solar LLC's (K Road) proposed right-of-way (ROW) application on March 29, 2011, to amend the ROW grant authorized for the Calico Solar Project (Project) in San Bernardino County, California. An updated ROW application and revised Plan of Development (POD) for the Project was submitted July 19, 2012. The revised POD changes include:

- Changing the entirety of the Project to photovoltaic (PV) technology;
- Reducing power generation from 663.5 megawatts to 618 MW in two phases;
    - Phase 1 is 294 MW on 2,041 acres with main complex, substation, water pipeline, and access; and
    - Phase 2 is 324 MW on 1809 acres;
- Reducing the footprint from approximately 4,604 to 3,851 acres (by 753 acres) to avoid highest quality desert tortoise habitat and 69 acres of Mojave fringed toed lizard habitat;
- Allowing wildlife movement corridor through the center of the site; and
- Revising the Translocation Plan for this Project, changing the proposed translocation site.

The amended application will be analyzed with a Supplemental EIS and new ROD. BLM requested re-initiation of consultation with the USFWS. The Barstow FO, mentoring PM, and third party contractor, Logan Simpson, reviewed the ROW amendment POD. As requested, the CA Desert District Office will provide kRoad Calico Solar all BLM needed edits for updating the POD by the end of August. Additionally two technical reports involving additional studies for glint-and-glare as well as hydrology are needed for analysis purposes in beginning the NEPA process.

Based upon email received September 5, kRoad will not be able to meet the September 14, 2012, target for submission of the required technical reports for the SEIS. All kRoad resources are being focused on transmission issues critical to the project. kRoad requested that the project work be placed on "hold." As a result, kRoad's request for additional time may push the project schedule to a projected Draft SEIS being published in April 2013 and Final SEIS in August 2013. On August 31, 2013, the stay of litigation on the Calico Solar project will expire. On October 15, 2012, the BLM held a conference call with kRoad Calico Solar and confirmed that the California Independent Service Operation agency has suspended kRoad's Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA). kRoad is seeking an amendment to the LGIA. kRoad does not have a power purchase agreement with an utility currently. Another status call is scheduled November 19, 2012 with BLM.

No Change: **The Final Solar Energy Programmatic EIS** was released on July 24 with Secretarial media outreach and posting of the Final EIS on the BLM website. Stakeholder contacts were made on July 23 prior to the media outreach event. Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 27. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Solar Programmatic EIS was signed by the Secretary on October 12. The Department and the BLM held a rollout event for the Secretary approval on October 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada. A stakeholder outreach briefing/teleconference was held on October 9, prior to the official release of the Record of Decision. The release of the ROD is a major milestone for the BLM and the Department and amends 89 BLM land use plans in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah to facilitate solar energy

development on the public lands. The ROD designates 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) on some 285,000 acres, provides a process to consider applications on some 19 million acres of variance lands, and identifies some 78.6 million acres of exclusion lands.

The BLM has initiated preparation of a regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) in Nevada as an implementation action related to the release of the Final Solar EIS. Comments on both the Draft EIS and Supplemental EIS showed significant public interest in working cooperatively to develop regional mitigation plans for each of the SEZs. The BLM committed to this collaborative effort with release of the Final Solar EIS and selected the Dry Lake SEZ as a Pilot SEZ Mitigation Project. The BLM held a Public Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 29 and 30, 2012 to share information on the Final Solar Energy EIS and to initiate public discussions on developing a regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake SEZ. The next Workshop will be held on October 24 and 25 in Las Vegas to review baseline data for the Dry Lake SEZ and identify impact mitigation thresholds.

No Change: **Solar Energy Development Project** - Marisol Maricopa Solar Park – Marisol Energy 2, LLC, a company based in Brescia, Italy, proposes to construct a photovoltaic power plant facility with an expected capacity of up to 300 megawatts (MW), requiring 1,730 acres of land and two 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and other ancillary facilities. The project is located on lands administered by the BLM, in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Phoenix and 2.3 miles from the Pinal West Substation. The proposed project would consist of two phases, using either thin-film modules mounted on fixed mounting system or mono / polycrystalline modules mounted on trackers. The facility would have an on-site high voltage substation, with high-voltage power transformers stepping up energy to 345 kilovolts (kV). Energy from the new on-site switchyard would be delivered to the existing Pinal West Substation through two new 345kV transmission lines.

The BLM Project Manager met on July 12 in Phoenix with the BLM resource team, contractors and Marisol Energy 2, LLC, a company based in Brescia, Italy (via conferencing), to discuss potential resource issues (adjacent to the Sonoran National Monument). Many of the pertinent administrative details for the process have been set up including cost recovery agreement, project charter, prep plan, and contractor selection. However, the project awaits the completion of the national Programmatic EIS for Solar Energy prior to moving forward with an NOI being published to officially begin the EIS. According to RECO direction, Marisol is developing a Variance request to the AZ State Director.

No Change: **Imperial Valley Solar Project** – On January 26, 2012, the BLM received a letter from Imperial Valley Solar, LLC (IVS) which request that the BLM relinquish its IVS ROW Grant CACA-047740 pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2807.17(b)(2) immediately and withdraw its application to amend the ROW Grant, in order to allow the BLM to pursue other uses of the site. The request letter was timely submitted within the 10 day response period BLM provided in a January 24 letter for IVS to prepare and submit an alternative payment plan within the 30-day grace period previously requested by IVS based on receiving, according to letter, the unexpected (2012) rental bill on January 3, 2012. Based on review of the January 26th letter and reasons offered for relinquishment, and their requested withdrawal of the application to amend the ROW Grant needed to correct non-compliance with applicable regulations, terms and conditions of the authorized ROW Grant, the BLM terminated the ROW Grant through issuance of a decision. IVS does not have any facilities improvements, equipment, or personal property on the ROW. No rental for the ROW in 2012 would be due. Upon issuance of this decision, the serialized case CACA-047740 for the ROW will be considered closed and the BLM administrative records and master title plats updated accordingly. The approved land use plan amendments to the California Desert Conservation Act Plan for the project site would remain in effective as-is. This area would be in the Variance Area and not in a SEZ under the Solar Energy Programmatic EIS (PEIS). If a new application were received, BLM would accept the application in this area and process it under the Variance Area Process once the PEIS is complete. No applications are filed.

Wind Energy:
n/a

Geothermal:
n/a

Transmission:

Rapid Response Team for Transmission Projects
Update: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project - Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project** – consists of an approximate 305 mile 500 kV line from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho; BLM is the lead agency and has 23 cooperating agencies. The B2H Project will relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve electric reliability, provide additional energy capacity to meet demand in Oregon and Idaho, and provide service to wholesale customers. BLM received an updated application and plan of development (POD) on November 21, 2011, from Idaho Power Company (IPC) and an amendment letter and map dated April 2, 2012; resource reports have been received to assist in the development of the DEIS, there are 2 reports outstanding (visual and cultural) which will completed after additional field studies this year; cultural surveys were completed in August 2012 and visual resource inventories are being conducted in September 2012. IPC is starting to provide sections of the cultural and visual reports as completed.

BLM is providing the updated/amended application/POD/resource reports to the Cooperating Agencies at this time for review and input into the combined Chapter 3/4 of the DEIS. BLM has reviewed the updated/amended application/POD/resource reports and has developed the final NEPA alternatives which were presented to the Cooperating Agencies at our person meeting May 15, 2012 in LaGrande, Oregon. BLM received Chapter 1 for preliminary internal agency review on April 3, 2012 and received Chapter 2 May 21, 2012. Chapter 1 and 2 of the DEIS will be reviewed by the complete ID Team and the Solicitor from July 16 through August 3; following updates to the DEIS, Chapters 1 and 2 will be reviewed by Cooperating Agencies starting September 24, 2012. BLM completed the revised MOU; it was sent to all Cooperating Agencies for signatures and it will be finalized by the end of September 2012. B2H Programmatic Agreement (PA) workgroup has developed a draft Section 106 PA which was be submitted to the Tribes for Consultation in September 2012.

BLM continues to consult with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (monthly Wings and Roots meetings), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (quarterly meetings). All Tribes were provided the resource reports which will be used to write a combined Chapter 3/4 of the DEIS; work plans (cultural/visual); the draft PA in September; and Chapters 1 and 2 of the DEIS in September. The eTrans website and MAX.gov website have been updated for the Nationally and Regionally Significant Projects; the Gantt chart/schedule will be updated after a project schedule meeting is updated with IPC. In addition all BLM WO and RRTT spreadsheets and briefing papers will be updated to match the updated schedule expected by September 20, 2012; we are expecting a delay of 3 months on release of the DEIS. There are several work groups working on the project (sage grouse mitigation, habitat characterization, fish/streams/crossings, visuals, and cultural programmatic agreement, realty team, habitat mitigation plan, wildlife mitigation plan, vegetation/weed management plan, Section 106 cultural group, Section 7 consultation). The landowner and public meetings scheduled for July and August have been completed and the team believes there is a better understanding by the public of the NEPA process; the public is now getting ready to review the DEIS in the first half of 2013.

This week B2H meetings include a B2H Executive Team conference call on October 22; a Section 106 PA conference call on October 24; and a Sage Grouse Mitigation Meeting on October 25.

Current issues include the 3-month delay in NEPA Schedule (as a result of addressing new BLM sage grouse policy in NEPA alternatives from IPC application received November 2011; and the completion of visual resource inventories and cultural clearances in the summer/fall of 2012; the updated schedule will be provided to the public after it is approved by Management and IPC); Sho-Pai Tribal MOA; 15% survey of alternatives for cultural verses 100% policy/science; sharing of cultural information with the ODOE/no cultural staff-

confidentiality; USFWS/Conferencing on Sage Grouse; need for USFWS Avian Protection Plan; funding Tribes for Consultation; and, decommissioning and restoration plans.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project –Transwest Express Transmission Project,** sponsored by TransWest Express, LLC consists of a 600kV direct current transmission line (3,000 MW) approximately 700 miles long originating in south-central Wyoming crossing Colorado and Utah and terminating in southern Nevada. BLM and Western Area Power Administration (co-lead agencies) are currently preparing a draft EIS. The project purpose would increase capacity for renewable energy generation consisting primarily of wind energy.

BLM plans a second formal review of the Preliminary DEIS on October 20, 2012, based on agency requests. In this PDEIS #2, BLM plans to identify an agency preferred alternative. The DEIS is now scheduled to be released in March 2013 which will include the agency preferred alternative; the ROD is anticipated in mid-2014. Recent changes to the project include the addition of an alternative in Wyoming that leaves WY and enters CO in locations preferred by the Counties. This alternative was developed to provide visual mitigation for private landowners.

There have also been over 400 miles of new alternatives added in Utah, and a request by the Forest Service to add five biological species technical reports to the DEIS which are being done. A meeting between BLM, Utah State Director and USFS, Regional Director was held July 2.

A meeting with DOI, Director's Office and Wyoming State Director was held July 12. The meeting addressed anticipated schedule delays as a result of new proposed alternatives and additional review of the PDEIS. A follow up meeting with USFS, Regional Director and BLM State Directors in Utah and Wyoming is being scheduled to discuss the proposed new alternatives. A status call was held with DOI, State Director and PM on July 27. A follow up call was held August 14 with State Directors in Utah, Wyoming, DOI, Forest Service and Western Area Power Administration to discuss updates to the Administrative DEIS and the proposed additional routes on National Forest lands. A follow-up call with the same group was held August 24.

Secretary Ken Salazar has written 2 letters requesting the Nevada Senators to consider widening the corridor through the Sunrise Instant Study Area near Las Vegas, where there is no room for more transmission, which pushes this project onto the Lake Mead National Recreation Area a*dministered by the National Park Service.*

A status update call with the BLM Project Manager, Wyoming State Director, DOI, BLM Washington Office and the US FS was held on October 2. The latest project schedule identifies publication of the DEIS March 15, 2013, with 90 day comment period. Publication of the NOA for the FEIS is planned for April 4, 2014, with a 30 day comment period. Publication of the NOA for the ROD is planned for May 13, 2014.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project – Gateway West Transmission Project:** The project consists of a 1,100 mile, 500/230kV transmission lines in Wyoming and Idaho and is sponsored by Idaho Power Company and PacifiCorp. The proposed transmission lines are needed to supplement existing transmission lines in order to relieve operating limitations, increase capacity, and improve reliability of the grid, allowing for the delivery of up to 3,000 megawatts (MW). The Notice of Availability (NOA) of a DEIS was published July 29, 2011. The notice initiated a 90 day public comment period which closed October 28, 2011. Project update briefings were held for Congressional staff, Director's Office and other Washington Office staff the week of April 23. Over 85% of the agency preferred alternative route has been selected. The sage grouse analysis which was not included in the DEIS will be released for public comment in May. The AFEIS is planned for release to cooperating agencies in August 2012. The weeks of May 28 and June 4, the BLM project team requested assistance from the RRTT to address questions regarding grid reliability and line separation, use of corridors and plan amendments related to visual resource concerns. The RRTT is coordinating with WO program leads and the Solicitor's Office to develop recommendations. On June 29, BLM released a draft sage grouse analysis document for a 30-day public review.

Discussions are ongoing regarding new alternatives to avoid route within the Birds of Prey, NCA in southern Idaho. New routes may result in increased mileage on private lands which will cause controversy with landowners and elected officials. Working with Washington Office Planning and VRM leads regarding plan amendments. The agency preferred alternative has been modified to minimize mileage and impacts to the Birds of Prey, NCA in southern Idaho. A one month delay in the release of the Final EIS is anticipated due to internal discussion related to FWS/BLM sage grouse efforts and negotiations with Idaho. The Administrative FEIS was provided to BLM Washington Office and cooperating agencies September 28 for review. Comments are due October 26. The latest project schedule identifies publication of the NOA for the FEIS November 30, 2012 with a 60-day comment/protest period. Publication of the NOA for the RODs is planned for June 21, 2013.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project - Cascade Crossing Transmission Project,** sponsored by Portland General Electric, consists of a 210-mile, single and double circuit 500kV transmission line from Boardman, Oregon, to Salem, Oregon. PGE's purpose and need for the project are to meet Oregon's growing future energy needs, respond to Oregon's state renewable energy standard, enhance the reliability of the region's electrical grid, and provide access to developing renewable energy projects. Forest Service is the lead Federal agency. The lead state agency is Oregon Department of Energy.

In March 2012, the USFS Authorizing Officer Chris Worth identified two preliminary preferred alternatives for the Project as it crosses National Forest lands. They are essentially in the same location. One of the alternatives is a variation of the first which is dependent on Portland General Electric's (PGE) acquisition of the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) "idle", but previously cleared right-of-way (ROW) corridor. The identification of preliminary preferred alternatives allows the team to expedite drafting of documents and for a more efficient overall project schedule. Because of its preliminary nature, we will not announce the identification of the routes to the public at this time. PGE continues negotiations with BPA regarding its idle ROW corridor and continues negotiations with the Navy regarding where to site the Project on or near the Boardman Bombing Range.

The Coordinating Team and cooperating agency representatives continue to meet and make progress on determining the Project's consistency with existing land management plans, policies, regulations, etc.; are in the process of reviewing Chapter 2 of the Administrative Draft; developing a Cooperating Agency MOU; and developing various mitigations strategies. The USFS is scheduling formal government-to-government with tribal entities. On June 29, 2012 numerous Federal and state agencies, tribes and the ACHP approved a Programmatic Agreement to streamline the Section 106 process.

BIA and DOI Solicitors and USDA, OGC currently discussing (b) (5)

The latest schedule identifies publication of the NOA for the DEIS May 17, 201, with a 90-day comment period. Public meetings are planned for late June 2013. Publication of the NOA for the FEIS is planned for February 7, 2014, and agency RODs March 14, 2014.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project – SunZia Transmission Project** sponsored by, SunZia Transmission LLC, consists of two single-circuit, 500kV lines (3,000-4,500 MW) approximately 460 miles long originating in central New Mexico near Ancho and terminating in southern Arizona near Coolidge. The project purpose is to transport power from a variety of sources including renewable energy to western power markets and load centers. The project would increase transfer capacity and improve grid reliability.

The BLM (lead agency) has resolved alternative route issues in Arizona and defined the alternatives to be carried forward in the Draft EIS. The notice of availability of a Draft EIS and proposed land use plan amendments was published in the *Federal Register* May 29. This initiates a 90 day public comment period. On June 12, 2012, the Deputy Director was briefed on the recent feedback from Representative Grijalva from Arizona. The Congressman expressed concern with BLM's preferred alternative that would pass west of the San Pedro River

valley. On June 20, representatives from The Nature Conservancy met with the Deputy Director and expressed support for BLMs agency preferred alternative in the DEIS.

Petitions submitted to BLM during July public open-house meetings held during comment period of Draft EIS. Public wanted formal hearings held with court reporters. BLM is considering establishing a toll free phone number to collect additional oral comments for the administrative record. BLM is conducting a tour on August 15 of controversial route alternatives in Arizona with Arizona Congressional staff. The tour will consist of several vans with staff representing Senator McCain, Senator Kyl, Congressman Flake, Congressman Franks, Congressman Gosar, Congressman Barber and Congressman Grijalva. State Directors from Arizona and New Mexico met with DoD Clearinghouse representatives on August 8 to resolve concerns with impacts to military training at White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico and the Buffalo Soldier Testing Area southeast of Tucson, Arizona. BLM is continuing to coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service to address anticipated aerial bird strike concerns at the proposed crossing of the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico.

Other Transmission & Pipeline Projects:

Update: Executive Orders – There are several significant administration and agency actions that have established the processing of high-voltage electric transmission lines as a high priority. In October 2009, nine Federal agencies approved an MOU to improve coordination and expedite siting and construction of electric transmission infrastructure. The BLM issued corresponding policy in July of 2010 in IM 2010-169, Implementation Guidance for the Interagency Transmission Memorandum of Understanding. In June of 2011, multiple Federal agencies developed an Interagency Rapid Response Team (RRT) to ensure close agency coordination for renewable energy and electric transmission line projects. In August 2011, the President issued a memorandum to Executive Departments and Agencies identifying actions for agencies to expedite infrastructure development, including high-electric transmission lines. On October 5, 2011, the White House issued a press release announcing the creating of a Rapid Response Team for Transmission and the selection of seven pilot transmission projects that would serve as pilot demonstrations of streamlined Federal permitting and increased cooperation at the Federal, state, and tribal levels. On March 22, 2012, Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects was signed.

BLM's Branch of Rights-of-Way (WO350) developed guidance, which is in the draft surname process, to ensure the accomplishment of the goals and objectives outlined above and provides for the most efficient, effective and consistent processing of applications for high-voltage electric transmission line ROWs. Further information regarding the BLM's involvement in interagency coordination on high-voltage electric transmission lines and energy corridors can be found on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/transmission.html.

- **Executive Order 13616 Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment issued June 14, 2012.** Briefing Paper provided to AD-300 August 28 which summarizes ongoing and proposed actions. Draft BLM agency plan being prepared with a draft anticipated by mid-October. On October 4, OMB led a kickoff meeting with DOI, BLM and multiple other agencies. Meeting planned October 19; WO-350 will provide overview of RRTT activities that may help inform the broadband team.
- **Executive Order 13604 – *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects***: The Federal Plan has been finalized and is posted publicly on the Dashboard (http://permits.performance.gov/). All BLM-led projects have been updated in OMB's MAX system and a revised BLM Agency Plan was submitted to DOI July 27. The Agency Plan was published to the Dashboard July 31. The White House posted pipeline projects to the MAX system August 17 but did not issue a media release. The initial meeting of the Federal Dashboard Implementation Team was held September 12. Weekly meetings are anticipated. Agency points of contact will provide oversight and training to Dashboard users within their respective agencies. On October 11, OMB will provide MAX training to WO350 staff. OMB anticipates a formal roll-out of transmission projects soon.

Update: **Jordan Cove LNG/Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline (PCGP)** - On April 17, 2006, the BLM Oregon State Office received a right-of-way application from Williams Pacific Connector Gas Operator, L.L.C., on behalf of Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, L.P. (Pacific Connector) for the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a 36-inch natural gas pipeline (PCGP). The proposed pipeline, under Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC) jurisdiction, is approximately 230 miles long with an estimated 40 miles over Federal lands administered by the BLM and approximately 30 miles over Federal lands administered by the United State Forest Service. The PCGP would transport up to 1 Billion cubic feet per day of regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the proposed Jordan Cove LNG facility at Coos Bay, Oregon easterly to Malin, Oregon, to tie in with existing pipelines serving the Pacific Northwest, California and Nevada markets.

On September 4, 2007, Pacific Connector filed an application with the FERC for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of the PCGP. The FERC published a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2008 with a 90-day public comment period. The FERC final EIS was released on May 1, 2009. Endangered Species Act consultation is also underway with the USFWS and NMFS. A FERC decision to certify the project was issued on December 17, 2009. The State of Oregon has requested a review of the decision. The BLM, USFS, USFWS, EPA and several other Federal agencies were formal cooperators with the FERC in the EIS development.

Because the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Record of Decision was withdrawn by the DOI in July 2009, and other effecting litigation, the BLM had to complete supplemental environmental analysis and project-specific land use plan amendments. The USFS also requires amendments to their LRMPs. The BLM is the lead agency in preparation of the SEIS and the USFS is the formal cooperation agency.

At this time, the BLM has completed a Memorandum of Agreement for the Administrative Record (AR) and the Contractor is working on compiling the AR on a new SharePoint site accessible by all Agencies, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Agencies, the right-of-way application processing (update expected upon completion of POD in Fall 2012), the transportation management plan (with PCGP for review), the mitigation package (with PCGP for review, needs analysis done on projects by NSR w/USFWS and NMFS), survey and mange analyses, and write-ups for the EIS. The PCGP FERC certificate was vacated in May 2012 (stating PCGP must pre-file with FERC and the FERC FEIS may still be valid). The Executive Team had a conference call with the BLM Solicitor, FS OGC, and the FERC Lawyer in which FERC stated the LUP amendments can be part of the FERC NEPA. The FERC NOI was published in the Federal Register August 13, 2012. When the NOI was published by FERC it was not published in the FS or the BLM sections of the Federal Register; the NOI is now in BLM WO and will be published in the Federal Register under FERC/FS/BLM which will extend the comment period to October 29, 2012. Notice will be put in newspapers as well. There is need for FERC/FS/BLM to conduct scoping meetings to fulfill the requirement for 15 days' notice of public meetings; these were held October 9-11, 2012, in North Bend/Canyonville/Malin as stated in the NOI. The public scoping meetings scheduled for August and October are complete and the team believes there is a better understanding by the public of the NEPA process; the public is now getting ready to review the DEIS in the first half of 2013. The BLM/FS NOI was published in the Federal Register on September 21, 2012 with a scoping comment end date of October 29, 2012 (information is provided below). In addition we mailed interested parties a notification by mail, issued a press release, put paid legal notices in local newspapers, provided congressional notices, and mailed notification letters to the Tribes.

Work continues on the draft right-of-way grant; the TMP; the BLM mitigation plan analysis (coordination with USFWS and NMFS on BA); ACS analysis; survey and manage data input and analysis, LSR/MAMU, TMP road analysis, and updating the administrative record. There is a current FOIA request that is being coordinated by our FOIA Specialist in BLM OSO and our contractor. There are several work groups doing work on the project (GIS/TMP/Realty Team/S&M/Core Team/Executive Team/Project Coordinators). Review of the draft resource reports 1 and 10 are completed and comments were sent to FERC. We will provide the company the BLM mitigation plan analysis on the October 24. This week's meetings include a Project Coordinator Meeting, a meeting to discuss the Overburden Plan, and a Manager's Briefing on October 23; a meeting with the Company on October 24; a FERC conference call on October 24; and an Executive Team meeting on October 26.

Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P., filed for a Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Free Trade Nations with Department of Energy (DOE) in September 2011 and the export license was approved in December 2011; currently the company filed for trade to Non-Free Trade Nations with DOE. Jordan Cove is the

LNG facility associated with the transmission of natural gas through the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline. The Jordan Cove LNG facility and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline were previously certificated by FERC as an LNG import terminal and send-out pipeline. FERC has a pre-application from Jordan Cove for its proposed LNG export terminal. FERC conducted an interagency meeting in Roseburg, Oregon March 26, 2012 and a public meeting in Coos Bay, Oregon on March 27, 2012 for the Jordan Cove pre-application. JCEP is expected to file a new application with FERC for liquefaction / export facilities in December 2012. PCGP met with FERC on April 25, 2012 and completed pre-filing with FERC in June 2012. PCGP Open Houses were conducted in Roseburg on June 25, Coos Bay on June 26, Klamath Falls on June 27, and Medford June 28, 2012.

Update: **Crude Oil Pipeline - Keystone XL Pipeline** – BLM was informed May 4, 2012, that TransCanada filed another application with the Department of State (DoS) for a Presidential Permit under EO 13337. The new DoS application is for the same US/Canadian international border crossing and route through Montana and South Dakota, however the Project route will change in Nebraska, supported by pending Nebraska legislation, eliminating Federal lands in that state. Keystone XL also severs the southern Cushing segment from the DoS application because all Federal approval requirements have been met. On June 15, the DoS published in the *Federal Register* an NOI to prepare a Supplemental EIS, conduct scoping and initiate consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA for the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline proposed to extend from Phillips, MT (International Border Crossing) to Steele City, Nebraska. The Public scoping period was conducted June 15 and will continue until July 30. DoS will continue to be the lead agency and will coordinate with BLM to update the previous Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion. BLM requested and was recently provided cooperating status by Department of State. BLM wrote the State Department (DoS) July 6 to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the reviews of the Supplement EIS (SEIS) and being included in any meeting (public or otherwise) deemed necessary in fulfilling our responsibilities for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project.

On July 30, the DOI provided DoS comments to the NOI for the SEIS to the revised KXL Project indicating that a Migratory Bird Conservation Plan is to be developed in consultation with the US FWS to help avoid and minimize expected impacts to migratory birds and their habitats wherein the KXL Project would be constructed.

The BLM received a letter in June from the MT state wildlife agency stating that the stipulations outlined by BLM provide adequate protections for sage grouse along the proposed pipeline route. The Nebraska (NE) Department of Environmental Quality is expected to recommend for approval purposes new KXL Project routing in NE which will not involve Federal lands.

On September 14, the DoS submitted the applicant generated Draft Biological Assessment for the KXL Project to the US FWS in NE. BLM has confirmed that the revised KXL Project no longer involves Federal land in Meade County, South Dakota (SD) for permanent road access related to the pipeline, however the FWS in SD may require formal consultation under ESA due to the American Burying Beetle habitat on non-Federal lands affected in that state.

On September 25, 2012, the BLM received the updated Mineral Leasing Act ROW application and Plan of Development (POD) from TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for the changed KXL Project. The revised KXL Project only entails the northern Steele City (NE) segment of the originally proposed project. On October 10 and 11, 2012 the DoS conducted informal consultation with the US FWS Nebraska Field Office consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as part of its consideration of the KXL Project. The BLM participated in the entire via telephone. In October, the BLM will consult with SD Game, Fish and Parks in accordance with the BLM Interim Management Policy for Greater Sage Grouse (WO-IM-2012-043) apprising them that the KXL Project would not apply to the policy in SD. TransCanada has developed plan for implementing mitigation measures pertaining to greater sage-grouse for KXL Project in SD which will be discussed at that meeting.

Update: **Zephyr Transmission Line Project** – Consists of 920 miles of 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Chugwater, Wyoming, to El Dorado Valley. Duke American Transmission Company (DATC) would move wind energy from the planned Pathfinder 2,100 megawatt wind farm in Chugwater, Wyoming, to markets in California

and southwestern US. AC/DC converter stations are proposed near Chugwater, Wyoming, and Eldorado Valley, Nevada. The target commercial operation is scheduled for early 2020. Estimated capital cost is $3.5 billion and is participant funded with 70 percent of capacity contracted. Open season for the 900 megawatts of un-contracted project capacity is anticipated in late 2012/early 2013. DATC's environmental contractor, Natural Resource Group (NRG) is continuing ongoing routing studies, stakeholder outreach and preparation for regulatory permitting process.

Project introductory meeting with the Wyoming (lead office), Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Utah State Offices too place in May and June 2012. Introductory meetings with the Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Forest Service took place in June 28, 2012, July 10 and 26, 2012. Additional introductory and follow-up meetings have been held with BLM High Desert District Office on August 1, 2012 and August 2, 2012 to discuss the project issues and concerns. A second meeting was held with the BLM High Desert District Office and the Grand Junction Office. A monthly coordination meeting with the Forest Service is scheduled for August 28, 2012.

DATC anticipates selecting a single applicant proposed route in December 2012, coordinating proponent-direct public outreach in the spring of 2013, and resubmitting a Plan of Development with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service in May 2013. DATC initiated the informal consultation process with the DOD Siting Clearinghouse the week of August 24. DATC has submitted a draft project schedule, as well as draft DATC public outreach and route refinement documents. BLM has reviewed these documents and will provide feedback to DATC. The Forest Service has also reviewed these documents and the BLM will be meeting with them in the coming weeks to discuss their comments.

The BLM hosted a NEPA Best Practices meeting with DATC on September 17, 2012, in Wyoming. This meeting allowed for an open discussion on incorporating best practices identified from recent NEPA efforts on large transmission projects. The discussion focused largely on cooperating agency coordination, special status species analysis and mitigation, integration of cultural and visual resource analysis, and strategies for government to government consultation with American Indian tribes. The meeting was followed by a briefing with the Associate State Director, who recommended early outreach to Governors. The Project Manager, along with DATC will brief the Wyoming governor Matt Mead and members of the Governor's staff on November 14, 2012.

A conference call was held on September 18, 2012, with Wyoming and Colorado State Directors. The NW Colorado District is working on a draft Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendment. The issue has the potential to institute disturbance caps by alternative, in which one alternative would institute a 3 percent disturbance cap that would apply to both public and private lands within priority grouse habitat. The NW Colorado District has stated that they cannot continue working on various transmission projects until they know exactly how these projects would affect the disturbance caps in NW Colorado. Project managers were further briefed on this topic during a conference call on September 24.

Update: **Southline Transmission Line Project** – (Sponsored by Southline Transmission, LLC (SLT) and Western Area Power Administration). The project consists of a 240-mile, new construction of a double circuit 345-kV, and a 120-mile upgrade of an existing115-kV transmission line to double circuit 230-kV transmission line between Afton, New Mexico and Saguaro, Arizona. SLT's purpose and need for the project are to meet southern New Mexico and Arizona's growing future energy needs, enhance reliability and respond to renewable and traditional generation projects. The BLM and Western are joint NEPA lead agencies. The NOI for the EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4, 2012, initiating a 60-day public scoping period that will end June 4, 2012.

The Scoping period for the project was extended 30-days and ended on July 5, 2012. As of July 6, BLM had received 118 letters, emails, and comment forms. Similar comments were combined and tabulated into categories with 446 different comments. The largest category of comments (27%) related to the NEPA Process and Alternatives that need to be considered. Many comments related to combining NEPA process for Southline and the SunZia transmission projects or integrating the routes used by both projects. Further, the purpose and need

should clearly demonstrate the need for additional transmission projects. Biological concerns made up 20% of the comments with Socio-Economic concerns making up 8% of the comments.

Several tribal consultation meetings have been held – one with the Four Southern Tribes, one with the San Xavier District Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and another with the Zuni Nation's Governor. Approximately 2 miles of the rebuild portion of the transmission line cross the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham.

Fifteen other Federal, State, and local governments have requested cooperating agency status in the EIS for the project. MOUs have been prepared and sent to those 15 agencies for review and are in various stages of review and editing by the cooperators and BLM. BLM and Western hosted a coöperating agency outreach meeting on October 4, 2012, utilizing a webinar to coordinate with the 15 cooperating agencies. The webinar provided updates to cooperators on the results of public scoping and focused on new potential alternative alignments and routes that are being identified to resolve specific resource concerns identified during scoping. Specific alternative alignments are being considered in the Tumamoc Hill area of Tucson, near Benson, Arizona, and at the Lordsburg, New Mexico and Willcox, Arizona playas.

Update: **Enterprise Mid-American Pipeline (MAPL) WEP III Pipeline Project** – A right-of-way application was filed on June 10, 2011 by Enterprise MAPL. Enterprise MAPL is proposing to expand current capacity in order to transport increased natural gas liquids production in New Mexico. The Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office has informally requested assistance from the BLM Washington Office (WO350) for a Project Manager. The proposed pipeline would parallel existing pipelines as much as possible. The Enterprise MAPL will cross lands administered by BLM Pecos, Farmington and Albuquerque district offices. The project is for a 16-inch pipeline and will consist of five separate segments. Enterprise Field Services, LLC (Enterprise) is currently conducting field surveys of the line, including biological and archaeological surveys.
The Cost Recovery Agreement was signed by Enterprise MAPL and BLM on June 25, 2012. An introductory meeting with BLM field offices and MAPL Enterprise was held on July 17, 2012. On August 23, 2012, Enterprise MAPL provided a revised SF-299 and plan of development. The proposed project has been modified to reflect seven segments of 16-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline: Segment 1 approximately 46 miles, Segment 2 approximately 51 miles, a portion of Segment 3 is proposed to be 20-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline of the approximate total of 47 miles, Segment 4 approximately 9 miles, Segment 5 approximately 30 miles, Segment 6 approximately 31 miles and Segment 7 approximately 33 miles for a total of approximately 247 miles. The proposed project would cross approximately 68 miles of BLM-managed public lands, approximately 26 miles of BIA lands, approximately 28 miles of State of New Mexico lands, and approximately 125 miles of private land. Estimated surface disturbance for construction and operation of the proposed project across all lands is 247 miles which includes a permanent right-of-way width of 50 feet and addition 75 feet for temporary use area for construction.

A BLM internal NEPA scoping meeting was held at the BLM Roswell Field Office on August 15, 2012 and with the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office on August 27, 2012. As a result of pre-scoping with the BLM Roswell Field Office, Enterprise MAPL decided to drop a portion of the pipeline that was proposed to cross the Lesser Prairie Chicken ACEC along the southern end of Segment 6.

A meeting on Section 106 Consultation (Govt-to-Govt) with the Zia Pueblo, BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager was on August 28, 2012. The BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager and the BLM Farmington Field Manager and Tribal Program Coordinator are scheduling initial consultation meetings with the tribes. Approximately 28 initial invitation letters to consult on the project were mailed on September 6, 2012. Seven of those tribes have tribal historic preservation officers who will be invited to participate. The BLM is anticipating sending letters to local, state and Federal governments, and tribes to request their interest in participating as cooperating agency by October 19, 2012.

The BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager met with Santa Ana Governors and Tribal Officials on August 8, 2012. The BLM Farmington Field Office Tribal Program Coordinator has met with the Navajo Nation Chapters: Ojo Encino Chapter on September 26, 2012; Nageezi Chapter on October 3, 2012; Chapter Counselor Chapter on October 10,

2012. At the request of the Torreon Chapter, BLM and Enterprise MAPL will have a presentation scheduled for October 16, 2012 and a meeting with the Huerfano Chapter is planned.

The Draft Cultural Inventory Report with draft site records, ethnographic studies on tribal lands (Navajo) for potential sites will be submitted for BLM review on November 1, 2012, for surveys completed through September 30, 2012. A Supplemental Draft Cultural Inventory Report is planned for submission for BLM on January 4, 2013. A Draft biological report is planned for submission to BLM on November 1, 2012. Biological surveys are on-going on private lands where access is being obtained. Paleontological survey work is currently being done on private lands; further surveys will be completed upon BLM approval for Federal lands. A Draft paleontological report is planned for completion by the end of 2012.

No Change: **Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Project:** MSTI is an interstate 500kV alternating current transmission line project proposed by NorthWestern Energy and crossing approximately 415-500 miles of lands in Montana and Idaho. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for NEPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the co-lead agency responsible for Montana Environmental Policy Act compliance. The project has five Federal cooperating agencies and nine state and local cooperating agencies. A Draft EIS underwent agency review in 2010; however, release to the public was delayed pending the outcome of a lawsuit and appeal between the Montana DEQ and Jefferson County, Montana. The Court ruled in favor of the DEQ and a revised Draft EIS is scheduled for September 2012.

Schedule: Alternatives and local routing options have been selected and analysis is being updated. The project schedule has been revised; an Administrative Draft EIS was scheduled for release in November 2012 and the Draft EIS is scheduled for release the first quarter of 2013.

Local Routing Options (LROs): The last screening for LROs (Montana only) to carry forward in the DEIS took place on April 27. Several of these LROs are related the applicant preferred route. Montana Facilities Siting Act requires this route to be analyzed as submitted. The applicant chose not to amend their application, so a new alternative that combines the applicant preferred route with the LROs was created.
Administrative Draft EIS Review: Lead and Cooperating Agencies will have 30 days to review and comment on the Administrative Draft EIS (ADEIS). Agency specialists will be offered a project update/resource report preview prior to release of the ADEIS. *Target date for release of the ADEIS (Version 3) is August 2012.*
Preferred Alternative Selection: Based on the updated analysis and comments on the ADEIS-3, the decision makers will identify an agency preferred alternative for the DEIS. *Target date for selection of a preferred alternative is November 2012.*
Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period: Due to proposed plan amendments, there will be a 90 day comment period on the DEIS during which public meetings will be held in Idaho and Montana. *Target date for the NOA is December 2012.*

Cultural Update

Ethnographies and Tribal Consultation: Contracts for ethnographic studies for the Blackfeet and Chippewa Cree Tribes are now in place. Work will begin on the Blackfeet ethnographic study in June. BLM will work with the tribes and their ethnographers to provide information on cultural resources that should be included in the study. The Shoshone Bannock are in the process of reviewing the statement of work. The Shoshone-Paiute tribe has requested an ethnographic study. Work has been suspended on the statement of work due to a project shut down explained below.

Programmatic Agreement: The Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) expressed concern with portions of the PA that are perceived to extend the jurisdiction of the ACHP outside of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (ACHP) protocols. As a result, the NAGPRA Plan of Action and associated procedures for the discovery of human remains will be removed from the PA and will be a separate binding document tied to the Record of Decision (ROD). A Whereas Clause regarding the applicability of the Tribal Consultation Plan will be added to the PA so the Tribal Consultation Plan may remain as an appendix to the PA.

The PA team met on April 17, 2012, and addressed all the remaining comments on this version of the PA. The PA has been sent out for editorial review with comments due by June 18, 2012. A final version of the PA was reviewed and approved. Minor changes are being made to the draft document which will go out with the DEIS for public review and comment.

Sage Grouse Avoidance Alternatives

Based on IM 2012-043, Greater Sage Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, Idaho State Director directed the management team to identify and analyze alternatives that avoid or minimize disturbance to preliminary priority habitat absent suspension of their project until the Great Basin Sage Grouse planning effort was completed. The project management (PM) developed alternatives which were approved by the Idaho SD.

Schedule Ramifications: Administrative Draft EIS (ADEIS) was scheduled for internal review August 23, 2012. With new alternatives, review of the ADEIS has been rescheduled for November 8, 2012. Analysis of the new alternatives will result in a 2.5 month (13-week) delay.

MSTI Project Put on Hold

NorthWestern Energy sent a letter dated August 2, 2012, to Montana DEQ and BLM to request an immediate "timeout" and suspension of all activity related to the Cost Recovery Agreement with agencies and all third party EIS contractors conducting the environmental review until such time that a meeting can be arranged to discuss NWE concerns. A meeting was convened in Helena MT on August 9, 2012 to discuss NorthWestern Energy's concerns. BLM, MT DEQ and contractors have suspended work on the project until further notice.

BLM and MT DEQ, as co-lead agencies, are keeping each informed on learned developments. The following information may shed added light on the NorthWestern request to BLM for a "timeout" in place on the MSTI Project.

From the BPA website for Southeastern Idaho Load Service: *Bonneville Power Administration has been evaluating alternative ways to meet its power supply and transmission service obligations to its preference customers located in southeast Idaho. One possible solution is participation with Idaho Power and PacifiCorp in the 500-kilovolt Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project. Another possible solution is participation in the Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) project.*

On September 28th, the MSTI Project Manager informed the project managers for BLM and MT DEQ that some determination on moving the MSTI Project forward would be made within next two weeks.

In a letter to Regional Customers, Stakeholders and Interested Parties dated October 2, 2012 the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) states that *it has completed an initial prioritization of potential service arrangements for customer loads located in southeast Idaho. This prioritization marks an important step in the process of finding a replacement method of serving BPA's preference customers in southeastern Idaho post-2016.*

From among the six potential service options BPA is currently considering (in which MSTI is one), *BPA has identified the option of Boardman-to-Hemingway with Transmission Asset Swap as its top priority for pursuit in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and beyond. This option has the potential to keep BPA costs low relative to the other options considered, to increase reliability of the Northwest transmission system, and was supported by many comments received during the August public review of this issue.*

It is believed that the future disposition of MSTI is dependent on the pending service arrangements for SE Idaho being determined by BPA.

No Change: Electric Transmission Permitting: On August 31, the Department of Energy provided a draft rule to the Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) for comments. The draft rule outlines how the Secretary of Energy would implement authority under Section 216(h) of the Federal Power Act (FPA). Section 216(h) of

the FPA requires all agencies to issue decisions on transmission applications within one year once an application has been deemed complete by the Secretary of Energy. The 1 year timeframe begins at the close of the comment period for a Draft EIS. The rule calls for an 18 month pre-application process; a 12 month application process; development of agreed-upon Schedule MOUs; a Presidential appeal process for applications denied; sharing of cost recovery where feasible; and agency dispute resolution process. The rule will be discussed at an RRTT meeting on September 24. A follow-up RRTT meeting is scheduled for October 10.

No Change: **Gateway South Transmission Line Project** – sponsored by PacifiCorp. In December 2008, BLM received an application from PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), a regulated public utility, for a right-of-way for a 500 kilovolt (kV), alternating current, overhead transmission line and ancillary facilities, crossing public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. This project is part of Rocky Mountain Power's system upgrade (the Energy Gateway Transmission Expansion System). The project consists of a single circuit, 500 kV, 1,500 MW transmission line and ancillary facilities from the planned Aeolus Substation (near Medicine Bow, WY) to the planned Mona Annex (Clover) Substation, (near Mona, UT), crossing the states of Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, a distance of approximately 425 miles.

The project will enhance development of renewable (wind) and clean thermal (IGCC) energy development in Wyoming by providing transmission options, and will serve existing load and customers, and meet projected load growth along the route while increasing reliability.

BLM is the lead Federal agency for preparation of the EIS and Wyoming has been designated lead state responsibility. RMP will identify their proposed route after public scoping and alternative formulation. Federal Cooperating Agencies include: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Army Environmental Center, Navy Region Southwest, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Utah Reclamation and Conservation Commission, and the Forest Service. Twenty other Cooperating Agencies include: States of CO, UT, and WY; Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties in CO; Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, Juab, Sanpete, and Uintah and Wasatch Counties in UT; and Sweetwater and Carbon Counties in WY; (13out of 17 counties involved); Little Snake River Conservation District, Medicine Bow Conservation District, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, and the Sweetwater County Conservation District, all in Wyoming.

BLM organized a meeting of interested parties regarding the NHPA, Sec. 106 Programmatic Agreement on April 11, 2012. A government to government consultation meeting with Northern Ute at the Uintah/Ouray Reservation was held April 23, 2012.

Meetings to review impact assessment and mitigation planning and alternative route review of the conclusionary data with the ID Team and Cooperating Agencies was held the week of August 20, 2012, in Price, UT, Craig, CO, and Rawlins, WY. Comments and recommendation received from the ID team and cooperating agencies will be reviewed with the WY, CO and UT State Directors and managers, and with US FS managers on October 3, 2012. We intend to review the results of the comparison of alternatives and to make recommendations for which alternatives should be further carried forward for full analysis in the DEIS.

No Change: **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project** sponsored by PacifiCorp. The BLM received an application from PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) in December 2008, for a right-of-way for a 345 kilovolt (kV), alternating current, overhead electric transmission line crossing public lands in Utah, affecting the Cedar City, Fillmore, and Richfield Field Offices as well as the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. This regional project is part of Rocky Mountain Power's system upgrade (the Energy Gateway Transmission Expansion System – Segment G), and will specifically provide reliability and redundancy to the existing 345 kV Sigurd to Red Butte No. 1 Transmission Line, located in south-western, Utah.

The proposed route is approximately 160 miles long, going between the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield, Utah to the existing Red Butte Substation near the Town of Central, Utah. The line is expected to carry up to 600 megawatts of electrical generation, and will provide for reliability of electrical service as well as meeting future load growth in the southwestern Utah area.

The NOA package for the FEIS has cleared the Department and will publish for both EPA and BLM in the *Federal Register* on October 5, 2012. We anticipate simultaneous RODs by the USFS and the BLM on December 5, 2012, along with a grant/special use permit, if appropriate on December 5, 2012.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- Issues identified during agency pre-scoping meetings, public scoping meetings, and comments received on the DEIS, include air quality, noise, wildlife and vegetation, social and economic conditions, recreation and public access, other land uses, cultural, geology and soils, visual quality, and water resources.
- Potential issues related to affects to special status species and their habitat including Utah Prairie Dog, Burrowing Owl, and Greater Sage Grouse.
- Potential issues related to visual or physical impacts to Mountain Meadows National Register Historic District (and a proposed National Landmark Designation) in Iron County and Fremont Indian State Park along the I-70 corridor.
- Issues associated with a routing alternative in the Dixie National Forest affecting an inventoried roadless area.

No Change: **Transmission Line Project North Gila – Imperial Valley No. 2 Project** – Southwest Transmission Partners proposes to construct a new high voltage transmission line from the existing North Gila Substation in western Yuma County, Arizona to the existing Imperial Valley Substation in Imperial County, California. The proposed North Gila to Imperial Valley #2 (NGIV) Project would be a double-circuit 500 kV or 500/230 kV line. The NGIV #2 Project would provide additional high voltage transmission capacity in the southwestern United States to facilitate the development and interconnection of renewable energy. For most of its length, the Project will generally follow the same route as the existing Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500 kV line. The proposed line would cross lands administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within both California and Arizona. The line would cross withdrawn public lands administered by the DOI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in both states. The proposal includes potential crossing of the Quechan Tribal Reservation. BLM has held pre-application meetings and conference calls with the proponent.

The BOR, a cooperating agency with BLM, is being advised by the Office of the Regional Solicitor that FLPMA is not applicable on Reclamation project-facility lands (All American Canal) and the BOR will need to decide and authorize the HGIV2 Project if such lands are approved for use. The proponent has submitted an application with the BOR for such purposes. STP sent BLM a revised project schedule postponing the application process 6 to 8 additional months (NOI publication September 2012). The proponent is still working through development planning with state and county government in California as well as the Arizona public Service. The POD was reviewed by BLM; it is being revised and planned for resubmittal to BLM January 2013.

The Plan of Development (POD) has been prepared for the BLM to identify the proposed Project located on BLM and BOR administered lands. BLM held two pre-application meetings with the proponent. The proponent informed BLM that they propose to postpone construction of the project 1 year with a planned first quarter 2015 date. The BLM provided STP extensive comments for revising the Project Plan of Development (POD) to update the project description, planning and alternatives considered for BLM and BOR administered lands. A new alternative proposed to avoid Mittry Lake State Wildlife Management Area (Mittry Lake) may involve the western boundary of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG) land. Mittry Lake is withdrawn BOR land managed by the AZ Game & Fish Department (AGFD) under an agreement with BOR, BLM, FWS and AGFD. The U.S. Army has structures in the area and wants to obtain administrative management of the lands from BLM under a proposed Public Land Order (6475). A meeting is being planned in Yuma with BLM and all cooperating agencies to discuss the Project routing in this region.

No Change: **Lake Powell Pipeline Project** - The Utah State Board of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, proposes to construct 138 miles of 72-inch diameter water pipeline from the Lake Powell Glen Canyon dam site in Arizona to Sand Hollow Reservoir near St. George, Utah. It is anticipated that much of the pipeline would be within the legislated utility corridor in Kane County that parallels highway US 89, with lands

outside this corridor requiring one or more plan amendments. The project proposes to remove and transport up to 100,000 acre-feet of water to supply the Kane County and Washington County Water Conservancy Districts. The project would also include pumping stations along the pipeline to power pumping the water uphill, ancillary facilities including impoundment reservoirs, tunneling, electrical facilities and access roads, as well as hydro-electric generating plants using down-hill runs, which FERC would authorize. FERC is the lead Federal agency. BLM is a Cooperating Agency in the EIS, with Utah as the lead state for BLM Utah and Arizona on this project. Reclamation, NPS and the Kaibab Paiute Tribe are also Cooperating Agencies.

BLM met with the Zuni Pueblo leadership on July 10, at their Tribal HQ near Gallup, New Mexico in furtherance of Section 106 consultation on behalf of the DOI cooperating agencies. The Pueblo Governor, key Tribal Council members and their Tribal Preservation Officer were present at the meeting. An overall briefing on the status of the project was afforded the Tribe, which the Tribe appreciated. The Zuni asked for a fuller meeting with all Federal agencies to include the proponent. FERC is conducting their own Section 106 consultation, but has chosen not to meet directly with Tribes up to this point, a concern for the Advisory Council, who may be addressing this directly with FERC. The Zuni desire scoping meetings at the Tribal HQ once the EIS begins.

The proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project is currently on a slowdown by the State of Utah (Proponent), because of the State legislature's uncertainty of how the project would be paid for by the State – projected now to be about $2 Billion to construct.

No Change: **Arizona Public Service (APS) Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV** – The proposed project is near the Town of Buckeye with the Morgan Substation near the City of Peoria, in Maricopa County, Arizona. Approximately 8 miles of Federal public lands along SR 74 would require a plan amendment. Another 2.5 miles of Federal public lands are located within an existing utility corridor in the SW portion of the proposed project. The BLM, as lead agency, is responsible for making a decision on whether or not to amend the RMP to include a utility corridor (State Director decision) and, if amended, whether or not to issue a ROW grant for the project proposed by APS.

The project remains controversial and polarized with the AZ Delegation, City of Peoria and a powerful land developer (Diamond Ventures) advocating that BLM host the powerlines on virgin BLM land having high VRM qualities; however, numerous environmental organizations advocate that BLM maintain the VRM classification and that BLM stick to its recent RMP decision which prescribes no utility corridor. BLM's Preferred Alternative is the Proposed Action, with appropriate mitigation included. The highly energized public, special interest groups, agencies and congressional delegation regarding the visual resources that are prescribed in the recent RMP decision that involved extensive environmental community input, make for the harbinger of an immense political situation - no matter what decision BLM makes.

The NOA package for the Draft EIS was transmitted on September7, and is making its way through WO. The Draft EIS will go to the printer October 8, with a planned publication date for October 26. We then have a 90-day comment period, due to the plan amendment, to expose the Draft to the public.

No Change: **Electric Transmission Agency Training**: The BLM, in cooperation with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is hosting a series of transmission webinars. The first two are planned for October 23 and November 15. This series is intended to provide agency personnel a better understanding of the many aspects of electric grid operation, project planning and engineering through permitting, construction and operation/maintenance. RRTT agencies have been invited to participate.

No Change: **Electric Transmission Planning**: The Environmental Data Task Force (EDTF) which is a subgroup of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) continue work to determine how to proceed with EDTF review and potential modification of the assigned risk classification categories for corridors of concern identified in the July 11 settlement agreement for Energy Policy Act, section 368 energy corridors in the 11 western states. BLM is participating in EDTF webinar meetings and calls to monitor their actions. This topic was discussed via webinar September 18 and in person meeting October 11.

The Environmental Data Task Force (EDTF) which is a subgroup of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) has opened their biennial process for stakeholders to submit updated or new environmental or cultural data sets. These data sets will be used in future transmission planning efforts. Comments were due September 11.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is required by the Federal Power Act to study electric transmission congestion every 3 years. DOE is preparing a 2012 congestion study and held webinars August 7, 16 and 21 to collect stakeholder feedback. DOE will release the draft study in the Fall of 2012 for a 60 day comment period.

No Change **Energy Policy Act, Section 368 Energy Corridor Litigation** (*TWS v. DOI*, No. C 09-03048 JW (N.D. Ca.). – On July 11, 2012, Judge Ware of the US District Court of Northern District of California dismissed the case with prejudice. The Plaintiffs originally filed suit in 2009 regarding the issuance of RODs by the BLM and Forest Service which amended numerous land use plans and designated approximately 6,000 miles of energy corridors on Federal lands in the 11 contiguous western states. The Department of Energy (DOE), Forest Service and BLM reached a settlement with the Plaintiffs. (b) (5)

Talking points, Q&As and related materials were provided to the State Directors and Washington Office and State office public affairs leads on August 6, 2012.

The BLM external webpage was updated with the Settlement Agreement on August 23. Discussions with NREL have been initiated regarding providing the agencies technical assistance. The meeting scheduled for September 24 with NREL and agency representatives has been rescheduled to October. Meetings were held with Forest Service on September 6 and the National Training Center on September 7. A joint BLM/USFS letter is being prepared and will be sent to Tribes, environmental groups and industry inviting them to participate in upcoming BLM training courses.

No Change **Western Expansion Project II Pipeline Project** – The Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office and Northwest District Office have requested project manager mentoring assistance from the BLM Washington Office. The project is approximately 95 miles long, 16-inch natural gas liquids pipeline in Colorado and Utah. The Western Expansion II (WEP II) project will cross lands administered by the BLM Vernal, White River, Grand Junction, and Moab field offices. A right-of-way application and draft plan of development have been submitted describing specific construction activities by Enterprise Mid-American Pipeline (MAPL). The pipeline would increase current capacity by 15,000 barrels per day based on the increased natural gas liquids production in Utah and Wyoming. The BLM is lead agency and early meetings have been held with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss coordination and consultation. Garfield and Unitah counties have each signed an MOU as cooperating agencies on August 19, 2011. Consultation initiation letters have been sent to tribes and both SHPOS on August 22, 2011. Interested party consultation initiation letters were sent September 26, 2011. WEP II Field Site visits October 18-19, 24, 2011. Biological Survey Report was completed September 2011. The EA is currently being finalized by the environmental contractor. The MOA for Section 106 is being reviewed by BLM, SHPO and Enterprise and is expected to be signed September 28, 2012. Once the MOA has been signed by all, the FONSI and Decision document will be completed.

No Change **Transmission Project - Centennial West Clean Line LLC 600kV DC Transmission Project.** Centennial West Clean Line, LLC (Centennial West) filed an application with BLM to construct a +/- 600 kV high voltage (HV) direct current (DC) transmission line that would gather energy from renewable energy generation projects in eastern New Mexico and surrounding areas, and transmit it to load centers in southern California. The Project would be developed to accommodate delivery of approximately 3,500 megawatts of wind generation. The Project area has been broadly defined to include existing linear facilities and designated utility corridors, which will facilitate connecting major wind resource areas in eastern New Mexico to customers in Southern California. Final design for the HVDC transmission line will not be determined until further transmission planning, and engineering studies are completed.

The BLM and Western Area Power Administration (Western) will be joint Lead Agencies. The Forest Service (Forest Service), the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will be Cooperating Agencies. Numerous other Federal, State, and local entities with jurisdiction or special expertise relative to the Project will be offered Cooperating Agency status as the Project progresses.

Centennial West had been in negotiations with DOE regarding an advance funding agreement (AFA) since January of this year and had requested that BLM stop all work on the project until certain issues were resolved relative to these negotiations. On February 25, 2012, BLM's National Project Manager was notified that Centennial West and Clean Line were close to agreement on the final wording for the AFA. However due to market uncertainties in California and other concerns that they would not be moving forward with this project until at least the first quarter of 2013.

FLUID MINERALS:

Update: **National Lease Sale System**: BLM will develop functionality for a National Oil and Gas Lease Sale System (LSS). The system will commence with submittals of Expressions of Interest (EOI) and pre-sale offers by the public through use of electronic forms technology and conclude with the issuance of oil and gas leases. In addition, the system will automate tabulation of statistics and record the status of EOIs, including whether the EOIs have been deferred or included in the preliminary sale list. The system will replace numerous stand-alone systems used throughout the BLM, thus providing a consistent, easy to use system for both the oil and gas industry and BLM employees. Initially the LSS will be developed to accommodate the oil and gas program yet designed for ease in expansion to other program areas, e.g., geothermal, land sales, etc. The system will allow for interfaces with the Bureau's existing LR2000 and Collections and Billing Systems. The system will improve communications, decisions, and interactions with private and industry clients, BLM Field Offices, and non-BLM Surface Management Agencies. This national system for onshore oil and gas leasing will provide automated components that facilitate one-time data entry along with safe, reliable data handling to reduce errors and improve staff productivity.

The Mission Needs Statement has been finalized and approved by the AD300. NFLSS was presented to the ITIB June 2012 and approved for the planning and pilot phases. The Subject Matter Specialist met at the NOC August 28-30, to review and finalize the process and data requirements documentation and evaluate the updated Colorado Sale System. As of 10/10/12, the Project Team is reviewing the Performance Work Statement and System Requirement Specifications. Performance Work Statement was approved and sent to contracting 10/16/12 for NFLSS Pilot.

Update: **Hydraulic Fracturing Rulemaking:** Approval to move forward with Tribal Consultation and field review of the rulemaking was received from the White House on Friday, November 25. The Tribal Consultation locations are Tulsa, OK (Tuesday, January 10), Billings, MT (Thursday, January 12), Salt Lake City, UT (Tuesday, January 17), and Farmington, NM (Thursday, January 19). The invitation letters were signed by Acting AD300 and mailed on Friday, December 9. A conference call with the field review team and AD300 took place on Wednesday, December 14. The call answered several questions from the review team. Comments from the field review team are being addressed. Acting Deputy Director for Policy held a meeting on December 22 to hear the initial thoughts on the field review team's comments and to inform WO300 that the draft rule would be distributed during Tribal Consultation meetings. The EPA has been contacted to present the protection of water resources portion of the tribal consultation meetings. They have expressed an interest in participating. They may not be able to participate due to their travel ceiling and the lack of video conferencing at most of the venues.

BLM held an informal conference call with OMB to discuss the draft rule on January 10. The Regulatory Alert was sent to the Office of the Executive Secretary on Sept 8. The Secretary and Director testified about the hydraulic fracturing rulemaking to the full House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, November 16.

The rule will require operators to publicly disclose the chemicals they intend to use the in their hydraulic fracturing operations on public lands. Applicable recommendations by the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board Subcommittee on Natural Gas are being incorporated into the rule.

We have concluded the 4 tribal consultation meetings and are preparing a summary report for the Director. Based on comments gathered during the Tribal consults and field review, changes are being made to the reg text and supporting documents. A final package was completed and sent for surname on February 6, 2012. The proposed rule was sent forward to OMB the week of February 13, 2012. Several briefings with third party organizations through OMB have been completed. The draft was revised to reflect the requested changes and sent back to OMB for reconsideration.

The DOI has transmitted the draft Well Stimulation Rule to OMB for another review. The last version of the draft rule incorporates DOI/BLM, OMB, and interagency (DOE, DOJ, NIH, CDC) comments. The BLM has prepared specific responses to the interagency comments, and the responses were reviewed by Regulatory Affairs and shared with SOL before transmitted to OMB. We have provided OMB with a response based on one of EPAs comments relating to the definition of "well stimulation" in the BLM draft rule. Updated documents, including answers to various comments from OMB (and others), have been sent back to OMB. Another round of Tribal consultations sessions is currently being planned for late June 2012.

The Hydraulic Fracturing Rule was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11, 2012, beginning a 60-day public comment period that was later extended until September 10, 2012. Tribal consultation letters, with CDs were mailed May 11, 2012.

A Fluid Minerals Reservoir Management Roundtable meeting was held on 5-23-12. Field Office staff expressed concerns that verification of chemicals used in fracturing operations will increase their workload and that Indian Tribes have reservations about the proposed Rule because it would delay permitting and development of tribal oil and gas resources.

An additional round of Tribal consultations were conducted in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 5; Farmington, New Mexico on June 7; Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 12, and Billings, Montana on June 14. A fifth additional consultation was conducted at the National Congress of American Indian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 18. And another regional meeting was held at New Town, North Dakota on July 13. BLM State Offices are making calls to all tribes and developing a consolidated list of tribes requesting one-on-one government to government consultation. Government to government consultations began on July 18, and will occur over the coming weeks. A consolidated scheduled is being developed.

The WO staff continue to answer questions on the HF proposed rule, and provide clarification. Various groups have met weekly with the WO, including a meeting with the NGOs as well as the industry groups in June. The latest meeting was with the Small Business Administration Office of the Advocacy. The States regulatory group STRONGER (State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations, Inc.) has invited BLM to provide additional clarification when they host their Board meeting in Crystal City on August 29 and 30, 2012.

During the week of August 20, 2012, BLM met with Apache, Anadarko, API, and Conoco-Phillips to clarify the rule, and its objective, and also, reviewed their PowerPoint for discussion from the industry perspective. On August 30, a meeting was held with the state environmental regulatory Board of Governors in Crystal City to provide HF clarification and compare to approaches from the states. The supporting documents and regulation text were sent to the Cheyenne Rivers Sioux of SD. The State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources requested to comment, and was given the submittal information. The comment period closed September 10, 2012. Approximately 175,000 comments were received on the proposed rule; of those comments, approximately 219 are substantive comments, some of which were non-specific or duplicative, and are being analyzed by teams of subject matter experts and other staff. Thirty-two of the comments are being further investigated due to the

nature of the recommendations, proposals and suggestions. We anticipate briefing BLM leadership in the near future.

Update: **APD Processing Automation (AFMSS 2.0 Module)** – Secretary Salazar announced the project in a press conference during a visit to North Dakota on April 3, 2012. The project has been underway since 2011. A team was formed in January 2012, and has been working on establishing the high-level workflow processes related to processing an APD. The workflows will be completed prior to the APD Processing Workshop that will be held in Denver at the COSO April 25-26, 2012. The team will be working on finishing up determining the data elements and the data element requirements prior to working with a contractor. The contract will be needed prior to working on any design elements.

The draft IM emphasizing the BLM's current APD Process and Timeframes was sent to the field for review. Comments were received from the field July 6, 2012, and are being reviewed. The IM is in draft surnaming as of September 17, 2012.

The team met in Denver July 15-21, 2012, to go through comments from the field on the flowcharts and work through defining data elements to prepare the project to go to a contractor, which will hopefully be on board in August. The flowcharts are now complete and we are working on determining how to send them to the field so they know that this is the BLM approved process.

There was a meeting in Denver with WEA on July 26, 2012, to discuss this project. The milestones and BP have been updated and Mike is planning to send out to the ELT for their information. The team has identified a need for the sub-teams to travel to complete this project. The estimated total for all the travel needed to complete this project is about $190,000. The contract has been delayed and we are not expecting to let a contract prior to the middle of October. The identified sub-team leads have been asked to contact their potential team members to gauge interest and availability. Once this has been determined, we will work through channels to make sure they are committed to the project and time requirements. A few teams members have been identified, but several of the teams will be understaffed due to end of year commitments. The manager certifications for sub-team member participation have been received. The surface sub-teams had their first meeting on September 10; the other sub-teams will be meeting soon. The Adjudication, Engineering and Geology sub-teams began meetings the week of September 24. The Engineering sub-team will be meeting in Denver November 5-9 and the Geology sub-team will be meeting in Salt Lake City November 7-9. The contract review panel is preparing to receive the bids to review on or around November 2.

The RFP was made public on September 11, 2012; however, it is being amended and a new version should be available September 21. The earliest we can possibly get a contractor is now early November.

Update: **Onshore Orders 3, 4 and 5** – The three **Onshore Order** teams (Orders 3, 4, 5) completed drafts of revised regulatory text. The NRS completed drafts of Categorical Exclusions for all three Onshore Orders. Indian consultations for all three Orders were held the week of July 11, 2011, with meetings occurring in Farmington, NM, and Tulsa, OK. The Billings, MT Indian consultation meeting has been rescheduled for August 24, 2011. Anticipate publishing the Proposed Rule as the Onshore Orders and the Final Rule as codified regulations. The Solicitor's Office has completed initial review of preambles and staff coordinating changes to preamble with the Solicitor's Office. Working on final edits; citations for Orders 3 and 4, burden hours for Order 5 have been completed. The BLM Director was briefed on these Orders on March 8, 2012. We anticipate having the draft rule package ready for WO review, briefings, and surnaming by mid-March 2012. The draft rule package is ready for WO review and surnaming. Order 3 and 4 surname package was transmitted to the Solicitor's Office on June 20 for review and surname. Draft Orders 4 and 5 are with the Solicitor's Office for review and surname. Order 3 has been surnamed by the Solicitor's Office and is with Regulatory Affairs to incorporate final edits. Onshore Order 4 has been signed by the Office of the Solicitor; Order 5 is in review with the Solicitors.

Update: **Leasing Reform and Master Leasing Plans** – On May 17, 2010, the BLM issued IM 2010-117, Oil and Gas Leasing Reform.

- Seventeen areas have been identified for MLP analysis. A Planning for Fluid Minerals Resources handbook section that will identify these processes for incorporating Master Leasing Plans into ongoing resource management plans has been reviewed by the Office of the Solicitor staff and is in final surnaming.
- All state offices have incorporated the Leasing Reform lease parcel review process into their lease sales.
- First-year Post-Implementation Reports have been received from all state offices and analyzed by the WO. On Tuesday, December 6, 2011, the Director was briefed on the status of the Leasing Reform implementation and a follow-up briefing was held with ASLM on June 7, 2012. Lessons learned were provided to the State Office and Field Office Leasing Reform contacts.
- The Washington Office has begun a 2nd year assessment of Leasing Reform.

Update: **Venting and Flaring (Onshore Order 9)** – Executive Order 13514 and Secretarial Order 3289 require reduction of indirect greenhouse gas releases. In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the BLM's oil and gas program made five recommendations concerning greenhouse gas releases in their report entitled, "Federal Oil and Gas Leases: Opportunities Exist to Capture Vented and Flared Natural Gas, Which Would Increase Royalty Payments and Reduce Greenhouse Gases (GAO-11-34). The BLM is committed to managing the venting and flaring of methane from onshore Federal and Indian oil and gas leases and underground mines to the extent of its authority. The BLM is in the process of promulgating new regulations (Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 9) to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations – determining timing as the EPA proposed rule for HC emission controls has been pushed to July 2011. As part of the rulemaking process, the BLM will propose new emission standards and require the use of new technologies to capture vented and flared natural gas economically. The BLM has been coordinating with the EPA to help ensure consistency between their proposed changes to the Clean Air Act regulations and the BLM's development of Order 9.

A Tribal Consultation letter has been drafted and put on hold pending approval to move forward. Consultations are now tentatively scheduled for the end of the year pending Departmental approval. The Team has developed drafts of the Environmental Assessment and economic analysis for the Order. These efforts will produce an OMB reviewable draft regulations by the end of October 2012 and the target date for final regulations is Spring 2013.

The Preamble, Reg text, briefing paper and PowerPoint were updated and a briefing was held with Acting BLM Director on August 9. A briefing was held with the ASLM on August 17, 2012. Also, the EPA's New Source Performance Standards rule was published in the *Federal Register* on August 16, 2012. The schedule is on hold pending a briefing with Deputy Secretary Hayes. The team met on August 28 to run the documents through a more thorough review with the entire team. All of the briefing documents have been updated.

The team met again on September 4 to address some of the concerns. All of the briefing documents have been updated and forwarded to the BLM Director's office. The team will be briefing Deputy Secretary Hayes on October 22.

No Change **2012 Alaska NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** On 11/7/2012, BLM-AK is scheduled to conduct annual lease sale for NPR-A. BLM-AK expects to submit its Federal Register Notice request for the Notice of Sale to BLM-WO by September 10, 2012. The Notice needs to be published in the Federal Register no later than October 5, 2012. The tracts available for the upcoming sale are structured and consistent with the preferred alternative of the current NPR-A planning effort but the sale is based on the previous IAP's for NE and NW. BLM-AK is currently working on the draft lease sale configuration and NEPA review. Target date for finalizing the tracts offered for the upcoming lease sale was August 24, 2012. A briefing through BLM has been completed.

No Change: **Inspection and Enforcement Internal Control Review:** The BLM Washington recently completed an Internal Control Review at 10 of its busiest oil and gas field offices. A draft report was provided to each of the offices for their review and comments. All of the offices have responded to the review and some have begun to implement changes. We briefed the BLM Executive Leadership Team the week of June 20 on the overall findings – morale in the majority of offices, staffing and workload are major challenges, case records documentation needs to be strengthened, recruitment, retention and training are challenging in some offices and enhanced automation capabilities are needed. Subsequent briefings will be scheduled for the BLM Director and the ASLM as soon as possible. Thereafter, the reports will be finalized and sent to the respective BLM State Directors for them to develop and submit a corrective action plan. The draft final ICR Report was sent to the field for review the week of October 24. Comments have been received. The Director was briefed on February 24 and the ASLM will be briefed prior to issuance of the final ICR Report. A transmittal IB is in surname to send the final report out to the State Offices. WO staff is working with each State Office on the Corrective Action Plan.

No Change: **O&G Process Improvements** - The Colorado and New Mexico State Offices hosted a 2-day workshop in Denver, CO, April 25-26, 2012, to engage senior managers and program staff, with additional remote access by Video Teleconference from subject matter experts, in finding ways to enhance the O&G operations. The agenda included discussions on the permit process; coordination with other Surface Management Agencies; identifying the NEPA needs; a review of lessons learned from the oil and gas pilot offices; and identifying best management practices that can be applied across the program. The BLM reconvened with Western Energy Alliance in Denver for a 5-hour meeting on July 26, 2012. Opportunities to improve the workflow process were discussed.

No Change: **Section 390 Categorical Exclusions (CX) – Western Energy Alliance v. Salazar (Section 390 CX Litigation)** – A US District Court (WY) judge ruled against the BLM's 2010 CX policy. The BLM is currently in the process of developing a long-term strategy to address the District Court of Wyoming's decision.

The BLM is currently in the process of developing interim guidance to comply with recommendations prescribed by the GAO in a report that identified concerns with the BLM's use of the 390 CXs. Upon completion of a surnaming package for the interim guidance, the BLM will initiate a rulemaking effort to address the District Court of Wyoming's decision. An IM has been prepared that rescinds IM 2010-118, which the District Court in Wyoming struck down, and also clarifies what parts of IM 2010-118 are still applicable.

As an immediate measure, the BLM is also in the process of issuing an Instruction Memorandum that rescinds IM 2010-118, which was struck down by the District Court of Wyoming. The draft IM also clarifies what parts of IM 2010-118 are still applicable.

In September 2009, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report outlining their investigation of the BLM's policy and use of the Section 390 CXs. The GAO found the BLM's policy to be lacking, which led to inconsistent field office implementation of the Section 390 of the EPAct. The GAO issued three recommendations intended to clarify agency guidance in order to avoid these inconsistencies. The BLM is currently in the process of updating NEPA Handbook guidance to comply with recommendations prescribed by the GAO.

In May 2010, the BLM issued revised CX guidance (IM 2010-118) that addressed major concerns identified in the GAO's 2009 report.

In Fall 2010, the Western Energy Alliance filed suit against the BLM challenging the agency's 2010 revised policy (IM 2010-118) claiming, among other things, that the BLM's policy was a legislative rule that required public notice and an opportunity to comment, consistent with procedures under the APA.

In August 2011, the US District Court – District Court of Wyoming sided with the plaintiffs on this particular claim and issued an adverse decision that vacated and enjoined the BLM's implementation of IM 2010-118.

The IM to rescind Section 390 CX IM-2010-118 has been signed by the Director and issued to the field.

No Change: ***Federal Register* Notices for Oil and Gas Reinstatements** – The Solicitor's Office has concerns regarding approval of *Federal Register* Notices for Oil and Gas Reinstatements. BLM is currently in the negotiation phase of a settlement agreement with WildEarth Guardians (WEG) on a lawsuit that challenged BLM's authorization of oil and gas leases in Colorado. The suit and agreement are specific to 12 issued Colorado leases and alleges that BLM violated NEPA by failing to complete an EA or EIS for the 2009 lease sale. In addition, 9 of the 12 leases were terminated by operation of law for late payment of rental. In the current settlement agreement, (b) (5)

A meeting was held with the BLM Director on January 31, 2012; we proposed an interim process for moving the current backlog through the surname process. Pending *Federal Register* Notices have been sent forward to the Department. Once approved, BLM Regulatory Affairs will send to the *Federal Register* for publication. Backlogged reinstatements are moving through the offices and being published. An updated briefing paper was prepared and forwarded to the Director's office. BLM is revamping the reinstatement paper and proposed procedures for addressing reinstatement requests involving lands in Sage Grouse PPH, and will also address communication plan and outreach to ONRR.

No Change: **Royalty Rate Increase Proposed Rule** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has initiated a rulemaking process to authorize increased royalties for new competitive oil and gas leases on Federal land. The rule will amend regulation 43 CFR 3103.3-1, Royalty on Production.

The Secretary approved the option to delink oil and gas and increase oil to 18 ¾% and leave gas at 12 ½%. This option also includes an intermittent review of the royalty rates. The Royalty Rule team developed a draft proposed royalty rule and sent it to Regulatory Affairs August 29. The final rule surname package was sent forward for concurrent review by BLM and the Solicitor's office on September 22. The team briefed the ASLM on October 18, 2011. Comments have been received from the Solicitor's office and WO-100. The team has updated the package but is waiting for a decision on the 5 year language for the document before the package can be completed for final surname. Van Meurs signed an MOU agreeing to terms which allow the BLM to make its report available for public review and comment. The BLM also received from Van Meurs additional copies for placement in BLM state offices.

BLM met with OMB on March 13, 2012, to inform them that we will not be going forward with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to increase royalty rates at this time. However, we will be developing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes a number of questions/options for public comment. The target date for completing the ANPR has not yet been determined. The BLM extended the Enegis contract through 12/31/12. BLM met with Enegis on May 11, 2012, to discuss the extension of their contract which is scheduled to expire June 30, 2012. Enegis is considering a no-cost extension and discuss before the contract expires.

No Change: **Fair Return Report** – The Fair Return report will compare oil and gas fiscal systems in other countries with those used by the United States Government in federally owned offshore and onshore lands. The purpose of the study is to inform decision makers about Federal lease terms, such as royalties, to ensure that the U.S. Government is receiving a fair return.

In September 2010, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and the BLM jointly contracted Information Handling Services Cambridge Energy Research Associates (IHS CERA) to conduct the comparative assessment.

On October 18-20, IHS CERA conducted a technical training on the fiscal models for BLM, BOEM, and DOI employees. The contractor delivered the final report on October 20. The BLM and BOEM will work with DOI on the release of the report. The contractor presented its findings on November 9 to senior-level

policymakers. The contract closed on November 12. The BLM and BOEM drafted a cover piece to accompany the report. The report has been released and linked to the BLM external web site on January 24 at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/comparative_assessment.html.

SOLID MINERALS:

Update: **New Mexico Potash**

- The BLM received 28 comment letters on the draft Order containing 40 distinct comments. After careful analysis of these comments the BLM has prepared a proposed final 2012 Secretary's Order. Several changes to the draft Order were made in response to the comments. Mike Pool surnamed the package 10/10/12, and surname packages were delivered to the ASLM and SOL offices.
- New Mexico oil-gas and potash industry, "Joint Industry Technical Committee" (JITC) met with the Secretary on May 1 and submitted recommended changes to the 1986 Secretary's Potash Order. A "Strike Team," which includes BLM-New Mexico, SOL and WO-320 drafted a revised order, which was published in the Federal Register on 7/13/12 as a Notice of Availability (NOA) for a 30 day public comment period. A 15-day extension of the comment period, closing on 8/31/12 was granted after a request for extension was received from both New Mexico senators.

No Change: **Oil Shale RD&D:**

1st Round:

- Enefit American Oil, who controls the oil shale RD&D lease in Utah, briefed BLM Acting Director Pool on 10/9/12, concerning their plans to have a Notice of Intent published soon to initiate an EIS for their right-of-way (ROW) application. The ROW would be the corridor in which electricity, natural gas and water would come in to their oil shale operation, and oil shale would be piped out of the property.
- On 3/14/12, BLM WO and Utah met with Enefit American Oil to review progress on their RD&D lease and to answer questions regarding the PEIS.
- On 3/12/12, the Oil Shale/Tar Sands PEIS open house team toured the AMSO R, D&D project in the Piceance Basin, Colorado. AMSO has invested over $10 million in the project with the goal of producing oil from oil shale this summer.
- As of 3/5/12, WO300 will have calls over the next few weeks with BLM state offices to discuss our progress with RD&D leases.
- Chevron has plans to meet with the COSO to discuss their wish to relinquish or assign their Oil Shale RD&D lease. (Date TBD)
- BLM participated on a conference call on 9/14/11 with representatives of Enefit and BLM-Utah concerning Enefit's Plan of Operation for their RD&D lease.
- A conference call with Allen Freemyer, representing Enefit, was held on 8/2/11 to discuss the RD&D lease which Enefit acquired from OSEC. Enefit has many questions about the lease, and they plan to submit their questions soon. A meeting is tentatively planned for mid-September to discuss their questions.
- A meeting with representatives of Enefit American Oil was held on 7/13/11, concerning their plans for the Uintah County, Utah, Oil Shale RD&D lease they recently acquired from OSEC, Inc.
- The American Shale Oil Company (AMSO) has invested about $10 million in their research operations in the Piceance Basin, Colorado, and is currently drilling their first heater and production wells. They plan to begin heating oil shale in August or September 2011, and hope to produce about 2,000 barrels of shale oil for testing during the fall 2011.

2nd Round:

- The Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda leases are being finalized and should be signed in October, with an effective date of 11/1/12.
- The Acting ASLM was briefed on the final EA for the Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda nominations. The FONSI/Decision Record will be "rolled-out" by the White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. The

Acting ASLM was also briefed on the Utah State Office's plan to reject the AuraSource nomination for failure to initiate the NEPA process.

- A briefing with the Director was held on 8/22/12 to discuss the final EA for the Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda nominations. The Director was also briefed on the Utah State Offices' plan to reject the AuraSource nomination for failure to initiate the NEPA process.
- The final EA and FONSI/Decision Record are under review by the SOL as of the week of 7/23/12.
- On 6/19/12, BLM attended an Oil Shale Forum held at the Capitol Visitor Center. The Forum was sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute and was moderated by Dr. Boak of the Colorado School of Mines. Public policy issues related to oil shale development were discussed and some of the RD&D lease holders gave updates on their projects.
- BLM met with Exxon-Mobil and Enefit concerning their oil shale RD&D projects on 6/19/12.
- The EA prepared by the NEPA contractor was released for public comment by the White River Field Office on 5/18/12, with comments due by 6/16/12.
- Draft EIS being received by BLM CO and WO320 as of 5/19/12.
- A NEPA contractor, hired by Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda, has begun preparing an EA for these 2nd round Oil Shale RD&D nominations. The EA was released for public comment by the White River Field Office on 5/18/12, with comments due 6/16/12. A total of 70 comments need to be addressed.

No Change: **Oil Shale Regulations:**

- On 8/14/12 the Department proposed to include language in the draft regulations to consult OMB before setting a royalty.
- On 8/1/12 we met with the Department to discuss how to proceed on oil shale regulations.
- OMB wants a set royalty. OMB and the Department are seeking resolution as of the week of 7/23/12.
- The Oil Shale Rule was sent to OMB on May 15, 2012. Department is asking for a 2-week review; however it's unclear whether they will grant an expedited review.
- Oil Shale Rule is currently with ASLM; a briefing was held on May 11, 2012.
- SOL review completed and package is in Regulatory Affairs awaiting surnaming as of 3/22/12.
- The Oil Shale Regulations Team has been focusing on the revising recently identified aspects of the preamble and related supporting documents. The draft document was sent to SOL for review on 2/22/12.

No Change: **BLM Updates Mineral Cost Recovery Fee Schedule** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will publish in the *Federal Register* on Monday, Sept. 10, the final rule updating the fees it charges to recover costs incurred in processing documents associated with oil, gas, coal, and solid mineral activities. The updated fees cover costs for actions, including lease applications, name changes, corporate mergers, and lease consolidations and reinstatements. The BLM is authorized to charge cost recovery fees under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the 2005 Cost Recovery Rule. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has also directed Federal agencies to recover their costs for services.

Seven of the fee increases will amount to $5, and eight of the increases will amount to $10. The largest adjustment—$65—will be added to the fee for adjudicating more than 10 mineral patent claims and will increase the fee from $2,875 to $2,940. The fee for adjudicating 10 or fewer mineral patent claims will rise by $30—from $1,440 to $1,470.

The BLM first implemented a cost recovery fee schedule for certain oil and gas activities in November 2005. The agency aims to implement the updated fee schedule on Oct. 1, at the beginning of fiscal year 2012. The fees will continue to be evaluated every year thereafter.

The fee changes are the BLM's response to recommendations made in a 1988 report issued by the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General, which found that the BLM needed to do more to recover its document-processing costs. The fees are based on a commonly used mathematical formula used by businesses nationwide to adjust their expenses. The updates are based on the change in the Implicit Price Deflator for Gross Domestic Product (IPD-GDP) from the 4th Quarter of one calendar year to the 4th Quarter of the following calendar

year. This fee update rule is based on the change in the IPD-GDP from the 4th Quarter of 2010 to the 4th Quarter of 2011, thus reflecting the rate of inflation over four calendar quarters.

No Change: Oil Shale—Programmatic EIS

- The Acting ASLM was briefed on 8/30/12 concerning the Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS.
- The Director was briefed on August 22 concerning the Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS.
- As of 8/16/12 the comments have been addressed and the PEIS is being finalized. The PEIS must be published by 9/21/12 to remain on schedule.
- A briefing request has been sent to the Director's Office to discuss the NOA and the final oil shale PEIS.
- BLM briefed the ASLM on the status of the Oil Shale PEIS on 6/6/12.
- The PEIS was released 2/3/12 for a 90-day comment period, which ended 5/4/12. Over 161,750 comments were received, about 500 of which were substantive. The comments must be addressed and any rewriting of the PEIS must be done by 7/15/12 to remain on schedule.
- BLM staff are scheduled to meet with Argonne in Chicago the week of 5/14/12 to work on comment responses.
- Draft PEIS comment period closing on 5/4/12
- During the week of 3/12/12, BLM staff and representatives of Argonne National Labs conducted open house meetings in Silt, CO, Vernal, UT, Salt Lake City, UT and Rock Springs, WY to present information and answer questions about the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS. The meetings were well attended, especially in Salt Lake City where about 150 people attended.
- Released 2/3/12 for 90-day comment period closing 5/4/12.
- Public meetings will be held in UT, CO, and WY the week of 3/12/12.
- The Notice of Availability for the Draft PEIS was published on 2/6/12.
- On 12/1, BLM, Solicitors Office, and the Department met to further discuss alternatives for the Oil Shale PEIS.
- Provided a briefing on 11/22/11 to BLM Director, Director's staff, Deputy Assistant Secretary for ASLM and others concerning the alternatives analyzed in the Draft PEIS. A decision needs to be made soon as to which alternative will be indicated as the agency-preferred alternative when the draft is published.
- On 10/19/11 Division Chief met with Contractor and Project Manager on progress and status of PEIS.
- Participated in a conference call with SOL and program leads on 10/11/11 concerning alternatives to be analyzed in the Oil Shale PEIS.
- Briefed the Director concerning alternatives to be analyzed in the Oil Shale PEIS on 9/28/11.
- Participated in an OSTS PEIS conference call on 9/20/11 concerning the direction to give Argonne about the draft interim management policy for the Greater Sage Grouse and, "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics."

No Change: Waste Mine Methane IM: BLM has drafted an IM aimed at reducing waste mine methane emissions by capturing and selling or by thermally destroying or burning the methane. Methane, the principle constituent of natural gas is a valuable resource which this IM will help to conserve and utilize, as envisioned by the Mineral Leasing Act. A simultaneous review is being conducted by BLM and the Solicitor's Office.

- Returned a revised draft to SOL on 8/6/12
- We are revising the IM with a royalty rate reduction feature after discussion with SOL on 7/24/12. SOL advised that the feature will require a rulemaking.
- As of 5/2/12, the draft IM continues to be reviewed in SOL and we are reviewing comments received to date.
- Revised draft IM forwarded to WO-300 on 2/28/12, but is also currently being reviewed by Karen Hawbecker in SOL as of 4/5/12.
- As of 2/16/12, the SOL returned the draft IM to WO-320 with comments that are being reviewed.
- Meetings to discuss the comments, resolve concerns, and revise the IM were held on 1/30/12 and 2/13/12.

No Change: **Coal Mine Methane Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:** The ANPR was signed on January 16, 2012, and was forwarded to OMB the week of January 30, 2012, for an informal review, normally taking approximately 2 weeks. The ANPR will publish in conjunction with the Coal Regulations. In May 2012, OMB declared that the ANPR is a significant rule and would require an additional 90-day review. BLM completed the analysis of comments received from EPA and forwarded the analysis to BLM Regulatory Affairs on 7/3/12.

No Change: **Proposed Coal Regulations** –

- BLM received several comments from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and WO320 has completed a proposed response. We met with Regulatory Affairs to finalize our response on 4/27/12. As of 5/10/12, the response is in surnaming. Completed the second round review of the response to CEQ comments on 7/2/12.
- The Proposed Coal Regulations was signed on January 16, 2012, and was forwarded to OMB the week of January 30, 2012, for a formal review (normally taking approximately 90 days).

No Change: **Soda Ash Applications:**

- A hearing on the helium bill was held 5/10/12, and the soda ash royalty reduction provision was not discussed.
- Senate Bill S. 2374, the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2012," contains a clause which would extend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 by 2 years. The term of the 2006 Act was 5 years, expiring on October 12, 2011. If enacted, the helium bill would extend the soda ash royalty reduction to October 12, 2013. A hearing on the helium bill is being held May 10, and it is anticipated that much of the testimony will focus on the soda ash royalty reduction provision.
- On 2/16/12, The Director sent a letter (concurred with by Deputy Secretary Hayes) to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America rejecting their royalty reduction application, and discussing the SOL's memo discussed below.
- The week of 1/9/12, the SOL drafted a letter to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America regarding their royalty reduction application and the SOL's opinion on the Secretary's authority and granting royalty rate reductions.
- WO-320 drafted a letter, which was sent forward on 1/10/12 to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America to respond to their royalty reduction application and to discuss the SOL's opinion on the Secretary's authority and granting royalty rate reductions. The SOL is also drafting a similar letter.
- As follow-up to the 11/22/11 meeting, the SOL transmitted, on 12/30/11, a memo to BLM with their opinion on the soda ash industry's claim that the Secretary has the authority to "directly" grant royalty reductions. The SOL(b) (5)

- On 1/3/11, WO320 received a "bundled" royalty rate reduction application sent by the Industrial Minerals Association – North America.
- Attended a meeting on 11/22/11 with BLM Director, Solicitor's Office and others concerning a legal opinion from the soda ash industry concerning the Secretary's authority to reduce sodium lease royalty rates. It was decided that the Solicitor's office will review the industry's proposal and render an opinion.

LANDS, REALTY, AND CADASTRAL SURVEY:

No Change: The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled September 20 that some categories of public land withdrawals are automatically open to mining claims when they reach their expiration date. That is, BLM does not need to issue an order to open them. IBLA Chief Administrative Judge H. Barry Holt said that administrative withdrawals under Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLMPA) are open to mining claims on the date a withdrawal expires. In the 28-page decision, *Casey E. Folks, Jr. et al., 183 IBLA 24 of September20, 2012,* **IBLA reversed a significant policy of BLM** that held that withdrawn lands that reach their expiration dates may only be opened to mining when BLM issues an opening order. But Holt said FLPMA withdrawals terminate the day they reach an expiration date (usually 20 years maximum for large withdrawals), without an opening order.

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Weekly Reports
Cc:	Ishee, Mary K; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard; Burke, Marcilynn; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, October 18, 2012 5:24:13 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-18-12 final.docx

Attached please find the ASLM weekly report.

Thanks,
Celina

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Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 18, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

This week marks another milestone in the Department's efforts to expand renewable energy development. On October 18, BOEM and Bluewater reached agreement on the Delaware offshore wind commercial lease. The Bluewater lease is the first under your "Smart from the Start" wind energy initiative and the second renewable offshore wind lease on the Outer Continental Shelf. I want to recognize Dir. Beaudreau and his dedicated team for their efforts on bringing this agreement to fruition.

It was an honor to join the Deputy Secretary and bureau directors to present the Department's "Partners in Conservation" awards to the BLM, OSM, and BOEM. The award recipients include the Phoenix District Youth Initiative (nominated by the BLM), the Ute Learning Garden (nominated by the BLM), the Iditarod National Historic Trail Partnership (nominated by the BLM), the Volunteers in Service to America (nominated by the OSM), the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (nominated by the OSM), and the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (nominated by the BOEM). Each project exemplifies the tireless work of staff and partners as stewards of the Department's mission. I commend BOEM, OSM, and the BLM staff for their hard work on the ground to make these partnerships succeed. The Department's greatest conservation legacies come from our diverse partnerships. When bureaus and committed citizens and organizations come together to address our shared challenges, we find solutions to complex natural resource issues and effectively conserve and restore our treasured landscapes.

On October 17, I met with senior level representatives from the Department of the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to address concerns regarding the BLM's preferred alternative route for the SunZia transmission line. The Army is concerned with portions of the BLM preferred route that are near the White Sands Missile Range and the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Proving Grounds at Fort Huachuca. The BLM initiated several rounds of scoping and reviews of various alternatives to address Army concerns. The BLM ultimately decided on the preferred route to limit conflicts with surrounding communities, the military, species conservation and habitat, cultural preservation, and significant financial obstacles of other proposals. At the meeting, I outlined the reasoning behind our decision and the need for timely cooperation. The Army has committed to providing additional information on the impacts the transmission will have on its mission as well as a list of possible mitigation measures to reduce those impacts. We will continue the dialog to reduce further delays of the SunZia transmission line. I am hopeful that our work on Sunzia will create a better working relationship with DoD to resolve conflicts with future transmission projects.

I continue to monitor wildfires on BLM land. As of Oct. 15, wildfires have impacted 324 BLM grazing allotments. These 324 allotments had 1,957,877 public land acres burned and over 573,000 Animal Unit Months of livestock forage lost, affecting 432 permittees. The BLM field

offices are working with permittees to analyze a wide range of temporary actions to mitigate the impacts of the fires. Some permittees have voluntarily removed cattle from their allotments.

On Oct. 15, I was scheduled to travel to Tennessee to see the Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition site. I will reschedule my travel due to an unexpected health issue, which I am recovering from quickly.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 22, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Oct. 22 – 23. Travel to NYC on Oct. 24 to speak at an American Jewish Committee meeting on renewable energy together with leaders from Mexico and Canada. In the office Oct. 25 – 26.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 29, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

  - In Oct., BOEM expects to be ready to publish the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment for **MA**. The NOA will also announce public meetings tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13-16, in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket. BOEM is drafting the Proposed Sale Notice for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**, with publication anticipated in Nov.

  - On Oct. 23, BOEM and the Department anticipate announcing the Bluewater lease in **DE**. The agreement was reached on Oct. 17.

  - As of Oct. 16, the **NC** Call for Information is under review with SOL. SOL and BOEM are discussing NPS viewshed and Coast Guard navigation issues.

  - BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Oct. As of Oct. 16, the package is under ASLM office review.

  - On Oct. 9, the comment period on the **ME** Request for Interest (RFI) for the Statoil Hywind project ended. BOEM received 10 comments on the RFI related to birds, whales, fishing, and visual impacts. BOEM did not receive any expressions of competitive interest. However, the comment period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS remains open until Nov. 8. BOEM plans to hold a public information meeting on Oct. 23 in ME to discuss the next steps in the leasing process.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill:** Due to this season's drilling schedule, Shell submitted a "permit to modify" to allow the anchors to remain over the winter in the Beaufort Sea. Leaving the anchors in place may limit disturbance of the seafloor by reducing the frequency of dropping and removing the anchors. BSEE is reviewing the "permit to modify". All drilling operations must conclude by Oct. 31, the end of the open-water season. In the Chuckchi Sea, Shell will likely lift the anchors as it is considering moving the Discoverer drillship from its current location.

- **NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan Final EIS:** The BLM continues to make progress in preparing to issue the Final EIS for the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan. On Nov. 9, the BLM plans to post the EIS on the BLM-Alaska's website in advance of issuing the NOA in the Federal Register on Nov. 16.

- **Patriot Coal Bankruptcy:** On Oct. 12, a Federal judge in WV issued an order to extend a stay in Patriot Coal Corporation's bankruptcy case. The order gives the company and environmental groups additional time to modify a schedule for the company to clean up discharges of selenium, a schedule which was the result of a lawsuit in 2010. In July 2012, Patriot filed for bankruptcy. The Oct. 12 order allows Patriot to continue to address the cleanup, in spite of the bankruptcy filing.

- **Pennsylvania Coal Ash:** On Oct. 17, OSM held two public hearings in Pittsburgh and Pottsville on Pennsylvania's proposed amendment to its program to add regulations concerning the use of coal ash. The key provisions of the proposed rule address the operating requirements for beneficial use of coal ash upon active and abandoned mine land sites. Local press and E&E Daily covered the hearings.

Ongoing Projects:
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Orders

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Walker, Claudia B on behalf of Pool, Michael J
To: BLM_WO_Everyone
Subject: Director"s Awards Ceremony: Oct 25th - 2:00pm - M Street - Room 4017
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 11:04:32 AM

Please join me for the third annual BLM Director's Awards, recognizing BLM employees for their individual and team accomplishments in leadership, innovation, and extraordinary public service. This year's winners exemplify the very best about our agency and are individuals who readily go above and beyond the call of duty each day. I encourage all of you to attend the event if on **Thursday, October 25 at 2:00 pm in Room 4017 in the High Desert Conference Room at 20.** Following the ceremony, everyone is invited for light refreshments and to meet the award winners.

Awards will be given in seven different categories:

- The Director's Award for Excellence through Leadership Internal is awarded to Tony Herrell (BLM-New Mexico)
.
- The Director's Award for Excellence through Leadership External is awarded to the Potash, Oil and Gas Joint Industry Technical Committee (JITC).
- The Director's Award for Excellence through Stewardship is awarded to the Idaho Falls Phosphate Minerals Branch with oversight from the District Manager Joe Kraayenbrink.
- The Director's Award for Team Accomplishment is awarded to the BLM-Montana Pryor Mountain Horse Gather and Adoption Team.
- The winner of The Director's Award for Spirit of Service is awarded to Gretchen Hurley (BLM-Wyoming, Cody Field Office)
- The Director's Award for Diversity is awarded to Mark Sant and Sara Romero-Minkoff (BLM-Montana).
- The Director's Award for Safety is awarded to BLM-Oregon, Eugene District Office.

The Bureau's employees are our greatest resource so please mark your calendars and join me in honoring our colleagues on Thursday, October 25th at 2:00 pm. Thank you.

From: Willingham, Michele
To: Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Krauss, Jeff; Black, Meredith C; Rieben, Elizabeth
Cc: Nedd, Michael D; Spisak, Timothy; Hanson, Joshua F; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; Evia, Aristotle E
Subject: WO300 Week Ahead/Hot Topics
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:40:01 AM
Attachments: WO300 Week Ahead and Hot Topics October 25 2012.docx

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Please see our report for this week.
Thanks and have a great weekend!
Michele

* *

Michele Willingham
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Week Ahead Report for WO-300 Minerals and Realty Management
October 25, 2012

- ***Week Ahead (2 weeks out: November 11 – November 17, 2012)***:
  - Weekly Renewable Energy Call with the BLM States, held Tuesdays at 1:00
  - Weekly National Surface Management Administration Team meeting, held Tuesdays at 3:00 pm
  - Weekly Renewable Energy Strike Team with BLM, Solicitor's Office, ASLM and DOI level representatives, held Wednesdays at 4:00
  - Upcoming oil and gas lease sales:
    - Tuesday, November 13, hosted by the Utah State Office

- ***On the Horizon (2-3weeks out)***
  - Upcoming Oil and Gas Lease Sales:

DECEMBER	
Nevada	Tuesday, December 11
California	Wednesday, December 12
Eastern States	Wednesday, December 13
Oregon	Cancelled

  - **December 2-7, 2012:** Northwest Mining Association's 118th Annual Meeting, Exposition and Short Courses Convention – Thoroughly Modern Mining in a Technology Based World, to be held at the Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington. Participants include representatives from BLM, Forest Service, Colorado School of Mines, as well as industry executives. Technical sessions will be held in the areas of mineral deposits, geology and exploration; business and finance; operations; environmental; and legislative and public affairs. There will also be short courses on Mining Geology and Grade Control (4-day course); Principles of Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (1-day course); and a 2-day course – Minimizing Permitting Pitfalls and Delays on Federal Lands, led by BLM and FS representatives.

WO-300 HOT TOPICS
October 25, 2012

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Update: The GAO has initiated a study on the adaptation of U.S. energy infrastructure to climate change (No. 361434). An entrance conference was held on October 22, 2012. The study will assess 1) what is known about vulnerabilities of key energy infrastructure to climate change, 2) the extent to which climate change impacts are being incorporated into energy infrastructure planning and oversight, and 3) factors influencing responses to potential climate impacts on energy infrastructure. This is a multi-agency effort and involves DOI, CEQ, Homeland Security, DOT, EPA, FERC, NOAA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Update: The **GAO study on renewable energy** (wind, solar and geothermal) permitting on Federal lands (No. 361373) is continuing. A conference call was held with GAO on May 31 to discuss a questionnaire that the GAO will be providing to BLM Field Offices on wind and solar applications and permitting timelines. The GAO on June 1 provided a list of solar and wind energy projects that will be included in the questionnaire to the BLM States for review. A follow-up GAO conference call was held on June 6 with the BLM States to discuss the questionnaire process. The questionnaire was provided to the BLM States on June 20, with a response requested by July 11, 2012. Most responses were completed by July 11 and provided to the GAO; a few questionnaires were completed by July 16. GAO is currently reviewing the information provided in the responses to the questionnaires. Follow-up discussions were held with GAO and BLM WO on August 20 and September 28 to discuss staffing and funding support to the BLM Field Offices for renewable energy permitting. GAO has scheduled an Exit Conference for October 30, 2012, and will be providing a Statement of Facts on the review prior to the exit conference. A draft Report is expected to be issued at the beginning of December 2012, and a final Report in January 2013.

Update: **Priority Project NOAs and NOIs** – A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Draft EIS for the 33-MW Casa Diablo IV geothermal project located in Mono County, California, near the town of Mammoth Lakes was submitted to the BLM WO on October 17 for review and is pending clearance. The project is located on Federal geothermal leases administered by the BLM on Inyo National Forest lands and adjacent private lands. The Forest Service is a cooperating Federal agency in preparation of the EIS for the project. The Casa Diablo IV geothermal project is a 2012 Priority project and has also been carried forward as a 2013 Priority project since a decision on the project is expected in early 2013.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Final EIS for the Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) was published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2012.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar project located in San Bernardino County, California, was submitted to the BLM WO on September 26 for review and clearance. Release of the Draft EIS is scheduled for November 9, 2012. The Stateline Solar project is a proposed 2013 Priority project.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) for preparation of an EIS for the proposed 350-MW Soda Mountain Solar project located in San Bernardino County, California, was published in the Federal Register on October 23, 2012. Public scoping meetings for the Soda Mountain Solar project are scheduled for November 14. The Soda Mountain Solar project was originally proposed as a 2013 Priority project, but was later removed from the Priority list in order to provide additional time to address potential resource conflicts and consider comments provided during the public scoping period.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for release of the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, California, was submitted to the BLM WO on September 26 for review and clearance. Release of the Final EIS is scheduled for November 23. The West Chocolate Mountains planning effort is to facilitate development of geothermal, solar and wind energy development opportunities in the area, as well as respond to a pending geothermal lease application. The Final EIS analyzes the impacts of making

available approximately 20,762 acres of public land for solar and wind energy development and approximately 19,162 acres of Federal mineral estate for geothermal leasing.

Update: **Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** – The solar and wind energy competitive Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) was published in the *Federal Register* on December 29, 2011 and 60-day public comment period ended on February 27, 2012. The Regulations Team for this rulemaking effort met on March 28-29 to begin initial discussions for preparation of the Proposed Rule. A BLM briefing on the outline of the Proposed Rule was held for the Director on April 23. ASLM briefing was held on May 2, with a follow-up briefing for Deputy Secretary Hayes scheduled for May 4. BLM held a coordination meeting with BOEM on June 13 to discuss the scope of the Proposed Rule and to compare the proposed BLM competitive leasing process to the BOEM offshore wind competitive process. OMB was briefed on June 14 on the scope of the Proposed Rule. BLM held a coordination meeting with BIA on July 12 to discuss the scope of the Proposed Rule and to compare to the BIA wind and solar resource lease regulations proposed under 25 CFR Part 162. The SOL Office completed a review of the revised regulations text on July 16 and subsequently reviewed the draft preamble. The draft Proposed Rule and Preamble package was distributed to BLM Field offices on September 6 for a 30-day field review. The Regulations Team met on October 11 to review BLM Field office comments. A final Proposed Rule and Preamble package are being prepared for surname review. It is anticipated that the surname package will be ready for circulation and review in November. The BLM will also be providing a copy of the draft Proposed Rule and Preamble package to the FWS, NPS, BOEM, and BIA for review.

Update: **2012 Priority Project List:** The 2012 Priority Project list was released on November 28 and posted on the BLM website. The 2012 Priority Project list includes 9 solar projects, 6 wind projects, and 2 geothermal projects with a total potential capacity of 6,689 MWs.

The BLM Utah Cedar City office issued a Decision Record on the 30-MW Cover Fort geothermal project on October 19, 2012. This project was identified on the proposed 2013 Priority Projects list.

The BLM State Offices were requested on July 18 to start the review process for proposed Priority Projects for 2013. The States were requested to coordinate with the FWS, NPS, BIA and DOD and submit proposed 2013 Priority wind energy, solar energy, and geothermal projects to the WO by August 17. The States completed the review process and submitted a preliminary 2013 Priority Project list of 9 solar projects, 1 wind project and 4 geothermal projects, including connected-action projects, with a total capacity of 3,118 MWs. The preliminary list is not available for public release at this time. The DOI Renewable Energy Strike Team has begun review of the proposed 2013 Priority Project list during the Strike Team meetings on August 29, September 5 and September 12, and will forward recommendations to the Secretary in November 2012. Steve Black is requesting to meet on November 13 to discuss further refinements of the proposed 2013 Priority Project list.

Update: **Senators Tester, Risch, Reid, Udall and Heller introduced S. 1775 – the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2011** – on November 1, 2011. The bill is similar to S. 3587 introduced during the last Congress that establishes a leasing program for solar and wind energy authorizations on the public lands and distribution of revenues from solar and wind energy leases and extends the previous geothermal revenue special account established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 through FY 2020. Senator Tester on March 2 provided a letter to Secretary Salazar supporting the BLM's rulemaking effort for competitive leasing for wind and solar development on the public lands and encouraged the use of S. 1775 as a model in that rulemaking effort. Senator Wyden (OR) also asked a question during the ASLM Confirmation Hearing on March 20 regarding the legislation and the need for a consistent leasing program for solar and wind energy projects on public land. A conference call was held with Senator Tester staff on April 26 to generally discuss the provisions of S. 1775 and the status of the BLM solar and wind regulations effort. The BLM provided a briefing on July 12 for House and Senate staff on BLM renewable energy permitting procedures and the processing of renewable energy Priority Projects. This briefing was in response to a request from Senator Sessions (Committee on Budget) and Congressman Issa (Committee on Oversight and Government Reform) regarding concerns over the possible preferential treatment of Priority renewable energy projects that received DOE loan guarantees. No action is pending on the legislation at

this time. However, Senator Wyden's staff recently requested a briefing on the BLM wind/solar leasing regulations; a briefing has been scheduled for November 5.

No Change: **Interim Temporary Final Rule (Segregation Rule package)** – The BLM published an Interim Temporary Final Rule and Proposed Rule for the segregation of lands under solar and wind energy right-of-way applications from mining claim entry in the *Federal Register* on April 26, 2011. The comment period on the Proposed Rule has ended and a draft Final Rule was prepared and forwarded to the SOL on October 10 for review. The SOL office provided review comments on January 25 on the Final Rule and revisions have been incorporated into the final surname package. The BLM Regulatory Affairs office has completed review of the final surname package and the package was returned to SOL office on May 29 for final surname. The Solicitor's office provided additional review comments on the surname package on September 24 that are currently being incorporated by BLM.

Solar Energy:

Update: **24 Solar Energy Zones** – A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal for the withdrawal of 677,384 acres of public lands within the **24 Solar Energy Zones** identified in the Solar Energy Programmatic EIS was published in the FR on April 21 for a 90-day public comment period. A temporary segregation Notice was published in the FR on June 30 that provides for segregation of lands within the Solar Energy Zones until the Proposed Withdrawal is effective.

An amended withdrawal petition/application for the Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) is planned for publication by June 2012. The final configuration of the SEZs was shaped by the public comment process on the Solar EIS, with the number of SEZs decreased from 24 SEZs (677,400 acres) to 17 SEZs (285,417). The withdrawal period would be increased from 5 years to 20 years. The amended withdrawal petition/application package was placed into the surname process on July 13. Solicitors completed review of the package on July 31; the surname package cleared the Director and is currently pending ASLM clearance. The ASLM provided comments to BLM on October 9 and the package was revised and returned to ASLM on October 15 for final clearance. The Director's Office is working to schedule a briefing for the Assistant Secretary, PMB, on the amended withdrawal package.

No Change: **Calico Solar Project** - BLM received K Road Calico Solar LLC's (K Road) proposed right-of-way (ROW) application on March 29, 2011, to amend the ROW grant authorized for the Calico Solar Project (Project) in San Bernardino County, California. An updated ROW application and revised Plan of Development (POD) for the Project was submitted July 19, 2012. The revised POD changes include:

- Changing the entirety of the Project to photovoltaic (PV) technology;
- Reducing power generation from 663.5 megawatts to 618 MW in two phases;
    - Phase 1 is 294 MW on 2,041 acres with main complex, substation, water pipeline, and access; and
    - Phase 2 is 324 MW on 1809 acres;
- Reducing the footprint from approximately 4,604 to 3,851 acres (by 753 acres) to avoid highest quality desert tortoise habitat and 69 acres of Mojave fringed toed lizard habitat;
- Allowing wildlife movement corridor through the center of the site; and
- Revising the Translocation Plan for this Project, changing the proposed translocation site.

The amended application will be analyzed with a Supplemental EIS and new ROD. BLM requested re-initiation of consultation with the USFWS. The Barstow FO, mentoring PM, and third party contractor, Logan Simpson, reviewed the ROW amendment POD. As requested, the CA Desert District Office will provide kRoad Calico Solar all BLM needed edits for updating the POD by the end of August. Additionally two technical reports involving additional studies for glint-and-glare as well as hydrology are needed for analysis purposes in beginning the NEPA process.

Based upon email received September 5, kRoad will not be able to meet the September 14, 2012, target for submission of the required technical reports for the SEIS. All kRoad resources are being focused on transmission issues critical to the project. kRoad requested that the project work be placed on "hold." As a result, kRoad's

request for additional time may push the project schedule to a projected Draft SEIS being published in April 2013 and Final SEIS in August 2013. On August 31, 2013, the stay of litigation on the Calico Solar project will expire. On October 15, 2012, the BLM held a conference call with kRoad Calico Solar and confirmed that the California Independent Service Operation agency has suspended kRoad's Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA). kRoad is seeking an amendment to the LGIA. kRoad does not have a power purchase agreement with an utility currently. Another status call is scheduled November 19, 2012 with BLM.

No Change: **The Final Solar Energy Programmatic EIS** was released on July 24 with Secretarial media outreach and posting of the Final EIS on the BLM website. Stakeholder contacts were made on July 23 prior to the media outreach event. Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 27. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Solar Programmatic EIS was signed by the Secretary on October 12. The Department and the BLM held a rollout event for the Secretary approval on October 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada. A stakeholder outreach briefing/teleconference was held on October 9, prior to the official release of the Record of Decision. The release of the ROD is a major milestone for the BLM and the Department and amends 89 BLM land use plans in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah to facilitate solar energy development on the public lands. The ROD designates 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) on some 285,000 acres, provides a process to consider applications on some 19 million acres of variance lands, and identifies some 78.6 million acres of exclusion lands.

The BLM has initiated preparation of a regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) in Nevada as an implementation action related to the release of the Final Solar EIS. Comments on both the Draft EIS and Supplemental EIS showed significant public interest in working cooperatively to develop regional mitigation plans for each of the SEZs. The BLM committed to this collaborative effort with release of the Final Solar EIS and selected the Dry Lake SEZ as a Pilot SEZ Mitigation Project. The BLM held a Public Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 29 and 30, 2012 to share information on the Final Solar Energy EIS and to initiate public discussions on developing a regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake SEZ. The next Workshop will be held on October 24 and 25 in Las Vegas to review baseline data for the Dry Lake SEZ and identify impact mitigation thresholds.

No Change: **Solar Energy Development Project** - Marisol Maricopa Solar Park – Marisol Energy 2, LLC, a company based in Brescia, Italy, proposes to construct a photovoltaic power plant facility with an expected capacity of up to 300 megawatts (MW), requiring 1,730 acres of land and two 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and other ancillary facilities. The project is located on lands administered by the BLM, in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Phoenix and 2.3 miles from the Pinal West Substation. The proposed project would consist of two phases, using either thin-film modules mounted on fixed mounting system or mono / polycrystalline modules mounted on trackers. The facility would have an on-site high voltage substation, with high-voltage power transformers stepping up energy to 345 kilovolts (kV). Energy from the new on-site switchyard would be delivered to the existing Pinal West Substation through two new 345kV transmission lines.

The BLM Project Manager met on July 12 in Phoenix with the BLM resource team, contractors and Marisol Energy 2, LLC, a company based in Brescia, Italy (via conferencing), to discuss potential resource issues (adjacent to the Sonoran National Monument). Many of the pertinent administrative details for the process have been set up including cost recovery agreement, project charter, prep plan, and contractor selection. However, the project awaits the completion of the national Programmatic EIS for Solar Energy prior to moving forward with an NOI being published to officially begin the EIS. According to RECO direction, Marisol is developing a Variance request to the AZ State Director.

No Change: **Imperial Valley Solar Project** – On January 26, 2012, the BLM received a letter from Imperial Valley Solar, LLC (IVS) which request that the BLM relinquish its IVS ROW Grant CACA-047740 pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2807.17(b)(2) immediately and withdraw its application to amend the ROW Grant, in order to allow the BLM to pursue other uses of the site. The request letter was timely submitted within the 10 day response period BLM provided in a January 24 letter for IVS to prepare and submit an

alternative payment plan within the 30-day grace period previously requested by IVS based on receiving, according to letter, the unexpected (2012) rental bill on January 3, 2012. Based on review of the January 26th letter and reasons offered for relinquishment, and their requested withdrawal of the application to amend the ROW Grant needed to correct non-compliance with applicable regulations, terms and conditions of the authorized ROW Grant, the BLM terminated the ROW Grant through issuance of a decision. IVS does not have any facilities improvements, equipment, or personal property on the ROW. No rental for the ROW in 2012 would be due. Upon issuance of this decision, the serialized case CACA-047740 for the ROW will be considered closed and the BLM administrative records and master title plats updated accordingly. The approved land use plan amendments to the California Desert Conservation Act Plan for the project site would remain in effective as-is. This area would be in the Variance Area and not in a SEZ under the Solar Energy Programmatic EIS (PEIS). If a new application were received, BLM would accept the application in this area and process it under the Variance Area Process once the PEIS is complete. No applications are filed.

Wind Energy:
n/a

Geothermal:
n/a

Transmission:

Rapid Response Team for Transmission Projects
Update: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project - Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project** – consists of an approximate 305 mile 500 kV line from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho; BLM is the lead agency and has 23 cooperating agencies. The B2H Project will relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve electric reliability, provide additional energy capacity to meet demand in Oregon and Idaho, and provide service to wholesale customers. BLM received an updated application and plan of development (POD) on November 21, 2011, from Idaho Power Company (IPC) and an amendment letter and map dated April 2, 2012; resource reports have been received to assist in the development of the DEIS, there are 2 reports outstanding (visual and cultural) which will completed after additional field studies this year; cultural surveys were completed in August 2012 and visual resource inventories are being conducted in September 2012. IPC is starting to provide sections of the cultural and visual reports as completed.

BLM is providing the updated/amended application/POD/resource reports to the Cooperating Agencies at this time for review and input into the combined Chapter 3/4 of the DEIS. BLM has reviewed the updated/amended application/POD/resource reports and has developed the final NEPA alternatives which were presented to the Cooperating Agencies at our person meeting May 15, 2012 in LaGrande, Oregon. BLM received Chapter 1 for preliminary internal agency review on April 3, 2012 and received Chapter 2 May 21, 2012. Chapter 1 and 2 of the DEIS will be reviewed by the complete ID Team and the Solicitor from July 16 through August 3; following updates to the DEIS, Chapters 1 and 2 will be reviewed by Cooperating Agencies starting September 24, 2012. BLM completed the revised MOU; it was sent to all Cooperating Agencies for signatures and it will be finalized by the end of September 2012. B2H Programmatic Agreement (PA) workgroup has developed a draft Section 106 PA which was be submitted to the Tribes for Consultation in September 2012.

BLM continues to consult with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (monthly Wings and Roots meetings), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (quarterly meetings). All Tribes were provided the resource reports which will be used to write a combined Chapter 3/4 of the DEIS; work plans (cultural/visual); the draft PA in September; and Chapters 1 and 2 of the DEIS in September. The eTrans website and MAX.gov website have been updated for the Nationally and Regionally Significant Projects; the Gantt chart/schedule will be updated after a project schedule meeting is updated with IPC. In addition all BLM WO and RRTT spreadsheets and briefing papers will be updated to match the updated schedule expected by September 20, 2012; we are expecting a delay of 3 months on release of the DEIS. There are several work groups working on the project (sage grouse mitigation, habitat characterization, fish/streams/crossings, visuals,

and cultural programmatic agreement, realty team, habitat mitigation plan, wildlife mitigation plan, vegetation/weed management plan, Section 106 cultural group, Section 7 consultation). The landowner and public meetings scheduled for July and August have been completed and the team believes there is a better understanding by the public of the NEPA process; the public is now getting ready to review the DEIS in the first half of 2013.

There will be a B2H Project Manager's conference call on November 1, 2012.

Current issues include the 3-month delay in NEPA Schedule (as a result of addressing new BLM sage grouse policy in NEPA alternatives from IPC application received November 2011; and the completion of visual resource inventories and cultural clearances in the summer/fall of 2012; the updated schedule will be provided to the public after it is approved by Management and IPC); Sho-Pai Tribal MOA; 15% survey of alternatives for cultural verses 100% policy/science; sharing of cultural information with the ODOE/no cultural staff-confidentiality; USFWS/Conferencing on Sage Grouse; need for USFWS Avian Protection Plan; funding Tribes for Consultation; and, decommissioning and restoration plans.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project –Transwest Express Transmission Project,** sponsored by TransWest Express, LLC consists of a 600kV direct current transmission line (3,000 MW) approximately 700 miles long originating in south-central Wyoming crossing Colorado and Utah and terminating in southern Nevada. BLM and Western Area Power Administration (co-lead agencies) are currently preparing a draft EIS. The project purpose would increase capacity for renewable energy generation consisting primarily of wind energy.

BLM plans a second formal review of the Preliminary DEIS on October 20, 2012, based on agency requests. In this PDEIS #2, BLM plans to identify an agency preferred alternative. The DEIS is now scheduled to be released in March 2013 which will include the agency preferred alternative; the ROD is anticipated in mid-2014. Recent changes to the project include the addition of an alternative in Wyoming that leaves WY and enters CO in locations preferred by the Counties. This alternative was developed to provide visual mitigation for private landowners.

There have also been over 400 miles of new alternatives added in Utah, and a request by the Forest Service to add five biological species technical reports to the DEIS which are being done. A meeting between BLM, Utah State Director and USFS, Regional Director was held July 2.

A meeting with DOI, Director's Office and Wyoming State Director was held July 12. The meeting addressed anticipated schedule delays as a result of new proposed alternatives and additional review of the PDEIS. A follow up meeting with USFS, Regional Director and BLM State Directors in Utah and Wyoming is being scheduled to discuss the proposed new alternatives. A status call was held with DOI, State Director and PM on July 27. A follow up call was held August 14 with State Directors in Utah, Wyoming, DOI, Forest Service and Western Area Power Administration to discuss updates to the Administrative DEIS and the proposed additional routes on National Forest lands. A follow-up call with the same group was held August 24.

Secretary Ken Salazar has written 2 letters requesting the Nevada Senators to consider widening the corridor through the Sunrise Instant Study Area near Las Vegas, where there is no room for more transmission, which pushes this project onto the Lake Mead National Recreation Area *administered by the National Park Service.*

A status update call with the BLM Project Manager, Wyoming State Director, DOI, BLM Washington Office and the US FS was held on October 2. The latest project schedule identifies publication of the DEIS March 15, 2013, with 90 day comment period. Publication of the NOA for the FEIS is planned for April 4, 2014, with a 30 day comment period. Publication of the NOA for the ROD is planned for May 13, 2014.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project – Gateway West Transmission Project:** The project consists of a 1,100 mile, 500/230kV transmission lines in Wyoming and Idaho and is sponsored by Idaho Power Company

and PacifiCorp. The proposed transmission lines are needed to supplement existing transmission lines in order to relieve operating limitations, increase capacity, and improve reliability of the grid, allowing for the delivery of up to 3,000 megawatts (MW). The Notice of Availability (NOA) of a DEIS was published July 29, 2011. The notice initiated a 90 day public comment period which closed October 28, 2011. Project update briefings were held for Congressional staff, Director's Office and other Washington Office staff the week of April 23. Over 85% of the agency preferred alternative route has been selected. The sage grouse analysis which was not included in the DEIS will be released for public comment in May. The AFEIS is planned for release to cooperating agencies in August 2012. The weeks of May 28 and June 4, the BLM project team requested assistance from the RRTT to address questions regarding grid reliability and line separation, use of corridors and plan amendments related to visual resource concerns. The RRTT is coordinating with WO program leads and the Solicitor's Office to develop recommendations. On June 29, BLM released a draft sage grouse analysis document for a 30-day public review.

Discussions are ongoing regarding new alternatives to avoid route within the Birds of Prey, NCA in southern Idaho. New routes may result in increased mileage on private lands which will cause controversy with landowners and elected officials. Working with Washington Office Planning and VRM leads regarding plan amendments. The agency preferred alternative has been modified to minimize mileage and impacts to the Birds of Prey, NCA in southern Idaho. A one month delay in the release of the Final EIS is anticipated due to internal discussion related to FWS/BLM sage grouse efforts and negotiations with Idaho. The Administrative FEIS was provided to BLM Washington Office and cooperating agencies September 28 for review. Comments are due October 26. The latest project schedule identifies publication of the NOA for the FEIS November 30, 2012 with a 60-day comment/protest period. Publication of the NOA for the RODs is planned for June 21, 2013.

No Changes **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project - Cascade Crossing Transmission Project,** sponsored by Portland General Electric, consists of a 210-mile, single and double circuit 500kV transmission line from Boardman, Oregon, to Salem, Oregon. PGE's purpose and need for the project are to meet Oregon's growing future energy needs, respond to Oregon's state renewable energy standard, enhance the reliability of the region's electrical grid, and provide access to developing renewable energy projects. Forest Service is the lead Federal agency. The lead state agency is Oregon Department of Energy.

In March 2012, the USFS Authorizing Officer Chris Worth identified two preliminary preferred alternatives for the Project as it crosses National Forest lands. They are essentially in the same location. One of the alternatives is a variation of the first which is dependent on Portland General Electric's (PGE) acquisition of the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) "idle", but previously cleared right-of-way (ROW) corridor. The identification of preliminary preferred alternatives allows the team to expedite drafting of documents and for a more efficient overall project schedule. Because of its preliminary nature, we will not announce the identification of the routes to the public at this time. PGE continues negotiations with BPA regarding its idle ROW corridor and continues negotiations with the Navy regarding where to site the Project on or near the Boardman Bombing Range.

The Coordinating Team and cooperating agency representatives continue to meet and make progress on determining the Project's consistency with existing land management plans, policies, regulations, etc.; are in the process of reviewing Chapter 2 of the Administrative Draft; developing a Cooperating Agency MOU; and developing various mitigations strategies. The USFS is scheduling formal government-to-government with tribal entities. On June 29, 2012 numerous Federal and state agencies, tribes and the ACHP approved a Programmatic Agreement to streamline the Section 106 process.

BIA and DOI Solicitors and USDA, OGC (b) (5)

The latest schedule identifies publication of the NOA for the DEIS May 17, 201, with a 90-day comment period. Public meetings are planned for late June 2013. Publication of the NOA for the FEIS is planned for February 7, 2014, and agency RODs March 14, 2014.

No Change: **RRTT Pilot Transmission Project – SunZia Transmission Project** sponsored by, SunZia Transmission LLC, consists of two single-circuit, 500kV lines (3,000-4,500 MW) approximately 460 miles long originating in central New Mexico near Ancho and terminating in southern Arizona near Coolidge. The project purpose is to transport power from a variety of sources including renewable energy to western power markets and load centers. The project would increase transfer capacity and improve grid reliability.

The BLM (lead agency) has resolved alternative route issues in Arizona and defined the alternatives to be carried forward in the Draft EIS. The notice of availability of a Draft EIS and proposed land use plan amendments was published in the *Federal Register* May 29. This initiates a 90 day public comment period. On June 12, 2012, the Deputy Director was briefed on the recent feedback from Representative Grijalva from Arizona. The Congressman expressed concern with BLM's preferred alternative that would pass west of the San Pedro River valley. On June 20, representatives from The Nature Conservancy met with the Deputy Director and expressed support for BLMs agency preferred alternative in the DEIS.

Petitions submitted to BLM during July public open-house meetings held during comment period of Draft EIS. Public wanted formal hearings held with court reporters. BLM is considering establishing a toll free phone number to collect additional oral comments for the administrative record. BLM is conducting a tour on August 15 of controversial route alternatives in Arizona with Arizona Congressional staff. The tour will consist of several vans with staff representing Senator McCain, Senator Kyl, Congressman Flake, Congressman Franks, Congressman Gosar, Congressman Barber and Congressman Grijalva. State Directors from Arizona and New Mexico met with DoD Clearinghouse representatives on August 8 to resolve concerns with impacts to military training at White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico and the Buffalo Soldier Testing Area southeast of Tucson, Arizona. BLM is continuing to coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service to address anticipated aerial bird strike concerns at the proposed crossing of the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico.

Other Transmission & Pipeline Projects:

Update: **Executive Orders** – There are several significant administration and agency actions that have established the processing of high-voltage electric transmission lines as a high priority. In October 2009, nine Federal agencies approved an MOU to improve coordination and expedite siting and construction of electric transmission infrastructure. The BLM issued corresponding policy in July of 2010 in IM 2010-169, Implementation Guidance for the Interagency Transmission Memorandum of Understanding. In June of 2011, multiple Federal agencies developed an Interagency Rapid Response Team (RRT) to ensure close agency coordination for renewable energy and electric transmission line projects. In August 2011, the President issued a memorandum to Executive Departments and Agencies identifying actions for agencies to expedite infrastructure development, including high-electric transmission lines. On October 5, 2011, the White House issued a press release announcing the creating of a Rapid Response Team for Transmission and the selection of seven pilot transmission projects that would serve as pilot demonstrations of streamlined Federal permitting and increased cooperation at the Federal, state, and tribal levels. On March 22, 2012, Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects was signed.

BLM's Branch of Rights-of-Way (WO350) developed guidance, which is in the draft surname process, to ensure the accomplishment of the goals and objectives outlined above and provides for the most efficient, effective and consistent processing of applications for high-voltage electric transmission line ROWs. Further information regarding the BLM's involvement in interagency coordination on high-voltage electric transmission lines and energy corridors can be found on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/transmission.html.

- **Executive Order 13616 Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment issued June 14, 2012.** Briefing Paper provided to AD-300 August 28 which summarizes ongoing and proposed actions. Draft BLM agency plan being prepared with a draft anticipated by late October. On October 4, OMB led a kickoff meeting with DOI, BLM and multiple other agencies. DOI to hold a workshop focused on Federal lands in mid-November. BLM will present an overview of the permitting process.
- **Executive Order 13604 – *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects***: The Federal Plan has been finalized and is posted publicly on the Dashboard

(http://permits.performance.gov/). All BLM-led projects have been updated in OMB's MAX system and a revised BLM Agency Plan was submitted to DOI July 27. The Agency Plan was published to the Dashboard July 31. The White House posted pipeline projects to the MAX system August 17 but did not issue a media release. The initial meeting of the Federal Dashboard Implementation Team was held September 12. Weekly meetings are anticipated. Agency points of contact will provide oversight and training to Dashboard users within their respective agencies. On October 11, OMB will provide MAX training to WO350 staff. OMB anticipates a formal roll-out of transmission projects soon. BLM WO-350 is working with the field to identify potential fiber optic and pipeline projects to add to the list of Projects of National or Regional Significance (PNRS).

Update: **Jordan Cove LNG/Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline (PCGP)** - On April 17, 2006, the BLM Oregon State Office received a right-of-way application from Williams Pacific Connector Gas Operator, L.L.C., on behalf of Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, L.P. (Pacific Connector) for the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a 36-inch natural gas pipeline (PCGP). The proposed pipeline, under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction, is approximately 230 miles long with an estimated 40 miles over Federal lands administered by the BLM and approximately 30 miles over Federal lands administered by the United State Forest Service. The PCGP would transport up to 1 Billion cubic feet per day of regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the proposed Jordan Cove LNG facility at Coos Bay, Oregon easterly to Malin, Oregon, to tie in with existing pipelines serving the Pacific Northwest, California and Nevada markets.

On September 4, 2007, Pacific Connector filed an application with the FERC for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of the PCGP. The FERC published a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2008 with a 90-day public comment period. The FERC final EIS was released on May 1, 2009. Endangered Species Act consultation is also underway with the USFWS and NMFS. A FERC decision to certify the project was issued on December 17, 2009. The State of Oregon has requested a review of the decision. The BLM, USFS, USFWS, EPA and several other Federal agencies were formal cooperators with the FERC in the EIS development.

Because the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Record of Decision was withdrawn by the DOI in July 2009, and other effecting litigation, the BLM had to complete supplemental environmental analysis and project-specific land use plan amendments. The USFS also requires amendments to their LRMPs. The BLM is the lead agency in preparation of the SEIS and the USFS is the formal cooperation agency.

At this time, the BLM has completed a Memorandum of Agreement for the Administrative Record (AR) and the Contractor is working on compiling the AR on a new SharePoint site accessible by all Agencies, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Agencies, the right-of-way application processing (update expected upon completion of POD in Fall 2012), the transportation management plan (with PCGP for review), the mitigation package (with PCGP for review, needs analysis done on projects by NSR w/USFWS and NMFS), survey and mange analyses, and write-ups for the EIS. The PCGP FERC certificate was vacated in May 2012 (stating PCGP must pre-file with FERC and the FERC FEIS may still be valid). The Executive Team had a conference call with the BLM Solicitor, FS OGC, and the FERC Lawyer in which FERC stated the LUP amendments can be part of the FERC NEPA. The FERC NOI was published in the Federal Register August 13, 2012. When the NOI was published by FERC it was not published in the FS or the BLM sections of the Federal Register; the NOI is now in BLM WO and will be published in the Federal Register under FERC/FS/BLM which will extend the comment period to October 29, 2012. Notice will be put in newspapers as well. There is need for FERC/FS/BLM to conduct scoping meetings to fulfill the requirement for 15 days' notice of public meetings; these were held October 9-11, 2012, in North Bend/Canyonville/Malin as stated in the NOI. The public scoping meetings scheduled for August and October are complete and the team believes there is a better understanding by the public of the NEPA process; the public is now getting ready to review the DEIS in the first half of 2013. The BLM/FS NOI was published in the Federal Register on September 21, 2012 with a scoping comment end date of October 29, 2012 (information is provided below). In addition we mailed interested parties a notification by mail, issued a press release, put paid legal notices in local newspapers, provided congressional notices, and mailed notification letters to the Tribes.

Work continues on the draft right-of-way grant; the TMP; the BLM mitigation plan analysis (coordination with USFWS and NMFS on BA); ACS analysis; survey and manage data input and analysis, LSR/MAMU, TMP road analysis, and updating the administrative record. There is a current FOIA request that is being coordinated by our FOIA Specialist in BLM OSO and our contractor. There are several work groups doing work on the project (GIS/TMP/Realty Team/S&M/Core Team/Executive Team/Project Coordinators). Review of the draft resource reports 1 and 10 are completed and comments were sent to FERC. BLM provided the company with the BLM mitigation plan analysis on the October 24. There will be a PCGP Executive Team conference call on November 2, 2012.

Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P., filed for a Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Free Trade Nations with Department of Energy (DOE) in September 2011 and the export license was approved in December 2011; currently the company filed for trade to Non-Free Trade Nations with DOE. Jordan Cove is the LNG facility associated with the transmission of natural gas through the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline. The Jordan Cove LNG facility and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline were previously certificated by FERC as an LNG import terminal and send-out pipeline. FERC has a pre-application from Jordan Cove for its proposed LNG export terminal. FERC conducted an interagency meeting in Roseburg, Oregon March 26, 2012 and a public meeting in Coos Bay, Oregon on March 27, 2012 for the Jordan Cove pre-application. JCEP is expected to file a new application with FERC for liquefaction / export facilities in December 2012. PCGP met with FERC on April 25, 2012 and completed pre-filing with FERC in June 2012. PCGP Open Houses were conducted in Roseburg on June 25, Coos Bay on June 26, Klamath Falls on June 27, and Medford June 28, 2012.

Update: **Project of National/Regional Significance - Enterprise Mid-American Pipeline (MAPL) WEP III Pipeline Project** – A right-of-way application was filed on June 10, 2011 by Enterprise MAPL. Enterprise MAPL is proposing to expand current capacity in order to transport increased natural gas liquids production in New Mexico. The Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office has informally requested assistance from the BLM Washington Office (WO350) for a Project Manager. The proposed pipeline would parallel existing pipelines as much as possible. The Enterprise MAPL will cross lands administered by BLM Pecos, Farmington and Albuquerque district offices. The project is for a 16-inch pipeline and will consist of five separate segments. Enterprise Field Services, LLC (Enterprise) is currently conducting field surveys of the line, including biological and archaeological surveys.
The Cost Recovery Agreement was signed by Enterprise MAPL and BLM on June 25, 2012. An introductory meeting with BLM field offices and MAPL Enterprise was held on July 17, 2012. On August 23, 2012, Enterprise MAPL provided a revised SF-299 and plan of development. The proposed project has been modified to reflect seven segments of 16-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline: Segment 1 approximately 46 miles, Segment 2 approximately 51 miles, a portion of Segment 3 is proposed to be 20-inch diameter natural gas liquids pipeline of the approximate total of 47 miles, Segment 4 approximately 9 miles, Segment 5 approximately 30 miles, Segment 6 approximately 31 miles and Segment 7 approximately 33 miles for a total of approximately 247 miles. The proposed project would cross approximately 68 miles of BLM-managed public lands, approximately 26 miles of BIA lands, approximately 28 miles of State of New Mexico lands, and approximately 125 miles of private land. Estimated surface disturbance for construction and operation of the proposed project across all lands is 247 miles which includes a permanent right-of-way width of 50 feet and addition 75 feet for temporary use area for construction.

A BLM internal NEPA scoping meeting was held at the BLM Roswell Field Office on August 15, 2012 and with the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office on August 27, 2012. As a result of pre-scoping with the BLM Roswell Field Office, Enterprise MAPL decided to drop a portion of the pipeline that was proposed to cross the Lesser Prairie Chicken ACEC along the southern end of Segment 6.

A meeting on Section 106 Consultation (Govt-to-Govt) with the Zia Pueblo, BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager was held on August 28, 2012. The BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager and the BLM Farmington Field Manager and Tribal Program Coordinator are scheduling initial consultation meetings with the tribes. Approximately 28 initial invitation letters to consult on the project were mailed on September 6, 2012. Seven of those tribes have tribal

historic preservation officers who will be invited to participate. The BLM is anticipating sending letters to local, state and Federal governments, and tribes to request their interest in participating as cooperating agency by October 26, 2012.

The BLM Rio Puerco Field Manager met with Santa Ana Governors and Tribal Officials on August 8, 2012. The BLM Farmington Field Office Tribal Program Coordinator has met with the Navajo Nation Chapters: Ojo Encino Chapter on September 26, 2012; Nageezi Chapter on October 3, 2012; Chapter Counselor Chapter on October 10, 2012. At the request of the Torreon Chapter, BLM and Enterprise MAPL will have a presentation scheduled for October 16, 2012 and a meeting with the Huerfano Chapter is planned.

The Draft Cultural Inventory Report with draft site records, ethnographic studies on tribal lands (Navajo) for potential sites will be submitted for BLM review on November 1, 2012, for surveys completed through September 30, 2012. A Supplemental Draft Cultural Inventory Report is planned for submission for BLM on January 4, 2013. A Draft biological report is planned for submission to BLM on November 1, 2012. Biological surveys are on-going on private lands where access is being obtained. Paleontological survey work is currently being done on private lands; further surveys will be completed upon BLM approval for Federal lands. A Draft paleontological report is planned for completion by the end of 2012.

A new release was published in the Farmington, Albuquerque, and Roswell newspapers on October 20, 2012, initiating a public scoping period, with comments due by November 20, 2012. BLM New Mexico posted the project on the Internet for public information.

No Change: **Crude Oil Pipeline - Keystone XL Pipeline** – BLM was informed May 4, 2012, that TransCanada filed another application with the Department of State (DoS) for a Presidential Permit under EO 13337. The new DoS application is for the same US/Canadian international border crossing and route through Montana and South Dakota, however the Project route will change in Nebraska, supported by pending Nebraska legislation, eliminating Federal lands in that state. Keystone XL also severs the southern Cushing segment from the DoS application because all Federal approval requirements have been met. On June 15, the DoS published in the *Federal Register* an NOI to prepare a Supplemental EIS, conduct scoping and initiate consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA for the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline proposed to extend from Phillips, MT (International Border Crossing) to Steele City, Nebraska. The Public scoping period was conducted June 15 and will continue until July 30. DoS will continue to be the lead agency and will coordinate with BLM to update the previous Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion. BLM requested and was recently provided cooperating status by Department of State. BLM wrote the State Department (DoS) July 6 to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the reviews of the Supplement EIS (SEIS) and being included in any meeting (public or otherwise) deemed necessary in fulfilling our responsibilities for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project.

On July 30, the DOI provided DoS comments to the NOI for the SEIS to the revised KXL Project indicating that a Migratory Bird Conservation Plan is to be developed in consultation with the US FWS to help avoid and minimize expected impacts to migratory birds and their habitats wherein the KXL Project would be constructed.

The BLM received a letter in June from the MT state wildlife agency stating that the stipulations outlined by BLM provide adequate protections for sage grouse along the proposed pipeline route. The Nebraska (NE) Department of Environmental Quality is expected to recommend for approval purposes new KXL Project routing in NE which will not involve Federal lands.

On September 14, the DoS submitted the applicant generated Draft Biological Assessment for the KXL Project to the US FWS in NE. BLM has confirmed that the revised KXL Project no longer involves Federal land in Meade County, South Dakota (SD) for permanent road access related to the pipeline, however the FWS in SD may require formal consultation under ESA due to the American Burying Beetle habitat on non-Federal lands affected in that state.

On September 25, 2012, the BLM received the updated Mineral Leasing Act ROW application and Plan of Development (POD) from TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for the changed KXL Project. The revised KXL Project only entails the northern Steele City (NE) segment of the originally proposed project. On October 10 and 11, 2012 the DoS conducted informal consultation with the US FWS Nebraska Field Office consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as part of its consideration of the KXL Project. The BLM participated in the entire via telephone. In October, the BLM will consult with SD Game, Fish and Parks in accordance with the BLM Interim Management Policy for Greater Sage Grouse (WO-IM-2012-043) apprising them that the KXL Project would not apply to the policy in SD. TransCanada has developed plan for implementing mitigation measures pertaining to greater sage-grouse for KXL Project in SD which will be discussed at that meeting.

No Change **Zephyr Transmission Line Project** – Consists of 920 miles of 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Chugwater, Wyoming, to El Dorado Valley. Duke American Transmission Company (DATC) would move wind energy from the planned Pathfinder 2,100 megawatt wind farm in Chugwater, Wyoming, to markets in California and southwestern US. AC/DC converter stations are proposed near Chugwater, Wyoming, and Eldorado Valley, Nevada. The target commercial operation is scheduled for early 2020. Estimated capital cost is $3.5 billion and is participant funded with 70 percent of capacity contracted. Open season for the 900 megawatts of un-contracted project capacity is anticipated in late 2012/early 2013. DATC's environmental contractor, Natural Resource Group (NRG) is continuing ongoing routing studies, stakeholder outreach and preparation for regulatory permitting process.

Project introductory meeting with the Wyoming (lead office), Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Utah State Offices too place in May and June 2012. Introductory meetings with the Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Forest Service took place in June 28, 2012, July 10 and 26, 2012. Additional introductory and follow-up meetings have been held with BLM High Desert District Office on August 1, 2012 and August 2, 2012 to discuss the project issues and concerns. A second meeting was held with the BLM High Desert District Office and the Grand Junction Office. A monthly coordination meeting with the Forest Service is scheduled for August 28, 2012.

DATC anticipates selecting a single applicant proposed route in December 2012, coordinating proponent-direct public outreach in the spring of 2013, and resubmitting a Plan of Development with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service in May 2013. DATC initiated the informal consultation process with the DOD Siting Clearinghouse the week of August 24. DATC has submitted a draft project schedule, as well as draft DATC public outreach and route refinement documents. BLM has reviewed these documents and will provide feedback to DATC. The Forest Service has also reviewed these documents and the BLM will be meeting with them in the coming weeks to discuss their comments.

The BLM hosted a NEPA Best Practices meeting with DATC on September 17, 2012, in Wyoming. This meeting allowed for an open discussion on incorporating best practices identified from recent NEPA efforts on large transmission projects. The discussion focused largely on cooperating agency coordination, special status species analysis and mitigation, integration of cultural and visual resource analysis, and strategies for government to government consultation with American Indian tribes. The meeting was followed by a briefing with the Associate State Director, who recommended early outreach to Governors. The Project Manager, along with DATC will brief the Wyoming governor Matt Mead and members of the Governor's staff on November 14, 2012.

A conference call was held on September 18, 2012, with Wyoming and Colorado State Directors. The NW Colorado District is working on a draft Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendment. The issue has the potential to institute disturbance caps by alternative, in which one alternative would institute a 3 percent disturbance cap that would apply to both public and private lands within priority grouse habitat. The NW Colorado District has stated that they cannot continue working on various transmission projects until they know exactly how these projects would affect the disturbance caps in NW Colorado. Project managers were further briefed on this topic during a conference call on September 24.

No Change: **Southline Transmission Line Project** – (Sponsored by Southline Transmission, LLC (SLT) and Western Area Power Administration). The project consists of a 240-mile, new construction of a double circuit 345-kV, and a 120-mile upgrade of an existing115-kV transmission line to double circuit 230-kV transmission line between Afton, New Mexico and Saguaro, Arizona. SLT's purpose and need for the project are to meet southern New Mexico and Arizona's growing future energy needs, enhance reliability and respond to renewable and traditional generation projects. The BLM and Western are joint NEPA lead agencies. The NOI for the EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4, 2012, initiating a 60-day public scoping period that will end June 4, 2012.

The Scoping period for the project was extended 30-days and ended on July 5, 2012. As of July 6, BLM had received 118 letters, emails, and comment forms. Similar comments were combined and tabulated into categories with 446 different comments. The largest category of comments (27%) related to the NEPA Process and Alternatives that need to be considered. Many comments related to combining NEPA process for Southline and the SunZia transmission projects or integrating the routes used by both projects. Further, the purpose and need should clearly demonstrate the need for additional transmission projects. Biological concerns made up 20% of the comments with Socio-Economic concerns making up 8% of the comments.

Several tribal consultation meetings have been held – one with the Four Southern Tribes, one with the San Xavier District Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and another with the Zuni Nation's Governor. Approximately 2 miles of the rebuild portion of the transmission line cross the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham.

Fifteen other Federal, State, and local governments have requested cooperating agency status in the EIS for the project. MOUs have been prepared and sent to those 15 agencies for review and are in various stages of review and editing by the cooperators and BLM. BLM and Western hosted a cooperating agency outreach meeting on October 4, 2012, utilizing a webinar to coordinate with the 15 cooperating agencies. The webinar provided updates to cooperators on the results of public scoping and focused on new potential alternative alignments and routes that are being identified to resolve specific resource concerns identified during scoping. Specific alternative alignments are being considered in the Tumamoc Hill area of Tucson, near Benson, Arizona, and at the Lordsburg, New Mexico and Willcox, Arizona playas.

No Change: **Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Project:** MSTI is an interstate 500kV alternating current transmission line project proposed by NorthWestern Energy and crossing approximately 415-500 miles of lands in Montana and Idaho. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for NEPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the co-lead agency responsible for Montana Environmental Policy Act compliance. The project has five Federal cooperating agencies and nine state and local cooperating agencies. A Draft EIS underwent agency review in 2010; however, release to the public was delayed pending the outcome of a lawsuit and appeal between the Montana DEQ and Jefferson County, Montana. The Court ruled in favor of the DEQ and a revised Draft EIS is scheduled for September 2012.

Schedule: Alternatives and local routing options have been selected and analysis is being updated. The project schedule has been revised; an Administrative Draft EIS was scheduled for release in November 2012 and the Draft EIS is scheduled for release the first quarter of 2013.

Local Routing Options (LROs): The last screening for LROs (Montana only) to carry forward in the DEIS took place on April 27. Several of these LROs are related the applicant preferred route. Montana Facilities Siting Act requires this route to be analyzed as submitted. The applicant chose not to amend their application, so a new alternative that combines the applicant preferred route with the LROs was created.
Administrative Draft EIS Review: Lead and Cooperating Agencies will have 30 days to review and comment on the Administrative Draft EIS (ADEIS). Agency specialists will be offered a project update/resource report preview prior to release of the ADEIS. *Target date for release of the ADEIS (Version 3) is August 2012.*
Preferred Alternative Selection: Based on the updated analysis and comments on the ADEIS-3, the decision makers will identify an agency preferred alternative for the DEIS. *Target date for selection of a preferred alternative is November 2012.*

Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period: Due to proposed plan amendments, there will be a 90 day comment period on the DEIS during which public meetings will be held in Idaho and Montana. *Target date for the NOA is December 2012.*

Cultural Update

Ethnographies and Tribal Consultation: Contracts for ethnographic studies for the Blackfeet and Chippewa Cree Tribes are now in place. Work will begin on the Blackfeet ethnographic study in June. BLM will work with the tribes and their ethnographers to provide information on cultural resources that should be included in the study. The Shoshone Bannock are in the process of reviewing the statement of work. The Shoshone-Paiute tribe has requested an ethnographic study. Work has been suspended on the statement of work due to a project shut down explained below.

Programmatic Agreement: The Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) expressed concern with portions of the PA that are perceived to extend the jurisdiction of the ACHP outside of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (ACHP) protocols. As a result, the NAGPRA Plan of Action and associated procedures for the discovery of human remains will be removed from the PA and will be a separate binding document tied to the Record of Decision (ROD). A Whereas Clause regarding the applicability of the Tribal Consultation Plan will be added to the PA so the Tribal Consultation Plan may remain as an appendix to the PA.

The PA team met on April 17, 2012, and addressed all the remaining comments on this version of the PA. The PA has been sent out for editorial review with comments due by June 18, 2012. A final version of the PA was reviewed and approved. Minor changes are being made to the draft document which will go out with the DEIS for public review and comment.

Sage Grouse Avoidance Alternatives

Based on IM 2012-043, Greater Sage Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, Idaho State Director directed the management team to identify and analyze alternatives that avoid or minimize disturbance to preliminary priority habitat absent suspension of their project until the Great Basin Sage Grouse planning effort was completed. The project management (PM) developed alternatives which were approved by the Idaho SD.

Schedule Ramifications: Administrative Draft EIS (ADEIS) was scheduled for internal review August 23, 2012. With new alternatives, review of the ADEIS has been rescheduled for November 8, 2012. Analysis of the new alternatives will result in a 2.5 month (13-week) delay.

MSTI Project Put on Hold

NorthWestern Energy sent a letter dated August 2, 2012, to Montana DEQ and BLM to request an immediate "timeout" and suspension of all activity related to the Cost Recovery Agreement with agencies and all third party EIS contractors conducting the environmental review until such time that a meeting can be arranged to discuss NWE concerns. A meeting was convened in Helena MT on August 9, 2012 to discuss NorthWestern Energy's concerns. BLM, MT DEQ and contractors have suspended work on the project until further notice.

BLM and MT DEQ, as co-lead agencies, are keeping each informed on learned developments. The following information may shed added light on the NorthWestern request to BLM for a "timeout" in place on the MSTI Project.

From the BPA website for Southeastern Idaho Load Service: *Bonneville Power Administration has been evaluating alternative ways to meet its power supply and transmission service obligations to its preference customers located in southeast Idaho. One possible solution is participation with Idaho Power and PacifiCorp in the 500-kilovolt Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project. Another possible solution is participation in the Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) project.*

On September 28, the MSTI Project Manager informed the project managers for BLM and MT DEQ that some determination on moving the MSTI Project forward would be made within next 2 weeks.
In a letter to Regional Customers, Stakeholders and Interested Parties dated October 2, 2012, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) states that *it has completed an initial prioritization of potential service arrangements for customer loads located in southeast Idaho. This prioritization marks an important step in the process of finding a replacement method of serving BPA's preference customers in southeastern Idaho post-2016.*

From among the six potential service options BPA is currently considering (in which MSTI is one), *BPA has identified the option of Boardman-to-Hemingway with Transmission Asset Swap as its top priority for pursuit in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and beyond. This option has the potential to keep BPA costs low relative to the other options considered, to increase reliability of the Northwest transmission system, and was supported by many comments received during the August public review of this issue.*

It is believed that the future disposition of MSTI is dependent on the pending service arrangements for SE Idaho being determined by BPA.

No Change **Electric Transmission Permitting:** On August 31, the Department of Energy provided a draft rule to the Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) for comments. The draft rule outlines how the Secretary of Energy would implement authority under Section 216(h) of the Federal Power Act (FPA). Section 216(h) of the FPA requires all agencies to issue decisions on transmission applications within one year once an application has been deemed complete by the Secretary of Energy. The 1 year timeframe begins at the close of the comment period for a Draft EIS. The rule calls for an 18 month pre-application process; a 12 month application process; development of agreed-upon Schedule MOUs; a Presidential appeal process for applications denied; sharing of cost recovery where feasible; and agency dispute resolution process. The rule will be discussed at an RRTT meeting on September 24. A follow-up RRTT meeting is scheduled for October 10.

No Change **Gateway South Transmission Line Project** – sponsored by PacifiCorp. In December 2008, BLM received an application from PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), a regulated public utility, for a right-of-way for a 500 kilovolt (kV), alternating current, overhead transmission line and ancillary facilities, crossing public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. This project is part of Rocky Mountain Power's system upgrade (the Energy Gateway Transmission Expansion System). The project consists of a single circuit, 500 kV, 1,500 MW transmission line and ancillary facilities from the planned Aeolus Substation (near Medicine Bow, WY) to the planned Mona Annex (Clover) Substation, (near Mona, UT), crossing the states of Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, a distance of approximately 425 miles.

The project will enhance development of renewable (wind) and clean thermal (IGCC) energy development in Wyoming by providing transmission options, and will serve existing load and customers, and meet projected load growth along the route while increasing reliability.

BLM is the lead Federal agency for preparation of the EIS and Wyoming has been designated lead state responsibility. RMP will identify their proposed route after public scoping and alternative formulation. Federal Cooperating Agencies include: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Army Environmental Center, Navy Region Southwest, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Utah Reclamation and Conservation Commission, and the Forest Service. Twenty other Cooperating Agencies include: States of CO, UT, and WY; Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties in CO; Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, Juab, Sanpete, and Uintah and Wasatch Counties in UT; and Sweetwater and Carbon Counties in WY; (13out of 17 counties involved); Little Snake River Conservation District, Medicine Bow Conservation District, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, and the Sweetwater County Conservation District, all in Wyoming.

BLM organized a meeting of interested parties regarding the NHPA, Sec. 106 Programmatic Agreement on April 11, 2012. A government to government consultation meeting with Northern Ute at the Uintah/Ouray Reservation was held April 23, 2012.

Meetings to review impact assessment and mitigation planning and alternative route review of the conclusionary data with the ID Team and Cooperating Agencies was held the week of August 20, 2012, in Price, UT, Craig, CO, and Rawlins, WY. Comments and recommendation received from the ID team and cooperating agencies will be reviewed with the WY, CO and UT State Directors and managers, and with US FS managers on October 3, 2012. We intend to review the results of the comparison of alternatives and to make recommendations for which alternatives should be further carried forward for full analysis in the DEIS.

No Change: **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project** sponsored by PacifiCorp. The BLM received an application from PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) in December 2008, for a right-of-way for a 345 kilovolt (kV), alternating current, overhead electric transmission line crossing public lands in Utah, affecting the Cedar City, Fillmore, and Richfield Field Offices as well as the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. This regional project is part of Rocky Mountain Power's system upgrade (the Energy Gateway Transmission Expansion System – Segment G), and will specifically provide reliability and redundancy to the existing 345 kV Sigurd to Red Butte No. 1 Transmission Line, located in south-western, Utah.

The proposed route is approximately 160 miles long, going between the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield, Utah to the existing Red Butte Substation near the Town of Central, Utah. The line is expected to carry up to 600 megawatts of electrical generation, and will provide for reliability of electrical service as well as meeting future load growth in the southwestern Utah area.

The NOA package for the FEIS has cleared the Department and will publish for both EPA and BLM in the *Federal Register* on October 5, 2012. We anticipate simultaneous RODs by the USFS and the BLM on December 5, 2012, along with a grant/special use permit, if appropriate on December 5, 2012.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- Issues identified during agency pre-scoping meetings, public scoping meetings, and comments received on the DEIS, include air quality, noise, wildlife and vegetation, social and economic conditions, recreation and public access, other land uses, cultural, geology and soils, visual quality, and water resources.
- Potential issues related to affects to special status species and their habitat including Utah Prairie Dog, Burrowing Owl, and Greater Sage Grouse.
- Potential issues related to visual or physical impacts to Mountain Meadows National Register Historic District (and a proposed National Landmark Designation) in Iron County and Fremont Indian State Park along the I-70 corridor.
- Issues associated with a routing alternative in the Dixie National Forest affecting an inventoried roadless area.

No Change: **Transmission Line Project North Gila – Imperial Valley No. 2 Project** – Southwest Transmission Partners proposes to construct a new high voltage transmission line from the existing North Gila Substation in western Yuma County, Arizona to the existing Imperial Valley Substation in Imperial County, California. The proposed North Gila to Imperial Valley #2 (NGIV) Project would be a double-circuit 500 kV or 500/230 kV line. The NGIV #2 Project would provide additional high voltage transmission capacity in the southwestern United States to facilitate the development and interconnection of renewable energy. For most of its length, the Project will generally follow the same route as the existing Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500 kV line. The proposed line would cross lands administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within both California and Arizona. The line would cross withdrawn public lands administered by the DOI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in both states. The proposal includes potential crossing of the Quechan Tribal Reservation. BLM has held pre-application meetings and conference calls with the proponent.

The BOR, a cooperating agency with BLM, is being advised by the Office of the Regional Solicitor that FLPMA is not applicable on Reclamation project-facility lands (All American Canal) and the BOR will need to decide and authorize the HGIV2 Project if such lands are approved for use. The proponent has submitted an application with the BOR for such purposes. STP sent BLM a revised project schedule postponing the application process 6 to 8

additional months (NOI publication September 2012). The proponent is still working through development planning with state and county government in California as well as the Arizona public Service. The POD was reviewed by BLM; it is being revised and planned for resubmittal to BLM January 2013.

The Plan of Development (POD) has been prepared for the BLM to identify the proposed Project located on BLM and BOR administered lands. BLM held two pre-application meetings with the proponent. The proponent informed BLM that they propose to postpone construction of the project 1 year with a planned first quarter 2015 date. The BLM provided STP extensive comments for revising the Project Plan of Development (POD) to update the project description, planning and alternatives considered for BLM and BOR administered lands. A new alternative proposed to avoid Mittry Lake State Wildlife Management Area (Mittry Lake) may involve the western boundary of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG) land. Mittry Lake is withdrawn BOR land managed by the AZ Game & Fish Department (AGFD) under an agreement with BOR, BLM, FWS and AGFD. The U.S. Army has structures in the area and wants to obtain administrative management of the lands from BLM under a proposed Public Land Order (6475). A meeting is being planned in Yuma with BLM and all cooperating agencies to discuss the Project routing in this region.

No Change **Lake Powell Pipeline Project** - The Utah State Board of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, proposes to construct 138 miles of 72-inch diameter water pipeline from the Lake Powell Glen Canyon dam site in Arizona to Sand Hollow Reservoir near St. George, Utah. It is anticipated that much of the pipeline would be within the legislated utility corridor in Kane County that parallels highway US 89, with lands outside this corridor requiring one or more plan amendments. The project proposes to remove and transport up to 100,000 acre-feet of water to supply the Kane County and Washington County Water Conservancy Districts. The project would also include pumping stations along the pipeline to power pumping the water uphill, ancillary facilities including impoundment reservoirs, tunneling, electrical facilities and access roads, as well as hydro-electric generating plants using down-hill runs, which FERC would authorize. FERC is the lead Federal agency. BLM is a Cooperating Agency in the EIS, with Utah as the lead state for BLM Utah and Arizona on this project. Reclamation, NPS and the Kaibab Paiute Tribe are also Cooperating Agencies.

BLM met with the Zuni Pueblo leadership on July 10, at their Tribal HQ near Gallup, New Mexico in furtherance of Section 106 consultation on behalf of the DOI cooperating agencies. The Pueblo Governor, key Tribal Council members and their Tribal Preservation Officer were present at the meeting. An overall briefing on the status of the project was afforded the Tribe, which the Tribe appreciated. The Zuni asked for a fuller meeting with all Federal agencies to include the proponent. FERC is conducting their own Section 106 consultation, but has chosen not to meet directly with Tribes up to this point, a concern for the Advisory Council, who may be addressing this directly with FERC. The Zuni desire scoping meetings at the Tribal HQ once the EIS begins.

The proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project is currently on a slowdown by the State of Utah (Proponent), because of the State legislature's uncertainty of how the project would be paid for by the State – projected now to be about $2 Billion to construct.

No Change **Arizona Public Service (APS) Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV** – The proposed project is near the Town of Buckeye with the Morgan Substation near the City of Peoria, in Maricopa County, Arizona. Approximately 8 miles of Federal public lands along SR 74 would require a plan amendment. Another 2.5 miles of Federal public lands are located within an existing utility corridor in the SW portion of the proposed project. The BLM, as lead agency, is responsible for making a decision on whether or not to amend the RMP to include a utility corridor (State Director decision) and, if amended, whether or not to issue a ROW grant for the project proposed by APS.

The project remains controversial and polarized with the AZ Delegation, City of Peoria and a powerful land developer (Diamond Ventures) advocating that BLM host the powerlines on virgin BLM land having high VRM qualities; however, numerous environmental organizations advocate that BLM maintain the VRM classification and that BLM stick to its recent RMP decision which prescribes no utility corridor. BLM's Preferred Alternative is the Proposed Action, with appropriate mitigation included. The highly energized public, special interest groups,

agencies and congressional delegation regarding the visual resources that are prescribed in the recent RMP decision that involved extensive environmental community input, make for the harbinger of an immense political situation - no matter what decision BLM makes.

The NOA package for the Draft EIS was transmitted on September7, and is making its way through WO. The Draft EIS will go to the printer October 8, with a planned publication date for October 26. We then have a 90-day comment period, due to the plan amendment, to expose the Draft to the public.

No Change: **Electric Transmission Agency Training**: The BLM, in cooperation with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is hosting a series of transmission webinars. The first two are planned for October 23 and November 15. This series is intended to provide agency personnel a better understanding of the many aspects of electric grid operation, project planning and engineering through permitting, construction and operation/maintenance. RRTT agencies have been invited to participate.

No Change: **Electric Transmission Planning**: The Environmental Data Task Force (EDTF) which is a subgroup of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) continue work to determine how to proceed with EDTF review and potential modification of the assigned risk classification categories for corridors of concern identified in the July 11 settlement agreement for Energy Policy Act, section 368 energy corridors in the 11 western states. BLM is participating in EDTF webinar meetings and calls to monitor their actions. This topic was discussed via webinar September 18 and in person meeting October 11.

The Environmental Data Task Force (EDTF) which is a subgroup of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) has opened their biennial process for stakeholders to submit updated or new environmental or cultural data sets. These data sets will be used in future transmission planning efforts. Comments were due September 11.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is required by the Federal Power Act to study electric transmission congestion every 3 years. DOE is preparing a 2012 congestion study and held webinars August 7, 16 and 21 to collect stakeholder feedback. DOE will release the draft study in the Fall of 2012 for a 60 day comment period.

No Change: **Energy Policy Act, Section 368 Energy Corridor Litigation** (*TWS v. DOI*, No. C 09-03048 JW (N.D. Ca.). – On July 11, 2012, Judge Ware of the US District Court of Northern District of California dismissed the case with prejudice. The Plaintiffs originally filed suit in 2009 regarding the issuance of RODs by the BLM and Forest Service which amended numerous land use plans and designated approximately 6,000 miles of energy corridors on Federal lands in the 11 contiguous western states. The Department of Energy (DOE), Forest Service and BLM reached a settlement with the Plaintiffs. (b) (5)

Talking points, Q&As and related materials were provided to the State Directors and Washington Office and State office public affairs leads on August 6, 2012.

The BLM external webpage was updated with the Settlement Agreement on August 23. Discussions with NREL have been initiated regarding providing the agencies technical assistance. The meeting scheduled for September 24 with NREL and agency representatives has been rescheduled to October. Meetings were held with Forest Service on September 6 and the National Training Center on September 7. A joint BLM/USFS letter is being prepared and will be sent to Tribes, environmental groups and industry inviting them to participate in upcoming BLM training courses.

No Change: **Western Expansion Project II Pipeline Project** – The Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office and Northwest District Office have requested project manager mentoring assistance from the BLM Washington Office. The project is approximately 95 miles long, 16-inch natural gas liquids pipeline in Colorado and Utah. The Western Expansion II (WEP II) project will cross lands administered by the BLM Vernal, White River, Grand Junction, and Moab field offices. A right-of-way application and draft plan of development have

been submitted describing specific construction activities by Enterprise Mid-American Pipeline (MAPL). The pipeline would increase current capacity by 15,000 barrels per day based on the increased natural gas liquids production in Utah and Wyoming. The BLM is lead agency and early meetings have been held with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss coordination and consultation. Garfield and Unitah counties have each signed an MOU as cooperating agencies on August 19, 2011. Consultation initiation letters have been sent to tribes and both SHPOS on August 22, 2011. Interested party consultation initiation letters were sent September 26, 2011. WEP II Field Site visits October 18-19, 24, 2011. Biological Survey Report was completed September 2011. The EA is currently being finalized by the environmental contractor. The MOA for Section 106 is being reviewed by BLM, SHPO and Enterprise and is expected to be signed September 28, 2012. Once the MOA has been signed by all, the FONSI and Decision document will be completed.

No Change: **Transmission Project - Centennial West Clean Line LLC 600kV DC Transmission Project.** Centennial West Clean Line, LLC (Centennial West) filed an application with BLM to construct a +/- 600 kV high voltage (HV) direct current (DC) transmission line that would gather energy from renewable energy generation projects in eastern New Mexico and surrounding areas, and transmit it to load centers in southern California. The Project would be developed to accommodate delivery of approximately 3,500 megawatts of wind generation. The Project area has been broadly defined to include existing linear facilities and designated utility corridors, which will facilitate connecting major wind resource areas in eastern New Mexico to customers in Southern California. Final design for the HVDC transmission line will not be determined until further transmission planning, and engineering studies are completed.

The BLM and Western Area Power Administration (Western) will be joint Lead Agencies. The Forest Service (Forest Service), the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will be Cooperating Agencies. Numerous other Federal, State, and local entities with jurisdiction or special expertise relative to the Project will be offered Cooperating Agency status as the Project progresses.

Centennial West had been in negotiations with DOE regarding an advance funding agreement (AFA) since January of this year and had requested that BLM stop all work on the project until certain issues were resolved relative to these negotiations. On February 25, 2012, BLM's National Project Manager was notified that Centennial West and Clean Line were close to agreement on the final wording for the AFA. However due to market uncertainties in California and other concerns that they would not be moving forward with this project until at least the first quarter of 2013.

FLUID MINERALS:

Update: **National Lease Sale System**: BLM will develop functionality for a National Oil and Gas Lease Sale System (LSS). The system will commence with submittals of Expressions of Interest (EOI) and pre-sale offers by the public through use of electronic forms technology and conclude with the issuance of oil and gas leases. In addition, the system will automate tabulation of statistics and record the status of EOIs, including whether the EOIs have been deferred or included in the preliminary sale list. The system will replace numerous stand-alone systems used throughout the BLM, thus providing a consistent, easy to use system for both the oil and gas industry and BLM employees. Initially the LSS will be developed to accommodate the oil and gas program yet designed for ease in expansion to other program areas, e.g., geothermal, land sales, etc. The system will allow for interfaces with the Bureau's existing LR2000 and Collections and Billing Systems. The system will improve communications, decisions, and interactions with private and industry clients, BLM Field Offices, and non-BLM Surface Management Agencies. This national system for onshore oil and gas leasing will provide automated components that facilitate one-time data entry along with safe, reliable data handling to reduce errors and improve staff productivity.

The Mission Needs Statement has been finalized and approved by the AD300. NFLSS was presented to the ITIB June 2012 and approved for the planning and pilot phases. The Subject Matter Specialist met at the NOC August 28-30, to review and finalize the process and data requirements documentation and evaluate the updated Colorado

Sale System. As of 10/10/12, the Project Team is reviewing the Performance Work Statement and System Requirement Specifications. The Performance Work Statement was approved and sent to contracting 10/16/12 for NFLSS Pilot. A clarification of the pilot functionality was provided to the National Operations Center on October 24, 2012.

Update: **Hydraulic Fracturing Rulemaking:** Approval to move forward with Tribal Consultation and field review of the rulemaking was received from the White House on Friday, November 25. The Tribal Consultation locations are Tulsa, OK (Tuesday, January 10), Billings, MT (Thursday, January 12), Salt Lake City, UT (Tuesday, January 17), and Farmington, NM (Thursday, January 19). The invitation letters were signed by Acting AD300 and mailed on Friday, December 9. A conference call with the field review team and AD300 took place on Wednesday, December 14. The call answered several questions from the review team. Comments from the field review team are being addressed. Acting Deputy Director for Policy held a meeting on December 22 to hear the initial thoughts on the field review team's comments and to inform WO300 that the draft rule would be distributed during Tribal Consultation meetings. The EPA has been contacted to present the protection of water resources portion of the tribal consultation meetings. They have expressed an interest in participating. They may not be able to participate due to their travel ceiling and the lack of video conferencing at most of the venues.

BLM held an informal conference call with OMB to discuss the draft rule on January 10. The Regulatory Alert was sent to the Office of the Executive Secretary on Sept 8. The Secretary and Director testified about the hydraulic fracturing rulemaking to the full House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, November 16.

The rule will require operators to publicly disclose the chemicals they intend to use the in their hydraulic fracturing operations on public lands. Applicable recommendations by the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board Subcommittee on Natural Gas are being incorporated into the rule.

We have concluded the four tribal consultation meetings and are preparing a summary report for the Director. Based on comments gathered during the Tribal consults and field review, changes are being made to the regulatory text and supporting documents. A final package was completed and sent for surname on February 6, 2012. The proposed rule was sent forward to OMB the week of February 13, 2012. Several briefings with third party organizations through OMB have been completed. The draft was revised to reflect the requested changes and sent back to OMB for reconsideration.

The DOI has transmitted the draft Well Stimulation Rule to OMB for another review. The last version of the draft rule incorporates DOI/BLM, OMB, and interagency (DOE, DOJ, NIH, CDC) comments. The BLM has prepared specific responses to the interagency comments, and the responses were reviewed by Regulatory Affairs and shared with SOL before transmitted to OMB. We have provided OMB with a response based on one of EPAs comments relating to the definition of "well stimulation" in the BLM draft rule. Updated documents, including answers to various comments from OMB (and others), have been sent back to OMB. Another round of Tribal consultations sessions is currently being planned for late June 2012.

The Hydraulic Fracturing Rule was published in the *Federal Register* on May 11, 2012, beginning a 60-day public comment period that was later extended until September 10, 2012. Tribal consultation letters, with CDs were mailed May 11, 2012.

A Fluid Minerals Reservoir Management Roundtable meeting was held on May 23, 2012. Field Office staff expressed concerns that verification of chemicals used in fracturing operations will increase their workload and that Indian Tribes have reservations about the proposed Rule because it would delay permitting and development of tribal oil and gas resources.

An additional round of Tribal consultations was conducted in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 5; Farmington, New Mexico on June 7; Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 12, and Billings, Montana on June 14. A fifth additional

consultation was conducted at the National Congress of American Indian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 18. And another regional meeting was held at New Town, North Dakota on July 13. BLM State Offices are making calls to all tribes and developing a consolidated list of tribes requesting one-on-one government to government consultation. Government-to-government consultations began on July 18, and will occur over the coming weeks. A consolidated scheduled is being developed.

The WO staff continue to answer questions on the HF proposed rule, and provide clarification. Various groups have met weekly with the WO, including a meeting with the NGOs as well as the industry groups in June. The latest meeting was with the Small Business Administration Office of the Advocacy. The States regulatory group STRONGER (State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations, Inc.) has invited BLM to provide additional clarification when they host their Board meeting in Crystal City on August 29 and 30, 2012.

During the week of August 20, 2012, BLM met with Apache, Anadarko, API, and Conoco-Phillips to clarify the rule, and its objective, and also, reviewed their PowerPoint for discussion from the industry perspective. On August 30, a meeting was held with the state environmental regulatory Board of Governors in Crystal City to provide HF clarification and compare to approaches from the states. The supporting documents and regulation text were sent to the Cheyenne Rivers Sioux of SD. The State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources requested to comment, and was given the submittal information. The comment period closed September 10, 2012. Approximately 175,000 comments were received on the proposed rule; of those comments, approximately 219 were substantive comments, some of which were non-specific or duplicative, and were analyzed by teams of subject matter experts and other staff. Thirty-two of the comments were further investigated due to the nature of the recommendations, proposals and suggestions. All substantive comments have been analyzed. BLM subject matter experts and other staff have begun organizing and drafting responses to issues presented in the substantive comments. Team leaders have been briefing BLM leadership, and further briefings are expected in the future. We anticipate having a final rule ready for Department review in early November 2012.

Update: **Venting and Flaring (Onshore Order 9)** – Executive Order 13514 and Secretarial Order 3289 require reduction of indirect greenhouse gas releases. In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the BLM's oil and gas program made five recommendations concerning greenhouse gas releases in their report entitled, "Federal Oil and Gas Leases: Opportunities Exist to Capture Vented and Flared Natural Gas, Which Would Increase Royalty Payments and Reduce Greenhouse Gases (GAO-11-34). The BLM is committed to managing the venting and flaring of methane from onshore Federal and Indian oil and gas leases and underground mines to the extent of its authority. The BLM is in the process of promulgating new regulations (Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 9) to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations – determining timing as the EPA proposed rule for HC emission controls has been pushed to July 2011. As part of the rulemaking process, the BLM will propose new emission standards and require the use of new technologies to capture vented and flared natural gas economically. The BLM has been coordinating with the EPA to help ensure consistency between their proposed changes to the Clean Air Act regulations and the BLM's development of Order 9.

A Tribal Consultation letter has been drafted and put on hold pending approval to move forward. Consultations are now tentatively scheduled for the end of the year pending Departmental approval. The Team has developed drafts of the Environmental Assessment and economic analysis for the Order. These efforts will produce an OMB reviewable draft regulations by the end of October 2012 and the target date for final regulations is Spring 2013.

The Preamble, Reg text, briefing paper and PowerPoint were updated and a briefing was held with Acting BLM Director on August 9. A briefing was held with the ASLM on August 17, 2012. Also, the EPA's New Source Performance Standards rule was published in the *Federal Register* on August 16, 2012. The schedule is on hold pending a briefing with Deputy Secretary Hayes. The team met on August 28 to run the documents through a more thorough review with the entire team. All of the briefing documents have been updated.

The team met again on September 4 to address some of the concerns. All of the briefing documents have been updated and forwarded to the BLM Director's office. The team briefed Deputy Secretary Hayes on October 22.

Deputy Secretary Hayes agreed that the project could move forward but wants to see Tribal Consultation scheduling options. He would like for BLM to release Onshore Order 9 with Orders 3, 4 and 5. The team is developing a set of scenarios with various timeframe options, as well as some considerations to make an informed decision on combining the release of all the Orders together.

Update: **Section 390 Categorical Exclusions (CX) – Western Energy Alliance v. Salazar (Section 390 CX Litigation)** – A US District Court (WY) judge ruled against the BLM's 2010 CX policy. (b) (5)

The BLM is currently in the process of developing interim guidance to comply with recommendations prescribed by the GAO in a report that identified concerns with the BLM's use of the 390 CXs. Upon completion of a surnaming package for the interim guidance, (b) (5)

Background:
In September 2009, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report outlining their investigation of the BLM's policy and use of the Section 390 CXs. The GAO found the BLM's policy to be lacking, which led to inconsistent field office implementation of the Section 390 of the EPAct. The GAO issued three recommendations intended to clarify agency guidance in order to avoid these inconsistencies. The BLM is currently in the process of updating NEPA Handbook guidance to comply with recommendations prescribed by the GAO.

In May 2010, the BLM issued revised CX guidance (IM 2010-118) that addressed some of the concerns identified in the GAO's 2009 report.

In Fall 2010, the Western Energy Alliance filed suit against the BLM challenging the agency's 2010 revised policy (IM 2010-118) claiming, among other things, that the BLM's policy was a legislative rule that required public notice and an opportunity to comment, consistent with procedures under the APA.

In August 2011, the US District Court – District Court of Wyoming sided with the plaintiffs on this particular claim and issued an adverse decision that vacated and enjoined the BLM's implementation of IM 2010-118.

The BLM issued an IM to rescind Section 390 CX IM-2010-118, on June 20, 2012.

Update: ***Federal Register*** **Notices for Oil and Gas Reinstatements** – The Solicitor's Office has concerns regarding approval of *Federal Register* Notices for Oil and Gas Reinstatements. BLM is currently in the negotiation phase of a settlement agreement with WildEarth Guardians (WEG) on a lawsuit that challenged BLM's authorization of oil and gas leases in Colorado. The suit and agreement are specific to 12 issued Colorado leases and alleges that BLM violated NEPA by failing to complete an EA or EIS for the 2009 lease sale. In addition, 9 of the 12 leases were terminated by operation of law for late payment of rental. In the current settlement agreement, (b) (5)

A meeting was held with the BLM Director on January 31, 2012; we proposed an interim process for moving the current backlog through the surname process. Pending *Federal Register* Notices have been sent forward to the Department. Once approved, BLM Regulatory Affairs will send to the *Federal Register* for publication. Backlogged reinstatements are moving through the offices and being published. An updated briefing paper was prepared and forwarded to the Director's office. BLM is revamping the reinstatement paper and proposed procedures for addressing reinstatement requests involving lands in Sage Grouse PPH, and will also address communication plan and outreach to ONRR. As of October 24, 2012, the BLM is developing an Instruction Memorandum in coordination with the Solicitor's Office.

No Change: **APD Processing Automation (AFMSS 2.0 Module)** – Secretary Salazar announced the project in a press conference during a visit to North Dakota on April 3, 2012. The project has been underway since 2011. A team was formed in January 2012, and has been working on establishing the high-level workflow processes related to processing an APD. The workflows will be completed prior to the APD Processing Workshop that will be held in Denver at the COSO April 25-26, 2012. The team will be working on finishing up determining the data elements and the data element requirements prior to working with a contractor. The contract will be needed prior to working on any design elements.

The draft IM emphasizing the BLM's current APD Process and Timeframes was sent to the field for review. Comments were received from the field July 6, 2012, and are being reviewed. The IM is in draft surnaming as of September 17, 2012.

The team met in Denver July 15-21, 2012, to go through comments from the field on the flowcharts and work through defining data elements to prepare the project to go to a contractor, which will hopefully be on board in August. The flowcharts are now complete and we are working on determining how to send them to the field so they know that this is the BLM approved process.

There was a meeting in Denver with WEA on July 26, 2012, to discuss this project. The milestones and BP have been updated and Mike is planning to send out to the ELT for their information. The team has identified a need for the sub-teams to travel to complete this project. The estimated total for all the travel needed to complete this project is about $190,000. The contract has been delayed and we are not expecting to let a contract prior to the middle of October. The identified sub-team leads have been asked to contact their potential team members to gauge interest and availability. Once this has been determined, we will work through channels to make sure they are committed to the project and time requirements. A few teams members have been identified, but several of the teams will be understaffed due to end of year commitments. The manager certifications for sub-team member participation have been received. The surface sub-teams had their first meeting on September 10; the other sub-teams will be meeting soon. The Adjudication, Engineering and Geology sub-teams began meetings the week of September 24. The Engineering sub-team will be meeting in Denver November 5-9 and the Geology sub-team will be meeting in Salt Lake City November 7-9. The contract review panel is preparing to receive the bids to review on or around November 2.

The RFP was made public on September 11, 2012; however, it is being amended and a new version should be available September 21. The earliest we can possibly get a contractor is now early November.

No Change: **Onshore Orders 3, 4 and 5** – The three **Onshore Order** teams (Orders 3, 4, 5) completed drafts of revised regulatory text. The NRS completed drafts of Categorical Exclusions for all three Onshore Orders. Indian consultations for all three Orders were held the week of July 11, 2011, with meetings occurring in Farmington, NM, and Tulsa, OK. The Billings, MT Indian consultation meeting has been rescheduled for August 24, 2011. Anticipate publishing the Proposed Rule as the Onshore Orders and the Final Rule as codified regulations. The Solicitor's Office has completed initial review of preambles and staff coordinating changes to preamble with the Solicitor's Office. Working on final edits; citations for Orders 3 and 4, burden hours for Order 5 have been completed. The BLM Director was briefed on these Orders on March 8, 2012. We anticipate having the draft rule package ready for WO review, briefings, and surnaming by mid-March 2012. The draft rule package is ready for WO review and surnaming. Order 3 and 4 surname package was transmitted to the Solicitor's Office on June 20 for review and surname. Draft Orders 4 and 5 are with the Solicitor's Office for review and surname. Order 3 has been surnamed by the Solicitor's Office and is with Regulatory Affairs to incorporate final edits. Onshore Order 4 has been signed by the Office of the Solicitor; Order 5 is in review with the Solicitors.

No Change: **Leasing Reform and Master Leasing Plans** – On May 17, 2010, the BLM issued IM 2010-117, Oil and Gas Leasing Reform.

- Seventeen areas have been identified for MLP analysis. A Planning for Fluid Minerals Resources handbook section that will identify these processes for incorporating Master Leasing Plans into ongoing resource management plans has been reviewed by the Office of the Solicitor staff and is in final surnaming.
- All state offices have incorporated the Leasing Reform lease parcel review process into their lease sales.
- First-year Post-Implementation Reports have been received from all state offices and analyzed by the WO. On Tuesday, December 6, 2011, the Director was briefed on the status of the Leasing Reform implementation and a follow-up briefing was held with ASLM on June 7, 2012. Lessons learned were provided to the State Office and Field Office Leasing Reform contacts.
- The Washington Office has begun a 2nd year assessment of Leasing Reform.

No Change! **2012 Alaska NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** On 11/7/2012, BLM-AK is scheduled to conduct annual lease sale for NPR-A. BLM-AK expects to submit its Federal Register Notice request for the Notice of Sale to BLM-WO by September 10, 2012. The Notice needs to be published in the Federal Register no later than October 5, 2012. The tracts available for the upcoming sale are structured and consistent with the preferred alternative of the current NPR-A planning effort but the sale is based on the previous IAP's for NE and NW. BLM-AK is currently working on the draft lease sale configuration and NEPA review. Target date for finalizing the tracts offered for the upcoming lease sale was August 24, 2012. A briefing through BLM has been completed.

No Change! **Inspection and Enforcement Internal Control Review:** The BLM Washington recently completed an Internal Control Review at 10 of its busiest oil and gas field offices. A draft report was provided to each of the offices for their review and comments. All of the offices have responded to the review and some have begun to implement changes. We briefed the BLM Executive Leadership Team the week of June 20 on the overall findings – morale in the majority of offices, staffing and workload are major challenges, case records documentation needs to be strengthened, recruitment, retention and training are challenging in some offices and enhanced automation capabilities are needed. Subsequent briefings will be scheduled for the BLM Director and the ASLM as soon as possible. Thereafter, the reports will be finalized and sent to the respective BLM State Directors for them to develop and submit a corrective action plan. The draft final ICR Report was sent to the field for review the week of October 24. Comments have been received. The Director was briefed on February 24 and the ASLM will be briefed prior to issuance of the final ICR Report. A transmittal IB is in surname to send the final report out to the State Offices. WO staff is working with each State Office on the Corrective Action Plan.

No Change! **O&G Process Improvements** - The Colorado and New Mexico State Offices hosted a 2-day workshop in Denver, CO, April 25-26, 2012, to engage senior managers and program staff, with additional remote access by Video Teleconference from subject matter experts, in finding ways to enhance the O&G operations. The agenda included discussions on the permit process; coordination with other Surface Management Agencies; identifying the NEPA needs; a review of lessons learned from the oil and gas pilot offices; and identifying best management practices that can be applied across the program. The BLM reconvened with Western Energy Alliance in Denver for a 5-hour meeting on July 26, 2012. Opportunities to improve the workflow process were discussed.

No Change! **Royalty Rate Increase Proposed Rule** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has initiated a rulemaking process to authorize increased royalties for new competitive oil and gas leases on Federal land. The rule will amend regulation 43 CFR 3103.3-1, Royalty on Production.

The Secretary approved the option to delink oil and gas and increase oil to 18 ¾% and leave gas at 12 ½%. This option also includes an intermittent review of the royalty rates. The Royalty Rule team developed a draft proposed royalty rule and sent it to Regulatory Affairs August 29. The final rule surname package was sent forward for concurrent review by BLM and the Solicitor's office on September 22. The team briefed the ASLM on October 18, 2011. Comments have been received from the Solicitor's office and WO-100. The team has updated the package but is waiting for a decision on the 5 year language for the document before the

package can be completed for final surname. Van Meurs signed an MOU agreeing to terms which allow the BLM to make its report available for public review and comment. The BLM also received from Van Meurs additional copies for placement in BLM state offices.

BLM met with OMB on March 13, 2012, to inform them that we will not be going forward with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to increase royalty rates at this time. However, we will be developing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes a number of questions/options for public comment. The target date for completing the ANPR has not yet been determined. The BLM extended the Enegis contract through 12/31/12. BLM met with Enegis on May 11, 2012, to discuss the extension of their contract which is scheduled to expire June 30, 2012. Enegis is considering a no-cost extension and discuss before the contract expires.

No Change: **Fair Return Report** – The Fair Return report will compare oil and gas fiscal systems in other countries with those used by the United States Government in federally owned offshore and onshore lands. The purpose of the study is to inform decision makers about Federal lease terms, such as royalties, to ensure that the U.S. Government is receiving a fair return.

In September 2010, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and the BLM jointly contracted Information Handling Services Cambridge Energy Research Associates (IHS CERA) to conduct the comparative assessment.

On October 18-20, IHS CERA conducted a technical training on the fiscal models for BLM, BOEM, and DOI employees. The contractor delivered the final report on October 20. The BLM and BOEM will work with DOI on the release of the report. The contractor presented its findings on November 9 to senior-level policymakers. The contract closed on November 12. The BLM and BOEM drafted a cover piece to accompany the report. The report has been released and linked to the BLM external web site on January 24 at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/comparative_assessment.html.

SOLID MINERALS:

Update: **New Mexico Potash**

- New Mexico oil-gas and potash industry, "Joint Industry Technical Committee" (JITC) met with the Secretary on May 1 and submitted recommended changes to the 1986 Secretary's Potash Order. A revised Order, based on the JITC's recommendations, was published in July, and after careful analysis of the public comments received, the BLM prepared a proposed final 2012 Secretary's Order. The Acting BLM Director surnamed the package on 10/10/12, and surname packages were delivered to the ASLM and Solicitors offices. The final Order should be signed in November.

Update: **Oil Shale—Programmatic EIS**

- The Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS is scheduled to be published on 11/9/12.
- The Acting ASLM was briefed on 8/30/12 concerning the Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS.
- The Director was briefed on August 22 concerning the Notice of Availability for the Final PEIS.
- As of 8/16/12 the comments have been addressed and the PEIS is being finalized. The PEIS must be published by 9/21/12 to remain on schedule.
- A briefing request has been sent to the Director's Office to discuss the NOA and the final oil shale PEIS.
- BLM briefed the ASLM on the status of the Oil Shale PEIS on 6/6/12.
- The PEIS was released 2/3/12 for a 90-day comment period, which ended 5/4/12. Over 161,750 comments were received, about 500 of which were substantive. The comments must be addressed and any rewriting of the PEIS must be done by 7/15/12 to remain on schedule.
- BLM staff are scheduled to meet with Argonne in Chicago the week of 5/14/12 to work on comment responses.
- Draft PEIS comment period closing on 5/4/12
- During the week of 3/12/12, BLM staff and representatives of Argonne National Labs conducted open house meetings in Silt, CO, Vernal, UT, Salt Lake City, UT and Rock Springs, WY to present

information and answer questions about the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS. The meetings were well attended, especially in Salt Lake City where about 150 people attended.

- Released 2/3/12 for 90-day comment period closing 5/4/12.
- Public meetings will be held in UT, CO, and WY the week of 3/12/12.
- The Notice of Availability for the Draft PEIS was published on 2/6/12.
- On 12/1, BLM, Solicitors Office, and the Department met to further discuss alternatives for the Oil Shale PEIS.
- Provided a briefing on 11/22/11 to BLM Director, Director's staff, Deputy Assistant Secretary for ASLM and others concerning the alternatives analyzed in the Draft PEIS. A decision needs to be made soon as to which alternative will be indicated as the agency-preferred alternative when the draft is published.
- On 10/19/11 Division Chief met with Contractor and Project Manager on progress and status of PEIS.
- Participated in a conference call with SOL and program leads on 10/11/11 concerning alternatives to be analyzed in the Oil Shale PEIS.
- Briefed the Director concerning alternatives to be analyzed in the Oil Shale PEIS on 9/28/11.
- Participated in an OSTS PEIS conference call on 9/20/11 concerning the direction to give Argonne about the draft interim management policy for the Greater Sage Grouse and, "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics."

Update: **Oil Shale RD&D:**

1st Round:

- Enefit American Oil, who controls the oil shale RD&D lease in Utah, briefed BLM Acting Director Pool on 10/9/12, concerning their plans to have a Notice of Intent published soon to initiate an EIS for their right-of-way (ROW) application. The ROW would be the corridor in which electricity, natural gas and water would come in to their oil shale operation, and oil shale would be piped out of the property.
- On 3/14/12, BLM WO and Utah met with Enefit American Oil to review progress on their RD&D lease and to answer questions regarding the PEIS.
- On 3/12/12, the Oil Shale/Tar Sands PEIS open house team toured the AMSO R, D&D project in the Piceance Basin, Colorado. AMSO has invested over $10 million in the project with the goal of producing oil from oil shale this summer.
- As of 3/5/12, WO300 will have calls over the next few weeks with BLM state offices to discuss our progress with RD&D leases.
- Chevron has plans to meet with the COSO to discuss their wish to relinquish or assign their Oil Shale RD&D lease. (Date TBD)
- BLM participated on a conference call on 9/14/11 with representatives of Enefit and BLM-Utah concerning Enefit's Plan of Operation for their RD&D lease.
- A conference call with Allen Freemyer, representing Enefit, was held on 8/2/11 to discuss the RD&D lease which Enefit acquired from OSEC. Enefit has many questions about the lease, and they plan to submit their questions soon. A meeting is tentatively planned for mid-September to discuss their questions.
- A meeting with representatives of Enefit American Oil was held on 7/13/11, concerning their plans for the Uintah County, Utah, Oil Shale RD&D lease they recently acquired from OSEC, Inc.
- The American Shale Oil Company (AMSO) has invested about $10 million in their research operations in the Piceance Basin, Colorado, and is currently drilling their first heater and production wells. They plan to begin heating oil shale in August or September 2011, and hope to produce about 2,000 barrels of shale oil for testing during the fall 2011.

2nd Round:

- The Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda leases are being finalized and should be signed in November 2012.
- The Acting ASLM was briefed on the final EA for the Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda nominations. The FONSI/Decision Record will be "rolled-out" by the White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. The Acting ASLM was also briefed on the Utah State Office's plan to reject the AuraSource nomination for failure to initiate the NEPA process.

- A briefing with the Director was held on 8/22/12 to discuss the final EA for the Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda nominations. The Director was also briefed on the Utah State Offices' plan to reject the AuraSource nomination for failure to initiate the NEPA process.
- The final EA and FONSI/Decision Record are under review by the SOL as of the week of 7/23/12.
- On 6/19/12, BLM attended an Oil Shale Forum held at the Capitol Visitor Center. The Forum was sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute and was moderated by Dr. Boak of the Colorado School of Mines. Public policy issues related to oil shale development were discussed and some of the RD&D lease holders gave updates on their projects.
- BLM met with Exxon-Mobil and Enefit concerning their oil shale RD&D projects on 6/19/12.
- The EA prepared by the NEPA contractor was released for public comment by the White River Field Office on 5/18/12, with comments due by 6/16/12.
- Draft EIS being received by BLM CO and WO320 as of 5/19/12.
- A NEPA contractor, hired by Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda, has begun preparing an EA for these 2nd round Oil Shale RD&D nominations. The EA was released for public comment by the White River Field Office on 5/18/12, with comments due 6/16/12. A total of 70 comments need to be addressed.

No Change: **Oil Shale Regulations:**

- On 8/14/12 the Department proposed to include language in the draft regulations to consult OMB before setting a royalty.
- On 8/1/12 we met with the Department to discuss how to proceed on oil shale regulations.
- OMB wants a set royalty. OMB and the Department are seeking resolution as of the week of 7/23/12.
- The Oil Shale Rule was sent to OMB on May 15, 2012. Department is asking for a 2-week review; however it's unclear whether they will grant an expedited review.
- Oil Shale Rule is currently with ASLM; a briefing was held on May 11, 2012.
- SOL review completed and package is in Regulatory Affairs awaiting surnaming as of 3/22/12.
- The Oil Shale Regulations Team has been focusing on the revising recently identified aspects of the preamble and related supporting documents. The draft document was sent to SOL for review on 2/22/12.

No Change: **BLM Updates Mineral Cost Recovery Fee Schedule** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will publish in the *Federal Register* on Monday, Sept. 10, the final rule updating the fees it charges to recover costs incurred in processing documents associated with oil, gas, coal, and solid mineral activities. The updated fees cover costs for actions, including lease applications, name changes, corporate mergers, and lease consolidations and reinstatements. The BLM is authorized to charge cost recovery fees under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the 2005 Cost Recovery Rule. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has also directed Federal agencies to recover their costs for services.

Seven of the fee increases will amount to $5, and eight of the increases will amount to $10. The largest adjustment—$65—will be added to the fee for adjudicating more than 10 mineral patent claims and will increase the fee from $2,875 to $2,940. The fee for adjudicating 10 or fewer mineral patent claims will rise by $30—from $1,440 to $1,470.

The BLM first implemented a cost recovery fee schedule for certain oil and gas activities in November 2005. The agency aims to implement the updated fee schedule on Oct. 1, at the beginning of fiscal year 2012. The fees will continue to be evaluated every year thereafter.

The fee changes are the BLM's response to recommendations made in a 1988 report issued by the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General, which found that the BLM needed to do more to recover its document-processing costs. The fees are based on a commonly used mathematical formula used by businesses nationwide to adjust their expenses. The updates are based on the change in the Implicit Price Deflator for Gross Domestic Product (IPD-GDP) from the 4th Quarter of one calendar year to the 4th Quarter of the following calendar year. This fee update rule is based on the change in the IPD-GDP from the 4th Quarter of 2010 to the 4th Quarter of 2011, thus reflecting the rate of inflation over four calendar quarters.

No Change: **Waste Mine Methane IM:** BLM has drafted an IM aimed at reducing waste mine methane emissions by capturing and selling or by thermally destroying or burning the methane. Methane, the principle constituent of natural gas is a valuable resource which this IM will help to conserve and utilize, as envisioned by the Mineral Leasing Act. A simultaneous review is being conducted by BLM and the Solicitor's Office.

- Returned a revised draft to SOL on 8/6/12
- We are revising the IM with a royalty rate reduction feature after discussion with SOL on 7/24/12. SOL advised that the feature will require a rulemaking.
- As of 5/2/12, the draft IM continues to be reviewed in SOL and we are reviewing comments received to date.
- Revised draft IM forwarded to WO-300 on 2/28/12, but is also currently being reviewed by Karen Hawbecker in SOL as of 4/5/12.
- As of 2/16/12, the SOL returned the draft IM to WO-320 with comments that are being reviewed.
- Meetings to discuss the comments, resolve concerns, and revise the IM were held on 1/30/12 and 2/13/12.

No Change: **Coal Mine Methane Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:** The ANPR was signed on January 16, 2012, and was forwarded to OMB the week of January 30, 2012, for an informal review, normally taking approximately 2 weeks. The ANPR will publish in conjunction with the Coal Regulations. In May 2012, OMB declared that the ANPR is a significant rule and would require an additional 90-day review. BLM completed the analysis of comments received from EPA and forwarded the analysis to BLM Regulatory Affairs on 7/3/12.

No Change: **Proposed Coal Regulations –**

- BLM received several comments from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and WO320 has completed a proposed response. We met with Regulatory Affairs to finalize our response on 4/27/12. As of 5/10/12, the response is in surnaming. Completed the second round review of the response to CEQ comments on 7/2/12.
- The Proposed Coal Regulations was signed on January 16, 2012, and was forwarded to OMB the week of January 30, 2012, for a formal review (normally taking approximately 90 days).

No Change: **Soda Ash Applications:**

- A hearing on the helium bill was held 5/10/12, and the soda ash royalty reduction provision was not discussed.
- Senate Bill S. 2374, the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2012," contains a clause which would extend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 by 2 years. The term of the 2006 Act was 5 years, expiring on October 12, 2011. If enacted, the helium bill would extend the soda ash royalty reduction to October 12, 2013. A hearing on the helium bill is being held May 10, and it is anticipated that much of the testimony will focus on the soda ash royalty reduction provision.
- On 2/16/12, The Director sent a letter (concurred with by Deputy Secretary Hayes) to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America rejecting their royalty reduction application, and discussing the SOL's memo discussed below.
- The week of 1/9/12, the SOL drafted a letter to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America regarding their royalty reduction application and the SOL's opinion on the Secretary's authority and granting royalty rate reductions.
- WO-320 drafted a letter, which was sent forward on 1/10/12 to the Industrial Minerals Association – North America to respond to their royalty reduction application and to discuss the SOL's opinion on the Secretary's authority and granting royalty rate reductions. The SOL is also drafting a similar letter.
- As follow-up to the 11/22/11 meeting, the SOL transmitted, on 12/30/11, a memo to BLM with their opinion on the soda ash industry's claim that the Secretary has the authority to "directly" grant royalty reductions. The SOL said that (b) (5)

- On 1/3/11, WO320 received a "bundled" royalty rate reduction application sent by the Industrial Minerals Association – North America.
- Attended a meeting on 11/22/11 with BLM Director, Solicitor's Office and others concerning a legal opinion from the soda ash industry concerning the Secretary's authority to reduce sodium lease royalty rates. It was decided that the Solicitor's office will review the industry's proposal and render an opinion.

LANDS, REALTY, AND CADASTRAL SURVEY:

No Change: The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) ruled September 20 that some categories of public land withdrawals are automatically open to mining claims when they reach their expiration date. That is, BLM does not need to issue an order to open them. IBLA Chief Administrative Judge H. Barry Holt said that administrative withdrawals under Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLMPA) are open to mining claims on the date a withdrawal expires. In the 28-page decision, *Casey E. Folks, Jr. et al., 183 IBLA 24 of September20, 2012,* **IBLA reversed a significant policy of BLM** that held that withdrawn lands that reach their expiration dates may only be opened to mining when BLM issues an opening order. But Holt said FLPMA withdrawals terminate the day they reach an expiration date (usually 20 years maximum for large withdrawals), without an opening order.

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Weekly Reports
Cc:	Ishee, Mary K; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard; Burke, Marcilynn; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L
Subject:	RE: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, October 25, 2012 6:38:41 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-25-12 final.docx

Attached please find the ASLM weekly report.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 25, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

On October 24, I was a discussion leader, along with representatives from Canada and Mexico, at an American Jewish Committee (AJC) roundtable on North American renewable energy at the AJC headquarters in New York City. AJC advocates for the betterment of the human condition in the United States and around the world through research and advocacy in certain key areas, including U.S. energy security and independence.

Roundtable participants included several energy experts, consulate representatives, and members of AJC. I represented the U.S. Government. Dr. Stephen Lucas, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Canada, represented Canada and Jose Antonio Aguilar Bueno, Principal of Vivie Energia, represented Mexico. Each representative gave an overview of current renewable energy policies and priorities. For my update, I shared our spectacular story about how far we have come in developing renewable energy on public lands and implementing the President's renewable energy priorities. Canada continues to develop hydropower and wind, although the Federal role is primarily in research and development as provinces have authority over other aspects of energy policy. Mexico highlighted its significant solar and wind potential. Each country outlined a distinct path for developing renewable energy resources, yet, each nation faces similar challenges: transmission, social and environmental interests, and economic competitiveness. The roundtable provided an opportunity to learn ways to enhance individual national goals and North American energy security as well as find ways to address common challenges.

The Department engages in ongoing cooperation on energy with Mexico and Canada through a variety of forums, most of which address conventional energy, both on and offshore. Each representative expressed interest in finding ways to enhance existing forums or create new ones to include renewable energy, where appropriate. One example where my office is already at work on this coordination is the U.S.-Mexico Cross Border Electricity Task Force, which is working to enhance transmission capacity in the Southwest. The Department of Energy is convening a meeting of the task force on Oct. 31. As we near the 20th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 2014, it is a timely opportunity to reflect on our existing forums and find ways to increase renewable energy coordination with Canada and Mexico.

On October 25, I participated in the BLM Director's Annual Award Ceremony. The BLM Director's Awards recognize employees and partners who have excelled during the past year in leadership, both internal and external in stewardship of the natural resources, team accomplishments, service to the public, diversity, and safety. The accomplishments of the awardees are impressive and an excellent reminder of the challenges our employees and partners face and the innovations they develop to address these challenges. The awardees included Tony Herrell from the BLM New Mexico State Office, who has been an incredible leader on a number of complex issues, including management of the Secretary's Potash Area. The BLM also

recognized the Potash/Oil and Gas Joint Industry Technical Committee for its work. The co-chairs of the committee were present to accept the award.

On a final note, I am preparing for a November 15 meeting of our DOI-Department of Defense workgroup, the Interagency Land Use Coordinating Committee (ILUCC). I intend to discuss various land use issues, including the authorization of renewable energy on public lands withdrawn for military purposes. The recent Memorandum of Understanding you signed with Secretary Panetta has gained wide attention throughout the DoD and resulted in several recent requests for increased coordination, which we will manage through the umbrella of the ILUCC.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 29, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Oct. 29-31. In Portland, OR Oct. 31-Nov. 2 to swear in new BLM-OR/WA State Director.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of November 5, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

  - On Oct. 24, ASLM completed its review of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for **MA**. BOEM expects to be ready to publish the NOA in Oct. The NOA will also announce public meetings tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13-16 in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket. BOEM's Economics Division and SOL are discussing changes to the auction format contained the Proposed Sale Notice for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**. Publication of that notice is targeted for the end of Nov.

  - On Oct. 23, BOEM and the Department announced the Bluewater lease in **DE**. Bluewater has until Nov. 8 to sign the lease.

  - The revised **NC** Call for Information was sent to SOL Oct. 24.

  - BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Oct.

  - On Oct. 9, the comment period closed on the **ME** Request for Interest for the Statoil Hywind project. BOEM received 10 comments related to birds, whales, fishing, and visual impacts. BOEM did not receive any expressions of competitive interest. the comment period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS remains open until Nov. 8. BOEM held a public information meeting on Oct. 23 in ME; 80 people attended.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill:** Due to this season's drilling schedule, Shell submitted a "permit to modify" to allow the anchors to remain over the winter in the Chukchi Sea and will soon submit a similar request for the Beaufort Sea. Leaving the anchors in place may limit disturbance of the seafloor by reducing the frequency of dropping and removing the anchors. BSEE is reviewing the "permit to modify." All drilling operations must conclude by Oct. 31, the end of the open-water season. Temporary abandonment operations are now underway for the Chukchi Sea operations. Once those operations are complete, the Discoverer will depart the location. Drilling operations are continuing in the Beaufort Sea.

- **OSM Responds to Media Queries About Montana Bison Kill Site:** OSM continues to respond to media inquiries about the archeological excavation of a 2,000-year-old bison kill site in Montana that was approved as part of a coal mine's expansion. OSM complied with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act in addressing the site, and consulted with a number of interested parties on how to proceed with the area, known as the Sarpy Creek Bison Kill site, beginning in 2005. In 2008, OSM signed a MOU with the BIA, the Crow Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the coal company, Westmoreland Resources, Inc. Archeologists excavated the site in 2009 and 2010 in accordance with the Data Recovery Plan, which OSM, BIA, and the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer had reviewed and approved. In 2011, further archeologists recovered additional information. Monitors for the Crow Cultural Committee were present at all excavations.

Ongoing Projects:
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Orders

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Cardinale, Richard
To:	Anderson, Michael D; Weekly Reports
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Cunningham, Celina P; Lassiter, Tracie L; Anderson, Michael D; Davis, Vermell; Davis, G. Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E
Subject:	Revised Weekly Report to the Secreatary
Date:	Friday, October 26, 2012 1:01:03 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-26-12 revised final.docx

Jamey,

Attached please find the revised Weekly Report to the Secretary. Thanks so much for your assistance with this and our apologies if this caused any inconvenience.

Have a great weekend.

Rich

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 25, 2012

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recognized the Potash/Oil and Gas Joint Industry Technical Committee for its work. The co-chairs of the committee, John Smitherman and John Mansanti, were present to accept the award. In talking after the ceremony, Smitherman noted that though he was not very excited initially about accepting your challenge, he is glad that he did and is grateful for your leadership. He sends his regards.

On a final note, I am preparing for a November 15 meeting of our DOI-Department of Defense workgroup, the Interagency Land Use Coordinating Committee (ILUCC). I intend to discuss various land use issues, including the authorization of renewable energy on public lands withdrawn for military purposes. The recent Memorandum of Understanding you signed with Secretary Panetta has gained wide attention throughout the DoD and resulted in several recent requests for increased coordination, which we will manage through the umbrella of the ILUCC.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 29, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office Oct. 29-31. In Portland, OR Oct. 31-Nov. 2 to swear in new BLM-OR/WA State Director.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of November 5, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

  - On Oct. 24, ASLM completed its review of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for **MA**. BOEM expects to be ready to publish the NOA in Oct. The NOA will also announce public meetings tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13-16 in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket. BOEM's Economics Division and SOL are discussing changes to the auction format contained the Proposed Sale Notice for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**. Publication of that notice is targeted for the end of Nov.

  - On Oct. 23, BOEM and the Department announced the Bluewater lease in **DE**. Bluewater has until Nov. 8 to sign the lease.

  - The revised **NC** Call for Information was sent to SOL Oct. 24.

  - BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Oct.

  - On Oct. 9, the comment period closed on the **ME** Request for Interest for the Statoil Hywind project. BOEM received 10 comments related to birds, whales, fishing, and visual impacts. BOEM did not receive any expressions of competitive interest. the

comment period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS remains open until Nov. 8. BOEM held a public information meeting on Oct. 23 in ME; 80 people attended.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill:** Due to this season's drilling schedule, Shell submitted a "permit to modify" to allow the anchors to remain over the winter in the Chukchi Sea and will soon submit a similar request for the Beaufort Sea. Leaving the anchors in place may limit disturbance of the seafloor by reducing the frequency of dropping and removing the anchors. BSEE is reviewing the "permit to modify." All drilling operations must conclude by Oct. 31, the end of the open-water season. Temporary abandonment operations are now underway for the Chukchi Sea operations. Once those operations are complete, the Discoverer will depart the location. Drilling operations are continuing in the Beaufort Sea.

- **OSM Responds to Media Queries About Montana Bison Kill Site:** OSM continues to respond to media inquiries about the archeological excavation of a 2,000-year-old bison kill site in MT that was approved as part of a coal mine expansion. OSM complied with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act in addressing the site, and consulted with a number of interested parties on how to proceed with the area, known as the Sarpy Creek Bison Kill site, beginning in 2005. In 2008, OSM signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the BIA, the Crow Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the coal company, Westmoreland Resources, Inc. Archeologists excavated the site by hand in 2009 and 2010 in accordance with the Data Recovery Plan, which OSM, BIA, and the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer reviewed and approved. In 2011, archeologists conducted additional excavation using a backhoe, a method agreed to by all parties, to recover additional information that had not turned up in the excavation done by hand. The issue began to receive public attention recently when members of the Crow Tribe claimed that the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer failed to consult with them prior to approving the Data Recovery Plan or approving the additional excavation by backhoe.

Ongoing Projects:

- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Orders

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Krauss, Jeff
To:	Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc:	Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Ishee, Mary K; Velasco, Janine; Ishee, Mary K; Cunningham, Celina P
Subject:	BLM Weekly Report for Nov 4 - Nov 10, 2012
Date:	Wednesday, October 31, 2012 9:44:10 AM
Attachments:	BLM_WeeklyReportNov 4 - Nov 10drft2.docx.docx.docx.docx

Michael,

Please find attached the BLM Weekly Report for Nov 4 – Nov 10, 2012.

Jeff

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
November 4, 2012 – November 10, 2012
Internal Working Document

HOT TOPICS

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **Soda Mountain Solar Project NOI:** *BLM CA has scheduled public scoping meetings for the Soda Mountain Solar project for Nov. 14. The NOI for preparation of the EIS for the proposed 350-MW project located in San Bernardino County, CA was published in the Federal Register Oct. 23.* The Soda Mountain Solar project was originally proposed as a 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Project, but was later removed in order to provide time to address potential resource conflicts and consider public comments. This project will help advance the Administration's renewable energy efforts to expand domestic energy production under the Western Solar Plan.

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *The NOA for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project is scheduled for release Nov. 9.* The proposed photovoltaic solar energy generation power plant facility, located on 2,000 acres of public lands in San Bernardino, CA, is a proposed 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Project. This project will help advance the Administration's renewable energy efforts to expand domestic energy production under the Western Solar Plan.

- ***Update:*** **BLM-UT Cove Fort Geothermal Project**: *The BLM-UT Cedar City Field Office issued a Decision Record for the 30-MW Cove Fort Geothermal Project on Oct. 19, 2012.* The project, located in Sulphurdale, UT, was identified on the proposed 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Projects list. The project proposes redevelopment and expansion of its geothermal resources. The BLM anticipates that the FS will also release an EA for leasing three geothermal parcels adjacent to the Cove Fort site.

- ***Update:*** **Solar and Wind Energy Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**: *The BLM anticipates that the surname package for the Solar and Wind Energy ANPR will be ready for review in Nov.* The solar and wind energy competitive ANPR was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 29, 2011 and provided information about the BLM's interest in establishing an efficient, competitive process for issuing ROW leases for solar and wind energy development on public lands.

Oil and Gas and Potash

- ***Update:*** **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** *The BLM is working on a final rule ready for Department review in early Nov.*

- ***New:*** **Venting and Flaring Onshore Order 9 Consultations:** The BLM is developing new regulations (Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 9) to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations. *The BLM is considering combining the release of Orders 3, 4, 5 and 9 together.*

- ***Update:*** **Potash Final Secretarial Order:** *The Joint Industry Technical Committee submitted recommended changes to the 1986 Secretary's Potash Order. The proposed final 2012 Secretary's Order is scheduled to be signed in Nov.*

- ***Update:*** **Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS:** *The NOA for the final Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS is scheduled to be published Nov. 9.* The PEIS will evaluate potential impacts associated with oil shale and tar sands resources leasing and development on lands administered by the BLM in CO, UT, and WY.

- ***Update:*** **Oil Shale RD&D Leasing:** An NOI is expected soon for the EIS on Enefit American Oil's ROW application for its oil shale RD&D lease in UT (a 1st round lease). The ROW would provide the corridor to deliver electricity, natural gas and water to the oil shale operation, and to transport the oil shale out of the property. *The Exxon-Mobil and Natural Soda leases in CO (2nd round leases), should be signed in Nov.*

- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project EIS**: *In mid Nov., the BLM-WY Rawlins Field Office anticipates opening a 60-day public comment period on the Draft EIS for the Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project. The project is located in a mixed land ownership area in Carbon and Sweetwater counties. The proposal is to drill and develop 8,950 additional natural gas wells, including 100 to 500 coal bed natural gas wells, using both vertical and directional drilling in an area containing approximately 1.1 million acres of public, private, and state-owned land.*

Drought

- ***New:*** **Wild Horse and Burro Emergency Gather Review:** *An Emergency Gather Review and Recommendations Team will tour HMAs identified as having the most critical gather needs due to drought conditions. The team will issue its report the week of Nov. 2 and its findings and list of priorities could influence the existing gather schedule.*

- ***New:*** **BLM-UT Drought Update:** *In the Moab Field Office, ranchers are preparing for the winter grazing season by taking significant reductions or non-use due to lack of water and forage. Drought conditions are persistent even with recent storms and flood events.*

- ***New:*** **Cong. Amodei Discusses Threats to NV Sage-grouse:** *Cong. Amodei visited the BLM-NV Ely Field Office Oct. 25 and the Elko District Oct. 22. As a result, he requested further meetings to discuss ways to address sage-grouse and wildfire issues. He also plans to seek information on how the Elko District is managing horses during drought.*

- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Drought Update:** *In the Kemmerer Field Office, all cattle from the following allotments have been removed: Cumberland/Uinta, Twin Creek, Medicine Butte, Inchauspe, Preacher Hollow, Sawmill Creek, Cumberland Flats. Sheep use has also declined. Producers have expressed concern about grazing year 2013.*

Transmission

- ***New:*** **BLM-AZ Lake Powell Water Pipeline Project:** *The proposed water pipeline would begin at Lake Powell, cross into AZ near Fredonia, cross about 55 miles of BLM*

lands in AZ before returning to UT. FERC is the lead agency; BLM-AZ and BLM-UT are both cooperating agencies with BLM-UT having the agency (BLM) lead. The State of UT sent its proposed action to cooperators for review. The route across the Kaibab Paiute Reservation will be analyzed in the EIS but the State believes resource impacts are greater on the reservation than on the BLM land; the BLM AZ Strip Office disagrees.

- *New:* **BLM-CO River Valley Transmission Line**: *The BLM-CO River Valley Field Office and Xcel energy will host public meetings Nov. 7 in Rifle, CO and Nov. 8 in Parachute, CO to discuss a proposed 18-mile 230kV transmission line. Up to 6 miles would cross BLM public lands, with the remainder on private lands. Oil and gas development is expected to continue in the area over the next several decades and the industry is moving to electric power for more of its operations to reduce air emissions.*

- *Update:* **Transmission Lines Executive Orders - Agency Plan:** *The BLM is drafting an implementation plan responding to EO 13616 Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment. The DOI will hold a workshop focused on the permitting process on federal lands in mid-Nov. For Executive Order* 13604 – *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects, the BLM is identifying fiber optic and pipeline projects for possible targeting as Projects of National or Regional Significance.*

- *New:* **Enterprise Mid-American Pipeline Project:** *The BLM sent letters to local, state and Federal governments, and tribes to request participation as cooperating agencies in a ROW application filed in June by Enterprise MAPL proposing to expand capacity to transport increased natural gas liquids production in NM. A public scoping period was initiated Oct. 20; comments are due Nov. 20. The 16-inch proposed pipeline would comprise 5 separate segments, would cross approximately 68 miles of BLM public lands, and would parallel existing pipelines as much as possible.*

Miscellaneous

- *New:* **BLM-AK NASA EIS:** *At an Oct. 25 meeting hosted by the BLM, NASA introduced a Draft EIS evaluating future management options for NASA's Sounding Rockets Research Program at the Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks' Poker Flat Research Range. The BLM and FWS are cooperating agencies. The plan will help agencies make decisions on permits for the landing and recovery of sounding rocket stages. Sounding rockets carry scientific instruments into space, traveling almost vertically up and down.*

- *New:* **BLM-OR/WA Lakeview RMP Scoping Report**: *The Lakeview Resource Area anticipates publication of its Scoping Report for the Lakeview RMP Amendment. Scoping was held in 2010; planning was subsequently put on hold until completion of the Greater Sage-Grouse RMP amendments (that also included scoping). Additional planning issues relate to wilderness characteristic inventories for public lands outside of existing wilderness study areas, off-road vehicle use on public lands, and livestock grazing.*

Recreation

- *New:* **BLM-WY Rock Springs Travel Management:** *The Rock Springs Field Office will host 3 public meetings in mid-Nov. to prepare a Comprehensive Travel and*

Transportation Management Plan to be analyzed as part of the Rock Springs RMP. The Plan will address OHV use and the designation of all BLM-managed routes within the Rock Springs Field Office as open for use, closed to use, or limited to specific uses.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 4

- **No Change: BLM-WY North Lander Wild Horse Gather:** The BLM-WY North Lander FO will begin wild horse gather operations in the North Lander Complex Nov. 4. A total of 810 horses will be gathered and 580 will removed from the range. The date was moved up because of drought-related concerns. The High AML is 400. The estimated population is approximately 900.

Wednesday, November 6

- **No Change: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-WY will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 6. The sale will include 105 proposed parcels on 130,600 acres in Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

Thursday, November 7

- **Update: BLM-AK NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-AK will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 7 in Anchorage, AK. The sale will include 398 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A, and builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts and three million acres available.

Thursday, November 8

- **No Change: BLM-CO Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale Nov. 8. One protest was received from Rocky Mountain Wild protesting 7 parcels concerning habitat for imperiled species, sage-grouse and wilderness characteristics.

WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday, November 13

- ***Update:*** **BLM-UT Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-UT will hold an oil and gas lease sale Nov. 13 that includes 15 parcels covering 18,790 acres in the Green River and Color Country Districts. One protest was received from Rocky Mountain Wild with concerns relating to sage-grouse. SUWA submitted a protest but subsequently withdrew it without explanation.*

Sunday, December 2-Friday, December 7

- ***New:*** **Northwest Mining Association Meeting:** *Northwest Mining Association's 118th Annual Meeting, Exposition, and Short Courses Convention – Thoroughly Modern Mining in a Technology Based World—will be held in Spokane, WA Dec. 2-7. Participants will include representatives from the BLM, FS, Colorado School of Mines, as well as industry executives.*

Tuesday, December 11

- ***No Change:*** **BLM-NV Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-NV will offer for lease 49 parcels covering 107,101.4 acres in Churchill County on Dec. 11.

From: Lassiter, Tracie L
To: Cunningham, Celina P; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, Vermell
Cc: Cardinale, Richard
Subject: Burke, Marcilynn Calendar- October 1-7
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 1:15:55 PM
Attachments: Burke Marcilynn Calendar.ics

Burke, Marcilynn Calendar
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov
Monday, October 01, 2012 – Sunday, October 07, 2012
Time zone: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
(Adjusted for Daylight Saving Time)

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Busy Tentative Out of Office Free Outside of Working Hours

October 2012

Mon, Oct 01

All Day	Burke- AL
Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Weekly Senior Staff Meeting
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	ADMIN TIME
11:30 AM – 4:00 PM	**Free**
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	ASLM Major Projects Meeting
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Tue, Oct 02

All Day	Burke- AL
Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	**Free**
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	ADMIN TIME

	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BLM/ASLM Weekly Directors Meeting
	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
	After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Wed, Oct 03

	Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Senior Staff Weekly Hot Topics Mtg.
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	**Free**
	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ADMIN TIME
	11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Depart B Ramp en route Primi Piatti, 2013 I Street NW (Marcilynn Burke)
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch with Daivd Hayes and Marcilynn Burke
	1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Depart Primi Piatti en route DOI (Marcilynn Burke)
	1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BSEE/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
	3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Pre-Brief for Dept. of Army meeting
	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	BOEM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
	4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
	After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Thu, Oct 04

	Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ASLM Senior Staff Meeting
	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ASLM Potash Briefing - [Bridge Line: (b) (5) pc#(b) (5)]
	12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Scheduling Request Meeting
	12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	**Free**
	1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Check-in w/Marcilynn ref: Travel
	1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
	2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Fire Meeting Surrogate
	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	OSM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Army, DOD, DOI mtg - Agreements for Production of Natural Gas on Military Installations
	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
	After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Fri, Oct 05

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Weekly Politicals Meeting
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Pre Briefing SPR Additional Alternatives
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	**Free**
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Discussion w/ John Conger re: ILUCC & MOU (Call 202-208-6734)
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	**Free**
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Meeting to discuss presentation (NOIA & AJC)
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Sat, Oct 06 – Sun, Oct 07

Before 9:30 AM	**Free**
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	ADMIN TIME
After 11:00 AM	**Free**

Thanks,

Tracie L. Lassiter
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Land & Minerals Management
1849 C. Street, NW, Room 6615
Washington, DC 20240
(o) 202-208-6734
(f) 202- 208-3619
Tracie_Lassiter@ios.doi.gov

From: Lassiter, Tracie L
To: Cunningham, Celina P; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, Vermell
Cc: Cardinale, Richard
Subject: Farquhar, Ned Calendar- October 1-7
Date: Monday, October 01, 2012 1:17:09 PM
Attachments: Farquhar Ned Calendar.ics

Farquhar, Ned Calendar
Ned_Farquhar@ios.doi.gov
Monday, October 01, 2012 – Sunday, October 07, 2012
Time zone: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
(Adjusted for Daylight Saving Time)

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Busy Tentative Out of Office Free Outside of Working Hours

October 2012

Mon, Oct 01

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Weekly Senior Staff Meeting
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	**Free**
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Steve Black
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	BSEE Open House - Commemorating BSEE's First Anniversary
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Discussion on DoD-Army Natural Gas Legislation
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	**Free**
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	BSEE All Hands Meeting
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	RSA learning group
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	ASLM Major Projects Meeting
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Tue, Oct 02

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	OUT OF OFFICE
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Revised Atlantic Wind meetings
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	BLM OIG/GAO reports and closure recommendations
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	**Free**
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BLM/ASLM Weekly Directors Meeting
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Senior Ocean Policy Team Meeting
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Final response on GAO reorg report (Dial-In# (b) (5) (b) (5) , code: (b) (5)
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Wed, Oct 03

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	**Free**
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM	"Muffins with Mike"
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	OS - Senior Staff Weekly Hot Topics Mtg.
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	**Free**
11:00 AM – 5:30 PM	out of office
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BSEE/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Pre-Brief for Dept. of Army meeting
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	B2H Monthly Check-in
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	BOEM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
After 5:30 PM	**Free**

Thu, Oct 04

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM	9:00 a.m. Dr. Schneider dentist 17 and I 1712 Eye Street - btw wicked waffles and loeb's - 10th floor
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ASLM Senior Staff Meeting
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ASLM Potash Briefing - [Bridge Line: (b) (5) pc#(b) (5)
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Scheduling Request Meeting
12:45 PM – 1:30 PM	**Free**
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Updated: PMB Arctic Coordination Meeting
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	OSM/ASLM - Weekly Directors Meeting
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	**Free**
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Alaska Interagency Working Group Staff Weekly Call
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Fri, Oct 05

Before 8:00 AM	**Free**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Free**
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Weekly Politicals Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Free**
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	MK and NF
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	**Free**
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Meeting to discuss presentation (NOIA & AJC)
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	**Free**
After 5:00 PM	**Free**

Sat, Oct 06 – Sun, Oct 07

All Day	**Free**

Thanks,

Tracie L. Lassiter
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Land & Minerals Management
1849 C. Street, NW, Room 6615
Washington, DC 20240
(o) 202-208-6734
(f) 202- 208-3619
Tracie_Lassiter@ios.doi.gov

From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Cunningham, Celina P
Subject: FW: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7-13, 2012
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:21:00 AM
Attachments: BLM_weeklyreport_Oct_7_-_13_Final.docx

From: Krauss, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:04 AM
To: Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Ishee, Mary K; Velasco, Janine; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7-13, 2012

Michael,

Please find attached the BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7 – Oct 13, 2012.

Jeff

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
October 7, 2012 – October 13, 2012
Internal Working Document

HOT TOPICS

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar PEIS ROD:** the *ROD for the Solar PEIS will be announced in mid October. BLM Public Affairs and DOI External Affairs are working on communications and outreach materials. The BLM Director signed the Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement Sept. 7, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *Release of the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA is anticipated this fall. The EIS analyzes the impacts of making available approximately 20,762 acres of public land for solar and wind energy development and approximately 19,162 acres of federal mineral estate for geothermal leasing. It also considers approval of a certain non-competitive geothermal lease application.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *The NOA for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project is scheduled for release Oct. 19. The proposed photovoltaic solar energy generation power plant facility, located on 2,000 acres of public lands in San Bernardino, CA, is a proposed 2013 Priority Project.*

Solid Minerals

- ***New:*** **CEMEX Mine Legislation:** *On Sept. 21, Representative Buck McKeon (R-25-CA) introduced the Soledad Canyon Mine Mitigation and Relocation Act to stop the BLM-CA CEMEX Mine from opening in the Soledad Canyon Area. The bill requires the BLM to conduct a study and look at legal and administrative steps necessary to cancel the mining contracts between the BLM and CEMEX, withdraw the areas subject to the contracts from further mining and offer a land exchange with a parcel in Victorville, CA. This has been an ongoing controversy. The controversy over the mine has led mine operators to delay operations for more than a decade.*

Oil and Gas and Potash

- ***New:*** **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash**: *The BLM drafted a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern New Mexico. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started October 1. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments.*

Transmission

- ***Update:*** **Gateway West Transmission Line:** *The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council has voted to halt consideration of the BLM's preferred route—Alternative 5C— for Segment 5 of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. (In June, the BLM received consent from the Tribes for this preferred alternative.) The route crosses the Fort Hall*

Indian Reservation in ID. Cooperating Agency review of the administrative draft EIS, with the rejected preferred route in Segment #5, began September 28, and will continue as the BLM considers identifying a different preferred alternative route in Segment #5. This may affect the selection in Segment #7 and the start of the final EIS public comment period, currently anticipated for November 30. The proposed transmission lines would traverse 1,100 miles in southern WY and southern ID.

- ***Update:*** **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Line Final EIS**: *The NOA for the FEIS for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project in Utah is expected to be published Oct. 5. The EIS analyzes the impacts of granting a right-of-way across federal (BLM and FS) land to PacifiCorp for a 160-mile, single-circuit, alternating-current, 345kV transmission line. The ROD is expected in early December.*

- ***Update:*** **Lake Powell Pipeline Progress Uncertain:** *Progress on the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project is being slowed down by the proponent, the State of Utah, because of uncertainty about meeting the costs for the project—now estimated at two billion dollars. The 138-mile water pipeline runs from the Lake Powell Glen Canyon dam site in AZ to Sand Hollow Reservoir near St. George, UT.*

- ***Update:*** **Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line EIS:** *The NOA for the draft EIS for the Sun Valley to Morgan, AZ, 500/230 kV transmission line will be published in the Federal Register on Oct. 26, initiating a 90-day public comment period. The transmission line would span approximately 38 miles and would connect AZ Public Service's planned Sun Valley Substation near the town of Buckeye with the existing Morgan Substation near the City of Peoria.*

Forestry

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From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Winston, Beverly S
Subject: FW: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7-13, 2012
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 4:39:00 PM
Attachments: BLM_weeklyreport Oct 7 - 13 Final.docx

From: Krauss, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:04 AM
To: Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Ishee, Mary K; Velasco, Janine; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7-13, 2012

Michael,

Please find attached the BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7 – Oct 13, 2012.

Jeff

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
October 7, 2012 – October 13, 2012
Internal Working Document

HOT TOPICS

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar PEIS ROD:** the *ROD for the Solar PEIS will be announced in mid October. BLM Public Affairs and DOI External Affairs are working on communications and outreach materials. The BLM Director signed the Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement Sept. 7, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *Release of the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA is anticipated this fall. The EIS analyzes the impacts of making available approximately 20,762 acres of public land for solar and wind energy development and approximately 19,162 acres of federal mineral estate for geothermal leasing. It also considers approval of a certain non-competitive geothermal lease application.*

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *The NOA for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project is scheduled for release Oct. 19. The proposed photovoltaic solar energy generation power plant facility, located on 2,000 acres of public lands in San Bernardino, CA, is a proposed 2013 Priority Project.*

Solid Minerals

- ***New:*** **CEMEX Mine Legislation:** *On Sept. 21, Representative Buck McKeon (R-25-CA) introduced the Soledad Canyon Mine Mitigation and Relocation Act to stop the BLM-CA CEMEX Mine from opening in the Soledad Canyon Area. The bill requires the BLM to conduct a study and look at legal and administrative steps necessary to cancel the mining contracts between the BLM and CEMEX, withdraw the areas subject to the contracts from further mining and offer a land exchange with a parcel in Victorville, CA. This has been an ongoing controversy. The controversy over the mine has led mine operators to delay operations for more than a decade.*

Oil and Gas and Potash

- ***New:*** **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash**: *The BLM drafted a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern New Mexico. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started October 1. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments.*

Transmission

- ***Update:*** **Gateway West Transmission Line:** *The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council has voted to halt consideration of the BLM's preferred route—Alternative 5C— for Segment 5 of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. (In June, the BLM received consent from the Tribes for this preferred alternative.) The route crosses the Fort Hall*

Indian Reservation in ID. Cooperating Agency review of the administrative draft EIS, with the rejected preferred route in Segment #5, began September 28, and will continue as the BLM considers identifying a different preferred alternative route in Segment #5. This may affect the selection in Segment #7 and the start of the final EIS public comment period, currently anticipated for November 30. The proposed transmission lines would traverse 1,100 miles in southern WY and southern ID.

- ***Update:*** **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Line Final EIS**: *The NOA for the FEIS for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project in Utah is expected to be published Oct. 5. The EIS analyzes the impacts of granting a right-of-way across federal (BLM and FS) land to PacifiCorp for a 160-mile, single-circuit, alternating-current, 345kV transmission line. The ROD is expected in early December.*

- ***Update:*** **Lake Powell Pipeline Progress Uncertain:** *Progress on the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project is being slowed down by the proponent, the State of Utah, because of uncertainty about meeting the costs for the project—now estimated at two billion dollars. The 138-mile water pipeline runs from the Lake Powell Glen Canyon dam site in AZ to Sand Hollow Reservoir near St. George, UT.*

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From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Weekly Reports
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; McQuilliams, Jully
Subject:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:47:06 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-4-12 final.docx

Attached please find the ASLM weekly report.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 4, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

On October 4, I met with Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy and Sustainability, and staff from DoD and the Army to discuss the Army's interest in developing natural gas underlying lands within military installations. With DoD's growing interest in energy independence and significant energy demands, the Army is considering a variety of options to develop resources under military installations. This meeting was an opportunity for DoD to learn about the BLM's expertise in oil and gas leasing and our successful partnerships under the 1984 MOU governing oil and gas leasing on military installations. Following this initial meeting, SOL and my staff will continue to work with DoD to explore these options.

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On October 9, I will meet with the Semiconductor Industry Association and Intel Corporation regarding the National Helium Reserve's pending completion of repayment of its debts to the U.S. government and options to ensure a consistent supply of helium moving forward. As you know, in the Helium Privatization Act of 1996, Congress mandated the Reserve remain in operation only until its helium supplies were sold to pay down a $1.3 billion debt incurred by the BLM to acquire the helium and equipment to process it. The BLM is on track to repay the remaining debt in 2013. The U.S. semiconductor industry is reliant upon helium in the manufacturing process for many of its products. It is concerned about future supply should the BLM not receive statutory authority to continue to sell helium from the Reserve.

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Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Weekly Reports
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; McQuilliams, Jully
Subject:	RE: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
Date:	Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:54:35 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-4-12 final.docx

Please use the attached updated version.

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From: Cunningham, Celina P
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:46 PM
To: Weekly Reports
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; 'McQuilliams, Jully'
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From: Mouritsen, Karen E
To: Barlan, Bryce; Cunningham, Celina P
Subject: FW: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 14-20, 20-12
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 2:33:00 PM
Attachments: BLM_weeklyreport_october 14 - 20drft2_FINAL.docx

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From: Quick, David
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc: Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Velasco, Janine; Kelly, Kate P; Androff, Blake J; Tsai, Brian; Quimby, Frank J; Krauss, Jeff; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 14-20, 20-12

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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- ***New:*** **GAO Review of Federal Land Permitting:** *GAO plans to provide a Statement of Facts on the review of renewable energy permitting on public lands and to conduct an exit conference during the week of Oct. 22. A draft Report is expected to be issued at the beginning of Dec. and a final Report in Jan. 2013.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-ID Geothermal Resource Exploration Project:** *The BLM-ID Pocatello Field Office received an NOI to conduct geothermal resource exploration operations from the Idaho Geological Survey. Operations commenced on Sept. 28, 2012. The approval involves drilling up to five temporary thermal gradient boreholes between 500 and 1,000 feet in depth to measure the earth's temperature profile at sites located within Caribou and Bingham counties. Exploration operations conducted under the approved NOI are only for research and educational purposes.*

Oil and Gas and Potash

- ***New:*** **Venting and Flaring Onshore Order 9 Consultations:** *The BLM is developing new regulations (Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 9) to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations. Included are proposals for new emission standards and the use of new technologies to capture vented and flared natural gas economically. The BLM has been coordinating with EPA on Clean Air Act consistency. Tribal Consultations are tentatively scheduled for the end of the year pending Departmental approval. The Team has developed drafts of the EA and economic analysis. Draft regulations are anticipated by the end of Oct. for OMB review; target date for final regulations is in spring 2013. Executive Order 13514 and Secretarial Order 3289 require reduction of indirect greenhouse gas releases.*

- ***Update:*** **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** *The BLM received approximately 175,000 comments on the proposed rule; approximately 225 comments, some of which were non-specific or duplicative, were analyzed by two teams of subject matter experts and other staff. Twenty-nine comments are substantive and are being further analyzed. We anticipate briefing BLM leadership in the near future.*

- ***Update:*** **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash**: The BLM drafted a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash

resources in southeastern New Mexico. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started October 1. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. *The Final Secretarial Order is expected to be released in November.*

- ***Update:*** **NPR-A Final IAP/ EIS**: *The National Petroleum Reserve-AK (NPR-A) Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) will be published Nov. 16.* The BLM issued a Draft IAP/EIS on March 30, 2012 and concluded its public comment period on the document and its associated subsistence impact analysis (per ANILCA 810) on June 15, 2012. Some issues analyzed in the Draft IAP/EIS included oil and gas leasing; impacts of development, such as those on caribou, birds, subsistence, and public health; climate change; and protection of threatened and endangered species.

Minerals

- ***New:*** **BLM Mining Claims:** *The IBLA ruled Sept. 20, 2012 that some categories of public land withdrawals are automatically open to mining claims when they reach their expiration date. The BLM does not need to issue an order to open them. In the 28-page decision, Casey E. Folks, Jr. et al., 183 IBLA 24 of Sept. 20, 2012, IBLA reversed a significant BLM policy that held that withdrawn lands that reach their expiration dates may only be opened to mining when BLM issues an opening order.*

Wild Horse and Burro

- ***New*:** **First BLM Mustangs to Arrive at Wild Horse Ecosanctuary:** *Seventy-two gelded wild horses will be delivered to the Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse Ecosanctuary near Centennial, WY on Oct. 16. Half are from the Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility located in Rock Springs, WY and half from the East Cañon Correctional Complex located in Cañon City, CO. Additional shipments are scheduled for Oct. 30, Nov. 1, and Nov. 13 until a total of 236 are delivered. This is the first BLM wild horse ecosanctuary. It is located on private land -- a 4,000-acre, family-owned ranch about 30 miles west of Laramie.*

Miscellaneous

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Bakersfield FO RMP and Final EIS:** *As of Oct. 1, 19 protests have been received for the Bakersfield Programmatic RMP/ Final EIS. The Planning Area, located in central CA, comprises approximately 17 million acres. However, the Decision Area, for which the BLM has administrative authority, is approximately 400,000 acres of surface estate and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate.*
- ***New:*** **BLM, Cave Management and Research Groups MOU:** *The Recreation and Visitor Services Division is preparing to re-authorize an existing, expired MOU between the BLM, the National Speleological Society, and the Cave Research Foundation. The MOU will facilitate cooperation and enhance the study, protection, restoration, education, and management of cave and karst resources on BLM managed-lands. When signed, the document will be in effect for five more years.*

WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale Oct. 17. A total of 37 parcels totaling 16,927 acres in NM, TX and OK will be sold. One protest was received on Parcel 28 involving private surface. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

Wednesday, October 17-Thursday, October 18

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK and Wyoming Regional Intertribal Workshop**: The BLM Eastern MT/DK and WY High Plains Districts will sponsor a meeting of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in Spearfish, SD, Oct. 17 and 18. Discussions will include BLM Resource Management Plan efforts and ongoing project-specific tribal consultation.

WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday, October 23

- **No Change: BLM-MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-MT will hold an oil and gas lease sale Oct. 23. A total of 241 parcels—totaling 99, 095 acres—will be sold within the Billings, Glasgow, Lewistown, Malta and Miles City Field Offices (seven of the parcels are on U.S. Forest Service lands in SD). One protest was received on split-estate lands; The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

Friday, October 26

- *New:* **BLM-ID Challis Wild Horse Gather:** *BLM-ID Challis Field Office will conduct a Wild Horse Gather in the Challis Herd Management Area (HMA) on Oct. 26. The BLM will gather 274 wild horses and remove 137 from the range. A total of 55 mares will be treated with PZP and returned to the range. The appropriate management level is 185 horses; the horse population is estimated at 322.*

Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, October 30

- **No Change: Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board:** The next meeting will take place Oct. 29 and 30, 2012 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Board advises the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service on the management and protection of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands administered by both agencies. The nine members on the Advisory Board represent a balance of interests, including. wild horse and burro advocacy, wild horse and burro research, veterinary medicine, natural resources management, humane advocacy, wildlife management, livestock management, general public interest, and public interest.

Thursday, November 1

- *New:* **The BLM-NV Wassuk Wild Horse Gather**: *BLM-NV Carson City District Office will conduct a wild horse gather in the Wassuk HMA Nov. 1. The BLM will gather approximately 400 wild horses and remove 250 from the range. A total of 100 will be treated with PZP and returned to the range. The AML is 110-165. The estimated population is about 623.*
- *New:* **BLM-WY McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Gather:** *The BLM-WY Rock Springs Field Office is planning to gather 90 wild horses Nov. 1 in the McCullough Peaks HMA, located 12 to 27 miles east of Cody. The BLM will remove 20 wild horses from the range and treat 70 with PZP to be released back to the range. The AML is 70 to 140 adults. The current estimated population is 153 adult wild horses.*

- *New:* **BLM-NV Owyhee Wild Horse Gather:** *On Nov. 1, the BLM-NV Winnemucca District Office will begin Wild Horse Gather operations in the Owyhee Complex. The Complex is made up of the Little Owyhee, Snow Storm Mountain, and Owyhee HMAs. A total of 1,383 animals will be gathered and 811 will be removed from the range. A total of 211 mares will be treated with PZP and released back to the areas where they were captured. Currently, there are an estimated 2,252 wild horses within the Complex. The AML is 621 to 999 wild horses, leaving 1,253 to 1,631 wild horses.*

Wednesday, November 6

- *New:* **BLM-WY Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-WY will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 6. The sale will include 105 proposed parcels on 130,600.32 acres located in Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties in WY. The protest period ended Sept. 7. Four protests were received concerning sage-grouse issues and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.*

Thursday, November 7

- *New:* **BLM-AK Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-AK will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 7 in Anchorage, AK. The sale will include 400 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A, and builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts and three million acres available.*

Thursday, November 8

- *New:* **BLM-CO Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The Colorado State Office is offering 48 parcels containing 21,088 acres of Federal lands in Colorado for oil and gas leasing Nov. 8.* One protest was received from Rocky Mountain Wild protesting seven parcels concerning negative impacts from oil and gas drilling on habitat for imperiled species and sensitive environments, sage-grouse issues, and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

From: Cunningham, Celina P
To: Weekly Reports
Cc: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; janet_lin@ios.doi.gov; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Lew, Shoshana M; Robson, Bonnie; Benner, Lee; Bryant, Jeryne; Watson, James A; Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G; Owens, Glenda H.; Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A.; Cruickshank, Walter; Lindow, Emily R; Altemus, Michele J; Marsters, Lizzie; Ishee, Mary K
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Attachments: ASLM Week Ahead Report 10-5-12 final.docx

Attached please find the ASLM Week Ahead Report.

Celina Cunningham
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LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
October 7 – October 13, 2012

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DAS Farquhar – In the office Oct. 9 and 12. On Oct. 10 – 11, travel to Virginia Beach to attend AWEA conference.

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WEEK AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10

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Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: MT/DK Public Information Meetings:** The BLM will hold public meetings in Winifred and Stanford, MT regarding the Draft Water Rights Compact for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, October 9 – Thursday, October 11:

- *New:* **American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Conference:** *Dir. Beaudreau will give the keynote address, in Virginia Beach, VA, at the AWEA Offshore Wind Power Conference. The DOI-DoD Offshore Wind Forum has been postponed.*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Tuesday, October 9 – Thursday, October 11:

- **No Change: Arctic Council Task Force:** BSEE will participate in the final meeting of the Arctic Council Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Task Force in Reykjavik, Iceland. The participating Arctic nations are preparing an agreement that will address an array of subjects on oil spill planning, preparedness and response. Tentative plans are to present the final agreement at the May 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Sweden.

Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: European Aviation Agency Safety Oversight Conference Keynote:** Director Watson will give a keynote address via video-conference for the Safety Oversight Conference taking place in Cologne, Germany, focusing on managing safety in a performance-based environment.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, October 15 – Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: Oil Shale Development Symposium:** Colorado School of Mines and the Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research will host the 32nd Oil Shale Symposium on the campus of Colorado School of Mines. The Symposium will review development of oil shale resources worldwide.

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- **Nothing new to report.**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- **Nothing new to report.**

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 16

- ***Update:*** **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** *Acting Asst. Sec. Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area to see first-hand the area the State has requested be declared unsuitable for mining, and to meet with field staff in Knoxville.*

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Weekly Reports
Cc:	Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; janet_lin@ios.doi.gov; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Lew, Shoshana M; Robson, Bonnie; Benner, Lee; Bryant, Jeryne; Watson, James A; Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G; Owens, Glenda H.; Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A.; Cruickshank, Walter; Lindow, Emily R; Altemus, Michele J; Marsters, Lizzie; Ishee, Mary K
Subject:	RE: Week Ahead Report
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Please use this updated version. Thanks!

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- *New:* **BLM-WY Mule Deer Public Scoping Meeting:** *The BLM-WY will hold a public scoping meeting to present information and gather comments on a Wyoming Game and Fish Department proposal to improve the quantity and quality of mule deer habitat in the WY Range through phased vegetation treatments.*

Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: MT/DK Public Information Meetings:** The BLM will hold public meetings in Winifred and Stanford, MT regarding the Draft Water Rights Compact for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Tuesday, October 9 – Thursday, October 11:

- **No Change: Arctic Council Task Force:** BSEE will participate in the final meeting of the Arctic Council Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Task Force in Reykjavik, Iceland. The participating Arctic nations are preparing an agreement that will address an array of subjects on oil spill planning, preparedness and response. Tentative plans are to present the final agreement at the May 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Sweden.

Thursday, October 11

- **No Change: European Aviation Agency Safety Oversight Conference Keynote:** Director Watson will give a keynote address via video-conference for the Safety Oversight Conference taking place in Cologne, Germany, focusing on managing safety in a performance-based environment.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, October 15 – Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: Oil Shale Development Symposium:** Colorado School of Mines and the Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research will host the 32nd Oil Shale Symposium

on the campus of Colorado School of Mines. The Symposium will review development of oil shale resources worldwide.

Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-NM will hold an Oil and Gas Lease Sale Oct. 17. A total of 37 parcels totaling 16,927 acres in NM, TX and OK will be sold.. One protest was received on a parcel involving private surface. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Nothing new to report.**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

- **Nothing new to report.**

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 16

- ***Update:*** **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** *Acting Asst. Sec. Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area to see first-hand the area the State has requested be declared unsuitable for mining, and to meet with field staff in Knoxville.*

From:	Quick, David
To:	Anderson, Michael D; Cardinale, Richard
Cc:	Pool, Michael J; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Wilkinson, Patrick; Krauss, Jeff; Crandall, Megan; Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh C; Nedd, Michael D; Pagenkopf, Dawn M; Small, Anthony L; Gorey, Tom; Barlan, Bryce; Wilson, Dana M; Thomas, Michelle S; Hanson, Joshua F; Rieben, Elizabeth; Black, Meredith C; Mouritsen, Karen E; Velasco, Janine; Kelly, Kate P; Androff, Blake J; Tsai, Brian; Quimby, Frank J; Krauss, Jeff; Ishee, Mary K
Subject:	BLM Weekly Report for Oct 14-20, 20-12
Date:	Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:48:13 PM
Attachments:	BLM_weeklyreport_october 14 - 20drft2_FINAL.docx

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
October 14, 2012 – October 20, 2012
Internal Working Document

HOT TOPICS

Renewable Energy

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *Release of the final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA is Nov. 23.* The final EIS analyzes the impacts of making available approximately 20,762 acres of public lands for solar and wind energy development and approximately 19,162 acres of federal mineral estate for geothermal leasing. It also considers approval of a non-competitive geothermal lease application.
- ***New:*** **GAO Review of Federal Land Permitting:** *GAO plans to provide a Statement of Facts on the review of renewable energy permitting on public lands and to conduct an exit conference during the week of Oct. 22. A draft Report is expected to be issued at the beginning of Dec. and a final Report in Jan. 2013.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-ID Geothermal Resource Exploration Project:** *The BLM-ID Pocatello Field Office received an NOI to conduct geothermal resource exploration operations from the Idaho Geological Survey. Operations commenced on Sept. 28, 2012. The approval involves drilling up to five temporary thermal gradient boreholes between 500 and 1,000 feet in depth to measure the earth's temperature profile at sites located within Caribou and Bingham counties. Exploration operations conducted under the approved NOI are only for research and educational purposes.*

Oil and Gas and Potash

- ***New:*** **Venting and Flaring Onshore Order 9 Consultations:** *The BLM is developing new regulations (Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 9) to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations. Included are proposals for new emission standards and the use of new technologies to capture vented and flared natural gas economically. The BLM has been coordinating with EPA on Clean Air Act consistency. Tribal Consultations are tentatively scheduled for the end of the year pending Departmental approval. The Team has developed drafts of the EA and economic analysis. Draft regulations are anticipated by the end of Oct. for OMB review; target date for final regulations is in spring 2013. Executive Order 13514 and Secretarial Order 3289 require reduction of indirect greenhouse gas releases.*

- ***Update:*** **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** *The BLM received approximately 175,000 comments on the proposed rule; approximately 225 comments, some of which were non-specific or duplicative, were analyzed by two teams of subject matter experts and other staff. Twenty-nine comments are substantive and are being further analyzed. We anticipate briefing BLM leadership in the near future.*

- ***Update:*** **Proposed Final Secretarial Order on Potash**: The BLM drafted a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash

resources in southeastern New Mexico. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started October 1. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. *The Final Secretarial Order is expected to be released in November.*

- ***Update:*** **NPR-A Final IAP/ EIS**: *The National Petroleum Reserve-AK (NPR-A) Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) will be published Nov. 16.* The BLM issued a Draft IAP/EIS on March 30, 2012 and concluded its public comment period on the document and its associated subsistence impact analysis (per ANILCA 810) on June 15, 2012. Some issues analyzed in the Draft IAP/EIS included oil and gas leasing; impacts of development, such as those on caribou, birds, subsistence, and public health; climate change; and protection of threatened and endangered species.

Minerals

- ***New:*** **BLM Mining Claims:** *The IBLA ruled Sept. 20, 2012 that some categories of public land withdrawals are automatically open to mining claims when they reach their expiration date. The BLM does not need to issue an order to open them. In the 28-page decision, Casey E. Folks, Jr. et al., 183 IBLA 24 of Sept. 20, 2012, IBLA reversed a significant BLM policy that held that withdrawn lands that reach their expiration dates may only be opened to mining when BLM issues an opening order.*

Wild Horse and Burro

- ***New*: First BLM Mustangs to Arrive at Wild Horse Ecosanctuary:** *Seventy-two gelded wild horses will be delivered to the Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse Ecosanctuary near Centennial, WY on Oct. 16. Half are from the Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility located in Rock Springs, WY and half from the East Cañon Correctional Complex located in Cañon City, CO. Additional shipments are scheduled for Oct. 30, Nov. 1, and Nov. 13 until a total of 236 are delivered. This is the first BLM wild horse ecosanctuary. It is located on private land -- a 4,000-acre, family-owned ranch about 30 miles west of Laramie.*

Miscellaneous

- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Bakersfield FO RMP and Final EIS:** *As of Oct. 1, 19 protests have been received for the Bakersfield Programmatic RMP/ Final EIS. The Planning Area, located in central CA, comprises approximately 17 million acres. However, the Decision Area, for which the BLM has administrative authority, is approximately 400,000 acres of surface estate and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate.*
- ***New:*** **BLM, Cave Management and Research Groups MOU:** *The Recreation and Visitor Services Division is preparing to re-authorize an existing, expired MOU between the BLM, the National Speleological Society, and the Cave Research Foundation. The MOU will facilitate cooperation and enhance the study, protection, restoration, education, and management of cave and karst resources on BLM managed-lands. When signed, the document will be in effect for five more years.*

WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday, October 17

- **No Change: BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale Oct. 17. A total of 37 parcels totaling 16,927 acres in NM, TX and OK will be sold. One protest was received on Parcel 28 involving private surface. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

Wednesday, October 17-Thursday, October 18

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK and Wyoming Regional Intertribal Workshop**: The BLM Eastern MT/DK and WY High Plains Districts will sponsor a meeting of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in Spearfish, SD, Oct. 17 and 18. Discussions will include BLM Resource Management Plan efforts and ongoing project-specific tribal consultation.

WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday, October 23

- **No Change: BLM-MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-MT will hold an oil and gas lease sale Oct. 23. A total of 241 parcels—totaling 99, 095 acres—will be sold within the Billings, Glasgow, Lewistown, Malta and Miles City Field Offices (seven of the parcels are on U.S. Forest Service lands in SD). One protest was received on split-estate lands; The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

Friday, October 26

- *New:* **BLM-ID Challis Wild Horse Gather:** *BLM-ID Challis Field Office will conduct a Wild Horse Gather in the Challis Herd Management Area (HMA) on Oct. 26. The BLM will gather 274 wild horses and remove 137 from the range. A total of 55 mares will be treated with PZP and returned to the range. The appropriate management level is 185 horses; the horse population is estimated at 322.*

Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, October 30

- **No Change: Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board:** The next meeting will take place Oct. 29 and 30, 2012 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Board advises the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service on the management and protection of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands administered by both agencies. The nine members on the Advisory Board represent a balance of interests, including. wild horse and burro advocacy, wild horse and burro research, veterinary medicine, natural resources management, humane advocacy, wildlife management, livestock management, general public interest, and public interest.

Thursday, November 1

- *New:* **The BLM-NV Wassuk Wild Horse Gather**: *BLM-NV Carson City District Office will conduct a wild horse gather in the Wassuk HMA Nov. 1. The BLM will gather approximately 400 wild horses and remove 250 from the range. A total of 100 will be treated with PZP and returned to the range. The AML is 110-165. The estimated population is about 623.*
- *New:* **BLM-WY McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Gather:** *The BLM-WY Rock Springs Field Office is planning to gather 90 wild horses Nov. 1 in the McCullough Peaks HMA, located 12 to 27 miles east of Cody. The BLM will remove 20 wild horses from the range and treat 70 with PZP to be released back to the range. The AML is 70 to 140 adults. The current estimated population is 153 adult wild horses.*

- *New:* **BLM-NV Owyhee Wild Horse Gather:** *On Nov. 1, the BLM-NV Winnemucca District Office will begin Wild Horse Gather operations in the Owyhee Complex. The Complex is made up of the Little Owyhee, Snow Storm Mountain, and Owyhee HMAs. A total of 1,383 animals will be gathered and 811 will be removed from the range. A total of 211 mares will be treated with PZP and released back to the areas where they were captured. Currently, there are an estimated 2,252 wild horses within the Complex. The AML is 621 to 999 wild horses, leaving 1,253 to 1,631 wild horses.*

Wednesday, November 6

- *New:* **BLM-WY Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-WY will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 6. The sale will include 105 proposed parcels on 130,600.32 acres located in Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties in WY. The protest period ended Sept. 7. Four protests were received concerning sage-grouse issues and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.*

Thursday, November 7

- *New:* **BLM-AK Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-AK will hold an oil & gas lease sale Nov. 7 in Anchorage, AK. The sale will include 400 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A, and builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts and three million acres available.*

Thursday, November 8

- *New:* **BLM-CO Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The Colorado State Office is offering 48 parcels containing 21,088 acres of Federal lands in Colorado for oil and gas leasing Nov. 8.* One protest was received from Rocky Mountain Wild protesting seven parcels concerning negative impacts from oil and gas drilling on habitat for imperiled species and sensitive environments, sage-grouse issues, and wilderness characteristics. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved prior to the sale date.

From: Cunningham, Celina P
To: Weekly Reports
Cc: Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Davis, Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Burke, Marcilynn
Subject: ASLM weekly report
Date: Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:52:48 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-11-12 final.docx

---

Attached please find the ASLM weekly report for this week.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 11, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

This week the Administration took a historic step in its quest to expand American-made energy production and harness vast renewable energy on the nation's public lands. On October 12, with your signature, we will reach the final step in the development of the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). I congratulate the BLM and the other bureaus that helped us to complete this groundbreaking effort. The 17 Solar Energy Zones in the PEIS represent a major shift in advancing solar energy development. With your leadership, this PEIS will allow the Department to advance the development of renewable resources in an environmentally sound and efficient manner and serve as a model for future energy projects.

In addition to the final PEIS, congratulations on the approval of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind project and successfully hitting the 10,000 megawatt goal three years early. These efforts provide the Department with important tools to responsibly increase domestic energy development as part of the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy.

As I mentioned last week, on October 9, I met with representatives from Intel Corp., Micron, and the Semiconductor Industry Association to discuss potential impacts of helium supply with the upcoming changes to the National Helium Reserve. Per statutory requirements, the BLM is slated to end its involvement with the sale of helium from the Reserve once it pays down the debt incurred from obtaining the Reserve, which is expected in 2014. During the meeting, I underscored the Department's support for legislation introduced in the Senate to improve the management of the Reserve, which includes a phased approach to draw down the Reserve. Through our discussion, it became clear that there are two issues deserving our attention: (1) continued circulation of misinformation regarding the BLM's helium program (first brought to my attention by Corning representatives this summer) and (2) confusion about the timeline for the BLM to pay down the debt and subsequently cease operations. As a result of the meeting, I asked the BLM to review options for providing the public better information about its role in managing the Reserve and the most appropriate way to disseminate information on the timeline for concluding its role.

On October 12, BOEM will brief me on Western Gulf Lease Sale 229. The sale, scheduled for November 28, will be the first under the new Five Year Plan, which reflects our priorities of balancing appropriate resource development with environmental stewardship. I want to thank Dir. Beaudreau and his staff for all their hard work to help ensure the lease sale may be held before the end of the year.

Next week, I will travel to Knoxville for a site visit of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) petition area. Over the past several months, I have reported on the progress of the TN LUM petition. Most recently, I traveled to TN in August to meet with Attorney General Bob Cooper to discuss the status of the State's petition and to outline a clear path forward for the petition, including having the State provide OSM with additional information in order to refine

the boundaries under consideration. The Attorney General provided some of that information this week, but OSM is still awaiting further technical information before proceeding with its evaluation of the petition. The LUM tour next week will afford me the opportunity to see some of the principal environmental resources identified in the LUM petition area, observe an underground mine typical for the area, and reinforce our commitment to a thorough review of the petition. While I am in Knoxville, I will also conduct an all-employees meeting in the OSM Knoxville Field Office.

II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 15, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – On Oct. 15 and 16, travel to TN to tour the Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition area. In the office Oct. 17 – 19.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 22, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – On Oct. 22 - 23, travel to WV to meet with OSM staff and tour OSM mines. Travel to NYC on Oct. 24 to speak at an American Jewish Committee meeting on renewable energy together with leaders from Mexico and Canada. In the office Oct. 25 – 26.
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III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**
  - In Oct., BOEM expects to be ready to publish the Notice of Availability for the EA for **MA.** BOEM is drafting the Proposed Sale Notice for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA.**
  - On Oct. 9, BOEM sent Bluewater a response to its counteroffer for the **DE** negotiated lease and will hold a follow-up meeting with the company on Oct. 12. BOEM expects to complete final negotiations and execute the lease by the end of the year.
  - As of Oct. 10, the **NC** Call for Information is under review within the SOL's office.
  - BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Oct.
  - On Oct. 9, the comment period on the **ME** Request for Interest for the Statoil Hywind project ended. However, the comment period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS remains open until Nov. 8. BOEM plans to hold public information meetings on Oct. 23 and 24 in ME to discuss the next steps in the leasing process.
- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill:** With the whaling season in the Beaufort Sea closed, Shell commenced exploratory drilling on Oct. 3. In the Chukchi Sea, Shell completed a pilot hole to a depth of 1,400 feet at the "Burger A" site. Shell has completed the mudline cellar and is in the process of setting of the casing. Shell submitted a request to leave the anchors over the winter to limit disturbance of the seafloor by reducing the frequency of dropping and removing the anchors. BOEM and BSEE are reviewing the request.

- **Proposed Expansion of Municipal Airport in Grundy, VA:** On Oct. 3, the Breaks Regional Airport Authority notified OSM and Senator Warner's office that the Grundy Town Council will consider/approve a new solicitation for a contractor to complete the airport reconstruction project. The project proponents plan to submit a revised proposal to the Commonwealth.

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- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Orders

Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From:	Cunningham, Celina P
To:	Cunningham, Celina P; Weekly Reports
Cc:	Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Davis, Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Burke, Marcilynn
Subject:	RE: ASLM weekly report
Date:	Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:59:09 PM
Attachments:	ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-11-12 final.docx

Please use the attached updated version. Sorry!

From: Cunningham, Celina P
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Weekly Reports
Cc: Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; 'McQuilliams, Jully'; Mouritsen, Karen E; Davis, Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Burke, Marcilynn
Subject: ASLM weekly report

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Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

From: Cunningham, Celina P
To: Burke, Marcilynn
Cc: Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Mouritsen, Karen E; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Ishee, Mary K
Subject: Short report
Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 6:13:55 PM
Attachments: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-18-12 draft.docx

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Marcilynn – here is a draft of the short report in case you would like to review tonight. I will ask Rich and Ned to review it in the morning and then I can give you an updated copy later in the day.

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

Weekly Report to the Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
October 18, 2012

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

(b) (5)

This week marks another milestone in the Department's efforts to expand renewable energy development. On October 18, BOEM and Bluewater reached agreement on the Delaware offshore wind commercial lease. The Bluewater lease is the first under your "Smart from the Start" wind energy initiative and the second renewable offshore wind lease on the Outer Continental Shelf.

(b) (5)

~~The~~ awarded projects include the Phoenix District Youth Initiative (nominated by the BLM), the Ute Learning Garden (nominated by the BLM), the Iditarod National Historic Trail Partnership (nominated by the BLM), the Volunteers in Service to America (nominated by the OSM), the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (nominated by the OSM), and the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (nominated by the BOEM). Each project exemplifies the tireless work of staff and partners as stewards of the Department's mission. I commend BOEM, OSM and the BLM staff for their hard work on the ground to make these partnerships succeed.

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I continue to monitor wildfires on BLM land. As of Sept. 25, wildfires have impacted 320 BLM grazing allotments. Of these, 76 have had over 50% of the BLM acres in the allotment burned. These 320 allotments had 1,938,888 public land acres burned and over 570,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of livestock forage lost.

With the end of the year coming, bureaus are considering the potential impacts of the sequestration, should it go into effect. One program that OSM brought to my attention is the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund. Not only could sequestration hit the Abandoned Mine Land grants to states, it could also impact orphan retiree pensions, which are paid out by transfers from interest on the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund. As you know, many implications of sequestration are not yet clear. However, we do know it could have significant impacts on programs and the lives of those who rely on them.

Last week I was scheduled to travel to Tennessee to see the –Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition site. I am rescheduling my travel due to(b) (6)
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II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

Week of October 22, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – On Oct. 22 - 23, travel to WV to meet with OSM staff and tour OSM mines. Travel to NYC on Oct. 24 to speak at an American Jewish Committee meeting on renewable energy together with leaders from Mexico and Canada. In the office Oct. 25 – 26.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

Week of October 29, 2012
Acting ASLM Burke – In the office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**
  - In Oct., BOEM expects to be ready to publish the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the ~~EA~~ Environmental Assessment for **MA**. The NOA will also announce public meetings tentatively scheduled ~~to be held~~for Nov. 13 -16, in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket. BOEM is drafting the Proposed Sale Notice for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**, with publication anticipated in Nov.
  - On Oct. 23, BOEM and the Department anticipate announcing the Bluewater lease in **DE**. The agreement was reached on Oct. 17. (b) (5)

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- As of Oct. 1~~6~~0, the **NC** Call for Information is under review within ~~the~~ SOL~~L's office~~. SOL and BOEM are discussing ~~CG and~~ NPS viewshed and Coast Guard issues.
- BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Oct. As of Oct. 16, the package is under ASLM office review.
- On Oct. 9, the comment period on the **ME** Request for Interest (RFI) for the Statoil Hywind project ended. BOEM received 10 comments on the RFI related to birds, whales, fishing, and visual impacts but no expressions of competitive interest. However, the comment period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS remains open until Nov. 8. BOEM plans to hold public information meetings on Oct. 23 and 24 in ME to discuss the next steps in the leasing process.

- **Shell's 2012 Alaska Drilling Operations, Inspections and Applications for Permit to Drill:** (b) (5)

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- **NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan Final EIS:** The BLM continues to make progress in preparing to issue the Final EIS for the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan. On Nov. 9, the BLM plans to post the EIS on the BLM-Alaska's public website, which would be in advance of issuing the NOA in the Federal Register – scheduled for Nov. 16.
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- **Patriot Coal Bankruptcy:**
- On Oct. 12, a Federal judge in WV issued an order to extend a stay in Patriot Coal Corporation's bankruptcy case. The order gives the company and environmental groups additional time to modify a schedule for the company to clean up discharges of selenium, a schedule which was the result of a lawsuit in 2010. In July 2012, Patriot filed for bankruptcy. A filed bankruptcy petition immediately operates as an automatic stay on other litigation, holding in abeyance various forms of creditor action against the debtor. The Oct. 12 order allows Patriot to continue address the cleanup from the WV case, regardless of the bankruptcy filing.

Ongoing Projects:

- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Potash Secretarial Order
- Oil Shale PEIS and Rulemaking
- DOI/DoD Joint Action Plan Implementation
- OSM-BLM Consolidation Implementation
- Stream Protection Rule
- Onshore Orders
- Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

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Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
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