

Dated: January 28, 2010.

Alvin Foster,

Chief Information Officer—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Mineral Exploration on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS), in accordance with Federal regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), announces the availability of two Environmental Assessments (EAs) and associated Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) prepared by MMS for oil and gas exploration activities proposed on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503–5823; or AKWebmaster@mms.gov; or 1–800–764–2627. You may view the EAs on the MMS Web site at <http://www.mms.gov/alaska>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS prepares EAs for proposals for exploration drilling to evaluate oil and gas resource potential on the Alaska OCS. The EAs examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the level and significance of those effects. The EAs are used as the basis for determining whether or not approvals of the proposals would significantly affect the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA Section 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment.

Document Number: OCS EIS/EA MMS 2009–052. *FONSI Date:* October 15, 2009. The EA evaluates the potential for significant impacts of the specific operations proposed in the Exploration Plan (EP), dated June 2009, submitted to MMS by Shell Offshore Inc. The EP is for exploratory drilling operations that would be conducted in accordance with the OCS Lands Act Amendments and

MMS operating regulations (30 CFR 250 and 30 CFR 254). Shell proposes to drill two wells located on the company's leases in the Camden Bay area of the Alaskan Beaufort Sea to evaluate the Sivulliq and Torpedo prospects. The proposed drilling locations are Lease OCS–Y–1805 (Flaxman Island block 6658) and Lease OCS–Y–1941 (Flaxman Island block 6610). Drilling operations would be conducted from the drill ship M/V *Frontier Discoverer* during the July–October 2010 open-water period. Shell's proposal includes suspending all operations and removal of the drill ship and support vessels from the area beginning August 25 until completion of fall subsistence bowhead whaling by the Native Villages of Kaktovik and Nuiqsut, Alaska. Information about the methods by which the exploration activities would be conducted is detailed in the EP and the associated Environmental Impact Analysis and Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan.

OCS EIS/EA MMS 2009–061. *FONSI Date:* December 7, 2009. The EA evaluates the potential for significant impacts of the specific drilling operations proposed in Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc.'s Exploration Plan (EP), dated July 2009; deemed submitted October 20, 2009. The EP is for exploratory drilling operations that would be conducted in accordance with the OCS Lands Act Amendments and MMS operating regulations (30 CFR 250 and 30 CFR 254). Shell proposes to drill up to three wells at five potential drill sites on the company's leases in the Alaskan Chukchi Sea to evaluate the Burger, Crackerjack, and SW Shoebill prospects. The potential drill sites are on Lease OCS–Y–2280 (Posey block 6764), Lease OCS–Y–2267 (Posey block 6714), Lease OCS–Y–2321 (Posey block 6912), Lease OCS–Y–2111 (Karo block 6864), and Lease OCS–Y–2142 (Karo block 7007). Drilling operations would be conducted from the drill ship M/V *Frontier Discoverer* during the July–October 2010 open-water period. Information about the methods by which the exploration activities would be conducted is detailed in the EP and in the associated Environmental Impact Analysis and Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan.

Dated: January 26, 2010.

Jeffery Loman,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 47740, LLCAD07000, L51030000.FX0000, LVRAB109AA01]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment for the Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two Project and Possible California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment, and Staff Assessment (SA) as a joint environmental analysis document for the Stirling Energy Systems (SES) Solar Two Project and by this notice are announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft EIS/SA within 90 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 SES Solar Two Project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo/index.html>
- *E-mail:* Cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us
- *Fax:* (818) 597–8001
- *Mail or other delivery service:*

Christopher Meyer, Project Manager, Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street, MS–15, Sacramento, California, 95814.

Copies of the SES Solar Two Draft EIS/SA are available from the CEC at the above address and in the BLM El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, California, 92243.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Jim Stobaugh, BLM Project Manager, by telephone at (775) 861–6478; through mail at Bureau of Land Management,

P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520; or by e-mail at Jim_Stobaugh@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SES has submitted an application to the BLM for development of the proposed SES Solar Two Project, a concentrated solar electrical generating facility capable of generating 750 megawatts of renewable power. The entire project encompasses approximately 6,144 acres of BLM-managed lands. The project site is in Imperial County, California, approximately four miles east of Ocotillo and 14 miles west of El Centro. Generally, the site is bounded on the north by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System/San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway and on the south by Interstate 8. The eastern boundary is approximately 1.5 miles west of Dunaway Road and the western boundary is the westerly section line in Section 22 in Township 16 South, Range 12 East. An additional 110-acre construction area is proposed east of Dunaway Road.

SES proposes to use SunCatcher technology on the site. A SunCatcher is a 25-kilowatt solar dish designed to automatically track the sun and collect and focus solar energy onto a power conversion unit (PCU), which generates electricity. The system consists of a 38-foot high by 40-foot wide solar concentrator in a dish structure that supports an array of curved glass mirror facets. These mirrors collect and concentrate solar energy onto the solar receiver of the PCU.

The project also includes an electrical transmission line, water supply pipeline, and an access road. A new 230-kilovolt (kV) substation would be constructed in approximately the center of the project site near a main services complex that is also part of the proposal. The substation would be connected to the existing San Diego Gas and Electric Imperial Valley Substation by about a 10.3-mile long, double-circuit 230 kV transmission line. Approximately 7.6 miles of this new line would be outside the project area but is included in the analysis. The transmission line would require the use of approximately 92 acres.

The BLM's purpose and need for the Solar Two project is to respond to SES' application under Title V of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1761) for a right-of-way (ROW) grant to construct, operate, and decommission a solar thermal facility on public lands in compliance with FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable Federal laws. The BLM will decide whether to approve, approve with modification, or deny a ROW grant to SES for the proposed Solar Two

project. The BLM will also consider amending the CDCA Plan in this analysis. The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), while recognizing the potential compatibility of solar generation facilities on public lands, requires that all sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in that plan be considered through the plan amendment process. If the BLM decides to grant a ROW, the BLM would also amend the CDCA Plan as required.

In the draft EIS analysis, the BLM's proposed action is to authorize the SES Solar Two project and approve a CDCA Plan amendment in response to the application received from SES. In addition to the proposed action, the BLM is analyzing the following action alternatives:

- Authorize the proposed action;
 - Authorize a smaller 300 MW alternative and amend the CDCA Plan;
 - Authorize the project as described in the Drainage Avoidance #1 alternative that may reduce impacts to primary water drainages of the U.S. and amend the CDCA Plan; and
 - Authorize the project as described in the more restrictive Drainage Avoidance #2 alternative that may substantially reduce impacts in eastern and western high flow water drainages of the U.S. and amend the CDCA Plan.
- As required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and NEPA, the EIS analyzes three no action alternatives:
- Deny the application and not amend the CDCA Plan;
 - Deny the project but amend the CDCA Plan to allow other solar energy power generation projects on the project site; and
 - Deny the project and amend the CDCA Plan to prohibit solar energy power generation projects on the project site.

The BLM will take into consideration the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Secretarial Orders 3283 *Enhancing Renewable Energy Development on the Public Lands* and 3285 *Renewable Energy Development by the Department of the Interior* in responding to the SES application.

The BLM has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CEC to conduct a joint environmental review of solar thermal projects that are proposed on Federal land managed by the BLM with the CEC as the lead agency preparing the environmental documents. The BLM and CEC have agreed through the MOU to conduct joint environmental review of the project in a single combined NEPA/CEQA process and document. In

addition, the BLM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) entered into an MOU to formalize the Corps as a Federal cooperating agency in developing the EIS. The BLM and CEC, in coordination with the Corps, have prepared the Draft EIS/SA evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed Solar Two Project on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, land use, noise, paleontological resources, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other resources. The Corps requirements under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines are to identify and authorize only the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative which maximizes avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources of the U.S. The Corps and the applicant are working with the BLM and CEC to identify the project proposal that would reasonably comply with the Corps' requirements under the CWA and 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The applicant has applied to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a loan guarantee under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended by Section 406 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5. Should the DOE decide to enter into negotiation of a possible loan guarantee with the applicant, the DOE would become a cooperating agency in developing the final EIS. A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/SA and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed SES Solar Two Project in Imperial County, California was published October 17, 2008 (see 73 FR 61902). The BLM held two public scoping meetings in El Centro, California, on November 24 and December 18, 2008. The formal scoping period ended January 2, 2009.

Please note that public comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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; 40 CFR 1506.10; and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Vicki L. Wood,

Field Manager, El Centro Field Office.

[FR Doc. 2010-3374 Filed 2-18-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLAKA01200.L12200000.DP0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan for the Campbell Tract Facility, Anchorage, AK

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office intends to amend the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan (RMP) to address the 730-acre Campbell Tract Facility administrative site and Special Recreation Management Area in Anchorage, Alaska. The site is currently managed under the 1988 *Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility*. The amendment will be supported by an Environmental Assessment (EA).

DATES: The BLM will announce the opening of a 30-day public comment period and the scheduling of any public scoping meetings in Anchorage through local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.blm.gov/ak>) at least 15 days prior to the meetings. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public comment after publication of the draft amendment and EA.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/ak>.
- *E-mail:* ak_ctf_amend@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* (907) 267-1267.
- *Mail:* BLM Anchorage Field Office,

Attention—Campbell Tract Facility Amendment, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information and/or to have your name added to the mail list, contact Jeff Kowalczyk (jkowalczyk@blm.gov) at (907) 267-1459.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM-administered Campbell Tract Facility is

located in south-central Alaska, within the Municipality of Anchorage. This planning activity encompasses approximately 730 acres of public land in the Ring of Fire planning area. The BLM released the Ring of Fire RMP Record of Decision (ROD) in March 2008. The ROD specified that management of the Campbell Tract Facility administrative site would continue to be guided by the 1988 *Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* and any updates to the plan.

The BLM intends to amend the Ring of Fire RMP and revise the 1988 Campbell Tract Facility management plan. A revised Campbell Tract Facility management plan will analyze and provide new management decisions for this site. Management decisions shall be consistent with public land orders for the administrative withdrawal of the area. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and BLM management policies. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The preliminary issues and opportunities to be addressed by this planning effort are increased annual visitation, commercial use, on-going trail maintenance, potential for development of administrative facilities, public safety, the expanding role of environmental education, and optimizing outcome-focused management for recreation planning.

The plan amendment and EA will—

- Determine which types of commercial uses, if any, will be authorized within the four management areas on the Campbell Tract Facility: airstrip, science center, administrative buildings, and the Special Recreation Management Area designated by the 1985 Recreation Action Plan;
- Develop a Special Recreation Management Area plan for the Campbell Tract Facility in accordance with Appendix C of the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-01);
- Identify development needs for the existing Campbell Airstrip corridor and for aviation and emergency management;
- Decide whether administrative facilities are sufficient for current and future operations;
- Identify reasonable management actions for addressing trail/user conflicts;

- Decide whether additional special rules are necessary; and

- Determine what ongoing maintenance to facilities and trails is appropriate.

Preliminary planning criteria include the following:

1. The BLM manages public lands under the principles of multiple use/sustained yield as set forth in FLPMA;

2. The plan amendment will address surface acres administered by the BLM at Campbell Tract Facility;

3. Decisions will be limited to those related to the four existing management areas: airstrip, science center, administrative buildings, and the Special Recreation Management Area;

4. Valid existing rights will be protected throughout the planning area;

5. Established and current agreements will remain in effect;

6. Plans and policies of adjacent land owners/managers will be considered;

7. The BLM will encourage and participate in collaborative planning;

8. The BLM will comply with all relevant laws, statutes, regulations, manuals, and handbooks;

9. This planning effort will conform to NEPA, FLPMA, the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable BLM policies;

10. The plan will be consistent with the BLM Alaska Land Health Standards; and

11. The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach while developing the plan to ensure consideration of the variety of resource issues and concerns identified.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to identify relevant issues and planning criteria that will guide the planning process and influence the EA's scope and alternatives. You may submit comments in writing to the BLM at the public scoping meeting or by the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal 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.

Thomas P. Lonnie,
State Director.

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