## Cunningham, Celina P

**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
**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:

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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

(b) (5)

**Week of September 3, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke –** (b) (5)
**DAS Farquhar –** (b) (5)

(b) (5) [redacted]

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind:**
  - (b) (5) [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

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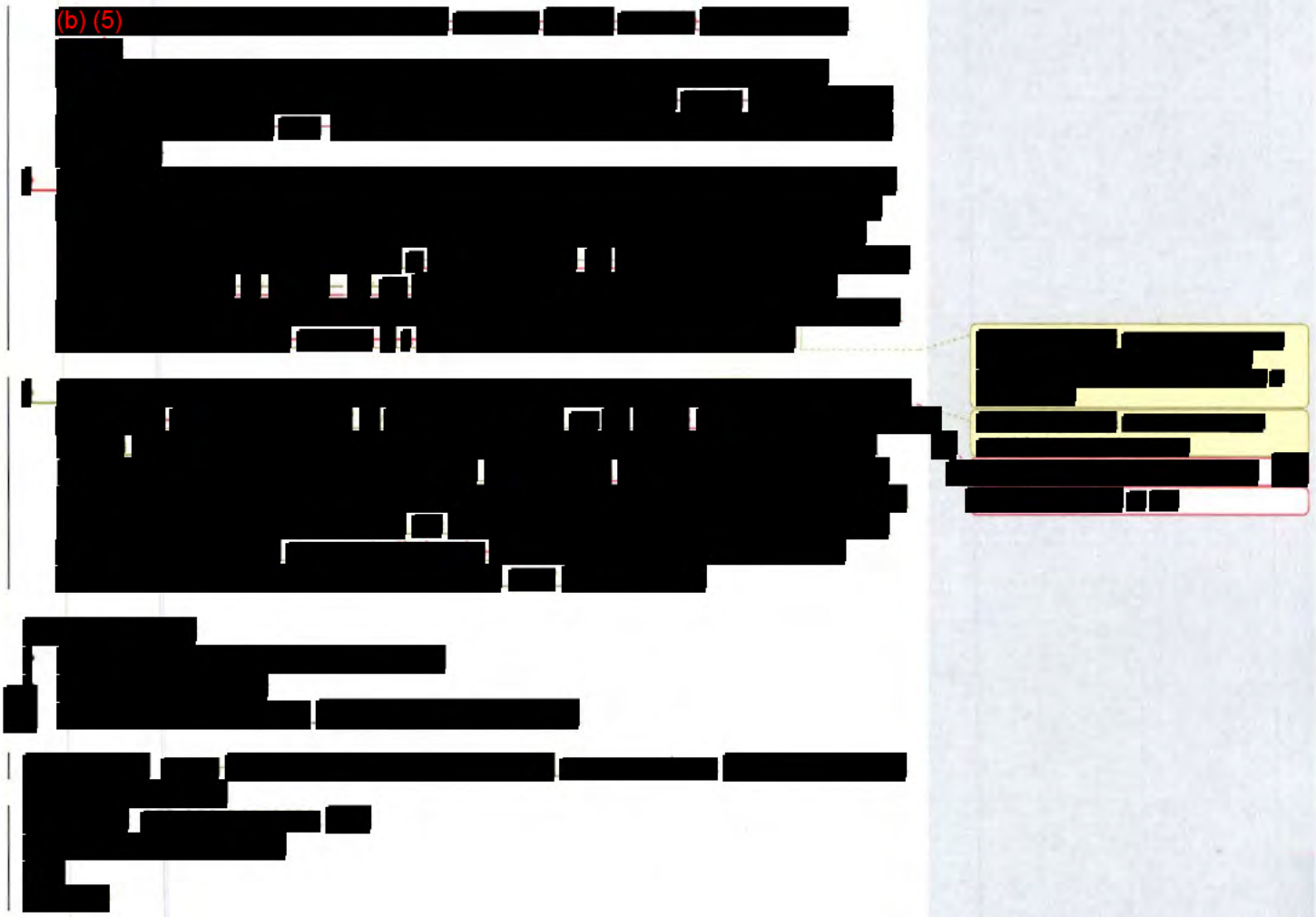
(b) (5)

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2012 6:06 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P; 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:** RE: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary
**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

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
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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) [redacted]
**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

Partnership annual meeting.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **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: (b) (6)
[redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2012 3:02 PM
**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
**Attachments:** ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-6-12.docx

Jamey – Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report.

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**
**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) [redacted]

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)
b

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2012 11:32 AM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Short Report - updated draft
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_9-7-2012_DRAFT.docx

Marcilynn – Attached is an updated version of the short report, which both Ned and Rich have reviewed.

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 30~~September 7, 2012**

1. (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

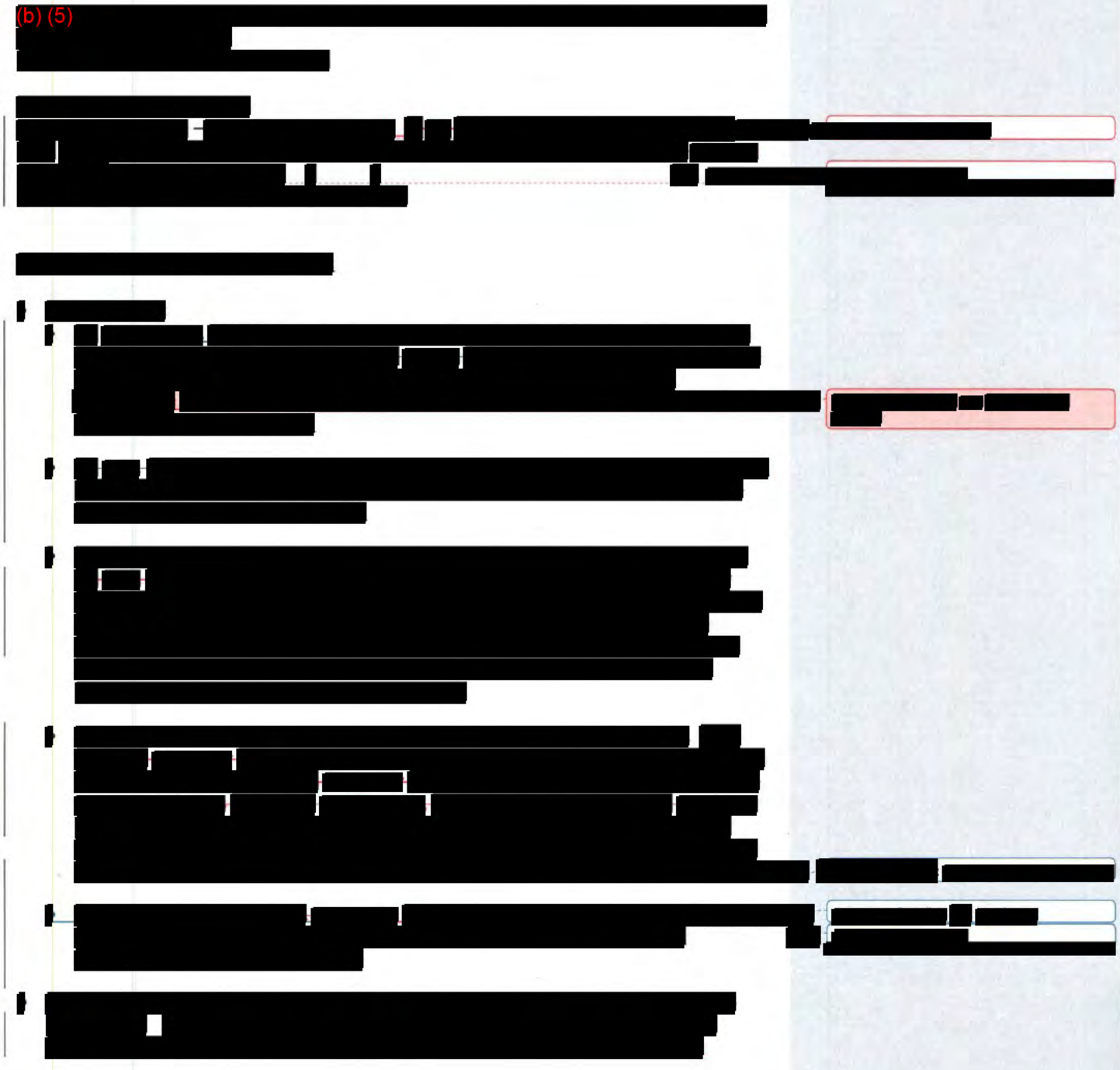
(b) (5) [redacted]

2. [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



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**Ongoing Projects:**

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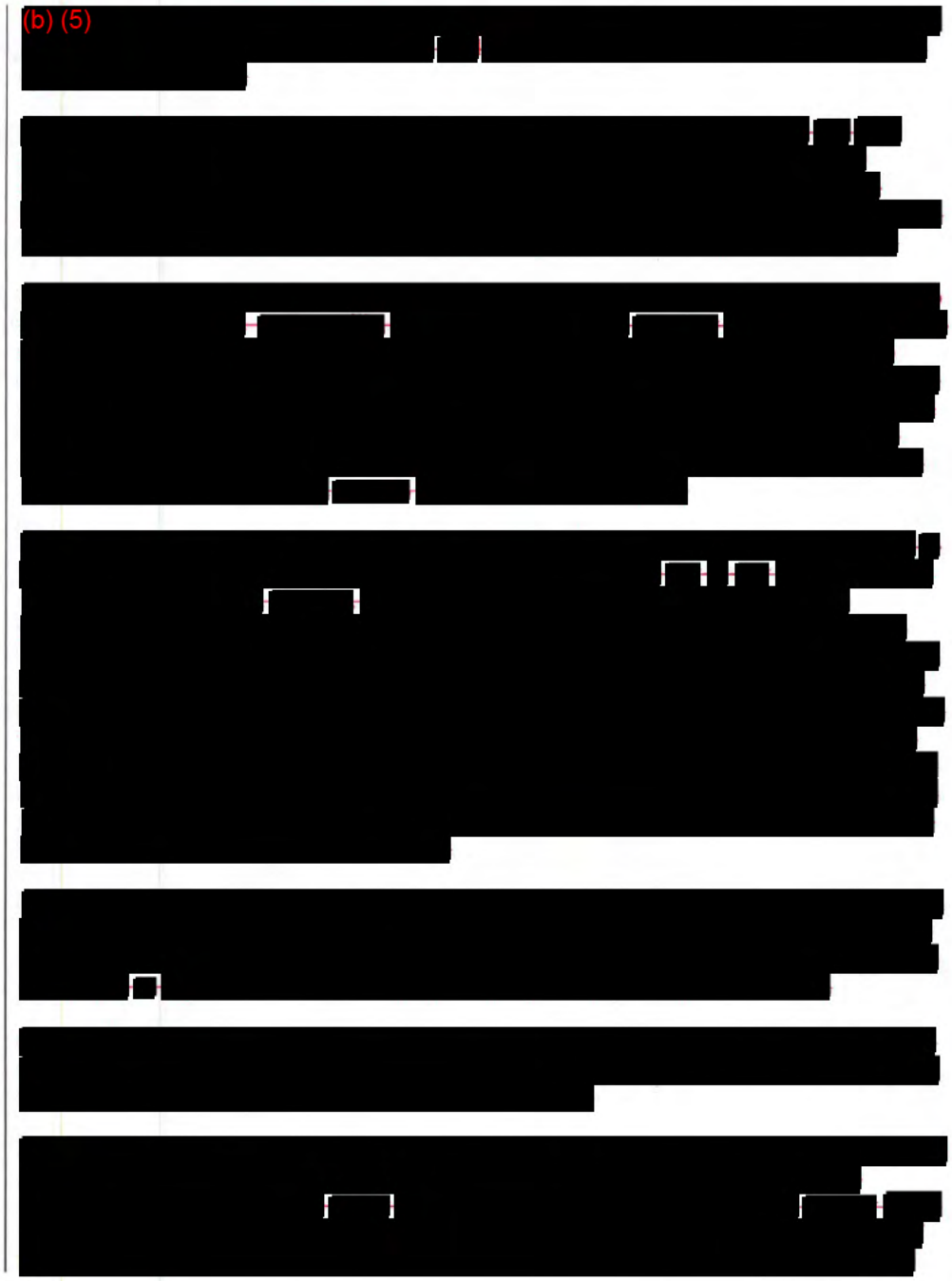

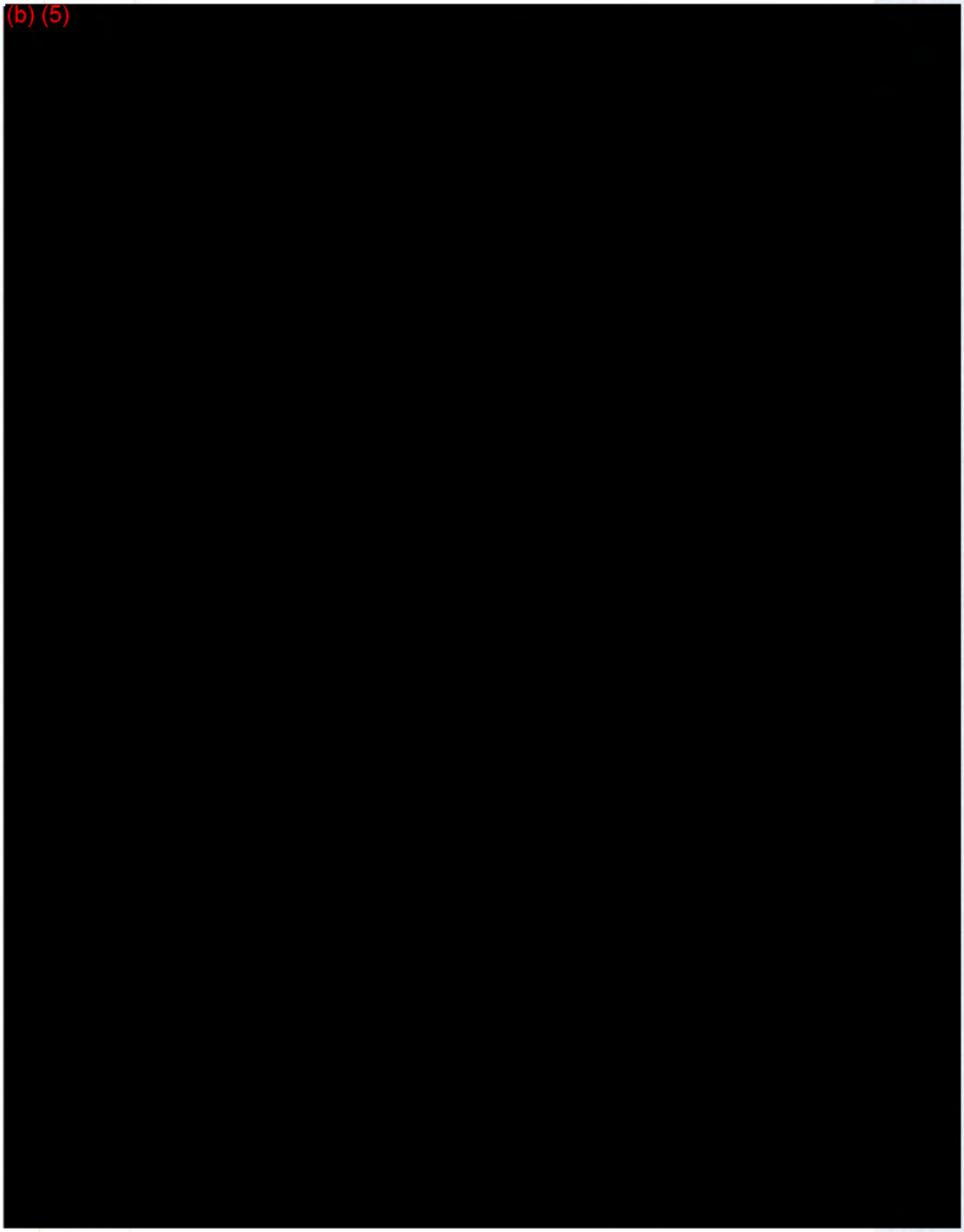
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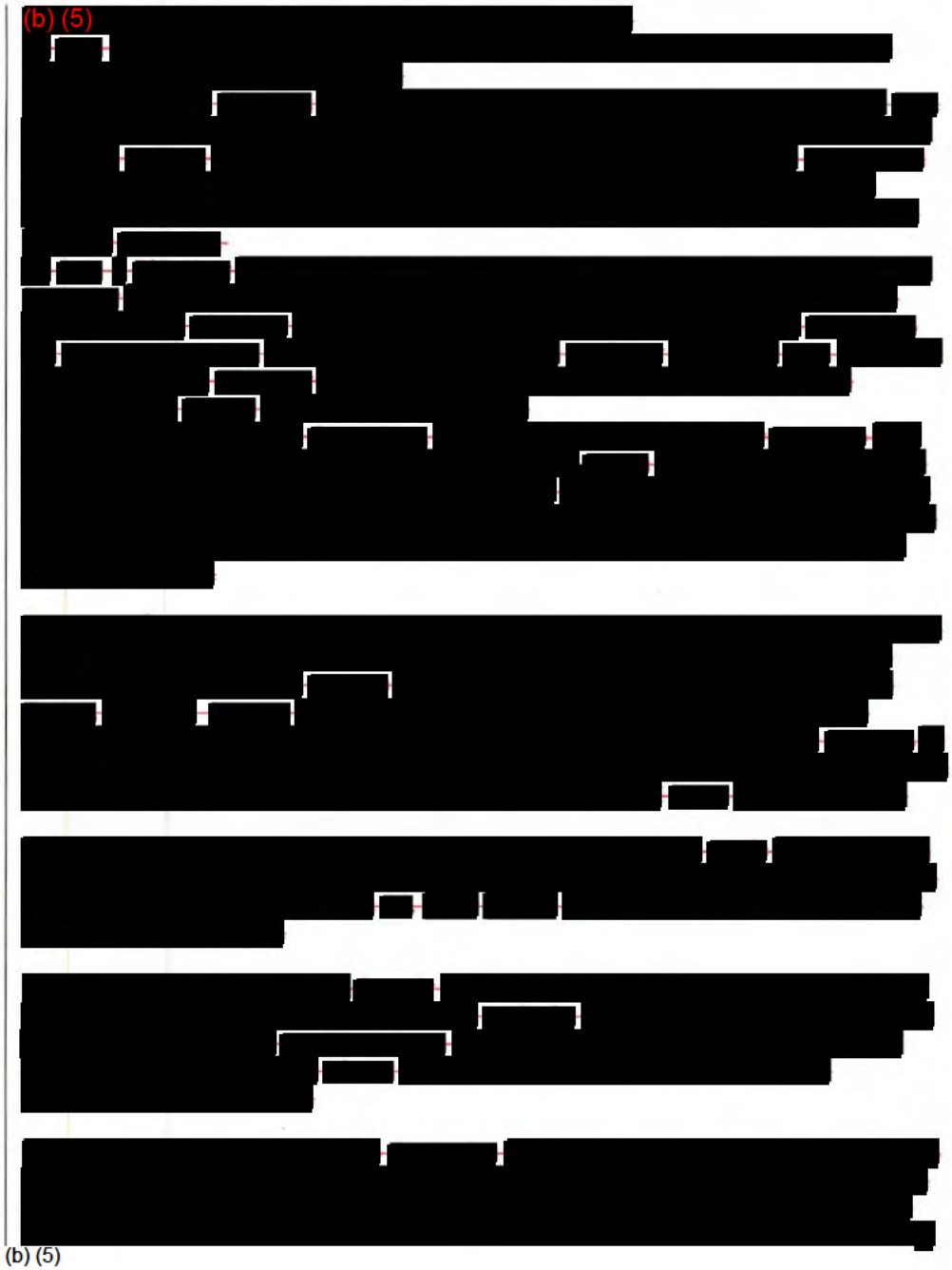
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(b) (5)

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 3:32 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Preliminary comments on Potash Order
**Attachments:** Comments_consolidated.docx

Marcilynn/Ned,

FYI - Phil shared with me a consolidated list of comments they had received from the public comment period on the proposed Potash, Oil, and Gas Order.

If he has a revised list to share, I'll pass it along to you as well.

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

1. **Def.: Co-Development**
   *Comment Summary:* (b) (5) [redacted]

2. **Joint Recommendation- Drilling Islands**
   **Comment Summary:** [redacted]

3. **Agreements between Potash and O&G**
   (b) (5) [redacted]

4. **Access to Data**
   (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

5. **Def.: Development Area**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

*Change the word "limiting" to "managing" in Sections 4.f. and 6.e.(2)(d)(i).*

6. **Notice to Affected Parties**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

7. **Authorities**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

8. **Regulatory Conflict**

(b) (5) [redacted]

9. **Implementation of Order**

**Comment Summary:** (b) (5) [redacted]

10. **Order Not Scientifically Based**

(b) (5) [redacted]

11. **Lack of Concurrent Development**

(b) (5) [redacted]

12. **Effect on Small Operators**

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

13. Lack of Public Participation

(b) (5)

14. Redraft the Purpose

(b) (5)

15. NEPA

(b) (5)

16. Def.: Drill Island

(b) (5)

17. Def.: Indicated and Inferred Resources

(b) (5)

(b) (5) [redacted]

**18. Configuration of Buffer Zones**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**19. Mapping Process**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**20. Defacto Withdrawal**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**21. Unlawful Leasing Restriction**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**22. Establishment of Development Areas/ Drilling Islands/Barren Areas**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**23. NM State Legislature Review**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**24. General**

(b) (5)

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

*Comment Summary:*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

**26. Administration of APDs**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**27. Veto over APDs**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**28. Challenge Denial of APDs**

(b) (5) [redacted] rea.

**29. Inconsistent with Previous Policy**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**30. Economic Impacts**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**31. Coordination with Local Governments**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**32. Adopt JITC Consensus**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**33. Prior Commitment Made by DOI**

(b) (5) [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

**34. Technology Requirements Unfair**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**35. JITC not Representative**

(b) (5) [redacted]

**36. Designation of Single Operator**

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

37. **Cost of Exploratory Work**

(b) (5)

38. **Shared Drilling Island**

(b) (5)

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

FROM: Mike Pool, Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management

CC: Marcilynn Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Jack Haugrud, Deputy Solicitor

SUBJECT: Proposed Final Secretary's Order on Oil and Gas and Potash Development Within the Designated Potash Area, Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico

DATE: September 25, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

II. BACKGROUND

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

IIV POSITION of INTERESTED PARTIES

(b) (5)

[redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 9:29 AM
**To:** Lassiter, Tracie L
**Subject:** Govtrip & potash

Good morning Tracie – I'm traveling with MAB to NYC and possible WV next month and Rich mentioned I should talk to you about getting set up with GovTrip. Is that something you could help me with or should I talk to Michael about it?

Also, MAB asked that I join any meetings regarding the Potash Secretarial Order. I'm not sure if there are any already scheduled so I just wanted to give you a heads up and ask that you add me to future meetings.

Thank you!

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

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:47 PM
**To:** Lin, Janet H
**Subject:** Accepted: Potash Order Pre-(b) (5) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 5:01 PM
**To:** Barlan, Bryce
**Subject:** RE: Short report on share point

Great. Thanks for letting me know.

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**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 5:00 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** RE: Short report on share point

I inserted something minimal – the Secretary's O&G and Potash Order.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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

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**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012 8:58 AM
**To:** Davis, Vermell; Mouritsen, Karen E; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce
**Subject:** Short report on share point

Hi all – a new short report doc is on the sharepoint for this week. Since MAB is traveling on Thursday, I'll have to get a draft to her earlier than usual so please make your additions by 5 pm today. If there is something you think is worth mentioning but you are still tracking down info, please put a note in brackets or add a comment so I know what's coming down the pike.

Thanks!

Celina Cunningham
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Land and Minerals Management
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(202) 208-5348
celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 11:28 AM
**To:** Ishee, Mary K; Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_09-27-12_draft.docx

Hi MK and Rich – The first draft of the short report is on sharepoint (as well as attached). I welcome your edits and feedback – you can edit a hard copy and I can add your edits or you can edit on sharepoint, whichever you prefer. If you both can get edits finished by the late afternoon, I'll share it with Ned before sending to MAB for her review.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
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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**
**September 27, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

[redacted]

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**Ongoing Projects:**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 11:31 AM
**To:** Lin, Janet H
**Subject:** Accepted: ASLM Potash Briefing -(b) (5) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Anderson, Michael D
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:43 PM
**To:** Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K; Davis, Vermell; Davis, G. Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Cunningham, Celina P
**Cc:** Lassiter, Tracie L
**Subject:** Week Ahead Report, 9-26-2012, Including Vermell's Edits for OSM, has been Posted to our Sharepoint Site
**Attachments:** Week Ahead Report 9-26-2012.docx

Michael D. Anderson, MPA
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**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**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.*
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**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.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- ***Update: Ice Month at Ohmsett:*** *The goal of this Feb./Mar. 2013 effort is to quantify the capacity of various skimming systems that have been identified for potential use in AK. The Joint Industry Programme on Oil Spill Recovery in Ice would like to include a dispersant effectiveness test in conjunction with this effort. BSEE has made initial contacts with various industry groups in an attempt to obtain a representative 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.*
- ***Update: ATP Oil & Gas Potential Financial Insolvency Evaluation:*** *BSEE and BOEM are working together on an evaluation of potential financial insolvency regarding assets and operations of ATP Oil & Gas Corporation in the Gulf of Mexico. ATP's stock value has dropped from a 52-week high of $11.85 to a low of $0.08, and closed at $0.16 on Sep. 21. ATP is working with TSB Offshore, a third party consultant, on estimates of decommissioning costs for platforms, wells, and subsea infrastructure that will not be available to ATP until Oct. 12. The cost estimates will be discussed in a meeting with BSEE and BOEM no later than Oct. 16 based on agreement by DOI and Department of Justice of the revised deadline for response from ATP on all decommissioning liabilities.*
- ***New: Freedom of Information Act Request:*** *Renaissance Petroleum, LLC requested copies of well logs associated with the platform wells drilled in the eastern Santa Barbara Channel from the Gail (Sockeye) and Gina (Hueneme) Platforms.*
- ***New: Freedom of Information Act Request:*** *Robbins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP requested records regarding the Jun. 22 oil spill from Platform Houchin in Santa Barbara County, CA owned by AnAmerican Corporation.*
- ***New: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Argonne Interagency Agreement:*** The 2012 Interagency Agreement between the US DOE, Argonne National Lab and BSEE, was fully executed on Sep. 17. The purpose of the agreement is to support BSEE's effort to develop advanced approaches to regulatory oversight and enforcement that place greater emphasis on innovative methods such as risk based analysis and science based safety.
- ***New: Technology Assessment and Research (TA&R) Study 674, Reliability of Deepwater Subsea Blowout Preventer (BOP) Systems and Well Kicks:*** *On Sep. 20, BSEE received the final report (proprietary and public versions) for the subject study. This study was funded immediately following the Macondo Well incident of Apr., 2010 to review deepwater (greater than 2000 feet water depth) BOP related failures, well kick frequencies, and parameters contributing to kicks for Gulf of Mexico OCS wells spudded between 2007 – 2009 (most recent data). Following BSEE review for completeness, the public version report will be posted to BSEE's TA&R webpage @ http://www.bsee.gov/Research-and-Training/Technology-Assessment-and-Research/Project-674.aspx and the proprietary version will be made available for internal use. Anyone requiring a copy of the proprietary report should contact Michael.else@bsee.gov.*
- ***New: Technology Assessment and Research (TA&R) Study 653, Evaluation of the Use of Epoxy-based Materials in Well Abandonment:*** *BSEE received the draft final report for the subject study, now under review by BSEE subject matter experts in the Gulf of*

*Mexico and headquarters offices. The study analyzed applicability of using epoxies and other gel, resin or grout materials as plugging agents in severely damaged wells (e.g., hurricane toppled platforms) where access may be limited to subsurface intervention and /or via intersecting wells.*

- ***New: Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) Contracts and Interagency Agreement Awarded:*** *Six OSRR contracts and one Interagency Agreement have been awarded as a result of the Oil Spill Broad Agency Announcement. The following contractors were selected for one or more of the six efforts: (1) Applied Research Associates; (2) SL Ross Environmental Research Ltd; (3) Composite Technology Development, Inc.; (4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and (5) Center for Offshore Oil, Gas and Energy Research Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Interagency Agreement was signed with the Naval Research Laboratory.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- ***New: Western Gulf 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.*
- ***Update:*** **Central Planning Area (CPA) Sale 227:** *The Proposed Notice of Sale was published in the Federal Register on Sept. 26, 2012. Sale 227 will be the first CPA sale in the new 2012-2017 Five-Year Program and is tentatively scheduled to be held on Mar. 20, 2013.*
- **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, recently notified OSM that they have encountered some delays in arranging the financing that they need to move forward with the project. Although the proponents have indicated that they remain committed to moving forward with the project, they have asked for OSM's patience while they explore different alternatives and revise their proposal. The proponents have indicated that they plan to wait until they resubmit their proposal to provide OSM with the information it requested in August.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

*Nothing to Report.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Monday, October 1:**

- **No Change: National Research Council's (NRC) Study on Oil Spills in Arctic Environments:** On Oct. 1, a sponsorship meeting is scheduled at the National Academies' Keck Center in Washington, DC for the NRC's two-year study entitled, "Responding to Oil Spills in Arctic Environments." This study will assess the current state of the science regarding oil spill response and environmental assessment in the Arctic region. A kick-off meeting is tentatively scheduled in Oct. upon designation of the steering committee.
- **No Change: BSEE Environmental Enforcement Division (EED) Training:** On Oct. 1-5, newly hired EED employees will attend basic drilling and production courses at Shell Robert Training Facility and finish the week in the Gulf of Mexico Region addressing various topics including the National Environmental Policy Act, training, coordination with BOEM, enforcement, etc.

**Wednesday, October 3:**

- **No Change: Meeting with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District 8 (D8) on USCG Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Review:** On Oct. 3, BSEE Oil Spill Response Division Gulf of Mexico Region will meet with the USCG D8 to help the District develop a review process for OSRPs as part of the new BSEE/USCG memorandum of agreement.

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- ~~*New:* **OSM to Award $2.9 Million Regulatory Program Grant to Pennsylvania:** *On Sept. 28, OSM plans to award $2,911,396 to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). OSM gives these grants to eligible states and tribes to enable them to protect people, property, and the environment by regulating surface coal mining. The PA DEP will use the money to administer its Surface Coal Program for the period of Oct 1, 2012, through Sept 30, 2013.~~
- *Update*: **Court to Decide on Change of Venue for Patriot Coal Bankruptcy**: *On or after October 5, Judge Chapman, a bankruptcy judge with the Southern District of New York will decide whether to transfer Patriot Coal's bankruptcy case ~~from~~ to the Southern District of West Virginia (SDWV). In the meantime, Patriot has started the process of rejecting some of its union United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) contracts (though not yet).* Those in support of transferring the venue to SDWV include the UMWA,

Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Trustee's Office. 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. This agreement will help Patriot Coal emerge from 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.

## WEEKS AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.*

**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, to initiate the sharing of information with the goal of advancing offshore wind projects. The forum will take place in conjunction with the American Wind Energy Association's annual offshore wind energy conference. Department of Energy and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders will be invited to participate. The forum is part of an MOU between DoD and DOI designed to strengthen partnerships on renewable energy. Dir. Beaudreau and DAS Farquhar plan on attending.

**Week of October 22**

- *New:* **Commercial Wind Lease Issuance on the Atlantic OCS Offshore Maine:** *BOEM will hold public information meetings in Boothbay and Portland to discuss next steps for the Statoil project. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be developed for a deepwater floating wind turbines/facility for offshore Maine. Scoping meetings will be held later this year or early next year.*

**Week of October 29**

- *New*: **Massachusetts Wind Energy Area:** *BOEM is scheduling public meetings on the Environmental Assessment in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Tuesday, October 23:**

- *New:* ***State Lands Commission Prevention First Conference:*** *On Oct. 23-24, BSEE Pacific Regional Enforcement Officer will participate in this Conference in Long Beach, CA. This is the tenth biennial conference and focuses on onshore and offshore pollution prevention and technology. BSEE-POCSR is a sponsor of the conference and will be an exhibitor. The Director will be participating in the General Session and speakers from BSEE will be presenting papers.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- ***Update:*** **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition**: *On Oct. 15 and 16, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management will 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. On Sept. 10, OSM and State technical staff met in OSM's Knoxville Field Office to further discuss the methods that OSM used to develop ridgeline petition boundaries.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:46 PM
**To:** Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Ishee, Mary K
**Cc:** 'McQuilliams, Jully'
**Subject:** FW: Week Ahead Report, 9-26-2012, Including Vermell's Edits for OSM, has been Posted to our Sharepoint Site
**Attachments:** Week Ahead Report 9-26-2012.docx

Hi all – please make your edits by 4 pm today. Jully, if you're checking email, MK said she'd help out with the BOEM/BSEE sections so rest up and hopefully we'll see you tomorrow.

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:43 PM
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Michael D. Anderson, MPA
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**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

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**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.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- ***Update: Ice Month at Ohmsett:*** *The goal of this Feb./Mar. 2013 effort is to quantify the capacity of various skimming systems that have been identified for potential use in AK. The Joint Industry Programme on Oil Spill Recovery in Ice would like to include a dispersant effectiveness test in conjunction with this effort. BSEE has made initial contacts with various industry groups in an attempt to obtain a representative 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.*
- ***Update: ATP Oil & Gas Potential Financial Insolvency Evaluation:*** *BSEE and BOEM are working together on an evaluation of potential financial insolvency regarding assets and operations of ATP Oil & Gas Corporation in the Gulf of Mexico. ATP's stock value has dropped from a 52-week high of $11.85 to a low of $0.08, and closed at $0.16 on Sep. 21. ATP is working with TSB Offshore, a third party consultant, on estimates of decommissioning costs for platforms, wells, and subsea infrastructure that will not be available to ATP until Oct. 12. The cost estimates will be discussed in a meeting with BSEE and BOEM no later than Oct. 16 based on agreement by DOI and Department of Justice of the revised deadline for response from ATP on all decommissioning liabilities.*
- ***New: Freedom of Information Act Request:*** *Renaissance Petroleum, LLC requested copies of well logs associated with the platform wells drilled in the eastern Santa Barbara Channel from the Gail (Sockeye) and Gina (Hueneme) Platforms.*
- ***New: Freedom of Information Act Request:*** *Robbins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP requested records regarding the Jun. 22 oil spill from Platform Houchin in Santa Barbara County, CA owned by AnAmerican Corporation.*
- ***New: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Argonne Interagency Agreement:*** The 2012 Interagency Agreement between the US DOE, Argonne National Lab and BSEE, was fully executed on Sep. 17. The purpose of the agreement is to support BSEE's effort to develop advanced approaches to regulatory oversight and enforcement that place greater emphasis on innovative methods such as risk based analysis and science based safety.
- ***New: Technology Assessment and Research (TA&R) Study 674, Reliability of Deepwater Subsea Blowout Preventer (BOP) Systems and Well Kicks:*** *On Sep. 20, BSEE received the final report (proprietary and public versions) for the subject study. This study was funded immediately following the Macondo Well incident of Apr., 2010 to review deepwater (greater than 2000 feet water depth) BOP related failures, well kick frequencies, and parameters contributing to kicks for Gulf of Mexico OCS wells spudded between 2007 – 2009 (most recent data). Following BSEE review for completeness, the public version report will be posted to BSEE's TA&R webpage @ http://www.bsee.gov/Research-and-Training/Technology-Assessment-and-Research/Project-674.aspx and the proprietary version will be made available for internal use. Anyone requiring a copy of the proprietary report should contact Michael.else@bsee.gov.*
- ***New: Technology Assessment and Research (TA&R) Study 653, Evaluation of the Use of Epoxy-based Materials in Well Abandonment:*** *BSEE received the draft final report for the subject study, now under review by BSEE subject matter experts in the Gulf of*

*Mexico and headquarters offices. The study analyzed applicability of using epoxies and other gel, resin or grout materials as plugging agents in severely damaged wells (e.g., hurricane toppled platforms) where access may be limited to subsurface intervention and /or via intersecting wells.*

- ***New: Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) Contracts and Interagency Agreement Awarded:*** *Six OSRR contracts and one Interagency Agreement have been awarded as a result of the Oil Spill Broad Agency Announcement. The following contractors were selected for one or more of the six efforts: (1) Applied Research Associates; (2) SL Ross Environmental Research Ltd; (3) Composite Technology Development, Inc.; (4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and (5) Center for Offshore Oil, Gas and Energy Research Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Interagency Agreement was signed with the Naval Research Laboratory.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- ***New: Western Gulf 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.*
- ***Update:*** **Central Planning Area (CPA) Sale 227:** *The Proposed Notice of Sale was published in the Federal Register on Sept. 26, 2012. Sale 227 will be the first CPA sale in the new 2012-2017 Five-Year Program and is tentatively scheduled to be held on Mar. 20, 2013.*
- **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, recently notified OSM that they have encountered some delays in arranging the financing that they need to move forward with the project. Although the proponents have indicated that they remain committed to moving forward with the project, they have asked for OSM's patience while they explore different alternatives and revise their proposal. The proponents have indicated that they plan to wait until they resubmit their proposal to provide OSM with the information it requested in August.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

*Nothing to Report.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Monday, October 1:**

- **No Change: National Research Council's (NRC) Study on Oil Spills in Arctic Environments:** On Oct. 1, a sponsorship meeting is scheduled at the National Academies' Keck Center in Washington, DC for the NRC's two-year study entitled, "Responding to Oil Spills in Arctic Environments." This study will assess the current state of the science regarding oil spill response and environmental assessment in the Arctic region. A kick-off meeting is tentatively scheduled in Oct. upon designation of the steering committee.
- **No Change: BSEE Environmental Enforcement Division (EED) Training:** On Oct. 1-5, newly hired EED employees will attend basic drilling and production courses at Shell Robert Training Facility and finish the week in the Gulf of Mexico Region addressing various topics including the National Environmental Policy Act, training, coordination with BOEM, enforcement, etc.

**Wednesday, October 3:**

- **No Change: Meeting with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District 8 (D8) on USCG Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) Review:** On Oct. 3, BSEE Oil Spill Response Division Gulf of Mexico Region will meet with the USCG D8 to help the District develop a review process for OSRPs as part of the new BSEE/USCG memorandum of agreement.

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

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Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Trustee's Office. 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. This agreement will help Patriot Coal emerge from 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.

## WEEKS AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.*

**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, to initiate the sharing of information with the goal of advancing offshore wind projects. The forum will take place in conjunction with the American Wind Energy Association's annual offshore wind energy conference. Department of Energy and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders will be invited to participate. The forum is part of an MOU between DoD and DOI designed to strengthen partnerships on renewable energy. Dir. Beaudreau and DAS Farquhar plan on attending.

**Week of October 22**

- *New:* **Commercial Wind Lease Issuance on the Atlantic OCS Offshore Maine:** *BOEM will hold public information meetings in Boothbay and Portland to discuss next steps for the Statoil project. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be developed for a deepwater floating wind turbines/facility for offshore Maine. Scoping meetings will be held later this year or early next year.*

**Week of October 29**

- *New*: **Massachusetts Wind Energy Area:** *BOEM is scheduling public meetings on the Environmental Assessment in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Tuesday, October 23:**

- *New: **State Lands Commission Prevention First Conference:** On Oct. 23-24, BSEE Pacific Regional Enforcement Officer will participate in this Conference in Long Beach, CA. This is the tenth biennial conference and focuses on onshore and offshore pollution prevention and technology. BSEE-POCSR is a sponsor of the conference and will be an exhibitor. The Director will be participating in the General Session and speakers from BSEE will be presenting papers.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- ***Update:*** **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition**: *On Oct. 15 and 16, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management will 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. On Sept. 10, OSM and State technical staff met in OSM's Knoxville Field Office to further discuss the methods that OSM used to develop ridgeline petition boundaries.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 9:07 AM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** FW: Short Report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_09-27-12_draft.docx

Marcilynn – Please use this version. I tweaked the paragraph on renewable energy after learning that we do not expect the Secretary's signature on Chokecherry before your report is submitted.

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**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 5:36 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** Short Report

Hi Marcilynn – attached please find the draft short report for this week. Ned, Rich, and MK have reviewed it.

Thanks,
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
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**
**September 27, 2012**

Personal Message to the Secretary:

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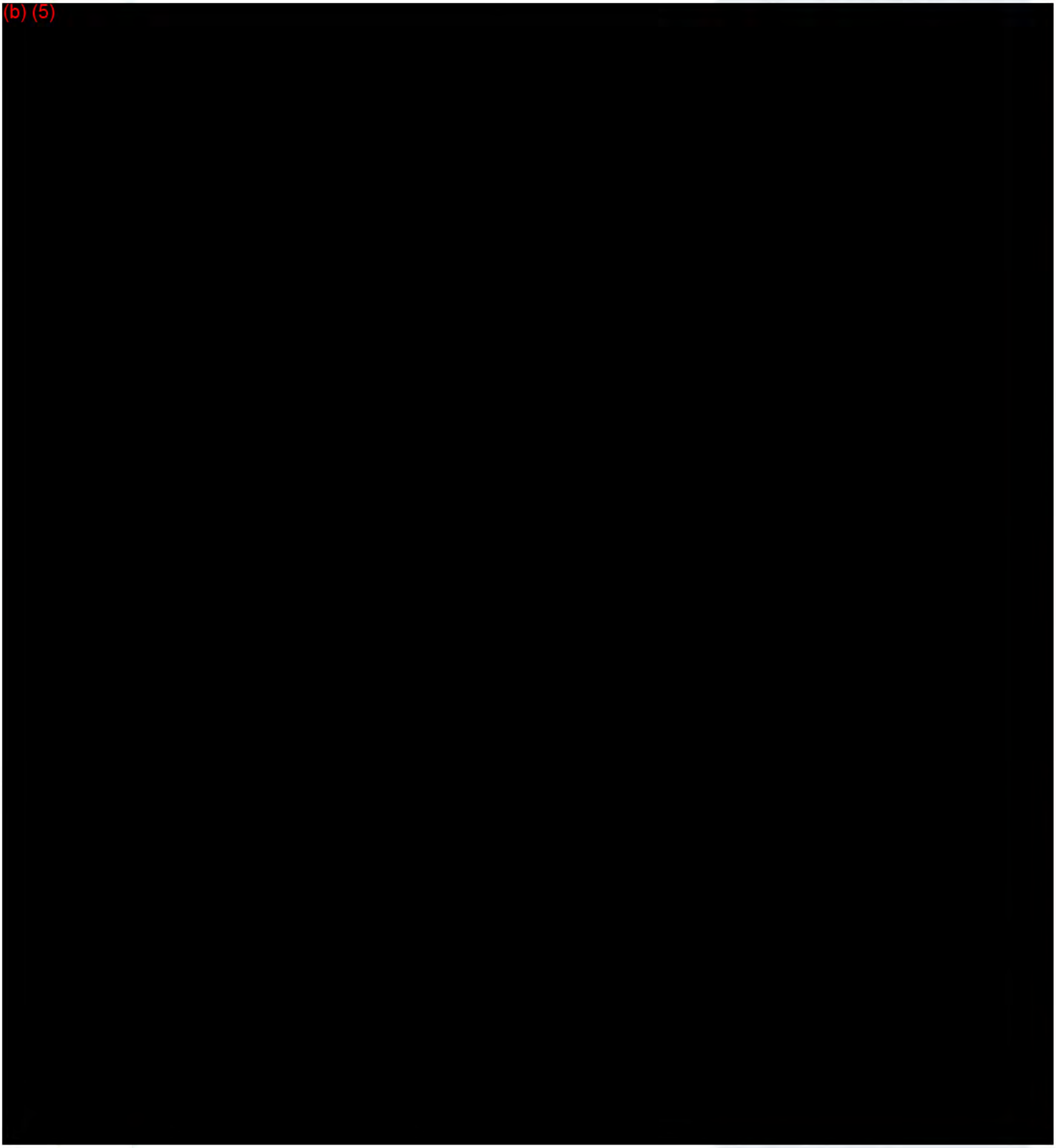

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Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

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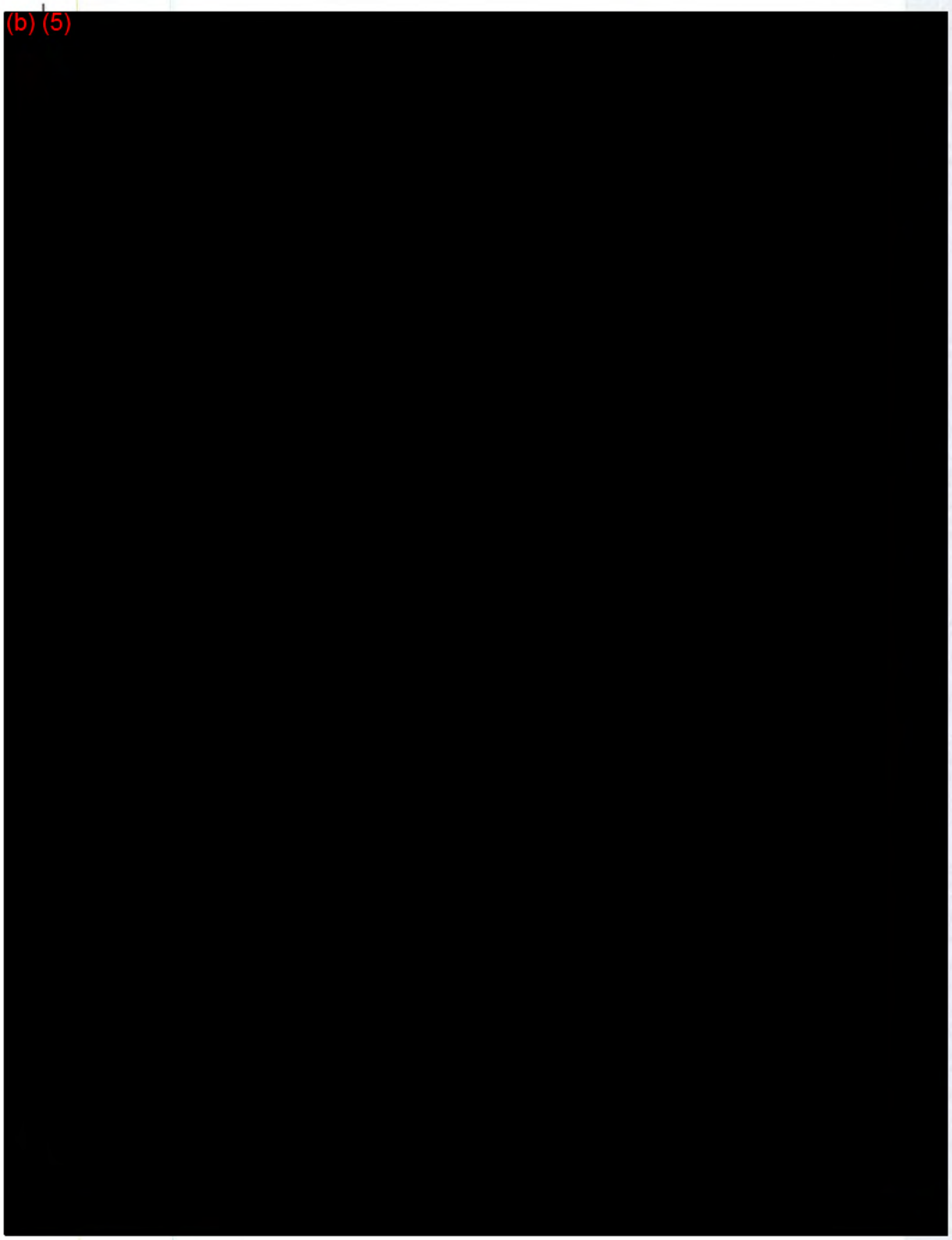

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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 4:37 PM
**To:** Lin, Janet H
**Subject:** Accepted: ASLM Potash Briefing (b) (5) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:08 PM
**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
**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
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U.S. Dept. of the Interior
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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 –** [redacted] 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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Farquhar, Ned
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 8:49 AM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P; Burke, Marcilynn; Ishee, Mary K
**Cc:** McQuilliams, Jully; Mouritsen, Karen E; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, Vermell
**Subject:** RE: Week ahead report
**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

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**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
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**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

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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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**Forestry**

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**Drought/Wildfire**

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**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

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**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Monday, Oct~~ober~~ 1:**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

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[redacted]

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

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[redacted]

## WEEKS AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

(b) (5)

**Wednesday, October 17**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Wednesday, October 10**

(b) (5)

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[redacted]

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

**Monday, October 14 – Tuesday, October 16**

[redacted]

week – a little early now.

(b) (5)

[redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 11:13 AM
**To:** Weekly Reports
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; Cardinale, Richard; 'McQuilliams, Jully'; Barlan, Bryce; Kornze, Neil G (nkornze@blm.gov); Pool, Michael J (mpool@blm.gov); 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 (James.Watson@bsee.gov); Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G (jpizarchik@osmre.gov); Owens, Glenda H. (gowens@osmre.gov); Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A. (jjeter@osmre.gov); Mouritsen, Karen E; Cruickshank, Walter (Walter.Cruickshank@boem.gov); Lindow, Emily R (Emily.Lindow@boem.gov); Altemus, Michele J; Marsters, Lizzie; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** ASLM Week Ahead Report
**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.
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**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.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:15 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: potash SO - Comment 33

FYI ☺

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:** Farquhar, Ned
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:01 PM
**To:** Allard, Phil; Fugate, Barbara
**Cc:** Barlan, Bryce
**Subject:** potash SO - Comment 33

(b) (5)

Ned Farquhar
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW - Room 6614
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-6734 office
202-253-0174 cell

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Weekly Reports
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 10:59 AM
**To:** DOI_Politicals
**Subject:** Bureau Reports
**Attachments:** Bureau Reports 2012.09.28.pdf; OS Reports awaiting management response as of September 28, 2012[1].pdf; Perf Goal Base - as of Sept 27, 2012[1].pdf; Department-wide Reports awaiting management response as of September 28 2012[1].pdf

**Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged**

**Office of the Solicitor**
**Weekly Bureau Report for the Week of October 1, 2012**

***Defending Renewable Energy Projects***

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Supreme Court Cases***

***Arkansas Game and Fish Commission v. United States, Supreme Court No. 11- 597.***

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Other Matters***

***Oneida Land-into-Trust Litigation*** - *New York, et al. v. Salazar (N.D.N.Y.)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Post-MDL Deadline Cases under Section 4 of the ESA*** - *Center for Biological Diversity v. Salazar (D.D.C.)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Greater Sage-Grouse*** - *Western Watersheds Project v. Salazar (D. Idaho)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Northern Arizona Withdrawal*** - *Yount v. Salazar and BLM; National Mining Association (NMA) and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) v. Salazar, et al.; Northwest Mining Association (NWMA) v. Salazar, et al.; and Quaterra Alaska Inc. and Mohave County Board of Supervisors v. Salazar, et al. (challenges to Northern Arizona Withdrawal)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Western Oregon Plan Revision*** - *AFRC, et al. v. Salazar (D.D.C.)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Wilderness*** - *Uintah County, Utah v. Salazar* and *State of Utah v. Salazar (D. Utah)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

***Grazing*** - *Western Watersheds Project v. Salazar (D. Idaho)*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

*Anacostia River CERCLA Consent Decree*

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
**THREE WEEK OUT REPORT**
**September 28, 2012**

## WEEK AHEAD

**Petrified Forest National Park (AZ) – Possible Land Donation.** The park has been pursuing acquisition of the 4200-acre McCauley Ranch, authorized by Congress in the Petrified Forest Expansion Act of 2004. The National Parks Conservation Association has recently been approached by an anonymous donor who has expressed an interest in acquiring the ranch on the park's behalf and then donating it. The buyer and sellers are both eager to proceed.

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail (VA) – Land Acquisition.** On September 14 the final phase of acquiring 828 acres of land on the east flank of Shenandoah National Park was completed. This protects resources of the trail. Funding for this acquisition was made possible through the federal highway appropriations and through a funding agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation.

## ON THE HORIZON

**Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA) –White-tailed Deer Management.** The NPS will conduct the third year of lethal reductions of the white-tailed deer in the park from November 2012 through March 2013. This action is meant to protect tree and shrub seedlings from over browsing by an increasing deer population. The Record of Decision for the plan was signed in 2009 and has withstood subsequent legal challenge. The first two years of culling have resulted in a significant reduction in the population and over 13 tons of venison has been donated to regional food banks. There continues to be strong support from the Congressional delegation for taking action.

**Rock Creek Park (DC) – Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Safety Improvements.** The NPS has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the parkway safety improvement project. The project will improve traffic flow and minimize the number of vehicle accidents along the parkway. Construction will begin this fall and will last approximately three months. Closure of one lane of the southbound parkway will occur during a portion of the construction period. Lane closure notices will be sent in advance to the local media, and will be posted on the park's web site one week prior to each closure.

**Big Thicket National Preserve (TX) – Land Donation**. The Conservation Fund is in the process of donating 2,190 acres of land and the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust is donating 13 acres to the park. These lands consist mostly of wetlands and some upland pine, promoting the resources for which the preserve was created. The parties anticipate the land donation to be complete in early to mid-October.

**Everglades National Park (FL) – Cuban Missile Crisis 50th Anniversary.** The park is home to a unique cultural resource, the HM-69 Nike Missile Base which is the most well preserved base of its type and a relic of the Cold War. October 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the park is planning a special Veterans Day open house for the community that will include the arrival and public display of a decommissioned Nike Missile that is currently being renovated by at a local high school. Local media attention is expected during the months of October and November.

**Week Ahead Report**
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
**September 27, 2012**

**National Geographic, FWS to announce National Wildlife Refuges: Chesapeake Bay app on ITunes** FWS has partnered with National Geographic Society and the Chesapeake Conservancy to contract with Project Noah to develop an IPhone app featuring 11 national wildlife refuges in the Chesapeake Bay region. A press event is planned on Oct. 10 at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge. The app will provide users with a digital refuge guide and a way to share wildlife encounters at each refuge. The refuge specific "missions" will be integrated with the broader online Project Noah community of citizen scientists and nature photographers.

**Connecticut River National Blueway MOU Announcement** On September 29, 2012, Deputy Secretary David Hayes will announce a multiagency agreement to support the Connecticut River National Blueway. Deputy Secretary Hayes will be joined representatives of the MOU federal partners including Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Army Terrence "Rock" Salt, Massachusetts State Conservationist Christine Clarke for the National Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Forest Service Supervisor Tom Wagner. Dan Esty of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Andrew Fisk of the Connecticut River Watershed Council will participate in the announcement and a follow-up roundtable discussion with stakeholders. The announcement and roundtable discussion will be held at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut.

**Status of draft environmental impact statement (EIS), Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange and Road.** FWS Alaska reports that the *Federal Register* package for the final documents will be provided for FWS and Department review and approval within the next two to three weeks. FWS Alaska also reports that the Service and its formal cooperators completed review of the preliminary final EIS the end of last week. Formal cooperators include the State of Alaska, King Cove Corporation, City of King Cove, Aleutians East Borough, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Belkofski, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands. The cooperators representing King Cove strongly objected to many aspects of the final EIS. Staff and the third party EIS contractor are reviewing the comments and will meet with the cooperators October 11, 2012 to identify changes that will be made in the final EIS in response to the comments and to identify areas of continuing disagreement. On October 17, 2012 cooperators will meet with Alaska Region Service leadership to air their concerns and make their final recommendations concerning selection of the preferred alternative. We anticipate that the King Cove cooperators will elevate some of their concerns to senior leadership and/or congress. A high level of controversy surrounds this EIS.

**Status of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and final environmental impact statement (EIS):** FWS Alaska reports that the *Federal Register* package for the final documents will be provided for FWS and Department review and approval within the next two weeks. Staff is sending out invitations to affected Tribes inviting them to continue government to government consultation on this project. Release of the final plan and environmental impact statement is planned for November14, 2012, followed 30 days later by the record of decision. A high level of controversy is centered upon this plan.

**Hackmatack Acreage Coming Soon** Midwest Region Realty and Conservation Planning staff expect to close on the first acreage of the newly authorized Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge as soon as the end of October 2012. This acquisition of this land would signal the actual establishment of the refuge.

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

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- *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.*

Weekly Report
September 28, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes
Deputy Secretary

Liz Klein
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

**Senior Officials' Activities Oct 1-12:**
**Anne J. Castle** - Oct 1-9 in DC; Oct 10-12 in Polson, MT to provide a keynote address at the Columbia River Symposium, then meet with stakeholders of the North Fork of the Flathead River.
**John Tubbs** - Oct1-9 in DC; Oct 10-12 in Polson, MT to participate in the Columbia River Symposium and North Fork of the Flathead River activities.
**Lori Caramanian** (b) (6)
**Marcia McNutt** - (b) (6), University of Maryland (College Park) as a distinguished lecturer in the ADVANCE Distinguished Women Scholars Seminar Series. The visit will also include meetings with University faculty and informal discussion with graduate students and postdocs.
**Mike Connor** - Oct 1-3 attending the BDCP Workshop in Sacramento, CA; Oct 4, 5 and 12 in DC; Oct 9-10 attending Reclamation Leadership Team meeting in Denver, CO; Oct 11 attending Chino Basin Event in Ontario, CA.

**Reclamation**

**Conclusion of Mediation Process on Lake Berryessa (California)**
Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region has completed the 2-month mediation process with Pensus Lake Berryessa Properties (Pensus) on the Lake Berryessa Concession Contract. The Region's Central California Area Office conducted several mediation sessions as part of the dispute process with Pensus, but the parties were unable to reach a mutually acceptable settlement agreement. The Notice of Proposed Termination is being referred to the Regional Director (the Contracting Officer) who could decide to terminate the contract with Pensus for the operation of six concession areas at Lake Berryessa. There is no timeline for the decision, but a final determination will be a priority due to the importance of certainty in recreation services at the lake. The Region is developing a roll out plan to announce the decision when it is made.

**Update on San Joaquin River Restoration Program Record of Decision (California)**
It is anticipated that Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region and the California Department of Water Resources will sign the Record of Decision and Notice of Determination within a few weeks after final coordination with the Secretary of the Interior's office. The documents select the Preferred Alternative from the Final Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The Preferred Alternative includes the use of the river channel and bypass system to convey restoration flows and allows for recapture of these flows at existing facilities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and in the San Joaquin River upstream of the Delta at existing facilities or at new facilities that may be constructed in the future.

**Contract Awarded for Construction of Demonstration Drainage Treatment Plant (California)**
Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region awarded a contract on September 21 in the amount of $22,366,900 to Slayden Construction Group, Inc., of Stayton, OR, to construct a Demonstration Treatment Plant for drainage treatment within the Panoche Drainage District reuse areas of California's San Joaquin Valley. The Demo-Plant will occupy a rectangular area, approximately four acres in size, adjacent to and immediately north and east of Panoche's existing perpendicular drainage distribution canals. Pipelines will be constructed to convey drainage water from the seven existing reuse sumps to the Demo-Plant. Drainage water from the reuse sumps will be conveyed to the Demo-Plant for removal of salinity and selenium.

**Interior CERCLA activities at the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt site**
Teck submitted a Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Phase 2 Sediment Study to EPA in July 2012 as part of the RI/FS and in accordance with the 2006 RI/FS Settlement Agreement. EPA provided Teck with their review comments of the draft plan, which included significant technical input from DOI scientists. At the request of EPA, DOI provided a QAPP to conduct confirmatory toxicity testing to evaluate the validity of Teck's laboratory testing. On September 10, 2012, Teck submitted a Notice of Dispute on the Sediment QAPP. The Dispute is based on numerous technical issues, including the need to provide split sediment samples. EPA is preparing an initial response to Teck's Notice of Dispute and will be seeking input from the Participating Parties next week.

**High-Flow Experiment (HFE) from Glen Canyon Dam (Arizona/Utah)**
This fall marks the first season under a multi-year High-Flow Experimental Protocol (Protocol) announced earlier this year. Under the Protocol, high-flow releases are linked to sediment input and other resource conditions below Glen Canyon Dam. Planning is underway to conduct an HFE sometime during the period of November 8 through 25, (these dates are tentative and may change). At this time, sediment estimates appear favorable for an HFE. The magnitude and duration will be determined using the recently implemented Protocol. During the HFE, total releases from Glen Canyon Dam at full bypass could reach approximately 42,000 cubic feet per second and the total experiment, including ramping, could last anywhere from 3 to 6 days. Reclamation's HFE Project Management Team is meeting weekly to coordinate this effort and will communicate regularly with the HFE Leadership Team and Technical Committee. Secretary Salazar is planning to attend the event.

**Withdrawn Land Associated with the Seedskadee Project (Wyoming)**
On September 25, Reclamation's Provo Area Office met with Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming County Commissioner's Office, and the office of the Wyoming Governor in Rock Springs, Wyoming, to discuss Reclamation's proposed revocation of 135,500 acres of withdrawn land associated with the Seedskadee Project. Reclamation set aside the purpose for which these lands were withdrawn in 1962 because the lands cannot feasibly support irrigated agriculture.

**Meetings Scheduled on Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (New Mexico)**
On October 3, Reclamation representatives and the Navajo Nation will hold a Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project coordination meeting to discuss the status of the financial assistance agreement, McKinley Mine land status, and Navajo Nation technical assistance. A Project Construction Committee meeting will be held on October 4, to address key project items including the San Juan Lateral hydraulic optimization study and the status of design, construction permitting, and right-of-way acquisition for project reaches for which the different project participants are responsible (Reclamation, Navajo Nation, City of Gallup, and Indian Health Service).

**Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)**
The Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and Reclamation (the Action Agencies) are implementing the 2008/2010 FCRPS BiOp and the August 2, 2011 Court Order. All FCRPS BiOp implementation is under court order. DOJ is currently considering whether to submit a notice related to the court advisor, a long-standing issue. The Action Agencies will submit the 2011 Annual Progress Report (APR) to NOAA on September 28. The Action Agencies will present the APR to congressional staff and stakeholders on October 1.

**US Geological Survey**

**EOP Panel Briefing on Meeting Water Demands:** USGS scientist Jim Cloern has been invited to participate in a science briefing and panel discussion for Executive Office of the President staff from CEQ, OSTP and career science staff at OMB. The briefing, "Meeting Demands for Water in Changing Ecological and Social Landscapes," is being coordinated by COMPASS and will convene a panel of natural and social science experts with expertise in multiple large ecosystems, including the San Francisco Bay Delta, Everglades, Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay, and the Colorado River System. Dr. Cloern's expertise is aquatic ecology, with a long-term view on ecological change in San Francisco Bay, especially with respect to climate signals, drawn from nearly 40 years of studying the ecosystem. The briefing is scheduled for October 11.

**Impacts of Hurricane Isaac on Shorebirds in the Isles Dernières Barrier Island Chain Investigated**: Avian ecologists at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) surveyed shorebirds on part of Trinity Island, Whiskey Island, and west Raccoon Island, part of the Isles Dernières chain in Terrebonne Parish, La. Surveys were conducted one week prior and one week after Hurricane Isaac made landfall. Prior to the hurricane, shorebirds were abundant on the western edge of Whiskey Island in the shallow interior areas retaining water and where there was an abundance of biofilm on the sand. Wrack and sand movement during the hurricane surge scoured the biofilm from the sand. Counts after the hurricane suggest a lack of the biofilm

influenced shorebird abundance more than other issues because the number of most other species increased post-Isaac. The role of microtopographical changes in foraging patterns of shorebirds is being investigated by comparison of laser-scanned surface features from before and after the storm's passage.

**Hurricane Isaac and Satellite Radar Flood Inundation Products**: The International Charter: Space and Major Disasters was activated by USGS on behalf of FEMA on August 31, in response to flooding of coastal Louisiana and Mississippi due to Hurricane Isaac. In reply to the charter call, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data from RadarSat-1, Cosmo Skymed, and TerraSAR-X were made available. The Remote Sensing Applied Research (RSAR) group at NWRC prepared flood inundation extents using Radarsat-1 data that estimated the occurrence of residual flooding in Plaquemines Parish and Slidell, La. An evaluation to produce flood maps with pre- and post-Isaac TerraSAR-X data covering Louisiana and Mississippi is being prepared.

**Avian Influenza Sampling in Iceland**: This fall, two researchers from the USGS National Wildlife Health Center will participate in a collaborative field study in Iceland to investigate the ecology of avian influenza in wild birds. This study began in 2010 and is funded by the National Institute of Health through the Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance. A better understanding of the ecology of avian influenza in birds in this region will enhance our ability to assess the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza and other diseases that may be transported by migratory birds to the United States.

**Minimum Requirements of Distribution of Sage-Grouse in the West:** This week, USGS ecologists will present "Modeling ecological minimum requirements for distribution of greater sage-grouse leks: Implications for population connectivity across their western range" at the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) steering committee meeting in Moran, Wyo. Greater sage-grouse currently occupy approximately half of their historical range across western North America and are a candidate for endangered species listing. Loss of required sagebrush habitats due to agriculture, energy development, roads, wildfire, and invasive plants has contributed to declining sage-grouse populations in some areas. The authors present preliminary results about the core set of environmental factors necessary to support sage-grouse occurrence.

**Raven Flights over Elwha Dam Project**: The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Project Office, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, will be flying the Raven RQ-11 UAS over the Elwha Dam Removal and Restoration Project areas in Olympic National Park near Port Angeles, Wash. The flights will be the second mission within a three-month period to monitor sediment movement in the Elwha River corridor. The proof-of-concept low-altitude UAS flights provide a time series of high-resolution aerial images to use for scientific analysis and create a historical archive for monitoring the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dam removals for river and fish habitat restoration.

**Distinguished Career Award:** Dr. E. Lynn Usery, Director of the USGS Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science (CEGIS) received the Distinguished Career Award from the Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CGIS). The exclusive award was presented at the recent AutoCarto International Symposium. Dr. Usery was recognized for his research accomplishments, vision, and leadership in academia and government, as well as for his outstanding service to CGIS and the international geospatial community. Due to the stringent nomination requirements, this is the first time since 2008 that the award has been conferred.

**Alaska Unmanned Aircraft Systems Interest Group and Stakeholders Conference**: USGS scientist Mike Hutt will speak at the Alaska Unmanned Aircraft Systems Interest Group and Stakeholders Conference being held this week in Anchorage, Alaska. UAS stakeholders from a variety of agencies, associations, educational institutions, and commercial interests from across the nation will meet to discuss their respective roles, UAS related technologies, current applications, potential projects, and further integration of UAS into national, oceanic and international airspace. Mike Hutt's presentation will address the benefits of using small UASs within the USGS scientific research mission and in support of Department of the Interior Bureaus.

**New Study Demonstrates Linkages between River Discharge and Marine Nearshore Productivity in the Arctic:** A new study by USGS Alaska Science Center biologists on the stable isotope signatures and diets of young-of-year Arctic cisco (*Coregonus autumnalis*) from the Beaufort Sea, has been recently published online in *Polar Biology*. Rapid young-of-year growth was supported by terrestrial carbon sources obtained by consuming a mixture of nearshore and offshore zooplankton. This study added to understanding of the importance of river discharge to productivity of the peripheral seas of the Arctic Ocean, which provide habitat for fishes, birds and marine mammals. The Arctic is warming faster than other parts of the earth, and concomitant shifts in the magnitude or phenology of river discharge and the delivery of terrestrial carbon may alter nearshore food webs.

**Climate Change Adaptation Needs in Indigenous North America:** Last week, USGS tribal liaisons, Eric Wood and Monique Fordham, attended the "Climate Change Adaptation Planning: Facilitating Action to Address Climate Change Adaptation Needs in Indigenous North America" forum at the Village of Kanatakon (St. Regis) in Akwesasne, the Mohawk reserve/reservation that straddles the U.S. and Canadian borders. The forum was organized to provide perspectives from tribal/First Nation representatives and leadership, community members, and indigenous organizations, as well as representatives from U.S. and Canadian agencies on the topics of climate change predictability, the value of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in risk assessment, linkages between climate change and community vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies. The diverse range of presenters and attendees provided numerous opportunities to share information about USGS activities and to network with indigenous participants and agency representatives in order to explore potential future collaborations.

**NRC Report - Leveraging Spatial Data to Advance Science:** This October, the National Research Council (NRC) will release a report that provides options and strategies for the USGS to more effectively leverage its spatial data resources to meet the strategic science needs of the bureau through a spatial data infrastructure (SDI). The report is the result of a 2008 grant awarded to NRC by USGS. The report identifies existing knowledge and lessons learned from prior efforts to develop SDIs in support of science, shares a vision to optimize scientific data accessibility and usability through an SDI and provides an organizational roadmap to accomplish the vision. NRC will be briefing the Department and Congress on the recommendations in this report.

**Boat Surveys of Eelgrass Communities Completed along the Lower Alaska Peninsula:** Scientists with the USGS Alaska Science Center, US Fish and Wildlife Service and University of British Columbia recently completed a 20-day boat cruise to conduct baseline surveys of eelgrass communities along the south side of the lower Alaska Peninsula. Eelgrass is the dominant seagrass community of southwest Alaska and an important habitat and food source for numerous

species. However, the distribution of eelgrass has remained largely unmapped and described in the region. The surveys are part of a more comprehensive project to develop a monitoring program for eelgrass at four national wildlife refuges including Alaska Peninsula, Izembek, Togiak and Yukon Delta.

**Denali Caribou Population Dynamics Research Continues:** USGS research biologists from the Alaska Science Center captured and recollared caribou from the Denali Caribou Herd as part of ongoing population dynamics research sponsored by the National Park Service. This project began in 1983 and represents the longest, ongoing study of its kind on caribou in North America. The collected information helps monitor population numbers, estimate calf production and recruitment, female and male survival and overall herd composition.

**New Book on Using Telemetry to Study Aquatic Animals**: USGS research fishery biologists Noah Adams and John Beeman and NOAA Biologist John Eiler co-edited a book published by the American Fisheries Society titled "Telemetry Techniques: A User Guide for Fishery Research." Beeman is also lead author of two sections and co-author of another. The book is a guide to the use of radio and acoustic telemetry to monitor movements of aquatic animals authored by subject matter experts from the academic, private, and government sectors.

**Florida and Illinois Make 48:** People who want access to digital topographic maps for any of the lower 48 states can now count on the US Topo. The US Topo project, which is part of the USGS national map series, recently released new maps for Florida and Illinois, adding over 2,000 new map quadrangles for the lower 48 states. These updates increase the total collection to nearly 54,000 new US Topo maps, with Hawaii to be added soon and plans being developed for Alaska. US Topo maps are available for free download from *The National Map* and USGS Map Store Website.

**Media:**

**Reuters and Climate Change**: USGS scientist Virginia Burkett was interviewed by Reuters about current and projected rates of sea-level rise. Dr. Burkett addressed questions about the causes of sea-level rise and what coastal communities are doing to mitigate sea-level rise. Dr. Burkett explained that most coastal communities are focused on adaptation and provided the reporter with several examples.

**Congressional Activities:**

- **Ranking Member Napolitano to visit local stream gage:** Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-38), ranking member of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water & Power, has requested to visit a local USGS stream gage to better understand how they work and discuss the value and operation status of the National Streamflow Information Program with USGS representatives. The Congresswoman will either visit a gage at Rock Creek in D.C. or possibly come to USGS Headquarters for a tour, discussions and visit a gage in Fairfax County. Some staff from the Subcommittee may join the Congresswoman.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**
**BUREAU REPORT FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD**
**BEGINNING September 28, 2012**

Week Ahead

Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement October 2, 2012 ~ Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement, Lawrence, KS. The Acting BIE Director will attend.

National Haskell Board of Regents bi-annual meeting October 3, 2012 ~ National Haskell Board of Regents bi-annual meeting, Lawrence, KS. The Acting Director will attend.

Coming weeks:

Restoring the Circle October 10-11, 2012 ~ Restoring the Circle: Ending Violence and Abuse on Tribal College and University Campuses Initiative, Lawrence, KS. Roll out event will include training and student awareness activities.

National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference October 14-16, 2012 ~ National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference entitled "An everlasting Educational Gift," will be held in Albuquerque, NM at the Albuquerque Marriott. SIPI President Dr. Sherry Allison will serve as a keynote speaker.

National Indian Education Association October 18-21, 2012 ~ National Indian Education Association: Advancing Native Education in the Age of Digital Learning, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK. The Acting Director will address Tribal Leaders on October 17.

National Congress of American Indians 69th Annual Convention October 21-26, 2012 ~, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, California.

"*Balancing Eagle Protection and Native American Rights: A Federal Commitment*" ~ October 15-16, Columbia, SC. Trainer for course at the Tribal and Federal Training on Wildlife and Pollution Enforcement Issues Affecting Tribal Lands and serving on panel entitled "Balancing Eagle Protection and Native American Rights: A Federal Commitment" on behalf of the Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs.

*Bison transfer, National Bison Range and related Bison issues* ~ October 16-18, Pablo, MT Speaking On behalf of Acting Assistant Secretary Indian-Affairs with the Assistant Secretary Fish & Wildlife Service with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes on Bison transfer, National Bison Range and related Bison issues; possible meeting with Governor of Montana.

*National Congress of American Indians* ~ October 22-24, Sacramento, CA National Congress of American Indians

*Arizona Association for Economic Development* ~ October 2 Phoenix. Speaking at the Arizona Association for Economic Development on Indian Country Economic Development issues.

Outreach/ Planned Events:
None.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

September 28, 2012

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Attn: James E. Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Michele F. Singer, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for September 24 – September 28, 2012

**Office of the Special Trustee (OST)**
**Assistant Secretary Weekly Report**

**Schedule and Activities**

- The PDST will conduct business in Washington, DC, October 1-5.
- The PDST will conduct business in Albuquerque, NM, October 9-12.

**Review** – September 24 – September 28

- **Update: *Cobell*: Settlement Payout Process and Land Consolidation Implementation Plan**
  While the payments from the $3.4 billion *Cobell* settlement will be delayed as a result of the Plaintiffs' appeal, OST continues working with BIA, SOL, and Garden City Group (GCG) in laying the groundwork for efficient distribution of funds and the implementation of the Land Consolidation Plan. OST recently began developing a database containing beneficiary data that will eventually be verified by Accurint. OST, along with other DOI offices, will determine which database fields require Accurint's assistance in verifying the information. Preliminarily, SOL has notified OST that the *Cobell* payments for eligible estates (estates eligible pursuant to the settlement agreement) are non-trust, and GCG is responsible to administer the payout. OST will assist with database sharing and research as requested and authorized.

- **Update: U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (DDC) Tribal Litigation for Quinn-Leinbach, Settlement Proposal to the Obama Administration (SPOA) Tribes, and other Litigating Tribes**
  Settlement negotiations are continuing and OST maintains its support to SOL and DOJ on reaching settlement with litigating tribes. In addition to supporting efforts for achieving settlement and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sessions, the Court has returned at least one case to the trial docket and active litigation has commenced with intense trial preparation and discovery requests. Given the weekly developments from court proceedings, OST continues to refine and refocus its efforts to match court-imposed schedules. Certain discovery schedules may pose considerable challenges for OST resources.

OST's Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) awarded a contract for historical research to Morgan, Angel and Associates to assist with a wide range of trust fund and trust resource projects, including litigation support. The contractor is expected to begin work on September 28.

- **Update: Inter-Agency Agreements (IAAs) and with Department of Treasury**
  OST continues to make progress on implementing and developing Inter-agency Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with the Department of Treasury. The IAAs formalize OST's current practice of investing certain tribal funds on behalf of Treasury. With the assistance of SOL and Treasury's legal department, OST has completed three IAAs and has been reimbursed $90,000 for managing and investing the funds. OST and Treasury continue work on completing reimbursable agreements for two funds for FY 2012 and have commenced with preliminary discussions with certain Tribes for two funds that will be established in FY 2013.

- **New: Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office**
  On September 25-26, OST's Western Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator (RTA) presented at the Team Chairs meeting of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office in San Francisco. The RTA attended with Karen Lindquist (SOL) to discuss the importance of crafting precise statutory language for Indian Water Settlements. OST has a unique perspective on the impact of statutory language in Indian Water Settlements given that OST is responsible for establishing the resulting trust accounts for the Indian beneficiaries receiving settlement funds. Other attendees included representatives from the Office of the Secretary, SOL, BIA, and AS-IA.

- **New: Beneficiary Outreach**
  On September 23-27, the Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) for the Umatilla Agency, Pendleton, OR, is attending the Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and is supporting the event by meeting beneficiaries and providing them with information regarding Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts, the availability of direct deposit and debit cards for trust income, the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA), financial education training, and locating Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) accountholders.

**On the Horizon**

- **New:** Indian Land Working Group 22nd Annual Indian Land Consolidation Symposium, October 15-18.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

September 28, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Liz Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o James Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: September 28, 2012, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

## POLICY

**PMB Assistance to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regarding Outreach to Native Hawaiians.** The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations has been assisting the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in planning for outreach meetings to the Native Hawaiian community between fall 2012 and spring 2013. BOEM's Pacific Regional Director and a couple of staff will be in Honolulu next week to attend an ocean policy workshop, and we are assisting in setting up a meeting between BOEM and the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We will also meet with the BOEM staff to discuss BOEM's participation as a cooperating agency with the US Department of Energy and the State of Hawai'i in the Hawai'i Clean Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement as well as future environmental review processes.

## MANAGEMENT

**Wildland Fire Activity.** Currently there are 35 uncontained large fires burning in the U.S., primarily in the Northwest. As of September 24, three large fires are burning on DOI lands in Alaska (on BLM land), North Dakota (on BIA lands), and Wyoming (on BIA lands). There are currently 11,800 interagency firefighters assigned to wildland fire suppression, including 1,968 DOI personnel.

It is important to note that we obligated our suppression and FLAME fund balances in the Wildland Fire account totaling $455 million and transferred $13.9 million from other fire operational activities to funds suppression. We are now executing a transfer of $15.5 million from the National Park Service Construction Account to ensure adequate funds are available to

close the fiscal year. The Continuing Resolution includes $23 million in funds that can be used to repay the funds borrowed from NPS. We will execute that transfer at the beginning of FY 2013.

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month**. The Department of the Interior (DOI) joins the Nation in observing National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 1-31, 2012. Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" In observance of NDEAM, the Bureau of Reclamation and the DOI Office of Human Resources are sponsoring a workshop on October 17, 2012, in the Main Interior Building, Conference Room 7637. Mr. Timothy Bladek, Attorney Advisor, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is facilitating the workshop on hiring authorities for persons with disabilities. In addition, Reclamation is sponsoring an exhibit of information and resources on disability employment awareness. The exhibit is on display October 9-31, 2012 in the Main Interior Building Cafeteria.

**BUDGET**

**FY 2013 Appropriations Congressional Action.** On September 12, the House passed a six month Continuing Resolution (H.J. Res. 117) and the Senate passed the measure on September 22. The bill extends government funding through March 27, 2013 at the 2012 enacted level plus an across-the-board increase of 0.612 percent.

The CR includes the 2013 level of Wildland Fire funding, $726.5 million, as compared to the 2012 enacted level of $575.4 million, and an appropriation of $23 million to repay accounts impacted by borrowing for fire funding. The CR also, includes a legislative clarification of the AML language included in the Transportation authorization bill, in order to ensure that only the payment to Wyoming will be impacted by the termination of payments to States that have certified that they have completed abandoned mine remediation.

The bill requires submission of an operating plan to Congress on the proposed execution of the CR, within 30 days of enactment. The bill requires an update to this operating plan within 30 days of implementation of the automatic sequester triggered by the Budget Control Act. Lastly, the bill requires monthly reporting from the Director of the OMB to Congressional Committees on all obligations incurred by each Department and agency through March 27, 2013. Bureaus are developing operating plans. The 30-day period for plan preparation and review by DOI and OMB is very short. Bureaus were asked to prepare full year plans with an increment of six months.

**2013 Senate Appropriations**. The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee posted a draft bill on Monday, September 24. The Senate Subcommittee mark for the Interior Appropriations Bill provides $10.5 billion for the Department of the Interior; this is $499 million or 5.0% above the House mark, $22 million above the 2013 request, and $163 million or 1.6% above the 2012 enacted level.

- For Interior programs funded in LWCF the Senate bill includes $267 million, $220 million above the House mark, $65 million below the 2013 request, and $50 million above 2012.
    - Federal land acquisition totals $174 million, $38 million below the request, and $27 million above 2012, and $141 million above the House mark.
    - LWCF State Grants total $46 million, a reduction of $14 million below the request, nearly equal to the 2012 enacted level, and $43 million above the House mark. The Senate does not fund the competitive stateside grants proposal.
    - Cooperative Endangered Species Grants total $48 million, $12 million below the request, $23 million above 2012, and $36 million above the House mark.
- The Senate proposes to charge on-shore inspection fees, which would generate $48 million to fund the BLM inspection program. The budget proposed this, but the House did not support this.
- The Senate includes a rescission of $86 million in FWS Coastal Impact Assessment Program balances. The budget proposed to rescind $200 million. The House did not include the rescission.
- Based on our work with the staffs over the last several months, the bill includes new language for BOEM and BSEE that simplifies their management of offsetting collections from rental revenues.
- The bill includes an extension to the authorities for heritage areas that sunset in 2012.
- The Senate bill includes a provision for Hawaiian recognition.
- The Senate bill includes a provision authorizing a new NPS unit – the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Title V
- The Senate bill includes a provision designating wilderness areas in Montana to be managed by BLM. Title VI
- The Senate bill releases BLM wilderness study areas. Title VII

**2013 Sequestration Action.** On September 14, the White House issued a statutorily required report on the amounts to be sequestered if action is not taken to avert the actions required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The Act requires a sequester to take place on January 2, 2013 to achieve spending reductions totaling $1.2 trillion over ten years. The report identifies an estimated sequester level for non-defense programs of 8.2 percent for discretionary and 7.6 percent for mandatory spending, as well as accounts exempt from the sequester. The report's assumptions indicate a reduction of $1.3 billion, or 5.64 percent of Interior funding in both discretionary and mandatory would occur under the sequestration. The bureaus have submitted preliminary estimates of impacts. We have asked OMB to clear the document in order to be able to share the information.

**OTHER**

**IG/GAO Reports.** The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

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## POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

**New: Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations (PRFAs).** REO Albuquerque received requests from FWS Tulsa, Oklahoma, Field Office, to check on the status of two oil spill cases to determine if the cases are still open so reimbursement requests can be submitted: 1) Tarwater Oil and Gas LLC - Doneghy Lease, Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, April 13, 2011 - $5000 PRFA was approved and the case is still open; and 2) R. L. Smith Trucking Company, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, February 21, 2012 - $5000 PRFA was approved and the case is still open. REO also prepared and submitted a PRFA for $20,000 for FWS to assist the response to Hurricane Isaac spills. This PRFA was not approved when it was determined that on-site assistance was not necessary and Endangered Species Act Section 7 emergency consultation would be performed remotely from the Lafayette, Louisiana, Field Office. Also, the REO submitted additional cost recovery information for the Breton Sound, Louisiana, Mystery Spill, June 8, 2011, to provide information justifying disapproved indirect costs of $698.56.

**New: Coastal Area Contingency Plan Revisions.** REO Albuquerque participated on a conference call with U.S. Coast Guard District 8 and the coastal Coast Guard units to discuss process of revising the six plans in the District 8 area of responsibility. In addition to response for routine spills, plans will also focus on predicted worst-case discharges determined in collaboration with BSEE. Coast Guard District 8 will discontinue support of the One Gulf Plan in favor of one traditional Regional Contingency Plan which will fold in the existing Inland Contingency Plan. A great deal of work will need to be completed by the Coast Guard Headquarters deadline of May 1, 2013.

**New: Green County Oil Spill, Greene County, Iowa, September 13, 2012.** REO Albuquerque submitted Pollution Removal Funding Authorization Amendment #1 to increase the funding ceiling by $28,460.00 to a total of $38,460.00 to support assistance to the EPA On-Scene Coordinator from the Fish and Wildlife Service. As much as 20,000 gallons of waste oil leaked from an above-ground storage tank into the North Raccoon River which provides designated critical habitat for the federally-listed endangered minnow known as the Topeka shiner.

**New: Final National Priorities List (NPL) sites in Region 6** - REO Albuquerque received notice of finalized listings for four NPL Sites. Sent background fact sheets for each site to appropriate bureau contacts and requested their determination regarding interest in participating on the site teams organized by the EPA Remedial Project Managers (RPMs). Once received, the REO will provide the information to the RPMs and request they consider adding the representatives of the bureaus to the teams developing the cleanup remedy and also consider providing funding for their technical assistance. Following are the Sites: 1) Circle Court Groundwater Plume, Willow Park, Texas; 2) U.S. Oil Recovery, Pasadena, Texas; 3) Cedar

Chemical Corporation, West Helena, Arkansas; and 4) EVR-Wood Treating/Evangeline Refining Company, Jennings, Louisiana.

**New: Shell Puget Sound Refinery Oil Spill Exercise** - REO Portland participated in the Shell Oil Refinery worst-case oil spill exercise in Seattle, Washington, on September 20, 2012. This exercise simulated a 300,000 barrel spill into Fidalgo Bay with the potential to impact a National Wildlife Refuge, National Historic Site, and several Tribal communities. During the exercise, REO Portland coordinated with USFWS personnel on site to determine staffing needs for implementing the Wildlife Response Plan during the first 30 days of response activities. REO Portland also worked with the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and National Pollution Fund Center to exercise Pollution Removal Funding Authorization development and approval procedures. One of DOI's goals for the exercise was to raise awareness of potential impacts to cultural and historic resources and simulate the activation of a Historic Properties Specialist (HPS). REO Portland ensured that measures to minimize impacts to cultural resources were documented and communicated to responders and that a HPS was requested and deployed. This exercise provided a great opportunity for REO Portland to educate other responding agencies on how best to coordinate with Tribal and State experts in order to identify potentially impacted cultural resources and provide for their protection.

**New: Bureau NEPA Coordinators Meeting** - The Bureau NEPA Coordinators met with OEPC's Natural Resources Management Team on Wednesday, 9/26 to discuss draft updates to the Office's Environmental Statement Memoranda series. Some information previously provided in ESM is now available on the Team's website, where it can more readily be updated. Also discussed was EPA's new procedure for electronically filing environmental impact statements.

**New: EPA Federal Facilities Remediation and Reuse Office (FFRRO) Quarterly Meeting** - The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance met with the FFRRO staff on Tuesday, Sep 25th, to discuss various remediation topics. These topics include EPA's Federal Facility Evaluation Program website, Information Sharing Webinar, Five Year Workgroup activities, Federal Facility Docket, and Federal Mining Dialogue update.

**Update: Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, Fort Wingate Depot Activity, New Mexico** - REO Albuquerque received the Final Phase 1 Assessment from BIA Southwest Region for acquisition of four parcels of land on Fort Wingate for possible placement into tribal trust status. Two Recognized Environmental Conditions were documented in the report, but they are of relatively minor consequence and it will most likely be recommended that the transfer proceed following Office of the Regional Solicitor review.

**Update: Navajo Pinabete Coal Mine/Four Corners Power Plant Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)** - REO Albuquerque has now received six of the nine signatures needed to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding among the cooperators preparing the subject DEIS.

**Update: Regional Response Team Decision-making on Dispersants.** The San Francisco REO participated on September 17 in a conference call of Regional Response Team (RRT) IX's

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Applied Response Technologies Committee members to discuss ways to improve future RRT decisions on dispersants. The call was scheduled following a memo from the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, who also participated. Due to key personnel shifts in EPA, U.S. Coast Guard and CA Office of Spill Prevention and Response and ever-tightening travel budget restrictions, we discussed dispersant decision-making processes being streamlined and updated. All agreed on the need to amend RRT policy to establish common practices for decision making on dispersants as well as the need to train Area Committee members. Participants will continue the discussion on October 1.

**Update: M/V Jireh** - Atlanta REPA has been actively involved in the planning and coordination of the removal of the grounded vessel Jireh. On Scene Coordinator, Coast Guard, State Emergency Response Team, Unified Command, and others confirmed uncertainty if the remaining structural integrity and stability of M/V JIREH is cut away and refloated. As a result, future intentions are to initiate a complete dismantle, dispose, and recycle ashore. This may add another six weeks to the schedule. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund ceiling currently is at $12M. Plans are to sell scrap to offset the cost. NOAA is coordinating with Sector San Juan and National Marine Fisheries Service for new Best Management Practices relative to the change in operations. The Sector and NOAA will address Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat and National Historic Preservation Act 106 consultations.

**Update: BP Deepwater Horizon MC 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico, April 20, 2010** - REO Albuquerque received the following approved Pollution Removal Funding Authorization Amendments (PRFAs) to support bureau/office assistance to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator: 1) DOI – National Park Service (NPS) Amendment 25 which adds $473,325.20 to bring the total funding ceiling up to $24,026,405.16 to cover increased staffing for oversight of cleanup on NPS lands; and 2) DOI -U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Amendment 13 which adds $253,185.30 to increase the total authorized funding up to $6,872,323.30 to cover the costs of coastal processes modeling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico being performed by USGS in St. Petersburg, Florida, and covers the cost of overseeing the Operational Science Advisory Team 3 (OSAT3) in New Orleans as it develops its report. REO also submitted DOI – Fish and Wildlife Service PRFA Amendment 23 which, if approved, will allow spending of $274,125.00 through December 31, 2012 under the existing funding ceiling but will decrease the total funding ceiling by $1,600,000.00 to $65,830,097.90.

**Update: NEC FUTURE Scoping Meeting** - The Boston Regional Environmental Officer and Regional Environmental Protection Assistant participated in the September 24 Scoping Webinar for NEC FUTURE, a rail investment plan and Environmental Impact Analysis for the Northeast Corridor. The meeting consisted of a project overview including purpose, alternatives and challenges. This was followed by a period of questions and discussion. A summary report will be prepared from the comments from the nine in-person scoping meetings and the webinar and is expected to be completed in the next month.

**Completed:** Annual Anchorage Earthquake Annex Exercise Held - The annual exercise of the DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska: Anchorage Earthquake Annex, was held on September 27, 2012. The exercise was designed to provide Anchorage-based DOI Initial Responders with

the opportunity to become more familiar with their roles and responsibilities following a major earthquake in the Anchorage area. The exercise included a discussion session for all Anchorage-based DOI Initial Responders and use of the dedicated emergency response handheld radio communication system in the 25 buildings in Anchorage where approximately 1,500 DOI Bureau employees work and/or where equipment and materials useful in disaster response are stored. The OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for the Alaska-based DOI disaster preparedness and response program.

**Completed: Revised DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska Signed by Alaska Cooperative Planning Group.** On September 24, the Alaska Cooperative Planning Group (which is chaired by the Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs and is comprised of the DOI Bureau and Office "regional directors" in Alaska) approved and signed the March 2012 revision to the DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska. The plan helps ensure that Alaska-based DOI Bureaus/Offices can immediately respond to Alaska-based DOI Bureau/Office emergencies and provide timely and coordinated assistance among those DOI Bureaus/Offices and their approximately 3,000 employees located in 30 communities throughout the State. The plan includes detailed information on responses to major earthquakes in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, terrorism incidents, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and any other incident where one or more DOI Bureaus requires assistance to save lives and/or property. Plan updates are now being distributed to appropriate DOI Bureau/Office disaster response planning contacts. The OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for the Alaska-based DOI disaster preparedness and response program.

**Office of Policy Analysis**

**New: Fractionated Land Interests on Reservations**. Policy Analysis is assisting staff within PMB charged with implementing the component of the Cobell settlement focused on reducing the number of fractionated land interests on reservations.

**New: FY 2012 Annual Report on Technology Transfer.** Policy Analysis is convening a working group on technology transfer to develop the Department's annual submission to OMB and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on technology transfer activities within DOI for FY 2012. The report is required under OMB Circular A-11 and the Federal Technology Transfer Act, as amended, and is due by the end of January 2013.

**New: National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) Date Set.** The annual National Invasive Species Awareness Week is slated for March 3-8, 2013 in Washington, DC, with state, federal, local and tribal officials, non-governmental organizations, industry representatives and stakeholder groups to examine laws, policies, and creative approaches to prevent and reduce invasive species threats to our health, economy, and environment. NISAW partners include the National Invasive Species Council, the Weed Science Society of America, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Center for Invasive Plant Management.

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**Update: NRDAR South River Case Support.** At the request of FWS, Policy Analysis participated in a meeting with State of Virginia resource managers on 9/24 to review restoration options for the South River damage assessment case. This case is a cooperative assessment with DuPont for releases of mercury. The Office provided a written summary of restoration options, including data needs, for analysis of potential compensatory restoration in Belize for injury to songbirds. Belize is the over-wintering area for many songbirds that reproduce in the South River area. Over-wintering health is critical for songbird migration back to Virginia and effective reproduction. The next Trustee Council meeting is scheduled for October 9-11.

**Ongoing: Agency Climate Change Adaptation Efforts.** Policy Analysis worked with the Deputy Secretary's office to prepare a Departmental Manual chapter on climate change adaptation. The revised chapter awaits final Deputy Secretary approval.

**Ongoing: Analysis of the FWS Conservation Banking Program.** Policy Analysis developed an initial outline for conducting the analysis of the conservation banking program, as requested by FWS.

**Ongoing: Indian Labor Force Report.** Policy Analysis is participating in an Indian Affairs led workgroup to develop a new approach to updating to the Indian Labor Force Report. Discussions during meetings attended by staff from the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and OMB have indicated that there is a potential to use existing Census data to update the report. It is also likely that the effort will expand to eventually developing economic statistics on Indian Country that are consistent with the economic measures of the National Economic Accounts of the US.

**Ongoing: Integrated Arctic Management.** Policy Analysis is working closely with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, under the auspices of the Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting, to coordinate an interagency Integrated Arctic Management (IAM) initiative. Policy Analysis provided Deputy Secretary's office with a position description and other parameters for an AK-based field coordinator, which he circulated by memorandum on September 6. Several good candidates from differing agencies were offered as the coordinator, and John Bengston, the Director of NOAA's National Marine Mammal lab, has been selected. The Secretary's office in Anchorage will provide office space. The BLM and USGS are providing funding for data collection and analysis, which will be done with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. The first priority is an interim report to the President on the issue from the Interagency Working Group, due December 31.

**Office of Native Hawaiian Relations**

**Update: ONHR Facilitating Response to Impacts on Endangered Nehe Plant on Hawaiian Home Lands.** ONHR coordinated a conference call of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff from the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO) and the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) to discuss the federal response to a potential intentional taking of a number

of endangered Nehe plants on Hawaiian home lands previously identified in 1993 by the USFWS. The USFWS previously provided recommendations to the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and it appears that none of the recommendations were implemented. Activities in the area of a previously documented population of Nehe was witnessed and stopped in March 2012. ONHR is helping to facilitate a site visit by USFWS, DHHL, and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Potential federal citations are predicated on state citations which would be issued by DLNR, through its Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) working in conjunction with DOFAW. OLE would like to work with DOCARE and DOFAW to reach a resolution. PIFWO would like to work with DHHL and DOFAW to develop a remediation and mitigation plan.

**Update: ONHR Assistance to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regarding Outreach to Native Hawaiians.** ONHR has been assisting the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in planning for outreach meetings to the Native Hawaiian community between fall 2012 and spring 2013. BOEM's Pacific Regional Director and a couple of staff will be in Honolulu next week to attend an ocean policy workshop, and ONHR is assisting in setting up a meeting between BOEM and the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs. ONHR will also meet with the BOEM staff to discuss BOEM's participation as a cooperating agency with the US Department of Energy and the State of Hawai'i in the Hawai'i Clean Energy Programmatic EIS as well as future environmental review processes.

**New: Papahānaumokuākea Cultural Working Group and Native Hawaiian Plan.** ONHR attended an inter-agency working group meeting to review the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' (ONMS) draft Native Hawaiian Plan which is one of the stepdown plans from the General Management Plan for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). ONMS is seeking federal agency comments and suggestions. USFWS has encouraged ONHR's involvement in the PMNM Cultural Working Group as well, and the ONMS is seeking stronger DOI/USFWS involvement. ONHR is coordinating with the USFWS's Acting Monument Manager to provide guidance.

**New: Incorporation of Native Hawaiian Cultural Monitoring into Section 106 Memoranda of Agreement and Programmatic Agreements and NAGPRA Plans of Action and Comprehensive Agreements.** ONHR has been involved in discussions with representatives of the City and County of Honolulu, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Native Hawaiian organizations, and other interested parties seeking to develop Native Hawaiian cultural monitoring programs to be incorporated into Section 106 and NAGPRA consultations and subsequent agreements and plans of action.

**Office of International Affairs**

**New: Kosovo Minister for Economic Development:** OIA coordinated a meeting with the Kosovo Minister of Economic Development on September 25. Chaired by the DAS for Policy and International Affairs, the meeting addressed developments in the Kosovar mining sector and

the Minister's request to learn more about our domestic activities on coal and other solid minerals. BLM and OSMRE provided technical presentations.

**New: Oman Ranger Skills Training:** Two OIA-ITAP ranger training specialists are travelling to Oman September 25 – October 9 to deliver two ranger skills trainings to field rangers from a number of natural resource management entities. OIA-ITAP will also facilitate a workshop to contribute to Oman's efforts to develop a long-term strategic vision for the professional development of the rangers. This activity is funded by the Department of State.

**New: ESTH Tradecraft Course:** On September 20, OIA staff went to the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in Arlington, VA, to give an overview of DOI's international programs to the latest cohort of Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Foreign Service Officers heading overseas to their new posts.

**Update: Panama Wildlife Enforcement:** OIA-ITAP organized a wildlife enforcement workshop in Panama September 20-21 to support the Central America Wildlife Enforcement Network. DOI and the Attorney General of Panama convened police, customs, environmental prosecutors, and CITES authorities to improve interagency and international collaboration in the investigation of wildlife crimes. Law enforcement experts from USFWS joined 36 other participants in the event, which was funded by the Department of State.

**Update: Morocco Planning and Oversight Visit:** The OIA-ITAP Director and Project Management team are travelling to Morocco September 18-26 for project planning and monitoring in support of the trade-related environmental cooperation activities being implemented by ITAP. OIA-ITAP will meet with key Government of Morocco and NGO counterparts as well as U.S. Embassy Rabat, USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation and Peace Corps. This activity is funded by the Department of State.

**Update: Peru Timber**: On September 18, the Interagency Committee established under the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Act (TPA) to address concerns about the legality of Peru's timber trade met to discuss next steps in response to a petition from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). The EIA petition alleges that certain timber concessions in Peru are being used to illegally harvest timber, some of which may then enter the U.S. market. OIA and the Solicitor will continue to staff representatives of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, who is Interior's member on the Committee.

**Update: Trade Policy:** On September 27, OIA will participate in a meeting of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC), an advisory body to the U.S. Trade Representative comprised of civil society and private sector stakeholders. EPA Administrator Jackson and U.S. Trade Representative Kirk will update the TEPAC on ongoing and potential trade negotiations and implementation of existing trade agreements. On September 21, OIA represented DOI at a meeting of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) chaired by USTR, to discuss the potential for negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU.

**Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment**

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**New: Meeting with Chinese Delegation to discuss oil spill response and Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration.** On September 24, 2012, Rick Dawson (ORDA) and David Behler (OEPC) and representatives from BSEE were invited by the U.S. Coast Guard to meet at Coast Guard Headquarters with members of the Republic of China's State Oceanic Administration to discuss U.S. oil spill response organization, techniques, pre-spill planning, and natural resource damage assessment and restoration.

**Update: Calendar Year 2013 Applications for Damage Assessment Funding.** September 24 was the due date for applications from case teams for damage assessment funding for calendar year 2013. The ORDA has received 54 funding applications. The ORDA will now lead the Restoration Workgroup review of these applications and develop funding recommendations, which will be presented to the Executive Board in early December.

**Update: Greene County, IA, Oil Spill.** The insurance coverage on the spiller has been exhausted so USEPA has assumed control and funding of all spill response (cleanup) activities. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel were demobilizing from spill response on September 24, 2012. The trustees have not decided if they will pursue a Natural Resource Damage Assessment under the Oil Pollution Act.

## OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

### Office of Natural Resources Revenue

**Unbundling Outreach Sessions with Texas Audit and Compliance (New):** On October 3 and 4, 2012, the Unbundling Team from ONRR's Audit and Compliance Management and Asset Valuation offices will conduct outreach sessions in the Houston and Dallas Audit and Compliance offices. The presentation will cover roles, responsibilities, current efforts, and future direction of the Unbundling initiative. Future outreach sessions are planned for Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

**Audit and Compliance Management Unbundling Meeting with Apache Corporation (New):** On October 9, 2012, Apache Corporation is meeting in Denver with employees from Audit and Compliance Management (ACM) and Asset Valuation (AV) to discuss unbundling the costs associated with the transportation and processing equipment in the Lowry Gas Plant. As a part of an audit of Mariner (now owned by Apache) for the period January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2008, ACM sent Apache an issue letter disallowing certain costs deducted as a processing allowance. An engineer from Apache is using a schematic of the Lowry Gas Plant to identify all of the equipment in the plant and its purpose. If ACM and AV agree with the methodology that Apache has used for Lowry, then they will use similar methodologies for the Yscloskey and Toca Gas Plants.

**State and Tribal Support (New):** ONRR's State and Tribal Support will conduct audit training in Denver, Colorado, with staff from Blackfeet Nation on October 1-5, 2012.

**Solid Minerals Sales Verification Process (New):** The ONRR Asset Valuation and Western Audit and Compliance offices are developing a new sales verification compliance review process that will support both audits and full compliance reviews, combining physical field inspections of product flow with a review of sales contracts. The process is designed to determine if ONRR is getting complete and accurate information on the P&R, Sales Summary, and Facility Submissions and will improve coordination between ONRR and BLM regarding BLM's inventory tracking through production verification reports. The Dugout Canyon Mine in Utah is ONRR's prototype field project due to the complex product flow. ONRR presented its analysis at the BLM Annual Review meeting in Utah on August 22, 2012.

**ONRR Preparing Communication Plan for Publication of FY 2012 Statistics and Web Page Redesign (No Change):** ONRR Public Affairs is working on a communication plan to be used in conjunction with the publication of the FY 2012 disbursements and reported royalty revenues as well as the unveiling of the new Statistics web page. ONRR made several improvements to the web page and will unveil it in the new fiscal year. The communication plan provides talking points and highlights key improvements to the website.

**Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing):** Staff from ONRR's State and Tribal Support office conducts attestation engagements to assure the States and Tribes comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreements. The main areas reviewed include agreement costs, safeguarding of records, equipment assessment, compliance review manual standards, and contract performance. The California attestation engagement is scheduled for October 2-4, 2012.

**Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing):** ONRR conducts outreach meetings with Indian mineral owners to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with BIA, BLM, and OST. ONRR scheduled outreach sessions with mineral owners attending the Uintah and Ouray Energy Expo in Ft. Duchesne, Utah, October 2-3, 2012, and owners attending the Chickasaw Festival (Pow-wow) in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, October 6, 2012.

## YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

New: Forest Service Youth Alliance Meeting. Staff planned to meet Thursday, September 27, with the Forest Service Youth Alliance, a newly formed working group that parallels Interior's Youth Task Force, to discuss how our two groups can collaborate in the future.

**Update: DOI STEM Education and Employment Pathways Strategic Plan.** YPS continued coordinating the surname process for this strategic plan.

**Update: Departmental Volunteer Policy.** The Department's Volunteer Policy is still under review by the Ethics Office, and it is expected to be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for

Policy Management and Budget for review and final approval by next week. Once approved, the Office will draft a memo for the Assistant Secretary to send to the heads of bureaus and offices announcing the new policy and outlining follow-up actions.

**Update: Let's Move! Outside.** YPS is working with the National Environmental Education Foundation to promote National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 29. A blog has been posted on the First Lady's *Let's Move!* website, and Deputy Secretary Hayes will participate in a NPLD event with youth to help clean the Connecticut River in Hartford, CT.

**Update: 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Advisory Committee.** This week several internal meetings were held to discuss the implementation of the recommendations submitted by the committee. The Solicitor's Office is assisting.

**Ongoing: OS Internship Program.** YPS is in the process of facilitating background investigations for the fall 2012 Office of the Secretary interns.

**Ongoing: Partners in Conservation Award.** The ceremony is scheduled for October 18, 2012, and preparations for this event will be ongoing.

**Ongoing: Take Pride in America National Awards**. The preparations for the October 11, 2012 event are underway and will be ongoing. An event request has been sent to the Secretary's office.

## TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

## PUBLIC SAFETY, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Immediate Office of the DAS

**New: Fish and Wildlife Service to Restart IPaC Project in Southwest Region.** Following internal discussions FWS has decided to reactivate the Information, Planning and Conservation System which had been partially funded by Customs and Border Protection. This system will be helpful in preparing environmental reviews for border tactical infrastructure and operations. No date has been set for the restart.

**Update: Bog Creek Road Access-Idaho.** U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Border Patrol are entering into a cooperative effort to resolve issues surrounding the opening of this road adjacent to the Canadian border. The road was closed as part of an effort to protect "core grizzly bear" habitat. There are court imposed restrictions on the amount of open road that can be present and still allow the area to be designated as core habitat. USFS, USBP and Fish and Wildlife Service

are continuing discussions on how best to complete the environmental reviews. A meeting was held on September 20 in Spokane to discuss next steps.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. A Project Description, Statement of Work and Interagency Agreement amendment adding $3,000,000 was received on April 16 and the funding has now been moved to Fish and Wildlife Service to begin the contracting of a third party to complete the acquisition. These funds will be directed towards mitigation of impacts on endangered species in Texas (primarily the ocelot) through acquisition and restoration of habitat. Acquisition is expected to occur in late 2012. The properties to be acquired have been identified and approved by Customs and Border Protection. Acquisition of the mitigation lands is expected in the fall of this year. The initial draft of the second annual report due in October is now underway. Spending plans for the remaining funding will be developed the week of October 1 in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service coordinator and the managers for each mitigation project.

**No Change: Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT) and Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Proposed New Tower Construction in Arizona.** The Office of Technology, Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA) is continuing to assess priorities for new Integrated Fixed Tower construction. The highest priority is on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Field engineering surveys were just completed for 14 new towers. The placement of new towers in the Wellton area has been delayed and may be postponed indefinitely. Many of these towers would be in or near Sonoran Pronghorn fawning areas. Work is continuing on completing environmental reviews and beginning construction of IFT sites in the Douglas and Sonoita areas of Arizona which had been on hold while the SBI program was under review. Due to changes in threat levels interest has grown in placing a large number of RVSS towers in South Texas (Cameron and Hidalgo Counties) with as many as 80 towers possible. There is no specific timeframe for the South Texas tower program. A proposal for construction of 20 new RVSS monopole towers has been reviewed by Fish and Wildlife Service. The Biological Assessment is near final and as a result of this review 2 tower sites will not be constructed at this time. There may have been insufficient funding for all of the sites anyway. Of these sites, three are on Bureau of Reclamation lands, three sites are on National Park Service lands and two sites are on Bureau of Land Management lands. The sites are in proximity to the international border from Douglas to Yuma. The analysis of impacts will continue with finalizing the Biological Assessment after which a Biological Opinion will be issued by FWS.

**No Change: Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (TIMR):** A final coordination meeting on the Biological Opinion for Arizona TIMR was held on September 13. Edits are being made and the final Biological Opinion is expected with the next two weeks. Following this, one or more MOAs will be developed between CBP and DOI land managers to allow coordination of the maintenance activities on individual land units. In California the Biological Assessment is still in development with a revised draft Environmental Assessment expected in September. Work is continuing on an MOA between CBP and BLM for New Mexico TIMR work. A meeting to coordinate the completion of TIMR in New Mexico is also scheduled for September 25. In Texas, a broad outreach and public scoping effort is being developed. No specific time frames are known at this time for completing TIMR in Texas.

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**No Change: West Desert Road Repair.** Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) is planning to use DoD personnel to repair about two miles of road and establish a new access road to "BP Hill" in the El Centro area of Southern California. Most of the work will occur on BLM managed lands. DoD (National Guard) units are being scheduled for deployment in March of 2014. Environmental review work is underway. The schedule for completing engineering plans and environmental review is very tight. CBP is planning on deployment of National Guard troops in March of 2013. Geotechnical work required to determine the road repairs to be done is underway through a BLM permit.

**No Change: Programmatic ARPA Section 106 Agreement.** CBP has prepared a programmatic document for the northern and southern borders which will describe routine activities with no anticipated impact on historic and cultural resources that may be excluded from the standard Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) reviews. The programmatic documents have been prepared on a state by state basis and CBP is seeking the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officers for the each state. Consultation with 188 border region Tribes is also underway. DOI provided comments on an earlier draft. Comments received were consolidated and sent to Customs and Border Protection on August 6. Many of these comments have been incorporated into the current draft which is expected to be forwarded for review within the next two weeks. A face to face meeting with CBP is planned following release of the redrafted agreement.

**No Change: U.S. Customs and Border Protection to Receive Secretary's Conservation partner Award.** CBP will be honored on October 18th by Secretary Salazar for their partnership efforts with DOI.U.S. Border Patrol Chief Mike Fisher and Acting Commissioner David Aguilar are the named recipients. Award forms are being prepared for the DOI recipients to allow for SOL and Human Resources review prior to the ceremony.

**No Change: Department of the Interior to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to Renew 2008 Memorandum of Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and 2008 MOU on Radio Interoperability.** These agreements will expire at the end of CY 2012 if not renewed. CBP is scoping the current MOA and changes in their program since the original agreement was signed and will provide a revised version for DOI review. CBP and OLES (SA Oman) are coordinating revision of the 2008 Radio MOU.

**No Change:** Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP published a notice of a final PEIS with a draft Record of Decision on July 27. Following a 30 day waiting period ends on August 26. The DOI consolidated response was sent to DHS for review and most concerns were incorporated into this final version. This is a broad programmatic document and it is expected there will be additional environmental compliance for most future changes (e.g., individual projects dealing with construction of tactical infrastructure). A Record of Decision is expected to be completed in September.

**No Change: Lower Colorado (Limitrophe) Mitigation.** Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Land Management are continuing discussions on the proposed mitigation for brush

clearing in riparian habitats along the Lower Colorado. Additional clearing occurred prior to completion of mitigation requirements for the initial clearing. A plan is being developed to address the need for additional mitigation. BLM recently proposed construction of an irrigation system which, once put in place, would be operated and maintained by BLM. This cost effective option is being reviewed by BLM, FWS and CBP.

**No Change: H.R. 1505 – The National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act.** The bill was debated on the floor of the House on June 19 and voted on favorably. The bill would provide U.S. Border Patrol with immediate access to all DOI lands within 100 miles of the land borders of the U.S. for the purpose of achieving border security. A bill with the same purpose has been introduced in the Senate (S. 805). There is no word at this time on any Senate action regarding this legislation.

**No Change: Customs and Border Protection to Prepare Summary of Mitigation.** CBP has agreed to compile all completed and outstanding mitigation work on record so that a clear understanding of the work and future commitments made to date is captured. Once reviewed by DOI Bureaus priorities may be assigned to each of the projects identified. The summary will be done on a state by state basis. The first report for Arizona is expected in September.

**No Change: Fire Program Assessment.** The results of the "down select" process were finalized and delivered to the Steering Committee by the contractor. The contractor will deliver a draft final report on October 1. The final report is due to the Department on October 17.

**No Change: Fire IT Project**. Various activities are taking place to implement the Interior-Agriculture memorandum of understanding to jointly manage wildland fire information and technology investments and activities. Planning took place for meetings with the Interior and Forest Service Chief Information Officer staffs and for the initial meeting of the Wildland Fire Information and Technology Executive Board the week of September 24.

**No Change: Interagency Interoperability.** The status of the project to allow cross-network access between Interior and Agriculture was discussed with ICAM Executive Steering Committee. This issue continues to be a major impediment to implementation of Service First and to the efficient operation of interagency wildland fire entities. The Executive Steering Committee asked for additional information for its September meeting. Communication and coordination with the USDA Chief Information Officer staff continues as well.

**No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing.** Major cleanup work is now focused on Gulf Islands National Seashore with increased work to begin in late August. This work will take an estimated 90 working days, which could mean 180 or more calendar days. The regional offices are working on a staffing plan to continue to have a DOI IC in place during this period.

**No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement.** The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project bridge team coordinating the pilots in the Southwest and California is finalizing its

report to the Steering Committee. The report will contain recommendations to local managers on opportunities for consolidation and improvement along with recommendations for national level policies and tools to improve dispatch operations and capabilities. The final report is expected by the end of the fiscal year.

**Final: Public Lands Liaison Annual Meeting.** This annual training session scheduled for September 18-20 in Spokane, WA was cancelled. It is unlikely there will be a rescheduled meeting this year.

**Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)**

**New: OLES to Participate in a Quarterly Federal Partners Symposium.** On Monday, October 1, OLES will meet with National Intelligence Managers and National Intelligence Collection Managers to discuss the U.S. Government's Unified Intelligence Strategies and to ensure that the Department's intelligence needs are articulated and incorporated into a comprehensive Unified Intelligence Strategy.

**New: OLES Engaging with Intelligence Community on Issues Associated with the Insular Areas.** On Friday, October 5, as part of its engagement process, OLES will meet with members of the Intelligence Community to sensitize them to the Department's equities in the Insular Areas and to learn of any concerns or impressions of the Intelligence Community on topics associated with the Insular Areas.

**New: OLES to Conduct an "Assist" Visit with the US Park Police Regarding Intelligence/Information Collection Procedures.** This activity is part of an on-going process to ensure that DOI law enforcement bureaus are properly collecting, storing and sharing non-criminal intelligence/information while protecting the privacy, civil rights and civil liberties of all US citizens.

**Update: Departmental Data Call Associated with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).** OLES put out a data call to determine the number of holding facilities in the Department which will be subject to PREA regulations. PREA will be a topic at the upcoming International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in San Diego and OLES representatives will participate in focus sessions and information sharing.

**Update: National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office Interagency Advisory Group.** OLES represented DOI at a monthly National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office Interagency Advisory Group (NIAG) meeting on September 12. The National Security Staff indicated it will rely heavily upon the NIAG to help develop strategy and policies dealing with arctic maritime security and intelligence issues. OLES is coordinating a presentation to DOI on Thursday, October 4, providing an overview of the Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) for the *National Strategy for Maritime Security*.

**Update: On-Going Support to BSEE on Protest Activities Associated with Offshore Arctic Drilling.** After floating ice caused the recent cessation of drilling activities, Shell Oil resumed

casement drill activities at the Burger drill site on September 24. They are preparing to drill casements at the Beaufort drill site upon the conclusion of a whale hunt. OLES will continue providing updated information to senior BSEE decision makers as the situation warrants.

**Final: Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Conference.** The Intelligence Community requested that OLES attend a classified conference that explored all the issues surrounding the collection and use of intelligence gathered through human sources. The meeting was held during the week of September 17 at an off-site location.

**Final: The Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Held 2013 Performance Kick-Off Meeting.** OLES joined other agencies on September 18 to discuss our progress in implementing ISE mandates. Annual updates on critical program areas are provided to Congress; Suspicious Activity Reporting is one of those areas.

**Office of Emergency and Management (OEM)**

**Update: Emergency Response Activities.** The Interior Operations Center (IOC) was engaged in reporting and coordination activities during the past week:

- *Wildland Fire Activity*: Currently there are 35 uncontained large fires burning in the U.S., primarily in the Northwest. As of September 24, three large fires are burning on DOI lands in Alaska (on BLM land), North Dakota (on BIA lands), and Wyoming (on BIA lands). There are currently 11,800 interagency firefighters assigned to wildland fire suppression, including 1,968 DOI personnel.

- *Deepwater Horizon Response*: Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup operations continued across the four-state area of impact and 61 DOI employees were involved in planning and operational activities. Last week, approximately 30,000 pounds of oil debris was recovered, primarily from surfaced tar mats on Louisiana's barrier islands.

- *National Drought Summary*: Some improvements were observed in drought conditions in portions of the Lower Midwest, Southern Plains, and the South while drought-stricken areas of the West, Northern Great Plains and Upper Midwest continued in a dry pattern causing minor degradation of conditions. The cumulative effect of the monsoon season led to continued improvements throughout portions of the Great Basin and Four Corners region. In the Eastern U.S., overall drought conditions remained unchanged as dry conditions prevailed in most of the region.

**Update: National Level Exercise-2012 (NLE-12).** OEM attended the interagency After Action Conference and is editing the DOI After Action Report to reflect the information presented. OEM will publish the final report and develop corrective action plans for Lessons Learned. NLE-12 examined the Nation's ability to coordinate plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event.

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**Update: National Preparedness Directive/Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8).** DOI submitted program information on BOR and USGS programs related to preparedness to FEMA to support the PPD-8 requirement of a "Campaign to Build and Sustain Preparedness." These programs will be highlighted in the FEMA campaign. Additionally, OEM participated in the initial meeting of the White House National Security Staff's Recovery Sub-Interagency Policy Committee (IPC). The Recovery Sub-IPC will focus on policy issues related to the *National Disaster Recovery Framework.*

**Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP).** The 2012 OEP has been reviewed and signed and being prepared for publication. OEM and the Office of Facilities and Administrative Services will be conducting a training session on the new evacuation chairs for the emergency evacuation team and for individuals who have self-identified as needing assistance during an evacuation. The Childcare Center emergency plan has been signed and the final document has been sent to Bright Horizons Family Solutions for their DC childcare license inspection.

**Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study.** A meeting with Deputy Secretary Hayes has been rescheduled for October 9 to discuss the progress in implementing the corrective actions recommended in the Indian Affairs Expert Study, to include: hiring of regional emergency coordinators; the establishment of an Indian Affairs Policy Manual on the emergency management program; and the development of a disaster relief program in the BIA for tribes affected by emergencies. The Regional Emergency Coordinator positions for BIA are currently open on USA Jobs.

**Update: Secure Video Teleconference (SVTC).** Departmental headquarters maintains SVTC capabilities to coordinate interagency response during continuity events and other emergencies. Site C permanent installation was completed last week and is fully operational. The schedule for the permanent installation at MIB is as follows: October 29, equipment delivered to MIB; October 30 – November 2: equipment installation; November 5 – 9: testing, configuration, and training.

**Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy.** LCDR Elaine Bond, U.S. Public Health Service Officer detailed to OEM, participated in the quarterly National Infrastructure Protection Plan's Food and Agriculture meeting, as well as the weekly National Biosurveillance Information System (NBIS) outbreak conference call.

**Update: Multipoint Video Teleconferencing (VTC).** OEM, OCIO and NBC are coordinating the installation of a multipoint VTC capability in the IOC Conference Room. The vendor has updated software, reviewed existing configuration, provided additional recommendations, and will be onsite to start configuration and implementation on October 2. Once completed, this capability will provide for internet (IP) and ISDN video teleconferencing in the IOC conference room and at other VTC locations in the Main Interior Building, with no incremental costs for departmental offices using the system.

**Update: DOI One Health Group**. LCDR Elaine Bond, U.S. Public Health Service Officer detailed to OEM, will participate in the Federal Interagency One Health Working Group meeting

on Thursday. In addition, she will lead the meeting of the DOI One Health Group's Communications Development sub-group on Friday as it plans communications projects to engage in, including promoting the One Health Concept and the DOI One Health Group within DOI and with external partners.

**Update: Online Training Development**. OEM met with DOIU to discuss the quality assurance review of the EM-201 script which included editing for format and consistency of content. OEM will review these changes and approve the script so that DOIU can build the course prototype. EM-201 will be used to train the OEM staff, Bureau/Office emergency coordinators, and personnel assigned to Department-wide teams, helping them understand how all of the components of emergency management within the Department fit together.

**No Change: All-Hazard Incident Management Planning.** OEM has rescheduled the meeting of the All-Hazards Sub-committee of the EMC originally scheduled for September 13. The group will convene within the next two weeks to revise the DOI All-Hazards Incident Positions and Qualifications Guide to reflect the latest National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) positions and qualifications guide (PMS 310-1). Additionally, OEM has finalized the agreement with the USFS for work to begin to modify the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) to continue implementation of the Deputies Operating Group's recommendation for a single point ordering system for the Department's emergency responders.

**No Change: National Response Framework (NRF) Revision.** OEM has concluded the data collection from DOI Principal Planners, bureaus, and offices after the Department-wide review of the working draft of the Response Federal Interagency Operational Plan (FIOP). Comments have been submitted to the PPD-8 Program Executive Office for submission to the White House Domestic Resilience Group (DRG). The time frame for completion of the final draft and the final concurrence review has been extended to allow for the Hurricane Isaac response activities and additional adjunction of comments received by the PPD-8 Program Executive Office

**Office of Wildland Fire (OWF)**

**New: International Fire Program.** An international study group from Australia and New Zealand was hosted by the OWF and the USFS at several sites in the US for the past couple of weeks. The group was comprised of up and coming fire and natural resource leaders and managers. The coordination was structured to enhance learning and the sharing of fire management concepts and opportunities between countries. OWF and Forest Service Fire & Aviation Management (FAM) provided a final briefing on the national perspective for fire management and conducted an After Action Review in order to improve future exchanges.

**New: Wildland Fire Information and Technology.** Project management will meet with the DOI Chief Information Officers September 25-27 to discuss changes that need to be made in guidance and direction of Information and Technology investments in order for the fire business community to work more closely together internally and with external partners.

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**New: Emergency Management and Safety.** OWF, OEM, and OSHA continue to collaborate on the development of a training course for OSHA compliance officers which are tasked with site visits to wildland fire incidents. This will assist them in applying correct and consistent standards whenever evaluating serious accidents of fatalities occurring in wildland fire situations.

**New: Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN).** This week, the IRWIN project team met with application managers and the Wildland Fire I&T Program Board to review the draft IRWIN Requirements and Conceptual Architecture report. Feedback will be incorporated into the final report which is due December 31, 2012. Two topic areas were identified for additional discussion: Computer Aided Dispatch and the Enterprise Geospatial Portal. There were several products produced this week meeting capital planning objectives: (1) Investment charter and the investment strategy, (2) The Acquisition Plan, and (3) The Risk Management Plan. The Risk Management Plan and Acquisition Plan will be updated annually to assure IRWIN progress. Additionally, coordination continues with the Joint Fire Science Program on the evaluation and potential integration of elements into IRWIN. Specifically the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) will be analyzed. (IRWIN is a Department-sponsored program that will provide a progressive and modular implementation of an end-to-end interagency wildland fire reporting capability that includes integrated and coordinated processes for collecting, reporting, and updating relevant and timely wildland fire information.)

**New: Common Data Standards.** The NWCG Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee (DSTS) conducted a webinar training session on a newly revised process for developing, reviewing, and maintaining data standards. Chairs and Data Stewards of NWCG committees attended. Additional webinars will be provided over the next few months to ensure the processes are working as expected and that customer needs are being met. The DSTS has thirteen data element and geospatial data layer standards in progress. These will be published for internal review (within NWCG committees) November 1, 2012.

**New: FY 2014 Budget Discussion Scheduled With the Office of Management and Budget.** OWF held its FY 2014 Budget Hearing with the Office of Management and Budget on Wednesday, September 19. Key components of the budget were outlined for inclusion in the 2014 Estimate. There will be a series of follow-up discussions on specific areas of OMB interest.

**Update: LANDFIRE Data Contribution Opportunity.** The Department, along with the USDA Forest Service, is providing data stewards and land management leaders an opportunity to contribute data and information to improve the LANDFIRE data products. November 15 is the cutoff for data submissions (polygons, points, and feedback). Data submitted after November 15 will be considered in future LANDFIRE update cycles. A data call letter has been distributed to previous data contributors and sent to leaders in the wildland fire management program, as well as participants in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy process. More information on this data contribution/data draw opportunity is available at:
http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php

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**Update: LANDFIRE Business Leadership Group Meeting.** The LANDFIRE Business Leadership Group met at the Denver Federal Center in Denver, Colorado, on September 18 and 19. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on delivering the LANDFIRE 2010 update in the spring of 2013, and work on future updates as well as planning for the wall-to-wall remap of the nation.

**Update: Wildland Fire Information and Technology – Program Board.** Leadership engaged this past week during the weekly Program Board (PB) meeting where each member signed up to take responsibility for portions of the structure that will form the process of managing investments in the following areas: FS – Operations Domain Board, NPS – Development Domain Board, and OWF – Planning Domain Board. Collectively, the team will develop the operating procedures of the PB. Wildland Fire I & T is working to redefine the priority areas that need to be worked on within its new structure. It is agreed that Data Standards have to be established and disciplined across the departments. The PB will present their case to the Executive Board (EB) next week and formally provide a plan in November 2012.

**Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program**. The first draft of the FY 2014 Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) project work plan was completed and is being reviewed by OWF staff. Field units have accomplished 952,879 acres of HFR treatments to date in FY 2012. More than 99% of the Department's target has been completed and recorded in NFPORS.

**No Change: GAO Entrance Conference.** A GAO Entrance conference was held on Wednesday, September 12. GAO's objectives were to obtain some general background information regarding Interior's fire aviation program and to identify the proper subject matter experts/contacts for future meetings. Specific topics to cover during the entrance included:

- Management/authority structure of Interior fire aviation programs
- Relationship between government and air tanker companies
- Interagency relationships/sharing of resources
- Available aircraft resources
- Utilization strategies for different types of aircraft
- Studies conducted on the composition of the federal airtanker fleet

Interviews to discuss the afore-mentioned topics will be coordinated by OWF between GAO and the Interior Fire Directors and the National Interagency Fire Center personnel over the next year.

**No Change: Department of Defense (DoD) Wildland Fire Response.** The Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Homeland Security, and Defense entered into discussions last week to enhance DoD response and support to wildland fire. Desired outcomes and key leadership agreements before tasking were discussed and an Executive Review Group, Senior Steering Committee, and several work groups were identified to recommend improvements to policy, funding, preparedness and response. Department leadership, together with officials from the USDA, Forest Service, and DoD, will meet in mid-October to define leader's intent, guiding

principles, and to begin a review of the National Guard's Domestic Response Handbook in an effort to more clearly define and outline procedures.

**No Change: National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.** Regional Strategy Committees, working with science data received last week during their meeting in Denver, Colorado, are in the process of drafting Regional Risk Analysis Reports to further analyze wildland fire management options and weigh potential outcomes. The risk reports will be available for stakeholder feedback September 24 through October 5. Final reports are due to the Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee by October 15. A final timeline to achieve the Phase III deadline of March 2013 has been drafted and will be forwarded to the Wildland Fire Executive Council for review and concurrence.

**Office of Aviation Services (OAS)**

**New: The OAS Alaska Regional Office (ARO) Improving Acquisition and Payments Process.**
The ARO has been working with bureau business managers over the past two weeks to explore ways to improve the acquisition and payment process for vendors in Alaska as part of the continuing FBMS implementation process. Challenges with the OS FBMS transition and associated increased workload have contributed to a significant reduction in on time vendor payments in FY12. In keeping with OAS's "you touch it, you own it" philosophy the ARO staff is collaborating with NBC AQD and Alaska bureau managers to identify mutually beneficial solutions. Initially the ARO Regional Director met with the BLM State Director and his staff to discuss the problem and potential solutions; the suggestion was that a larger meeting be convened that included all Alaska bureau business managers. The outcome from this meeting was that the bureau representatives gained a better understanding of FBMS roles and responsibilities.

**New: The Fifth Annual Alaska UAS Interest Group will Convene in Anchorage.** On September 25 - 27, the Fifth Annual Alaska UAS Interest Group will convene in Anchorage. The Alaska Regional Office (ARO) was involved in the original creation of the group and earlier meetings. While administrative and financial organization of this year's meeting was undertaken by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. OAS ARO has been instrumental in attracting speakers from around the world and helping to develop the agenda.

**New: The OAS Western Region Office (WRO) is Moving.** WRO will be moving in the same building as OAS headquarters. The move will reduce the space occupied by WRO from 5400 sf to 2609 sf, a 52% footprint decrease with an associated annual lease savings of $50,000. After the move WRO will occupy 173 sf per person, below the current DOI space requirements of 180 sf per person. For OAS, this is a continuation of our constant analysis of our business costs to be as efficient as possible. The OAS Eastern Region Office (ERO) also recently relocated their office in Atlanta GA. ERO's relocation achieved new space ahead of schedule at over 16 % below the projected relocation budget. The relocation resulted in a 42% reduction in lease expense, or over $200,000 for the life of the lease.

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**New: OAS Delivers sUAS Overview Course to DOI Managers.** On September 20, 2012 OAS delivered the A-455 Overview of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Operations course to managers from BOR and USGS. The course was delivered via webinar enabling students to participate at their regular workplace without the need for travel. Managers received an overview of DOI sUAS capabilities, a framework for identifying possible sUAS missions and procedures for requesting sUAS support. Additional deliveries of the course are planned in FY2013.

## HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

### Office of Human Resources

**Update: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Annual Audit.** The Department conducted an audit of BOR's Delegated Examining Unit (DEU) in Denver, CO. This review was done remotely by our accountability program specialist in Boise, Idaho. The Department will issue a brief report of its findings and this will serve as BOR's annual audit of its delegated operations which is required by the Department's Interagency Delegated Examining Agreement with OPM.

**Update: United States Geological Survey (USGS) Pacific Region Human Capital Accountability Review.** USGS conducted a review of its Pacific Region Human Resources Office the week of September 10, 2012. The review revealed no major issues or illegal appointments, however, the team did find some processing and documentation issues in need of improvement. The formal out-brief will take place via telephone a week or two after the onsite portion of the review.

**Update: Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 5 Accountability Review.** The FWS accountability review of its Region 5 in Hadley, Massachusetts was postponed due to a family emergency on the part of one of the team members. FWS will reschedule this review shortly.

**Update: Upcoming Accountability Reviews:** The following reviews are scheduled to take place over the next several months.

- FWS, Region 5, Hadley, MA, September 17, 2012 review to be rescheduled. Date to be determined.
- National Park Service Santa Fe Servicing Human Resources Office, Santa Fe, NM, November 13 – 16, 2012

**Update:** The Department of the Interior hosted the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to show case their new Recruitment Boot Camp on September 20, 2012, at the Main Interior Building. The curriculum consisted of four modules focused on the following areas:

- ***Module 1-Effective Job Opportunity Announcements (1.5 hrs):*** Increase the effectiveness of your Job Opportunity Announcements by turning them into clear, realistic marketing tools.

- ***Module 2-Recruitment Sourcing (2 hrs):*** Focuses on defining your hiring needs and creating a sourcing plan to seek out top talent.
- ***Module 3-Collaboration (45 min):*** Focuses on how human resources professionals and hiring officials can build a recruitment team and keep a recruiting process on track.
- ***Module 4-Employment Branding (2 hrs):*** An introduction to the concept of employment branding including creating an employment value proposition and communicating your brand.

OPM provided valuable information on tools such as USAJOBS Recruit and the Assessment Decision Tool. OPM also informed the group the coming of a resume mining feature that will be an enhanced feature of the USAJOBS Website. Managers and HR Specialist will be able to use this feature once OPM has reactivated the tool.

**Update: Pathways Programs.** The Office of Human Resources (OHR) met with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding the potential impact the Pathways Programs may have on their student program. We concluded their tuition assistance program would not be impacted by the implementation of the Pathways Program, based on if its content does not fall within the purview of the pathways statue or regulations. We met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the Wildland Firefighter apprenticeship program. The BLM Human Capital team was able to provide information regarding the Department of Labor's apprenticeship certification program. We believe this will provide OPM with the information they will need, in order to consider the possibility of grandfathering present participants of the program into the Pathways Programs. The impact if the apprenticeship certification is not accepted would result in past and present apprenticeship participants, who have been converted to permanent appointments, will be on illegal appointments. So far, there are approximately over 300 employees that have been converted to permanent positions based on their participation in the Wildland Firefighter apprenticeship program. OHR will tentatively schedule a meeting with OPM on both the apprenticeship program and the National Park Service (NPS) Pro Ranger Internship program. In addition, they have partnered with Temple University to establish a curriculum that is centered on providing the appropriate training for student interns who are noncompetitively appointed into ranger positions.

**Update: Presidents Management Council SES Rotation Program**
The President's Management Council Interagency Rotations Program will conduct an orientation session for the cohort beginning in October 2012 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This event is for program participants, their home agency, and host agency supervisors to learn more about the program and to discuss expectations for the participant's six month assignments.

**Office of Civil Rights**

**New: Training-DOI 462 Report Preparers Seminar.** On September 25, 2012, the Office of Civil Rights will present the DOI 462 Report Preparers Seminar 2012. This training will be provided to Bureau and Office EEO Practitioners who will prepare the DOI 462 Report. The

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DOI 462 Report must be filed with the EEOC by October 31, 2012. The two hour training will be conducted in the MIB, Room 1352. The training will also be provided via Webinar, for participants located outside the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area.

**New: Inaugural DOT Civil Rights Symposium**. On September 26-27, 2012, Equal Opportunity Specialist Michael Zimmerman, Public Civil Rights Division will attend a two-day Inaugural DOT Civil Rights Symposium at the Department of Transportation (DOT) Headquarters building in Washington, D.C. Leading civil rights experts from several federal agencies will provide insights and relevant information on critical trends and topics in civil rights.

**Update: Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week Conference**. On September 25-26, 2012, the DOI Office of Civil Rights, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the National Park Service are exhibiting at the Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week Conference at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. The two-day national conference highlights the significant contributions that HBCUs have made to the Nation.

**Update: National Hispanic Heritage Month**. On October 3, 2012, the National Park Service is hosting a program in observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month at the DOI Main Interior Building, Sidney Yates Auditorium. The theme is "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society." The program includes a panel discussion by Hispanic National Park Service superintendents and a screening of the documentary "Secret Soldier" which details the story of Loretta Velasquez. Also in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management are exhibiting information on the contributions of Hispanic Americans. The exhibit is located in the MIB Cafeteria.

**Update: National Disability Employment Awareness Month**. The Department of the Interior (DOI) joins the Nation in observing National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 1-31, 2012. Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" In observance of NDEAM, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the DOI Office of Human Resources are sponsoring a workshop on October 17, 2012, in the Main Interior Building, Conference Room 7637. Mr. Timothy Bladek, Attorney Advisor, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is facilitating the workshop on hiring authorities for persons with disabilities. In addition, the BOR is sponsoring an exhibit of information and resources on disability employment awareness. The exhibit is on display October 9-31, 2012 in the Main Interior Building Cafeteria.

**Update: Environmental Justice (EJ) Brain Trust.** On September 21, 2012, a representative from the Public Civil Rights (PCR) Division attended the environmental justice (EJ) brain trust titled "Social Determinants & Environmental Justice" held at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Panelists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S.

Department of Energy, and other organizations discussed EJ compliance and poor environmental enforcement, health disparities in minority and low-income populations such as pollution, inadequate housing, community outreach, education, training, and agency partnerships on working together with industry. In addition, agency representatives discussed the issuance and strategies of the EJ 2014 implementation plan and the goal of healthy sustainable communities.

**Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development**

**Office of Occupational Safety and Health**

**New: Metropolitan Washington Federal Safety and Health Council.** A representative from the Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) provided a joint presentation with the Occupational Safety and Health Program Manager from Health and Human Services on the OSHA proposed Injury and Illness Prevention Program standard.

**New: OSH Staff Assistance**. OSH personnel are assisting a National Park Service (NPS) Serious Accident Investigation Team at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park related to an incident that occurred during lead and asbestos removal from the main elevator shaft into the cavern. During the removal work, individuals in the visitors center were unintentionally exposed to organic solvents that caused respiratory problems. All individuals were treated and released.

**New: OSH Staff Assistance**. This week, OSH personnel will be traveling to Yosemite National Park located in California to aid in the resolution of the Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome cases in the Curry village housing. OSH staff will be taking dust measurements in a variety of scenario's to help determine the situations that result in dust from the wall spaces being drawn into housing living quarters.

## BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

**Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM)**

**New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program – Recent Actions.** The Department's Suspension and Debarment program took the following actions:

- On September 20, 2012, DOI issued a Case Suspension Determination (continuing suspension) for Tripartite Escrow Corporation and Abel Martin Carreon, Jr. TEC and Carreon are alleged to have made false representations in an escrow agreement about the number of stocks that made up the assets behind the bond and the value of those stocks. Fraudulent stock certificates were allegedly used as security on a bond which TEC issued to a contractor for a construction contract awarded by the DOI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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- On September 20, DOI suspended MRB Research, Inc. (MRBR) based upon imputation to it and an affiliate relationship with Raymond Ronald LeValley. DOI previously suspended LeValley based upon his criminal indictment in California State court on charges of embezzlement of public funds; embezzlement by grand theft in an amount exceeding $100,000; and conspiracy to commit a crime. LeValley is the owner of Mad River Biologists Inc., (also suspended in connection with the alleged misconduct) and the Treasurer of MRBR. The alleged criminal conduct includes the submission of fraudulent invoices to the Yurok Tribe, occurred in the course of operation of Mad River Biologists, Inc. (MRB), a consortium performing wildlife inventory and assessment, botanical surveys, and other research under a contract for the Yurok Tribe. The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized Native American tribe located in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, California and a recipient of Federal assistance funds.

- On September 21, DOI issued a Notice of Proposed Debarment to Sheldon Sergio Mixon based on his criminal conviction on a count of Theft of United States Property in violation of 18 U.S.C § 641. Mixon's criminal conduct occurred December 2008 through July 2011 in the course of employment as a Program Support Analyst at the U. S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). He pled guilty to knowingly and repeatedly using the FWS purchase and travel credit cards for personal expenditures in the amount of $70,000.

- On September 21, DOI proposed to debar Susie Ronalle Harge based on her criminal conviction on a charge of Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, and the aiding and abetting thereof. Harge's criminal conduct occurred during fiscal years 2006 through 2009 in the course of employment as the Chairperson of the Indian Education Committee which facilitated the Johnson O'Malley Program contract for the Seminole Native American Education Corporation (SNAEC). SNAEC, a federally recognized tribal organization, received Federal funding from the DOI Bureau of Indian Education. Harge pled guilty to embezzle, steal and willfully and knowingly convert for personal use funds from the Johnson O'Malley Program in excess of $5,000.00.

- On September 21, DOI issued a Notice of Proposed Debarment to Ashleigh Greybull. DOI proposes to debar Greybull based on her criminal conviction on a charge of Theft from an Indian Tribal Organization. The criminal conduct occurred between May 12, 2000 and January 25, 2008 during which time Greybull knowingly embezzled and converted to personal use and the use of another over $1,000 of goods, assets, or property from the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, a federally recognized Indian Tribal Organization.

- On September 21, DOI proposed to debar Gabriela Torres Lawson based on the fact of her guilty plea and its acceptance by the court on a charge of embezzling and converting to personal use funds belonging to FWS. The criminal conduct occurred between December 1, 2008 and May 19, 2011 in the course of FWS employment as a purchasing agent. Torres knowingly and repeatedly using the FWS credit cards for your personal expenditures in the amount of $30,122.

- On September 21, DOI suspended Katrina Mae Telleria based on her Indictment on charges of Theft of Government Property, valued at almost $47,000; and submitting false documents to a Department or Agency of the United States. The criminal conduct allegedly occurred between November 17, 2008 and February 7, 2012 in the course of employment at the DOI Bureau of Land Management as an administrative assistant in the Boise District Fire Business Office in Boise, Idaho.

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- On September 17, DOI debarred Gerald K. Bigelow, a/k/a Gerald Kevin Bigelow, Kevin M. Bigelow, Jerri L. Bigelow, Jerry Bigelow, Jerry K. Bigelow, Berland K. Bigelow, and Gerry Bigelow based on his criminal conviction on a charge of Theft and Misapplication of Funds from an Organization Receiving Federal Funds. The criminal conduct occurred between October 2010 and May of 2011 in the course of Bigelow's employment as the Executive Director of the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SAICC), a federally recognized Indian tribal organization. SAICC receives Federal funding from the National Park Service. Bigelow pled guilty to using an official tribal government credit card to embezzle, steal, or knowingly convert and willfully misapply tribal funds to personal use, in the amount of $17,296.81.

## Office of Budget (POB)

**Update: FY 2014 Budget Formulation.** The Department's FY 2014 budget request was submitted to OMB on Monday, September 10. POB is working with OMB to hold follow-up briefings on 2014 proposals. Rebecca Wodder briefed OMB and CEQ on blueways; PMB, staff from the Solicitor's Office, and bureaus briefed OMB on mandatory proposals; and PMB briefed OMB on radio facilities funding. OMB is working to meet an accelerated internal schedule. However, passback decisions will not be finalized until late November.

**Update: FY 2012 Reprogrammings.** The House and Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittees approved reprogrammings to reallocate funds for NPS and OST and USGS. The Energy and Water Development Subcommittees approved a realignment of project funds in the Bureau of Reclamation.

**New: Receipts Model Info.** The contract for a new mineral receipts model was awarded to Datasource, a local IT company out of McLean, VA. This model will provide additional support for the Budget Office to prepare current and future year receipts estimates used in the budget. The POB Receipts Team met with Chris Zinkl and Pam Hopkins for a Kick-off Meeting on Tuesday, September 18.

**Update: Wildland Fire.** POB coordinated with OMB on August 24, to secure a transfer of $91.8 million from the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Rescue Fund to the Wildland Fire Management account to support suppression costs for large fires. The Secretary approved a Sec. 102 transfer of $13.9 million within the Wildland Fire account for suppression activities on September 20, 2012. Current estimates indicate this should fund suppression activities through September 30, 2012 and additional emergency transfers may not be necessary.

**New: Year End Activities.** POB is working with OMB to submit and obtain approval of apportionments for FY 2012 year-end cleanup and the FY 2013 initial estimate of carryover funding before the start of the fiscal year.

POB is working to close out remaining execution activities for the Office of the Secretary. The FBMS system closes September 26 for FY 2012 transactions and will reopen October 22 for FY 2013 business. POB is also working with the FBMS PMO to establish the new FBMS Master Data Structure needed for FY 2013.

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## Office of Financial Management (PFM)

**Ongoing: Contingent Liabilities Cleanup Costs.** PFM is finalizing guidance for financial reporting relating to asbestos and associated liabilities. This is new guidance that has been developed over the last two years through a collaborative process with Interior bureaus and offices. The *Accounting Guidance for the Recognition of Liability and Related Expenses for Asbestos-Related Cleanup Costs Associated with Real Property* has been surnamed and the *Department of Interior Asbestos Liability Reporting Methodology and Guidance* is in the surname process. Once both documents are signed, they will be forwarded to bureaus for preparation of implementation of Technical Bulletin 2006-1 on October 1, 2012.

**Ongoing: Management Representation Letter.** PFM is coordinating with the Executive Secretariat the review and surname of the Management Representation Letter in connection with the Financial Statement audit. The letter is due to the auditors on November 15, and must be signed by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget, and the Director, PFM.

**Update: Conferences.** A meeting of the Conference Review Points-of-Contact was held on September 13 to discuss OIG audit report recommendations and resolutions, new guidance on per diem and sponsorship, and annual plans. PFM staff continues reviewing plans and projected costs of proposed conferences.

**Update: GAO and OIG Audit Recommendations**. As of September 21, PFM projects a closure rate for open and overdue OIG and GAO recommendations of about 84 percent - the target of 85 percent. Performance by some entities continues to be a long-term concern. To date, the Department has processed and responded to 29 GAO draft reports and 9 GAO final reports.

PFM coordinated and attended the GAO entrance conferences regarding:

- *The Extent to Which Agencies Use GSA and Industry Recommended Practices to Manage Fleet*. GAO had conducted another review, which concluded earlier in the year, and it looked at trends in the federal fleet and Interior's fleet. Although this review has some overlap, this is more substantive. GAO's objectives in this review are to determine, to what extent do select federal agencies utilize GSA and industry recommended practices to optimize and manage their fleets, and what strategies agencies have used and what issues they face in optimizing and managing their fleets.
- *The Use of Remanufactured Vehicle Parts in Civilian Federal Fleet.* This review is being done under the request of the Senate Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight and several members of Congress. GAO is interested to know what factors DOI (or commercial vendors) consider when deciding whether to use new, remanufactured, or used parts, whether any of the federal guidance or internal policy directly address the use or procurement of remanufactured parts, and whether maintenance and repair policies are in line with GSA guidance/procedures.

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**Update: DOI Printing Balance with GPO.** PFM is engaged in a collaborative effort with GPO to resolve a $1.8 million printing account balance. PFM has developed a workflow process to track the balances of the identified DOI bureaus and GPO will use these procedures with other customer agencies. Each DOI bureau with an outstanding balance has now provided a line item level response to GPO on the largest category – "chargeback".

**Office of Planning and Performance Management (PPP)**

**No change: Priority (Performance) Goals**. All follow-up discussions with OMB have been completed with two open actions remaining:

- Renewable energy – BLM is considering the measure of homes powered by geothermal and solar energy.
- The Climate Change Priority Goal is being extended from initiating actions in regions equivalent of 50 percent of the nation to 75 percent, and bureaus are being asked to provide details for tracking progress of updating formal resource management plans for climate change adaptation to use as a new performance measure.

**Update: Program Inventory and Annual Review**. The Department's inventory of programs and annual review process were reviewed with OMB. With some adjustment to the program inventory, both were well received and accepted. Rich Beck and Pam Haze will next brief the bureau Performance Management Council and develop a proposal going forward for implementation.

**Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)**

**Update: Small Business Goals and Accomplishments.** As of September 24, the Department has awarded **56.81 percent** of its Fiscal Year 2012 awarded contract dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal for FY 2012 is 51.5 percent. In addition, the Department is meeting all of its socio-economic goals, achieving 12.27 percent for women-owned businesses and 3.42 percent for service-disabled veteran owned businesses.

**New Item: Small Business Administration 8(a) Partnership Agreements for FY 2013/2014.** The current agreement will be in effect until the end of October, 2012 while the new agreements for FY 2013/2014 are being finalized allowing contract awards to be made under the 8(a) Program during that time.

**New Item: Minority Serving Institution Research Partnership Consortium (MSIRPC).** The OSDBU represented the Department at the MSIRPC Annual Retreat on September 24, 2012 as part of an inter-agency collaboration supporting Minority Serving Institutions.

**No Change: Scheduled Events.**

- **December 5-6: National Minority Enterprise Development Week 2012 Conference, Washington, DC.** The National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference is now scheduled for December 5-6, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in

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Washington DC. MED Week is the Nation's premier event for minority entrepreneurs and the public and private sectors and the Department will support this event.

**Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Program Management Office (PMO)**

**New: Deployment 7 (D7) Pilot Training.** D7 Pilot Training began on September 17, 2012. The purpose of Pilot Training is to provide a mock run-through of D7 training classes so FBMS PMO instructors and assistant instructors from Indian Affairs (IA) and the National Park Service (NPS) have an opportunity to: review the training materials and refine the materials to improvements their accuracy and flow; ensure the inclusion of IA and NPS specific information; and collaborate in assessing the effectiveness of the training class exercises. There are a total of 26 pilot training classes being conducted which include the Field Training classes being conducted by IA and NPS. Field Training classes are content tailored classes for new system users who perform multiple business processing functions, and don't need the in-depth instruction provided in subject area specific training classes. The pilot training classes are being conducted in FBMS classrooms in Herndon, Virginia, and Denver Colorado. D7 Pilot Training will end on end on September 28.

**Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO)**

**New: IMO Sponsored Pilot Field Training.** The IMO training team conducted a pilot session of two modules in the upcoming Field Training for Administrative and Managerial Staff. An audience with mixed FBMS backgrounds provided invaluable comments and feedback on the Introduction and Reporting modules. The training was designed to provide an oversight of the FBMS roles/modules the target audience uses, as well as to illustrate common problems and solutions the users will encounter, and available guidance that supplements the PMO's formal FBMS role-based training.

**Update: D7 Cross-Servicing Solution.** The launch of D7 will bring a cross-servicing solution to users by accessing FBMS via a single Active Directory ID. The cross-servicing solution is designed for users who have to access multiple FBMS business areas.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 11:37 AM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: Difference between old Order and new Order on Unitization

FYI - Per our discussion earlier.

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

-----Original Message-----
From: Barlan, Bryce
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 10:25 AM
To: Farquhar, Ned
Subject: Difference between old Order and new Order on Unitization

Hey Ned,

Just wanted to get back to your question about the difference in the new order and old order on unitization.

The old order focused required unitization in circumstances where there may be drainage. This new order does not speak only to drainage, but rather to require unitization to "more properly conserve the potash and oil and gas resources in the Designated Potash Area..." It's much broader.

AND, in addition to unitizations, the new order includes communitizations as well.

I can explain the difference between the two when you get in.

That's my read of it.

I'll close the loop with Phil to see what he has to say.

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

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2012 1:19 PM
**To:** Williams, Ericka
**Subject:** FW: Week ahead Report from last week
**Attachments:** ASLM Week Ahead Report 9-28-12.docx

Ericka,

Could you please pass the attachment along to Lee, per her request.

---

**From:** Benner, Lee [mailto:lee.benner@boem.gov]
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2012 1:16 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Week ahead Report from last week

Hi,

Would you send last week's report to Ericka Williams maybe I can get it if it is sent to me by someone in BOEM. Thanks.

Lee

Special Assistant, Deputy Director

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Tel: (202) 513-7578

FAX: (202) 219-0726

1849 C Street

Washington, DC 20240

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**Week of October 1, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke –** [redacted] 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.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Farquhar, Ned
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2012 5:06 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Cardinale, Richard; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** BLM weekly meeting

MAB - Some notes from today's meeting...

- BLM sent Aris up to represent BLM. I told him we would either reschedule or, at Rich's suggestion, they could send up someone at the Deputy level or above. I don't recall that we were ever very excited about having just Bill Falsey up here for the weekly meeting. Neil came up after Rich made a call.
- The Solar PEIS should be ready for release "end of next week."
- BLM expects to meet with KLS about the fracturing rule "later this month," but does not yet have recommended strategies and responses on major issues as the comments are still being analyzed.
- Nada Culver went to Adobe Town and spent two days with BLM staff at the end of last week. She will be in DC next week. She will meet with BLM on Tuesday afternoon and she voicemailed me asking if she could see me, but I will be at the AWEA conference. I suggested that you should be made aware of the BLM meeting with her in case you wish to attend. Can you meet with her on Tuesday or Wednesday?
- Potash – discussed concurrent development; this afternoon Karen Hawbecker sent me a note in response to my questions but I haven't reviewed it yet.
- Celina asked for sacred sites MOU.
- Most of the Packages with ASLM have been dealt with; the remaining ones are new or have been going back and forth. (I cleared out the backlog last week.)

We all look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

NF

Ned Farquhar
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW - Room 6614
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-6734 office
202-253-0174 cell

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Mouritsen, Karen E
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:21 AM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 7-13, 2012
**Attachments:** BLM_weeklyreport Oct 7 - 13_Final.docx

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**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**

- ***New: ID*** **Stewardship Project near Elk City Earns High Rating:** *A joint Idaho DEQ and Idaho Department of Lands task force concluded that the BLM's Eastside Township Stewardship Project near Elk City, Idaho "exceeded" Idaho's Forest Practices Act "in every way." The group toured various logging units harvested between 2009 and 2011 and came away from the September 21 tour impressed by the projects.*

**Recreation**

- **New: BLM-NV Off-Highway Vehicle Trail System Wins Award**: *The Shoshone Off-Highway Vehicle Trail System was the first recipient of the "Success of the Year" Award presented by the National Off-Highway Conservation Council. The BLM developed the Trail System, which is 25 miles south of BLM-NV Battle Mountain District Office and passes through several high-desert ecosystems.*

**Miscellaneous**

- ***New:*** **DOI gives 6.8 Million for NV, CA Restoration Projects**: *The Department will commit more than 6.8 million dollars for conservation and recreation improvement projects throughout NV and Lake Tahoe. The 1998 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) stipulates that funding for the projects come from proceeds from the sales of federal land in Clark County, NV. Since the passage of the Act, the*

*Department has contributed more than $2.9 billion to key restoration projects throughout NV.*

- *New:* **Restraining Order for BLM-UT Seep Ridge Road Project:** *The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed a request Sept. 27 for a hearing for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on the Seep Ridge Road Project. The hearing is scheduled for Oct. 3. The project to improve the Seep Ridge Road—a two-lane graveled surface on the north end and native surface (shale) on the south end—up to the Uintah County/ Grand County line, is set to be 50 percent complete by mid-Oct. The project allows Uintah County to upgrade the road to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10**

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK Preservation Summit:** BLM-MT/DK State Office 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" on the campus of the Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo, MT. The summit will include a discussion of cultural resource and preservation issues facing the tribes.

- *New:* **BLM-WY to Participate in Pavillion Meeting:** *Staff from BLM-WY Lander FO will attend the Pavillion Working Group meeting Oct. 10 in Riverton, WY. Pavillion area residents have asserted that natural gas development, including hydraulic fracturing, has contaminated their drinking water. Encana is developing the wells on minerals owned by the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Group includes all stakeholders in the sharing of data and examination of potential sources of groundwater contamination in the area.*

- *New:* **BLM-WY Mule Deer Public Scoping Meeting:** *The BLM-WY Pinedale FO will hold a public scoping meeting Oct. 10 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:** 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 MT District, and managers and specialists for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument will participate.

## WEEKS AHEAD

**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.

**Tuesday, October 16**

- **No Change: Assistant Secretary to Tour Dolores River AGO Project:** Rhea Suh, the Assistant Secretary for PMB, 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**

- **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.

**Tuesday, October 23**

- *New:* **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 FOs (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.*

**Wednesday, October 24 to Thursday, October 25**

- *New:* **Public Workshops for Dry Lake Solar Energy Plan:** *The regional mitigation plan for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Plan in NV is an action related to the release of the final Solar PEIS. The next public workshop for the Project will be held Oct. 24 - 25 in Las Vegas to review baseline data for Dry Lake SEZ and identify mitigation measures.*

**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.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 03, 2012 4:24 PM
**To:** Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** short report draft
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-4-12.docx

Thank you! And feel better!

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:

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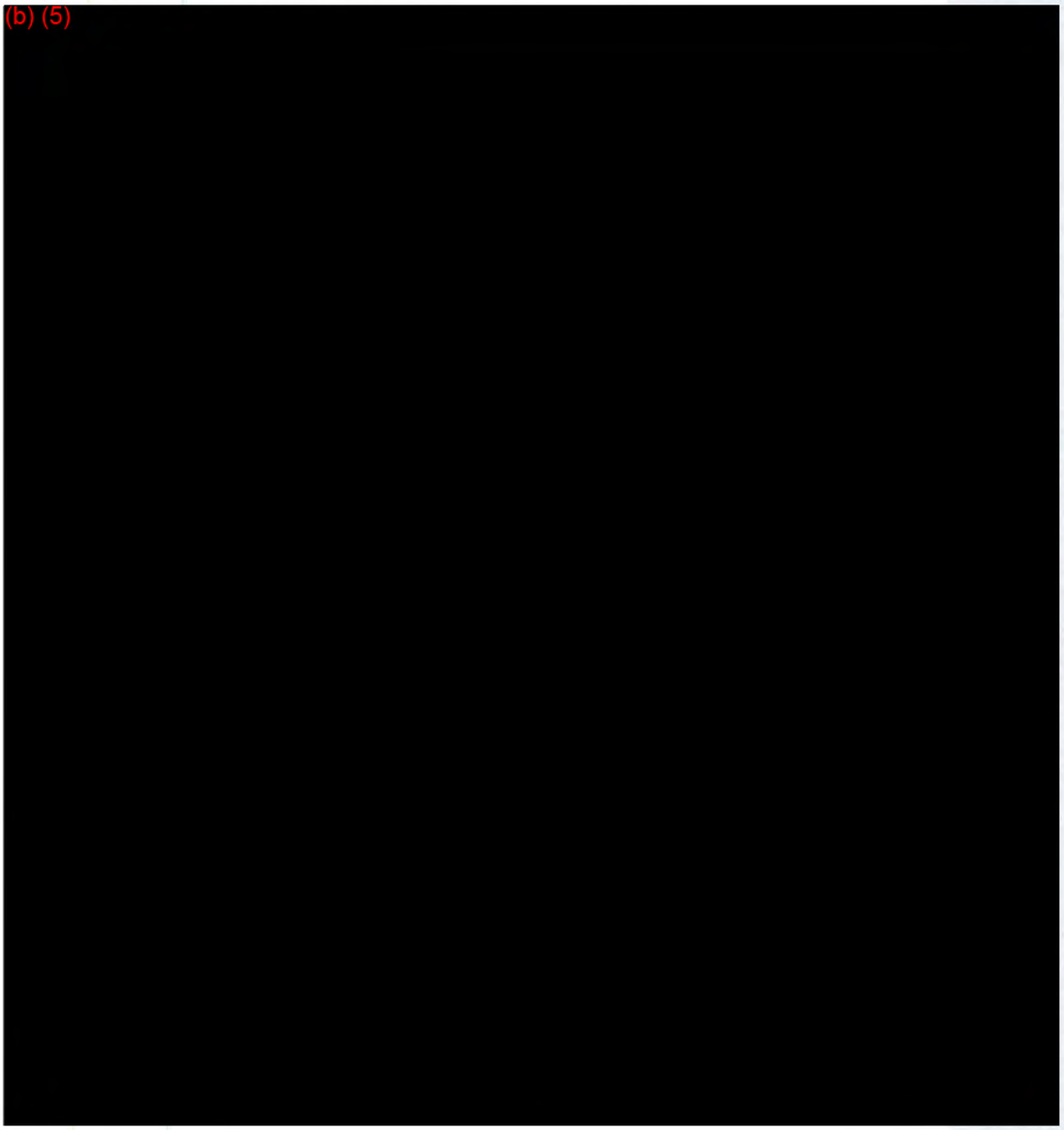

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II. Highlights of Travel, Meetings, Speeches, and other Public Events:

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[redacted]

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

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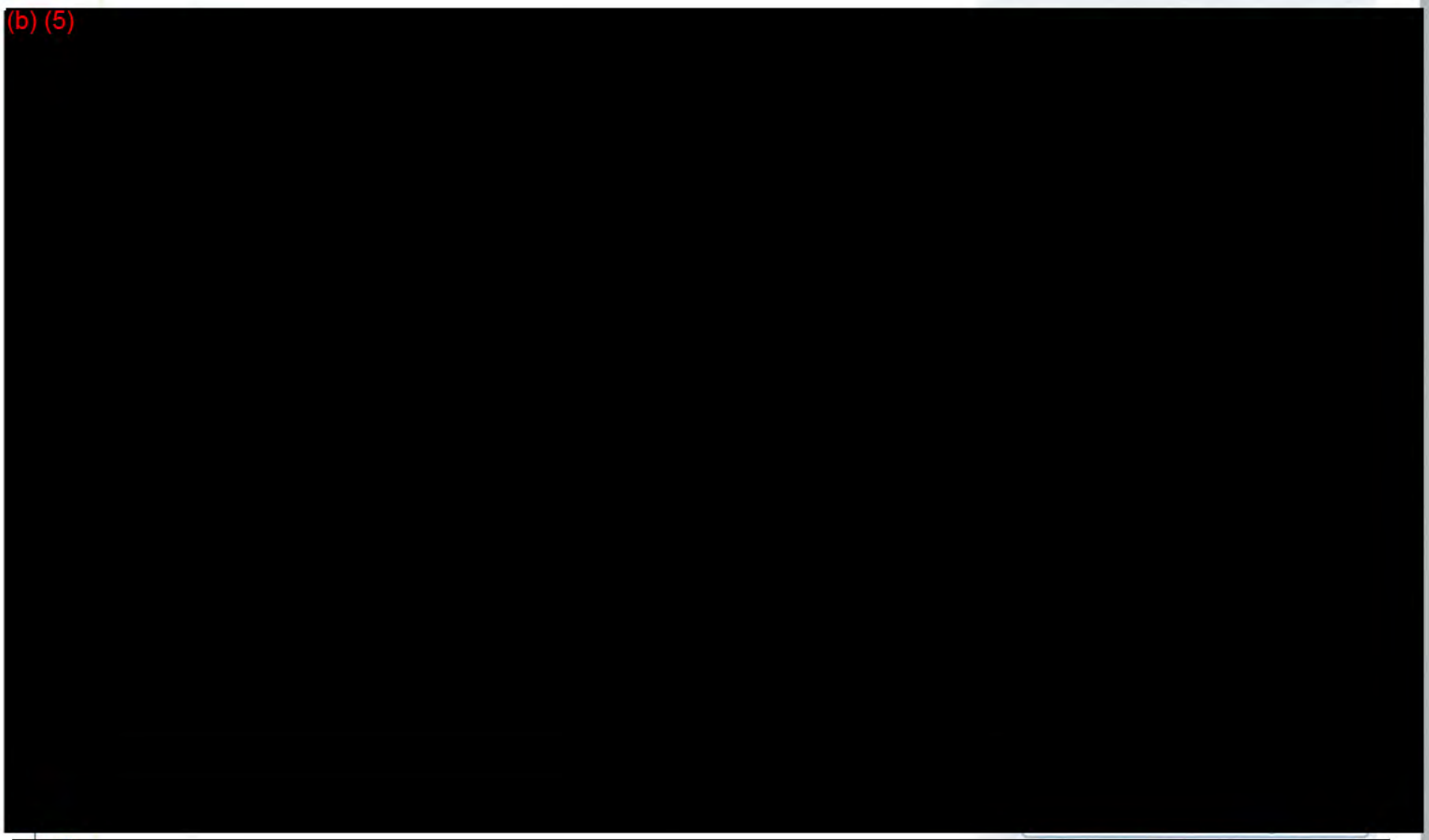
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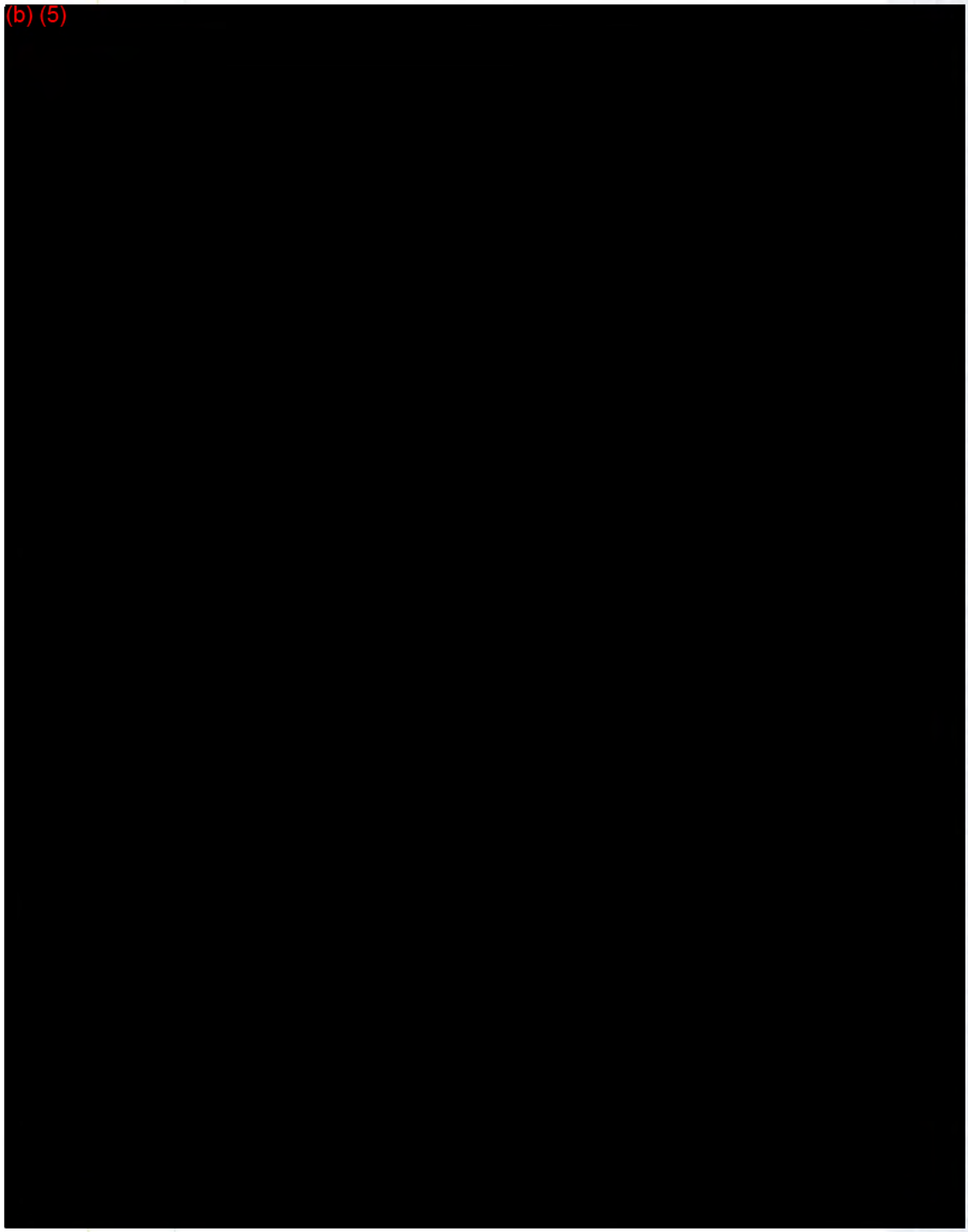
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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 03, 2012 5:18 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Ishee, Mary K; Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-4-12.docx

Marcilynn and Ned – please find a draft of the short report attached. MK has reviewed. If you would like a hard copy this evening or tomorrow morning instead, just let me know.

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:

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

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[redacted]

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

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[redacted]

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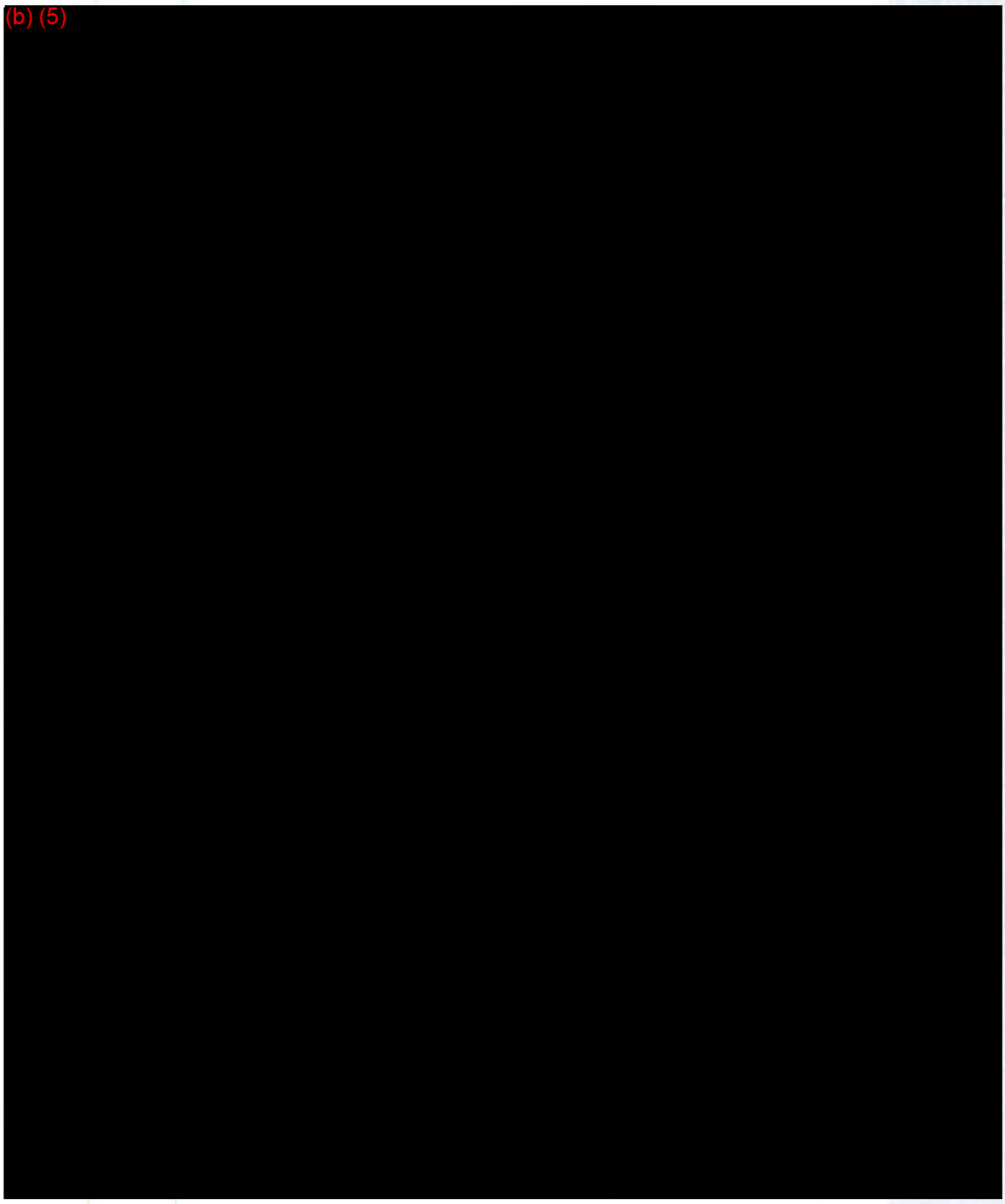
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**Cunningham, Celina P**

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:46 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-4-12.docx

Marcilynn – Do you have a few minutes to review the short report? The latest version is pasted below and attached.

**Weekly Report to the Secretary**
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**
**October 4, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

Thank you for reaching out to BOEM and BSEE employees to celebrate the BOEM and BSEE one-year anniversary on October 1. BOEM and BSEE were excited to have your call and appreciated your remarks. Directors Beaudreau and Watson thanked the staff for their hard work and for the many achievements that both bureaus have accomplished over the past year. This anniversary highlights BOEM and BSEE's successes and also creates a productive outlook on ways to address future challenges and opportunities.

On October 4, I met with Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy and Sustainability, 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, they are 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 as well as begin a conversation on ways we can use existing authority, whether via in-kind options or our MOU to work together to address DoD's unique challenges and mission. Following this initial meeting, SOL and my staff will continue to work with DoD to develop a variety of options.

The BLM continues to make great progress on a final Potash Secretarial Order for your consideration and approval. On October 4, the BLM briefed me on its plans to finalize the Order, including details on how they plan to respond to the 28 comment letters received. The BLM plans to deliver the Secretarial Order and a Notice of Availability of the BLM's analysis of the public comments up to my office on October 9, with a target date of the end of the year for issuance of the Order. I am confident the final Order will achieve a clear resolution of this complex issue, consistent with the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy to expand safe and responsible energy production and with the Department's continued responsibility to conserve the valuable potash resource in this significant area.

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 and will require a statutory change to extend the authority of the Reserve to

sell from the stockpile. The U.S. semiconductor industry is reliant upon helium in the manufacturing process for many of its products so they are concerned about the impacts of the supply caused by upcoming changes to the Reserve. I look forward to meeting with the industry and learning about future options for helium procurement for the industry.

I continue to follow the fire and drought reports. The BLM has just announced that fire or drought have impacted 65 of the 179 wild horse Herd Management Areas, a significantly greater number than in past years.

I look forward hearing about your exciting announcements and travels next week, as we forge ahead on many of our important milestones.

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

**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 of the AWEA conference. In the office on Oct. 12.

**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.

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**
  - In Oct., BOEM intends to publish the Notice of Availability for the EA for **MA** as well as the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for offshore wind leasing for **RI/MA**.
  - On Sept. 12, ASLM completed review of the **VA** PSN package. As of Oct. 4, the package was awaiting Department approval. The DOI-DoD Offshore Wind Forum has been postponed.
  - On Sept. 20, BOEM received written comments from Bluewater on the **DE** negotiated lease. On Oct. 3, BOEM met with the Solicitor's Office to discuss Bluewater's counter offer. BOEM 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.
  - On Oct. 9, BOEM will close the comment period on the **ME** Request for Interest for the Statoil Hywind project. 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. On Sept. 20, BSEE approved limited drilling for top-hole only in the Beaufort Sea to begin only after the end of the whaling season. In the Chukchi Sea, Shell completed a pilot hole to a depth of 1,400 feet at the "Burger A" site. Shell is now constructing a mudline cellar at the site.

**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) [redacted]

**Weekly Report to the Secretary**
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**
**October 4, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

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

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III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

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Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6)

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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 10:30 AM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Farquhar, Ned
**Subject:** long report
**Attachments:** ASLM Week Ahead Report 10-5-12 final.docx

Marcilynn – here is the latest version of the long report, in case you want to review. Ned and MK have reviewed it. I don't expect any changes unless Ned wants to add a sentence on ME wind.

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**
**October 7 – October 13, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**Week of October 8, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke –** In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar –** In the office Oct. 9 and 12. On Oct. 10 – 11, travel to Virginia Beach to attend AWEA conference.

**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.

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar PEIS Record of Decision (ROD):** *A final decision on the ROD for the Solar PEIS is expected in mid-October. BLM Public Affairs and DOI External Affairs are working on communications and outreach materials.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *The BLM plans to release the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA, 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 pending non-competitive geothermal lease application.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *The BLM anticipates releasing the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project on 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:*** **Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project ROD:** *On Oct. 5, the BLM will release the ROD for the Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project. The BLM's ROD authorizes in-situ mining, a low impact technique with significantly less environmental impact than open pit mining.*

**Oil and Gas and Potash**

- ***New:*** **Final Secretarial Order on Potash:** *The BLM has drafted a final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in*

*southeastern New Mexico. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. Departmental review of the order started October 1.*

**Transmission**

- ***Update:*** **Gateway West Transmission Line:** *This proposed transmission line would cross 1,100 miles in southern WY and southern ID. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council has voted to halt consideration of the BLM's preferred route—Alternative 5C—for Segment 5 of the project, which passes through their reservation. In June, the BLM received non-binding consent from the Tribe for this preferred alternative. The BLM is considering other alternatives as the cooperating agency review period continues. This change could delay the start of the final EIS public comment period, currently anticipated for November 30.*
- ***Update:*** **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Line Final EIS:** *On Oct. 5, the BLM expects to publish the NOA for the FEIS for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project in Utah. The FEIS analyzes the impacts of granting a right-of-way across Federal (BLM and FS) land to PacifiCorp for a 160-mile transmission line. The BLM anticipates completing the ROD in early December.*
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**Miscellaneous**

- *New:* **DOI gives $6.8 Million for NV, CA Restoration Projects:** *The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 stipulates that the Department use proceeds from the sale of Federal land in Clark County, NV, for conservation and recreation improvement projects throughout NV. On Oct. 11, the Department anticipates announcing the decision to fund more than $6.8 million for projects throughout NV, including Lake Tahoe. Since the passage of the Act, the Department has contributed more than $2.9 billion to key restoration projects throughout NV.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- *New:* **Apache Corporation Unannounced Exercise:** *On Sep. 28, BSEE initiated an unannounced table top exercise with Apache Corporation in the Gulf of Mexico. The exercise tested Apache's ability to mobilize its Spill Management Team, respond to multiple incidents, and care for oiled marine wildlife. Apache Corporation successfully met all objectives during the exercise.*
- *New:* **Shell Contracts Four Ultra-Deepwater, Enhanced Capability Drillships with Transocean:** *On Sep. 28, Transocean announced that Shell had awarded to it ten-year contracts for four new dynamically positioned ultra-deepwater drillships. Shipyard delivery for the first drillship is scheduled for mid-2015. The enhanced capabilities of*

*these drillships indicate at least some, and possibly all, of the drillships could be deployed in the Gulf of Mexico.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- *New:* **Senate Commerce Committee Field Hearings:** *On Oct. 11, the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a field hearing in Anchorage on future needs for OCS Arctic Ocean exploration and development. Deputy Secretary Hayes will participate in the first panel with U.S. Coast Guard - Alaska Commandant Ostebo and a representative of NOAA. The second panel will be composed of industry representatives, including Shell, and several Alaska Native Village corporations.*
- **No Change: 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)**

- *New:* **OSM Awards Contract for Renovation of Historic Coal Mine Maps:** *OSM has awarded a $60,000 contract to renovate historical underground coal mining maps from eastern Pennsylvania. OSM expects the contract to provide more than 4,000 maps for archiving. These maps are essential for planning future infrastructure development in eastern Pennsylvania and ensuring public safety over the abandoned underground mine workings.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10**

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK Preservation Summit: The** BLM-MT/DK State Office 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 cultural resource and preservation issues facing the tribes.
- *New:* **BLM-WY to Participate in Pavillion Meeting:** *Staff from the BLM-WY will attend the Pavillion Working Group meeting in Riverton, WY. Pavillion area residents have asserted that natural gas development, including hydraulic fracturing, has contaminated their drinking water. Encana is developing the wells on minerals owned by the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Group includes all stakeholders in the sharing of data and examination of potential sources of groundwater contamination in the area.*

- *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)**

**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.

**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.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 12:06 PM
**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
**Attachments:** ASLM Week Ahead Report 10-5-12 final.docx

Please use this updated version. Thanks!

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**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 12:00 PM
**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 (nkornze@blm.gov); Pool, Michael J (mpool@blm.gov); 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 (James.Watson@bsee.gov); Schneider, Margaret N; Lillie, Thomas; Childs, Anita; Pizarchik, Joseph G (jpizarchik@osmre.gov); Owens, Glenda H. (gowens@osmre.gov); Mali, Peter L.; Jeter, Joyce A. (jjeter@osmre.gov); Cruickshank, Walter (Walter.Cruickshank@boem.gov); Lindow, Emily R (Emily.Lindow@boem.gov); Altemus, Michele J; Marsters, Lizzie; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** Week Ahead Report

Attached please find the ASLM Week Ahead Report.

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**
**October 7 – October 13, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**Week of October 8, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke** – In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

**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.

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

- ***Update:*** **Final Solar PEIS Record of Decision (ROD):** *A final decision on the ROD for the Solar PEIS is expected in mid-October. BLM Public Affairs and DOI External Affairs are working on communications and outreach materials.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *The BLM plans to release the Final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA, 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 pending non-competitive geothermal lease application.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *The BLM anticipates releasing the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project on 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:*** **Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project ROD:** *On Oct. 5, the BLM will release the ROD for the Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project. The BLM's ROD authorizes in-situ mining, a low impact technique with significantly less environmental impact than open pit mining.*

**Oil and Gas and Potash**

- ***New:*** **Final Secretarial Order on Potash:** *The BLM has drafted a final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern New Mexico. A draft Order was announced July 12; the BLM received 28*

*comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. Departmental review of the order started October 1.*

**Transmission**

- ***Update:*** **Gateway West Transmission Line:** *This proposed transmission line would cross 1,100 miles in southern WY and southern ID. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council has voted to halt consideration of the BLM's preferred route—Alternative 5C—for Segment 5 of the project, which passes through their reservation. In June, the BLM received non-binding consent from the Tribe for this preferred alternative. The BLM is considering other alternatives as the cooperating agency review period continues. This change could delay the start of the final EIS public comment period, currently anticipated for November 30.*
- ***Update:*** **Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Line Final EIS:** *On Oct. 5, the BLM expects to publish the NOA for the FEIS for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 Transmission Project in Utah. The FEIS analyzes the impacts of granting a right-of-way across Federal (BLM and FS) land to PacifiCorp for a 160-mile transmission line. The BLM anticipates completing the ROD in early December.*
- ***Update:*** **Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line EIS:** *On Oct. 26, the BLM will publish the NOA for the draft EIS for the Sun Valley to Morgan, AZ, 500/230 kV transmission line. The 38-mile transmission line 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.*

**Miscellaneous**

- ***New:*** **DOI gives $6.8 Million for NV, CA Restoration Projects:** *The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 stipulates that the Department use proceeds from the sale of Federal land in Clark County, NV, for conservation and recreation improvement projects throughout NV. On Oct. 11, the Department anticipates announcing the decision to fund more than $6.8 million for projects throughout NV, including Lake Tahoe. Since the passage of the Act, the Department has contributed more than $2.9 billion to key restoration projects throughout NV.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- ***New:*** **Apache Corporation Unannounced Exercise:** *On Sep. 28, BSEE initiated an unannounced table top exercise with Apache Corporation in the Gulf of Mexico. The exercise tested Apache's ability to mobilize its Spill Management Team, respond to multiple incidents, and care for oiled marine wildlife. Apache Corporation successfully met all objectives during the exercise.*
- ***New:*** **Shell Contracts Four Ultra-Deepwater, Enhanced Capability Drillships with Transocean:** *On Sep. 28, Transocean announced that Shell had awarded to it ten-year contracts for four new dynamically positioned ultra-deepwater drillships. Shipyard delivery for the first drillship is scheduled for mid-2015. The enhanced capabilities of these drillships indicate at least some, and possibly all, of the drillships could be deployed in the Gulf of Mexico.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- *New:* **Senate Commerce Committee Field Hearings:** *On Oct. 11, the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a field hearing in Anchorage on future needs for OCS Arctic Ocean exploration and development. Deputy Secretary Hayes will participate in the first panel with U.S. Coast Guard - Alaska Commandant Ostebo and a representative of NOAA. The second panel will be composed of industry representatives, including Shell, and several Alaska Native Village corporations.*
- *New:* **Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Hearing:** *On Oct. 4, the Maine PUC held a hearing on Statoil's proposal for four floating turbines off the Maine coast. The Commission did not make a decision although two of the three commissioners expressed concern that the proposal does not adequately benefit Maine residents because Statoil makes no commitment for future activity in Maine. The PUC will table a decision until Statoil responds to a forthcoming request for more information on the economic benefits.*
- **No Change: 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)**

- *New:* **OSM Awards Contract for Renovation of Historic Coal Mine Maps:** *OSM has awarded a $60,000 contract to renovate historical underground coal mining maps from eastern Pennsylvania. OSM expects the contract to provide more than 4,000 maps for archiving. These maps are essential for planning future infrastructure development in eastern Pennsylvania and ensuring public safety over the abandoned underground mine workings.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Tuesday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 10**

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK Preservation Summit:** The BLM-MT/DK State Office 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 cultural resource and preservation issues facing the tribes.
- *New:* **BLM-WY to Participate in Pavillion Meeting:** *Staff from the BLM-WY will attend the Pavillion Working Group meeting in Riverton, WY. Pavillion area residents have asserted that natural gas development, including hydraulic fracturing, has*

*contaminated their drinking water. Encana is developing the wells on minerals owned by the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Group includes all stakeholders in the sharing of data and examination of potential sources of groundwater contamination in the area.*

- *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.*

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Mouritsen, Karen E
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 2:34 PM
**To:** Barlan, Bryce; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: BLM Weekly Report for Oct 14-20, 20-12
**Attachments:** BLM_weeklyreport_october 14 - 20drft2 FINAL.docx

Celina, don't know if you have this since Michael is out.

---

**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**
**October 14, 2012 – October 20, 2012**
*Internal Working Document*

## HOT TOPICS

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- ***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.
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- ***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.*

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**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.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 6:15 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Ishee, Mary K; Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Short Report draft
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-11-12_draft.docx

I've attached a copy of the short report for your review.

Have a good night,

Celina

**Weekly Report to the Secretary**
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**
**October 11, 2012**

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I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

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

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

[redacted]

- **Ongoing Projects:**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

Formatted: (b) (5)

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[redacted]

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**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.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:17 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-11-12_draft_CC.docx

Here's an updated draft. Regarding your question on the Shell anchor, Jully and I are in touch with the bureaus. So far we haven't gotten a clear answer on the implications and next steps. The guys who would know are out with the Deputy Secretary at the moment so I'm not sure if we'll get clarity by the time the report is due. I'll let you know what we do find out.

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**

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I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

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[redacted]

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

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III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:36 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P; Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-11-12_draft_CC.docx

We got an update from BOEM. The attached updated draft includes additional info in the Shell bullet:

- **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.

---

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:17 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report

Here's an updated draft. Regarding your question on the Shell anchor, Jully and I are in touch with the bureaus. So far we haven't gotten a clear answer on the implications and next steps. The guys who would know are out with the Deputy Secretary at the moment so I'm not sure if we'll get clarity by the time the report is due. I'll let you know what we do find out.

Celina Cunningham
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celina_cunningham@ios.doi.gov

(b) (5)

**Weekly Report to the Secretary**
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**
**October 11, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

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[redacted]

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

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[redacted]

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- **Atlantic Wind**

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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:59 PM
**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
**Attachments:** ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-11-12 final.docx

Please use the attached updated version. Sorry!

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**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

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 2013. 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.
**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 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.

- **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** On Oct. 5, OSM received a response letter from the Tennessee Attorney General that helps to clarify the State's position on the petition. OSM is currently reviewing the letter. Acting ASLM Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area during the week of Oct. 15, and to meet with field staff in Knoxville.

**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

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

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 6:10 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: Potash Order
**Attachments:** Potash - SO -Draft_10.9.12_bb edits 10.10.12.doc; POTASH-OG NOA for comment analysis 10-10-12_bb edits 10.10.12.docx; Potash - OG Secretary decision memo (10 10 2012)_bb edits 10.10.12.docx

FYI – As we just discussed.

Enjoy.

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:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 5:21 PM
**To:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

For some reason, I have a feeling you don't have the most recent versions.

The attached documents have the same names as the previous documents I shared with you, but I don't think I hit the save button before attaching the docs to the email message.

Please review the version in this email instead.

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:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 5:17 PM
**To:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

Greetings Ned/Rich,

I've completed my review of the document we currently have in surnaming from the BLM regarding the Sec Potash Order.

I've provided my edits in each document so they should be easy to see.

The only document that may contain edits other than my own is the Sec Order itself. The reason for that is because BLM wanted to us to what changes were made from the version that was released during the public comment period to what is being proposed right now.

However, I don't think it'd be a problem to see my edits because they are either highlighted in yellow or have comment bubbles (with my signature) next to them.

At this point, I am just waiting for the comment analysis document and the NEPA doc.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:52 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

Sounds good.

As a side note – I didn't mention this previously and I may be stating the obvious, but the reason why BLM submitted the surnaming package in parts is because they wanted to give us early and ample opportunity to review the document(s). They didn't want to wait until all the t's were crossed and i's were dotted, which might result in ASLM having a pressured/limited schedule to review the document. They would like to avoid that.

FYI - Right now it looks like the signing date is scheduled for some time in mid-November.

Thanks!

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:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:29 PM

**To:** Barlan, Bryce; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Re: Potash Order

I can wait until all of you have completed your review.

Thanks,

Marcilynn A. Burke
Acting Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Mgmt.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6734 (voice) (202) 208-3619 (fax)
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov

---

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:26 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Potash Order

Marcilynn/Ned,

I just wanted you to know that there is one item missing in the surnaming package...the comment analysis document.

The SOL's office is still reviewing the comment analysis document and would like to make further improvements to the document.

(b) (5)

. I hope that makes sense.

Included in the surnaming package that we currently have is:

- the briefing paper for DH and the Sec,
- the draft NOA of the comment analysis document, and
- a copy of the Order in a clean and track changes version.

What is missing for our review is the final comment analysis document. The SOLs have said that they anticipate on completing their edits of the comments analysis document before the end of the week. We, then, would receive a copy of it for official surname. And just so you know, I have a copy of the most recent version of the comment analysis document. However, it does not include SOL edits. If you'd like to see a copy of it, I'd be more than happy to share.

Another document I assume you all will be interested in reviewing is the EA. That, too, should be available by the end of the week.

With that said, I am still going to push forward with my review of what has already been submitted.

Would you all like to do the same or wait until we've received all the documents? I ask only because I will make copies for you if you wish to start your review ASAP.

FYI – Rich and I have had this discussion already so he's aware of our current status.

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

ORDER NO.

Subject: Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico

Sec. 1 **Purpose and Effect**. This Order revises and supersedes the Order of the Secretary of the Interior, dated, October 28, 1986 (51 FR 39425), corrected August 26, 1987 (52 FR 32171), and provides procedures and guidelines for ~~fostering~~ ~~more~~ orderly co-development of oil and gas and potash deposits owned by the United States within the Designated Potash Area through safe, concurrent operations. (b) (5)

Sec. 2 **Authority**. This Order is issued in accordance with the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*); the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), and regulations and onshore orders implementing these statutes.

Sec. 3 **Order Revised and Superseded**. The Order of the Secretary of the Interior of October 28, 1986 (51 FR 39425), corrected August 26, 1987 (52 FR 32171), is hereby superseded and the following provisions will apply to concurrent operations in prospecting for, developing, and producing oil and gas and potash deposits owned by the United States within the Designated Potash Area.

Sec. 4. **Definitions**.

a. Authorized Officer - Any employee of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorized to perform duties described in 43 CFR Parts 3000, 3100, and 3500, as delegated in the BLM Manual.

b. Barren Area - An area established by the BLM within the Designated Potash Area for which sufficient data is available to establish a lack of potash mineralization in sufficient thickness and quality to be mineable under existing technology and economics.

c. Buffer Zone - Areas established by the BLM within the Designated Potash Area

(1) extending outward a certain distance from the perimeter of existing underground open mine workings within which oil or gas operations are generally not allowed due to a BLM determination that oil or gas drilling could constitute a hazard to or interfere with orderly potash mining operations, or

(2) extending outward a certain distance from operating oil or gas well(s) or established Drilling Islands within which potash operations are generally not allowed due to a BLM determination that potash mining or exploration operations could constitute a hazard to or interfere with orderly oil or gas operations.

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d. Co-development - The concurrent development of oil and gas and potash resources within the Designated Potash Area. Co-development is a cooperative effort between industries under the guidelines of this order, as regulated by the BLM, to support production of potash and oil and gas from the lands within the Designated Potash Area. ~~Co-development may require that the development of the resources occur at different times and from different places.~~

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e. Designated Potash Area - The land area described at Section 8 of this Order.

f. Development Area - An area established by the BLM within the Designated Potash Area in consideration of appropriate oil and gas technology such that wells can be drilled from a Drilling Island capable of effectively extracting oil and gas resources while ~~limiting~~ he impact on potash resources. Each Development Area will typically have only one Drilling Island, subject to narrow exceptions based on specific facts and circumstances. All new oil and gas wells that penetrate the potash formations within a Development Area will be drilled from the Drilling Island(s) associated with that Development Area. The boundaries of each Development Area will be determined in conformity with Section 6.e.(2).

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h. Indicated Resources - Potash resources from which tonnage, grade, and mineral content are computed partly from specific measurements and samples, and partly from projection of geologic evidence. Indicated Resources are estimated at a lower level of confidence than Measured Reserves.

i. Inferred Resources - Potash resources which are probable, considering reasonably correlated data from lithologic descriptions and well logs, but for which tonnage and grade cannot be computed due to the absence of specific data.

j. Joint Industry Technical Committee - A committee established by, and subject to the management and control of, the potash mining industry and the oil and gas industry whose role is to study how concurrent development of potash and oil and gas can be safely performed in proximity to each other. While the committee may provide input to the BLM on such matters as indicated herein or otherwise at its discretion, it will not be subject to the BLM's management or control.

k. Measured Reserves (also known as "Potash Enclave") - Areas within the Designated Potash Area where potash is known to exist in sufficient thickness and quality to be mineable under existing technology and economics.

l. Potash - Potassium and associated minerals as specified in the Act of February 27,

1927 (30 U.S.C. §§ 281-287).

m. Unknown Area - An area within the Designated Potash Area where there is an absence of data for the BLM to classify the mineralization as Measured Reserves, Indicated Resources, Inferred Resources, or Barren Area.

Sec. 5 **Status of Lands**. This Order will not affect the current status of lands with respect to their being withdrawn from or open to entry or leasing.

Sec. 6 **General Provisions.**

a. Issuance of Oil and Gas Leases. The Department of the Interior reaffirms its policy that the lease stipulations contained in the Order of the Secretary of the Interior dated October 28, 1986, corrected August 26, 1987 (52 FR 32171), are necessary to protect the rights of the oil and gas and potash lessees and operators. Therefore, each successful applicant for a noncompetitive oil and gas lease, and any party awarded a competitive lease, for lands included in the Designated Potash Area is required, as a condition to the issuance of such lease, to execute a stipulation to the lease as follows:

(1) Drilling for oil and gas shall be permitted only in the event that the lessee establishes to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer, Bureau of Land Management, that such drilling will not interfere with the mining and recovery of potash deposits, or the interest of the United States will best be served by permitting such drilling.

(2) No wells shall be drilled for oil or gas at a location which, in the opinion of the Authorized Officer, would result in undue waste of potash deposits or constitute a hazard to or unduly interfere with mining operations being conducted for the extraction of potash deposits.

(3) When the Authorized Officer determines that unitization is necessary for orderly oil and gas development and proper protection of potash deposits, no well shall be drilled for oil or gas except pursuant to a unit plan approved by the Authorized Officer.

(4) The drilling or the abandonment of any well on said lease shall be done in accordance with applicable oil and gas operating regulations (43 CFR 3160), including such requirements as the Authorized Officer may prescribe as necessary to prevent the infiltration of oil, gas or water into formations containing potash deposits or into mines or workings being utilized in the extraction of such deposits.

In addition, the Authorized Officer will include a lease provision providing that drilling for and production of oil and gas will be subject to the terms of this Order, any subsequent revisions, and the orders of the Authorized Officer thereunder.

(b.) Reinstatement or Renewal of Oil and Gas Leases. As a condition to the granting of any discretionary reinstatement or renewal of any existing lease embracing lands included in the Designated Potash Area, the BLM will impose stipulations identical to those specified in Section 6.a.

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~~(c.)~~ Potash Leases.

(1) All potash permits, licenses and leases hereafter issued or existing potash leases hereafter readjusted for Federal lands within the Designated Potash Area, must be subject to a requirement, either to be included in the lease, license or permit or imposed as a stipulation, that no mining or exploration operations may be conducted that, in the opinion of the Authorized Officer, will constitute a hazard to oil or gas production, or that will unreasonably interfere with orderly development and production under any oil and gas lease issued for the same lands.

(2) BLM will continue to include applicable due diligence stipulations in all potash leases issued or readjusted after the date of this Order.

(3) Before being allowed to participate in a competitive lease sale, all bidders must certify in writing that they have an identifiable, substantial and genuine interest in developing the potash resources and that they intend to develop the potash resources in accordance with the applicable diligence stipulations.

(4) In addition, the Authorized Officer will include a lease provision providing that potash mining operations will be subject to the terms of this Order, any subsequent revisions, and the orders of the Authorized Officer thereunder.

d. Delineation of Resource Areas. Each potash lessee must file annually by March 1, with the Authorized Officer, data and a map(s) on which has been delineated the following information with respect to the Federal, state, and private potash leases which are then held; and lands on which exploration activities have been conducted.

(1) The areas where active mining operations are currently in progress in one or more ore zones;

(2) The areas where operations have been completed in one or more ore zones;

(3) Those areas that are not presently being mined which are considered to contain Measured Reserves in one or more ore zones;

(4) Those areas that are not presently being mined which are considered to contain Indicated Resources in one or more ore zones;

(5) Those areas that are not presently being mined which are considered to contain Inferred Resources in one or more ore zones;

(6) Those areas that are considered to be Barren Areas;

(7) Those areas that are Unknown Areas; and

(8) Those areas that are planned to be mined as per a three year mine plan.

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(9) The Authorized Officer will annually review the information submitted under this requirement and make any revisions to the boundaries of Measured Reserves, Indicated Resources, Inferred Resources, Barren Areas, and Unknown Areas (b) (5) The Authorized Officer will commit the initial findings to a map(s) of suitable scale and will thereafter revise that map(s) as necessary to reflect the latest available information.

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e. Oil and Gas Drilling.

(1) Drilling within the Designated Potash Area. It is the intent of the Department of the Interior to administer oil and gas operations throughout the Designated Potash Area in a manner which promotes safe, orderly co-development of oil and gas and potash resources. It is the policy of the Department of the Interior to deny approval of most applications for permits to drill oil and gas wells from surface locations within the Designated Potash Area. Three exceptions to this policy will be permitted if the drilling will occur ~~under the following conditions~~ from:

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(b) a Barren Area and the Authorized Officer determines that such operations will not adversely affect active or planned potash mining operations in the immediate vicinity of the proposed drill-site; or

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(2) Development Areas.

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(a) When processing an application for permit to drill (APD) an oil or gas well in the Designated Potash Area that complies with regulatory requirements, the Authorized Officer will determine whether to establish a Development Area in connection with the application, and if so, will determine the boundaries of the Development Area and the location within the Development Area of one or more Drilling Islands from which drilling will be permitted. The BLM may also designate a Development Area outside of the APD process based on information in its possession, and may modify the boundaries of a Development Area. Existing wells may be included within the boundaries of a Development Area. A Development Area may include Federal and non-Federal oil and gas leases and other Federal and non-Federal lands.

(b) After designating or modifying a Development Area, the BLM will issue a Notice to Lessees, consistent with its authorities under 43 CFR subpart 3105 and part

3180, informing lessees that future drilling on lands under an oil and gas lease within that Development Area will:

(i) occur, under most circumstances, from a Barren Area or a Drilling Island within the Development Area; and

(ii) be managed under a unit or communitization agreement, generally by a single operator, consistent with BLM regulations and this Order. Unit and communitization agreements will be negotiated among lessees. The BLM will consider whether a specific plan of development is necessary or advisable for a particular Drilling Island.

(c) The Authorized Officer reserves the right to approve an operator or successor operator of a Development Area and/or a Drilling Island, if applicable, to ensure that the operator has the resources to operate and extract the oil and gas resources consistent with the requirements of this Order and all applicable laws and regulations, and has provided financial assurance in the amount required by the Authorized Officer.

(d) The Authorized Officer will determine the appropriate designation of a Development Area in terms of location, shape and size. In most cases, a single Drilling Island will be established for each Development Area. In establishing the location, shape and size of a Development Area and an associated Drilling Island, the Authorized Officer will consider:

(i) The appropriate location, shape, and size of a Development Area and associated Drilling Island to allow effective extraction of oil and gas resources while ~~limiting~~ (b) (5) e impact on potash resources; (b) (5)

(ii) The application of available oil and gas drilling and production technology in the Permian Basin;

(iii) The applicable geology of the Designated Potash Area and optimal locations to minimize loss of potash ore while considering co-development of both resources;

(iv) Any long term exploration and/or mining plans provided by the potash industry;

(v) Whether a Barren Area may be the most appropriate area for a Drilling Island;

(vi) The requirements of this Order; and

(vii) Any other relevant factors.

(e) As the Authorized Officer establishes a Development Area, the Authorized Officer will more strictly apply the factors listed in Section 6.e.(2)(d), especially the appropriate application of the available oil and gas drilling and production technology in the Permian Basin, when closer to current traditional (non-solution) potash mining operations.

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Greater flexibility in the application of the factors listed in Section 6.e.(2)(d) will be applied further from current and near-term traditional (non-solution) potash mining operations. No Drilling Islands will be established within one mile of any area where approved potash mining operations will be conducted within three years consistent with the three year mine plan referenced above (Section 6.d.(8)) without the consent of the affected potash lessee(s).

(f) The Authorized Officer may establish a Development Area associated with a well or wells drilled from a Barren Area as appropriate and necessary.

(g) As part of the consideration for establishing Development Areas and Drilling Islands, the BLM will consider input from the potash lessees and the oil and gas lessees or mineral right owners who would be potentially subject to a unitization agreement supporting the Development Area, provided that the input is provided timely.

(3) Buffer Zones. Buffer Zones of ¼ mile for oil wells and ½ mile for gas wells are hereby established. These Buffer Zones will stay in effect until such time as revised distances are adopted by the BLM Director or other BLM official, as delegated. However, the Authorized Officer may adjust the Buffer Zones in an individual case, when the facts and circumstances demonstrate that such adjustment would enhance conservation and would not compromise safety. The Director will base revised Buffer Zones on science, engineering, and new technology and will consider comments and reports from the Joint Industry Technical Committee and other interested parties in adopting any revisions.

(4) Unitization and Communitization. To more properly conserve the potash and oil and gas resources in the Designated Potash Area and to adequately protect the rights of all parties in interest, including the United States, it is the policy of the Department of the Interior that all Federal leases within a Development Area should be unitized or subject to an approved communitization agreement unless there is a compelling reason for another operating system. The Authorized Officer will make full use of his/her authorities wherever necessary or advisable to require unitizatio(b) (5) mmunitization pursuant to the regulations in 43 CFR subparts 3105 and 3180. The Authorized Officer will use his/her discretion to the fullest extent possible to assure that any communitization agreement and any unit plan of operations hereafter approved or prescribed within the Designated Potash Area will adhere to the provisions of this Order. The Authorized Officer will work with Federal lessees, and with the State of New Mexico as provided below, to include non-Federal mineral rights owners in unit or communitization agreements to the extent possible.

(5) Coordination with the State of New Mexico.

(a) If the effective operation of any Development Area requires that the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) revise the state's mandatory well spacing requirements, the BLM will participate as needed in such a process. The BLM may adopt the NMOCD spacing requirements and require lessees to enter into communitization agreements based on those requirements.

(b) The BLM will cooperate with the NMOCD in the implementation of that agency's rules and regulations. ~~In that regard, the Federal potash lessees may protest to the NMOCD the drilling of a proposed oil and gas well on Federal lands provided that the location~~

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~~of said well is within the State of New Mexico's "Oil-Potash Area" as that area is delineated by NMOCD Order No. R-111, as amended. However, the BLM will exercise its prerogative to make the final decision about whether to approve the drilling of any proposed well on a Federal oil and gas lease within the Designated Potash Area.~~ (b) (5)

(c) In taking any action under Section 6.e. of this Order, the Authorized Officer will take into consideration the applicable rules and regulations of the NMOCD.

(6) Approvals of Exploration on Existing Potash Leases and Potash Exploration Licenses.

(a) Exploration for potash on lands leased for potash is permitted only with approval by the BLM, in consultation and coordination with the potash lessee, of an exploration plan in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 3592 and subject to the terms and conditions of the potash lease.

(b) An oil and gas or potash operator may apply for an exploration license to drill core holes necessary to define the absence or existence and extent of mineable potash reserves in areas within the Designated Potash Area. Exploration licenses allow the exploration of known, unleased mineral deposits to obtain geologic, environmental, and other pertinent data concerning the deposit. See 43 CFR subpart 3506. These licenses can be obtained from the Carlsbad Field Office, BLM. Costs for such exploration may be shared consistent with the provisions of 43 CFR 3506.14, if applicable.

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(8) Access to Maps and Surveys.

(a) Well records and survey plats that an oil and gas lessee is required to file

pursuant to applicable operating regulations (43 CFR subpart 3160) will be available for inspection at the Carlsbad Field Office, BLM, by any party holding a potash permit or lease on the lands on which the well is situated insofar as such records are pertinent to the mining and protection of potash deposits.

(b) Maps of mine workings and surface installations and records of core analyses that a potash lessee is required to file pursuant to applicable operating regulations (43 CFR 3590) will be available for inspection at the Carlsbad Field Office, BLM. These records are available for viewing by any party holding an oil and gas lease on the same lands insofar as such records are pertinent to the development and protection of oil and gas deposits.

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(d) Maps of potash reserves and resources prepared under the provisions of Section 6.d. will be available for inspection in the Carlsbad Field Office, BLM. Digital copies of these maps will be available by mail or at these offices by May 1 of each year. Maps of established Development Areas will be updated as new Development Areas are established. Maps of Development Areas will be provided in a timely fashion by the BLM upon request.

Sec. 7 **Regulatory and Administrative Matters.**

(a.) This Order applies to the exercise of all existing leases in the Designated Potash Area in conformity with lease stipulations and Federal law.

(b.) Except to the extent otherwise provided by this Order, the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 3100 and Subparts 3160 and 3180 (governing the leasing and development of oil and gas) and 43 CFR Part 3500 and Subpart 3590 (governing the leasing and development of potash deposits), remain applicable to the lands covered by this Order.

(c.) In implementing this Order, the BLM is authorized to exercise its discretion through any and all appropriate means, including rulemaking, notices to lessees, and orders of the Authorized Officer.

(d.) The BLM will obtain and use the best science available when administering this Order consistent with Departmental Manual chapters 305 DM 2 and 305 DM 3. The BLM will comply with the requirements of Secretarial Order 3305 on Scientific Integrity. The BLM has previously used Sandia National Laboratories to provide unbiased

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technical assistance in administering the Designated Potash Area and may continue to do so, if the BLM, consistent with all applicable laws, so chooses.

~~(e.)~~ The BLM will develop guidelines consistent with this Order for establishing Development Areas and Drilling Islands. In developing such guidelines, the BLM may consider comments and reports from the Joint Industry Technical Committee and other interested parties.

~~(f.)~~ The BLM will develop appropriate time-frame guidelines and requirements, as appropriate, to enable timely actions pursuant to this Order.

Sec. 8. **The Designated Potash Area Legal Description.**

New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 22 S., R. 28 E.,
secs. 25 and 36.

T. 23 S., R. 28 E.,
sec. 1.

T. 19 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 and 2;
secs 11 to 15, inclusive;
secs. 22 to 27, inclusive;
secs. 35 and 36.

T. 20 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 and 2;
secs. 11 to 15, inclusive;
secs. 22 to 27, inclusive;
secs. 34 to 36, inclusive.

T. 21 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 to 5, inclusive;
secs, 10 to 15, inclusive;
secs. 22 to 27, inclusive;
secs. 34 to 36, inclusive.

T. 22 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 to 5, inclusive;
secs. 8 to 17, inclusive;
secs. 19 to 36, inclusive.

T. 23 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 to 17, inclusive;
secs. 21 to 28, inclusive;
secs. 33 to 36, inclusive.

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T. 24 S., R. 29 E.,
secs. 1 to 4, inclusive.

T. 18 S., R. 30 E.,
secs. 8 to 17, inclusive;
secs. 20 to 29, inclusive;
secs. 32 to 36, inclusive.

T. 19 S., R. 30 E.

T. 20 S., R. 30 E.

T. 21 S., R. 30 E.

T. 22 S., R. 30 E.

T. 23 S., R. 30 E.

T. 24 S., R. 30 E.,
secs. 1 to 18, inclusive.

T. 19 S., R. 31 E.,
secs. 7 and 18;
secs. 31 to 36, inclusive.

T. 20 S., R. 31 E.

T. 21 S., R. 31 E.

T. 22 S., R. 31 E.

T. 23 S., R. 31 E.

T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,
secs. 1 to 18, inclusive;
secs. 35 and 36.

T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
secs. 1 and 2.

T. 19 S., R. 32 E.,
secs. 25 to 28, inclusive;
secs. 31 to 36, inclusive.

T. 20 S., R. 32 E.

T. 21 S., R. 32 E.

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T. 22 S., R. 32 E.,
secs. 1 to 12, inclusive.

T. 19 S., R. 33 E.,
secs. 21 to 36, inclusive.

T. 20 S., R. 33 E.

T. 21 S., R. 33 E.

T. 22 S., R. 33 E.,
secs. 1 to 12, inclusive.

T. 19 S., R. 34 E.,
secs. 19 and 20;
secs. 29 to 32, inclusive.

T. 20 S., R. 34 E.,
secs. 3 to 10, inclusive;
secs. 15 to 36, inclusive.

T. 21 S., R. 34 E.,
secs. 5 to 8, inclusive;
secs. 17 to 20, inclusive;
secs. 29 to 32, inclusive.

T. 22 S., R. 34 E.,
sec. 6.

The area described, including public and non-public lands, aggregates 497,002.03 acres, more or less.

Sec. 9 **Administrative Provisions.** The Director, BLM, is authorized to delegate responsibilities herein as is determined appropriate. This Order will remain in effect until superseded, replaced, or incorporated into the Departmental Manual.

Secretary of the Interior

Date:

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4310-VC

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[LLWO100000, L18200000.XX0000]**

**Notice of Availability of the Comment Analysis for the Order of the Secretary on Oil and Gas and Potash Development Within the Designated Potash Area, Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

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**ADDRESSES:** The Comments that were received and the comment analysis are available for review at the following Website: http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/info/potash.html. The 2012 Secretary's Order was published in the Federal Register on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE 2012 SECRETARY'S ORDER IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tony Herrell; telephone 505-954-2222; 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe. New Mexico, 87508; e-mail: therrell@blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

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[redacted]

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The New 2012 Secretary's Order

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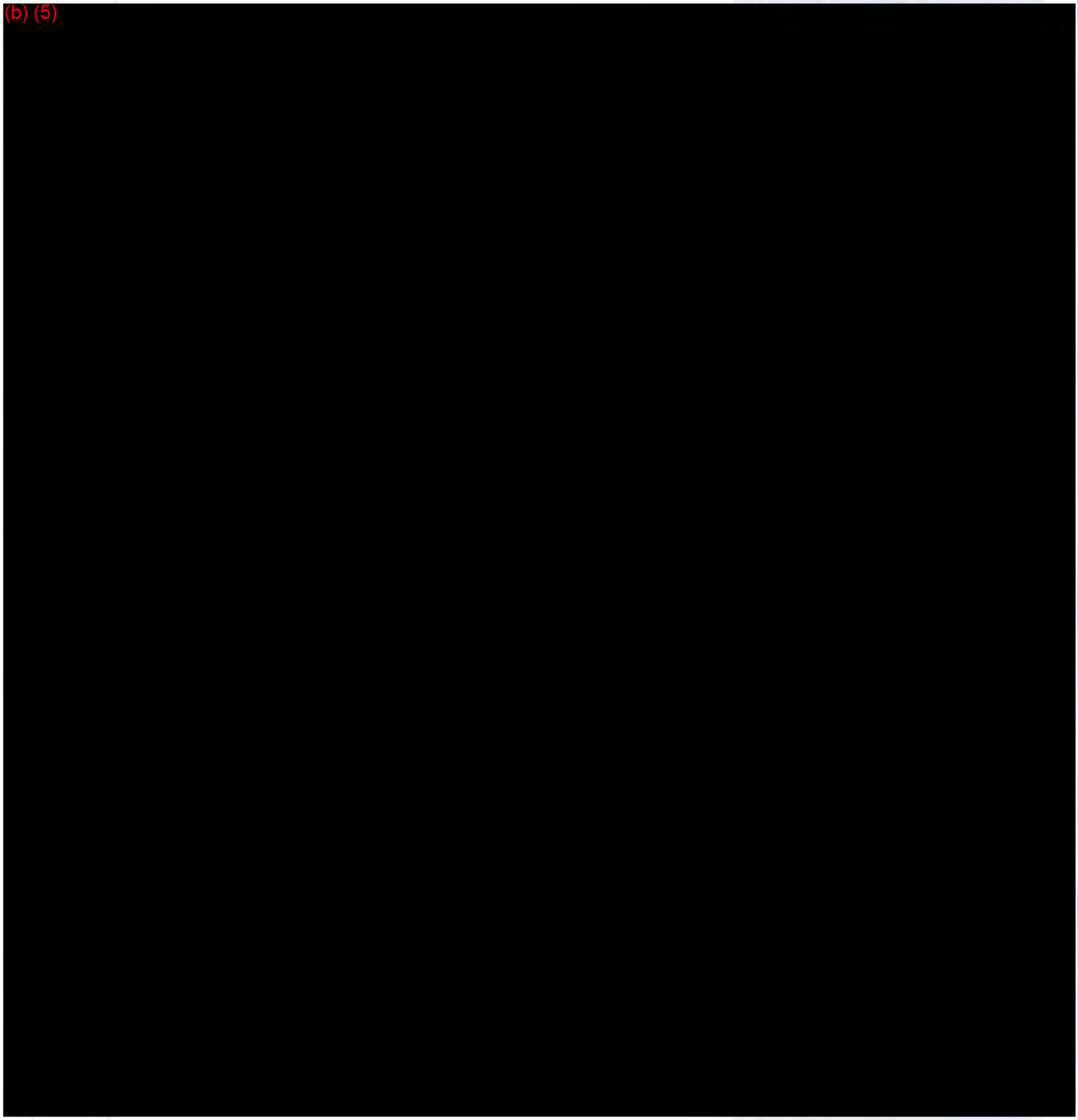
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**Comments on the Draft Order**

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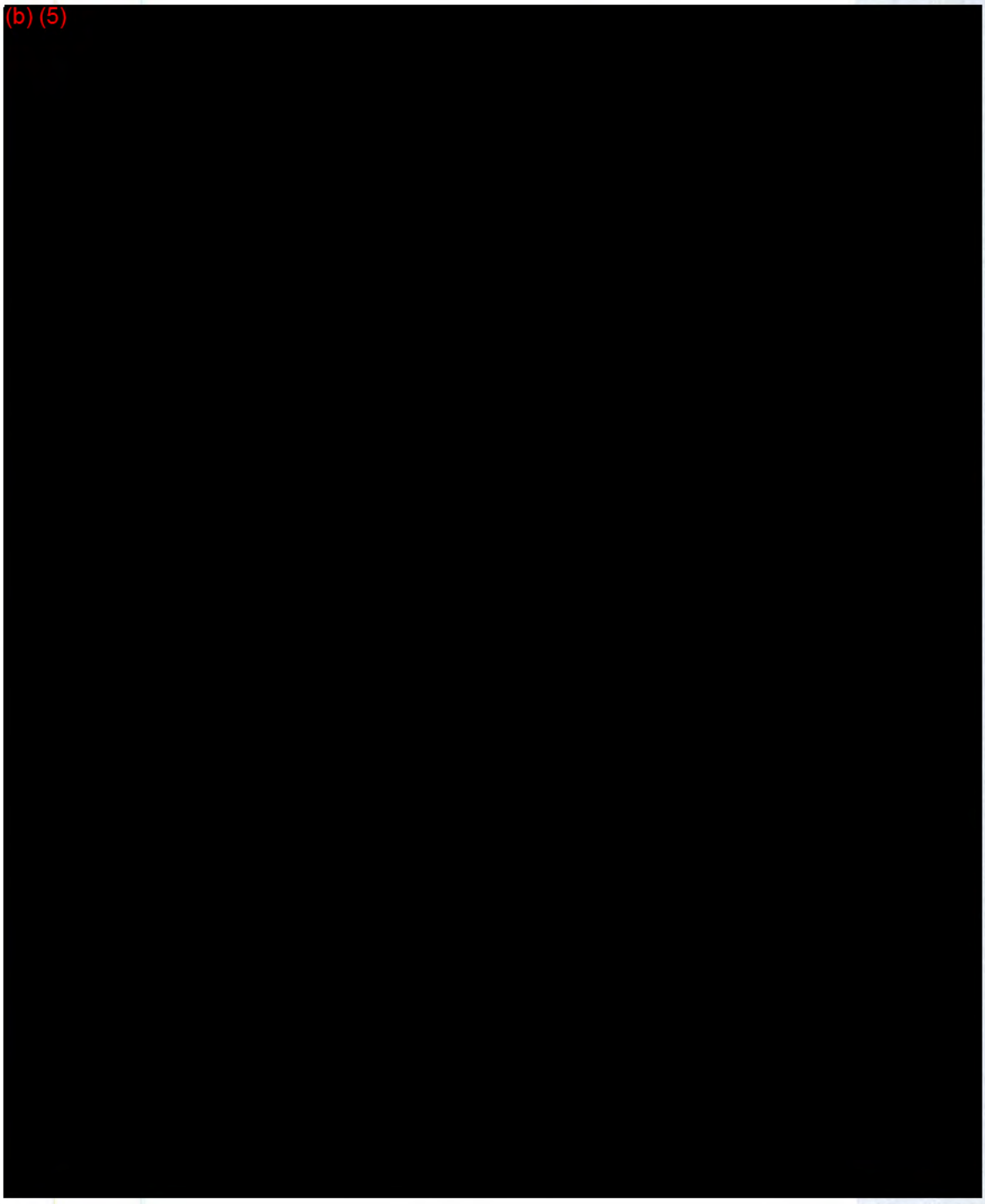

Mike Pool

Acting Director, Bureau of Land Managment

AUTHORITY: 43 CFR 3164.1, 43 CFR 3590.2

**DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

FROM: Mike Pool, Acting Director

CC: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Marcilynn Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Jack Haugrud, Deputy Solicitor

SUBJECT: Proposed Final 2012 Secretary's Order on Oil and Gas and Potash Development Within the Designated Potash Area, Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico

I. INTRODUCTION

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II. BACKGROUND

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[redacted]

III. POSITION of INTERESTED PARTIES

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[redacted]

IV. DECISION OPTIONS

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[redacted]

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V. RECOMMENDATION

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VI. DECISION BY THE SECRETARY

APPROVE: ___

DISAPPROVE: ___

COMMENTS: ___

_____

Ken Salazar

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 10:51 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Fw: Long Report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Week_Ahead_Report_10-12-12_draft_MAB.docx

Thanks,

Marcilynn A. Burke
Acting Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Mgmt.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6734 (voice) (202) 208-3619 (fax)
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov

---

**From:** Burke, Marcilynn [mailto:MBurke@Central.UH.EDU]
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 10:11 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: Long Report

Please see edits, comments, and questions.

Thanks,

Marcilynn

---

Marcilynn A. Burke
Associate Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center • 100 Law Center • Houston, TX 77204-6060
(713) 743-2336 (voice) • (713) 743-2223 (fax)
maburke@uh.edu (e-mail) • http://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/mburke/ (web site)
You may access my papers on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) at http://ssrn.com/author=381808.

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**From:** Burke, Marcilynn [mailto:Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov]
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:18 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** Fw: Long Report

Thanks,

Marcilynn A. Burke
Acting Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Mgmt.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior

1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6734 (voice) (202) 208-3619 (fax)
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov

**From**: Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent**: Thursday, October 11, 2012 06:39 PM
**To**: Burke, Marcilynn; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc**: McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, Vermell; Mouritsen, Karen E; Farquhar, Ned; Ishee, Mary K; Barlan, Bryce
**Subject**: Long Report

Hi all – the long report is coming along. BB/KM/JM, there are a few comments/questions pending. Please incorporate your edits on the sharepoint version by 10:15 am.

I'm including Marcilynn in case you want to review. Otherwise, I'll get a copy to Ned and Rich for review in the morning, after the team has a chance to make any last additions.

Thanks and Go Nats!!

## LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT
**October 14 – October 20, 2012**

### SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**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.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

### HOT TOPICS

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

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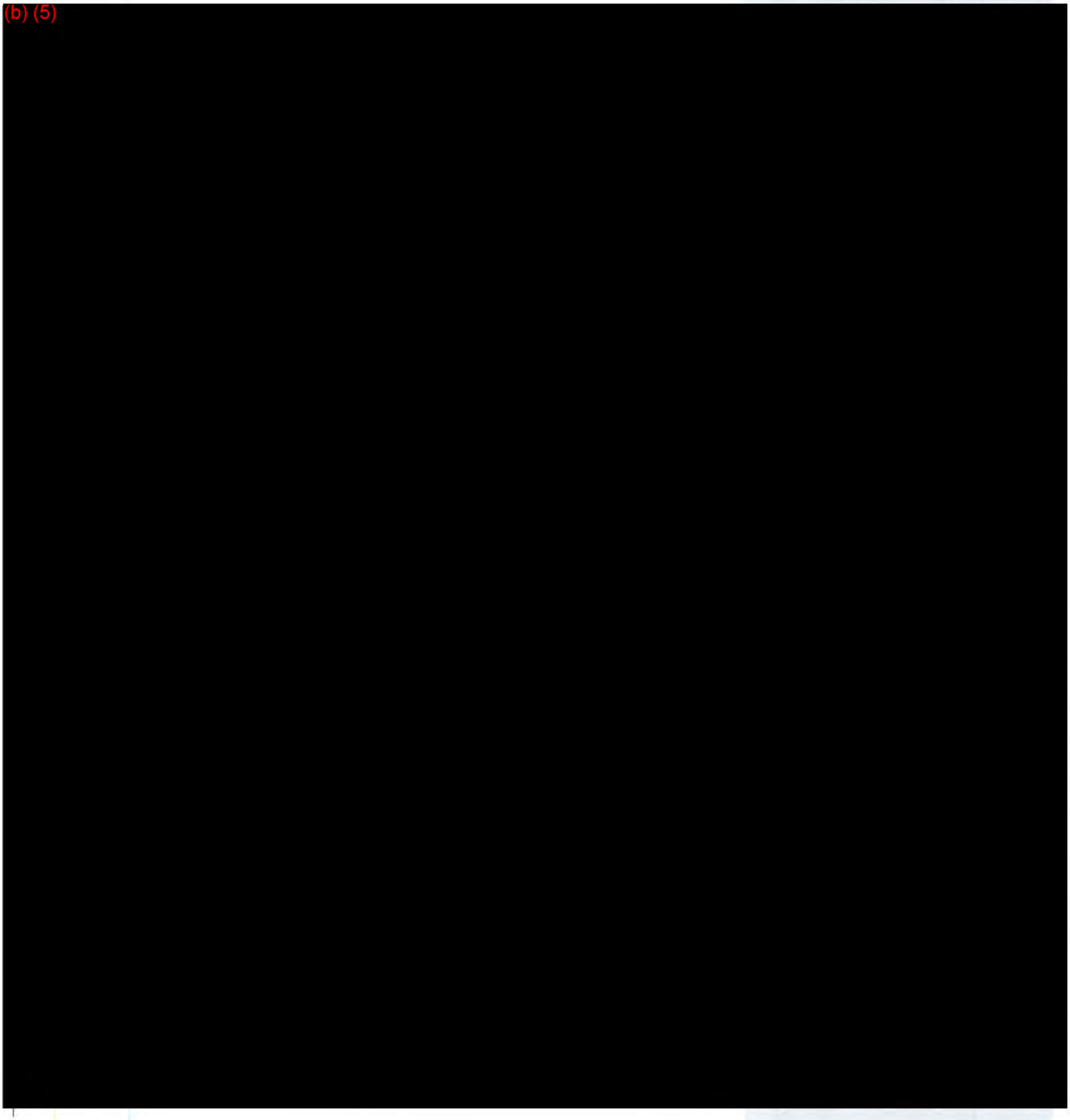
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## WEEK AHEAD

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**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

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**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- **Nothing new to report.**

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- **Nothing new to report.**

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**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- **Nothing new to report.**

**WEEKS AHEAD**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Tuesday, October 23**

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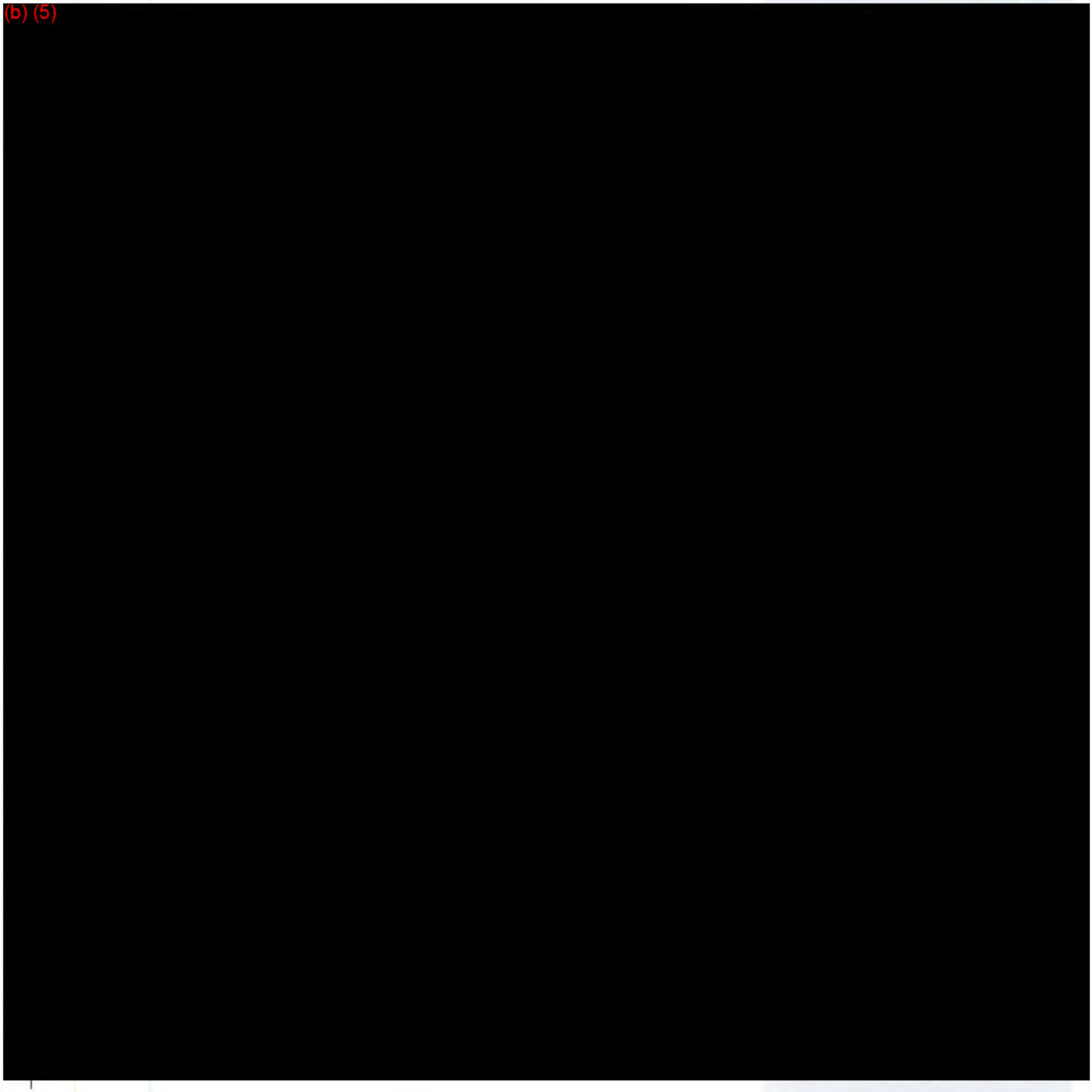
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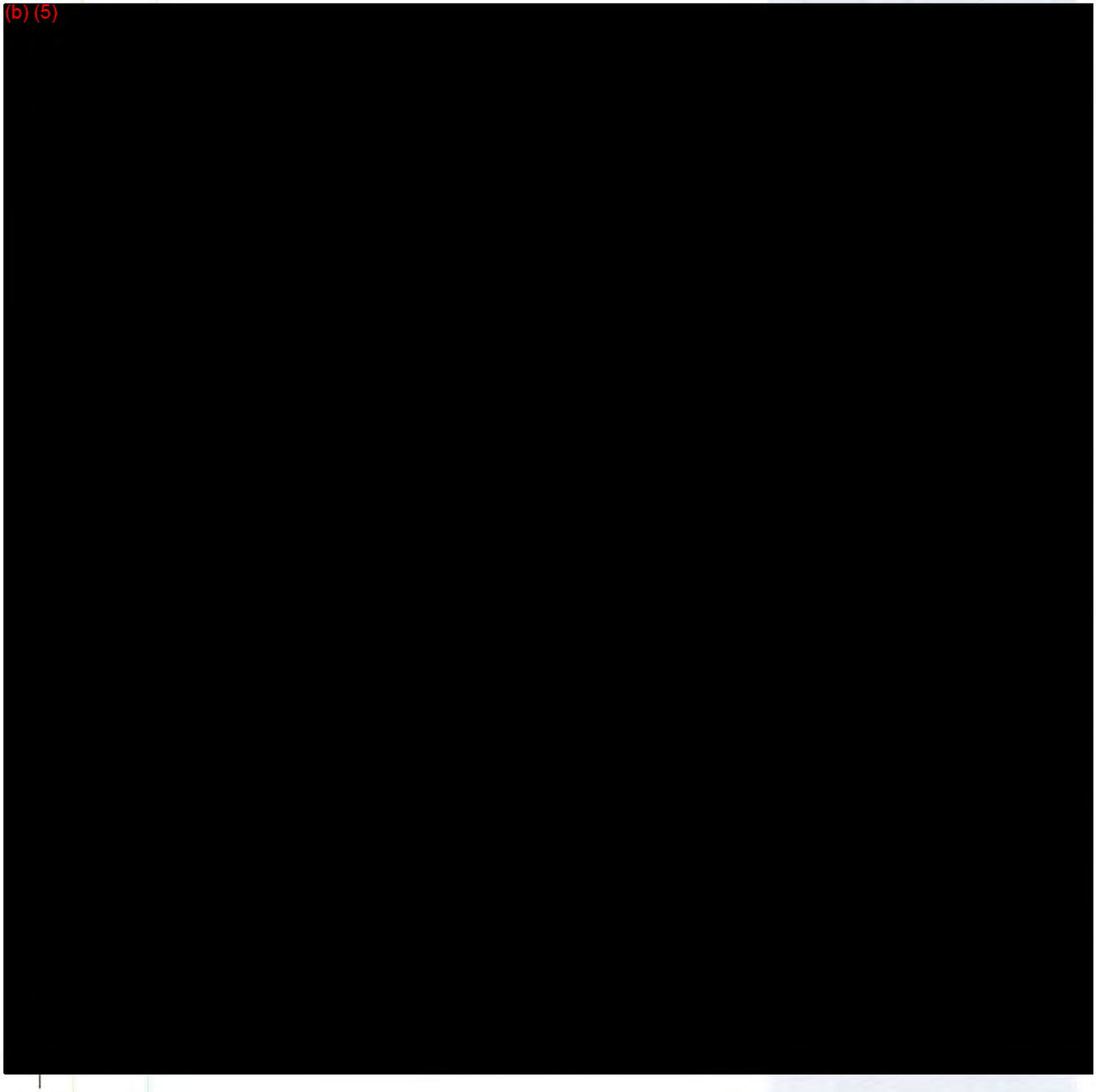

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Page 2: [1] Comment [MKE7] Mouritsen, Karen E 10/11/2012 6:24:00 PM

(b) (5)

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Friday, October 12, 2012 9:12 AM
**To:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order
**Attachments:** Comment analysis 10.9.12paa.docx

Ned/Rich,

FYI – Just wanted to share a copy of the most recent version of the comment analysis document with you. Although it's not the final version with SOL edits, I found it to be useful when reviewing the NOA and the Sec Order.

I know you may have other items on your plates right now, but I hope the documents I've provided you with are adequate to persuade you to initiate your review. ☺

If you do decide to initiate your review, please don't bother editing the comment analysis document since the SOLs are still editing it. I would just use it as a guide for understanding the BLM's rationale in making or not making edits to the Order.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I'll be passing by just to follow up on this email.

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

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**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 5:21 PM
**To:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

For some reason, I have a feeling you don't have the most recent versions.

The attached documents have the same names as the previous documents I shared with you, but I don't think I hit the save button before attaching the docs to the email message.

Please review the version in this email instead.

Bryce Barlan
Office of the Assistant Secretary
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bbarlan@blm.gov

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**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 5:17 PM
**To:** Farquhar, Ned; Cardinale, Richard
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

Greetings Ned/Rich,

I've completed my review of the document we currently have in surnaming from the BLM regarding the Sec Potash Order.

I've provided my edits in each document so they should be easy to see.

The only document that may contain edits other than my own is the Sec Order itself. The reason for that is because BLM wanted to us to what changes were made from the version that was released during the public comment period to what is being proposed right now.

However, I don't think it'd be a problem to see my edits because they are either highlighted in yellow or have comment bubbles (with my signature) next to them.

At this point, I am just waiting for the comment analysis document and the NEPA doc.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Bryce Barlan
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bbarlan@blm.gov

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**From:** Barlan, Bryce
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:52 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** RE: Potash Order

Sounds good.

As a side note – I didn't mention this previously and I may be stating the obvious, but the reason why BLM submitted the surnaming package in parts is because they wanted to give us early and ample opportunity to review the document(s). They didn't want to wait until all the t's were crossed and i's were dotted, which might result in ASLM having a pressured/limited schedule to review the document. They would like to avoid that.

FYI - Right now it looks like the signing date is scheduled for some time in mid-November.

Thanks!

Bryce Barlan
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Fax: 202-208-6243
bbarlan@blm.gov

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**From:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:29 PM
**To:** Barlan, Bryce; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Re: Potash Order

I can wait until all of you have completed your review.

Thanks,

Marcilynn A. Burke
Acting Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Mgmt.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6734 (voice) (202) 208-3619 (fax)
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov

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**From**: Barlan, Bryce
**Sent**: Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:26 PM
**To**: Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned
**Cc**: Cardinale, Richard
**Subject**: Potash Order

Marcilynn/Ned,

I just wanted you to know that there is one item missing in the surnaming package...the comment analysis document.

The SOL's office is still reviewing the comment analysis document and would like to make further improvements to the document.

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d. I hope that makes sense.

Included in the surnaming package that we currently have is:

- the briefing paper for DH and the Sec,
- the draft NOA of the comment analysis document, and
- a copy of the Order in a clean and track changes version.

What is missing for our review is the final comment analysis document. The SOLs have said that they anticipate on completing their edits of the comments analysis document before the end of the week. We, then, would receive a copy of it for official surname. And just so you know, I have a copy of the most recent version of the comment analysis document. However, it does not include SOL edits. If you'd like to see a copy of it, I'd be more than happy to share.

Another document I assume you all will be interested in reviewing is the EA. That, too, should be available by the end of the week.

With that said, I am still going to push forward with my review of what has already been submitted.

Would you all like to do the same or wait until we've received all the documents? I ask only because I will make copies for you if you wish to start your review ASAP.

FYI – Rich and I have had this discussion already so he's aware of our current status.

Bryce Barlan
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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 1** | **Def.: Co-Development** |
|---|---|

**Comment Summary:** Delete Section 4.d or, at a minimum, the specific language from Section 4.d: "Co-development may require that the development of the resources occur at different times and from different places." The Joint Industry Technical Committee (JITC) fully debated this issue and neither the potash nor the oil and gas industry support the provision as it could be used to term limit Drilling Islands and provide a vehicle to postpone or delay permits for drilling or mining.

Several commenters suggest that if a definition must be provided, use: "Co-development is the concurrent development of commercial oil and gas and potash resources within the Designated Potash Area as a result of a cooperative effort between the potash and oil and gas industries, as regulated by the BLM, to support production of both potash and oil and gas (from the same land) simultaneously."

**Commenter(s):** JITC, COG Operating, AAPL, NMOGA, Yates, IPANM, Manzano, Lea County, McClellan, Chaves County, Eddy County, Coll Brothers, Lynx, HEYCO, PBPA

**Analysis:**

(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:**
FLPMA, IBLA 92-612, Draft Secretarial Order

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 2** | **Joint Recommendation- Drilling Islands** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Section 6.e.(1)(c) refers only to single well sites. It is important to be able to establish Drilling Islands as well as single well sites even if Development Areas are not established when both the oil and gas operator and affected potash lessee support the proposal. Amend Section 6.e.(1)(c) to include the language put forth by the JITC:<br>(1) Drilling within the Designated Potash Area<br>(c) ~~a single well site established under this Order by the approval and in the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer, provided that such site was jointly recommended to the Authorized Officer by the oil and gas lessee(s) and the nearest potash lessee(s).~~ a Drilling Island or single well site established under this Order by the authorization of the Authorized Officer, provided that such site was jointly recommended to the Authorized Officer by the oil and gas lessee(s) and the nearest potash lessee (s). | |
| **Commenter(s):** JITC, COG Operating, AAPL, NMOGA, Yates, HEYCO, PBPA | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
|---|
| **Follow-up Activities:**<br>(b) (5) |

| **Comment Number: 3** | **Agreements between Potash and O&G** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The BLM will not honor agreements between the potash and oil and gas lessee in the draft Order, but will allow a joint recommendation for a single well site, which will only be approved at the discretion of the BLM. Any existing incentive for the industries to cooperate has been removed. | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO |
| (b) (5) [redacted] |
| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** (b) (5) |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 4** | **Access to Data** |
|---|---|

**Comment Summary:** The proposed Order allows record owners to withhold existing core data from oil and gas operators engaged in the design of core acquisition programs to establish Barren Areas. Amend Section 6.e.(8)(c) to reflect the language put forth by the JITC:

(8) Access to Maps and Surveys

(c) In order for an oil and gas or potash operator to establish and design a core acquisition program for the purposes of proving a Barren Area, those records of core analyses in the area of the planned program that are necessary to design that program should be provided in a timely fashion by the ~~owner of the records~~ BLM to the operator of the planned program subject to the data management protocols as referenced in 6.e.(6)(c). ~~Record owners are encouraged to comply as fully as possible with this paragraph so that the best available science may be used to define Barren Areas.~~ The BLM will use all data available to it when delineating Barren Areas~~, even if some of the data was not available to the operator of the core acquisition program designed to prove the Barren Area~~.

Other commenters add: The draft Order allows the BLM to maintain as secret all core data that will be utilized in establishing Barren Areas. Moreover, the provision does not require disclosure of economic thickness and grade information. Data exchange has been basically eliminated from the Order.

**Commenter(s):** JITC, COG Operating, AAPL, NMOGA, Yates, HEYCO, PBPA

**Analysis:**

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**Regulatory Framework:**
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**Follow-up Activities:**

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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 5** | **"Managing" v. "Limiting" Impacts** |
|---|---|

**Comment Summary:** The JITC fully debated the language it put forth regarding establishment of development areas in Sections 4.f. and 6.e.(2)(d)(i). The JITC, with support from both the oil and gas and potash industries, recommended that development areas will be established to "allow effective extraction of oil and gas resources while ***managing*** the impact on potash resources."

In the proposed Order, "managing" has been replaced by "limiting." The effect of this change is to place the BLM in the role of limiting, rather than managing, the effect of oil and gas development on all potash, whether or not commercial.

***Change the word "limiting" to "managing" in Sections 4.f. and 6.e.(2)(d)(i).***

**Commenter(s):** JITC, COG Operating, AAPL, NMOGA, Yates, IPANM, Lea County, PBPA

**Analysis:**
(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:**
FLPMA

**Follow-up Activities:**
(b) (5)

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 6** | **Notice to Affected Parties** |
|---|---|

**Comment Summary:** The proposed Order omits important notice requirements to some affected parties. Notice of proposed drilling should be given to all affected potash interests, oil and gas interests, and surface rights owners. Amend Section 6.e.(7) to the following:

e. Oil and Gas Drilling

(7) Notice to ~~Potash Lessees~~ Affected Parties. An applicant for an APD, or a proponent of a plan of development for a unit or communitization area or a proposal for a Development Area or a Drilling Island, will provide notice of the application, plan, or proposal to the potash lessees and potash operators in the Designated Potash Area and to the owners of the oil and gas rights and surface owners affected by such application, plan or proposal. A list of ~~current~~ the affected potash lessees and potash operators will be available and maintained by the Carlsbad Field Office, BLM. The BLM will assist to the extent possible in identifying the oil and gas and surface owners affected by the application, plan or proposal. This notice should be prior to or concurrent with the submission of the application, plan or proposal to the BLM. The BLM will not authorize any action prior to this notice.

**Commenter(s):** JITC, COG Operating, AAPL, NMOGA, Yates, PBPA

**Analysis:**
(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:**

**Follow-up Activities:**
(b) (5)

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 7** | **Authorities** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Section 6.e.(2) includes language that suggests DOI may include non-federal lands in a Development Area; and that DOI may therefore prohibit owners of mineral fee or leasehold interests from developing oil and gas resources unless they are in accordance with the proposed Order's drilling restrictions and unitization requirements. It is unclear if this is DOI's intent and, if so, if DOI actually has this authority. | |
| **Commenter(s):** NMOCD, HEYCO | |
| **Analysis:**<br>(b) (5) | |
| **Regulatory Framework:**<br>Mineral Leasing Act, 43 CFR, draft Order Sections 1 and 2. | |
| **Follow-up Activities:**<br>(b) (5) | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 8** | **Regulatory Conflict** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** There is a potential for conflicting determinations regarding APD approvals by the State of New Mexico and DOI. This is due to the differences between the NMOCD and BLM regulatory frameworks. | |
| **Commenter(s):** NMOCD | |
| **Analysis:** (b) (5) | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** 1986 Order Section III.E.3. | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** (b) (5) | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 9** | **Implementation of Order** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The BLM and affected potash and oil and gas interests should form a team to implement the Order to guide orderly, concurrent development. Some form of internal guidance, whether policy through instruction memoranda, manual or handbook would be appropriate. The Carlsbad RMP should include: the implementation guidelines developed by the team; in addition to drilling island and individual well agreements, and management prescriptions regarding leasing and development of both resources. | |
| **Commenter(s):** NMOGA | |
| **Analysis:**<br>(b) (5) | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** | |
| **Follow-up Activities:**<br>(b) (5) | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 10** | **Order Not Scientifically Based** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The proposed Order is not scientifically or technically based or supportable. The Secretary should await the imminent completion of valid and tested science, and thereafter base the determination of Secretarial policy on such science. Sandia must be able to complete its gas migration study and any additional required safety related tests. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, IPANM, HEYCO, Fasken, Eddy, EOG, Hanson, Mewbourne, Lea County, Chaves County, Coll Brothers, Manzano, McClellan, Lynx, Featherstone, Mack Energy | |
| **Analysis:** (b) (5) | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** Draft Order, Section 7.d; Secretarial Order 3305; Departmental Manual 305 DM 2 and 305 DM 3. | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** (b) (5) | |

(b) (5)

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 11** | **Lack of Concurrent Development** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The proposed Order precludes concurrent development of the potash and oil and gas resources by denying the industries equal access. The proposed Order gives preeminence to potash and restricts oil and gas development in the entire Potash Area, regardless of the commerciality of the potash. The draft Order states it is the policy "to deny approval of most applications for permits to drill oil and gas wells from surface locations within the Designated Potash Area," unless the BLM determines one of three exceptions apply (Section 6.e.(1)). None of the exceptions are mandatory and each provides unfettered discretion on the part of the BLM or nearest potash lessee.<br>The policy has moved to the pre-1951 potash reserve concept. Furthermore, the lack of concurrent development of the resources constitutes a FLPMA violation. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, IPANM, Fasken, PBPA, Eddy, EOG, Mewbourne, Hanson, Lea, McClellan, Manzano | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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**Regulatory Framework:** MLA, FLPMA, 43 CFR, JIC comments dated 4/5/12, page 2 of 15.

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| **Follow-up Activities:** None. | |
| **Comment Number: 12** | **Effect on Small Operators** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| **Comment Summary:** The proposed Order does not consider the substantial negative impact it will have on the ability of small independent oil and gas companies to explore for, drill and produce oil and gas from their federal oil and gas leases within the Potash Area. The proposed Order essentially prevents smaller companies from the opportunity to develop their resources by the provisions providing for forced unitization, consolidation of operatorship, and essentially requiring expensive horizontal or deviated well bores to penetrate prospective oil and gas formations from Drill Islands. |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, Fasken, McClellan, Manzano |

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| **Regulatory Framework:**<br>1986 Order, FLPMA |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 13** | **Lack of Public Participation** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** A meaningful opportunity for participation from all affected parties and governmental entities has not been provided. The Secretary has not held any public meetings or hearings on the draft Order. The process leading to the proposal of the draft Order has been inexplicably and unnecessarily fast tracked in a manner that has discouraged public involvement as well as the involvement of companies and entities that will be directly affected by the promulgation of a new order. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, IPANM, HEYCO, Eddy, EOG, Hanson, Mewbourne, Lea, McClellan, Manzano, Strata, Chaves, Coll, Lynx | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 14** | **Redraft the Purpose** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** It is recommended that the Purpose of the draft Order be redrafted to be consistent with the language of the 1986 Order, which mandated, rather than simply "fostered", concurrent development. By using the term "fostered," the proposed Order is consistent with the notion that drilling is not mandated anywhere in the Potash Area:<br><br>This Order revises and supersedes the Order of the Secretary of the Interior dated October 28, 1986 (51 FR 39425), and provides *procedures and guidelines for fostering* more orderly co-development of oil and gas and potash deposits owned by the United States with the Designated Potash Area." | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| Follow-up Activities: |

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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 15** | **NEPA** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The draft Order represents a major federal action that requires full adherence to the National Environmental Policy Act, including appropriate environmental and economic analysis, as well as public participation.<br><br>The draft Order fails to analyze and provide a detailed statement of how it affects the "maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity" of the Potash Area. (See NEPA Section 102 (c)(iv).) | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, Lea | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:**<br>1986 Order; See 43 CFR subparts 3162.1, 3164.1, and 3165.1; BLM form 3100-11, 43 CFR part 3500 and subpart 3190; NEPA. |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

(b) (5)

| **Comment Number: 16** | **Def.: Drilling Island** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Definition is inadequate. Add the following language, originally included in the | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| JITC's Consensus Document, to the definition of a Drilling Island, Section 4(g): "the size and shape of a Drill Island defines the areal extent of wellbore penetrations of the potash formations and is to be as small as practical to allow effective oil & gas development while managing impact on potash." This definition underscores the commitment to development of both oil and gas and potash. |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, IPANM, Manzano, McClellan |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 17** | **Def.: Indicated and Inferred Resources** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Indicated and Inferred Resources should not be defined, as the terms are pertinent only to the task of properly mapping potash resources, and for those purposes, the terms must be defined as they are customarily defined by the Society of Mining Engineers.<br><br>The definition of "Inferred Resources" as contained in the draft Order incorrectly allows well logs to be used. The use of well logs in defining inferred resources would allow the potash industry to expand inferred resources in a manner that is not scientifically supported. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates, IPANM, HEYCO, Fasken, Eddy, Hanson, Mewbourne, EOG, Lynx, McClellan, Manzano | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 18** | **Configuration of Buffer Zones** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Section 6.e.(3) of the draft Order removes from the State and local offices of the BLM the authority for configuring buffer zones and places it in the sole discretion of the BLM Director; this means buffer zones and their dimensions are established as a matter of policy and cannot be challenged or changed without action from the Director. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:**<br>Departmental Manual (235 DM); BLM Manual (Section 1203); 43 CFR Part 3000 |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 19** | **Mapping Process** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Section 6.d.(9): Delineation of Resource Areas: This provision requires potash lessees to annually provide maps of potash resources and three year mine plans, and further requires the BLM to review the information and make revisions to the boundaries of the reserves as indicated on the potash company submittals. The draft Order merely requires the BLM to accept maps submitted by the potash industry, and does not require the BLM to independently verify the information or review the sources relied upon by the potash company. Thus, the potash industry, rather than the BLM, has the ability through the mapping process to effectively preclude all oil and gas operations in the Potash Area. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Yates | |
| **Analysis:** | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 20** | **Defacto Withdrawal** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The draft Order is a substantial change in the administration of concurrent development within the Potash Area. The 1986 Order only protects the areas known to contain sufficient potash of sufficient grade and thickness to be mined and marketed at a profit (enclaves). The draft Order extends protection to the entire Potash Area of 497,002.03 acres, and therefore constitutes a defacto withdrawal.<br><br>The draft Order violates Section 1714 of FLPMA as the Secretary has not followed the withdrawal procedures set forth therein and considered "the economic impact of the change in use on individuals, local communities, and the Nation." FLPMA Section 204 (c)(2). | |
| **Commenter(s):** IPANM, HEYCO, Fasken, Eddy, EOG, Hanson, Mewbourne, Lea, McClellan, Manzano, Lynx, PBPA | |

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**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| **Regulatory Framework:** MLA, FLPMA, 43 CFR, JITC comments dated 4/5/12, page 2 of 15. | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** | |
| **Comment Number: 21** | **Unlawful Leasing Restriction** |
| **Comment Summary:** Section 6.c.(3) limits the ability of citizens of the United States to acquire a potassium lease as the bidder must "intend to develop the potash resources…" This prohibits citizens from securing a potassium lease for investment purposes.<br><br>The draft Order creates a monopoly on who may bid on and hold potassium leases in direct conflict with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, leasing regulations and anti-trust laws.<br><br>There is no similar protection granted, nor should there be, to parties acquiring oil and gas lessees. | |
| **Commenter(s):** IPANM, HEYCO, McClellan, Manzano | |

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| **Regulatory Framework:** 173 IBLA 188 CAM Colorado; *Malcolm N.McKinnon,* | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** | |
| **Comment Number: 22** | **Establishment of Development Areas/ Drilling Islands/Barren Areas** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| **Comment Summary:** Under the draft Order, DOI is free to determine that development of potash mineralization is a priority over development of oil and gas mineralization in the Potash Area. There is no provision in the draft Order that affirmatively requires or mandates the BLM to form a Development Area or a Drilling Island, or approve an APD in *any* area of the Potash Area (whether or not an enclave). Furthermore, the draft Order does not require the BLM to establish the Barren Areas within the Potash Area.<br><br>Commenters also expressed concern about the ambiguity associated with determining the size and shape of the Development Areas. |
| **Commenter(s):** IPANM, HEYCO, McClellan, Manzano, Lynx |

(b) (5)

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 23** | **NM State Legislature Review** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The draft Order may have a significant impact on State revenue generated from oil and gas extractions, which is estimated to be responsible for up to 40% of the state's revenue. Given the potentially detrimental fiscal effects to the state, the New Mexico State Legislature should have further opportunity to review and comment on the Order. The draft Order should be held in abeyance until the conclusion of the next session of the New Mexico State Legislature in March of 2013. Additionally, complete documentation needs to be made available to the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee and to executive agencies of the state government. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Dennis Kintigh (State Representative- Chaves, Lincoln & Otero) | |

(b) (5)

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

(b) (5) [redacted]

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 24** | **General** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:**<br>- Please do not allow more oil and gas and potash destruction of Southeast New Mexico. (Jurney)<br>- By this email, we lodge our protest to the rule in complete agreement with the comments you have received from the Chaves County Commissioners. (Coll Brothers Oil)<br>- The Proposed Secretarial Order and changes to Policy Statements have emerged as ill timed, regressive, divisive and counterproductive documents which are both legally and scientifically flawed. (Featherstone)<br>- Several years ago, Lynx submitted an APD that was protested by Intrepid; Lynx responded with a challenge and after considerable time and money, Lynx prevailed. Concerned that under the new Order, they would not be able to make such a challenge. (Lynx) | |
| **Commenter(s):** Charles Jurney, Coll Brothers Oil, Featherstone, Lynx, New Mexico Mining Association | |

(b) (5)

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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

| **Comment Number: 25** | **Safety** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

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| The 1986 Order requires safety determinations to be made on a well by well basis.<br><br>Many oil and gas wells have been mined through as potash mines advanced into areas of past oil and gas production. There have been no incidents of gas leaking into a mine as a result of oil and gas wells, even in areas where mining has proceeded through existing wells. The draft Order ignores the fact that the oil and gas industry has drilling methods that can successfully and safely drill through voids such as abandoned or inactive potash and coal mines. |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, IPANM, Fasken |

(b) (5)

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| **Regulatory Framework:** 1986 Order |
| (b) (5) |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 26** | **Administration of APDs** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The BLM has represented for many years that the Potash Order should be rewritten to provide clear instructions in the administration of issuing permits to drill oil and gas wells in the Potash Area, with the thought that the Order, when rewritten, would provide significant drilling opportunities for oil and gas companies. Simplified instruction to allow the BLM to approve more oil and gas APDs within the Potash Area has not been incorporated into the draft Order. In fact, the draft Order states it is the policy "to deny approval of most applications for permits to drill oil and gas wells from surface locations within the Designated Potash Area." Section 6.e.(1). | |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, Lea County | |

(b) (5)

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 27** | **Veto over APDs** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Giving potash lessees a veto on every APD is defacto unlawful delegation of authority. | |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, Yates | |

(b) (5)

[redacted]

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 28** | **Challenge Denial of APDs** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The draft Order policy statements and definitions completely remove any likelihood that an aggrieved oil and gas operator could successfully challenge the denial of any APD for any proposed location anywhere in the Potash Area. | |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, Lynx | |

(b) (5)

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 29** | **Inconsistent with Previous Policy** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The draft Order completely rewrites years of work and decisions from the BLM and through the courts. The draft Order must continue in the context of the documents which preceded its publication. Even items of consensus that were listed by the JITC from the 1986 Order have been ignored.<br><br>Yates and other commenters would like to preserve the enclave policy from the 1986 Order. | |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, IPANM, Yates, Fasken, Featherstone, EOG, Mewbourne, Hanson, Eddy County | |

(b) (5)

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

(b) (5)

[redacted]

| |
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| **Regulatory Framework:** |
| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 30** | **Economic Impacts** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** Oil and gas companies in the Potash Area pay substantially higher royalties to the Federal Government, State of New Mexico, and Lea and Eddy Counties than potash companies. Furthermore, the total amount of royalties paid from *current* oil and gas production in the Potash Area is but a small percentage of what would be paid if concurrent operations were expanded consistently with science.<br><br>The draft Order will significantly affect the ability of oil and gas producers to explore for, drill and produce oil and gas resources from the Potash Area and such decrease in oil and gas activity will gave a dramatic adverse economic effect to Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties, the State of New Mexico, and the Federal Government.<br><br>In addition to lost revenues, Yates and others commented that the draft Order would also result in undue waste of oil and gas resources. | |
| **Commenter(s):** HEYCO, IPANM, Yates, Fasken, EOG, Manzano, Eddy, Hanson, Mewbourne, Lea, McClellan, Manzano, Featherstone, PBPA | |

(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:**

**Follow-up Activities:**

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 31** | **Coordination with Local Governments** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The Secretary and/or BLM are required to coordinate with local governments impacted by the proposed rule. FLPMA requires land use planning, including the draft Order, to be coordinated with State and local governments. The draft Order was published without coordination with the State of New Mexico, Chaves, Eddy and/or Lea Counties. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Lea County, Chaves County, Eddy County, Coll Brothers, Lynx | |

(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:** FLPMA

**Follow-up Activities:**

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 32** | **Adopt JITC Consensus** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The DOI/BLM should adopt the JITC recommendations verbatim. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Lea County, Chaves County, PBPA | |
| **Analysis:** (b) (5) [redacted] | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 33** | **Prior Commitment Made by DOI** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** In 2009, a group of ten oil and gas stakeholders accompanied Representative Teague to a meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary Ned Farquahar. Mr. Farquahar gave the group the following assurances:<br>- No rule change will be made by the Secretary before the scientific studies now under way are completed and finalized after peer review.<br>- Any change in policy will be based on defensible and validated science, including gas migration and subsidence studies conducted for the WIPP.<br>- That all stakeholders, including the State of NM, be given a fair and complete opportunity to be involved in any consideration of a change of rules.<br>- And, finally, that until that all occurs, the Secretary will allow the BLM to continue to manage the Secretarial Potash Area under the 1986 Order, and continue to allow the concurrent development and permitting of both potash and oil and gas development. | |
| **Commenter(s):** EOG, Hanson, Eddy County, McClellan, Manzano | |

(b) (5)

**Regulatory Framework:**

**Follow-up Activities:**

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 34** | **Biased Technology Requirements** |
|---|---|
| *Comment Summary:* The requirements and expectations of the oil and gas industry to utilize the most up to date technology and techniques in developing oil and gas, and not to require any advancement in the potash industry's technology is completely biased. The Order needs to address this issue and mandate a technological requirement on other mining interests as well. If the companies use new technologies in mining it could lead to more of the oil and gas resources being protected and available for development, benefitting both the state and federal governments with the additional production and resulting royalties. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Strata | |

(b) (5)

| **Follow-up Activities:** |
|---|

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 35** | **JITC not Representative** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The JITC is not representative of the oil and gas industry. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Strata, Fasken | |
| **Analysis:** | |
| (b) (5) [redacted] | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** | |
| **Follow-up Activities:**<br>None | |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 36** | **Designation of Single Operator** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The proposed Order requires forced unitization with designation of a single operator for each development area (Section 6.e.2.b.ii). This means that small independent companies do not have the opportunity to take over the operatorship of certain horizons and develop what the larger companies have no desire to. The proposed Order does not consider units with existing sub-operators in the Potash Area and how well they are cooperating. (Strata recounts its successful history working as a sub-operator with Chevron as the unit operator, stating that the success would not have been possible under the proposed Order.) | |
| **Commenter(s):** Strata | |

(b) (5)

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 37** | **Cost of Exploratory Work** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The proposed Order places a new costly burden on oil and gas companies to take steps to discover whether or not there is recoverable potash located in areas of oil and gas interest (Section 6.e.6). In fact, that burden should be placed on the federal government or the potash industry that will benefit directly from any information that oil and gas companies find regarding resources in these currently "unknown" potash resource areas. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Strata | |

(b) (5)

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 38** | **Shared Drilling Island** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The creation and location of a Development Area and Drilling Island should be a cooperative decision among companies. As is the current policy, all companies within a Development Area should be allowed to operate their own acreage from a mutually agreeable shared surface location if they choose not to enter into a Unit Agreement. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Strata | |

(b) (5)

| **Regulatory Framework:** |
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| **Follow-up Activities:** |

**Oil, Gas and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico**
***Comments on Proposed Secretarial Order***

| **Comment Number: 39** | **Definition of Barren Areas** |
|---|---|
| **Comment Summary:** The BLM is not qualified to establish Barren Areas. | |
| **Commenter(s):** Mack Energy | |
| **Analysis:** | |
| (b) (5) [redacted] | |
| **Regulatory Framework:** | |
| **Follow-up Activities:** | |

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, October 12, 2012 4:32 PM
**To:** Lassiter, Tracie L
**Subject:** FW: ASLM weekly report
**Attachments:** ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 10-11-12 final.docx

Tracie – please you this copy. I ended sending two versions out.

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**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:59 PM
**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

Please use the attached updated version. Sorry!

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**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

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 2013. 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.
**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 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.

- **Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** On Oct. 5, OSM received a response letter from the Tennessee Attorney General that helps to clarify the State's position on the petition. OSM is currently reviewing the letter. Acting ASLM Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area during the week of Oct. 15, and to meet with field staff in Knoxville.

**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

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

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Weekly Reports
**Sent:** Friday, October 12, 2012 5:23 PM
**To:** DOI_Politicals
**Subject:** Bureau Reports
**Attachments:** Bureau Reports 2012.10.12.pdf; Department-wide Reports awaiting management response as of October 12, 2012.xlsx; OS Reports awaiting management response as of October 12, 2012.xlsx; Perf Goal Base as of Sept 30, 2012 Final.pdf

Here are this week's bureau reports. Have a good weekend and GO NATS!

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James Anderson
Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-4591 desk
(202) 257-9542 mobile

**Office of the Solicitor**
**Weekly Bureau Report for the Week of October 15, 2012**

***Defending Renewable Energy Projects***

***North Sky Wind Project – Sierra Club v. Kenna (E.D. Ca.)***

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
**THREE WEEK OUT REPORT**
**October 12, 2012**

## WEEK AHEAD

**Biscayne National Park (FL)** – On October 21, 2012, Biscayne National Park will accept the transfer of the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard. Intricately tied to Biscayne's rich maritime history and the culture of South Florida, this 110-foot, cast-iron lighthouse has stood guard over the shallow patches of fragile coral reefs since 1878.

## ON THE HORIZON

**Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Risk Assessment of Geologic Hazards.** The NPS Office of Risk Management and the Geologic Resources Division will collaborate to initiate a risk assessment of geologic hazards in national parks in Northern Arizona. This project will compile baseline data on geology-related incidents in NPS areas which resulted in injuries, fatalities, and damages to facilities and to cultural resources. The project's principle outputs will be a Geologic Hazard Risk Assessment report and a system-wide hazard and incident database. Through interviews, a literature review of historic reports, and site visits, Grand Canyon has been selected as one of the pilot parks to be analyzed for current and future rock fall risk.

**North Country National Scenic Trail (NY) – Stipulation to Discontinue**. The North Country Trail Association (NCTA), the trail's primary partner, has submitted a Stipulation to Dismiss a lawsuit. The lawsuit contested the state's actions to allow a segment of the North Country Trail foot path to be replaced with a snowmobile trail. The State of New York has signed it. This should now open the door for positive communication between the NPS, NCTA, and the State of New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to resolve this particular issue and establish a statewide North Country Trail planning partnership. It is hoped this will ensure that these issues do not recur.

**Week Ahead Report**
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
**October 11, 2012**

**Status of draft environmental impact statement (EIS), Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange and Road:** FWS Alaska reports that the *Federal Register* package for the final documents will be provided for FWS and Department review and approval within the next two weeks. FWS Alaska also reports that FWS, the EIS contractor, and its formal cooperators will meet October 11, 2011 to discuss changes based on cooperator review of the preliminary final EIS. Formal cooperators include the State of Alaska, King Cove Corporation, City of King Cove, Aleutians East Borough, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Belkofski, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands. The cooperators representing King Cove strongly object to many aspects of the final EIS. FWS has carefully considered all their comments and has made changes, as appropriate, in the final EIS. However, most major points of disagreement remain. On October 17, 2012 cooperators will meet with Alaska Region Service leadership to air their concerns and make their final recommendations concerning selection of the preferred alternative. We anticipate that the King Cove cooperators will elevate some of their concerns to senior leadership and/or congress. A high level of controversy surrounds this EIS.

**Upcoming action re: Koniag Land Agreement:** Negotiations between Koniag, Inc., FWS and the State of Alaska regarding a 55,402 acre Conservation Easement within the Kodiak NWR are ongoing. Established with funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC), the Conservation Easement was set up with an initial ten year easement term. According to the Agreement, Koniag must make a decision prior to the expiration of the Agreement (October 14, 2012) to do one of three things: 1) sell the lands, 2) renew the agreement, or 3) terminate the agreement: In February 2012, Koniag proposed a fourth option to which the State and FWS provided a counter offer. That was rejected by Koniag, although they have requested a two month extension (beyond October 14, 2012) to try and negotiate a mutually agreeable solution with both the State and FWS. The EVOSTC met on September 14 to discuss the Koniag agreement. Koniag signed the Agreement on September 28, and discussions with FWS on specific details are ongoing. Senator Murkowski has expressed interest in this issue.

**Availability of Final CCP and EIS for Malheur NWR:** FWS Pacific Region will soon be announcing the availability of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon) Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Under Alternative 2, the preferred alternative, FWS would improve the aquatic health of Malheur Lake and other water bodies, primarily through aggressive control of common carp, to increase habitat productivity for waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. FWS would complete assessments and pilot projects to create the foundation for a comprehensive riverine strategy, and manage other wetland and terrestrial habitats to meet the life history needs of focal species. Various viewing and photography facilities would be upgraded and developed. The upland game hunt would open earlier and new waterfowl hunt areas would more than double the existing hunt area. New fishing areas would open, with greater vehicle access. FWS would pursue a land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management to consolidate management of areas adjacent to the refuge; the land exchange would not affect existing hunting opportunities. The refuge would pursue sustainable energy and

carbon neutral practices, and develop step-down inventory and monitoring plans. Through the collaborative planning process, broad agreement was reached among the Refuge's diverse stakeholders. Not controversial.

**Burro removal at Sheldon NWR:** On Oct 15, 2012, FWS will begin gathering approximately 80 feral burros at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge as part of its management actions to implement feral horse and burro removal goals identified in the Refuge's 2012 Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Animals will be gathered, transported, sorted and shipped for adoption consistent with the 2012 Sheldon NWR CCP. Wild horse and burro gathers have generated controversy and media coverage in the past.

**Safe Harbor Agreement Permits for SDS and Broughton Lumber Company:** FWS Washington FWO intends to issue two Enhancement of Survival Permits for the SDS and Broughton Lumber Company Safe Harbor Agreement and Implementation Agreement in the next 2-3 weeks. The Safe Harbor Agreement is for protection of the northern spotted owl (NSO) covering 83,000 acres in the Cascades Mountains of Washington and Oregon with a term of 60 years. Based on the conservation benefits of the SHA, SDS and Broughton Lumber Company lands are being proposed for exclusion from designation of critical habitat for the NSO.

**Desert Tortoise Conservation Center and Pet Tortoises:** The Desert Tortoise Conservation Center (DTCC) is located on BLM-managed lands outside Las Vegas and is operated by the San Diego Zoo in partnership with FWS, BLM, and Nevada Department of Wildlife. Because of reduced funding availability, Nevada BLM has scheduled meetings in October 2012, to discuss a process to begin closing the DTCC as early as 2014. Historically, the DTCC conducted desert tortoise research, trained biologists, educated the public, and assisted with translocation of desert tortoises. FWS and its partners will be terminating desert tortoise pick-up service that has been bringing in over 1,000 unwanted pet desert tortoises annually to the DTCC since 1996. In lieu of the pick-up service, the Animal Foundation has agreed to allow the public to drop unwanted or found pet tortoises at the Lied Animal Shelter. Lied will work with FWS and other partners to re-adopt suitable tortoises and transfer excess tortoises to the DTCC. An MOU between the Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Animal Foundation will be signed this week. A public announcement (news release) will be made as soon as the MOU with Lied is in place.

**User Fee Exemption Program for Low-Risk Importations and Exportations:** FWS is changing the inspection fees required for imports and exports of wildlife by certain licensed businesses. Our regulations set forth the fees that are required to be paid at the time of inspection of imports and exports of wildlife. In 2009, we implemented a new user fee system intended to recover the costs of the compliance portion of the wildlife inspection program. Since that time, we have been made aware that we may have placed an undue economic burden on businesses that exclusively trade in small volumes of low-value, non-Federally protected wildlife parts and products. To address this issue, FWS is implementing a program that exempts certain businesses from the designated port base inspection fees as an interim measure while the Service reassesses its current user fee system. This interim rule will likely not be controversial. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is October 9, 2012.

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**October 14 – October 20, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**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 and meet with OSM's Knoxville Field Office staff. 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 Charleston Field Office 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.

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

- *Update:* **BLM-CA West Chocolate Mountains Final EIS:** *On Nov. 23, the BLM expects to release the final EIS for the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area in Imperial County, CA. 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:* **BLM ID Geothermal Resource Exploration Project:** *The BLM-ID has approved drilling of five temporary thermal gradient boreholes by the Idaho Geological Survey in Caribou and Bingham counties, ID. The boreholes, between 500 and 1,000 feet deep, will measure the earth's temperature profile for research purposes.*

**Wild Horse and Burro**

- *New*: **First BLM Mustangs to Arrive at Wild Horse Ecosanctuary:** *On Oct. 16, the BLM will deliver 72 gelded wild horses to the first BLM Ecosanctuary, the Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse Ecosanctuary, near Centennial, WY. Additional horses will be shipped over the next two months until a total of 236 animals are delivered.*
- *New:* **Fall-Winter Horse Gathering Under Way:** *On Oct. 1, the BLM started the fall-winter gathers. Beginning at the end of Oct., the BLM will hold gathers at the Challis Herd Management Area (HMA) in ID, Wassuk HMA in NV, Owyhee Complex in NV, and McCullough Peaks HMA in WY. All four gathers will include treating some mares with Porcine Zona Pellucida vaccine and returning them to the range. Gathers at the Challis HMA have been controversial in the past.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- *New:* **Gas Flaring/Venting Presentation for U.S. Department of State (DOS):** *On Oct. 11, BSEE briefed DOS representatives in D.C. on natural gas flaring/venting. The briefing provided the DOS information about the BSEE Production and Development program, including a general overview of flaring and venting, associated greenhouse gas issues, and US offshore laws and regulations. The brief was designed to help prepare DOS representatives for a presentation at the International Flaring Reduction conference in London on Oct. 24-25. The conference, which is organized by the World Bank will bring together high-level representatives from governments, oil and gas companies, international organizations, and technology and service providers to discuss options for increasing the use of gas associated with crude oil production.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- *New:* **Integrated Arctic Management (IAM) Plan:** *BOEM will be participating in preparation of the IAM plan for submittal to the President by Dec. 31. The IAM is an interagency effort on how to best manage the resources and development in the Arctic.*
- **No Change: Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Lease Sale 229:** On Oct. 26, BOEM expects to publish the Final Notice of Sale for WGOM Sale 229, which is the first sale in the new Five Year Program. BOEM will brief ASLM on Oct. 12.
- **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.
- *New*: **Wind Lease Offshore Delaware:** On Oct. 9, *BOEM transmitted a revised lease to NRG/Bluewater Wind for execution. BOEM met with Bluewater Wind on Oct. 12 to discuss the lease in detail.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- *New:* **OSM Grants $312,000 to Improve Water Quality at Flight 93 Memorial:** *On Oct. 9, Dir. Pizarchik participated in an event highlighting interagency efforts to improve water quality of a stream at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, PA.*
- *Update:* **TN Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** *On Oct. 5, OSM received a response from the TN Attorney General that helps clarify the State's position on the petition. OSM is currently reviewing the letter. Acting ASLM Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area during the week of Oct. 15, and to meet with OSM field staff in Knoxville.*
- **Update: 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 is considering a solicitation for a new contractor to complete the airport reconstruction project. The project proponents are undertaking additional reviews in anticipation of revising the project proposal in order to meet requirements for approval by the Commonwealth.*

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
**Wednesday, October 17**

- **No Change: BLM-NM Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 37 parcels—totaling 16,927 acres—in NM, TX, and OK. The BLM received one protest on a parcel involving a split-estate. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved before the sale.

**Wednesday, October 17 – Thursday, October 18**

- **No Change: BLM-MT/DK and Wyoming Regional Intertribal Workshop:** BLM Eastern MT/DK and WY High Plains Districts will sponsor a meeting of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in Spearfish, SD. Discussions will include BLM resource management planning efforts and ongoing project-specific tribal consultation.

**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:*** **TN Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** *Acting ASLM Burke plans to visit the proposed LUM petition area, and to meet with OSM field staff in Knoxville.*

## WEEKS AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Tuesday, October 23**

- **No Change: BLM-MT Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** The BLM will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 241 parcels—totaling 99, 095 acres—in the Billings, Glasgow, Lewistown, Malta and Miles City Field Offices (seven of the parcels are on U.S. Forest Service lands in SD). The BLM received one protest for a parcel involving a split-estate. The BLM is reviewing the protest and expects to have it resolved before the sale.

**Monday, October 29 – Thursday, October 30**

- **No Change: Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board:** The Board will meet in Salt Lake City, UT. 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.

**Thursday, November 7**

- *New:* **BLM-AK Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The BLM will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 400 tracts*—totaling *4.5 million acres—in the NPR-A. This lease sale builds on the 2011 NPR-A sale during which 283 tracts, covering three million acres were made available. The sale is scheduled to take place on the same day the State of Alaska will hold their lease sale to offer parcels adjacent to the NPR-A.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Tuesday, October 23 – Wednesday, October 24**

- *New:* **Information Meetings, Maine Request for Interest:** *BOEM plans to hold public information meetings in Portland and Boothbay Harbor, ME to discuss the status of the Statoil request for interest for an offshore wind demonstration project.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Tuesday, October 23**

- *New:* **Statoil Presentation on Plans for the Paleogene Play in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico (GOM):** *Statoil is scheduled to visit the GOM Region to provide an update on its plans for exploration and development of the Paleogene Lower Tertiary formation in deepwater areas of the GOM. The Statoil presentation will provide an update on ongoing exploration and challenges for these high pressure reservoirs and research for future development from projects with Statoil.*

**Tuesday, October 30 -Thursday, November 1**

- *New:* **International Petroleum Environmental Conference:** *BSEE Pacific Region staff will participate in this conference, which is being held in Denver, CO. Staff will be on a panel to discuss offshore oil and gas operations.*

**Wednesday, November 14 – Thursday, November 15**

- *New:* **Clean Gulf Conference (CGC):** *BSEE will attend the 2012 CGC in New Orleans, LA. BSEE is one of seven state and Federal agencies that co-hosts the CGC, and BSEE serves on the Clean Gulf Executive Committee. Dir. Watson will be the keynote speaker and will discuss BSEE's current oil spill response policies. BSEE will also present information on its oil spill research program, the recent Notice to Lessees on oil spill response plans, and lessons learned from Deepwater Horizon.*

**Wednesday, November 28 - Thursday, November 29**

- *New:* **U.S.-Brazil Strategic Energy Dialogue:** *BSEE Office of International Programs is working with the DOI Office of International Affairs and the Department of Energy in preparation for the next U.S.-Brazil Strategic Energy Dialogue, to be held in D.C. Topics include best practices to enhance the safe and environmentally responsible development of deepwater oil and gas resources, environmental management, oil spill prevention and response, deepwater technologies, and safety measures.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- **Nothing new to report.**

Weekly Report
October 12, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes
Deputy Secretary

Liz Klein
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

**Senior Officials' Activities Oct 15-26:**

**Anne Castle** – Oct 15-22 in DC; Oct 23-25 in Boise, ID to conduct an Environmental Forum Event, provide a keynote address at the Western States Remote Sensing of ET Workshop, and meet with Reclamation and USGS regional offices. (b) (6)
**John Tubbs** – (b) (6)
**Lori Caramanian** - Oct 15 in Las Vegas, NV for meetings with the Colorado River basin states; Oct 16-19 in Phoenix, AZ for LTEMP meetings. Oct 22-26 in DC.
**Marcia McNutt** – Oct10, 15-16, 2012 Bay-Delta Science Conference, Sacramento, CA; Oct 17, Ribbon Cutting at Columbia Environmental Research Center, Columbia, MO; Oct 18-19, prep for Deepwater Horizon deposition, DOJ; Oct 22-26, Deepwater Horizon Deposition, New Orleans, La.
**Mike Connor** – Oct 15, 19, 22-23 in DC. Oct 16, participate in the Battle Creek Restoration Project Tour in Sacramento, CA; Oct 17-18, attending the COE Senior Leadership meeting in Sacramento, CA; Oct 24-25, participating in the BDCP Principals Workshop in Sacramento, CA.

**Reclamation**

**Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) (North Dakota)**
Reclamation is currently revising the draft *Transbasin Effects Analysis* report as appropriate based on comments received. The revised draft report was provided to an independent peer review panel for review on October 5. The peer review process is anticipated to be completed in 60 days. The final *Transbasin Effects Analysis* report will be distributed to all interested parties in conjunction with the release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in 2013.

**Decision Documents Signed on San Joaquin River Restoration Program (California)**
On October 4, the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources issued a news release announcing that decision documents have been signed selecting the preferred alternative from the Final Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) for implementation. The final environmental documents describe the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of implementing the Settlement in *NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.* that resolved more than 18 years of litigation related to Reclamation's operation of Friant Dam and established the SJRRP. Of the seven alternatives studied in the Final PEIS/R, Reclamation's Record of Decision and DWR's Notice of Determination select the Preferred Alternative which includes the use of the river channel and bypass system to convey restoration flows and allows for recapture of these flows at existing and future facilities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and in the San Joaquin River upstream of the Delta.

**Annual National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Conference (California)**
This year's annual NWRA Conference will be held in San Diego, CA, from October 31, to November 2. Commissioner Mike Connor is being scheduled for 42 short meetings with water users, scheduled in 15-minute increments throughout the day on November 1 and the morning November 2. The Regional Directors' Forum is on the agenda again this year on November 2.

**Hydrology Update – Third Driest Year on Record for Upper Colorado River Basin**
Water year (WY) 2012 was the third driest on record for the Upper Colorado River Basin since the closing of Glen Canyon Dam in 1963. The unregulated inflow for the basin for WY 2012 was 45 percent of average (4.91 million acre-feet [maf]) based on the 30-year average (1981-2012). The driest year on record occurred in 2002 with an unregulated inflow of 2.64 maf and the second driest year occurred in 1977 with an unregulated inflow of 3.53 maf. Lake Powell's end-of-water year live storage is 57 percent of capacity (13.9 maf) which is approximately 31 feet below the start of the water year. Other major Colorado River Storage Project reservoirs ended the WY at the following levels: Blue Mesa Reservoir, 41 percent of capacity; Flaming Gorge Reservoir, 81 percent of capacity; and Navajo Reservoir, 61 percent of capacity.

**US Geological Survey**

**Potentially Triggered Earthquakes near Dallas-Fort Worth Airport:** On September 30 and October 1, three earthquakes (M3.4, 3.1, and 2.1) were detected within 5-10 km from the Dallas-Fort Worth airport (DFW). USGS staff at the Earthquake Science Center are investigating the relationship between these earthquakes and wastewater disposal wells in the area. At present, the relationship is unknown due to large location uncertainties and sparse well information. It is of note that beginning in 2008 there has been a sequence of microseismicity near DFW (Mmax = 3.3). These earthquakes have been linked to a wastewater disposal well on airport property. The locations of the recent earthquakes are about 5-10km to the southwest of the 2008 earthquake sequence.

**USGS Helps Create 3D Structure Model of LA Basin:** A 3D model of the Los Angeles basin has been developed and will serve as the geologic framework for a new regional groundwater flow model for the basin. The model includes faults from the SCEC Community Fault Model (CFM) as well as several inter-basin faults not included in the CFM but that show late

Quaternary offset that impacts ground water flow. One of these faults, located west of the Newport-Inglewood fault, may have been the source of, or was involved in the aftershock sequence of the May 17, 2009 M 4.7 Inglewood earthquake.

**New Report on chemicals of emerging concern in Western Lake Superior**: The USGS Minnesota Water Science center has released a new report titled "Presence of Selected Chemicals of Emerging Concern in Water and Bottom Sediment from the St. Louis River, St. Louis Bay, and Superior Bay, Minnesota and Wisconsin." The lower St. Louis Bay between Duluth, Minn. and Superior, Wis. receives substantial urban runoff, wastewater treatment plant effluent, and industrial effluent—leading to its designation as a "Great Lakes Area of Concern" by the International Joint Commission. Concerns exist about the potential effects of certain chemicals on aquatic biota because many of these chemicals have been shown to have detrimental effects on fish and other aquatic life. These chemicals are called Chemicals of Emerging Concern and may be toxic or pose some health risk to living organisms. During this study, 33 of 89 chemicals of emerging concern were detected among all water samples collected and 56 of 104 chemicals of emerging concern were detected in bottom-sediment samples.

**New Report on Arsenic in New Hampshire**: USGS will release a report and maps to show by location the likelihood of arsenic contamination in New Hampshire's bedrock groundwater. The report is expected to be released in mid October. It is intended as a resource for public-health officials in their efforts to limit the public's exposure to arsenic and to advance research on potential health effects from repeated exposure to low concentrations of arsenic over time. A news release will accompany the report.

**USGS Releases New Lidar Data for Virginia & Colorado:** The National Elevation Dataset (NED) has posted the October 2012 Release Notes featuring new light detection and ranging (lidar) data for the epicenter area of the 2011 Virginia earthquake. The USGS has placed a high priority on understanding why earthquakes are occurring in this region and the lidar data will hopefully allow for new understanding of the earthquake hazard there. Also the release contains more than 3800 square miles of the San Luis Valley in Colorado, the largest alpine valley in the world. This area provides the setting for a wide range of scientific applications involving eight other Federal and state agencies. All NED data are available via *The National Map* Viewer.

**Young Detectives Investigate the Mystery of Avian Keratin Disorder:** During October 2012, USGS Alaska Science Center (ASC) scientists will enlist the help of a new cadre of students in a quest to solve the mystery of avian keratin disorder, which causes grotesquely crossed and overgrown beaks in Black-capped Chickadees and other familiar backyard birds. This autumn marks the twelfth year of a mark-recapture study in which ASC scientists are investigating seasonal and interannual prevalence of this beak disorder in the local chickadee population, measuring its effects on survival and reproduction, and seeking clues as to the cause. Researchers have formed a partnership with Mirror Lake Middle School to capture and bring live birds into the classroom and to teach students the basic principles of forming and testing hypotheses to solve real-world problems. Similar partnerships with BLM's Campbell Creek Science Center and the Eagle River Nature Center involve both school children and the adult public as apprentice detectives in this scientific investigation.

**USGS Attends International Partners Meeting in Iceland:** Next week, USGS scientists will attend an International Partners Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland. The Icelandic Meteorological Organization (IMO), the agency responsible for volcano monitoring and hazard notification in

Iceland, will host the meeting to plan and evaluate volcano monitoring strategies related to volcanic ash hazards. Participants include the IMO, the UK Met Office, the British Geological Survey, the UK National Centre for Atmospheric Science, and the USGS.

**USGS provides International Charter training in Russia**: Late last month, the USGS held a workshop on the International Charter with participants from Emercom (Russia's emergency response agency), ROSCOSMOS (the Russian space agency), and Russian Space Systems. The International Charter provides a unified system to acquire satellite data and deliver imagery to those affected by natural or manmade disasters through authorized users. The workshop provided training on how to request and manage an International Charter activation. Russia will now be able to submit their own activations and provide their own project managers for emergency response events that can benefit from the application of remotely sensed data.

**USGS Inducted into URISA GIS Hall of Fame**: Owing to 50 years of cutting-edge developments and significant contributions in advancing the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geospatial sciences, the USGS has been selected to enter the Urban and Regional Information System Association (URISA) GIS Hall of Fame. The USGS was cited as a major contributor and driver to GIS progress across the government and the private sector. The formal nomination statement and other award details are available on the URISA Award website.

**USGS Scientist Describes Exploring Mars with Curiosity:** On October 25, USGS Astrogeology Science Center research geologist Ken Herkenhoff will be participating in the USGS Evening Public Lecture Series in Menlo Park, Calif. by presenting a talk titled "Exploring Mars with Curiosity - searching the Martian surface for evidence of habitable conditions". Herkenhoff will be providing a high-level overview of the mission, describing what scientists have learned about the geology of the Gale crater landing site, and what they hope to learn about surface conditions on Mars using instruments aboard the Mars Science Laboratory to analyze dust and rocks for clues about the role of water in forming the Martian landscape.

**Volcanism in the American Southwest Meeting**: The USGS office in Flagstaff, Ari. will host the Volcanism in the American Southwest Meeting, October 18-20, 2012. The states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah all host active volcanoes that erupted less than 10,000 years ago and are vulnerable to future volcanic eruptions. This meeting creates an opportunity for volcanologists, geologists, geophysicists, land managers, and emergency responders to have conversations about potential future eruptive activity and to begin to plan response protocols for future volcanic activity.

**ShakeOut Public Drill and Press Conference at LA's Union Station**: Dr. Lucy Jones will help lead the ShakeOut event in Southern California on October 18 in partnership with the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA), Cal EMA, LA Metro, and other organizations. Dr. Jones will be featured at a press conference along with the LA Metro CEO and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and then lead a drop, cover, and hold a drill at Los Angeles Union Station. The event will focus on commuters and transit, and press will be on-hand all morning. There will also be preparedness fair in two parts of Union Station, an evacuation of a light rail train, and a briefing by Jones and Doug Given on the USGS Earthquake Early Warning project for VIPs in advance of the press event.

**Media:**

**Bloomberg Interview Regarding Lead Imports:** Last week, USGS scientist David Guberman was interviewed by Bloomberg reporter Agnieszka Troszkiewicz regarding monthly lead imports in the U.S. Guberman provided the 2012 mineral industry surveys that USGS compiles up to August. Agnieszka was primarily interested in finding out whether or not battery manufacturers were buying up stock in advance of a lead shortage, but the MIS showed steady imports up to August. Agnieszka requested the August & September MIS reports when they were finished.

**USGS Releases Utica Shale Assessment:** Last week, USGS issued a news release regarding a recent shale gas resource assessment in the Utica Shale. Since the release, more than 550 news articles have been written regarding the assessment, including ones from the Associated Press, Bloomberg, CBS, and NPR.

**Coverage of Well-Testing in Pavilion, WY:** The USGS has been mentioned in *Bloomberg Businessweek, Wyoming Business Report*, and *Huffington Post* articles, among others, about testing of water in a monitoring well near Pavillion, Wyo. linking water contaminants to hydraulic fracturing operations.

**USGS Quoted Regarding Pelicans & Endangered Fish in the Klamath Basin:** Last week, USGS Western Fisheries Research Center biologist David Hewitt was mentioned in an article in the *Herald and News* (Klamath Falls, Ore.) about large numbers of pelicans in the Klamath Basin and their interactions with fish, including endangered shortnose and Lost River suckers.

**E&E News Interviews USGS Regarding Arctic Mining:** On September 26, USGS scientist James Hein responded to a media inquiry from E&E News reporter Manuel Quinones regarding arctic mineral mining. Quinones was largely interested in the status of U.S. mineral research in the Arctic and the Arctic seafloor.

**Congressional Activities:**

- **House Staff Visit Patuxent Center:** Staff from the House Natural Resources Committee will visit the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and US Fish & Wildlife Service Research Refuge on Friday, October 12. While at Patuxent, they will learn about bird banding, sea duck research, endangered whooping crane, and other subjects. USGS and the Service are coordinating the visit and conducting the tour jointly.
- **USGS Briefs Senator Al Franken's Office on Mineral Values in Minnesota:** This week, USGS scientist Klaus Schulz briefed the staff of Senator Al Franken's office on the value of copper, nickel, and iron deposits in an area of land the state of Minnesota planned to swap with the U.S. Forest Service. Klaus is the project chief of the Critical Minerals group.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**
**BUREAU REPORT FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD**
**BEGINNING October 12, 2012**

Week Ahead

On **October 17th** Assistant Secretary Washburn will attend the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) 2012 NAICJA Annual Meeting & National Tribal Judicial Conference will be held at the Mystic Lake Resort and Casino in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

On **October 18th and 19th** Assistant Secretary Washburn will attend the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference in Anchorage Alaska.

*National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference October 14-16, 2012* ~ National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference entitled "An everlasting Educational Gift," will be held in Albuquerque, NM at the Albuquerque Marriott. SIPI President Dr. Sherry Allison will serve as a keynote speaker.

*National Indian Education Association October 18-21, 2012* ~ National Indian Education Association: Advancing Native Education in the Age of Digital Learning, Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK. The Acting Director will address Tribal Leaders on October 17.

"*Balancing Eagle Protection and Native American Rights: A Federal Commitment*" ~ October 15-16, Columbia, SC. Trainer for course at the Tribal and Federal Training on Wildlife and Pollution Enforcement Issues Affecting Tribal Lands and serving on panel entitled "Balancing Eagle Protection and Native American Rights: A Federal Commitment" on behalf of the Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs.

*Bison transfer, National Bison Range and related Bison issues* ~ October 16-18, Pablo, MT Speaking On behalf of Acting Assistant Secretary Indian-Affairs with the Assistant Secretary Fish & Wildlife Service with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes on Bison transfer, National Bison Range and related Bison issues; possible meeting with Governor of Montana.

Coming weeks:

*DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee* (SGAC) ~ Quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday, October 30th (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and Wednesday, October 31st (8:30 am to 1:30 pm) in Washington, D.C.

*National Congress of American Indians 69th Annual Convention October 21-26, 2012* ~, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, California.

Outreach/ Planned Events:
None.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

October 12, 2012

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Attn: James E. Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Michele F. Singer, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for October 8 – October 12, 2012

**Office of the Special Trustee (OST)**
**Assistant Secretary Weekly Report**

**Schedule and Activities**

- The PDST will conduct business in Cabazon, CA, October 16-18.
- The PDST will conduct business in Washington, DC, October 22-23.
- The PDST will conduct business in Albuquerque, NM, October 24-26.

**Review** – October 8 – October 12

- **Update: *Cobell* Settlement Payout Process and Land Consolidation Implementation Plan**
  Payments from the $3.4 billion settlement could proceed by December 2012. The U.S. Supreme Court will likely consider Plaintiff Kim Craven's Application for Writ of Certiorari at its conference on October 26, and the other Plaintiffs' Writ at the Court's conference on November 20. Thus, final approval of the Settlement could occur as early as late November with payments to class member proceeding soon after.

  OST and BIA continue working on the issue of self-identified Trust Administration Class (TAC) members and will be determining what supporting documents will be submitted to Garden City Group (GCG) on the matter. OST and BIA are preparing a draft document to submit to GCG related to the self-identified TAC member list.

- **Update: U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (DDC) Tribal Litigation for Quinn-Leinbach, Settlement Proposal to the Obama Administration (SPOA) Tribes, and other Litigating Tribes**
  Settlement negotiations are continuing, and OST maintains its support to SOL and DOJ on reaching settlement with litigating tribes. As the remaining settlements continue to push forward, OST is busy providing DOJ with the latest Periodic Statements of Performances for settling tribes. OST focuses much of its litigation-related resources on cases that are currently on an active litigation track, with OST producing and imaging thousands of documents and performing extensive account identification research. Certain discovery schedules may pose considerable challenges for resources. In addition, OST has received a request from SOL Twin Cities Field Office to help research historical

documents for a land dispute case involving a tribe. OST is considering how it can most effectively assist the SOL.

- **New: Process Improvements for Beneficiaries**
  OST's Office of Information Technology implemented a new and more efficient process for the development of monthly compact discs (CD's) that contain tribal statements. The new process reduced production time of the CD's from 4-6 days to 5 minutes for the 156 CDs produced this week. This reduction in production time allows both the printed tribal statements and the CD-based tribal statements to be produced on the same day and encourages tribes to use the electronic statements more.

- **Update: Beneficiary Outreach**
  On October 9-11, the OST Navajo Region staff from both the Gallup and Crownpoint offices are attending the *Crazy City Cash Financial Skills Reality Fair* at the Rio West Mall in Gallup, NM, for beneficiary outreach. The First Financial Credit Union in partnership with First Nations Development Institute received a grant to fund the event. Students from ten schools in the Gallup McKinley County Schools financial literacy programs are participating in the learning experience to equip them with financial skills, such as budgeting, banking, and how to manage money.

  On October 12, the Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) for Osage Agency will support the annual Osage Nation Health Summit event at the Osage County Fairgrounds with a Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) booth. The WAU list has approximately 349 Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts with a combined value of over $3.7 million and will be available for beneficiary review and updates. The FTO will also provide information to Indian trust beneficiaries regarding IIM accounts generally, the availability of direct deposit or debit cards, and financial skills information.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

October 12, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Liz Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o James Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: October 11, 2012, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

**POLICY**

**Arctic Oil Preparedness and Response Agreement and Ecosystem Based Management.** The team negotiating the Arctic Council Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic has reach agreement on language. David Moore, BSEE, was the lead for the Department of the Interior and worked through PMB to garner input from relevant offices and bureaus. David did an outstanding job representing the Department and should be commended. Overall the instrument is strong and creates a good foundation for cooperation and collaboration in regard to spill response in the Arctic. The binding part of the Agreement would require each Arctic National to maintain a national system to respond promptly to a spill, to notify other nations in the event of a spill and to conduct monitoring activities to identify a spill expeditiously. It also encourages the Arctic Nations to work together to carry out joint exercises and trainings and to share information. Issues associated with invasive species will be covered in the operational guidelines.

Over the last week, the Department weighed in heavily as the U.S. worked to finalize a position on outstanding issues in the Agreement. The issue of greatest interest to the Department was inclusion of language in the non-binding preamble recognizing the Arctic Council's work on ecosystem-based management (EBM). The State of Alaska opposed any reference to EBM inclusion, but ultimately the U.S. position was to include this language. Unfortunately, during the broader negotiations this week, the Russian delegation objected to any reference of ecosystem-based management and the language was watered down significantly and includes no reference to EBM. This is extremely unfortunate. On October 11, the Heads of Delegation who

have been working on the Agreement will meet with legal staff to complete a review and correct any errors. Then the document will be considered final. Discussions are still underway for the appendixes and operational guidelines. All of this will go forward to the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial.

While it is disappointing that the EBM reference was removed from the final version of the Agreement, the work of the EBM experts group continues and we remain hopeful to come up with strong recommendations through the experts process. In addition, we have forged a very strong relationship with NOAA and State and both agencies are not advocates of EBM.

## MANAGEMENT

**2012 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards.** Three DOI nominees were selected as winners of the 2012 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards, in the "Team – Project" category. These awards, which are sponsored by the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program, recognize outstanding contributions toward Federal energy and water efficiency, sustainability, and renewable energy. The awardees were honored at an October 4, 2012, ceremony at the DOI Sidney R. Yates Auditorium and include:

- National Park Service – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Net-Zero Energy Student Intern Center (Team members: Ric Alesh, Lorenza Fong, Bethany Mills, Tara Moore, and John Williams);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Neosho National Fish Hatchery Visitor Center (Team members: Carol Fix, David Hendrix, Meaghan Nelson, Craig Swedenborg, and Todd Turner); and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and Headquarters Building (Team members: Michael Crocker, Sheri Fetherman, Jackie Jacobson, Lloyd Jones, and Gary Williams).

## BUDGET

**FY 2013 Appropriations Congressional Action.** Governmental operations are currently operating under the authority of a six-month continuing resolution signed by the President on September 28. The CR (P.L. 112-175) provides authority to operate through March 27, 2013 and includes several anomalies for DOI:

- The FY 2013 level of Wildland Fire funding and an appropriation of $23 million to repay accounts impacted by borrowing for fire funding;
- A legislative clarification of the AML language included in the Transportation authorization bill, in order to ensure that only the payment to Wyoming will be impacted by the termination of payments to States that have certified that they have completed abandoned mine remediation.

The bill requires submission of operating plans for each appropriation account to Congress within 30 days of enactment or by October 28, 2012. The bill requires an update to this operating plan within 30 days of implementation of the automatic sequester triggered by the

Budget Control Act, which will take place on January 2, 2013 unless Congress takes action before then. Lastly, the bill requires monthly reporting from the Director of the OMB to Congressional Committees on all obligations incurred by each Department and agency through March 27, 2013. Bureau operating plans were due to POB on October 9 and are undergoing review.

**OTHER**

**IG/GAO Reports.** The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

**Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget**
**Weekly Office Reports**
**October 11, 2012**

## POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

**New: Region 6 Area Contingency Plan Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultations.** The REO Albuquerque received a request from U.S. Coast Guard District 8 for information regarding all ESA Section 7 consultations that have been completed since 2001. REO requested information from FWS regarding any they are aware of and provided what was in the OEPC/ABQ files. Only four examples were in files at FWS and OEPC, one being the consultation for the offshore dispersant use pre-authorization. It is likely this will send a message to the USCG of the need to pay more attention to this requirement. The biological assessment for the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill is in progress. REO had a long discussion with Coast Guard RRT6 coordinator at District 8 regarding DOI participation on Coastal Area Committees for spill planning and outlined efforts to get bureaus more involved where they haven't been.

**New: USDA Drought Recovery Initiative.** The Secretary of Agriculture has appointed Colleen Callahan as its Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) for this interagency initiative which is following the guidance contained in the NDRF, and has reached out to DOI and other Federal agencies to participate. The USDA is partnering with state and local entities to hold four regional drought public meetings to scope out the major drought recovery issues, highlight immediate coordination opportunities, and focus on possible Federal program assistance. The first meeting was held in Omaha, NE on October 9; subsequently meetings will be held in Pueblo, CO on October 15; Pine Bluff, AR on October 17; and in Ohio (date and location TBD). The OEPC is leading DOI coordination with USDA, FEMA, and other agencies on this initiative.

**New: Improving Interactions with Federal On Scene Coordinators.** The REO/San Francisco Officer participated October 1 in conference call of Applied Response Technology (ART) Committee of Regional Response Team (RRT) IX. USCG hosted and staff from EPA, CA OSPR (CA Office of Spill Preparedness and Response), NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and CA Coastal Commission (CCC). We continued our discussions on improving interactions with Federal On Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) in drills, exercises, and events when RRT is called upon to give permission for use of dispersants, in situ burns, etc. Case is pending.

**Update: Alaska Statement of Cooperation (SOC) Meeting.** The Alaska REA participated on October 11, 2012, in a meeting of the SOC Work Group. The SOC Work Group implements the annual work plan of the SOC and reports to an Executive Steering Committee of regional agency heads. The SOC is a Federal-State cooperative effort in Alaska focused on partnering for pollution prevention, contaminated site cleanup, and environmental education and technology exchange. The OEPC Alaska Office represents the Department on the SOC Work Group.

**Update: REO San Francisco.** The floating dock off the Island of Molokai, HI has not been located. Three USCG over flights have failed to find it. The latest drift models from NOAA

suggest that it should have drifted west between Molokai and Oahu. This would put it in an area of high surface vessel and aircraft traffic, increasing the chances that somebody would have spotted it. It may have been taken in tow by fishermen and anchored somewhere out of the way or it is passing south of the Main Hawaiian Islands and on its way to Wake Island via Midway. Case is pending.

**Office of Policy Analysis**

**New: Arctic Council Ecosystem-Based Management.** Policy Analysis Director attended the third and final Arctic Council EBM Experts Group meeting in Tromsø, Norway last week. Policy Analysis was responsible for drafting the ultimate deliverable of this group, a set of recommendations for the Senior Arctic Officials and Foreign Ministers. After intensive deliberations over several days, the Group agreed upon a draft set of EBM recommendations that, if endorsed by the Ministers, will advance the acceptance, practice, and effectiveness of EBM in the Arctic. Policy Analysis will edit the final report for international review prior to submitting to SAOs.

**New: Implementation of Agency Plan on Infrastructure Permitting.** Policy Analysis is assisting the Counselor to the Deputy Secretary in preparing an end of year report identifying progress on implementing improvements to DOI's permitting processes for major infrastructure projects. The report is being prepared for OMB.

**New: Policy Analysis Seminar/Webinar.** Alan Risenhoover, Acting Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs for NOAA Fisheries, will discuss sustainable fisheries management in the U.S., on October 15 at 12:15 p.m., in the Rachel Carson Room. His presentation also will be broadcast via webinar.

**New: FY 2012 Economic Report.** Policy Analysis met with staff from the bureaus to discuss the content and schedule for the FY 2012 Economic Report. Additional meetings are in the process of being scheduled with the bureaus to discuss specific data and analysis issues.

**New: NGOs Share Interior Concerns on EPA Rule.** On October 5, 2012, eight non-governmental organizations met with OMB regarding their concerns about an EPA final rule that would list several species, including *Arundo donax*, as green house gas reducing components of a renewable biofuel production pathway. *A. donax* has been found it to be "highly invasive," by USDA APHIS. The non-governmental organizations gave OMB a letter signed by over 100 groups and organizations expressing their serious concerns with EPA's decision. They also talked about alternative non-invasive species that could be used to produce biofuels. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior have also expressed their concerns to OMB.

**New: Convention on Biodiversity, 11th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP11).** NISC staff will attend the Convention on Biodiversity, Oct. 8-19, in Hyderabad, India, to focus on intergovernmental deliberations regarding invasive species, including pathways for introduction (e.g., imports of pets, live bait, live fish, as well as future work), the application of international

standards affecting trade in potential invasive species, and cooperation on information systems. Efforts will also focus on relevant decisions on island biodiversity and promoting regional island collaboration on invasive species management, particularly in the Pacific.

**Ongoing: FY 2012 Annual Report on Technology Transfer.** Policy Analysis is coordinating the development of Interior's FY 2012 annual report on technology transfer for submission to OMB and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The report is required under OMB Circular A-11 and the Federal Technology Transfer Act, and is due by the end of January 2013.

**Ongoing: Fractionated Land Interests on Reservations**. Policy Analysis is assisting staff within PMB charged with implementing the component of the Cobell settlement focused on reducing the number of fractionated land interests on reservations. Policy Analysis is currently drafting a paper that will provide analysis of a number of options for implementing the acquisition process.

**Ongoing: Agency Climate Change Adaptation Efforts.** Policy Analysis worked with the Deputy Secretary's office to prepare a Departmental Manual chapter on climate change adaptation. The revised chapter awaits final Deputy Secretary approval.

**Ongoing: Analysis of the FWS Conservation Banking Program.** Policy Analysis is continuing its analysis of the conservation banking program, as requested by FWS.

**Ongoing: Integrated Arctic Management.** A Policy Analysis team is working with the Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting, to coordinate a government-wide interagency Integrated Arctic Management (IAM) initiative. The first priority is an interim report to the President from the Interagency Working Group, due December 31. Working with the participating agencies, the project manager has pulled together the writing team for the report and distributed assignments. Policy Analysis is providing ongoing direction and support for the effort.

**Office of Native Hawaiian Relations**

**NEW: ONHR Assisting US Fish and Wildlife Service in Recruiting Native Hawaiian and Environmental Law Students for Elizabeth Sharpe Law Fellowships for Summer 2013.** ONHR is assisting USFWS with its Sharpe Fellowship program which now must follow the Pathways program requirements for recruiting. ONHR participation is greater this year due to the departure of the USFWS Region 1 Native American Liaison who previously included Native Hawaiian initiatives in his purview. ONHR may need to increase its interactions with staff in the USFWS Region 1 Office regarding this and other issues impacting Native Hawaiian interests and concerns which were often referred to ONHR by the previous USFWS Region 1 Native American Liaison.

**Office of International Affairs**

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**New: Maldives Marine Protected Areas Workshop.** Two ITAP marine resource management specialists from FWS will travel to the Republic of Maldives to develop and facilitate a two day multi-sector workshop that examines the current state of and future direction for the country's system of marine protected areas (MPAs), which have traditionally been established to accommodate the tourism industry. The workshop will examine how MPAs can be established and managed to accommodate multiple purposes, including biodiversity conservation and the fisheries industry. The team will also provide targeted technical advice on such issues as island restoration and marine resource management in the face of climate change. This work is funded by the Department of State.

**New: Project Presentation to the New Undersecretary for Field Operations of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources.** ITAP field staff will meet with the newly designated Undersecretary for Field Operations, Demetrio Ignacio, to present an overview of ITAP activities in the Philippines. The purpose of this meeting is to underscore the cooperation and collaboration fostered by the project which has led to its successes to date, and to obtain commitment from the new Undersecretary for future project support and collaboration. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**New: Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum.** One ITAP Project Manager will participate in the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) Oct. 15 – 17 in San Juan, Puerto Rico to facilitate the launch of ITAP renewable energy work in the Caribbean. The CREF focuses on renewable energy development and brings together government and the private sector to discuss trends and potential future projects. ITAP will also participate in State Department meetings with Caribbean Energy Ministers, representatives from multilateral institutions, and the private sector to discuss energy trends, investment potential, and electrical interconnection in the region. Ambassador Carlos Pascual, Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, will lead the USG delegation. This work is funded by the Department of State.

**New: Gender and Forest Medicinal Plants in Peru.** ITAP and the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago) will coordinate a field visit to the Ere Campoya zone in Peru to conduct a socio-environmental inventory of the Flor de Agosto, Ere, Yabuyanos, Santa Mercedes and Iquitos indigenous communities. The technical field visit will consist of interviewing community leaders, elders and members to develop a final report on socio-environmental conditions in the communities. The report will be provided to Peru's Ministry of Environment to assist in decisions that affect the livelihood of these communities. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**New: GIS-based Decision Making in the Andean Amazon Region**. From October 8-12, ITAP will design, create, and implement a geographic database to analyze regional intersecting data layers. The database will include data on oil and gas, mining, road infrastructure, forestry, protected areas, and indigenous territories. This activity is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**New: OIA Participation in First Quarterly Forum.** The OIA Acting Director participated in the first of an anticipated quarterly forum of federal partners involved in international disaster

response and disaster risk reduction. The forum is hosted by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

**New: Staff Detail.** An OIA policy staff member will begin a four-month detail to the USTR Office of Environment and Natural Resources on October 15. This detail will further OIA's understanding of USTR's operations and policy-making processes and will serve to deepen staff's technical expertise on a range of environment and trade policy issues. (DOI is a long-time active member of the interagency trade policy committee chaired by USTR.)

**Update: ITAP Launches New Agreement on Global Climate Change.** ITAP has identified a Project Manager for its new Global Climate Change initiative to build the capacity of selected developing country partners to improve the use of land cover and land cover change data in their respective countries. The new Project Manager will be convening meetings with relevant USGS and other USG personnel to begin to develop a detailed work plan this month. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Update: Kosovo Mining Legislation.** Two ITAP mining experts from OSMRE and SOL are in Pristina, Kosovo October 3-13 advising the Government of Kosovo on mining legislation currently in a Parliamentary committee. USAID/Kosovo issued an urgent request for DOI assistance, as the legislation is scheduled for vote by the end of October at the latest. The experts will advise the Parliament of Kosovo on legislation to open the mining sector to transparent and open competition and do so in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. This activity is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Update: Oman Ranger Skills Training.** Two ITAP ranger training specialists from NPS are completing their work in Oman where they delivered two ranger skills trainings to field rangers from a number of natural resource management entities. ITAP also facilitated a workshop to contribute to Oman's efforts to develop a long-term strategic vision for the professional development of the rangers. This activity is funded by the Department of State.

**Update: Trade Policy.** During the week of October 8, OIA is representing DOI at meetings of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) chaired by USTR, to discuss the potential for negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU. USTR anticipates calling a meeting of the Trade Policy Review Group, on which ASPMB is the designated DOI representative, during the week of October 22 to further discuss the potential EU FTA.

**Update: Colombian Voluntary Isolated Indigenous People and Initial Contact.** On October 9, at the request of the Colombian Ministry of Culture – Intangible Cultural Heritage Group, ITAP will provide conceptual and technical recommendations in developing an Emergency Safeguard Plan for the Nukak indigenous community and provide technical advice on developing protocols for coming into contact with Voluntary Isolated Indigenous People (VIIP) based on an analysis of experiences in other Andean Amazon countries. This activity is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment**

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**New: Justice Opens 30-Day Public Comment Period on Proposed Settlement for Natural Resource Damages at Rio Tinto Mine Site in Elko County, Nevada.** On October 4, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice opened a 30-day public comment period on a proposed settlement with four companies for claims, including natural resource damage claims, arising from hazardous substances releases from the Rio Tinto Mine site, in Elko County, Nevada. The four companies financing the settlement include: Atlantic Richfield Co., The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co., E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Co., and Teck American, Inc. The natural resource trustees in this case include: Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, State of Nevada, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Rio Tinto Mine site is an abandoned copper mine and associated mill, heap leach pads and tailings located on 280 acres in northeastern Nevada. Copper ore was mined at the site starting in 1931. Historic fish kills and other water quality problems in East Fork Owyhee River have been attributed to hazardous substances releases from the site via Mill Creek. Under the proposed settlement, the companies will clean up the site and enhance habitat for redband trout, an important cultural resource for the Tribes. The four settling companies will also pay over $700,000 for past Federal assessment costs and pay $150,000 for tribal natural resource damages, assessment costs and future costs for the Tribes' oversight of the Responsible Parties' activities under the Consent Decree. For more information on this settlement see: http://www.doi.gov/restoration/news/Rio-Tinto-Mine-Consent-Decree-lodged.cfm.

## OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

### Office of Natural Resources Revenue

**Unit/Communitization Agreement (CA) Training Offered in Indian Country (New):** BLM and ONRR will provide Unit/CA training for the Ute Tribe, Uintah and Ouray BIA Agency, and Office of the Special Trustee staff in Vernal, Utah, on October 18, 2012. This training is a collaborative effort to share knowledge and resources where there is a high demand for fluid mineral training in Indian Country.

**ONRR Administers Organizational Health Survey (Update):** ONRR administered its third annual Organizational Health Survey October 4-11, 2012. The "Pulse Survey" is an integral part in ONRR's institutionalization of the employee-driven Strategic Review process. ONRR senior managers will consider results from the 2012 "Pulse Survey" later in October, when they meet for the Semi-Annual Prioritization exercise to determine ONRR's strategic priorities over the next six months. The 2012 "Pulse Survey" gave employees the option of providing additional comments about each of their responses.

**Strategic Review Implementation Work Groups (IWGs) Update (No Change):** The Enhance Performance Accountability IWG is finalizing FY 2013 ONRR-specific guidance for Employee Performance Appraisal Plans (EPAP), which will be sent to all ONRR supervisors by October 31, 2012. The IWG developed additional EPAP tools which were approved by the QSC

last month. ONRR will provide these tools to supervisors and employees and will include a training catalog for supervisors, a flowchart of the annual EPAP process, and a list of non-monetary award ideas. These tools and the improved EPAP guidance aim to 1) address employee requests for improved accountability, 2) promote dialog between supervisors and employees, and 3) promote consistency in EPAPs across ONRR.

**ONRR Preparing Communication Plan for Publication of FY 2012 Statistics and Web Page Redesign (No Change):** ONRR Public Affairs is working on a communication plan to be used in conjunction with the publication of the FY 2012 disbursements and reported royalty revenues as well as the unveiling of the new Statistics web page. ONRR made several improvements to the web page and will unveil it in the new fiscal year. The communication plan provides talking points and highlights key improvements to the website.

**Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing):** Staff from ONRR's State and Tribal Support Office conducts attestation engagements to assure the States and Tribes comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreements. The main areas reviewed include agreement costs, safeguarding of records, equipment assessment, compliance review manual standards, and contract performance. ONRR scheduled the Southern Ute attestation engagement for October 16-18, 2012.

**Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing):** ONRR conducts outreach meetings with Indian mineral owners to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with BIA, BLM, and OST. ONRR scheduled outreach sessions with mineral owners attending the Nageezi Chapter House in Nageezi, New Mexico, on October 16, 2012; and the Huerfano Chapter House in Huerfano, New Mexico; on October 18, 2012.

## YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

**New: The Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service Director.** This week the office welcomed new Director, Michael Gale, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is a welcome addition to the office and brings with him great enthusiasm and passion for youth, partnerships and service.

Update: North American Association for Environmental Educators (NAAEE). Staff gave two presentations at the North American Association for Environmental Educators Conference on how Interior connects youth with nature and public lands, including the latest about how we're partnering with others to use education to build pathways to careers in STEM and natural resources.

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**Update: DOI STEM Education and Employment Pathways Strategic Plan.** The Office continued coordinating the surname process for this strategic plan and met with USGS to discuss roll out strategies for the plan.

**Update: Take Pride in America National Awards.** The October 11, 2012 event was a great success. Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh presented the awards and gave the keynote address.

**Ongoing: 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Advisory Committee.** Internal review of the committee's report continues, with several internal meetings to discuss the implementation of the recommendations submitted by the committee. The Solicitor's Office is assisting.

**Ongoing: Departmental Volunteer Policy.** The Department's Volunteer Policy has received final sign off and has been approved, the Office is drafting a memo for the Assistant Secretary to send to the heads of bureaus and offices announcing the new policy and outlining follow-up actions.

**Ongoing: OS Internship Program.** YPS is in the process of facilitating background investigations for the fall 2012 Office of the Secretary interns. The interns who have cleared background investigations started working this week. YPS is working with Human Resources staff to develop clearer position descriptions for future recruitment of interns through the PATHWAYS hiring authority.

**Ongoing: Partners in Conservation Award.** The ceremony is scheduled for October 18, 2012, and preparations for this event are ongoing. A reception for award winners will be at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 7000 A and B, followed by the 11 a.m. ceremony in the Yates Auditorium. The NPS Preservation Awards 2012 will immediately follow the presentation.

## TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

### Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)

**Update: Every 1 Matters—Diversity Matters.** The Barrier Analysis Retention Team has sent advance questionnaires to the OS and SOL employees who will be participating in the nine focus groups to be conducted in the field this month. The first five focus groups, involving ONRR and other OS employees, will be held in Denver next week.

### Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

**Update: IT Transformation.** The OCIO has prepared a draft Record of Decision to document the consensus reached by the Deputies Operating Group on September 28th. The consensus decision to adopt a phased implementation approach by service area, use a "build and recruit" workforce strategy for all service areas except hosting, and form a hosting services study team were presented to the Principles Operating Group by Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh on October 9th.

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**New: OCIO Strategic Planning.** The OCIO held an offsite meeting on October 2, 2012 with new OCIO leadership in Herndon, Virginia to discuss shared values, mission, vision and strategic goals. The meeting included interactive team building sessions with OCIO senior executives and managers, covering the following five strategic themes: 1) Transforming IT, 2) Building a 21st Century Workforce, 3) Customer Satisfaction, 4) Achieving Long-Term OCIO Financial Viability, and 5) Maximizing the Value of IT Investments by meeting our Regulatory Requirements.

**New: Office of the Inspector General Financial Statement Audit Report for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.** OCIO completed a long-standing corrective action as the result of a recommendation from the OIG regarding the implementation of the Department's DOIAccess system. As of September 25, 2012, DOIAccess version 2.5 became operable on DOInet. This release includes enhancements that enable tracking of the Department of the Interior contractor employee information. The Office of Financial Management confirmed that this completed DOI's commitment to remediate the OIG finding and recommendation.

**New: OIG Federal Information Security Management Act Performance Audit Report.** OIG is required to perform an annual evaluation of the DOI's information security program and practices and submit an audit report annually to the Office of Management and Budget. DOI received the draft 2012 OIG Performance Audit Report for review and comment. According to the draft report, the OIG found no significant deficiencies. The report includes twenty recommendations. Management comments are due to the OIG on October 30, 2012, with a final report expected November 6, 2012. The deadline for transmitting DOI's FISMA results to OMB is November 15, 2012.

**Update: Joint DOI and USDA-Forest Service Radio Program Meeting.** The OCIO met with USFS Radio Program Management group on October 5, 2012 to discuss the status of USFS radio program reorganization and their annual work plan for FY13 and the purpose and objectives of the newly formed DOI Radio Executive Steering Committee.

**Update: Wildland Fire Spectrum Support.** The DOI OCIO has taken over temporary frequency assignment support for wildland fire operations from the USFS on October 1, 2012. The DOI OCIO and the USFS OCIO alternate the delivery of this service every two weeks.

**Update: Data Center Consolidation Initiative.** The Data Center Consolidation Initiative team finalized the Department Consolidation Plan using the new OMB Planning Guidance and template format and had prepared to submit this plan to OMB on September 28, 2012. OMB provided guidance to delay the plan submission until OMB provides new guidance regarding the FDCCI and PortfolioStat programs.

**Office of Valuation Services (OVS)**

**New: Business and Administration Management Division.** The process to close the Phoenix office has begun, and GSA has been notified of the January 25, 2013 deadline to be out of the offices. OVS staff will be out by November 1. The closure is based upon workload analysis and takes client service into consideration. The closure is part of OVS' ongoing review and implementation of operational efficiencies.

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**New: Minerals Evaluation.** OVS is working with BIA, BLM and the Solicitor's Office to establish funding to support minerals evaluation for probate work in Oklahoma. BLM formerly provided the service, but responsibility shifted to OVS with Secretarial Order 3300. However, OVS is not currently funded to do this work and is working with BIA to establish a Working Capital Fund Account to support this function.

**Update: OVS Director.** OVS Director John Ross will be teleworking several days a week, with limited time in the office while recovering from surgery.

**Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution** (CADR)

**Interior Business Center (IBC)**

**New: Annual Assurance Statement on Internal Controls.** IBC successfully provided the FY 2012 Annual Assurance Statement on Internal Controls to the AS PMB and PFM Director. NBC provided reasonable assurance that our internal controls continue to operate effectively and as designed. No material weaknesses were found in the design or operations of the internal controls across the NBC Enterprise. IBC provides coverage for select Department of the Interior organizations and bureaus whose systems are hosted by IBA, in addition to products and services offered by IBC.

**New: Brown Bag Sessions with the Director.** IBC Director is hosting a series of brown bag sessions to exchange ideas with the IBC workforce, and the first session took place Thursday, October 4th, in Herndon. An additional session in Herndon is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th with similar session scheduled for the week of October 22, in Sierra Vista and Denver. The main themes discussed involved improving communications and customer service.

**Update: Fiscal Year End in FBMS.** IBC successfully closed fiscal year 2012 in FBMS on Wednesday, Oct 3rd. The system will be in a "black out" period for the next few weeks while the program management office prepares for the next bureau implementation (D7 - which includes BIA and NPS). Once all deployments of FBMS are complete these extensive blackout periods will no longer take place.

**Update: IBC addresses 'Do Not Pay' Initiative.** The IBC successfully collaborated with the Department of Treasury and the Bureau of Public Debt to provide the first test file for the future deployment of Do Not Pay at the Department of the Interior. This initiative has been led by Deputy CFO, Doug Glenn.

**New: Oracle Implementation** - IBC successfully implemented the National Labor Relations Board on its Oracle Federal Financials, with an effective go live date of October 2, 21012. NLRB has been an IBC customer for several years and recently made the decision to change systems in order take advantage of the shared model and reduced costs that IBC provides.

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**Update: The National Irrigation Information Management System.** The last of three BIA applications hosted within IBC's mainframe environment is finalizing the decommissioning process. The decommissioning of NIIMS included archiving the system information of that legacy system according to customer requirements. BIA is preparing the final decommissioning certification memo to staff for signature.

**New: W2 Preparations.** The IBC is preparing for a successful W2 season. The IBC expects to begin printing W2s by January 6, 2013 and providing a file to Employee Express for those employees receiving electronic W2s. As of September 5, 2012, 8% of employees have elected electronic W-2s. In FY 2011 only 6.3% of the FPPS employee population elected electronic W-2s. Employees may elect electronic W2s in Employee Express up through December 12, 2012.

**Update: DOI/NBC Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS) UNIX Proof of Concept project.** IBC has installed all software on servers to begin the Unix Proof of Concept project. The new product enables developers to intuitively develop, test, improve and manage applications.

**Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)**

**New: Interior Complex Flu Shots.** The OFAS Health Unit kicked-off its seasonal flu shot campaign on October 1 and has already given over 280 shots in the first week.

**New: Legislative History Research Class for University of Maryland Students** – On October 3rd, the Library's Head of Reference Services offered a class on legislative history research to students in the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies Government Documents Class. The class offered the students a look at how to piece together a legislative history, using both electronic resources as well as print products. 20 students attended the class.

**New: Child Care Center Tours.** Following an all employee announcement from AS Suh, tours of the new child care center at the MIB have been scheduled during the month of October for families of the current GSA child care center as well as DOI employees. The new center is scheduled to open on November 13.

**New: Employee Courtyard opening.** The grand re-opening of the employee courtyard at the MIB (adjacent to the Bison Bistro cafeteria) has been scheduled for October 16 with an Oktoberfest theme. The courtyard will be available for employee use beginning that day for lunch and events.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**The U.S. Customs and Border Protection to Receive Secretary's Conservation Partner Award.** CBP will be honored on October 18 by Secretary Salazar for their partnership efforts

with DOI.U.S. Border Patrol Chief Mike Fisher and Acting Commissioner David Aguilar are the named recipients.

**Immediate Office of the DAS**

**Update: Fish and Wildlife Service to Restart IPaC project in Southwest Region.** Following internal discussions FWS has decided to reactivate the Information, Planning and Conservation System which had been partially funded by Customs and Border Protection. This system will be helpful in preparing environmental reviews for border tactical infrastructure and operations. The system is expected to be restarted within the next 4 weeks following an internal review for data quality.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Work continues on the contract with a third party to execute mitigation measures for Tactical Infrastructure through land acquisition in South Texas. A contract is expected to be issued early in CY 2013 for acquisition of about 500 acres using $3 million in CBP funding. These funds will be directed towards mitigation of impacts on endangered species (primarily the ocelot) through acquisition and restoration of habitat. Acquisition is expected to occur in late 2012. The properties to be acquired have been identified and approved by Customs and Border Protection. Acquisition of the mitigation lands is expected in the spring of 2013. The initial draft of the second annual report due in October is now in review and is expected to be sent to CBP by the end of the month. Spending plans for the remaining funding were clarified in a coordination meeting in Albuquerque on October 2 with the Fish and Wildlife Service coordinator and the managers for each mitigation project outlining obligation plans for this FY.

**Update: Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (TIMR):** A final coordination meeting on the Biological Opinion for Arizona TIMR was held on September 13. Edits are being made and the final Opinion is expected soon. Following this, one or more MOAs will be developed between CBP and DOI land managers to allow coordination of the maintenance activities on individual land units. In California the preliminary Biological Assessment and NEPA documentation are being reviewed. Work is continuing on an MOA between CBP and BLM for New Mexico TIMR. A meeting to coordinate the completion of TIMR in New Mexico was held September 25. Significant progress was made at this meeting with several action items identified. In Texas, a broad outreach and public scoping effort is being developed. No specific time frames are known at this time for completing TIMR in Texas.

**Update: Programmatic ARPA Section 106 Agreement.** CBP has prepared a programmatic document for the northern and southern borders which will describe routine activities with no anticipated impact on historic and cultural resources that may be excluded from the standard Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) reviews. The programmatic documents have been prepared on a state by state basis and CBP is seeking the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officers for the each state. Consultation with 188 border region Tribes is also underway.

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CBP will make a summary presentation of the revised Programmatic Agreement on October 19 with comments due to CBP by the end of the month.

**Update: Interagency Interoperability.** The ICAM Executive Steering Committee asked for a detailed project approach for its October meeting. Discussions were held with DOI OCIO staff on development of the project approach, but no details have been provided. This issue continues to be a major impediment to implementation of Service First and to the efficient operation of interagency wildland fire entities.

**Update: Fire Program Assessment.** The contractor delivered a draft final report on October 1. The Steering Committee and the Executive Advisory met jointly with the contractor to review the draft and provide comments. The final report is due to the Department on October 17. Planning for implementation is beginning.

**No Change: Bog Creek Road Access-Idaho.** U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Border Patrol are entering into a cooperative effort to resolve issues surrounding the opening of this road adjacent to the Canadian border. The road was closed as part of an effort to protect "core grizzly bear" habitat. There are court imposed restrictions on the amount of open road that can be present and still allow the area to be designated of core habitat. USFS, USBP and Fish and Wildlife Service are continuing discussions on how best to complete the environmental reviews. A meeting was held on September 20 in Spokane to discuss next steps.

**No Change: Integrated Fixed Towers and Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Proposed New Tower Construction in Arizona.** The Office of Technology, Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA) is continuing to assess priorities for new Integrated Fixed Tower construction. The highest priority is on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Field engineering surveys were just completed for 14 new towers. The placement of new towers in the Wellton area has been delayed and may be postponed indefinitely. Many of these towers would be in or near Sonoran Pronghorn fawning areas. Work is continuing on completing environmental reviews and beginning construction of IFT sites in the Douglas and Sonoita areas of Arizona which had been on hold while the SBI program was under review. Due to changes in threat levels interest has grown in placing a large number of RVSS towers in South Texas (Cameron and Hidalgo Counties) with as many as 80 towers possible. There is no specific timeframe for the South Texas tower program. A proposal for construction of 20 new RVSS monopole towers has been reviewed by Fish and Wildlife Service. The Biological Assessment is near final and as a result of this review 2 tower sites will not be constructed at this time. There may have been insufficient funding for all of the sites anyway. Of these sites, three are on Bureau of Reclamation lands, three sites are on National Park Service lands and two sites are on Bureau of Land Management lands. The sites are in proximity to the international border from Douglas to Yuma. The analysis of impacts will continue with finalizing the Biological Assessment after which a Biological Opinion will be issued by FWS.

**No Change: West Desert Road Repair.** CBP is planning to use National Guard personnel to repair about 2 miles of road and establish a new access road to "BP Hill" in the El Centro area of

Southern California. Most of the work will occur on BLM managed lands. National Guard units are being scheduled for deployment in March of 2014. Environmental review work is underway. The schedule for completing engineering plans and environmental review is very tight. CBP is planning on deployment in March of 2013.

**No Change: Department of the Interior to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to Renew 2008 Memorandum of Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and 2008 MOU on Radio Interoperability.** These agreements will expire at the end of CY 2012 if not renewed. CBP is scoping the current MOA and changes in their program since the original agreement was signed and will provide a revised version for DOI review. CBP and OLES (SA Oman) are coordinating revision of the 2008 Radio MOU.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP published a notice of a final PEIS with a draft Record of Decision on July 27. Following a 30 day waiting period ends on August 26. The DOI consolidated response was sent to DHS for review and most concerns were incorporated into this final version. This is a broad programmatic document and it is expected there will be additional environmental compliance for most future changes (e.g., individual projects dealing with construction of tactical infrastructure). A Record of Decision is expected to be completed in October.

**No Change: Customs and Border Protection to Prepare Summary of Mitigation.** CBP has agreed to compile all completed and outstanding mitigation work on record so that a clear understanding of the work and future commitments made to date is captured. Once reviewed by DOI Bureaus priorities may be assigned to each of the projects identified. The summary will be done on a state by state basis.

**No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing.** Major cleanup work is now focused on Gulf Islands National Seashore with increased work to begin in late August. This work will take an estimated 90 working days, which could mean 180 or more calendar days. The regional offices are working on a staffing plan to continue to have a DOI IC in place during this period.

**No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement.** The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project bridge team coordinating the pilots in the Southwest and California is finalizing its report to the Steering Committee. The report will contain recommendations to local managers on opportunities for consolidation and improvement along with recommendations for national level policies and tools to improve dispatch operations and capabilities. The final report is expected by the end of the fiscal year.

**Final: Lower Colorado (Limitrophe) Mitigation.** Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Land Management are continuing discussions on the proposed mitigation for brush clearing in riparian habitats along the Lower Colorado. Additional clearing occurred prior to completion of mitigation requirements for the initial clearing. A plan is being developed to address the need for additional mitigation. BLM recently proposed construction of an irrigation

system which, once put in place, would be operated and maintained by BLM. This cost effective option is being reviewed by BLM, FWS and CBP.

**Final: Fire IT Project**. Various implementation activities are continuing.

**Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)**

**New: Upcoming Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS) Post Implementation Reviews (PIRs).** The Program Manager IMARS will be conducting PIRs for the bureaus that are deploying IMARS. The NPS and USPP PIRs have been scheduled on November 12-17 in San Francisco and Point Reyes. The Project Team is working on scheduling the PIRs for BIA, BOR, and FWS.

**New: Arctic Briefing Scheduled for October 11.** OLES will facilitate a briefing and update on the Arctic to ensure that Departmental decision-makers are kept well informed of conditions and evolving situations that affect energy development and environmental protection.

**Final: OLES to Conduct an "Assist" Visit with the US Park Police Regarding Intelligence/Information Collection Procedures.** This activity is part of an on-going process to ensure that DOI law enforcement bureaus are properly collecting, storing and sharing non-criminal intelligence/information while protecting the privacy, civil rights and civil liberties of all US citizens.

**Office of Emergency and Management (OEM)**

**Update: Emergency Response Activities.** The Interior Operations Center (IOC) was engaged in reporting and coordination activities during the past week:

- *Wildland Fire Activity*: Currently there are 14 (down 1 from last week) uncontained large fires burning in the U.S., primarily in the Northwest. As of October 9, there are four large fires are burning on DOI lands, including 2 in Alaska on BLM land, 1 in Idaho on BLM land and 1 in Washington on BIA land. There are currently 4,324 (down 2,404 from last week) interagency firefighters assigned to wildland fire suppression, including 524 (down 548 from last week) DOI personnel. The Nation remains at Wildfire Preparedness Level 2

- *Deepwater Horizon Response*: Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup operations continued across the four-state area of impact and 61 DOI employees were involved in planning and operational activities. Last week, approximately 32,400 pounds of MC-252 oily debris was recovered from Gulf Coast shorelines.

- *National Drought Summary*: Cooler temperatures and some precipitation improved drought conditions in many East and West Coast states. The major portions of states in the center of the country (primarily Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma) remain in extreme

or exceptional drought conditions. USDA has meetings planned in NE, CO, AR and OH this month to discuss drought response.

**Update: FY12 Interior Readiness (I-READ) Index Submissions.** OEM completed the collection of the FY12 I-READ Index Scores from bureaus and offices and is working to validate scores and prepare the report to submit for the *DOI Annual Performance Plan and Report* which will be sent to OMB. Scores reflect the individual level of preparedness within each bureau and OS offices and provide a road map for how OEM will be supporting the bureaus and offices in years to come. Bureaus are now working on their projections for FY13 and FY14 scores and setting targets and will report those to OEM by October 19.

**Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP).** OEM is working with the Office of Facilities and Administrative Support and OLES to perform an after-action review of the fire alarm system malfunction on October 4. As lessons learned are identified, they will be incorporated into plans and standard operation procedures.

**Update: Secure Video Teleconference (SVTC).** Departmental headquarters maintains SVTC capabilities to coordinate interagency response during continuity events and other emergencies. Site C permanent installation was completed last week and is fully operational. The schedule for the permanent installation at MIB is as follows: October 29, equipment delivered to MIB; October 30 – November 2: equipment installation; November 5 – 7: testing, configuration; staff training: November 8– 9.

**Update: Multipoint Video Teleconferencing (VTC).** OEM, OCIO and the Interior Business Center (IBC) are coordinating the installation of a multipoint VTC capability in the IOC Conference Room. OCIO and IBC network engineers are working on configuration requirements to allow for VTC capability. Once the configuration is complete, the vendor will be onsite for implementation. After final installation, this capability will provide for internet (IP) and ISDN video teleconferencing in the IOC conference room and at other VTC locations in the Main Interior Building, with no incremental costs for departmental offices using the system.

**Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy.** LCDR Elaine Bond, U.S. Public Health Service Officer detailed to OEM, participated in multiple interagency meetings this week, including the biosurveillance, chemical preparedness and pandemic influenza sub-Interagency Policy Committees. The National Wildlife Health Center will be holding a North American Wildlife Health Strategy development meeting on Wednesday – Friday, and LCDR Bond will be assisting in hosting the meeting.

**Update: Online Training Development**. OEM met to finalize the EM-201 script and will present the script to DOIU this week so that DOIU can build the course prototype. EM-201 will be used to train the OEM staff, Bureau/Office emergency coordinators, and personnel assigned to Department-wide teams, helping them understand how all of the components of emergency management within the Department fit together.

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**Update: All-Hazard Incident Management Planning.** OEM is working with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to redefine the business rules and management structure of data elements that are used to uniquely identify an organizational unit that may receive or send resources in support of a wildland fire. This six-month effort will expand the scope of the "Unit ID" to all-hazard response actions. The Unit ID is used by the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS), the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) and other all-hazards incident and wildland fire applications in supporting planning, reporting, and other business areas. OEM is continuing work with the All-Hazards Sub-committee of the EMC to revise the DOI All-Hazards Incident Positions and Qualifications Guide to reflect the latest Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1). OEM will be participating in interagency meetings related to the IQCS to ensure the DOI all-hazard program is considered with regards to changes. OEM will be setting up a meeting with the ROSS program manager to establish a timeframe for modifying ROSS to continue implementation of the Deputies Operating Group's recommendation for a single point ordering system for the Department's emergency responders.

**Update: National Level Exercise-2012 (NLE-12).** OEM briefed the Emergency Management Council to gain their consensus for the changes made to the DOI After Action Report. The changes reflect information presented at the interagency after action conference. OEM will publish the final report on Safetalk and it will be used to develop corrective action plans for Lessons Learned during NLE-12. NLE-12 examined the Nation's ability to coordinate plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event.

**No Change: National Preparedness Directive/Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8).** DOI submitted information on BOR and USGS programs related to preparedness to FEMA to support the PPD-8 requirement of a "Campaign to Build and Sustain Preparedness." This information was used as the basis for the first meeting of the White House National Security Staff's Campaign Sub-Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) held last Friday. The Campaign Sub-IPC was attended by a USGS representative as the Department's lead.

**No Change: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study.** A meeting with Deputy Secretary Hayes has been rescheduled for October 9 to discuss the progress in implementing the corrective actions recommended in the Indian Affairs Expert Study; to include: hiring of regional emergency coordinators; the establishment of an Indian Affairs Policy Manual on the emergency management program; and the development of a disaster relief program in the BIA for tribes affected by emergencies. The Regional Emergency Coordinator positions advertised on USAJOBS for BIA closed on September 26.

**No Change: National Response Framework (NRF) Revision.** OEM has concluded the data collection from DOI Principal Planners, bureaus, and offices after the Department-wide review of the working draft of the Response Federal Interagency Operational Plan (FIOP). Comments have been submitted to the PPD-8 Program Executive Office for submission to the White House Domestic Resilience Group (DRG). The time frame for completion of the final draft and the final concurrence review has been extended to allow for the Hurricane Isaac response activities and additional adjunction of comments received by the PPD-8 Program Executive Office.

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**No Change: DOI One Health Group**. LCDR Elaine Bond participated in the Federal Interagency One Health Working Group meeting. Danielle Buttke, the One Health veterinarian from NPS led this meeting and spoke about hantavirus situation at Yosemite National Park. In addition, LCDR Bond led a meeting of the DOI One Health Group's Communications Development sub-group. The sub-group discussed the need to improve communications and information sharing within the Department during health/biological incidents, and came up with some ideas of how to improve this. The sub-group will be scheduling a follow-up meeting for sometime in October to figure out the next steps in developing these ideas.

**Final: Emergency Management Council Meeting.** The DOI Emergency Management Council's monthly meeting for October was held on Wednesday, October 3. Topics on the agenda included: the National Preparedness Report, Interior Readiness (I-READ) Index for FY-13 and FY-14, Continuity of Operations, Eagle Horizon Exercise 2013, Occupant Emergency Plan and future offerings of our General and Command Staff (H-337) course.

**Office of Wildland Fire (OWF)**

**Update: Office of Wildland Fire and USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management Coordination Meeting.** A meeting was held between wildland fire managers from the Department's OWF and the USDA Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) on Wednesday, October 3, to discuss common goals and priorities for 2013. A group has been identified by the Directors to begin work on common goals.

**Update: Business leaders from Colorado Springs, Colorado, visited with Department Fire Leadership.** A group of 35 business leaders from Colorado Springs met with officials regarding fire mitigation, restoration, and recovery based on the impacts of the Waldo Canyon Fire to their community. Members of the Colorado Springs group met with representatives from the Department and the Office of Wildland Fire on Tuesday, October 2, to explore potential partnerships between the Colorado Springs community and the Department of the Interior.

**Update: Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN).** The IRWIN project is working the Forest Service to finalize contracting issues. IRWIN currently uses a Forest Service Blanket Purchase Agreement and a BLM Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract to accomplish contracting needs. In addition, discussions this week with IFTDSS have begun to determine if there is any leveraged potential between this effort and theirs.

**Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program**. Field units have accomplished nearly 966,000 acres of HFR treatments to date in FY 2012 to exceed 100 percent of the Department's target. Data entry into National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Burned Area Rehabilitation and Restoration, and Community Assistance for FY2012 will end on October 19. All of the accomplishment and performance measure reports for the past fiscal year will be finalized after that date. NFPORS will be upgraded to version 3.06 on October 22. Changes include: new "Activity" choices that capture Community Assistance activities, numerous changes to NFPORS reports, editorial changes to

make labels and text consistent throughout the application, and several organizational changes that match recent reorganizations. OWF participated in a meeting sponsored by the Joint Fire Science Program regarding the upcoming evaluation of the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS). JFSP has contracted with the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University in order to provide a thorough and objective assessment of IFTDSS to agency and department leaders for their consideration for operational deployment. The highlight of the meeting was a thorough demonstration of IFTDSS by its developers, Sonoma Technologies, Incorporated. The HFR Final Program of Work (FPOW) online Substitution Tool is going through user acceptance testing. It is anticipated that the tool will be available to the field from October 24, to November 9, 2012. OWF worked on the Energy Release Component (ERC) Surrogate Concerto Project that received funding from the Civil Applications Community (CAC) using US National Imagery Systems. December 19 is the anticipated completion date for the project.

**No Change: Office of Safety and Health Wildland Fire Program Orientation Project.** The OWF, Office of Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group are undertaking an interagency collaboration and educational project to develop an orientation course intended to provide participants with an overview and general understanding of wildland fire operations and hazard mitigation. The goal of the orientation course is to reduce safety and health hazards through the comprehensive assessment of safety and health conditions in a wildland fire environment. The course is intended to increase the OSHA Compliance Officer's understanding of wildland fire operations and familiarize them with the risks of inherent to the industry and how these risks are managed. The next project team meeting is scheduled for October 11.

**Final: Secretarial Briefing on the Status of the 2012 Wildfire Season.** A Secretarial briefing was conducted on Thursday, October 4, to provide Deputy Secretary Hayes and other interested parties an update on the current status of the 2012 wildfire season and to review the predictive services outlook for October. Predictive Services personnel from the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) in Boise, Idaho, provided a preview for the Deputy Secretary of the potential conditions that may contribute to wildfires through January 2013.

**Final: The 31st National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.** The 31st National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service honored 80 firefighters who died in 2011 and five firefighters who died in previous years during the candlelight service on Saturday and the official national service on Sunday, October 7, at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Three of the 80 firefighters honored were wildland firefighters:

- Caleb Hamm (BLM) died during the CR 337 Fire in Mineral Wells, Texas, when he succumbed to hyperthermia;
- Deon Classay (BIA) died of a heart attack during initial attack on the Diamond Fire in Fort Apache, Arizona; and
- Trampus Haskvitz, a State of South Dakota firefighter, died when the engine he was in was entrapped and burned over during initial attack of the USDA Forest Service Coal Canyon Fire on the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota.

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Weekend events centered on the families of the fallen firefighters and fire managers who were directly impacted by their loss. OWF Acting Director Roy Johnson joined the more than 6,000 people, including Members of Congress, Administration officials and other dignitaries, members of the fire service, families, friends, and co-workers of the fallen firefighters who attended the event. Families received flags flown over the U. S. Capitol and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Members of the fire service, honor guard units, and pipe and drum units from across the nation participated.

## Office of Aviation Services (OAS)

**New: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Offered to Employees:** The Office of Aviation Services (OAS) is offering training to all employees to be prepared to handle an emergency requiring CPR and AED. Participants who complete the training will be Red Cross certified for two years. Since the Western Region Office's move to the OAS headquarters, the number of AED units and qualified personnel to operate the units has increased by 33%. Additionally, OAS is also offering flu shots for all employees.

**New: Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Begins Implementation of SRS Technology to Enhance Classroom Training Effectiveness.** OAS completed configuration of a Student Response System (SRS) this week. SRS technology uses individual student response keypads or "clickers" to engage learners and assess mastery of course material throughout a course. SRS use during traditional "bricks and mortar" classroom training has been demonstrated to lead to significant learning gains. Over the next 6-18 months, OAS will implement the technology in several interagency aviation training courses.

# HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

## Office of Human Resources

**Update: Presidential Rank Awards.** Following a rigorous government-wide competition and private-sector judging panel, The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) informed The Office of Human Resources (OHR) on October 2, 2012, that two DOI executives have been approved for Presidential Rank Awards. Pamela Haze, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy, Management, and Budget, will receive the President's rank of Distinguished Executive. Gary Frazer, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), will receive the President's rank of Meritorious Executive. Both recipients will receive a plaque signed by the President. Distinguished Executives received a cash award of 35 percent of pay; Meritorious Executives received 20 percent of pay. In addition, personal congratulations are appropriate for these two outstanding individuals, OPM has directed no public announcements at this time.

**Update: Pathways Programs.** OHR is soliciting members for the Department's Pathways Communications Team to assist in the development of specific products, such as procedural

guidance, tool kit items, and marketing. A DOI pathways communications outline will guide the timeline for the production of these items. A tentative meeting will take place the week of October 8, 2012.

**Office of Civil Rights**

**New: icomplaints User Training.** On October 10, 2012, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) presented icomplaints User Training for EEO Practitioners, including both new and experienced icomplaints users. The training took place at NPS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Participants located outside the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area participated via Webinar.

**New: Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities 26th Annual Conference.** The 26th Annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference is October 20-22 in Washington, D.C. The Office of Civil Rights, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Office of Surface Mining, and National Park Service are exhibiting at the conference. DOI presence at the HACU Conference supports the DOI/HACU MOU; strengthens existing outreach and recruiting strategies by engaging talented students from Hispanic Serving Institutions; enhances strategic alliances with university presidents; and promotes DOI has an employer of choice.

**New: Job Accommodation Network (JAN) ADA Update Webcast.** On October 9, 2012, the OCR participated in a webcast on the Americans with Disabilities Act update. Representatives of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Job Accommodation Network (JAN) provided participants the latest developments in the application of the ADA in the workplace and practical tips for compliance.

**Update: National Disability Employment Awareness Month Observance.** In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the DOI Office of Human Resources is sponsoring a workshop on October 17, 2012, in the Main Interior Building (MIB) Conference Room 7637. A member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is facilitating the workshop on hiring authorities for persons with disabilities. In addition, the BOR is sponsoring an exhibit of information and resources on disability employment awareness. The exhibit is on display October 9-31, 2012 in the MIB cafeteria.

**Update: Minority Serving Institutions-Community of Partners Council (MSI-COPC) Meeting.** The DOI Office of Civil Rights represented DOI at a meeting of the MSI-COPC on October 9, 2012. The MSI-COPC is comprised of representatives from several federal agencies and meets regularly to maximize relationships and foster government-wide partnerships directed towards minority serving institutions. The meeting was held at the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) in Washington, D.C. The meeting involved discussions of strategies to further engage students and promote employment with the federal government.

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**New: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).** The National Indian Program Training Center (NIPTC) is exhibiting at the NCAI Annual Conference in Sacramento, CA the week of October 22, 2012, to provide information to Tribal leaders on NIPTC products.

**Updated: Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (SESCDP).** The Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (SESCDP) is in the selection process. Rating and Ranking panels complete applicant ratings by October 12, 2012. The following steps still remain such as, structured interviews, Bureau/Office director sponsorship decisions, assistant secretary sponsorship decisions, and approval by the Executive Resources Board. A briefing to bureau deputies is being scheduled to provide the bureaus with a status of the SESCDP.

**Office of Occupational Safety and Health**

## BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

**Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM)**

**New: Meeting on Implementation of Executive Order on Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment.** On October 12, PAM staff will meet with the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition and bureau representatives to discuss implementation of the June 14, 2012, Executive Order (EO), *Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment*. The EO was issued to facilitate broadband deployment on Federal lands, buildings, and rights of way; federally assisted highways; and tribal and individual Indian trust lands, particularly in underserved communities. The focus of the October 12 meeting will be to discuss the provisions of the EO, define roles, and establish the DOI liaison for coordination with the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP).

**New: 2012 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards.** Three DOI nominees were selected as winners of the 2012 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards, in the "Team – Project" category. These awards, which are sponsored by the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program, recognize outstanding contributions toward Federal energy and water efficiency, sustainability, and renewable energy. The awardees were honored at an October 4, 2012, ceremony at the DOI Sidney R. Yates Auditorium and include:

- National Park Service – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Net-Zero Energy Student Intern Center (Team members: Ric Alesh, Lorenza Fong, Bethany Mills, Tara Moore, and John Williams);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Neosho National Fish Hatchery Visitor Center (Team members: Carol Fix, David Hendrix, Meaghan Nelson, Craig Swedenborg, and Todd Turner); and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and Headquarters Building (Team members: Michael Crocker, Sheri Fetherman, Jackie Jacobson, Lloyd Jones, and Gary Williams).

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## Office of Budget (POB)

**No Change: 2013 Sequestration Action.** On September 14, the White House issued a statutorily required report on the amounts to be sequestered if action is not taken to avert the actions required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The Act requires a sequester to take place on January 2, 2013 to achieve spending reductions totaling $1.2 trillion over ten years. The report identifies an estimated sequester level for non-defense programs of 8.2 percent for discretionary and 7.6 percent for mandatory spending, as well as accounts exempt from the sequester. The report's assumptions indicate a reduction of $1.3 billion, or 5.64 percent of Interior funding in both discretionary and mandatory would occur under the sequestration.

Interior has submitted impact statements to OMB to seek approval to share information on the programmatic impacts. In the meantime we are instructed to operate as normal and to direct questions about the potential sequester to OMB.

**No Change: Wildland Fire.** On August 24, DOI executed a transfer of $91.8 million from the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund to the Wildland Fire Management account to support suppression costs for large fires. On September 20, the Secretary approved a Sec. 102 transfer of $13.9 million within the Wildland Fire account for suppression activities. The Secretary approved an additional Section 102 transfer of $15.5 million from the NPS construction account to fund continued suppression activities for the remainder of FY 2012 on September 25. The Continuing Resolution contains funds that will allow the Department to refund the $15.5 million emergency transfer from NPS. The CR also includes funding for the ongoing fire program at the level requested in the 2013 budget $726.5 million (one-half is available under the CR), significantly higher than the 2012 enacted level of $483.6 million.

## Office of Financial Management (PFM)

**New: Workman's Compensation Cost Allocation Policy.** PFM, POB, and PHR are meeting with bureau personnel regarding implementation of the policy requiring workman's compensation costs be allocated to the lowest business area practical. The intent is to better inform program managers of the cost of the program and have them take a greater interest in returning employees to productive work.

**Update: FY 2012 Financial Statement Audit.** PFM is working closely with the bureaus and offices and the independent auditor KPMG to conduct testing and preparations for the FY 2012 audit and completion of the Annual Financial Report. No major issues have been noted.

- PFM distributed the Trial Balance Verification Letter that requires the CFO and Bureau Director electronic approval of their accounting information as well as legal liability information. Responses are due to PFM by October 12.
- PFM is coordinating with the Executive Secretariat for the review and surname of the Management Representation Letter in connection with the Financial Statement audit and the Annual Financial Report. The Management Representation Letter is due to the auditors on November 15 and must be signed by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget, and the Director, PFM.

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**Update: GAO and OIG Audit Follow-up.** The Department's FY 2012 audit follow-up final closure rate is 82 percent (weighted), which is slightly below the target of 85 percent. This is a significant improvement over the August 2 level of 42 percent closure. Since August, bureaus that had significant incomplete recommendations were able to advance their actions including Office of the Secretary, BIA, BIE, and Insular Affairs. Bureaus also provided appropriate rationale for extended timeframes for response including BLM. BSEE develop a strategic approach to address recommendations through an integration action plan.

The FY 2012 year-end internal control and audit follow-up meetings are scheduled for October 16 through 25. Discussion topics will include the annual assurance statement conclusions, results of reviews of internal controls over programs and operations and over financial reporting, audit follow-up performance, performance regarding management decisions on single audit report recommendations, and OIG concerns. In addition, discussions will address lessons learned from the 2012 experience with closures and how to improve timeliness.

PFM distributed the draft GAO report on *Geospatial Investments* for comment (job code 311267). The Department's formal comments are due to GAO by November 2.

PFM coordinated the GAO entrance conferences regarding:

- *Federal Facilities' Risk Assessment Processes* (job code: 543303), held Tues., October 2.
- *Titanium Procurement Restrictions on Domestic Manufacturers* (job code: 121092), scheduled for Thursday, October 11.
- *Department of Labor's Efforts to Increase Training & Employment Opportunities for Native American Veterans* (job code: 131190), scheduled for Wednesday, October 17.

PFM coordinated and attended the GAO and OIG exit conferences regarding:

- GAO – Review of *Tribal Border Security* (job code 441025).
- OIG – Evaluation of *BLM, NPS, & OSM Safety of Dams - Emergency Preparedness* (WR-EV-MOA-0015-2011).

**Update: Payment Recapture Audit (PRA) Services**. PFM will be holding a kickoff meeting with the contract award winner (PRGX) and Bureau personnel regarding next steps to deploy the recovery auditors in Departmental Offices, BIA, BOR, USGS, and BLM. PRGX will be reviewing disbursement and contract files to identify improper payments. This satisfies one component of the Department's plan, submitted to OMB, on management of improper payments.

**Office of Planning and Performance Management (PPP)**

**Update: Program Inventory and Annual Review**. PPP is developing a proposed program inventory that will be shared with the bureaus for review before submission to OMB. The Department's inventory of programs will align with the Department's current budget structure – allowing for the linkage between performance strategies and budget activities.

**Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget**
**Weekly Office Reports**
**October 11, 2012**

**Update: Organizational Assessment**. On September 25, the Department's performance management and human resources communities have partnered to use performance information in the 2012 close-out of performance for senior executives and others. FY 2012 performance information from the Annual Performance Plan and Report will be compiled and made available to the bureaus and the Performance Review Boards as soon as possible after October 15. This provides an effective linkage between executive performance and the performance of the organization and the use of metrics that are annual tracked and reported.

**New: Agency Priority (Performance) Goals.** Agency Priority Goals for FY 2012-2013 have been updated pending an upcoming release of the www.performance.gov OMB website in November. For the upcoming quarterly review with the Deputy Secretary, updates from the bureaus on status of milestones and measures through the close of 4Q FY 2012 are due to PPP by October 19, 2012

**Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)**

**Update: Fiscal Year 2012 Small Business Goals and Accomplishments.** As of October 8, the Department had awarded **55.64 percent** of its Fiscal Year 2012 awarded contract dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal for FY 2012 was 51.5 percent. In addition, the Department met all of its socio-economic goals, achieving 12.11 percent for women-owned small businesses and 3.35 percent for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

**Update: Small Business Administration 8(a) Partnership Agreements for FY 2013/2014.** The current agreement will be in effect until the end of October, 2012 while the new agreements for FY 2013/2014 are being finalized allowing contract awards to be made under the 8(a) Program during that time.

**No Change: Scheduled Events.**

- **December 5-6: National Minority Enterprise Development Week 2012 Conference, Washington, DC.** The National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference is scheduled for December 5-6, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC. MED Week is the Nation's premier event for minority entrepreneurs and the public and private sectors and the Department will support this event.

**Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Program Management Office (PMO)**

**New: FBMS Deployment 7 (D7) Production Readiness Review (PRR).** The D7 PRR was conducted on October 5, 2012. During the PRR, the FBMS System Integrator (IBM) reviewed the PRR checklist with representatives from Indian Affairs and the National Park Service, the FBMS previously-deployed Bureaus; the FBMS Program Management Office, the Departmental policy offices, the FBMS Co-system Owners and the FBMS Sponsor; and recommended DOI move D7's software and data into the system's production environment. After caucusing, D7 stakeholders also recommended to the FBMS Sponsor that D7's software and data be moved into the production environment. The FBMS Sponsor agreed and movement of D7's

software and data to the FBMS Production Environment will begin when deployed Bureaus' year-end activities are completed, which is expected to be on October 10, 2012.

**Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO)**

**New: OS FBMS Field Training.** The IMO will be conducting OS specific field training on FBMS Reporting, Funds Management, Acquisitions, Sales and Distribution, and Reallocations. The training will be held in the Main Interior Building on the following dates: October 23-25, October 30-November 1, and November 5-7. The training will provide an overview of various support tasks and reporting functionality that FBMS users would perform on a regular basis. It is recommended participants complete FBMS Basic Navigation and FBMS Basic Report prior to attending the training. Further information will be provided through multiple IMO communication channels.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2012 6:13 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Mouritsen, Karen E; 'McQuilliams, Jully'; Davis, Vermell; Barlan, Bryce; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** Short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-18-12_draft.docx

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)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

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

(b) (5)

[redacted]

III. Legislative, Legal, and Policy Issues:

- **Atlantic Wind**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

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

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:08 AM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** Short Report updated draft
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-18-12_draft.docx

Marcilynn – here is an updated draft of the short report. Rich and Ned have reviewed it. I'll leave a paper copy on your desk.

Celina Cunningham
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(202) 208-5348
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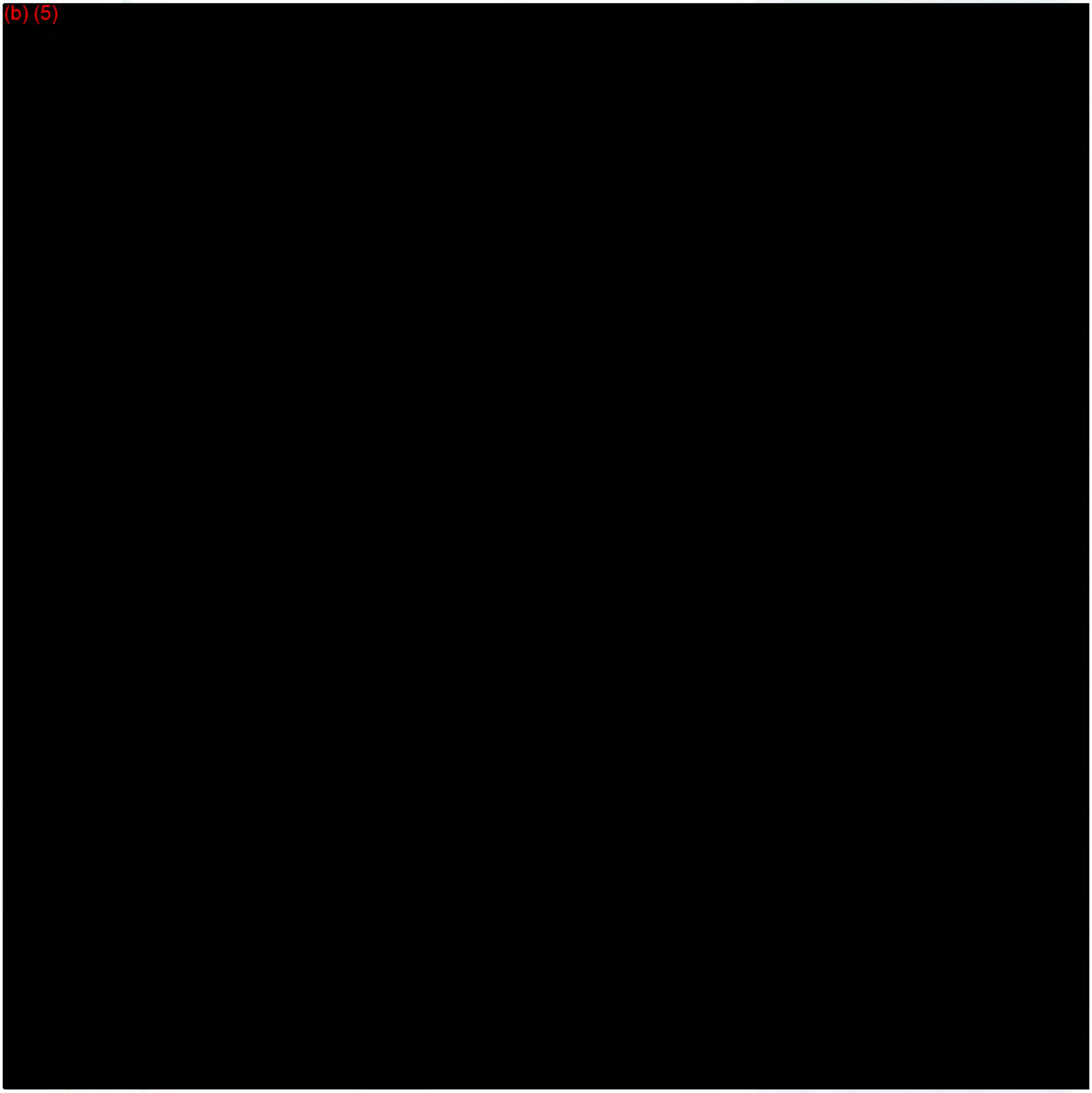
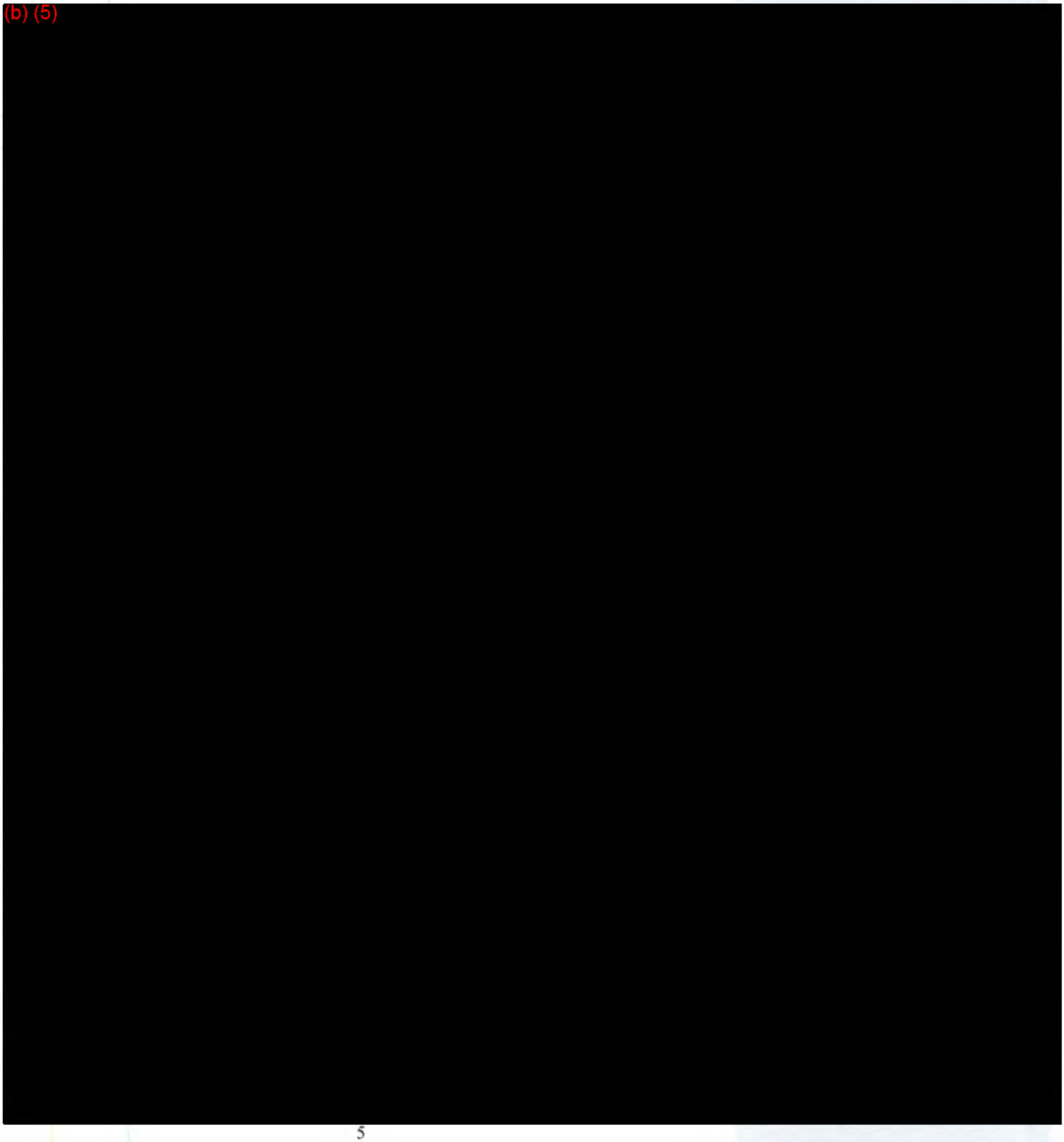
(b) (5)

[redacted]

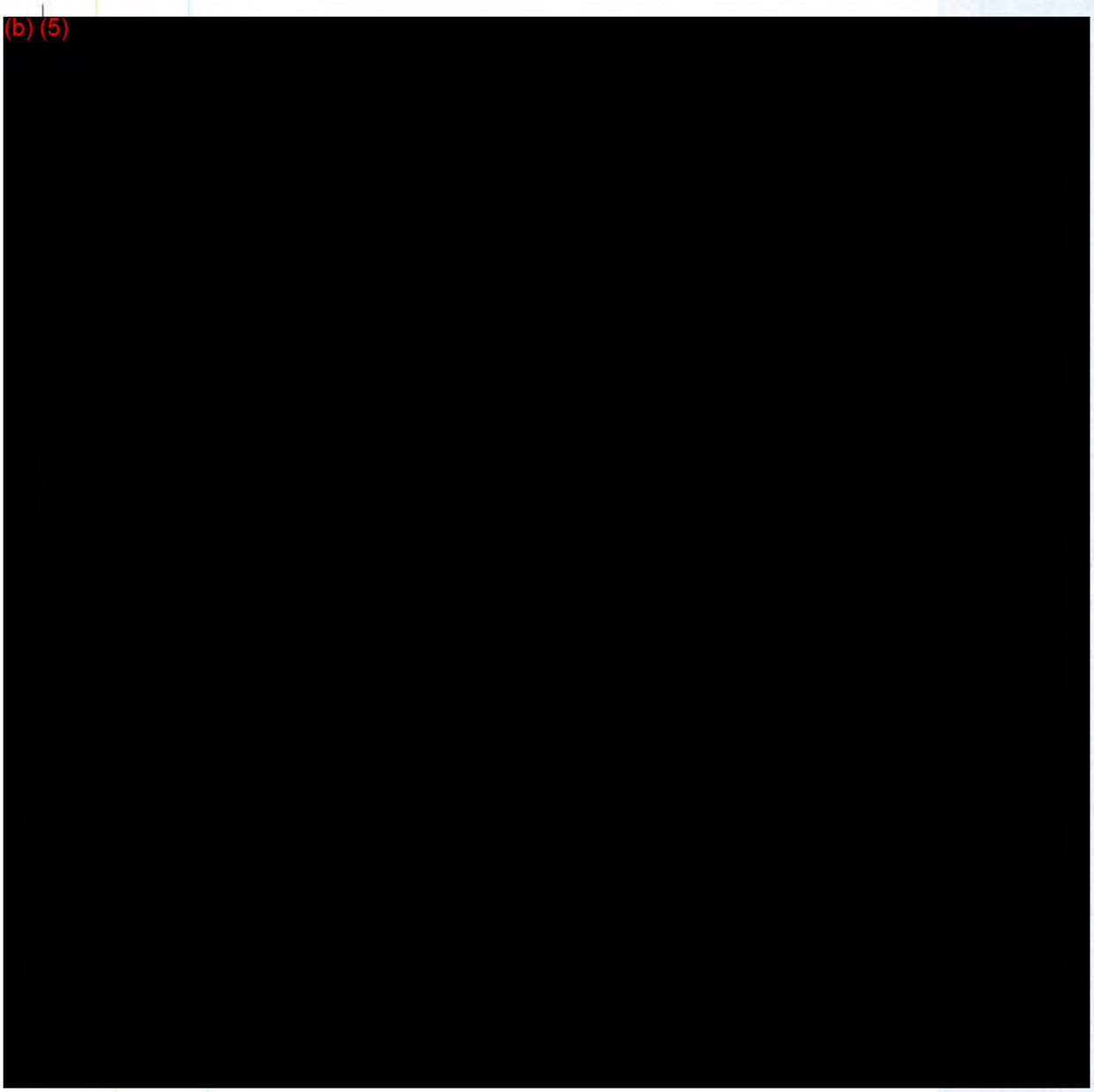
(b) (5)

(b) (5)




(b) (5)

(b) (5)



## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:07 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report - want to take one last look?
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-18-12_draft.docx

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
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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 they are 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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cardinale, Richard
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 5:43 PM
**To:** Lin, Janet H; Evia, Aristotle E; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael D
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Items to cover at this week's ASLM - BLM Meeting

Marcilynn would like to have a discussion with BLM regarding the following matters at tomorrow's weekly meeting:

1. APD received by BLM in the Thompson Divide area;
2. Status of the Potash EA; and
3. Notice of Intent received from WildEarth Guardians regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act in connection with BLM coal mining decisions involving the San Juan Coal Mine in northwest New Mexico.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Thanks
Rich

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:50 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_10-25-12_draft.docx

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
(202) 208-5348
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**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 joined representatives from Canada and Mexico at an American Jewish Committee (AJC) roundtable discussion on North American renewable energy at the AJC headquarters in New York City. AJC advocates for the betterment of the human condition in the U.S. 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 participated as the U.S. representative, as did a designee from Mexico and Canada. 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 created 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 are on conventional energy, both on and offshore. Each representative expressed interest in finding ways to enhance existing forums to include renewable energy, where appropriate. One example where my office is already at work on this is the U.S.-Mexico Cross Border Electricity Task Force, which is working to enhance transmission capacity in the Southwest. As we near the 20th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement, it is my hope that we can reflect on our existing forums and find ways to increase renewable energy coordination with Canada and Mexico.

On October 25, I attended the BLM Director's Annual Award Ceremony, where I met several BLM employees from field and state offices who received 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 the challenges our employees face and the innovations they develop to address these challenges.

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 all week.
**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 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 followed the requirements of 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 carried out the excavation of 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 data recovery was accomplished to recover additional information. The Crow Cultural Committee monitors 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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 6:38 PM
**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
**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:

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**Ongoing Projects:**
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- 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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cardinale, Richard
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 1:01 PM
**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
**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**

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, 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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Krauss, Jeff
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2012 9:44 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; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** BLM Weekly Report for Nov 4 - Nov 10, 2012
**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.

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**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.*

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- ***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.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2012 4:28 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard
**Subject:** short report draft
**Attachments:** ASLM_Weekly_Report_to_the_Secretary_11-1-12_draft.docx

Marcilynn – Ned reviewed the attached short report draft. Please note that I am still confirming the accuracy of all the Ohmsett details mentioned in the report. I'll send you an updated version before I leave tonight. I just wanted to make sure you had a copy for your flight.

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**
**November 1, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

As recovery from Hurricane Sandy continues, I want to extend my heartfelt thoughts to all those affected by this super-storm, including the Oil and Hazardous Materials Simulated Environmental Test Tank (Ohmsett), a public-private DOI-BSEE oil spill response, research and testing facility in Leonardo, New Jersey. The Ohmsett facility is located along the New Jersey coast, the area that bore some of the most significant storm damage. An Ohmsett building holding oil storage tanks sustained damage as did pumps in the water testing tank. Electricity is still out and two Ohmsett contract employees are still unaccounted for; limited cell phone access and displaced families could be a factor in not yet finding the employees. [MAB – we'll update you and the report as we learn more about the staff]. As Ohmsett staff clean up from the storm, the facility is closed and all tests that are scheduled during the next couple of weeks have been postponed. BSEE continues to receive updates on the status at Ohmsett and an initial damage assessment is underway.

With varying levels of devastation along much of the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, some local communities will request additional support. I was pleased to learn that more than 200 BLM, Forest Service, and other Department personnel, through the National Interagency Fire Center, are mobilizing and traveling to assist with response to Hurricane Sandy.

On October 31, I traveled to Portland, Oregon to participate in the installation ceremony for Jerry Perez, the new State Director of the BLM's Washington and Oregon State office. Mr. Perez has twenty years of natural resources experience, and most recently was the Deputy Regional Forester of the Forest Service's Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. Mr. Perez has worked cooperatively with the BLM on many land-use planning and forest management issues. I am confident his diverse skills will bring new ideas to the State office.

While I am in Oregon, I will attend the Oregon & Washington Senior Leadership Team Conference, where I will provide an update on our work in Washington, DC, as well as applaud the State office for its leadership on forestry, wildlife management, and sage-grouse habitat planning. Following the leadership meeting, I will tour the Salem BLM District to see a stream restoration project where Cascade Streamwatch partnered with the BLM. I will also meet with Wolf Tree, an environmental education group at the same site. During the tour, I will have the opportunity to learn about youth involvement in various projects, discuss ongoing recreational activities in the area, and meet with our local partners.

As I finalize performance appraisals for the year, I am reflecting on the work of the Department's most valuable assets, our staff. These hardworking and talented men and women

are absolutely essential to the Department reaching this year's landmark achievements. I commend the directors and staff at the BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and OSM for their dedication and vigilance, without which none of our work is possible.

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

**Week of November 5, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke** – In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

**Week of November 12, 2012**
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Submitted by: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Direct Dial: 202-208-2422; Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Anderson, Michael D
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2012 5:35 PM
**To:** Mouritsen, Karen E; Cunningham, Celina P; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Davis, G. Vermell
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard; Ishee, Mary K
**Subject:** The Week Ahead Report has been Posted to our Sharepoint Site
**Attachments:** Week Ahead Report 10-31-2012.docx

Have a good evening.

Michael

Michael D. Anderson, MPA
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management
Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street NW, Rm 6617
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-2197 (P)
(202) 208-3619 (F)
michael_anderson@ios.doi.gov

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**November 4 - 10, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

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- ***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.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- ***Update:*** **BP Inspection of Macondo Oil Sheen:** *On Oct. 22, BSEE met with the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to discuss*

*potential options for remediation and removal of the cofferdam. That same afternoon, the FOSC directed BP that operations could start to temporarily plug the leak in the coffer dam with the condition that the plugs would not preclude later remediation work. Additionally, the FOSC directed BP to begin evaluating options to remove or remediate future potential leaks from the cofferdam and riser on the seafloor in MC252. BP completed temporary plugging operations of the cofferdam during ROV operations conducted on Oct. 23 and 24. BSEE, USCG and BP are planning additional meetings to discuss remediation.*

- ***Update: Unsolicited Proposal – Hawk Technical:*** *BSEE received an unsolicited proposal from Hawk Technical for a $60K Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR) metocean standards comparison project. The GOMR structures group has recommended that this project be funded because they have had a critical need for information on American Petroleum Institute (API) Criteria for Wave and Current Base Shear Comparison. This project will provide clear direction on how to use all the different metocean criteria for fixed offshore structures by demonstrating the differences in design criterion for API Recommended Practice (RP) 2A-WSD 19th and 21st editions, API BULL 2INT-MET, and the new API RP 2MET through 10 and 2000 year return periods. Included in the scope of this study is wave and current base shear differences in the API documents, guidance and examples on common misinterpretations of the criteria, and direct comparison of the total force acting on a representative fixed offshore structure configuration.*
- ***Update: Reimbursement Notice-to-Lessees (NTL):*** *NTL was surnamed by Solicitor's Office on Oct. 23.*
- ***Update: Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) II Final Rule:*** *DOI Solicitor review is complete. Surname package is currently with several offices in the BSEE Directorate for simultaneous review.*
- ***Update: BSEE Policy Statement on Safety Culture:*** *As of Oct. 23, the policy statement and Federal Register notice surname package is with DOI Solicitor's office for review.*
- ***Update: Blowout Preventer (BOP) Rule:*** *On Oct. 25, BSEE Offshore Regulatory Programs staff is working on Economic Analysis.*
- ***New:*** **McMoRan Well Test for Shallow Water, Ultra-Deep Davy Jones Project:** *McMoRan successfully cleaned out the Davy Jones wellbore to approximately 28,630 feet which will enable testing of all 165 feet of perforated sand sections in the Wilcox. Operations to clear the wellbore of the heavy drilling mud used to suppress flow in the well required more time than expected. McMoRan has replaced heavy mud in the hole with clear completion fluid, which is the last step required before installing the production tubing. Once the tubing is set, McMoRan will remove the blow out preventer and install the production tree, which is scheduled for installation on Nov. 5. Once these steps are complete, McMoRan expects to commence flow testing by Nov. 9 from the first shallow water, ultra-deep sub-salt completion on the Gulf of Mexico Shelf. Commercial production is expected shortly thereafter. Timing of these activities depends on operating conditions in the well and other factors.*
- ***New:*** **Freeport-McMoRan Main Pass Energy Hub:** *Freeport-McMoRan Energy LLC, a subsidiary of McMoRan, and United LNG* are engaged in efforts to utilize McMoRan's Main Pass Energy Hub (MPEH) as a potential Deepwater Port facility/terminal to receive, store and condition natural gas for offloading to Floating Liquefaction Storage & Offloading vessels located on-site for export. Modification of the*

*Main Pass facilities to accommodate use as an LNG export facility would require additional permit approvals. On Sep. 11, the parties filed an application with the Department of Energy (DOE) for long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically-produced LNG. The DOE application seeks approval to export up to 24 million tons of LNG per annum (3.2 bcf per day) to countries with free trade agreements with the U.S. Preparation of a non-free trade agreement application is in progress. MPEH is located close to significant Gulf Coast natural gas production and numerous interstate pipelines and offshore gathering systems. McMoRan and United LNG are engaged in studies to define the project and related permitting requirements and are developing commercial arrangements required to support the significant capital investments involved in the project. Natural gas storage is under authority of BOEM and well permits and conservation of resource decisions are under authority of BSEE. *Actually company name.*

- ***Update: Statoil Presentation on Plans for the Paleogene Play in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico (GOM):*** *On Oct. 23, Statoil met with the BSEE-GOMR to provide an update on Statoil's plans for exploration and development of the Paleogene or Lower Tertiary formation in deepwater areas of the GOM. The Statoil presentation designated "Crack the Paleogene" provided an update on ongoing exploration and challenges for these high pressure and low recovery reservoirs and research for future development options from projects with Statoil as designated operator or partner. Statoil is currently working 12 research projects under funding of $130 million dollars to improve recovery, flow rates and safe operations from the Lower Tertiary discoveries. Statoil estimates initial recovery from these discoveries is less than 10 percent of the initial oil-in-place volumes, and that multiple improvements in technology and enhanced oil recovery options will improve recovery to more than 20 percent of the oil-in-place. Statoil is evaluating the potential for enhanced oil recovery with injection of methane, nitrogen or carbon dioxide into Lower Tertiary reservoirs, most of which have large volumes of oil-in-place, but low initial recovery volumes due to the tight reservoir rocks. The nitrogen and carbon dioxide would be gathered and compressed along the Gulf Coast and transported offshore more than 200 miles for enhanced recovery from multiple fields. Statoil indicated the likely source of carbon dioxide would be waste products from plants along the Gulf Coast. Some of the ongoing research extends through 2017 and could result in requests from industry for "technology" Suspensions of Operations.*
- ***Update: BSEE/BOEM Meeting with Taylor Energy Company (TEC) on Departure Request for Destroyed Platform:*** *The Unified Command (UC) plans to direct TEC to provide presentations on potential oil recovery systems from two contractors at the Nov. UC meeting.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- **No Change: Delaware Lease:** On Oct. 23, BOEM completed negotiations with Bluewater Wind on a commercial wind energy lease offshore DE; the Department issued a press release announcing the agreement. Bluewater has until Nov. 8 to sign the lease.
- ***Update:*** **Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Lease Sale 229:** *On Oct. 26, the Final Notice of Sale for WGOM Sale 229 was published in the* Federal Register. This sale will be the first in the new Five Year Program and will be held on Nov. 28 in New Orleans.

- ***Update*** **: Massachusetts Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment (EA):** *On Oct. 31, BOEM announced the availability of the EA for public comment. The Notice of Availability will be published on Nov. 5. Public meetings will be held the week of November 12 in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket to provide the public with additional opportunities for input.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Wednesday, November 7**

- ***New:*** Director Beaudreau will travel to Houston, TX: *to attend the Latham &Watkins Oil and Gas Forum on Framing the Future of Energy.*

**Tuesday – Wednesday, November 13 – November 14**

- ***New:* Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum in Anchorage:** *BOEM and the Department will host the Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum, a biannual event at which representatives of government, industry, academia, and U.S. and Canadian Native groups discuss current scientific research and future direction for northern oil and gas activities.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Wednesday-Friday, November 7-9**

- **No Change: U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) Meeting:** BSEE is scheduled to make a presentation entitled "An Update from the Bureau of Safety Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations, FR notices and Notice to Lessees" at USCG's semiannual NOSAC meeting in Houston TX.

**Thursday, November 8**

- ***New: Gulf Coast Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Group Meeting:*** *BSEE will provide a brief Safety and Environmental Management Systems update at the meeting held in New Orleans, LA.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## WEEKS AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**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.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Wednesday, November 28 – Friday, November 30**

- **No Change: Stakeholder Workshop on Mitigation and Monitoring Measures for Seismic in the Gulf of Mexico:** BOEM and NMFS will conduct a workshop at the Main Interior Building to solicit input from stakeholders on mitigation and monitoring measures to consider for seismic activity in the Gulf of Mexico. BOEM and NMFS will work with the American Petroleum Institute and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, as regulated entities, to develop the agenda. Results of the workshop will be used by BOEM and NMFS as they develop NEPA, ESA, and MMPA compliance procedures for seismic work in the GOM.

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Mid-December (Tentative):**

- ***New: Workshop on Deepwater Drilling Inspections:*** *Office of International Programs and BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region management are in discussion with the Chairman of Mexico's National Hydrocarbon Commission (CNH) regarding a workshop on deepwater drilling inspections, tentatively scheduled for mid-Dec. 2012. PEMEX recently announced two major discoveries in deepwater; one well is 24 miles south of the U.S./Mexico maritime boundary. CNH does not have deepwater drilling regulatory experience, building this capacity is a strategic priority.*

**January 14-18 or 21-25 (Tentative):**

- ***Update: Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI):*** *Under the auspices of the Department of State (DOS) funded EGCI, a 2-3 day workshop entitled, "Environmental Risk Mitigation for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration" is tentatively scheduled for the week of either Jan. 14-18 or Jan. 21-25, 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana. With a recent discovery offshore French Guyana and exploration activities taking place currently offshore Guyana, this workshop is most timely. It is estimated that 20-25 Government of Guyana (GoG) officials will attend. The Office of International Programs is working with the DOS's Energy Bureau and the Embassy of Georgetown to determine specific topics of interest to the GoG.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cardinale, Richard
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 7:26 AM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** FW: ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-27-12
**Attachments:** ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 9-27-12.docx

Here is the report in which you recognized BLM and OSM for exceeding small business procurement goals. Here is the excerpt from the report:

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.

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**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:08 PM
**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

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
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**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 –** [redacted] 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) [redacted]

**Cunningham, Celina P**

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 4:33 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject:** short report

Marcilynn – All Ohmsett staff are now accounted for so I updated the short report. It's all ready to go. I pasted the text below in case you happen to want to look at it again. I will get a copy to Jamey by 5 pm today.

**Weekly Report to the Secretary**
**Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**
**November 1, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

As recovery from Hurricane Sandy continues, I want to extend my heartfelt thoughts to all those affected by this super-storm, including the Oil and Hazardous Materials Simulated Environmental Test Tank (Ohmsett), a public-private DOI-BSEE oil spill response, research and testing facility in Leonardo, New Jersey. The Ohmsett facility is located along the New Jersey coast, the area that bore some of the most significant storm damage. An Ohmsett building holding oil storage tanks sustained damage as did a pipe in the water testing tank. The facility is still without electricity. BSEE is reaching out to the U.S. Coast Guard for assistance in refilling the test tank with sea water. The Navy is helping with debris removal at the site. All Ohmsett contract employees are accounted for. As Ohmsett staff clean up after the storm, the facility is closed and all previously scheduled tests over the next couple of weeks are postponed. BSEE continues to receive updates on the status at Ohmsett and an initial damage assessment is underway.

With varying levels of devastation along much of the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, some local communities will request additional support. I was pleased and proud to learn that more than 200 BLM, Forest Service, and other Department personnel, through the National Interagency Fire Center, are mobilizing and traveling to assist with response to Hurricane Sandy.
On November 1, I traveled to Portland, Oregon to swear in the new BLM State Director for Oregon and Washington, Jerry Perez. Jerry has twenty years of natural resources experience, and most recently was the Deputy Regional Forester of the Forest Service's Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. Jerry has worked cooperatively with the BLM on many land-use planning and forest management issues. I am confident that his diverse skills and experience will bring new ideas to the State Office and help it continue to move forward in addressing the many challenges and opportunities in those states.

While I am in Oregon, I will tour the Wildwood area in the Salem BLM District to see a stream restoration project where Cascade Streamwatch partnered with the BLM. I will also meet with Wolf Tree, an environmental education group at the same site. During the tour, I will have the opportunity to learn about youth involvement in various projects, discuss ongoing recreational activities in the area, and meet with our local partners.

As I finalize performance appraisals for the year, I am reflecting on the work of the Department's most valuable assets, our staff. These hardworking and talented men and women are the key to the Department reaching this

year's landmark achievements. I commend the directors and staff at the BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and OSM for their dedication and vigilance, without which none of our successes would be possible.

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

**Week of November 5, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke** – In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

**Week of November 12, 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 publish the NOA on Nov. 2, with availability in the reading room on Nov. 1. 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. SOL worked with NPS to address view-shed issues potentially affecting Cape Hatteras National Seashore, which are now resolved.

  - BOEM anticipates that the Request for Interest (RFI) for the **NY** unsolicited request for a commercial lease will be ready for publication in Nov.

  - 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 a similar request for the Beaufort Sea. Leaving the anchors in place may limit disturbance of the seafloor by reducing dropping and removing of the anchors. BSEE has granted permission to leave the anchors in place at both locations. All drilling operations concluded on Oct. 31, the end of the open-water season. Temporary abandonment operations are now underway. The Discoverer has departed the Burger-A location in the Chukchi Sea.

- **Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project**: 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.

**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) [redacted]

Celina Cunningham
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Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
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## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 4:56 PM
**To:** Weekly Reports
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned; Mouritsen, Karen E; Burke, Marcilynn; Barlan, Bryce; McQuilliams, Jully; Davis, Vermell; Lassiter, Tracie L; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** ASLM Weekly Report
**Attachments:** ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 11-1-12 final.docx

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thanks!
Celina

Celina Cunningham
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary for 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**
**November 1, 2012**

I. Personal Message to the Secretary:

As recovery from Hurricane Sandy continues, I want to extend my heartfelt thoughts to all those affected by this super-storm, including the Oil and Hazardous Materials Simulated Environmental Test Tank (Ohmsett), a public-private DOI-BSEE oil spill response, research and testing facility in Leonardo, New Jersey. The Ohmsett facility is located along the New Jersey coast, the area that bore some of the most significant storm damage. An Ohmsett building holding oil storage tanks sustained damage as did a pipe in the water testing tank. The facility is still without electricity. BSEE is reaching out to the U.S. Coast Guard for assistance in refilling the test tank with sea water. The Navy is helping with debris removal at the site. All Ohmsett contract employees are accounted for. As Ohmsett staff clean up after the storm, the facility is closed and all previously scheduled tests over the next couple of weeks are postponed. BSEE continues to receive updates on the status at Ohmsett and an initial damage assessment is underway.

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**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

**Week of November 12, 2012**
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**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) [redacted]

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 5:15 PM
**To:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Cc:** Cardinale, Richard; Farquhar, Ned
**Subject:** Long report draft
**Attachments:** Week_Ahead_Report_11-2-2012.docx

Marcilynn – Rich and Ned have reviewed the attached long report. There are a few BOEM questions pending, which I noted in the document and will address in the morning.

Have a good trip!

Celina

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**November 4 - 10, 2012**

**SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES**

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**HOT TOPICS**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Renewable Energy**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

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**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

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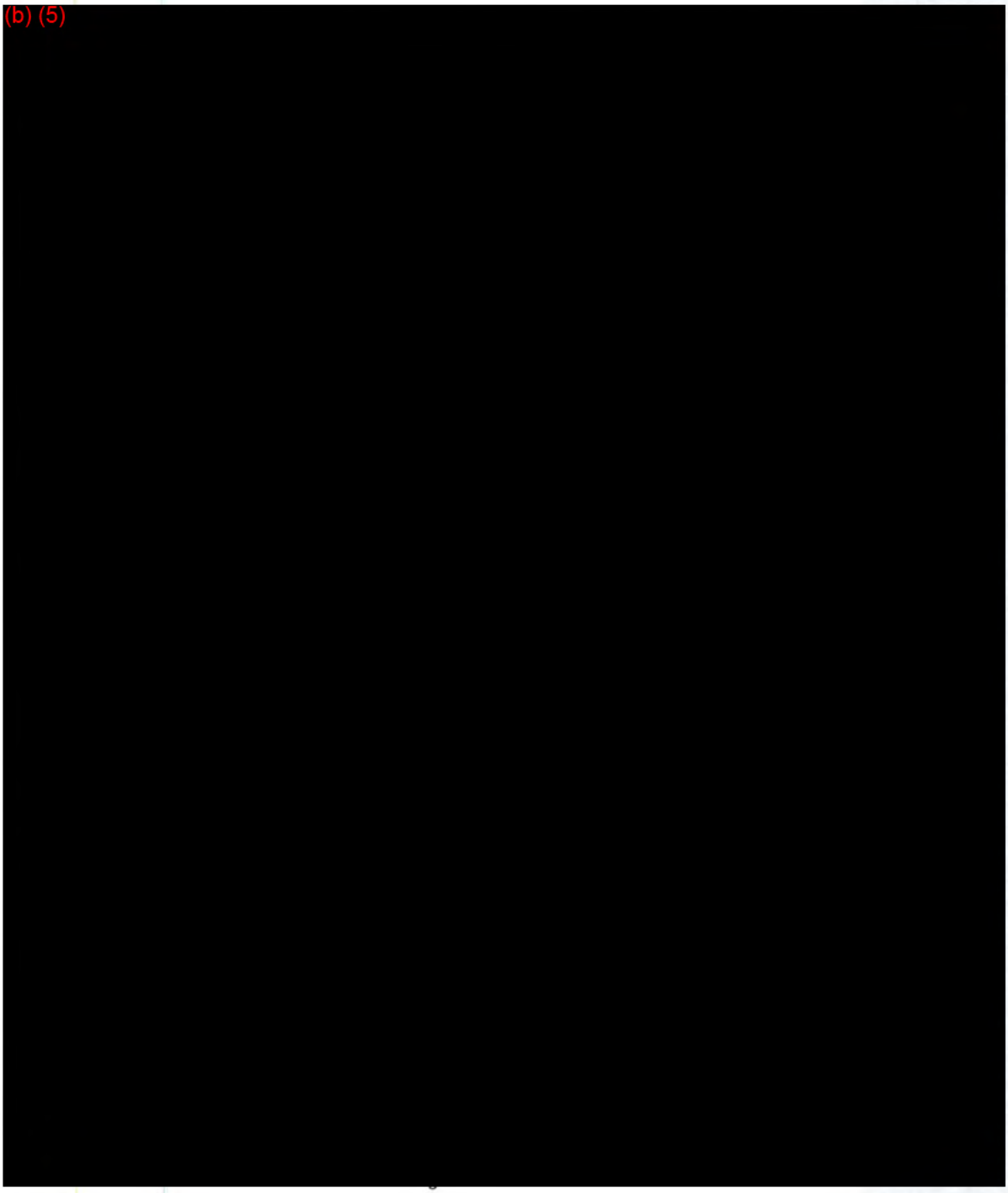

(b) (5)

[redacted]

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

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[redacted]

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

**WEEK AHEAD**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

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[redacted]

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

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[redacted]

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

**WEEKS AHEAD**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

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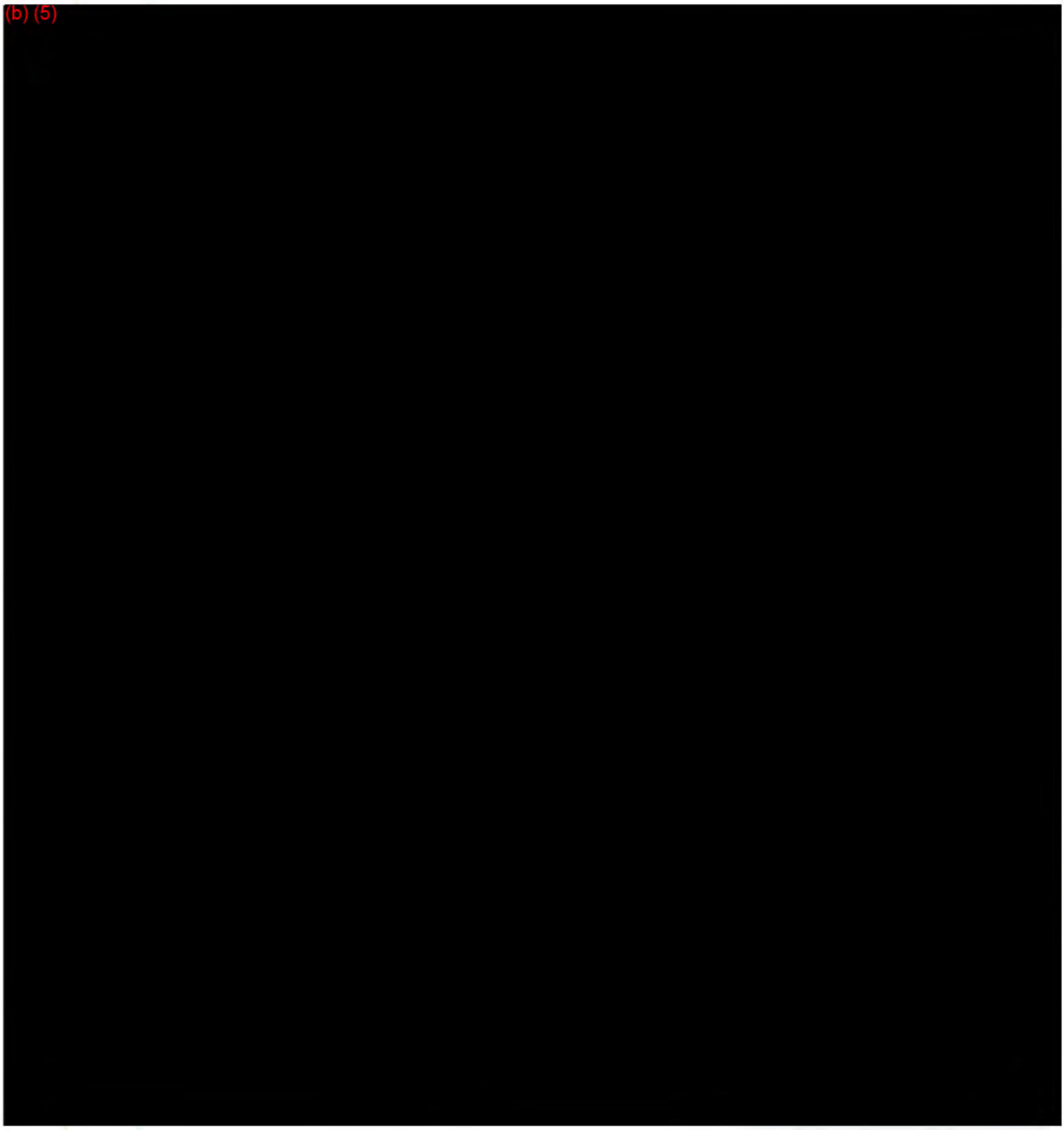
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**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

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**Cunningham, Celina P**

**From:** Burke, Marcilynn
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 6:51 PM
**To:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Re: short report

Pls send up ASAP. Thanks!

Thanks,

Marcilynn A. Burke
Acting Asst. Secretary, Land and Minerals Mgmt.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6734 (voice) (202) 208-3619 (fax)
Marcilynn_Burke@ios.doi.gov

---

**From**: Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent**: Thursday, November 01, 2012 04:32 PM
**To**: Burke, Marcilynn
**Subject**: short report

Marcilynn – All Ohmsett staff are now accounted for so I updated the short report. It's all ready to go. I pasted the text below in case you happen to want to look at it again. I will get a copy to Jamey by 5 pm today.

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

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

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Cunningham, Celina P
**Sent:** Friday, November 02, 2012 11:44 AM
**To:** Weekly Reports
**Cc:** Burke, Marcilynn; Farquhar, Ned; Lassiter, Tracie L; Davis, Vermell; McQuilliams, Jully; Barlan, Bryce; Mouritsen, Karen E; Kornze, Neil G; Pool, Michael J; Krauss, Jeff; Boddington, Celia; Leff, Craig S; Beaudreau, Tommy; Cardinale, Richard; 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; Lin, Janet H; Lassiter, Tracie L; Cunningham, Celina P
**Subject:** Week Ahead Report
**Attachments:** ASLM Week Ahead Report 11-2-2012 Final.docx

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

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**November 4 - 10, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

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## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

- ***Update:*** **Soda Mountain Solar Project NOI:** *The BLM-CA will hold public scoping meetings for the Soda Mountain Solar project on Nov. 14. On Oct. 23, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for preparation of the EIS for the proposed 350-MW project in San Bernardino County, CA was published in the Federal Register. The Soda Mountain Solar project was originally proposed for the Secretary's 2013 Renewable Energy Priority list, but was later removed in order to provide time to address potential resource conflicts and consider public comments.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *On Nov. 9, the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project is scheduled for release. The proposed facility, located on 2,000 acres of public lands in San Bernardino, CA, is a proposed 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Project.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-UT Cove Fort Geothermal Project:** *On Oct. 19, the BLM-UT issued a Decision Record for the 30-MW Cove Fort Geothermal Project in Sulphurdale, UT. The project is proposed for the Secretary's 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Projects list.*

**Oil and Gas and Potash**

- ***Update*****: Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** *In early Nov., the BLM anticipates submitting the final rule for Department review.*
- ***New:*** **Venting and Flaring Onshore Order 9 Consultations:** *The BLM is developing new regulations to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations. The BLM is preparing several other onshore orders as well: Orders 3 (Site Security – establishes standards to help protect oil and gas produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases against theft and enable accurate measurement and production accountability), 4 (Oil Measurement – establishes standards for the measurement of oil produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases), and 5 (Gas Measurement – establishes standards for the measurement of gas produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases).*

- ***Update:*** **Potash Final Secretarial Order:** *The BLM has prepared a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern NM. A Draft Order was announced on July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started on Oct. 1. The proposed final Secretary's Order is scheduled to be signed in Nov.*
- ***Update:*** **Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS:** *On Nov. 9, the NOA for the final Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register (FR). The PEIS evaluates potential impacts associated with oil shale and tar sands leasing and development on lands administered by the BLM in CO, UT, and WY.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project EIS:** *In mid Nov., the BLM-WY anticipates beginning 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.*
- ***Update:*** **National Petroleum Reserve-AK (NPR-A) Final IAP/ EIS:** *On Nov. 16, the NOA of the NPR-A Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) will be published in the FR. The BLM issued a Draft IAP/EIS on Mar. 30, and concluded its public comment period and its associated subsistence impact analysis on Jun. 15. 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.*

**Drought**

- ***New:*** **Wild Horse and Burro Emergency Gather Review:** *The BLM's Emergency Gather Review and Recommendations Team has toured Herd Management Areas identified as having the most critical gather needs due to drought conditions. The team will issue its report during the week of Nov. 2; 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 in the numbers of animals grazed due to lack of water and forage. Drought conditions are persistent even with recent storms and flood events.*
- ***New:*** **Rep. Amodei Discusses Threats to NV Sage-grouse:** *Rep. Amodei visited the BLM-NV Ely Field Office on Oct. 25 and the Elko District on Oct. 22. He also requested further meetings to discuss ways to address sage-grouse and wildfire issues and to learn about horse management in the Elko District during drought.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Drought Update:** *In the Kemmerer Field Office, the BLM has required removal of all cattle from seven allotments. Sheep grazing has also declined. Producers have expressed concern about grazing year 2013.*

**Transmission**

- ***New:*** **BLM-AZ Lake Powell Water Pipeline Project:** *The State of UT has proposed constructing a water pipeline from Lake Powell to southwest Utah. The proposed route would cross about 55 miles of BLM lands in northern AZ. FERC is the lead agency and is preparing an EIS; BLM is a cooperating agency. The BLM and the State have not reached agreement on the route.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-CO River Valley Transmission Line:** *On Nov. 7 and 8, the BLM-CO River Valley Field Office and Xcel energy will host public meetings in Rifle and Parachute, CO to discuss Xcel's proposed 18-mile 230kV transmission line. Up to six miles of the line would cross BLM public 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 in order to reduce air emissions.*
- ***Update:*** **Implementation of Transmission Lines Executive Orders:** *The BLM is drafting an implementation plan in response to Executive Order (EO) 13616 – Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment. In mid-Nov., the Department will hold a workshop focused on the permitting process on Federal lands. For EO* 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 (MAPL) 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. MAPL is proposing to build a new pipeline to expand its current capacity to transport increased natural gas liquids production in NM. A public scoping period was initiated on Oct. 20; comments are due Nov. 20. The 16-inch proposed pipeline would cross approximately 68 miles of BLM public lands.*

**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 EIS will help BLM and FWS make decisions on permits for the landing and recovery of sounding rockets, which are rockets ranging from 7 to 65 feet long that carry scientific instruments into space for testing purposes.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

- ***Update:*** **BP Inspection of Macondo Oil Sheen:** *On Oct. 22, BSEE met with the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to discuss potential options for remediation and removal of the cofferdam (pollution container). Also, on Oct. 22, the FOSC directed BP to temporarily plug the leak in the cofferdam with the condition that the plugs would not preclude later remediation work. Additionally, the FOSC directed BP to begin evaluating options to remove from the site or remediate future potential leaks from the cofferdam and riser on the seafloor. On Oct. 23 and 24, BP completed temporary plugging operations of the cofferdam during*

*ROV operations. BSEE, USCG, and BP are planning additional meetings to discuss remediation.*

- ***New:*** **Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) II Final Rule:** *As of Nov. 1, the surname package is currently under simultaneous review by several offices within the BSEE Directorate.*
- ***New:*** **McMoRan Well Test for Shallow Water, Ultra-Deep Davy Jones Project:** *McMoRan successfully cleaned out the Davy Jones wellbore to approximately 28,630 feet, which will enable testing of all 165 feet of perforated sand sections. Once the tubing is set, McMoRan will remove the blowout preventer and install the production tree, which is scheduled for installation on Nov. 5. Once these steps are complete, McMoRan expects to commence flow testing by Nov. 9 from the first shallow water, ultra-deep sub-salt completion on the Gulf of Mexico Shelf. Commercial production is expected shortly thereafter.*
- ***New:*** **Freeport-McMoRan Main Pass Energy Hub:** *Freeport-McMoRan Energy LLC, and United LNG are engaged in efforts to utilize McMoRan's Main Pass Energy Hub as a potential Deepwater Port facility/terminal for offloading to Floating Liquefaction Storage & Offloading vessels located on-site for export. Modification of the Main Pass facilities to accommodate use as an LNG export facility would require additional permit approvals.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- **No Change: Delaware Lease:** On Oct. 23, BOEM completed negotiations with Bluewater on a commercial wind energy lease offshore DE and the Department issued a press release announcing the agreement. Bluewater has until Nov. 8 to sign the lease.
- ***Update:*** **Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Lease Sale 229:** *On Oct. 26, BOEM published the Final Notice of Sale for WGOM Sale 229 in the Federal Register. This sale will be the first in the new Five Year Program and will be held on Nov. 28 in New Orleans.*
- ***Update:*** **Massachusetts Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment (EA):** *On Oct. 31, BOEM announced the availability of the EA for public comment. On Nov. 2, the NOA will be published. Public meetings will be held Nov. 13-15 in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
**Sunday, November 4**

- **No Change: BLM-WY North Lander Wild Horse Gather:** The BLM-WY will begin wild horse gather operations in the North Lander Complex, due to drought conditions earlier than originally scheduled. A total of 810 horses will be gathered and 580 will removed from the range.

**Wednesday, November 6**

- **No Change: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-WY will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 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:** *The BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale in Anchorage, AK. The sale will include 398 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A. This sale builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts covering three million acres available. The sale is scheduled to take place on the same day the State of Alaska will hold its lease sale offering tracts adjacent to the NPR-A.*

**Thursday, November 8**

- **No Change: BLM-CO Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 48 parcels covering approximately 21,000 acres. The Rocky Mountain Wild protested 7 parcels expressing concern over habitat for imperiled species, sage-grouse and wilderness characteristics.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Wednesday, November 7**

- *New:* **Oil and Gas Forum:** *Director Beaudreau will travel to Houston, TX to attend the Latham &Watkins Oil and Gas Forum on Framing the Future of Energy.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Wednesday, November 7 - Friday, November 9**

- **No Change: U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) Meeting:** BSEE is scheduled to make a presentation entitled "An Update from the Bureau of Safety Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations, FR notices and Notice to Lessees" at USCG's semiannual NOSAC meeting in Houston TX.

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

**WEEKS AHEAD**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Sunday, December 2 – Friday, December 7**

- *New:* **Northwest Mining Association Meeting:** *The BLM will join the Forest Service, Colorado School of Mines, and industry executives at the Northwest Mining Association's 118th Annual Meeting, Exposition, and Short Courses Convention in Spokane, WA.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Tuesday, November 13 – Wednesday, November 14**

- **No Change: Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum in Anchorage:** The BOEM and the Department will host the Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum, a biannual event at which representatives of government, industry, academia, and U.S. and Canadian Native groups discuss current scientific research and future direction for northern oil and gas activities.

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Wednesday, November 14 – Thursday, November 15**

- *New:* **BSEE First Annual Domestic and International Standards Workshop:** *BSEE is hosting a standards workshop in New Orleans for approximately 175 attendees. The purpose of the workshop is to collaborate with the International Regulators Forum and other organizations to identify drilling, production, and emergency response standards that best protect offshore workers and the environment.*

**Friday, November 16**

- *New:* **Rigs to Reefs Stakeholder Meeting:** *Director Watson will participate in a public information meeting in Houston, TX, to discuss the Rigs to Reefs policy with stakeholders including local charter fishermen associations, conservation associations, commercial-fishermen, and industry representatives. Other interagency participants include: BOEM, NOAA, EPA, USCG, and the Army Corps of Engineers.*

**Tuesday, November 27**

- *New:* **BSEE and US Coast Guard (USCG) Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** *The BSEE and USCG were previously scheduled to sign an MOU on Oct. 29, which was rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy. The purpose of the MOU is to promote interagency consistency in the regulation of OCS activities, facilities and units under the respective jurisdiction of BSEE and USCG, minimize duplication of effort, and aid the participating agencies in the successful completion of their assigned missions and responsibilities.*

**Mid-December (Tentative)**

- *New:* **Workshop on Deepwater Drilling Inspections:** *The Office of International Programs, BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region, and Mexico's National Hydrocarbon Commission (CNH) are planning a workshop on deepwater drilling inspections.. PEMEX recently announced two major discoveries in deepwater; one well is 24 miles south of the U.S./Mexico maritime boundary. CNH does not have deepwater drilling regulatory experience; therefore building this capacity is a strategic priority.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## Cunningham, Celina P

**From:** Weekly Reports
**Sent:** Friday, November 02, 2012 4:33 PM
**To:** DOI_Politicals
**Subject:** Bureau Reports
**Attachments:** Bureau Reports 2012.11.02.pdf; Perf Goal Base (with OS Breakout) as of 11-02-12.pdf; Reports awaiting mngmnt response (DOI and OS) as of November 2, 2012.xlsx

Have a good weekend.

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James Anderson
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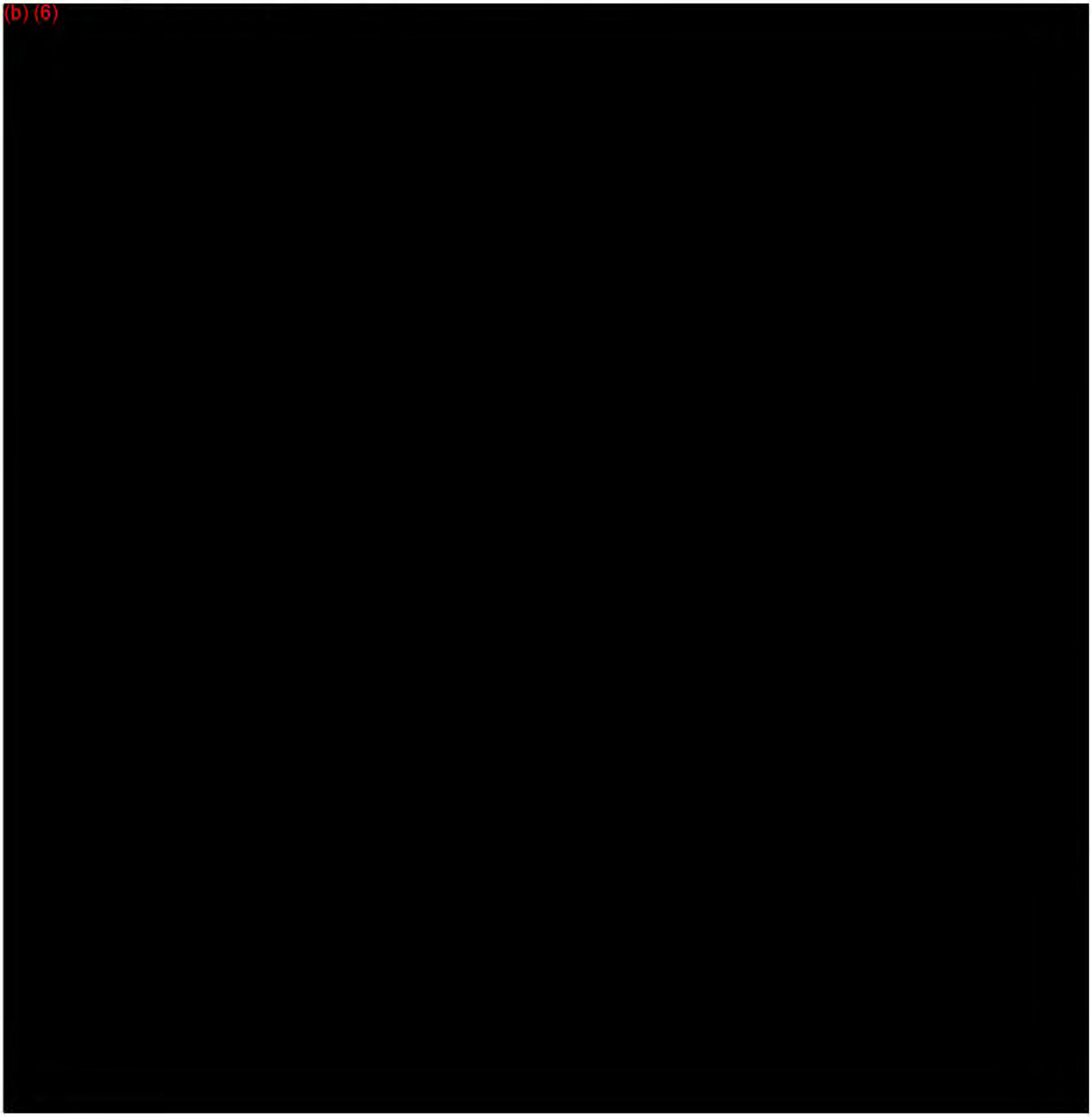
Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

**Office of the Solicitor**
**Weekly Bureau Report for the Week of November 5, 2012**

***Defending Renewable Energy Projects***

(b) (6)



(b) (6)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
**THREE WEEK OUT REPORT**
**November 2, 2012**

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (AK) – Guided Sport Hunting Environmental Assessment.** In early November, a 30-day public comment period will begin for an environmental assessment (EA) regarding the resumption of guided sport hunting in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Guided hunting occurred in the area before and after the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, but ceased by the mid-1980s. Subsequent efforts to revive the activities were met with opposition by local rural residents relying on subsistence resources. Changing conditions in wildlife populations and subsistence use patterns, and requests for new economic opportunities in the region, have prompted the NPS to consider this action. A no-action alternative and two guided hunting options are included in the EA. At present subsistence and sport hunting without guides occurs within the Preserve, but state regulations require nonresident hunters to use guides in some situations. The public comment period ends November 30, 2012.

**Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Airport Adjacent to Grand Canyon Pursues Construction of a Groundwater Extraction Well.** The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is pursuing a feasibility study and well water evaluation for proposed construction of a ground water extraction well at Grand Canyon National Park Airport, located a few miles south of the park boundary. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued by ADOT with bids due by October 25, 2012. The RFP indicates the purpose of the well is for firefighting and operational uses, residential and visitor consumption and irrigation to maintain ground cover. The park has raised concerns with the developer, the Town Council, the Arizona Corporation Commission, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which manages some of the annexed lands, and now ADOT regarding potential threats to water and other resources within the park and on surrounding lands. The park has requested cooperating agency status on any environmental analysis to be completed by the Federal Aviation Administration, ADOT, and USFS.

**Bryce Canyon National Park – Utah Supreme Court Decision on Mining Adjacent to BLM Proposed Coal Lease**. The Utah Supreme Court on October 31, 2012, rejected the Sierra Club et.al. claim that State regulatory agencies did not thoroughly assess effects when permitting a coal mine on private lands adjacent to an area proposed by the BLM for a Federal coal lease near Bryce Canyon National Park. On January 26, 2012, the NPS provided comments to the BLM on a DEIS regarding development of federal coal resources near Alton, UT, approximately 12 miles from the park. The NPS recommended the No Action Alternative (no lease issued) be selected due to potential impacts and/or incomplete analyses for protection of park air quality, night skies and soundscapes. The NPS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency requested, and BLM agreed, to complete a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) to address identified issues. The NPS is participating as a Cooperating Agency in the SDEIS to assist BLM in analyses of issues identified in the NPS DEIS comments. Conservation organizations have threatened legal action against the BLM if the lease is approved. Statewide media has reported that the NPS opposes the BLM proposed mining lease.

## ON THE HORIZON

**WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument (HI) – Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.** The NPS and the US Navy will host an event commemorating the 71st anniversary of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor and the island of Oahu. Approximately 4,000 visitors are expected to attend the annual event scheduled for the morning of December 7th at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center in Honolulu. Admiral Cecil Haney, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, will be the keynote speaker.

**White Sands National Monument (NM) – Planned Naval Missile Test at White Sands Missile Range.** White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is holding a planned naval missile test on November 16 and 19. The testing could result in target drone debris falling into a small section of the park along its north boundary. In 2012, trackways (impressions left by animals in soft earth or fossilized in stone) were discovered in the same vicinity; some have high scientific interest. As debris and cleanup efforts may compromise the integrity of the trackways, the WSMR and Navy logistics are working to reduce the probability of potential impacts.

**Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Joint Plan for Two Prescribed Fires on Grand Canyon's North Rim.** NPS and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fire managers, working together as the North Zone Interagency Fire Management Program, are making plans to initiate the Range and Thompson Prescribed Fires on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park within the next four weeks as weather and fuel moisture conditions allow. The 2,300 acre Range Burn Unit is located 1.5 miles north of the North Rim developed area. Goals for the Range Prescribed Fire include reducing the risk of extreme fire behavior along the North Rim's primary egress route and protecting and enhancing Mexican spotted owl habitat. The 2,000 acre Thompson Burn Unit extends along the park/forest boundary and includes both NPS and USFS lands. Goals for the Thompson Prescribed Fire include creating a defensible space along the park boundary and protecting endangered and threatened species habitat near the boundary. Moderate smoke impacts within the park and the surrounding area are anticipated.

**Week Ahead Report**
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
**November 1, 2012**

**Blue Throated Macaw – Proposed Listing:** FWS will propose to list the blue throated macaw, a species of parrot found in Bolivia, as endangered. This species has declined in the wild and now local experts estimate that there are less than 150 remaining in the wild. Despite intense conservation efforts, it faces many threats such as lack of suitable habitat, predation, flooding, nest failure, and competition for nest sites. The general public (pet owners) who have this species as a pet may be concerned about the listing. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 13, 2012.

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp – Revised Final Critical Habitat:** FWS will publish a revised final rule to designate critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp. The final designation includes 3 units, divided into 14 subunits, in 3 counties in California. DOD lands containing essential habitat are exempted from this final revised critical habitat designation, as are lands within the following Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs): Orange County Central-Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)/HCP; Orange County Southern Subregion HCP; Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP); City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan (Carlsbad HMP) under the San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP); and County of San Diego Subarea Plan under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Litigation is likely because the revised critical habitat (Subunit 5c) includes land owned by private property owners who were the litigants in the adverse ruling against FWS regarding San Diego fairy shrimp critical habitat (Otay Mesa Prop. LP et al. v. U.S. DOI; D.C. Cir 2011). The attorneys representing the owners submitted a comment letter during the first open comment period strongly opposing critical habitat designation on lands owned by their clients. FWS has addressed the comments in the Summary of Comments and Recommendations section of the rule. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 15, 2012.

**Northern Spotted Owl – Revised Final Critical Habitat:** Per settlement agreement, the final rule revising the designation of critical habitat for northern spotted owl in California, Oregon, and Washington must go to Federal Register by 11/15/2012. The rule will designate 9.76M acres as critical habitat. Parks and wilderness and State and private lands with conservation agreements will be excluded, and the final rule also incorporated some reduction of private, State, and Federal lands from the proposal. The final rule is undergoing a 2 week formal review by OMB. There may be controversy regarding the increase in total acreage of critical habitat from the previous designation (9.76M vs. 5.31M acres), inclusion of some State and private lands, and inclusion of significant acreage of matrix lands , especially BLM O&C lands in Oregon. FWS has endorsed "active forest management" within critical habitat to meet ecosystem forest health and fire management goals as recommended in the revised recovery plan. The deadline for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 15, 2012.

**Heller Cave Springtail – 90 Day Petition Finding:** FWS will make a substantial 90-day finding under the ESA on a petition to list the Heller Cave springtail as threatened or endangered. Based on review, the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the listing of the Heller Cave springtail may be warranted due to threats to the habitat. The species is thought to only occur with the Heller Caves complex on the Huntingdon-Blair County line in Pennsylvania, where a limestone quarry has been proposed. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 15, 2012.

**3 Grassland Thicket Species – 90 Day Petition Finding:** FWS will publish findings for a petition seeking ESA protection for the prairie gray fox, the plains spotted skunk, and a distinct population segment (DPS) of the Mearn's eastern cottontail in Illinois and western Indiana. FWS has determined that the petition presents substantial information indicating that ESA protection of the prairie gray fox and the plains spotted skunk may be warranted. FWS will initiate a status review for these species and determine whether to propose them

for listing. The petition finding also determined that the petitioners did not present substantial information that the population of Mearn's eastern cottontail in east-central Illinois and western Indiana meets the criteria for a DPS. FWS is unaware of any potential issues with this 90-day finding. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 15, 2012.

**Sphinx Date Palm – 90 Day Petition Finding:** FWS will publish its determination that a petition seeking to protect the Sphinx date palm under the ESA does not present substantial information indicating that the cultivar is a listable entity under the Act. The Sphinx date palm is a cultivar that exists in a single grove in Phoenix. A cultivar is a variety of a plant that has been created or selected via horticulture. FWS was petitioned to list the cultivar as endangered under the Act by the Mountgrove Property Owners Association. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is November 15, 2012.

**Guidance on "significantly altered" handicrafts under MMPA:** FWS Alaska Region partnered with IPCoMM (Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals) to hold a three day workshop with Alaska Native sea otter hunters and handicrafters to better clarify the MMPA term "significantly altered" as it relates to sea otters. The Native Alaskan participants provided FWS draft language that they would like FWS to use in developing further guidance on this term. FWS Alaska Region is currently reviewing the proposed language and will be working with IPCoMM throughout November on any needed revisions. The Region plans to engage in government to government consultation in the month of December and plans to have final draft clarifying guidance on this issue by February 1, 2013.

**Status of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and final environmental impact statement (EIS):** FWS Alaska reports that the *Federal Register* package of the final documents will be provided for FWS and Department review and approval next week. Release of the final plan and environmental impact statement is planned for November 14, 2012, to be followed 30 days later by the record of decision. **A high level of controversy is centered upon this plan.**

**Status of environmental impact statement (EIS), Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange and Road:** FWS Alaska reports that the *Federal Register* package for the final documents will be provided for FWS and Department review and approval this week. The cooperators representing King Cove strongly object to many aspects of the final EIS, especially analysis of impacts of the alternatives. The State of Alaska shares many of the same concerns. FWS has carefully considered all comments provided following cooperator review of a preliminary draft of the final EIS and has made appropriate changes in the document. The State and King Cove cooperators recommend Alternative 2 (southern road alignment) as the preferred alternative. The King Cove group also indicated that Alternative 3 (central road alignment) was acceptable. **A high level of controversy surrounds this EIS.**

**Upcoming action re: Koniag Land Agreement:** Discussions between Koniag, Inc., FWS and the State of Alaska regarding a 55,402 acre Conservation Easement within the Kodiak NWR are ongoing. Established with funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC), the Conservation Easement was set up with an initial ten year easement term. According to the Agreement, Koniag was required to make a decision prior to the expiration of the Agreement (October 14, 2012) to do one of three things: 1) sell the lands, 2) renew the agreement, or 3) terminate the agreement: In February 2012, Koniag proposed a fourth option to which the State and FWS provided a counter offer. The EVOSTC met on September 14 to discuss the Koniag agreement. Koniag signed the Agreement on September 28, and discussions with FWS on specific details continue. Senator Murkowski has expressed interest in this issue.

**U.S. Submits its 2011 CITES Annual Report:** On October 26, 2012, FWS submitted the 2011 Annual Report on wildlife trade regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The report was submitted to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) of the UN Environment Programme in Cambridge, UK, which maintains the global database for all

CITES-regulated wildlife trade. The U.S. report, which includes data on U.S. trade (imports and exports) with the rest of the world in whole specimens, parts, and products of CITES-listed animals and plants during calendar year 2011, contains 139,751 data records, a 2.7% increase from 2010. Of these records, 128,848 represent CITES animal trade, a 5.8% increase from 2010, and 10,903 represent CITES plant trade, a 23.8% decrease from 2010. Submission of an annual report is a treaty obligation under CITES, and reports are due October 31 each year for the previous calendar year. Failure to submit reports can result in suspension of trade in CITES-listed species with other CITES Parties.

**LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**
**November 4 - 10, 2012**

## SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

**Week of November 5, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke** – In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

**Week of November 12, 2012**
**Acting ASLM Burke** – In the office all week.
**DAS Farquhar** – In the office all week.

## HOT TOPICS

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Renewable Energy**

- ***Update:*** **Soda Mountain Solar Project NOI:** *The BLM-CA will hold public scoping meetings for the Soda Mountain Solar project on Nov. 14. On Oct. 23, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for preparation of the EIS for the proposed 350-MW project in San Bernardino County, CA was published in the Federal Register. The Soda Mountain Solar project was originally proposed for the Secretary's 2013 Renewable Energy Priority list, but was later removed in order to provide time to address potential resource conflicts and consider public comments.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-CA Stateline Solar Project:** *On Nov. 9, the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS for the 300-MW Stateline Solar Project is scheduled for release. The proposed facility, located on 2,000 acres of public lands in San Bernardino, CA, is a proposed 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Project.*
- ***Update:*** **BLM-UT Cove Fort Geothermal Project:** *On Oct. 19, the BLM-UT issued a Decision Record for the 30-MW Cove Fort Geothermal Project in Sulphurdale, UT. The project is proposed for the Secretary's 2013 Renewable Energy Priority Projects list.*

**Oil and Gas and Potash**

- ***Update*:** **Hydraulic Fracturing Rule:** *In early Nov., the BLM anticipates submitting the final rule for Department review.*
- ***New:*** **Venting and Flaring Onshore Order 9 Consultations:** *The BLM is developing new regulations to reduce venting and flaring of hydrocarbon gases, including methane, in oil and gas operations. The BLM is preparing several other onshore orders as well: Orders 3 (Site Security – establishes standards to help protect oil and gas produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases against theft and enable accurate measurement and production accountability), 4 (Oil Measurement – establishes standards for the measurement of oil produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases), and 5 (Gas Measurement – establishes standards for the measurement of gas produced from Federal and Indian oil and gas leases).*

- ***Update:*** **Potash Final Secretarial Order:** *The BLM has prepared a Proposed Final Secretarial Order concerning the co-development of oil and gas and potash resources in southeastern NM. A Draft Order was announced on July 12; the BLM received 28 comment letters containing 40 substantive comments. Departmental briefings and review of the proposed order started on Oct. 1. The proposed final Secretary's Order is scheduled to be signed in Nov.*
- ***Update:*** **Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS:** *On Nov. 9, the NOA for the final Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register (FR). The PEIS evaluates potential impacts associated with oil shale and tar sands leasing and development on lands administered by the BLM in CO, UT, and WY.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project EIS:** *In mid Nov., the BLM-WY anticipates beginning 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.*
- ***Update:*** **National Petroleum Reserve-AK (NPR-A) Final IAP/ EIS:** *On Nov. 16, the NOA of the NPR-A Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) will be published in the FR. The BLM issued a Draft IAP/EIS on Mar. 30, and concluded its public comment period and its associated subsistence impact analysis on Jun. 15. 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.*

**Drought**

- ***New:*** **Wild Horse and Burro Emergency Gather Review:** *The BLM's Emergency Gather Review and Recommendations Team has toured Herd Management Areas identified as having the most critical gather needs due to drought conditions. The team will issue its report during the week of Nov. 2; 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 in the numbers of animals grazed due to lack of water and forage. Drought conditions are persistent even with recent storms and flood events.*
- ***New:*** **Rep. Amodei Discusses Threats to NV Sage-grouse:** *Rep. Amodei visited the BLM-NV Ely Field Office on Oct. 25 and the Elko District on Oct. 22. He also requested further meetings to discuss ways to address sage-grouse and wildfire issues and to learn about horse management in the Elko District during drought.*
- ***New:*** **BLM-WY Drought Update:** *In the Kemmerer Field Office, the BLM has required removal of all cattle from seven allotments. Sheep grazing has also declined. Producers have expressed concern about grazing year 2013.*

**Transmission**

- ***New:*** **BLM-AZ Lake Powell Water Pipeline Project:** *The State of UT has proposed constructing a water pipeline from Lake Powell to southwest Utah. The proposed route would cross about 55 miles of BLM lands in northern AZ. FERC is the lead agency and is preparing an EIS; BLM is a cooperating agency. The BLM and the State have not reached agreement on the route.*
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*ROV operations. BSEE, USCG, and BP are planning additional meetings to discuss remediation.*

- ***New:*** **Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) II Final Rule:** *As of Nov. 1, the surname package is currently under simultaneous review by several offices within the BSEE Directorate.*
- ***New:*** **McMoRan Well Test for Shallow Water, Ultra-Deep Davy Jones Project:** *McMoRan successfully cleaned out the Davy Jones wellbore to approximately 28,630 feet, which will enable testing of all 165 feet of perforated sand sections. Once the tubing is set, McMoRan will remove the blowout preventer and install the production tree, which is scheduled for installation on Nov. 5. Once these steps are complete, McMoRan expects to commence flow testing by Nov. 9 from the first shallow water, ultra-deep sub-salt completion on the Gulf of Mexico Shelf. Commercial production is expected shortly thereafter.*
- ***New:*** **Freeport-McMoRan Main Pass Energy Hub:** *Freeport-McMoRan Energy LLC, and United LNG are engaged in efforts to utilize McMoRan's Main Pass Energy Hub as a potential Deepwater Port facility/terminal for offloading to Floating Liquefaction Storage & Offloading vessels located on-site for export. Modification of the Main Pass facilities to accommodate use as an LNG export facility would require additional permit approvals.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

- **No Change: Delaware Lease:** On Oct. 23, BOEM completed negotiations with Bluewater on a commercial wind energy lease offshore DE and the Department issued a press release announcing the agreement. Bluewater has until Nov. 8 to sign the lease.
- ***Update:*** **Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Lease Sale 229:** *On Oct. 26, BOEM published the Final Notice of Sale for WGOM Sale 229 in the Federal Register. This sale will be the first in the new Five Year Program and will be held on Nov. 28 in New Orleans.*
- ***Update:*** **Massachusetts Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment (EA):** *On Oct. 31, BOEM announced the availability of the EA for public comment. On Nov. 2, the NOA will be published. Public meetings will be held Nov. 13-15 in Boston, New Bedford, Vineyard Haven, and Nantucket.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

## WEEK AHEAD

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
**Sunday, November 4**

- **No Change: BLM-WY North Lander Wild Horse Gather:** The BLM-WY will begin wild horse gather operations in the North Lander Complex, due to drought conditions earlier than originally scheduled. A total of 810 horses will be gathered and 580 will removed from the range.

**Wednesday, November 6**

- **No Change: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-WY will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 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:** *The BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale in Anchorage, AK. The sale will include 398 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A. This sale builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts covering three million acres available. The sale is scheduled to take place on the same day the State of Alaska will hold its lease sale offering tracts adjacent to the NPR-A.*

**Thursday, November 8**

- **No Change: BLM-CO Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale, offering 48 parcels covering approximately 21,000 acres. The Rocky Mountain Wild protested 7 parcels expressing concern over habitat for imperiled species, sage-grouse and wilderness characteristics.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Wednesday, November 7**

- *New:* **Oil and Gas Forum:** *Director Beaudreau will travel to Houston, TX to attend the Latham &Watkins Oil and Gas Forum on Framing the Future of Energy.*

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Wednesday, November 7 - Friday, November 9**

- **No Change: U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) Meeting:** BSEE is scheduled to make a presentation entitled "An Update from the Bureau of Safety Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations, FR notices and Notice to Lessees" at USCG's semiannual NOSAC meeting in Houston TX.

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

**WEEKS AHEAD**

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Sunday, December 2 – Friday, December 7**

- *New:* **Northwest Mining Association Meeting:** *The BLM will join the Forest Service, Colorado School of Mines, and industry executives at the Northwest Mining Association's 118th Annual Meeting, Exposition, and Short Courses Convention in Spokane, WA.*

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)**

**Tuesday, November 13 – Wednesday, November 14**

- **No Change: Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum in Anchorage:** The BOEM and the Department will host the Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum, a biannual event at which representatives of government, industry, academia, and U.S. and Canadian Native groups discuss current scientific research and future direction for northern oil and gas activities.

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**Wednesday, November 14 – Thursday, November 15**

- *New:* **BSEE First Annual Domestic and International Standards Workshop:** *BSEE is hosting a standards workshop in New Orleans for approximately 175 attendees. The purpose of the workshop is to collaborate with the International Regulators Forum and other organizations to identify drilling, production, and emergency response standards that best protect offshore workers and the environment.*

**Friday, November 16**

- *New:* **Rigs to Reefs Stakeholder Meeting:** *Director Watson will participate in a public information meeting in Houston, TX, to discuss the Rigs to Reefs policy with stakeholders including local charter fishermen associations, conservation associations, commercial-fishermen, and industry representatives. Other interagency participants include: BOEM, NOAA, EPA, USCG, and the Army Corps of Engineers.*

**Tuesday, November 27**

- *New:* **BSEE and US Coast Guard (USCG) Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** *The BSEE and USCG were previously scheduled to sign an MOU on Oct. 29, which was rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy. The purpose of the MOU is to promote interagency consistency in the regulation of OCS activities, facilities and units under the respective jurisdiction of BSEE and USCG, minimize duplication of effort, and aid the participating agencies in the successful completion of their assigned missions and responsibilities.*

**Mid-December (Tentative)**

- *New:* **Workshop on Deepwater Drilling Inspections:** *The Office of International Programs, BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region, and Mexico's National Hydrocarbon Commission (CNH) are planning a workshop on deepwater drilling inspections.. PEMEX recently announced two major discoveries in deepwater; one well is 24 miles south of the U.S./Mexico maritime boundary. CNH does not have deepwater drilling regulatory experience; therefore building this capacity is a strategic priority.*

**Office of Surface Mining (OSM)**

- Nothing new to report.

Weekly Report
November 2, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes
Deputy Secretary

Liz Klein
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

**Senior Officials' Activities Nov 5-16:**
**Anne J. Castle** - Nov 5-16 in DC.
**John Tubbs** (b) (6) ; Nov 12-16 in DC.
**Lori Caramanian** - (b) (6) ; Nov 13-16 in DC.
**Marcia McNutt** – Nov 5-6, Nov 8-16, Reston, VA & Washington, D.C. no travel; Nov 7, Speech at Society of Exploration Geophysicists Women's Network Breakfast, Las Vegas, Nev.
**Mike Connor** - Nov 5-9 in DC; Nov 13 in Chicago, IL attending American Water Summit Dinner and Awards; Nov 14-16, attending BDCP meetings in Sacramento, CA.

**Reclamation**

**Reclamation Requests Public Comments on the Draft Feasibility Report for the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation (California)**
On October 26, Reclamation released the Draft Feasibility Report documenting draft findings of the potential costs, benefits and impacts of enlarging Shasta Dam and Reservoir. Public comments are due to Reclamation by December 28. The Draft Feasibility Report, initially published in February 2012, identifies feasible alternative dam and reservoir sizes and water operations as well as a No Action alternative. All comments received will be considered as Reclamation completes the remaining engineering, environmental, economic and financial studies and related reports. Reclamation is also preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will establish a separate public review and comment opportunity once available.

**Public Workshop on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) (California)**
On October 31 and November 1, Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, held a public workshop in Sacramento, on the coordinated operation of the CVP and SWP. This is the third annual workshop in response to the June 4, 2009, NMFS biological and conference opinion issued on

the long-term operations of the CVP and SWP, which concluded that the coordinated operation was likely to jeopardize the continued existence of several federally listed species without the implementation of a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative. The purpose of the workshop was to: (1) provide an independent review panel a forum for presentations and discussion of submitted technical reports, (2) develop lessons learned, (3) incorporate new science and (4) make appropriate scientifically justified adjustments to the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative or its implementation to support real-time decision making for the next water year.

**Phase-Out of Private Boat Dock Permits Issued by Pine River Irrigation District at Vallecito Reservoir (Colorado)**

Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office reports that the Pine River Irrigation District (District), the managing entity for recreation and operation and maintenance of Vallecito Reservoir located near Durango, Colorado, sent letters of non-compliance and termination of private boat dock permits to two permit holders. The District has contacted the permittees for two years about permit violations and the permittees have ignored the warnings. The permits are for two of four private boat dock permits still remaining at Vallecito Reservoir. Reclamation is phasing out private boat dock permits at the reservoir as they expire. In January 2012, Reclamation sent a letter to each of the four remaining permit holders stating that their permits would expire per the permit termination date and that they would not be renewed. The private boat dock owners, past and present, are frustrated with Reclamation's current policy and federal regulations of not issuing permits for boat docks. They believe that Reclamation and the District are taking away their private property that has been there for decades, prior to Reclamation's requirements for permits. The private dock owners have contacted congressional staffers and have also written to the Secretary of the Interior.

**Meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council**

On November 7-8, Regional Director Larry Walkoviak and other representatives from the Upper Colorado Region will participate in a Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council) meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the accomplishments of federal agencies and make recommendations on future activities to control salinity. Council members will be briefed on the status of salinity control activities and receive input for drafting the Council's annual report.

**Contract Awarded at Guernsey Dam (Wyoming)**

Reclamation has awarded a $7.8M contract to Moltz Constructors Inc to complete modifications at Guernsey Dam in a bid to ensure structural integrity at the dam in the event of a large flood. Modifications include redesigning the south spillway, installing a filter blanket type drain next to the north spillway and adding a taller parapet wall to the top of the dam. Work is scheduled to be complete in spring 2014. The dam is scheduled to undergo modifications in relation to work being performed at Glendo Dam, located 25 miles upstream from Guernsey. The modifications are in response to USBR's safety of dam recommendations.

**Northwest Natural Resources Forum (Washington)**

On November 8-9, Reclamation Pacific Northwest Region and the Department of the Defense will co-host the 2012 Northwest Natural Resources Forum (NWNRF), in Seattle, Washington. The annual NWNRF is designed to explore strategies and options for sustainable environmental

quality, energy and water resources. Executive leaders from Northwest Federal agencies with a natural resource nexus are invited. The event will begin with a tour of Joint Military Base Lewis-McChord, and will host panel discussions and a key note speaker to focus on the topics of "Developing Strategic Partnerships to Conduct Effective Business and Creating Flexible Work Options to Attract and Retain the Generations."

**US Geological Survey**

**USGS Supports State Investigation of Louisiana Dome Tremor:** USGS Geophysicists Bill Ellsworth, Steve Hickman, Art McGarr and Steve Horton (CERI, University of Memphis) continue to support the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and other Louisiana state agencies in their emergency response to the failure of an abandoned salt brine cavern within the Napoleonville Salt dome that has resulted in an enormous sinkhole that forced evacuation from the nearby community of Bayou Corne. The tremors, recorded at portable stations installed by USGS Seismologist Mark Meremonte and his colleagues in Golden, appear to be similar in many ways to volcanic events. Bernard Chouet and Phil Dawson (Volcano Science Center) analysis of the tremors results are consistent with rapid volumetric increase at shallow depth.

**Virulence of WNS in Bats Enhanced by Impaired Immune Response:** White-nose syndrome (WNS) caused by the fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, has killed over 5 million cave hibernating bats in eastern North America. However, bats that initially survive infection with *G. destructans* during hibernation have another challenge to face. New research published in the journal *Virulence* explains that as bats emerge from hibernation and their body temperatures return to normal from near freezing, the bats immune suppression suddenly reverses and areas infected by *G. destructans* can become severely inflamed. The inflammation can become so severe that it may contribute to death. USGS scientists at the National Wildlife Health Center liken this sudden reversal in immune suppression to a form of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS), first described in humans with HIV-AIDS. They propose that sudden restoration of immune response in bats infected with *G. destructans* results in a similar IRIS-like impairment of immune response causing tissue damage as the infected bats emerge from hibernation.

**USGS Scientist Participates in Switzerland Symposium on Induced Seismicity:** This week, USGS scientist Bill Ellsworth is participating in the Symposium on Induced Seismicity held in Switzerland. The symposium assembles leading experts in Switzerland to discuss all aspects of the induced earthquake issue and consider solutions to mitigate the hazard and reduce the risk. The meeting has high relevance for the assessment of the hazards and risk of induced earthquakes in the U.S.

**Reducing Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region:** Next week, USGS scientist David Oppenheimer will participate in a Reducing Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region Meeting held in Cyprus. Mr. Oppenheimer will provide guidance to seismologists from the Geophysical Institute of Israel, Jordan's Natural Resources Authority and the Palestinian Authority's Earth Sciences and Seismic Engineering Center. The three institutions will receive funding from USAID under the Middle East Regional Cooperation project "Dead Sea Regional Seismic Network" to build an integrated seismic network across the Dead Sea Rift.

**New USGS Factsheet on Mauna Loa - The World's Largest Volcano:** Mauna Loa on the Island Hawaii is the world's largest volcano. People residing on its flanks face many hazards that come with living on or near an active volcano, including lava flows, explosive eruptions, volcanic smog, damaging earthquakes, and local tsunami. The County of Hawaii (Island of Hawaii) is the fastest growing County in the State of Hawaii. Its expanding population and increasing development mean that risk from volcano hazards will continue to grow. USGS scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory closely monitor and study Mauna Loa Volcano to enable timely warning of hazardous activity and help protect lives and property.

**Volcano Disaster Assistance Program Scientists Travel to Australia and Papua New Guinea:** USGS scientists Martin LaFevers, Jeffrey Marso and Andrew Lockhart will travel to Australia and Papua New Guinea, October 26-November 20 as a mission of the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program. The main goal of the mission is to assess the status of volcano-hazard reduction capabilities of the Rabaul Volcano Observatory (East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea), the principal authority in Papua New Guinea for volcano monitoring and hazard reduction. In addition, the team will install new telemetry base station equipment designed for the needs and conditions of Papua New Guinea. The team will also hold discussions with personnel from Geosciences Australia, as well as United States Embassy officials in Papua New Guinea.

**USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory Open House for Interagency Partners:** On November 1, the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) will host an open house for colleagues and other state and federal agencies who participate in volcanic eruption response and hazard mitigation. Attendees will include personnel from the National Weather Service, Federal Aviation Administration, US Air Force, Alaska State Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environmental Conservation, Health and Social Services, and the Municipality of Anchorage. The purpose of the gathering is to introduce the new AVO operations room and other monitoring resources with colleagues and to refresh professional connections in advance of the next volcanic crisis in Alaska.

**Possible SC CSC Collaboration with the Global Indigenous Research Alliance:** April Taylor, Sustainability Scientist for the Chickasaw Nation and member of the South Central Climate Science Center (SC CSC), met with collaborators from Oklahoma University, Japan and individuals from the Ainu people last week about a possible opportunity to collaborate on a developing "Global Indigenous Research Alliance" (GIRA) for Climate Change, Environment and Cultural Sustainability. For this project, the SC CSC has been asked to have someone sit on their Program Advisory Board. Also, two of the consortium members, Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, have been asked to actively take part in GIRA and represent the region's indigenous communities.

**Assessing Mercury Risk in Rice Fields and Exposure in Songbirds:** This November, USGS scientist Collin Eagles-Smith will present "Experimental Control of Methylmercury in Rice Wetlands using Alternative Rice Harvest Practices" at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) annual meeting. Mercury is a widespread pollutant that threatens human and ecosystem health, especially in rice fields and other wetlands. Globally, rice fields comprise a major percentage of freshwater habitats and cultivated land, and they are important for wildlife habitat, human health, and economic benefits. Eagles-Smith and colleagues assessed how mercury cycles in rice fields in order to develop approaches to lessen mercury risk without compromising productivity. Eagles-Smith also co-authored the presentation "Mercury in

Terrestrial Songbirds: Species, Habitats, and Locations at Risk." Preliminary analysis of mercury levels in the blood of songbirds suggest variables that may influence mercury exposure and effects of habitat type and foraging method.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**
**BUREAU REPORT FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD**
**BEGINNING November 2, 2012**

Week Ahead

**Harvard Law Conference Wednesday November 7th and 8th** Washburn will attend the Harvard law Conference in Cambridge, MA.

**Coalition of Large Tribes Friday November 9th** Washburn will attend the COLT Coalition of Large Tribes in Las Vegas, NV.

**USET November 7-10, 2012:** United South and Eastern Tribes 16th Annual Meeting and Expo, Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS. The Acting BIE Director has been invited to participate

Coming weeks:

**November 15, 2012: The Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) luncheon**. The Acting BIE Director will be participating as a speaker.

The Co-leaders of the interagency ***Indigenous Issues Working Group (IIWG)*** ~ continued planning for a meeting of human rights/indigenous rights experts in the Department's Yates Auditorium on November 15. On October 16, the Co-leaders invited other working group Co-leaders to observe the meeting. As of this reporting, it is unknown whether any experts have accepted the Navajo Nation's invitation to participate. Other IIWG-related work will includes outreach to the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs during the period October 17-19, 2012 in Washington, DC, in coordination with DOI's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations.

**November 26-30, 2012: The Principal Leadership Academy** for principals within the jurisdiction of the Associate Deputy, East will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the National Indian Training Center on November 26-27 for the mentors and November 28-30 for the mentors and principals: a) Six mentors have agreed to work with the Academy from the East; and b) 18 BIE-operated school principals and assistant principals are registered to attend the Academy. Pre-reading materials were sent out last week.

Outreach/ Planned Events:
None.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

November 2, 2012

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Attn: James E. Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Michele F. Singer, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for October 29 – November 2

**Office of the Special Trustee (OST)**
**Assistant Secretary Weekly Report**

(b) (5)

[redacted]

(b) (5)

**UNITED STATES**
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

November 1, 2012

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Liz Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o James Anderson, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: November 1, 2012, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

**Big Bend- Rio Bravo.** The celebration ceremony for the opening of the Boquillas Port of Entry has been set for November 28 and planning will begin in earnest over the next couple of weeks. Mexico is making great progress on obtaining and installing their infrastructure to facilitate travelers and expect to have everything in place and operational on November 15. The US is ready to go with the exception of the need to publish the final rule announcing the opening of the port. We will proceed with the celebration ceremony on November 28, but the Port of Entry will not be operational until the Rule has been published. It is very important it is published as quickly as possible in November.

**Tourism.** PMB continues to lead DOI's efforts to implement the National Travel and Tourism Strategy. We co-chair the Visitor Services Working Group with NOAA and Transportation, and hosted a meeting on Thursday November 1. The participating agencies are working together to maintain and improve transportation infrastructure for, improve visitor services at federal sites, foster a skilled hospitality and tourism industry workforce, and support small businesses in travel and tourism. We are also active in the Marketing and Promotion Working Group co-chaired by Commerce, State and DHS, as well as the Research and Data Working Group co-chaired by Commerce and DHS. We anticipate that in November Commerce will want to reconvene the Tourism Policy Council, which you co-chair with the Secretary of Commerce, in order

to review the progress to date on implementing the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

MANAGEMENT

**Restoring Network Outages from Hurricane Sandy.** The hurricane has damaged communications to 135 DOI sites throughout the region and the Enterprise Services Network (ESN) is continuing to assist in cleanup efforts and restoring sites to a more business as usual service as appropriate. At this time, 43% of sites have been restored and 74 bureau locations remain without network communications. An estimate from the DHS-Watch Command is for 80% restoration of services within 5-7 days. The remainder of sites will take longer with no estimation for 100% restoration available. The ESN objective for the next 24 hours is to assess all sites still impacted by the hurricane while providing leadership with accurate information, communication and reporting.

**World Heritage Fellow at Yosemite National Park.** The Department's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is supporting a World Heritage Fellow at Yosemite National Park from late October to late November. Nasser Al Zawideh, the Director for Wadi Rum Protected Area, a World Heritage Site in Jordan, will shadow Yosemite staff to learn about all aspects of managing a park of international significance. Nasser has a background in ecotourism and archaeology and speaks fluent English and Arabic. The Fellowship provides an opportunity to exchange insights on park management. Nasser is particularly interested in learning more about the role of stakeholders in protected area management, budgeting and finance, and political considerations for long-term park management. Nasser will also be giving a presentation on Wadi Rum for Yosemite staff and potentially at special events in Yosemite's gateway communities. The World Heritage Fellow program is a National Park Service initiative, which the Department is supporting through ITAP with U.S. Agency for International Development funding. This is Yosemite National Park's first experience in hosting a World Heritage Fellow. As a follow-up to Nasser's visit, ITAP will be sending teams of DOI specialists to Wadi Rum over the coming year to provide targeted technical assistance, using USAID funding.

BUDGET

**Response to Hurricane Sandy/Post Tropical Storm Sandy.** The Budget Office has issued a quick turnaround data call to Bureau Budget Officers to identify storm damage impacts and estimated funding requirements. Information is due on November 1. As better information becomes available and estimates more mature, information will be shared with OMB. Bureaus are encouraged to refrain from sharing cost estimates for damage repairs -- information should be coordinated with headquarters and the Department.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy is discussing whether to issue guidance to agencies regarding emergency acquisition authorities in response to Hurricane Sandy and Post Tropical

Storm Sandy. Tools available to agencies include the use of waivers, deviations and special acquisition authority to assist in emergency response, rebuilding and recovery. The Office of Acquisition and Property Management has asked DOI bureaus to indicate whether there is a need to issue emergency acquisition authorities to facilitate emergency response efforts.

**2013 CR Operating Plans.** Bureau operating plans for programs funded by the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee were sent to the Hill on Friday October 26. Operating plans for the Bureaus of Reclamation and CUPCA are pending OMB approval. Operating plans were due to Congress by October 28.

**OTHER**

**IG/GAO Reports.** The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

**Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget**
**Weekly Office Reports**
**November 1, 2012**

## POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

**New: Hurricane Sandy.** Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) of the National Response Framework (NRF) and NCR Recovery Support Function (RSF) of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) staff continue to monitor the situation now that Hurricane Sandy has passed. FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs) in both Regions I and III were staffed 24/7 by DOI representatives, as was the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). The RRCC in Region II was stood up for 12 hour shifts. DOI/OEPC received a Mission Assignment (MA) to provide staffing of the NRCC. USDA received a MA from FEMA for an individual from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to deploy to Region I to advise on grant opportunities for removal of debris from streams. The region requested NRCS assistance early to minimize the same stream debris and flooding issues that arose in Vermont following Hurricane Irene. DOI FWS and OSM fulfilled a similar MA for 9 months in New York State earlier this year. In addition, OEPC is participating in daily ESF #11 and Tribal Assistance Coordination Group conference calls in order to monitor the situation. At this time, there are no unmet needs or requests for assistance from either ESF #11 NCH or NCR RSF.

OEPC Philadelphia continues to provide ongoing coordination in FEMA Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic states) and 5 (Great Lakes states) to monitor impacts from Hurricane Sandy and respond to requests for assistance under ESF#10 and ESF#11 of the NRF and the NRF. No requests for assistance have been put forward in these Regions at this point.

**New: OEPC Alaska Office Activates DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska (DOI Response Plan) Tsunami and Volcano Annex.** On October 27th, the OEPC Alaska Office activated the tsunami portion of the DOI Response Plan. The activation began after notification of a tsunami warning for portions of Southeast Alaska, following an estimated magnitude 7.7 earthquake near the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia, Canada. In accordance with the annex, pre-identified DOI Bureau Emergency Contacts in Alaska were notified by the OEPC Alaska Office and put on alert. The warning was subsequently cancelled; no significant tsunamis were generated.

**New: Response Exercises.** On October 22, REO San Francisco participated in conference call with RRT Region IX Applied Response Technologies (ART) Committee meeting. The RRT discussed possibilities of streamlining the large number of exercises in CA, due in part, to inability of CA Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) staff to participate in all exercises. Industry would like to take the lead in exercises, but this could result in some confusion, as industry takes a subsidiary role (not lead) in spill response. The USCG discussed their legal advice about their inability to indemnify Oil Spill Recovery Organizations (OSROs) or manufacturers of dispersants against legal action.. OSPR cannot indemnify them either. Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) has asked that it be indemnified when using dispersants in spills absent a responsible party, and stated that they will not use dispersants

without indemnification. A Dispersant manufacturer has also requested indemnification and stated that they will refuse to sell dispersants to the Federal government without it.

**New/Completed: Region VIII Oil and Hazardous Substances Regional Response Team (RRT).** On October 30 and 31, REO represented the Department at the semiannual RRT meeting in Denver, CO. In addition to the customary Federal and State member reports/updates and On Scene Coordinator reports, principal agenda items included presentations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on revised hazard communication standards; the State of Montana on lessons learned from the Silvertip Pipeline oil spill; and discussion of potential revisions to RRT chemical countermeasures review/approval procedures and several SubArea Contingency Plans. Participation in these meetings and interaction with other Federal and State emergency response personnel is a crucial part of ensuring full consideration of the Department's natural and cultural resources and historic properties during responses to oil and hazardous substances spills.

**New: Guidance for Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations (PRFAs) Issued by Federal On-Scene Coordinators for Reimbursable Oil Spill Response Activities.** As part of follow up on the recommendations contained in the DOI Deepwater Horizon After Action Report, OEPC worked with the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center to formulate this guidance and is distributing it to DOI Bureaus and Offices.

**Update: BP Deepwater Horizon MC252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico, April 20, 2010**. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. OEPC continues to work with the DOI Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received PRFAs totaling $102.18 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling $80.69 Million and the USCG NPFC has processed and reimbursed in full a total of $56.8 Million. To date, DOI has been reimbursed about 70% of its total amount of reimbursement requested, and about 55% of its total PRFA reimbursable budget authority.

**Update: Federal Interagency Operations Plans (FIOPs) for Response and Recovery.** OEPC received the FIOPs for Response and Recovery for final review and comment before being submitted to the Domestic Resiliency Group for final concurrence and approval. OEPC will coordinate comments from both the Bureaus, as well as the interagency partners for Response and Recovery. DOI/OEPC is a primary agency under ESF #11 Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties, as well as the coordinating agency for the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function.

**Update: All-Hazards Resource Advisor (AH-READ) Curriculum- Launch of the Basic Course.** The basic course has been completed and was made available for DOI employees via DOI LEARN on Friday, October 5. The course was also made available to external federal partners via the FWS NCTC training site on Monday, October 22. OEPC is currently

investigation various options in which to announce the completion and availability of the course to DOI employees and staff. The next phase of the AH-READ curriculum development is the intermediate course which is 75 percent complete. The target for commencing peer review on the Intermediate course is early November.

**Completed: Semi-Annual DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska (DOI Response Plan) Update Completed.** The semi-annual update of the DOI Response Plan will be completed this week. The plan helps ensure that Alaska-based DOI Bureaus/Offices can immediately respond to Alaska-based DOI Bureau/Office emergencies and provide timely and coordinated assistance among those DOI Bureaus/Offices and their approximately 3,000 employees located in 30 communities throughout the State. The plan includes detailed information on responses to major earthquakes in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, terrorism incidents, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and any other incident where one or more DOI Bureaus require assistance to save lives and/or property. The OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for the Alaska-based DOI disaster preparedness and response program.

**Office of Policy Analysis**

**Update: Arctic Council Ecosystem-Based Management.** Policy Analysis is working closely with Department of State and Arctic Council observers and Permanent Participants to advance and promote the EBM Experts Group proposal that was submitted to the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials for review.

**Update: Integrated Arctic Management**. A Policy Analysis team is working with the Alaska Interagency Working Group to coordinate a government-wide interagency Integrated Arctic Management (IAM) initiative. The first priority is an interim report to the President from the Interagency Working Group, due December 31. Working with the participating agencies, the project manager has pulled together the writing team for the report and distributed assignments. The Deputy Secretary sent letters to the principals of the Interagency Working group and memoranda to the heads of the participating DOI bureaus (BLM, BOEM, BSSE, FWS, NPS, USGS) asking for information and opinion related to the effort, and for their assistance in assuring that staff assigned to the writing teams have the necessary support to readily obtain needed data. Initial drafts from the writing teams, and agency responses to the Deputy Secretary's letters and memos were due November 1, but due to the storm, the deadline for agency responses has been extended to November 5. Policy Analysis is providing ongoing direction and support for the report and longer-term effort.

**Update: DOI Economics Report.** The PPA Economics Staff met with bureau economists to discuss the FY 2012 report and approaches to facilitate and strengthen communication among all DOI economists.

**Update: Implementation of Agency Plan on Infrastructure Permitting.** Policy Analysis will meet with DOI bureaus and offices over the next two weeks to discuss their progress and next steps on 40 action items for implementing improvements to DOI's permitting processes for

major infrastructure projects. The effort will assist the Counselor to the Deputy Secretary in preparing an end of year report for OMB.

**Update: Analysis of the FWS Conservation Banking Program.** Policy Analysis is developing a background paper, analytical framework, and surveys to address the conservation banking questions posed by FWS.

**Office of Native Hawaiian Relations**

**UPDATE: USFWS Proposed Rule Regarding the Designation of Critical Habitat.** ONHR met with Department of Hawaiian Home Land (DHHL) officials to discuss the effects on Hawaiian Home lands of the proposed revisions to the regulations for impact analyses of critical habitat (50 CFR 424.19). The DHHL has since provided comments to USFWS asking that the Secretaries consider the effects of designation of critical habitat on Hawaiian Home Lands in a similar manner to the effects it has on tribal lands. The ONHR is seeking to have Ecological Services include a requirement that they consult with the ONHR before designating critical habitat on Hawaiian Home lands and in their analysis take into consideration the goal of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to rehabilitate the Native Hawaiian community.

**Office of International Affairs**

**Update: World Heritage Fellowship at Yosemite National Park.** The manager of Jordan's newest UNESCO World Heritage site, Wadi Rum, has begun a four-week fellowship at Yosemite National Park as part of ITAP's sustainable tourism and protected areas management project in Jordan. While at Yosemite, the Fellow will be exposed to all aspects of park management, with the aim of building management capacity at Wadi Rum. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Update: Planning Underway for Secretary Clinton's Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Event.** Department of State plans to host an event (tentatively) on November 8th focused on the connection between illegal wildlife trafficking and national security. Secretary Clinton will make a speech during the event and selected ambassadors from Asian and African nations will be invited. High-level representation is expected from DOI. FWS is the lead DOI agency for this event.

**Update: Trade Policy and European Union (EU).** OIA represented DOI at meetings of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) chaired by USTR, to discuss the potential for negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU. USTR is now aiming for a date in November to call a higher-level meeting on this topic of the Trade Policy Review Group, on which ASPMB is the designated DOI representative.

**Update: Peru Timber Import Committee.** USTR held a meeting of this interagency committee on October 22, and the committee reached consensus on how to respond to a petition from an NGO received in April. DOI was represented by the Office of the AS-FWP. Jorge

Silva-Banuelos from the Office of the AS-FWP was accompanied by staff from OIA and SOL during the meeting.

**Update: Cooperation with Mexico.** Preparations continue for the November 28 ribbon-cutting ceremony in Big Bend National Park. On October 25, OIA staff participated on a US-Mexico interagency conference call to discuss the re-opening of the Port of Entry (POE) in Boquillas. Secretary Salazar has confirmed his participation in the event.

**New: 7th World Ranger Congress, Tanzania.** ITAP's Senior Advisor will be in Tanzania from 01- 11 November to participate in the 7th World Ranger Congress. The World Ranger Congress, held every three years, is a forum that brings together hundreds of conservation rangers, particularly those that work in the protected areas law enforcement field. The Senior Advisor will chair a session on capacity building, deliver a presentation on DOI-ITAP global law enforcement activities, and, in general, assist with Congress duties, such as helping register attendees. As part of its program in Jordan, DOI-ITAP is also supporting the attendance of two rangers from that country. The Senior Advisor may also conduct side meetings with DOI-ITAP partners, such as the Tanzanian National Park Authority, to discuss support activities. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment**

**New: Trustees Open 30-Day Public Comment Period on Amendment to Final Restoration Plan for July 2002 Oil Spill in Morgan County, Tennessee.** On October 10, 2012, the federal and State natural resource trustees (The State of Tennessee; The Department of the Interior, represented by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) opened a 30-day public comment period on the "Amendment to the Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment – Howard/White Unit No. 1 Oil Spill." This Amendment proposes certain changes to restoration projects described in the final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan released in July 2008. For more information see: http://www.doi.gov/restoration/news/Amendment-to-Howard-White-well-oil-spill-DARP.cfm.

## OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**

**State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC) (New):** ONRR will host the Fall 2012 State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC) meeting November 7-8, 2012, at the Denver Federal Center, Building 20. These two days are dedicated to topics on the meeting agenda, including various updates within ONRR and STRAC officer elections. Individuals from ONRR, States and Tribes, BLM, and IG will participate. The Director plans to attend.

**Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing):** ONRR conducts outreach meetings with Indian mineral owners to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive

working relationship with the Indian community. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with BIA, BLM, and OST. ONRR scheduled outreach session with mineral owners attending the Counselor Chapter House in Counselor, New Mexico, on November 6, 2012.

**ONRR to Host Three Affiliated Tribes, Jicarilla Nation, and BIA (No Change):** ONRR will provide a detailed walk through of its business processes to the Three Affiliated Tribes, Jicarilla Apache Nation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) representatives on November 6-8, 2012, in Denver, Colorado. This event provides the tribes and BIA an opportunity to understand the mineral revenue processes and includes a Data Warehouse demonstration to support the tribe's and BIA's need to access Indian mineral data.

## YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

**Ongoing: 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21 CSC) Advisory Committee.** YPS staff are prioritizing implementation measures and outlining action items from the committee's report. Michael Gale, YPS Director, will be coordinating follow-up with PMB leadership on priority decisions and actions within the next two weeks. YPS staff are also reviewing submittals from the Conservation Corps Center for Excellence for accreditation purposes, in addition to reviewing appropriate agreements and authorizations needed for government implementation. The Solicitor's Office is assisting and will be submitting its recommendations regarding accreditation, ethics, and intellectual property as DOI moves forward with planning implementation. Internal discussions are ongoing in terms of best approaches for announcing and launching the 21 CSC.

**New: Partnerships Coordination in DOI.** Partnerships Program Manager, Paul Batlan, is contacting bureau partnership liaisons and coordinators for hearing sessions in preparation for a Partnerships Working Group meeting in November. Bureau vetting of prospective donors is completed for NPS partners for the White House Visitors Center and Grand Canyon Historic Properties projects. YPS is assisting with an interagency agreement between BIE and NPS regarding educational counseling support services.

**Update: Departmental Volunteer Policy.** A final surname package with a memorandum from Assistant Secretary for PMB is en route to announce to the Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Directors the new Departmental Volunteer Policy and the need for bureaus and offices to update their volunteer policies, if needed.

**Ongoing: DOI STEM Education and Employment Pathways Strategic Plan.** The Office continued coordinating the surname process for this strategic plan.

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**Update: White House Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM) Inventory Report.** The YPS Office is reviewing a draft copy of the FY11 federal STEM education investment inventory report for Department review, which is due November 9.

**Update: OS Internship Program.** Five more interns started this week. We are beginning internal discussions to start the process for Spring 2013 internship placements. DOI Internship Coordinator Kevin Discepolo is leaving our office for a position with Scholastic Inc. YPS has announced a 60 to 120 detail in our office as backfill for this position prior. Kevin was a great asset to our team and will be missed.

## TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

### Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)

**Update: Administrative Judge Selection for Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA).** The interview panel for the Administrative Judge position on IBIA has completed its work and is preparing a selection recommendation for DAS Jackson to forward through AS Suh to the Executive Resources Board.

### Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

**Update: IT Transformation.** AS Suh and DAS Jackson met with the Deputies Operating Group to discuss a number of high priority issues related to the IT Transformation initiative, including the status of BisonConnect implementation; workforce planning efforts; the data center hosting study to determine how to accelerate DOI's move to cloud computing; an overview of the need for bureau resources (volunteers and detailees) to support of the IT Transformation planning efforts; steps to increase the effectiveness of IT hiring controls; and review of the record of decision from the September DOG meeting to formalize the consensus to use a "build and recruit" strategy to staff the new IT shared services organization (in lieu of transferring bureau employees into the OCIO). Recommendations from the DOG on changes to the record of decision were incorporated into a final draft. The final draft has been shared with DOG members and is being circulated for signature by the Executive Secretariat.

**New: Preparation for Hurricane Sandy.** The OCIO provided event-specific outage updates daily. The Enterprise Services Network team continues to monitor network outages and is working to restore full network operations to all affected locations.

**New: DOI Radio Program Management Council.** The OCIO sponsored a special council meeting on October 24, 2012 with a focus on developing presentations for the Radio Executive Steering Committee meeting in November 2012.

**New: Draft IT Policy Guide.** The OCIO has completed the first draft of the IT Policy Guidebook. The guidebook is an instructional document that describes the policy framework, lifecycle management, and the taxonomy that will be used to incorporate all policy development

and the governance structure of IRM polices. The Policy Guidebook will be submitted for revision before eventual surname and implementation.

**New: IT Policy Bureaus and Office Inventory Data Call.** The OCIO has prepared a memorandum and template to be distributed to Bureaus and Offices in order to conduct an inventory of IT policies within their organization. The overall purpose of this effort is to eliminate redundancies, inconsistencies, and gaps in policies as well as to establish authoritative polices and ensure those policies are in alignment with the direction of the CIO.

**Update: Network Optimization.** The OCIO completed 75% the USGS transition to the new DOI General Virtual Private Network (VPN). The USGS will be fully transitioned to the new DOI General VPN on October 29, 2012.

**Update: Data Center Consolidation Initiative (DCCI).** The DCCI team worked to draft the 'Hosting DC Metro Area Decision' document, which will be used to support the Reston, VA Powell Building Data Center and the DOI Data Center of the East. Recommendations for enhancing the capabilities of this site, requirements for addressing DOI's current activities, urgent needs, and future requirements for Hosting are included in the document. The DCCI team updated the OMB portal to reflect the consolidation commitment changes for the 4 affected sites and the closure of 9 sites.

**Office of Valuation Services**

**New: Quality Assurance Division and Chief Appraiser Division.** Quality Assurance Officer Ken Daw and Chief Appraiser/Deputy Director Tanya Henderson are participating in education planning meetings at the ASFMRA Conference. Also Wade Schroeder has achieved the ARA professional designation and will be recognized at ASFMRA

**Update: Business and Administration Management Division (BAMD) Office Closure.** Acting Chief, BAMD, Liz Coburn is in Phoenix working on closing that office.

## PUBLIC SAFETY, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Immediate Office of the DAS**

**Update: Big Hatchet Tactical Communication Site.** Discussions continue on implementation of upgrades to this site. The revised design resulted in some concerns by BLM on increase of the footprint and discussions are continuing on modifications to reduce impacts of the upgrade. A decision is expected the week of October 29 on the feasibility of going forward with the proposed upgrade. DHS had planned to conduct the upgrade work in early November.

**Update: Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (TIMR):** The final Biological Opinion for Arizona TIMR is expected this week. Included in this will be Incidental Take Statements for three species. This should conclude the required environmental reviews for

Arizona. Permitting or issuance of rights of way will now be applied for with Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. In California draft NEPA documentation is expected to be sent to DOI Bureaus within two weeks-with a 30 day review period. A draft Biological Assessment was provided to FWS on September 26 for a 30 day review. In New Mexico a cooperative agreement with BLM on completing TIMR is nearly done. The "final" NEPA document has been provided to BLM for review. The Biological Assessment is still in preparation. In Texas, a broad outreach and public scoping effort is being developed. No specific time frames are known at this time for completing TIMR in Texas. A series of coordination calls on preparation of Section 7 Biological Opinions and NEPA documentation will be convened in the next few weeks. The purpose of these calls is to assure greater consistency in completing reviews and issuing authorizations for TIMR work.

**Update: Integrated Fixed Towers and Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Proposed New Tower Construction in Arizona.** DHS' Office of Technology, Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA) is continuing to assess priorities for new Integrated Fixed Tower (IFT) construction. The highest priority is on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Field engineering surveys were just completed for 14 new towers and discussions with the Nation are continuing. The placement of new towers in the Wellton area has been delayed and may be postponed indefinitely. Many of these towers would be in or near Sonoran Pronghorn fawning areas. Work is continuing on completing environmental reviews for the Douglas IFT sites with a decision on the Douglas Section 7 review expected in November. Due to changes in threat levels interest has grown in placing a large number of RVSS towers in South Texas (Cameron and Hidalgo Counties) with as many as 80 towers possible. There is no specific timeframe for the South Texas tower program.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. The annual progress report will be provided to CBP the week of the 29. A little more than half of the funding has been obligated. Current plans are to obligate 90% or more of the funding that remains this FY and seek ways to improve processing of invoices. The agreement is set to expire in 2015 and discussions are beginning to assess whether the agreement needs to be extended pending completion of some projects and additional funding. Work continues on the contract with a third party to execute mitigation measures for Tactical Infrastructure through land acquisition in South Texas. A contract is expected to be issued early in CY 2013 for acquisition of about 500 acres using $3 million in CBP funding. These funds will be directed towards mitigation of impacts on endangered species (primarily the ocelot) through acquisition and restoration of habitat. Acquisition is expected to occur in late 2012. The properties to be acquired have been identified and approved by Customs and Border Protection. Acquisition of the mitigation lands is expected in the spring of 2013. The initial draft of the second annual report due in October is now in review and is expected to be sent to CBP by the end of the month.

**Update: Fire Program Assessment.** The contractor delivered the final report on October 7. This report contains implementation analyses and the recommendations on action the Department can take to improve organizational and management efficiencies in the wildland fire program. The Interior and Forest Service wildland fire executives met to develop their priorities

and approaches for implementation. Their recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee and bureau leadership for concurrence.

**Update: Interagency Interoperability.** A general proposal for moving forward was presented to the ICAM Executive Steering Committee by DOI OCIO staff. Further discussions will be held on next steps.

**No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing.** Major cleanup work is now focused on Gulf Islands National Seashore with increased work to begin in late August. This work will take an estimated 90 working days, which could mean 180 or more calendar days. The regional offices are working on a staffing plan to continue to have a DOI IC in place during this period.

**No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement.** The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project bridge team coordinating the pilots in the Southwest and California is finalizing its report to the Steering Committee. The report will contain recommendations to local managers on opportunities for consolidation and improvement along with recommendations for national level policies and tools to improve dispatch operations and capabilities. The final report is expected by the end of the fiscal year.

**No Change: Programmatic ARPA Section 106 Agreement.** Custom and Border Patrol has prepared a programmatic document for the northern and southwestern borders which will describe routine activities with no anticipated impact on historic and cultural resources that may be excluded from the standard Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) reviews. The programmatic documents have been prepared on a state by state basis and CBP is seeking the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officers for the each state. Consultation with 188 border region Tribes is also underway. CBP made a summary presentation of the revised Programmatic Agreement on October 19 with National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service officials present. Comments from DOI Bureaus are due October 26 with comments due to CBP by the end of the month.

**No Change: Bog Creek Road Access-Idaho.** U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Border Patrol are entering into a cooperative effort to resolve issues surrounding the opening of this road adjacent to the Canadian border. The road was closed as part of an effort to protect "core grizzly bear" habitat. There are court imposed restrictions on the amount of open road that can be present and still allow the area to be designated of core habitat. USFS, USBP and Fish and Wildlife Service are continuing discussions on how best to complete the environmental reviews. A meeting was held on September 20th in Spokane to discuss the type of NEPA document needed (EA or EIS), possible mitigation measures and funding issues. It is not clear that these issues between USFS and DHS have been resolved at this time but discussions are continuing. DOI involvement is focused on the Endangered Species Act and Grizzly Bears.

**No Change: Department of the Interior to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to Renew 2008 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Environmental Cooperation and 2008 MOU on Radio Interoperability.** These agreements will expire at the end of CY 2012 if not

renewed. CBP is scoping the current MOA and changes in their program since the original agreement was signed and will provide a revised version for DOI review. CBP has nearly completed its redraft and has added the northern border and the U.S. Forest Service into the revision. A draft version for DOI review is expected soon. CBP and OLES (SA Oman) are coordinating revision of the 2008 Radio MOU.

**No Change: Fish and Wildlife Service to Restart IPaC Project in Southwest Region.** Following internal discussions FWS has decided to reactivate the Information, Planning and Conservation System which had been partially funded by Customs and Border Protection. This system will be helpful in preparing environmental reviews for border tactical infrastructure and operations. The system is expected to be restarted after a data quality check.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP published a notice of a final PEIS with a draft Record of Decision on July 27. Following a 30 day waiting period ends on August 26th. The DOI consolidated response was sent to DHS for review and most concerns were incorporated into this final version. This is a broad programmatic document and it is expected there will be additional environmental compliance for most future changes (e.g., individual projects dealing with construction of tactical infrastructure). A Record of Decision is expected to be completed in November.

**No Change: Lower Colorado (Limitrophe) Mitigation.** Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Land Management are continuing discussions on the proposed mitigation for brush clearing in riparian habitats along the Lower Colorado. Additional clearing occurred prior to completion of mitigation requirements for the initial clearing. A plan is being developed to address the need for additional mitigation. BLM recently proposed construction of an irrigation system which, once put in place, would be operated and maintained by BLM. This cost effective option is being reviewed by BLM, FWS and CBP.

**No Change: H.R. 1505 – The National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act.** The bill was debated on the floor of the House on June 19 and voted on favorably. The bill would provide U.S. Border Patrol with immediate access to all DOI lands within 100 miles of the land borders of the U.S. for the purpose of achieving border security. A bill with the same purpose has been introduced in the Senate (S. 805). There is no word at this time on any Senate action regarding this legislation.

**No Change: Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to Prepare Summary of Mitigation.** CBP has agreed to compile all completed and outstanding mitigation work on record so that a clear understanding of the work and future commitments made to date is captured. Once reviewed by DOI Bureaus priorities may be assigned to each of the projects identified. The summary will be done on a state by state basis.

**Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)**

**New: Hurricane Sandy Preparation Update.** OLES staff is coordinating with the NICC Watch Operation and the Department of Homeland Security – Office of Infrastructure Protection

for situational updates and other significant impacts, key issues and concerns. OLES staff is coordinating with ATF – National Emergency Support Function (ESF-13) for federal law enforcement support to Hurricane Sandy response efforts. As of Monday, October 29 there have been no requests for ESF-13 assets. DOI Bureau ESF-13 coordinators have been contacted and informed to be on stand-by for requests for personnel.

**New: OLES Meets with DHS and Amends the DHS Document Titled "Items Prohibited from Federal Facilities".** DHS created the subject document to establish a consistent baseline prohibiting certain items from entering all Federal facilities. The document did not take into account the unique responsibilities of DOI Bureaus who are currently using some of the listed prohibited items in their normal course of business. OLES was successful in having language inserted that exempted items from the list that are used for official business.

New: Technology Division to Discuss a Data Bridge Solution Proposed by FWS between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Records Management System (LEMIS) and the DOI Enterprise System of Record (IMARS). At the request of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the DOI-OLES Technology Division will meet with the FWS law enforcement chief and related technical and law enforcement personnel. FWS will be represented by William Woody, Cynthia Martinez, George Volentir, Ed Grace and Jerry Olmsted. DOI-OLES will be represented by DAS - PRE Kim Thorsen, Director Polly Hanson and Assistant Director Faisal Ahmed. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Main Interior Building (MIB) on November 1.

**Update: Technology Division To Represent OLES at The American Council for Technology (ACT) - Industry Advisory Council (IAC) 2012 Executive Leadership Conference.** DOI will be represented by CIO Bernard Mazer and OLES Assistant Director Faisal Ahmed at this conference. This event was scheduled to take place October 28 - 30 in Williamsburg, Virginia, but will be rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy.

**No Change: OLES to Receive a Detailee from the National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF).** Through an agreement with the NITTF and the Office of the Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment, Mr. Jay Manning, former FBI Special Agent, will help OLES develop foundational components of a Counterintelligence and Insider Threat program. The Co-Directors of the NITTF met with DOI senior officials on October 22 to discuss the specifics.

**No Change: DOI Senior Steering Committee on Counterintelligence and Insider Threat (SSC-CI).** The SSC-CI will meet on October 31 to discuss recent developments on White House mandates, minimum standards, initial operating capability, space and connectivity requirements, delegated authority and establishing priorities.

**No Change: Technology Division to Present Demo of IMARS to OMB.** At the request of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the OLES Technology Division will provide a demonstration of the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System to OMB representatives. This will be a joint meeting between OLES, the DOI Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and OMB. OMB will be represented by James Hurban and Timothy

McCrosson; OLES will be represented by DAS - PRE Kim Thorsen, Director Polly Hanson and Assistant Director Faisal Ahmed (primary presenter). OCIO will be represented by CIO Bernard Mazer, Deputy CIO Laurence Gross, Sylvia Burns and Kelly Morrison. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Main Interior Building (MIB) on November 1.

**No Change: Physical Security Assessments on the Main Interior Building (MIB).** In accordance with 444 DM 1, the OLES Security Division, along with security representatives from various Bureaus, conducted a security assessment on the MIB using the new Integrated Rapid Visual Screening (IRVS) program. The assessment was held October 23, and will serve to update the prior MIB assessment conducted in 2009 while also testing the IRVS for use Department-wide.

**No Change: Upcoming Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS) Post Implementation Reviews (PIRs).** The IMARS Program Manager will be conducting PIRs for the bureaus that are deploying IMARS. The NPS and USPP PIRs have been scheduled on November 12-17 in San Francisco and Point Reyes. The Project Team is working on scheduling the PIRs for BIA, BOR, and FWS.

**Final: National Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Board Meeting.** The NJTTF held an executive board meeting on October 24. Discussions and briefings covered recent terrorist attacks and explored future threats. The classified briefing was held at the National Counter Terrorism Center, with the OLES Director and Assistant Director in attendance.

**Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**

**Update: Emergency Response Activities.** The Interior Operations Center (IOC) was engaged in reporting and coordination activities during the past week:

- *Tropical Weather, Hurricane Sandy:* Hurricane Sandy is now moving northward, parallel to the U.S. mid-Atlantic coastline with an anticipated landfall near New Jersey on the afternoon/evening of October 29. As Sandy combines with a cold front coming in from the West and a cold front moving down from Canada, it will be one of the largest storms to ever hit the East Coast. Massive power outages and flooding are expected as a result of the storm surge and massive rainfall that is expected.

- *USGS Storm Surge Sensor Program:* The IOC and USGS have implemented a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that outlines assistance to the public in the identification of Storm Surge Sensors when the devices are deployed to the field. The IOC has received a large amount of inquiries due to the great number of sensors USGS has deployed to measure the surge as Hurricane Sandy makes landfall.

- *Wildland Fire Activity*: The Nation remains at Wildfire Preparedness Level 1 due to a significant decrease in wildland fires. Currently, there is only one large, uncontained fire on DOI lands (Fern Lake Fire) in Colorado. There are currently 382 interagency firefighters assigned to wildland fire suppression, including 96 DOI personnel.

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- *Deepwater Horizon Response*: Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup operations continued across the four-state area of impact, and 62 DOI employees were involved in planning and operational activities. The Coast Guard has ordered BP to remove the leaking containment dome that was used during the "well kill" operations as BP tried to cap the Macondo Well. Last week, BP used ROVs to cap the outlets to the containment dome, stopping the leaking oil, but will now have to remove the dome from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

- *National Drought Summary*: The National Weather Service is reporting some improvement to drought conditions in the Northwest, Midwest and Mississippi Valley regions this week, and Hurricane Sandy and the associated storms are expected to positively influence East Coast and Southeast drought conditions. The Southwest and Central U.S. continue to have extended drought conditions. DOI representatives attended the USDA Drought Conference in Arkansas, the third in a series, to discuss DOI's role in improving the availability of water.

**Update: FY12 Interior Readiness (I-READ) Index Submissions.** OEM submitted the bureau target I-READ scores for FY13 and FY14 to the Office of Policy Analysis for inclusion in the DOI Annual Performance Plan and Report. Projected scores reflect priorities for improvement for each bureau in the level of preparedness to respond to emergencies. OEM is also still working to collect scores from Offices to provide a road map for how OEM will support them in years to come.

**Update: Eagle Horizon 2013 (EH 13).** OEM hosted the DOI Initial Planning Conference last week to discuss the concepts and objectives for DOI's participation in the annual Federal continuity exercise. DOI plans to execute a multi-faceted continuity exercise in 2013, combining an occupant emergency evacuation with various continuity site activations. The proposed dates for the exercise are mid-April, 2013.

**Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP).** OEM is addressing corrective action items with OFAS that resulted from the false alarm and the Great Southeast Shakeout earthquake drill. OEM is working with OFAS and the GSA fire alarm shop to prepare for the monthly evacuation drills for the child care center, once it opens.

**Update: Interagency Health Policy.** LCDR Elaine Bond, U.S. Public Health Service Officer detailed to OEM, visited Plum Island on Monday. After getting a tour the island, which is a DHS facility that does research on foreign animal diseases, she briefed the staff about pandemic/avian influenza planning/preparedness, its importance and described DOI's efforts as an example. Plum Island staff found the information she presented helpful, and she made additional contacts related to animal diseases. On October 31, LCDR Bond will brief her Office of Law Enforcement colleagues on a variety of public health and bio/chem/radiological preparedness basics, with an emphasis on preparedness and issues related to law enforcement.

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**Update: Online Training Development**. OEM provided feedback to DOIU during the course of the quality assurance review to clarify course content. DOIU is completing the quality assurance review and will build the course prototype in the next two weeks. EM-201 will be used to train the OEM staff, Bureau/Office emergency coordinators, and personnel assigned to Department-wide teams, helping them understand how all of the components of emergency management within the Department fit together.

**Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study.** OEM is currently participating in the interview panel for the Regional Emergency Coordinator positions to be filled in BIA. Interviews have been conducted and a final decision on selection is expected within the next couple of months. Additionally, a meeting with Deputy Secretary Hayes is being rescheduled to discuss the progress in implementing the corrective actions recommended in the Indian Affairs Expert Study; to include: hiring of regional emergency coordinators; the establishment of an Indian Affairs Policy Manual on the emergency management program; and the development of a disaster relief program in the BIA for tribes affected by emergencies.

**Update: National Response Framework (NRF) Revision.** OEM has received the most recent version of the Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOPs) for Response, Recovery and Mitigation and is working with DOI Principal Planners to complete the final review. Comments on the FIOPs are due to the White House Domestic Resilience Group (DRG) by November 9 to allow for the final DRG review and approval.

**Update: Secure Video Teleconference (SVTC).** Departmental headquarters maintains SVTC capabilities to coordinate interagency response during continuity events and other emergencies. Site C permanent installation was completed last week and is fully operational. The schedule for the permanent installation at MIB is as follows: October 31, equipment delivered to MIB; October 31 – November 2: equipment installation; November 5 – 7: testing, configuration; staff training: November 8– 9.

**Update: Multipoint Video Teleconferencing (VTC).** OEM, OCIO and IBC are coordinating the installation of a multipoint VTC capability in the IOC Conference Room. OCIO and IBC network engineers have developed configuration requirements to allow for VTC capability and are working with Verizon to set-up the network route. Once the configuration is complete, the vendor will be onsite for implementation. After final installation, this capability will provide for internet and ISDN video teleconferencing in the IOC conference room and at other VTC locations in the MIB, with no incremental costs for departmental offices using the system.

**Update: DOI One Health Group**. On October 31, LCDR Bond will co-lead the next meeting of the DOI One Health Group's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) sub-group. The goal of this meeting is developing questions to survey the 22 LCCs about their awareness and interested in a variety of public/wildlife/environmental health issues. The results of this survey will help the DOI One Health Group, and its members, figure out how to best engage with the various LCCs.

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**No Change: All-Hazard Incident Management Planning.** OEM and the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) program manager are working to establish a timeframe for modifying ROSS in order to fully implement the Deputies Operating Group's recommendation for a single point ordering system for the Department's emergency responders. OEM is continuing participation in interagency meetings with the FEMA Incident Management Support Team to define National Incident Management System (NIMS) position descriptions for all positions in the NIMS Qualifications Guide; and with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to redefine the business rules and management structure of data elements that are used to uniquely identify an organizational unit that may receive or send resources in support of all hazard emergency situations. Continued progress was also made toward finalizing the revised DOI All-Hazards Incident Positions and Qualifications Guide. Proposed changes following the meeting of the All-Hazards Sub-committee of the EMC are being integrated into the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) in order to establish a process for mobilization of DOI employees to all hazard emergency situations.

**No Change: National Preparedness Directive/Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8).** OEM is currently reviewing the *National Preparedness Report* which was issued in the spring of 2012 and will be an annual report on the Nation's progress towards meeting the National Preparedness Goal. Information was submitted in FY12 related to the Department's role in Search and Rescue (ESF #9) as well as Natural and Cultural Resources (ESF #11) and OEM is working with NPS and OEPC to update this information for the 2013 report due out in the spring.

**Final: National Level Exercise-2012 (NLE-12).** OEM made final edits to the DOI After Action Report based on consensus gained at the October Emergency Management Council meeting and will finalize the report this week. OEM will publish the report on Safetalk and it will be used to develop corrective action plans for Lessons Learned during NLE-12. NLE-12 examined the Nation's ability to coordinate plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event.

**Office of Wildland and Fire (OWF)**

**New: Emergency Management Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 Activation.** OWF is coordinating with the US Forest Service in support for Hurricane Sandy response. ESF4 is currently activated in FEMA Regions I, II, and III. Mission assignments have been issued, and others are pending, depending on needs once Hurricane Sandy makes landfall. Resources currently being utilized include two Type 2 incident management teams from Minnesota and the Eastern Area, as well as Type 2 crews. Pending resources may include two National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) teams, as well as additional crews. Close coordination with the Office of Emergency Management is being maintained. OWF will continue to provide support as needed.

**Update: Governance Meetings.** Several wildland fire governance meetings were held last week in Boise, Idaho. The Interior Fire Executive Council met on October 23 to discuss topics such as: GAO action items; the next steps for the Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 project; revisions to the 620 Departmental Manual; fire severity authority; the budget outlook for 2013, 2014 and budget formulation for 2015; suppression costs; and HFPAS. A meeting of wildland

fire leadership from the Department and USDA Forest Service was conducted on October 24. Priorities and initiatives for FY 2013 were identified. The FY 2012 wildfire season, wildland fire governance, and the next steps for Interior Fire Program Assessment 2012 project were discussed. The Fire Program Analysis (FPA) quarterly Oversight Group meeting was held on October 25. Deputy Assistant Secretary Kim Thorsen and Forest Service Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard presided over the meeting as the current status and capability of FPA was discussed and agreed upon, and the decision was made to move FPA into the Wildland Fire Information and Technology (Fire I & T) framework. Action plans were defined and progress will be reported at the January 2013 Oversight Group meeting.

**Update: Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information.** The Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (IRWIN) project sponsored a week long workshop with vendors and support organizations for IRWIN. The vendors for the IRWIN project (Esri and SAIC) attended and led discussions concerning both the architecture and the creation of data standards to improve the environment for IRWIN and to provided intended results. Both users and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) employees attended and participated in planning efforts. Several visits happened during the week including to the Boise BLM Dispatch and Wildland Fire Decision Support System management. The IRWIN effort continues to look for opportunities to leverage great work that has been completed.

**Update: Wildland Fire Information and Technology (Fire I&T):** The Program Board attended several all day sessions for FPA and IRWIN to understand the stage of development of these efforts and determine what support could be provided. IRWIN requested assistance with determining the data standards and the development of hosting solutions while FPA is ready to move into O&M and into the Fire I&T framework. FPA and Fire I & T staffs will work together to incorporate FPA into the Fire I&T framework.

**Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program**. The field units reported approximately one million acres of HFR treatments in FY 2012 or approximately 102 percent of the Department's target. The HFR Final Program of Work (FPOW) online substitution tool was released for use on October 25. This tool allows the bureaus to substitute other projects for those approved under certain circumstances outlined by the Department. Bureaus will document all changes no later than November 9.

**Update: National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.** Regional Risk Reports are complete and ready for review by the Wildland Fire Executive Council at their November 2 meeting. Regions are developing action plans for implementation and will consider stakeholder comments and encourage continued engagement. The Science Team has begun the National Risk Report after working with regional committees analyzing options. Further information on regional and national Cohesive Strategy efforts can be found on the Forests and Rangelands website at: www.forestsandrangelands.gov.

**No Change: National Wildland Fire Analysis Report.** Wildfire activity is on a steady decline across the nation. A total of four large wildfire incidents are reported today, as compared to 70 reported at the height of fire activity in August. The National Wildland Fire Analysis report,

prepared throughout the wildfire season to heighten the situational awareness of Department leadership, has been discontinued. The report will be reinstated should an increase of wildfire activity warrant.

**Office of Aviation Services (OAS)**

**New: Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Trains Additional Bureau T-Hawk Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Operators.** On October 22-26, OAS conducted the A-454 T-Hawk Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Operator course. Course prerequisites included previous qualification as a Raven A sUAS operator. During the week, BOR, BLM and USGS employees completed both classroom academics and sUAS flight training. Students were required to successfully complete a series of task oriented flight evaluations to receive their T-Hawk operator qualification. DOI sUAS operations continue to be an emerging technology that reduces costs and increases the effectiveness of natural resource missions.

**New: Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Transitions to Financial Business Management System (FBMS), Deployment Seven (D7).** OAS's transition from the Aviation Management System (AMS) to the new FBMS continues on schedule. There have been numerous hurdles to overcome and extra procedures required since OAS' transition from the National Business Center to the Office of the Secretary. The OS instance of FBMS D7 "went live" on Monday Oct 22, and a number of data base uploads required to achieve fleet and parts inventory functionality are receiving final checks. OAS has conducted 18 live WebEx-based training with field users; training for bureau personnel is scheduled for the first week in November. The training video is available on iat.gov.

## HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

**Office of Human Resources**

**New: FY12 Veteran Hiring Statistics.** DOI established Veteran hiring goals of 16.6% (total veteran hires) and 6.9% (disabled veteran hires) for FY12. Interior excelled in hiring veterans into permanent positions in FY12, results were 35% of total new hires (~6% increase over FY11) and 14.4% were disabled veterans (~3% increase over FY11). Hiring veterans for "Other than Permanent" opportunities, e.g. seasonal/temp, remains a challenge. Successes was driven by increased awareness and understanding of hiring flexibilities, successful career fairs and by increasing competitive targeted recruitment efforts.

**New: Feds for Vets.** DOI Veteran Program Office met with the Veteran Affairs (VA) to discuss participating in a new VA initiative – Feds for Vets. Creating a partnership with the VA would enable Interior to access services used to target veteran candidates at no cost during the pilot year. These services include resume mining; staffing work, including qualifying resumes; assistance with marketing and outreach via VA web platforms; direct mailings to veteran candidates and participation in hiring events. The plan is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding over the next 30 days to outline the structure and process bureaus will use to

receive these services. The initiative will provide a promising tool for bureau HR office's that will have a positive impact on meeting our veteran hiring goals.

**New: Assisted Technology Center (ATC) Re-Design.** OHR is working with Occupational Safety and Health to redesign the ATC in an effort to provide a broader and more integrated approach to promoting accommodation, accessibility, safety and prevention. The center will be a laboratory where managers and employees can experience and receive information on accessible and safe work environments that include ergonomic design, assisted technology and accessible workspaces. The concept would increase Interior's awareness of the cost savings in preventing common workplace injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, and help find solutions that create accessibility issues encountered in our work environment. The new look is projected to be completed the first of CY13.

**New: Meet and Greet with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).** The Accountability team participated in a telephonic "meet and greet" with OPM. OPM has assigned a new Lead Evaluator to work with the Department on its accountability program. During the meet and greet, the team discussed Interior's program, our successes and challenges. OPM stated that Interior's accountability program is very solid and we hope to continue to work collaboratively to continue its improvement.

**Update: Wildland Firefighter Program.** BLM and OS OHR held a teleconference with OPM on the certificate program. OPM acknowledged there is some confusion on the definition of students in this program. Therefore, they are allowing current participants to be converted to Pathways. However, any new appointments made under Pathways, must meet the student requirements as written in the current 5 CFR, which requires students to be enrolled in an accredited educational program.

**Office of Civil Rights**

**New: Access Board Webinar on Accessible Historic Buildings and Facilities.** On Thursday November 1, 2012, a representative from the Public Civil Rights Division will participate in the U.S. Access Board's webinar led by Accessibility Specialist Jim Pecht. The focus of the webinar is to address accessibility issues in planned alterations to historic facilities, and review permitted exceptions where State Historic Preservation officials determine that compliance would threaten a facility's historic significance.

**Update: National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month and Veterans Day.** The U.S. Department of the Interior joins the Nation in celebrating National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November 1-30, 2012) and Veterans Day (November 11, 2012). Interior's celebration of these two special events represents a unique cultural experience with the theme "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Honoring Those Who Served Our Country." On November 7, 2012, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Departmental Office of Human Resources are hosting a program in the Sidney Yates Auditorium, Main Interior Building, from 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. The highlight of the program is a dynamic cultural awareness presentation by T. Jay Hunting Horse, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps.

**Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development**

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**New: Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers.** Department of the Interior University (DOIU) is starting a fresh Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers (FAC P/PM); 300 Senior Level. Employees that complete the entire 300 series receive a Master's Certificate in Federal Acquisition Management from the FAC Academy. The course runs through January 2013.

## BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

### Office of Budget (POB)

**No Change: 2013 Sequestration Action.** On September 14, the White House issued a statutorily required report on the amounts to be sequestered if action is not taken to avert the actions required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The Act requires a sequester to take place on January 2, 2013 to achieve spending reductions totaling $1.2 trillion over ten years. The report identifies an estimated sequester level for non-defense programs of 8.2 percent for discretionary and 7.6 percent for mandatory spending, as well as accounts exempt from the sequester. The report's assumptions indicate a reduction of $1.3 billion, or 5.64 percent of Interior funding in both discretionary and mandatory would occur under the sequestration. Interior submitted impact statements to OMB to seek approval to share information on the programmatic impacts. In the meantime we are instructed to operate as normal and to direct questions about the potential sequester to OMB.

Congressman Norm Dicks has sent a Dear Colleagues letter to the House members describing the dire impacts of the potential sequester at: http://democrats.appropriations.house.gov/
A study just released by the Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Parks Conservation Association and Defenders of Wildlife says the looming sequestration would be "extremely harmful" to various agencies, primarily EPA. The link to the study is at: http://www.eenews.net/assets/2012/10/17/document_pm_02.pdf
**No Change: Campaign to Cut Waste.** OMB has asked for 4th quarter data on agency efforts to reduce administrative costs 20%. POB will work with bureaus to provide this information once the accounting system is available. The due date to OMB is November 15th.

### Office of Financial Management (PFM)

**Update: FY 2012 Financial Audit**. The Department 2012 audit and Annual Financial Report are on track for completion by the government-wide deadline of November 15. Audit results will be available on November 9 when we receive the draft auditor's report. To facilitate the 2012 AFR review and comment effort, PFM has created a SharePoint site where the October 28 draft of the AFR is available for review and comments. The October 28 draft will be submitted to OMB on November 1 via the MAX website as required by A-136. Initial results include:

- KPMG completed its review of the Departmental Office's year-end accounts payable accrual. For the first time in several years, DO will not be getting a Notice of Findings and Recommendations related to accounts payable accruals.

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- There was a significant improvement in the management of undelivered orders in FY 2012. KPMG took exception to only two for about $35,000, projected to be about $2 million compared with FY 2011 when KPMG took exception to nine UDOs for a total of approximately $7 million, projected to $22 million. In addition, KPMG has changed its position on UDOs pending DCAA audit. It is anticipated that progress on these issues will contribute to the removal of a Departmental Significant Deficiency related to UDOs.
- Interior reports in its AFR, closure of 82% of its GAO/OIG recommendations as compared to the annual goal of 85% and significantly above the August 2012 rate of 42%.

**Update: GAO Review.**

- PFM coordinated and attended the entrance and exit conference on the Adoption of U. S. Energy Infrastructure to Climate Change (Job Code: 361434), held on October 22.
- PFM coordinated and attended the entrance and exit conferences on Interagency Contracting (Job Code 121081), held on October 24.
- PFM has scheduled the GAO entrance conference on Permitting and Enforcement of Shale Oil and Gas (Job code: 361447), held on October 30, 2012.
- PFM has scheduled the GAO entrance conference on Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses Act of 2012 (COASTAL Act of 2012) (Job code: 361445) on November 07, 2012.
- PFM is rescheduling the GAO exit conference on *Renewable Energy Project Permitting on Federal Lands* (Job Code 361373) originally scheduled for October 30, 2012.
- PFM is rescheduling the GAO exit conference on *Alaska Native Corporation Financial Reporting Practices* (Job code: 361340) originally scheduled for October 30, 2012

**New: Payment Recapture Auditor Kickoff Meeting.** PFM conducted a kick-off meeting with PRGX, the payment recapture vendor, and bureaus/offices that will participate in a pilot on October 23. Logistical issues such as system access, security clearance, and vendor contact protocols were discussed. The next steps are to schedule bureau level entrance conferences and determine how FBMS/FFS payment data will be delivered to PRGX and what system fields will be needed.

**Update: Annual Debt Certification.** PFM is coordinating the Annual Debt Certification and bureau level certifications are due on November 9. These certifications will support the Departmental certification which is due to Treasury by December 3.

**Office of Planning and Performance Management (PPP)**

**No Change: Program Inventory and Annual Review.** PPP is developing a proposed program inventory that will be shared with the bureaus for review before submission to OMB. The Department's inventory of programs will align with the Department's current budget structure – allowing for the linkage between performance strategies and budget activities.

**Update: Agency Priority (Performance) Goals.** On October 31, the Priority Goal quarterly review for the 4th quarter of FY 2012 was held with the Deputy Secretary and senior leadership.

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Updates of milestones, measures, and progress surveys provided by bureaus are being loaded into www.performance.gov for the upcoming release by OMB of the website to the public in November.

**Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)**

**Update: Fiscal Year 2012 Small Business Goals and Accomplishments.** The Department had awarded over 56 percent of its Fiscal Year 2012 awarded contract dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal for FY 2012 was 51.5 percent. In addition, the Department met all of its socio-economic goals, achieving over 12 percent for women-owned small businesses and 3.4 percent for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Fnal numbers for Fiscal Year 2012 will not be available for several more weeks.

**Update: Small Business Administration 8(a) Partnership Agreement for FY 2013 and beyond.** The current agreement will be in effect until the end of November, 2012 while the new agreement for FY 2013 and beyond is being finalized allowing contract awards to be made under the 8(a) Program during that time.

**No Change: Scheduled Events.**

- **December 5-6: National Minority Enterprise Development Week 2012 Conference, Washington, DC.** The National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference is scheduled for December 5-6, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC.

**Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Program Management Office (PMO)**

**Update: Special FBMS Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting.** On October 25, 2012, the ESC held a special meeting to discuss the MAXIMO 7.5 Project. The Project will result in the transition to one version of MAXIMO, the Facilities Maintenance System used by NPS, USGS, BLM, IA, FWS, and BOR, to a single instance. NPS is leading the project and will host the single version of MAXIMO. During the meeting, NPS briefed the project's scope, schedule, cost estimates and contracting actions. Bureaus are asked to commit as of December 1, 2012 as to whether they will join NPS for the upgrade. Bureaus are not allowed to upgrade on their own and will need to remain with version 6.2 or use FBMS functionality.

**New: FBMS Deployment 7 Functionality Goes Live in Previously-Deployed Bureaus.** On October 20, 2012, new and upgraded FBMS functions developed during the system's seventh deployment went live in DO, FWS, USGS, BLM, OSM, BOEM, and BSEE. This was one day ahead of schedule. Currently, IA and NPS's converted files are being loaded into FBMS for their scheduled go-live on November 5, 2012.

**Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO)**

**Update: OS FBMS Field Training.** The IMO began conducting OS specific field training on FBMS Reporting, Funds Management, Acquisitions, Sales and Distribution, and Reallocations

on October 23. Survey feedback collected from users who participated in the first week's training sessions is overwhelmingly positive, with an overall average of 4.38 out of 5. The training provides an overview of various support tasks and reporting functionality that FBMS users would perform on a regular basis. It is recommended participants complete FBMS Basic Navigation and FBMS Basic Report prior to attending the training. Additional sessions will be held in the Main Interior Building on October 31-November 1 and November 5-7.