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Dated: October 12, 2001.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Wanapa Energy Center, Umatilla County, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), with the cooperation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), intends to gather the information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed lease to Wanapa Energy Center of up to 195 acres of land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CTUIR in Umatilla County, Oregon. The Williams Energy Marketing and Trading Company, CTUIR, the Eugene Water and Electric Board, the City of Hermiston and the Port of Umatilla intend to jointly build and operate the Wanapa Energy Center, an approximately 1,300 megawatt electric generation plant, on the property. The purpose of the proposed project is to conjointly help provide for the economic development of the CTUIR and for the power needs of the Pacific northwest. Details on the proposed project and its location are provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. This notice also announces public scoping meetings to identify potential issues for inclusion in the EIS, distinguish those to be analyzed in depth, and eliminate from consideration those that are not significant.

DATES: Written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must arrive by November 21, 2001. The public scoping meetings will be held on November 5, 2001, and November 6, 2001, from 5 to 8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand carry written comments to Philip Sanchez, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Umatilla Agency, P.O. Box 520, Pendleton, Oregon 97801.

The November 5, 2001, public hearing will be in Pendleton, Oregon. The

November 6, 2001, public hearing will be in Hermiston, Oregon. Exact locations of the hearings will be determined at a later date and can be obtained from the **FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** listed below.

If you would like a map displaying the proposed project location, please contact Jerry L. Lauer, Natural Resource Officer, at the above Umatilla Agency address, telephone (541) 278-3790, or e-mail JerryLauer@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry L. Lauer, (541) 278-3790.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the environmental consequences of BIA approval of a proposed lease between Wanapa Energy Center, the lessee, and the CTUIR, the lessor, of part of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, the South Half of the Southwest Quarter, Section 7, Township 5 North, Range 29 East, Willamette Meridian, Umatilla County, Oregon. The property lies in western Umatilla County near McNary Dam on the Columbia River. The parties developing the Wanapa Energy Center plan to construct and operate the facility on this property.

The proposed project has several components. They include an electrical connection at or near the Bonneville Power Administration's McNary Substation; a natural gas-fired, combined cycle, combustion turbine electric generation plant; a natural gas supply pipeline; a water supply pipeline; and a new electric power transmission line. All proposed facilities would be located within Umatilla County, Oregon.

The proposed Wanapa Energy Center would be a combustion turbine, combined cycle electric power plant with a nominal generating capacity of 1,300 megawatts. It would consist of four essentially identical combustion turbine generators, four heat recovery steam generators (HRSG) and two steam turbines. Expanding gasses from combustion would turn rotors within the turbines that are connected to electric generators. The hot gases exhausted from the combustion turbines would be used to raise steam in the HRSGs. Steam from the HRSGs would be expanded through steam turbines that drive their own electric generators. The combustion turbines would be fueled by natural gas from either the existing Williams pipeline or an existing PGT pipeline. The facility would interconnect in either case through a new, approximately ten mile gas supply lateral.

Water to generate steam and cool the steam process at the plant would be supplied from the Port of Umatilla

Regional Water Supply. A recirculation cooling system employing mechanically induced draft, evaporative cooling towers would be used. Water would be added to the cooling system to compensate for evaporative losses and blowdown. Blowdown is water bled from the cooling system to limit the build-up of salts.

The proposed Wanapa Energy Center would deliver electric power to the regional power grid at BPA's McNary Substation, using a new high voltage transmission line crossing property owned by the Port of Umatilla.

Public Comment Solicitation

As an alternative to submitting written comments regarding the scope of the EIS to the location identified in the **ADDRESSES** section, interested persons may instead comment via the Internet to PhilipSanchez@bia.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that your Internet message was received, contact Philip Sanchez at (541) 278-3786.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BIA address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All 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.

Authority

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: October 4, 2001.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-910-01-1430-HN-LRTN]

Notice of Temporary Closure of Access to Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management; Fairfax County, VA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States, is temporarily closing Meadowood Farm in Fairfax County, Virginia to public entry with the exception of those persons who board their horses at the boarding facility located on the property. This closure notice serves as a follow-up to the Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA) whose Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2001. Section II(A) of the PA/EA stipulated that upon acquisition, Meadowood Farm would be closed to the public on an interim basis until a long-term management plan could be completed. This closure complies with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that a land use plan be completed prior to acquisition of land. This is to ensure protection of resources, protection of structures and facilities, and provide for the safety of the public. The authority for this closure is found in 43 CFR 8364.1. The closure is necessary to protect soils, vegetation, cultural, wildlife and riparian resources, facilities, structure, from potential adverse effects. No recreational activities for public use exist currently except horseback riding. All new activities must undergo an Environmental Assessment to determine their levels of impact to sensitive areas, habitat, resources. It is necessary that this be done to preclude adverse impacts and unintended degradation of the property and to provide for the safety of the public until a plan is completed.

A horse boarding facility is located on the property and will, during the closure period, continue operation under a Special Recreation Permit. No new activities will be allowed until completion of a PA/EA. The main

entrance to the property leading to the office will remain open to the general public. All other access will be closed except to Federal, State and local officers and bureau employees in the scope of his or her duties, contractors, consultants and their employees engaged in official duties, members of organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of official duties, and others with written permission from the Bureau of Land Management.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This closure goes into effect upon acquisition of the Meadowood Farm, and will remain in effect until the State Director, Eastern States determines it is no longer needed.

Location: The land commonly known as Meadowood Farm, Fairfax County, Virginia is closed to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Bush, Meadowood Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153. (703) 440-1745.

Prohibited Act: Under 43 CFR 8364.1 and 8360.0-7, the Bureau of Land Management is providing notice that within the closure area described above:

You must not enter the closed area.

Exemptions: Persons who are exempt from these rules include any Federal, State or local officer or employee in the scope of his or her duties, members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty, contractors, and their employees while engaged in official duty, and others authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management.

Penalties: Penalties for violating this closure notice is found in section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who fails to comply with a restriction order may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both.

Dated: October 4, 2001.

Gayle F. Gordon,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-01-1610-JP-064B]

Temporary Closure of Approximately 49,300 Acres to Motorized Vehicle Use of Five Selected Areas in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area, Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Temporary closure of approximately 49,300 acres to motorized vehicle use of five selected areas in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area, Imperial County, California.

DATES: This temporary closure was approved September 27, 2001 and is in effect.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Roxie Trost, BLM, El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, telephone (760) 337-4400. The closure is posted in the El Centro Field Office and at places near and/or within the area to which the closure applies. Maps identifying the affected areas are available at the El Centro Field Office as well as on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Web site at www.ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This temporary closure is implemented pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8341.2(a). The closure was approved September 27, 2001 and will remain in effect until BLM completes and implements the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Plan (ISDRMP) now under preparation.

Exceptions to this closure include government vehicles conducting official business which shall be allowed inside the closed areas as authorized. Official business may include public service emergencies, resource monitoring/research, other dunes operations and management activities, and other actions authorized by BLM's El Centro Field Office Manager.

Notice of the proposed closure was published in the **Federal Register** June 15, 2001 (66 FR 32640).

Dated: October 12, 2001.

Greg Thomsen,

Field Manager.

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