



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bishop Field Office
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June 18, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office will conduct a field exam and two public scoping meetings for the Ewind Farm and ENEL (Padoma) wind monitoring project areas within the Black Lake, Adobe Valley, and Granite Mountain areas west of Benton, California.

BLM staff will discuss the proposals to install 200-foot tall wind monitoring towers for three-year testing periods. Instruments on these towers would collect wind speed and direction data and other weather information. The companies have not submitted plans to develop wind energy projects.

The field exam will start at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, July 9 at the intersection of highways 395 and 120, or link-up with the group at the highway 120 eastbound Post Mile marker 24.00 at 8:45 a.m. Six monitoring tower sites will be visited. BLM will provide two 4x4 trucks capable of holding 8 people for access to two of the sites. Some sites will have difficult walking conditions.

The BLM will conduct a public scoping meeting for these wind monitoring projects on Monday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lee Vining Community Center in Lee Vining. Another public scoping meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Community Center near the junction of highways 6 and 120 in Benton. The BLM will provide information and accept scoping comments on the two proposed wind energy right of way applications at these meetings.

Natural resource issues in the Ewind proposal include sage grouse habitat and potential visual impacts to the Granite Mountain Wilderness Area, the Mono Lake Scenic Area and a private landowner. Resource concerns for the Padoma proposal involve a golden eagle nesting site and territory. The projects would be analyzed by two separate environmental assessment documents with a proposed action and no action alternative.

Written comments on issues to be addressed in the environmental assessments for these proposals can be submitted to the BLM Bishop Field Office Manager, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514, or sent by email to Lawrence.Primosch@blm.gov. The comment period has been extended to July 30, 2011. For more information, contact Larry Primosch, Bishop Field Office, (760) 872-5031.

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