

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Office of Acquisition and Property Management.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior announces the proposed extension of an information collection required by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-45 (Revised): "Private Rental Survey," OMB Control No. 1084-0033, and that it is seeking comments on its provisions. After public review, the Office of the Secretary will submit the information collection to OMB for review and approval.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 1, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Secretary Information Collection Budget Officer, Rachel Drucker, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., MS 116 SIB, Washington, DC 20240, or by e-mail to [Rachel\\_Drucker@nbc.gov](mailto:Rachel_Drucker@nbc.gov). Individuals providing comments should reference OMB control number 1084-0033, "Private Rental Survey."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instrument, please write or e-mail Lavera Hamidi, Mail Stop 2607, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, [Lavera\\_Hamidi@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Lavera_Hamidi@ios.doi.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)). This notice identifies an information collection activity that the Office of the Secretary will submit to OMB for extension or re-approval.

Public Law 88-459 authorizes Federal agencies to provide housing for

Government employees under specified circumstances. In compliance with OMB Circular A-45 (Revised), Rental and Construction of Government Quarters, a review of private rental market housing rates is required at least once every 5 years to ensure that the rental, utility charges, and charges for related services to occupants of Government Furnished Housing (GFH) are comparable to corresponding charges in the private sector. To avoid unnecessary duplication and inconsistent rental rates, the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, National Business Center, conducts housing surveys in support of employee housing management programs for the Departments of the Interior (DOI), Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Justice, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs. In this survey, two collection forms are used: OS-2000, covering "Houses—Apartments—Mobile Homes" and OS-2001, covering "Trailer Spaces."

This collection of information provides data that helps DOI and the other Federal agencies to manage GFH in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-45 (Revised). If this information were not collected from the public, DOI and the other Federal agencies required to provide GFH would be required to use professional appraisals of open market rental costs for GFH, again, in accordance with OMB Circular A-45.

##### II. Data

(1) *Title:* Private Rental Survey.  
*OMB Control Number:* 1084-0033.  
*Current Expiration Date:* 07/31/2010.  
*Type of Review:* Information Collection: Renewal.

*Affected Entities:* Individuals or households, Businesses and other for-profit institutions.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* OS-2000: 3,841; OS-2001: 200; Total: 4,041.

*Frequency of response:* Ranges from 1 to 2.1 per respondent every fourth year.

**Note:** Three or four of 15 total survey regions are surveyed every year. Therefore each respondent may be potentially be surveyed every fourth year, if an individual respondent lives in the same unit, or if an individual business is a significant rental property owner or rental property manager in the community.

(2) Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden.

*Estimated burden per response:* OS-2000: 12 minutes; OS-2001: 10 minutes.

*Total annual reporting:* OS-2000: 768 hours; OS-2001: 33 hours, Total: 801 hours.

(3) *Description of the need and use of the information:* This information collection provides the data that enables DOI to determine open market rental costs for GFH. These rates, in turn, enable DOI and other Federal agencies to set GFH rental rates in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-45 (Revised).

##### III. Request for Comments

The Department of the Interior invites comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

All written comments will be available for public inspection in the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC, during normal business hours, excluding legal holidays. For an appointment to inspect comments, please contact Rachel Drucker by telephone on (202) 208-3568, or by e-mail at [Rachel\\_Drucker@nbc.gov](mailto:Rachel_Drucker@nbc.gov), to make an appointment. A valid picture identification is required for entry into the Department of the Interior.

Dated: March 29, 2010.

**Debra E. Sonderman,**

*Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 48254, LLCAD08000L5101  
FX0000LVRWB09B2410]

#### **Notice of Availability of the Draft Granite Mountain Wind, LLC Wind Energy Generation Project Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report, California, and the Draft 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 of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with the County of San Bernardino, has prepared a Draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Granite Mountain Wind Energy Generation Project and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

**DATES:** To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft EIS/EIR 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, or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the proposed Granite Mountain Wind Energy Generation Project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>.

- *E-mail:*

[GraniteWindProject@blm.gov](mailto:GraniteWindProject@blm.gov).

- *Fax:* (760) 252-6099.

- *Mail:* Edythe Seehafer, BLM Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, California 92311.

Copies of the Draft CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft EIS/EIR for the proposed Granite Mountain Wind Energy Generation Project are available in the Barstow Field Office at the above address; copies are also available at the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>; the BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825; County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, California 92415 and County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department, 15456 West Sage Street, Victorville, California 92392. Electronic (CD-ROM) or paper copies may also be obtained by contacting Edythe Seehafer at (760) 252-6021 or by e-mailing your request to [GraniteWindProject@blm.gov](mailto:GraniteWindProject@blm.gov) and including your name and mailing address.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Edythe Seehafer, telephone (760) 252-6021; address BLM Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, California 92311; e-mail

[GraniteWindProject@blm.gov](mailto:GraniteWindProject@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Granite Wind LLC has applied to the BLM under Title V of the FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1761) for authorization of a right-of-way (ROW) on BLM managed lands to construct, operate, and decommission a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure in compliance with FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable Federal laws. The BLM will decide whether to approve, approve with modification, or deny issuance of a ROW authorization to Granite Wind LLC for the proposed Granite Mountain Wind Energy Project. Pursuant to the BLM's CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the CDCA Plan will be considered through the plan amendment process; the BLM will also decide whether the project site itself is suitable or unsuitable for wind energy generation.

The Project is proposed on approximately 2,086 acres of public lands administered by the BLM's Barstow Field Office and 670 acres of private lands under the jurisdiction of the County of San Bernardino. Total disturbance for the project and ancillary facilities would be approximately 200 acres, of which approximately 90 acres would be long-term disturbance (for the life of operations). The Project would include the installation of up to twenty-eight 2.3-megawatt (MW) Siemens wind turbines (or a similar model of wind turbine with a 2.1 to 3 MW capacity). At full capacity, the proposed project is

anticipated to produce approximately 185,000 MW-hours per year.

#### *Alternatives include:*

- A no action (no project) alternative with a plan amendment making the project area unavailable to wind energy projects;

- A no action (no project) alternative with a plan amendment making the project area available to other wind energy projects;

- The proposed action, including a plan amendment making the project area available for wind energy generation and providing for a portion of a new 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to occur outside of a utility corridor;

- A modified proposed action to access the site from the east instead of the west to minimize visual impacts from the project and to mitigate biological impacts to Bendire's Thrasher, a BLM sensitive bird species; and

- A modified proposed action that would interconnect to the transmission grid at an alternative location further east that would minimize impacts to an active golden eagle nest.

The proposed towers would be up to 262 feet tall. The turbine blades would extend an additional 166 feet for a total height of up to 428 feet above the ground. Twenty of the wind turbines would be located on Federal lands administered by the BLM, and eight would be on adjacent private land within unincorporated San Bernardino County. The proposed project would require the construction of a new access road; an on-site electrical switchyard; an overhead transmission line; a small operations and maintenance building; a temporary construction office; temporary facilities including a cement mixing facility, asphalt batch plant, and construction staging areas; and an electrical substation for interconnection to the Southern California Edison 230 kV transmission system. Each wind turbine would have a pad-mounted transformer located beside the wind turbine tower, a maintenance road, and underground electrical and communication lines. Two permanent meteorological towers would be installed to measure wind speed and direction across the site and control the turbines. The proposed project is expected to have an operating lifetime of 25-30 years.

A Notice of Intent for this project was published in the **Federal Register** on December 6, 2007 (72 FR 68894). This was followed by a 30-day public scoping period, which was extended upon the request of San Bernardino County. This extension ended on May 5,