

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Indian Affairs****Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 1813, Draft Report to Congress**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Publication of Draft Report to Congress.

**SUMMARY:** Section 1813 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–58) requires the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy (Departments) to jointly conduct a study of issues related to energy rights-of-way (ROWs) on tribal lands. The Act further directs the Departments to submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study. The Draft Report to Congress is available for review on the Section 1813 Web site (<http://1813.anl.gov>).

The Departments will hold several meetings to receive comments and suggestions on the Draft Report to Congress. Meeting locations and schedules have not been finalized; details will be provided on the Section 1813 Web site (<http://1813.anl.gov>).

**DATES:** Comments and suggestions on the Draft Report to Congress will be accepted through September 1, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

*Mail, personal, or messenger delivery:* Attention: Section 1813 ROW Study, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Room 20—South Interior Building, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20245.

*E-mail:* [IEED@bia.edu](mailto:IEED@bia.edu) (please include the phrase “Section 1813 Comments” in the subject line).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Darryl Francois (DOI Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development) at (202) 219–0740, or Rollie Wilson (DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability) at (202) 586–3946. 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 individuals during business hours. FIRS is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Public Comment Procedures***Commenting on the Draft Report to Congress*

Written comments or suggestions should:

- Be specific and substantive;
- Explain the reasoning behind your comments and suggestions; and

- Where possible, reference the specific section or paragraph you are addressing.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed under “**ADDRESSES:** *Mail, personal, or messenger delivery*” during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Those wishing to withhold their name or address (except for the city or town) must state this prominently at the beginning of their comment. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**II. Background**

Section 1813 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–58) requires the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy (Departments) to jointly conduct a study of issues regarding grants, expansions, and renewals of energy rights-of-way (ROWs) on tribal lands. The Act further directs the Departments to submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study, including:

- (1) An analysis of historic rates of compensation paid for energy ROWs on tribal land;
- (2) Recommendations for appropriate standards and procedures for determining fair and appropriate compensation to Indian tribes for grants, expansions, and renewals of energy ROWs on tribal land;
- (3) An assessment of the tribal self-determination and sovereignty interests implicated by applications for the grant, expansion, or renewal of energy ROWs on tribal land; and
- (4) An analysis of relevant national energy transportation policies relating to grants, expansions, and renewals of energy ROWs on tribal land.

The Draft Report to Congress is available for review on the Section 1813 Web site (<http://1813.anl.gov>).

**III. Description of Planned Meetings**

The Departments will hold several public meetings and tribal consultation meetings to receive comments and suggestions on the Draft Report to Congress. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

*August 24, 2006:* Sheraton Denver West, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO.

*August 25, 2006:* Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown, 215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT.

*August 28, 2006:* Morongo Casino, Resort and Spa Hotel, 49750 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, CA.

*August 30, 2006:* Carlisle Hotel and Conference Center, 2500 Carlisle Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The meeting in Denver/Lakewood, CO will be an all-day public meeting open to all stakeholders. The meetings in Salt Lake City, UT; Cabazon, CA; and Albuquerque, NM will consist of short one- or two-hour public meetings followed by government-to-government meetings. These government-to-government meetings will allow for consultation between tribal representatives and Federal officials, as called for in the Act, and in Executive Order No. 13175, [65 FR 67429 (Nov. 9, 2000)], “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.”

Dated: August 3, 2006.

**Abraham E. Haspel,**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E6–13089 Filed 8–8–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–96–P**

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

**[CA–180–06–1010–JK]**

**Emergency Closure and Segregation of Federal Lands in Amador, Placer, Nevada and Tuolumne Counties, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Emergency closure and segregation of six abandoned mine land sites in California.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that all BLM-administered public lands at the Pond, Poore, Gold Run, Poison Lake, Davis and Longfellow abandoned mine land (AML) sites located in Amador, Placer, Nevada and Tuolumne Counties, California are closed to all forms of entry by the public, including mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law. This closure is necessary to protect the public from hazards associated with these sites and to enable the remediation of the sites pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Sampling of water and sediment at these sites indicates substantial amounts of mercury and/or arsenic are present in sluice tunnel floor sediments and in mill tailings. Shafts

and tunnel inlets/outlets are also present at these sites. These conditions represent significant health and physical safety hazards to the public. The closure and segregation of these lands from all forms of land and mineral entry is also needed to prevent the location of any new mining claims on these lands pending completion of necessary removal and remediation actions. This closure will remain in effect until the Folsom Field Manager determines it is no longer needed. This closure does not apply to authorized employees and contractors.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This closure is effective immediately and will be verified upon publication in the **Federal Register**. It will remain in effect until the Manager, Folsom Field Office, determines it is no longer needed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Carroll, Geologist, Bureau of Land Management, 63 Natoma St., Folsom, CA 95630, Telephone (916) 985-4474.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The authority for the closure is 43 CFR 2300.0-3 and 8364.1. Any person who fails to comply with this closure may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7 and are subject to arrest or fine not to exceed \$1,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. This order applies to all forms of entry, with two exceptions: (1) Any emergency, law enforcement or other BLM vehicle while being used for emergency or administrative purposes, and (2) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the BLM Field Manager to enter public lands at these sites.

The public lands affected by this closure order are T. 13 N., R. 10 E., sec. 3, lots 14, 17 and 18 (Pond); T. 16 N., R. 9 E., sec. 24, lots 3, 4 and 5, secs. 24 and 25, lot 45 (Poore); T. 15 N., R. 10 E., sec. 9, lots 3-5, 7-9, MS 1483 and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 10, lots 1-4, MS 1482 and 1483, sec. 16, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  (Gold Run); T. 5 N., R. 10 E., sec. 32, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  (Poison Lake); T. 17 N., R. 9 E., sec. 32, lots 5, 7-10 (Davis); T. 1 S., R. 16 E., sec. 30, lot 21 (Longfellow); all townships in the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, California.

The public lands affected by the restriction order constitute approximately 584.11 acres of land. These lands are depicted on maps in the Folsom Field Office where copies of these maps may be obtained.

January 30, 2006.

**D.K. Swickard,**

*Manager, BLM Folsom Field Office.*

This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 4, 2006.

[FR Doc. E6-12932 Filed 8-8-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1310-DB]

#### Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project, Rawlins, Wyoming.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project FEIS. The FEIS analyzes the environmental consequences of a proposed natural gas development and production operations on the 270,080 acres Atlantic Rim project area. The area is located within the administrative jurisdiction of the BLM Rawlins Field Office, and runs in an arc between Rawlins and Baggs in Townships 12-20 North, Ranges 89-93 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Carbon County, Wyoming.

**DATES:** The FEIS will be available for review and comment for 30 calendar days starting on the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best use your comments and resource information submissions within the 30-day review period provided above.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the FEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. The document may be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/nepa.htm>. If you are interested in viewing material referenced or posted to the BLM Web site, please contact the Rawlins Field Office as to its availability.

Copies of the FEIS will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003

- Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Simons, Project Lead, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301. Requests for information may be sent electronically to: [atlantic\\_rim\\_eis\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:atlantic_rim_eis_wymail@blm.gov). Please submit electronic comments with "Attn: Atlantic Rim Project Manager" in the subject line and avoid using special characters and any form of encryption. Mr. Simons may also be reached at (307) 328-4328.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Anadarko E & P Company, LP, is the lead proponent for a proposal to explore for and develop natural gas resources in the Atlantic Rim project area. Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining Company and Warren Resources, Inc., are also participating in this proposal. Collectively, the Operators propose to drill up to 2,000 wells; 1,800 completed to coal formations and 200 to other geologic targets for natural gas. Drilling would occur within the Atlantic Rim Project Area over the next 20 years with Life-of-Project expected to be 30 to 50 years. Well density completed in coal formations would be up to 8 wells per 640-acre section of land; wells in other geologic formations would be spaced no tighter than four wells per section.

Prior to the initiation of this project approximately 185 oil and gas wells were drilled or approved for drilling within the Atlantic Rim project area. Consistent with an interim drilling plan, six exploratory plans of development (pods) of up to 24 wells each were completed in areas believed to have potential for commercial quantities of natural gas. The proposed action was developed based on the results of exploratory drilling conducted by the Operators within the project area.

On June 26, 2001, the BLM published its Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project in the **Federal Register**. Issues and concerns were identified during scoping and throughout the NEPA process. The Atlantic Rim FEIS focuses on impacts to air quality, biological and physical resources, transportation, socio-economics, and cumulative effects. In compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, the FEIS includes a biological assessment for the purpose of identifying endangered or threatened species which may be affected by the Proposed Action.

On December 16, 2005, the BLM published its Notice of Availability of