

the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2012, is 1 ⁷/₈ percent.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

Authority: Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: January 20, 2012.

Carol J. Galante,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Housing—
Federal Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 2012–1818 Filed 1–26–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 216/222 in the Central Planning Area (CPA) in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Proposed Sale 216/222.

SUMMARY: BOEM announces the availability of the proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for proposed Sale 216/222 in the CPA. This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 556.29(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected states the opportunity to review the proposed NOS. The proposed NOS sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the

sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

DATES: Affected states may comment on the size, timing, and location of proposed Sale 216/222 within 60 days following their receipt of the proposed NOS. The final NOS will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for June 20, 2012.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed NOS for Sale 216/222 and a “Proposed Notice of Sale Package” containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394. Telephone: (504) 736–2519.

Agency Contact: Steven Textoris, Acting Leasing Division Chief, *Steven.Textoris@boem.gov*.

Dated: January 19, 2012.

Tommy P. Beaudreau,

Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

[FR Doc. 2012–1819 Filed 1–26–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVW0300.L51100000.
GN0000.LVEMF1000880 241A; 12–08807;
MO# 4500030363; TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hycroft Mine Expansion, Humboldt and Pershing Counties, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, Winnemucca, Nevada has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hycroft Mine Expansion and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Hycroft Mine Expansion Draft EIS within 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Hycroft Mine Expansion Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html.
- *Email:* wfoweb_comments@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* (775) 623–1503.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, Attn. Kathleen Rehberg.

Copies of the Hycroft Mine Expansion Draft EIS are available in the Winnemucca District Office at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathleen Rehberg, Project Lead, telephone (775) 623–1500; address 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445; email: wfoweb@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–(800) 877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Hycroft Resources Development Inc., (HRDI) proposes to expand mining activities at the existing Hycroft Mine on BLM-managed public land and on private land in Humboldt and Pershing counties, approximately 55 miles west of Winnemucca, Nevada, on the west flank of the Kamma Mountains. HRDI submitted an amended Plan of Operations to the BLM for approval, which proposes to expand the existing project boundary of 8,858 acres an additional 5,895 acres for a total project area of approximately 14,753 acres of public and private land. The Hycroft Mine currently employs approximately 205 workers. The proposed expansion would increase the mine life by approximately 12 years and increase employment to approximately 537 mine personnel.

The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed expansion, which includes 2,173 acres of new surface disturbance. An updated inventory of wilderness characteristics was used for the analysis of potential impacts associated with this project. The existing open pit operation and associated disturbance would be

increased from 1,371 acres of public land to 3,428 acres of public land. Disturbance on private land controlled by HRDI would be increased from 1,692 acres to 1,807 acres. The additional acreage in the project boundary would be used for exploration.

The Draft EIS analyzes two alternatives; the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action, if selected by the BLM, would include: Expansion of the plan boundary and use of the entire project area for exploration; incorporation of five rights-of-way; expand four existing open pits; the backfilling of all or portions of three open pits; build a dispatch center and expand maintenance facilities; expansion of haul and secondary roads, waste rock facilities, and heap leach facilities; expansion of existing and construction of two ready line and heavy equipment fueling areas; expansion of existing waste rock facilities; the operation a portable crusher with conveyors at the south heap leach facility; construct, operate, and then close the south heap leach facility, Merrill-Crowe process plant, and solution ponds; relocation of a segment of the Seven Troughs Road to bypass the south heap leach facility; expansion of the existing refinery and the Brimstone Merrill-Crowe plant; construct storm water diversions, install culverts, and other storm water controls; close the existing Class III landfill and construct a new Class III landfill; the drilling of one potable-water well and one process-water well; the relocation of the existing Brimstone substation, upgrade the existing Crofoot substation, and extension of power lines to new process areas; construction of growth media stockpiles; and reclamation of the project consistent with the proposed reclamation plan.

Under the No-Action Alternative the BLM would not approve the proposed plan of operations and there would be no expansion. HRDI would continue mining activities under the previously approved plans of operation.

Three other alternatives were considered, then eliminated: Daylight Hours Operation, Modified Exploration Activities, and Different Waste Rock Dump and Heap Leach Pad Configurations.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the Proposed Hycroft Mine Expansion was published in the **Federal Register** on April 1, 2011 (76 FR 18243). Ten comments were received during a 90-day scoping period. The comments stated concerns about lighting impacts to night skies and the economic benefits including jobs. The proponent prepared

a lighting plan designed to lessen the impacts of light outside the project area by using directional lighting, and lowering or moving light sources. Other issues raised during initial internal and external scoping were possible impacts from acid mine drainage and the proximity of the mine to the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon-Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA). A Waste Rock Characterization Report has been completed for the various types of rock to be mined, and the specific measures that would be taken to prevent acid rock drainage will be outlined in the Draft EIS. While outside of the NCA, the project is within visual range of the NCA. Mitigating the visual issue is the fact that the mine has been in existence since 1987 and the NCA was designated in 1990.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6 and 1506.10.

Gene Seidlitz,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 2012-1458 Filed 1-26-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT926000-L14200000-BJ0000]

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plats of survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, on February 27, 2012.

DATES: Protests of the survey must be filed before February 27, 2012 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Protests of the survey should be sent to the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Montoya, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, telephone (406) 896-5124 or (406) 896-5009, Marvin_Montoya@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the Regional Land Surveyor, Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was necessary to determine the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge lands.

The lands we surveyed are:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 9 N., R. 20 W.

The plat, in six sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the north boundary and a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15, and the survey of portions of the easterly and westerly rights-of-way of the Montana Rail Link Railroad, through sections 2, 11, and 14 and certain parcels in Township 9 North, Range 20 West, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted December 21, 2011.

We will place a copy of the plat, in six sheets, and related field notes we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information. If the BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in six sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest. We will not officially file this plat, in six sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3.

James D. Claflin,
Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 2012-1813 Filed 1-26-12; 8:45 am]

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