

evaluating the adequacy of all water conservation plans developed by project contractors, including those plans required by section 210 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.” Also, according to Section 3405(e)(1), these criteria must be developed “* * * with the purpose of promoting the highest level of water use efficiency reasonably achievable by project contractors using best available cost-effective technology and best management practices.” These criteria state that all parties (Contractors) that contract with Reclamation for water supplies (municipal and industrial contracts over 2,000 acre-feet and agricultural contracts over 2,000 irrigable acres) must prepare Plans that contain the following information:

1. Description of the District
2. Inventory of Water Resources
3. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Agricultural Contractors
4. BMPs for Urban Contractors
5. Plan Implementation
6. Exemption Process
7. Regional Criteria
8. Five-Year Revisions

Reclamation will evaluate Plans based on these criteria. A copy of these Plans will be available for review at Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific (MP) Regional Office located in Sacramento, California, and the local area office. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, 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.

If you wish to review a copy of these Plans, please contact Ms. Christy Ritenour to find the office nearest you.

Dated: September 22, 2010.

Richard J. Woodley,
Regional Resources Manager, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement

Environmental Documents Prepared in Support of Oil and Gas Activities on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Recent Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact Prepared by the BOEMRE.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations on NEPA (43 CFR part 46), BOEMRE

announces the availability of Environmental Assessments (EA) and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared for two oil and gas activities proposed on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and described in more detail below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffery Loman, Deputy Regional Director, BOEMRE, Alaska OCS Region, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823; telephone 1-800-764-2627; e-mail AKwebmaster@boemre.gov. *EA Availability:* To obtain a copy of an EA and/or FONSI, you may contact BOEMRE or visit the BOEMRE Web site at <http://alaska.boemre.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BOEMRE prepares EAs that examine the potential environmental effects of proposals for activities to evaluate oil and gas resource potential on the Alaska OCS. Each EA examines the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and presents BOEMRE 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 BOEMRE finds that approval of the proposals will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment.

This notice constitutes the notice of availability to the public of the following environmental documents:

Project name	Location	Project purpose	FONSI
Shell Exploration & Production, Ancillary Activities, Marine Surveys OCS EIS/EA MMS 2010-022.	Beaufort Sea, Alaska	Conduct Ancillary activities	7/12/2010
Statoil USA E&P Inc. 2010 Seismic Survey OCS EIS/EA BOEMRE 2010-020.	Chukchi Sea, Alaska	Conduct 2D/3D Seismic Surveys ..	7/23/2010

BOEMRE has concluded that the respective proposed actions will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that the preparation of EISs is not required. Mitigation measures identified during the NEPA process will be applied for each proposal to ensure environmental protection and safety.

Dated: October 20, 2010.

John Goll,
Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region.
[FR Doc. 2010-28783 Filed 11-15-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-R-2010-N257; 60138-1265-6CCP-S3]

South Dakota Prairie Winds Project; Partial Term Relinquishment and Release of Easement for Wind Energy Development; Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: *Notice of availability:* Record of decision.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a record of decision (ROD) for the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on the South Dakota Prairie Winds Project issued by the Department of Energy’s Western Area Power Administration (Western), and the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations, the Service participated as a cooperating agency in

the preparation and release of the FEIS. The purpose of this ROD is to document the Service's decision to release and relinquish certain easement rights for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed wind energy generation facilities on lands in Aurora County and Brule County, South Dakota, on which the Service holds an easement for waterfowl habitat protection. The action selected by the Service corresponds with the proposed alternative of the FEIS.

DATES: The Regional Director of the Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, signed the ROD on November 5, 2010. We will implement the ROD immediately upon publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the ROD/FEIS by any of the following methods:

Web Site: Download a copy of the document(s) at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/SDPrairieWinds>.

E-mail: Michael_J_Bryant@fws.gov. Include "South Dakota Prairie Winds Project" in the subject line of the message.

U.S. Mail: Michael Bryant, Project Leader, Lake Andes NWR Complex, 38672 291st St., Lake Andes, SD 57356.

In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call Project Leader Michael Bryant, Lake Andes NWR Complex, at 605 487-7603 to make an appointment during regular business hours at Lake Andes NWR Complex, 38672 291st St., Lake Andes, SD 57356.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Project Leader Michael Bryant, Lake Andes NWR Complex, 38672 291st St., Lake Andes, SD 57356; 605 487-7603 (phone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With this notice, we finalize the Service's portion of the NEPA (42 U.S.C. *et seq.*) process for the South Dakota Prairie Winds (SDPW) Project. Western and RUS issued the FEIS on the SDPW Project in response to a request from Prairie Winds, SD1, Incorporated (PW SD1), a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric (Basin), to interconnect with the transmission system owned and operated by Western. Basin has requested financing for the project from the RUS. PW SD1 has also submitted an application to the Service to locate a portion of the project (6 out of 108 turbines) on lands on which the Service holds an easement for waterfowl habitat protection (grassland easement). The application required an action on the part of the Service. The Service participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS by providing Western and RUS with resource impact

information, maps, and site locations of waterfowl habitat easement properties within the project area. The Departments of Energy and Agriculture published the notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the SDPW Project and to conduct scoping meetings on April 7, 2009 (74 FR 15718), in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS was released to the public and public comments were solicited in an Environmental Protection Agency notice of availability in the **Federal Register** notice on January 15, 2010 (75 FR 2540). The notice of availability of the Final EIS was published in a **Federal Register** Notice on July 30, 2010 (75 FR 44951).

Background

The purpose of the SDPW Project is to develop a technically feasible and economically viable wind-powered electrical generation resource using identified wind resources in Jerauld, Aurora, and Brule Counties in South Dakota. The project is designed to meet a portion of the projected increase in regional demands for electricity produced from renewable resources. Several States within Basin Electric's service territory, including Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, have adopted Renewable Energy Objectives (REOs) that require renewable generation to meet a certain percentage of retail sales. The REOs adopted in the various States include both mandatory and voluntary goals that range from 10 to 25 percent of energy production to be generated or procured from an eligible energy technology by a specified deadline. Deadlines for compliance range from 2015 to 2025.

Public Involvement

Western and RUS employed various methods to provide information to the public and solicit input. The Agencies invited Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; Basin Electric; and other interested groups and persons to participate in defining the scope of the EIS. Venues for participation included two scoping meetings on April 28 and April 29, 2009, and one interagency meeting.

In addition to receiving comments at meetings, the agencies invited interested individuals to submit written comments via mail, fax, e-mail and/or the project website. The agencies continue to invite public input on the implementation of the ROD, which is available immediately.

Findings and Basis for Decision

Upon careful consideration of concerns and issues, Service guidelines and other appropriate laws and

regulations, and with consideration for the need for and alternatives to this project, the Service has decided to accept the Crow Lake Alternative (Preferred Alternative) and release and relinquish certain easement rights for the construction, operation, and maintenance of proposed wind energy generation facilities on impacted lands in Aurora County and Brule County, South Dakota, on which the Service holds an Easement for Waterfowl Habitat Protection. Specifically, the Service will release and relinquish certain easement rights on 25.65 acres of land protected by grassland easement in exchange for easements of equal or greater habitat and monetary value on currently unprotected lands elsewhere.

The alternatives for the Prairie Winds Project are described in detail in the EIS. Alternatives that were developed were: No Action Alternative (*i.e.*, wind turbines would have to be sited on lands not encumbered with Service easements, or the project would not be built); the Winner Alternative, which would involve the installation of wind turbines on 261 acres within an area of approximately 83,000 acres containing no Service easements; and the Crow Lake Alternative (Preferred Alternative), which would involve the installation of wind turbines on 131 acres within an area of approximately 36,000 acres. The primary basis for selection of the Crow Lake Alternative over the Winner Alternative was the greater overall habitat impacts, including impacts to the endangered American burying beetle, associated with the Winner Alternative.

The ROD documents the measures adopted to minimize the environmental impacts of the SDPW Project, including the acquisition of replacement acres; the preparation of a decommission plan; the requirement of a letter of credit to guarantee financing of the decommission plan; and the implementation of measures to protect wetlands and grassland-dependent wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, and threatened and endangered species.

The development of the South Dakota Prairie Winds Project EIS and this decision are guided by, and authorized under, several laws, regulations, and Service policies, described as follows: The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, requires environmental analysis of actions proposed by Federal agencies. The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA at 40 CFR 1501.6 provide for the participation of another Federal action agency as a cooperating agency in the development of an Environmental Assessment or

Environmental Impact Statement. In this instance, the Service has elected to be a Cooperating Agency to the Western and the RUS. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended, provides for the conservation and recovery of listed species of plants and animals native to the United States and its territories. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking of any migratory birds without authorization from the Secretary of the Interior. The regulations of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1997, 16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee, require uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System (System) to be compatible.

Dated: November 5, 2010.

Stephen Guertin,

Regional Director, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 2010-28934 Filed 11-15-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Western and Central Planning Areas, Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Oil and Gas Lease Sales for the 2007-2012 5-Year OCS Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), Interior.

ACTION: Correction—Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. This Notice corrects clerical errors in a Notice that published in the **Federal Register** on November 10, 2010 (75 FR 69122).

1. Authority

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (1988)).

2. Purpose of the Notice of Intent

BOEMRE is announcing its intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the remaining Western Planning Area (WPA) and Central Planning Area (CPA) lease sales in the 2007-2012 5-Year OCS

Program. The proposed sales are in the Gulf of Mexico's WPA off the States of Texas and Louisiana and in the CPA off the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The SEIS will update the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2007-2012; WPA Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218; CPA Sales 205, 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222, Final Environmental Impact Statement (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007-018) (Multisale EIS), the NOI for which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2006 (Vol. 71, No. 44, Page 11444). The SEIS will also update the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the GOM OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2009-2012; CPA Sales 208, 213, 216, and 222; WPA Sales 210, 215, and 218; Final SEIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-041), the NOI for which was published in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2007 (Vol. 72, No. 174, Page 51654). The SEIS for 2009-2012 was prepared after the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (Pub. L. 109-432, December 20, 2006) required BOEMRE to offer approximately 5.8 million acres in the CPA ("181 South Area") for oil and gas leasing, "as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act."

A SEIS is deemed appropriate to supplement the NEPA documents cited above for these lease sales to consider new circumstances and information arising, among other things, from the *Deepwater Horizon* blowout and spill. The SEIS analysis will focus on updating the baseline conditions and potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the WPA and CPA. The SEIS will also inform future decisions regarding the approval of operations, as well as leasing.

Scoping Process:

Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties may assist BOEMRE in determining the significant issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the SEIS. Early planning and consultation is important for ensuring that all interests and concerns are communicated to the Department of the Interior for future decisions in the leasing process pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and regulations at 30 CFR 256. At a minimum, alternatives that will be considered for the sales are no action (*i.e.*, cancel the sale) or to exclude certain areas from the sales. Input is requested on additional measures (*e.g.*, technology or water depth limitations) that would maximize avoidance and minimize impacts to environmental

and socioeconomic resources. Formal consultation with other Federal agencies, the affected States, and the public will be carried out during the NEPA process and will be completed before a final decision is made on the lease sales.

For more information on the proposed sales or the SEIS, you may contact Mr. Gary Goeke, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Mail Stop 5410, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 or by calling (504) 736-3233.

3. Description of the Area

The CPA sale area covers approximately 66.45 million acres in 12,409 blocks in the Central portion of GOM (excluding blocks that were previously included within the Eastern Planning Area (EPA) and that are within 100 miles of the Florida coast; or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap). The general area proposed for sale in the WPA covers approximately 28.57 million acres in 5,240 blocks in the western portion of the GOM (excluding whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary). A map is available on the BOEMRE Web site at http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/mau_gom_pa.pdf.

4. Cooperating Agency

The BOEMRE invites other Federal agencies and State, tribal, and local governments to consider becoming cooperating agencies in the preparation of the SEIS. Following the guidelines from the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), qualified agencies and governments are those with "jurisdiction by law or special expertise." Potential cooperating agencies should consider their authority and capacity to assume the responsibilities of a cooperating agency and to remember that an agency's role in the environmental analysis neither enlarges nor diminishes the final decisionmaking authority of any other agency involved in the NEPA process.

Upon request, BOEMRE will provide potential cooperating agencies with an information package with a draft Memorandum of Agreement that includes a schedule with critical action dates and milestones, mutual responsibilities, designated points of contact, and expectations for handling predecisional information. Agencies should also consider the "Factors for Determining Cooperating Agency Status" in Attachment 1 to CEQ's January 30, 2002, Memorandum for the