

West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Barbara Opp Waldal,**  
*Land Law Examiner, Branch of Land Transfer Adjudication I.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-010-07-5440]

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance Project, Big Horn and Washakie Counties, WY

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance Project DEIS for public review and comment. The DEIS analyzes the consequences of a legislated conveyance of all right, title and interest, excluding mineral interest, of a parcel of land administered by the BLM to the Westside Irrigation District, Worland, Wyoming.

**DATES:** The DEIS will be available for public review and comment for 45 calendar days starting on the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best use public comments if they are submitted within the 45-day review period.

Any public meetings or other involvement activities for the Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance (Westside Conveyance) project will be announced to the public by the BLM at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, Web site announcements, or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local

governments and to interested parties. The DEIS and its supporting documents will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/wfodocs/westside>.

Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003; and

- Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office, 101 S. 23rd, Worland, Wyoming 82401.

Copies of the DEIS will also be delivered to the public libraries in the following communities:

- Worland, Wyoming;
- Basin, Wyoming;

A limited number of copies of the document will be available as long as supplies last. To request a copy, contact Don Ogaard, Project Manager, as described below. Written comments may be submitted by the following methods:

- *E-mail:* [wymail\\_westside@blm.gov](mailto:wymail_westside@blm.gov);
- *Mail:* Don Ogaard, Project Manager,

Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office, P.O. Box 119, Worland, Wyoming 80401;

- Hand-delivered to the Worland Field Office at the street address listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Ogaard, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office, P.O. Box 119, 101 S. 23rd, Worland, Wyoming 82401. Mr. Ogaard may also be reached by telephone at (307) 347-5160.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public Law 106-485 (Nov. 9, 2000; 114 Stat. 2199) directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, to convey a parcel of public land in Big Horn County and Washakie County, to the Westside Irrigation District (Irrigation District), Worland, Wyoming. Public Law 106-485 also directs the BLM to complete an environmental analysis under NEPA.

The Westside Conveyance project area is located in southern Big Horn County and northern Washakie County. The southern end of the project area is approximately 5 miles northwest of Worland, Wyoming. The study area and tract of land comprises 16,500 acres, in Townships 92 W., 92½ W., and 93 W.; Ranges 48 N. and 49 N.

On February 22, 2005, the BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the NEPA.

The DEIS considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives:

- The No Action Alternative;
- Alternative 1—the legislated proposed action transferring 16,500 acres; and,
- Alternative 2—an alternative under which only those lands actually suitable for irrigation and those needed for project infrastructure, approximately 11,500 acres, would be transferred.

Alternative 2 is the BLM's Preferred Alternative.

After the sale and conveyance of the land to the Irrigation District, the Irrigation District would offer the conveyed land for sale to qualified individuals in parcels no less than 160 acres per individual. The parcels of land would be specified for use to serve agricultural purposes. The Irrigation District would select qualified individuals through a lottery. Successful individuals then would be required to be members of and their lands included in the Irrigation District.

The law directing the conveyance of the land specifies that acreage may be added to or subtracted from the original 16,500 acres to satisfy any mitigation as required in the Final EIS and its Record of Decision (ROD). Alternative 2 would subtract 5,000 acres in accordance with this provision. The law further provides that proceeds from the sale of the public lands to the Irrigation District will be deposited in a special account "for the acquisition of land and interests in land in the Worland District of the Bureau of Land Management that will benefit public recreation, public access, fish and wildlife habitat, or cultural resources."

The State of Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) is joint lead agency as provided in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1580. In the future the WWDC would use the FEIS and ROD in support of any future funding decisions made by the WWDC should the Irrigation District apply for water supply development assistance. Cooperating agencies in the preparation of the DEIS include Big Horn and Washakie Counties.

All comments submitted must include the commenter's name and street address. Comments including the names and addresses of the respondent will be available for public inspection at the Worland Field Office during its business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal

identifying information may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Robert A. Bennett,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CACA-47658, CA-670-5101-ER-B204]

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact; Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/ for the Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), has prepared a Draft EIS/EIR (which includes draft land use plan amendments) for the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project proposed by San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of this EIS in compliance with the requirements of NEPA. The CPUC is the lead agency for the State of California for the preparation of this EIR in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**DATES:** To assure that they will be considered, the BLM/CPUC must receive written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, Internet Web sites, and/or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) By U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail, (3) by fax, or (4) by attending a public meeting and

submitting written comments at the meetings.

**By Mail:** Please use first-class postage and be sure to include your name and a return address. Please send written comments to: Billie Blanchard, CPUC/ Lynda Kastoll, BLM, c/o Aspen Environmental Group, 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935, San Francisco, CA 94104-3002.

**By Electronic Mail:** E-mail communications are welcome; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the e-mail message. E-mail messages should be sent to [sunrise@aspeneg.com](mailto:sunrise@aspeneg.com).

**By Fax:** You may fax your comments to (866) 711-3106. Please remember to include your name and return address in the fax, to write legibly, and use black or blue ink.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information concerning the Draft EIS/ Plan Amendment may be obtained from Lynda Kastoll, Project Manager for the BLM, at (760) 337-4421, or e-mail at [lkastoll@ca.blm.gov](mailto:lkastoll@ca.blm.gov). Information concerning the EIR process may be obtained from Billie Blanchard, Project Manager for the CPUC, at (415) 703-2068 or on the CPUC Internet Web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/sunrise/sunrise.htm>.

A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR for the Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project is available for review at:

- BLM—El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 337-4421;
- BLM—Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258, (760) 251-4849;
- CPUC—Los Angeles Office, 320 West 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013, (213) 576-7000;
- CPUC—Headquarters Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2103, San Francisco, CA 94102, (425) 703-2074; or
- CPUC Internet Web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/sunrise/sunrise.htm>;
- Several public libraries in Imperial, San Diego and Riverside Counties, California.
- Electronic (on CD-ROM or DVD) or paper copies may also be obtained by contacting the BLM or the CPUC at the aforementioned addresses and phone numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** SDG&E proposes to construct a new 91-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Imperial Valley Substation (in Imperial County, near the City of El Centro) to a new Central East Substation (in central San Diego County, southwest of the intersection of County Highways

S22 and S2) and a new 59-mile 230-kV line that includes both overhead and underground segments from the new Central East Substation to SDG&E's existing Peñasquitos Substation (in the City of San Diego). Portions of the proposed 500-kV line transmission line would traverse approximately 35 miles of Federal lands managed by the BLM within the California Desert Conservation Area in Imperial County, and approximately 1 mile in San Diego County. Depending on which alternative is selected (exclusive of the No Action Alternative), the project would require an amendment to one or both of the following land use plans: the BLM's *California Desert Conservation Area Plan* (as amended) and the *Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit Management Framework Plan* because the route alignments would deviate from BLM designated utility corridors in several areas under these alternatives. The remainder of the proposed project would cross lands owned by various entities including State of California, local governments, and private parties.

The proposed transmission lines would utilize structures ranging in height from 120 to 170 feet, spaced approximately 700 to 1,600 feet apart, and would occupy rights-of-way of approximately 60 to 300 feet in width (subject to local conditions and restrictions). Existing disturbed corridors would be utilized to the extent feasible, to minimize potential environmental impacts. Where possible, SDG&E anticipates locating new facilities within or along existing rights-of-way.

The Draft EIR/EIS evaluates and presents the environmental impacts that are expected to result from construction and operation of the proposed project, and presents recommended mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize many of the significant environmental impacts identified. In accordance with CEQA and NEPA, the Draft EIR/EIS identifies alternatives to the proposed project (including the No Action Alternative) that could avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts associated with the project as proposed by SDG&E, and evaluates the environmental impacts associated with these alternatives.

The Draft EIR/EIS reflects input by government officials, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and concerned members of the public during the two public scoping periods following the CPUC's publication of the Notice of Preparation of an EIR/EIS on September 15, 2006, and the BLM's publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** on August 31, 2006.