

directly and substantially affected. The Tribal entities contacted are listed in Chapter 7 in the Final PEIS.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) cooperated with the BLM in preparation of the PEIS. In addition, the BLM consulted with other federal agencies during preparation of the Draft and Final PEIS, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Air Force, and agency representatives to the Federal Energy Resources Network. In accordance with a memorandum of agreement between the BLM and the USFWS, the BLM is consulting with the USFWS regarding the proposed land use plan amendments. These consultations will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536) and are expected to result in the issuance of a programmatic biological assessment and biological opinion.

In addition, the BLM initiated activities to coordinate and consult with the governors of each of the eleven western states addressed in the PEIS and with state agencies. Prior to the issuance of a record of decision and approval of proposed land use plan amendments, the governor of each state will be given the opportunity to identify any inconsistencies between the proposed land use plan amendments and state or local plans and to provide recommendations in writing during the 60-day consistency review period required by the BLM land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.3-2).

Copies of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States, including the proposed land use plan amendments (Appendix C), have been sent to the Environmental Protection Agency, DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, DOI Library, and the governors office in each of the eleven western states. Copies of the Final PEIS are available at the BLM State Offices in the eleven western states and the BLM Washington Office, Public Affairs Office. Interested persons may also review the Final PEIS and proposed land use plan amendments on the Internet at <http://windeis.anl.gov>.

Instructions for filing a protest regarding the proposed land use plan amendments may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5. A protest may only raise those issues which were submitted for the record during the NEPA/planning process. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these

conditions, the e-mail or faxed protest will be considered as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

Please direct the follow-up letter to the appropriate address provided below.

The protest must contain:

a. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.

b. A statement of the specific land use plan(s) by name and the amendment(s) being protested.

c. A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the NEPA/planning process or a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.

d. A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the proposed land use plan amendment(s) is wrong.

All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

A decision shall be rendered promptly on the protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Dated: May 13, 2005.

Ray Brady,

Group Manager, Lands and Realty.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-1020-PK]

Notice of Public Meeting, Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: A meeting will be held July 20, 2005, at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 700 Valley View Drive, Sheridan, Wyoming, beginning at 8 a.m. The public comment period will begin at 11:30 a.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in eastern Montana. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below. The Council will hear updates on the Miles City Resource Management Plan, coalbed natural gas, and other issues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Apple, Resource Advisory Council Coordinator, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana, 59101, telephone 406-896-5258 or Sandra S. Brooks, Field Manager, Billings Field Office, telephone 406-896-5013.

Dated: June 20, 2005.

Sandra S. Brooks,
Field Manager.

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