

construct and operate a solution mine project in an existing deep mine located approximately 20 miles northeast of Carlsbad in Eddy County, New Mexico, in the Secretary's Potash Area.

The remaining potash left in the underground pillars and walls of the inactive workings is no longer accessible through conventional mining methods. The proposed action is to inject saline water into the mine workings and extract a mineral-rich solution. This mineral-rich solution would be pumped to the surface and transported through a series of surface pipelines to evaporation ponds. Once the solution evaporates in the ponds, the potassium-bearing salts would be harvested from the ponds and transported to a newly constructed mill for ore refinement.

The project area includes portions of the following:

#### **New Mexico Principal Meridian**

T. 19 S., R. 30 E., T. 19 S., R. 31 E., T. 20 S., R. 29 E., T. 20 S., R. 30 E., T. 20 S., R. 31 E., T. 21 S., R. 29 E., T. 21 S., R. 30 E.

Containing 38,453 acres more or less.

Eighty-two percent of the project area is on public lands managed by the BLM. There are 4,330 acres of open mine workings that are targeted for flooding and the total surface footprint of the project would range from 822 acres to 962 acres, depending on the alternative chosen. The surface footprint for the alternatives described in the draft EIS ranged from 822 acres to 907 acres. The 962-acre footprint evaluated in the final EIS is associated with Alternative D, the preferred alternative. Although it includes 55 more acres than Alternative B, evaluated in the draft and final EIS, this is not a substantial change relevant to environmental concerns because it does not result in substantially increased impacts to the environment. The surface disturbance for Alternative D represents an increase of only 6 percent over the proposed surface disturbance evaluated for Alternative B in the draft EIS and would not lead to any substantial change in impacts on water resources, ground subsidence, wildlife, vegetation, or any other environmental resource.

The BLM initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the HB In-Situ Solution Mine Project by preparing an environmental assessment (EA) in 2008. Two public scoping meetings were held on September 16, 2008, to receive public input and comments on the proposed project. During development of the EA and prior to publication, the BLM determined that the preparation of

an EIS would be required for the proposed project. The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the HB In-Situ Solution Mine Project was published in the **Federal Register** on January 12, 2010, and two public scoping meetings were conducted on January 26, 2010. A scoping report was compiled and published on April 1, 2010. Major issues identified for this project include water use, ground subsidence, and the concurrent development of oil and gas resources in the same area.

Alternatives developed include the proposed action (Alternative A), which utilizes non-potable water supplied by seven wells in the Rustler Formation. Alternative B includes six of the seven wells from the proposed action but also assumes that a substantial portion of the water needed for the project would be supplied from fresh water wells in the Caprock Formation (Ogallala Aquifer) 30 miles northeast of the project area. An alternate routing of pipelines to the Caprock is also being considered under Alternative B. Alternative C buries the pipelines to reduce surface impacts. The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published on April 15, 2011, starting a 60-day public comment period. Public scoping meetings were held in Carlsbad on May 10, 2011, and in Hobbs on May 11, 2011. Briefings were also held for several cooperating agencies. The comment period was extended by 2 weeks at the request of one of the cooperating agencies. Two hundred and seventeen unique comments were received and analyzed.

After considering the comments received on the Draft EIS, the BLM designed a preferred alternative, Alternative D, consisting of elements from the existing action alternatives. The preferred alternative includes: Using water from the southern Rustler wells only, with any shortfall made up with water from the Caprock well field; building the alternate Caprock pipeline from Alternative B to minimize impacts to sand dune lizard habitat; burying 68 percent of the pipelines in the project area including all the pipelines in the Hackberry Lake Special Recreation Management Area; increasing the size of the evaporation ponds by 60 acres; and incorporating minor changes to the power and pipeline routes to protect resources and improve efficiency.

Comments on the Draft EIS were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the proposed Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text and a preferred alternative consisting of elements from the other alternatives but did not significantly change the EIS.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10.

**Jim Stovall,**

*Field Manager, Carlsbad Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 2012-2375 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-OX-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

**[LLES956000-L19100000-BK0000-LRCMM0E0015P]**

#### **Eastern States: Filing of Plat of Survey, North Carolina**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the land described below in the BLM—Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153. Attn: Dominica Van Koten. 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:** The survey was requested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The land surveyed is:

#### **Swain County, North Carolina**

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of a portion of the 3200 acre tract, lands held in trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Swain County, in the State of North Carolina, and was accepted December 30, 2011.

We will place copies of the plats we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against a survey, as shown on the plat, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file the plat until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have

become final, including decisions on appeals.

Dated: January 30, 2012.

**Dominica Van Koten,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

[FR Doc. 2012-2424 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYP00000-L13200000-EL0000;  
WYW164812]

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Wright Area North Hilight Field Coal Lease-by-Application and Environmental Impact Statement, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the North Hilight Field Coal Lease-by-Application (LBA) included in the Wright Area Coal Lease Applications Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**ADDRESSES:** The document is available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/HighPlains/Wright-Coal.html>. Paper copies of the ROD are also available at the following BLM office locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009; and
- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming High Plains District Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathy Muller Ogle, Coal Program Coordinator, at (307) 775-6206, or Sarah Bucklin, EIS Project Manager, at (307) 261-7541. Ms. Ogle's office is located at the BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. Ms. Bucklin's office is located at the BLM High Plains District Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. 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:** The ROD covered by this Notice of Availability is for the North Hilight Field Coal Tract and addresses leasing Federal coal in Campbell County, Wyoming, administered by the BLM Wyoming High Plains District Office. The BLM approves Alternative 2, the preferred alternative for this LBA in the Wright Area Coal Final EIS. Under Alternative 2, the BLM will offer to lease the North Hilight Field Coal LBA area, as modified by the BLM. The LBA area includes approximately 4,530 acres. The BLM estimates that it contains approximately 467,596,000 tons of mineable Federal coal reserves under the selected configuration.

The BLM will announce a competitive coal lease sale in the **Federal Register** at a later date. The Environmental Protection Agency published a **Federal Register** notice announcing the Final EIS was publicly available on July 30, 2010 (75 FR 44951).

This decision is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), as provided in 43 CFR part 4, within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this NOA in the **Federal Register**. The ROD contains instructions for filing an appeal with the IBLA.

**Donald A. Simpson,**  
*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2012-2360 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-DPOL-1111-8900; 0004-SYM]

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Director's Order #79 Concerning National Park Service Policies and Procedures Governing Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to adopt a Director's Order setting forth policies and procedures that guide NPS practices to ensure the integrity of NPS scientific and scholarly activities. This NPS guidance will ensure proper application in the NPS of Department of the Interior guidance on Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities, which is found in Part 305, Chapter 3, of the Department of the Interior Manual (on the Internet

at [http://elips.doi.gov/app\\_dm/act\\_getfiles.cfm?relnum=3889](http://elips.doi.gov/app_dm/act_getfiles.cfm?relnum=3889)).

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until April 3, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Draft Director's Order #79 is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/policy/DO-79draft.pdf>. Requests for copies of, and written comments on, the draft Director's Order should be sent to Dr. Gary Machlis, Science Advisor to the Director, 1849 C Street NW., Washington DC 20240, or to his Internet address: [gary\\_machlis@nps.gov](mailto:gary_machlis@nps.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Machlis at (202) 219-8933 or John G. Dennis at (202) 513-7174 (or [john\\_dennis@nps.gov](mailto:john_dennis@nps.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Draft Director's Order #79 addresses Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct; reporting and resolving allegations regarding loss of scientific and scholarly integrity; whistleblower protections; ombudsman responsibilities; participation of NPS employees as officers or members on the board of directors of professional societies or other non-federal organizations; participation by non-NPS employees on NPS scientific and scholarly boards, panels, and advisory groups; and maintenance of a reference manual regarding integrity of scientific and scholarly activities.

#### Public Availability of Comments

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.

**Gary Machlis,**

*Science Advisor to the Director.*

[FR Doc. 2012-2437 Filed 2-2-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337-TA-777]

#### Certain Muzzle-Loading Firearms and Components Thereof Determination Not To Review an Initial Determination Terminating the Investigation

**AGENCY:** U.S. International Trade Commission.