

Appendix B-2

Public Notice (BLM December 16, 2010)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
California Desert District**Release Date:** 12/16/10**Contacts:** David Briery, (951) 697-5220 or
Steve Razo , (951) 697-5217**News Release No.** CDD-11-16

BLM Initiates Environmental Review of Proposed Wind Energy Project; Scoping Meetings Scheduled for Ocotillo and El Centro

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published a notice of intent (NOI) to conduct an environmental review on the impacts of the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project in Imperial County, Calif., and will hold public scoping meetings for the review in Ocotillo and El Centro in early January.

Ocotillo Express, LLC has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) on public lands to construct a wind generation power plant facility approximately five miles west of Ocotillo (30 miles west of El Centro). The project would generate 550 megawatts of wind energy on 15,000 acres (23.4 square miles) of mostly public lands administered by BLM, as well a small portion of land under the jurisdiction of Imperial County.

The BLM and Imperial County intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended) and are seeking public comments to identify issues to be analyzed. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues.

The BLM will be soliciting public comments through Friday, Jan. 21, 2011. Public-scoping meetings will be held at the County of Imperial Board Room, 940 Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro, CA 92243 on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011 at 6 p.m., and at the Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Hwy, Ocotillo, CA 92259 on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, at 6 p.m. The BLM and Imperial County will use the public-scoping comments in preparing draft environmental documents to be available for public review later in 2011.

Further details on the proposed wind energy project can be found at the following website: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro>. Comments may be submitted to BLM Project Manager Cedric Perry by e-mail at caocotillo@blm.gov or by mail to the California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

--BLM--

California Desert District 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

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