

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

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**Notice of Realty Action: Land Sale Segregation; Arizona**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes a noncompetitive (direct) sale of 20 acres to the City of Apache Junction (City) in accordance with the applicable provisions of Sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the BLM land sale regulations. Since the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) does not authorize uses aimed predominately at producing revenue or where the principal use is a commercial activity, the City would like to further develop and operate the land through a direct sale. The appraised Fair Market Value (FMV) of the parcel is \$1,400,000.

**DATES:** Submit written comments regarding this direct sale on or before October 3, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Ryan Randell, Realty Specialist, at the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office, 21605 N 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85027. Comments may also be faxed to (623) 580-5580 or emailed to [BLM\\_AZ\\_PDO@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AZ_PDO@blm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ryan Randell, Realty Specialist, telephone (623) 580-5533, email: [rrandell@blm.gov](mailto:rrandell@blm.gov); or you may contact the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office at the above listed address. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The land of the R&PP lease has been developed by the City into a rodeo ground arena and the City hosts multiple municipal events annually in compliance with the approved R&PP lease plan of development.

On December 6, 1966, a **Federal Register** notice segregated the described land from all forms of disposal under the public land laws, including the

mining laws, except applications under the State Indemnity Act and the R&PP Act.

On February 19, 1982, the BLM issued the Apache Junction Jaycees a lease under the R&PP Act for a rodeo ground arena. On July 23, 1986, the lease was assigned to the City, which has since successfully developed, maintained, and operated the lease as a rodeo ground.

The City has shown interest in using the land for activities that include third-party concessions and other commercial activities. This land is being offered for direct sale to the City at no less than the appraised FMV.

The public land was examined and identified as suitable for sale and is legally described as:

**Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona**

T. 1 N., R. 8 E.,

Sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 20 acres, according to the official plat of survey on file with the BLM.

This public land is identified and designated for disposal in the Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan (RMP), dated September 2012.

The land meets the criteria for direct sale under 43 CFR 2711.3-3(a): "Direct sales may be utilized, when in the opinion of the Authorized Officer, a competitive sale is not appropriate, and the public interest would best be served by a direct sale." Disposal is consistent with Section 203(a)(3) of the FLPMA, which states "Disposal of such tract will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to expansion of communities and economic development . . ." Additionally, the land meets the criteria for the conveyance of a mineral interest under 43 CFR 2720.0-3(a), which states "Section 209(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1719(b), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey mineral interests owned by the United States where the surface is or will be in non-Federal ownership, if certain specific conditions are met." The BLM may convey a Federally owned mineral interest only when the authorized officer determines that it has no known mineral value, or that the mineral reservation is interfering with or precluding appropriate nonmineral development of the land and that nonmineral development is a more beneficial use than mineral development.

The BLM will prepare a parcel-specific National Environmental Policy Act analysis in connection with this notice.

The property will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, except as it relates to direct sale to the City as herein proposed. The segregative effect will terminate upon issuance of a patent, by publication in the **Federal Register** of a termination of the segregation, or two years after publication of this notice, whichever occurs first.

On October 18, 2022, the portion of the R&PP Act classification identified above and any associated segregations will be terminated, and the land described above shall be open to direct sale to the City in accordance with the RMP. The proposed sale would be conducted in accordance with Section 203 & 209 of the FLPMA, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals and other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable public land laws.

The patent, if issued, will contain the following reservations, covenants, terms, and conditions:

1. Rights-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States will be reserved pursuant to the Act of August 30, 1890.

2. The conveyance will be subject to valid existing rights of record, including, but not limited to, those documented on the BLM public land records at the time of conveyance of the land.

3. The conveyance will also be subject to additional terms and conditions that the authorized officer deems appropriate to ensure proper land use and protection of the public interest.

Interested parties will receive a copy of this notice once it is published in the **Federal Register**, and the BLM will publish a legal notice in the newspaper of local circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks with information about this proposed realty action.

**Comments:** Interested persons may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed and whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in this action, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the BLM Arizona State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in any comment, be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While

you may 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: 43 CFR 2710 & 2720)

**Leon Thomas,**

*District Manager, Phoenix District.*

[FR Doc. 2022–17928 Filed 8–18–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–32–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2022–0040]

#### Request for Interest (RFI) in Commercial Leasing for Wind Energy Development on the Gulf of Maine Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Request for interest and comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issues this RFI to assess interest in, and to invite public comment on, possible commercial wind energy leasing on the Gulf of Maine OCS. BOEM will consider information received in response to this RFI to determine whether to schedule a competitive lease sale or to issue a noncompetitive lease for any portion of the area described in this RFI (RFI Area). Those interested in leasing within the RFI Area for a commercial wind energy project should provide detailed and specific information described in the section of this RFI entitled “Required Information for Indication of Commercial Interest.” BOEM also invites all interested and potentially affected parties to comment and provide information—including information on environmental issues and concerns—that may be useful in the consideration of the RFI Area for commercial wind energy leases. Developers and those interested in providing public comments and information regarding site conditions, resources, and multiple uses in close proximity to, or within, the RFI Area should provide information requested in the section of this RFI entitled “Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties.” BOEM will process the information received in response to this RFI to determine if there is competitive interest to develop renewable energy on the OCS,

understand ocean uses, identify conflicts, and deconflict, as appropriate. See the section of this RFI entitled “BOEM’s Planning and Leasing Process.”

**DATES:** Submissions indicating your interest in or providing comments on commercial leasing within the RFI Area must be received no later than October 3, 2022. BOEM may not consider late submissions.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit indications of interest electronically via email to [renewableenergy@boem.gov](mailto:renewableenergy@boem.gov) or hard copy by mail to the following address: Zachary Jylkka, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop: VAM–OREP, Sterling, VA 20166. If you elect to mail a hard copy, also include an electronic copy on a portable storage device. BOEM will list the parties that submit indications of competitive interest within the RFI Area on the BOEM website after it has reviewed the qualification documents of each entity indicating interest.

Please submit comments and other information as listed in the section entitled “Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties” by either of the following two methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry entitled, “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM–2022–0040 and then click “search.” Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice.

2. *By mail to the following address:* Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop: VAM–OREP, Sterling, VA 20166.

Treatment of confidential information is addressed in the section of this notice entitled, “Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information.” BOEM will post all comments on [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) unless labeled as confidential.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Zachary Jylkka, BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, VAM–OREP, Sterling, Virginia 20166, (978) 491–7732, or [zachary.jylkka@boem.gov](mailto:zachary.jylkka@boem.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Authority

This RFI is published under subsection 8(p)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3), as well as the

implementing regulations at 30 CFR 585.210.

## 2. Purpose

Subsection 8(p)(3) of OCSLA requires BOEM to offer leases competitively, unless BOEM determines that there is no competitive interest. This RFI is a preliminary step to assist BOEM in determining potential interest in offshore wind energy development in the RFI Area. If, following this RFI, BOEM determines that there is competitive interest in any portion of the RFI Area, BOEM may proceed with the competitive leasing process under 30 CFR 585.211 through 585.225. If, following this RFI, BOEM determines that there is no competitive interest in the RFI Area, BOEM may proceed with the noncompetitive leasing process under 30 CFR 585.232. Whether any leasing process is competitive or noncompetitive, BOEM will provide opportunities for the public to provide input.

Additionally, as part of any leasing process, BOEM will conduct a thorough environmental review and requisite consultations with appropriate Federal agencies, federally recognized Tribes, State and local governments, and other interested parties, which will be conducted in conformance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Parties other than those interested in obtaining a commercial lease are welcome to submit comments in response to this RFI.

Concurrent with this notice, BOEM is publishing in the **Federal Register** a Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI) in response to the State of Maine’s proposed OCS lease for wind energy research submitted to BOEM in October 2021 [Docket No. BOEM–2022–0041]. The RFCI specifies information that is required to be submitted by entities wishing to acquire a commercial lease within the RFCI area.

## 3. Description of the Request for Interest Area

BOEM determined the RFI Area after engaging with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the States of New Hampshire and Maine, and with the Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, which included opportunities for public input during its meetings. This RFI Area consists of 13,713,825 acres located off the coasts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine (see Figure 1).