meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Las Vegas RMP/EIS Revision by any of the following methods:

- *Web site: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html.*
- *E-mail: Carolyn_Ronning@blm.gov.*
- *Fax:* (702) 515–5023.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130–2301.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Southern Nevada District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact Carrie Ronning, Telephone (702) 515–5143 or by e-mail *Carolyn_Ronning@blm.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Las Vegas Office and part of the Pahrump Field Office. The document also announces the beginning of the scoping process and the opportunity for public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Nye and Clark counties and encompasses approximately 3.1 million acres of public land. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel, other State and Federal agencies, and other stakeholders. The issues include renewable energy development for geothermal, wind, and solar power; management of site type rights-of-way for renewable energy and other uses; visual resource management; land tenure adjustments to meet community growth needs; management of split-estate lands; evaluation of existing and potential new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Wild and Scenic River designation for the Virgin River; Off-Highway Vehicle Designations and Special Recreation Management Areas; and fluid minerals management stipulations to protect sensitive resources. The preliminary planning criteria include the items discussed below.

(1) The planning area is defined as the area covered by the existing Las Vegas RMP. The plan revision will make planning determinations for public lands within the defined planning area boundary.

(2) The plan revision effort will rely on available inventories of the lands and resources as well as data gathered during the planning process, which will include an updated wilderness characteristics inventory, to reach sound management decisions. Any decisions requiring additional inventories will be deferred until such time as the inventories can be conducted.

(3) Use and protection of water, water resources, riparian zones, and other related values will be given a high priority.

(4) Geographic Information Systems and corporate geospatial data will be used to the extent practicable.

(5) The plan revision will be consistent to the maximum extent possible with the plans and management programs of local government, consistent with state and Federal laws and regulations and coordinated with other Federal agencies where appropriate.

(6) The principles of multiple use and sustained yield will be followed.

(7) The planning process will involve consultation with Native American Tribal governments.

(8) The RMP revision will acknowledge valid existing rights established under the current Las Vegas RMP.

(9) Federal Geographic Data Committee standards and other applicable BLM data standards will be followed.

(10) Opportunities for public involvement will be encouraged throughout the RMP process.

(11) Findings and tentative classification of waterways as eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will follow the criteria contained in 43 CFR 8351.

(12) The impacts of various proposed land uses on land with wilderness characteristics will be analyzed as part of the RMP process.

(13) Environmental protection and energy production are desirable and necessary objectives and will not be considered mutually exclusive priorities.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 60 days of the last public meeting. Before including your 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. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan and will place them into one of three categories. These categories are:

(1) Issues to be resolved in the plan;

(2) Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or

(3) Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the plan as to why it placed an issue in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan and to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: renewable energy, lands and realty, minerals management, outdoor recreation, air resources, visual resources, vegetation, cultural resources, paleontology, botany, special status species, wildlife and fisheries, hydrology, sociology and economics.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Ron Wenker,

Nevada State Director.

[FR Doc. E9–31251 Filed 1–4–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLORW00000 L51010000.ER0000. LVRWH09H0570; HAG10–0008]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project, Yakima, Kittitas, and Grant Counties, WA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wenatchee Field Office and the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center (YTC) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. By this notice, the BLM and YTC are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: Comments on this Notice of Intent may be submitted in writing until March 8, 2010. The dates and the locations of any scoping meetings will be announced through local media and individual letter mailings at least 15 days prior to the events. To be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. BLM will provide additional opportunities for public involvement after publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments or resource information related to the Vantage to Pomona Heights 230 kV Transmission Line Project by either of the following methods:

- *E-mail: OR_Wenatchee_Mail@blm.gov* (please reference Vantage to Pomona Heights EIS in the subject line).
- *Mail/hand deliver to:* BLM Wenatchee Field Office, ATTN: Vantage to Pomona Heights EIS, 915 Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington 98801–1521.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Wenatchee Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact William Schurger, Realty Specialist, at (509) 655–2100; e-mail: *OR_Wenatchee_Mail@blm.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pacific Power has submitted applications for rights-of-way (ROWs) across BLM- and YTC-administered lands to construct the Vantage to Pomona Heights 230kV Transmission Line Project. The new 230 kV transmission line is being proposed to address energy demand growth in the Yakima region by increasing the capacity of the transmission system [that will serve growing needs] while ensuring continued reliable service to existing customers.

The new 230 kV transmission line would be constructed from Pacific Power's existing Pomona Heights substation east of Selah, Washington to the Bonneville Power Administration's existing Vantage substation east of the Wanapum Dam on the Columbia River. The project would cross a distance of approximately 38 miles through Grant, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties. The proposed route is generally parallel and south of Pacific Power's existing Pomona-Wanapum 230 kV transmission line. The line would cross approximately four miles of BLM-administered land, 19 miles of the YTC administered lands, and 15 miles of private land. The permanent ROW requested for the project is 125 feet wide. H-frame wood pole structures are proposed for most of the line located in open terrain. The H-frame structures would be between 65 and 100 feet tall and spaced approximately 750 to 900 feet apart depending on terrain. In developed areas, such as around the Pomona Heights substation, single wood or steel pole structures would be used. The single pole structures would be between 80 and 95 feet tall and spaced approximately between 300 to 500 feet apart. For the Columbia River crossing, steel lattice structures would be approximately 200 feet tall. This extra height is required to safely span the more than 3,000-foot river crossing. Construction would begin in mid 2011 and be completed in late 2012.

The BLM and YTC are joint lead Federal agencies for preparation of the EIS. Through public scoping, BLM and YTC expect to identify various issues, potential impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives associated with the proposed action. Through internal scoping, the BLM and YTC identified the following preliminary issues and concerns:

(1) Potential conflict with YTC training operations. The YTC is concerned about how the proposed transmission line would interfere with or constrain its military training mission.

(2) Cultural properties. Cultural properties in the vicinity of the proposed route are of concern to several Native American Tribes.

(3) Habitat for sage-grouse and other species of concern. The proposed route would pass through occupied sage-grouse habitat.

(4) Values within the Yakima River Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The proposed route would cross through this ACEC, whose values include three plant species of concern, unique wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

(5) Visual resources. Portions of the proposed transmission line would be visible from great distances in this open terrain.

(6) Wildland fire management. High value facilities, such as the proposed transmission line, require additional protection from wildland fire.

The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process. Federal, State, and local agencies may request or be asked by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. Before including your 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.

Robert B. Towne,

Spokane District Manager.

[FR Doc. E9–31240 Filed 1–4–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLUTC00000.L51010000.ER0000. LVRWJ09J4050; UTU–83067]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sigurd–Red Butte Transmission Line Project (Project) in Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cedar City Field Office, Cedar City, Utah, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a right-of-way (ROW) application for the Sigurd-Red Butte 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing