Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Aiya Solar Project, Clark County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as the lead Federal agency, with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Tribe) as Cooperating Agencies, has prepared a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the proposed Aiya Solar Project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in Clark County, Nevada. This notice announces that the FEIS is now available for public review.

DATES: The Record of Decision on the proposed action will be issued no sooner than 30 days after EPA publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: You may request a compact disk copy of the FEIS by providing your name and address in writing or by voicemail to Mr. Chip Lewis, Acting Regional Environmental Protection Officer, BIA Western Regional Office, Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85004—9008; fax (602) 379—3833; email: chip.lewis@bia.gov. The FEIS will be available for review at: BIA Western Regional Office, 2600 North Central Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona; BIA Southern Paiute Agency, 180 North 200 East, Suite 111, St. George, Utah; and the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The FEIS is also available on line at: www.AiyaSolarProjectEIS.com. Individual paper copies of the FEIS will be provided only upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chip Lewis, BIA Western Regional Office, Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004—9008, telephone (602) 379—6782; or Mr. Garry Cantley at (602) 379—6750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Federal action, taken under 25 U.S.C. 415, is BIA’s approval of a solar energy ground lease and associated agreements entered into by the Tribe with Aiya Solar Project, LLC (Aiya Solar or Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of First Solar, Inc. (First Solar), to provide for construction and operation of an up-to 100 megawatt (MW) alternating current solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation facility located entirely on the Moapa River Indian Reservation and specifically on lands held in trust by the United States for the Tribe. The proposed 230 kilovolt (kV) generation-tie transmission line required for interconnection would be located on Tribal lands, private lands and Federal lands administered and managed by BLM. The Applicant has accordingly requested that the BIA and BLM additionally approve rights-of-way (ROWs) authorizing the construction and operation of the transmission line. Together, the proposed solar energy facility, transmission line, and other associated facilities make up the proposed Aiya Solar Project (Project).

The Project would be located in Township 14 South, Range 66 East, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32 Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada. The generation facility would generate electricity using PV panels. Also included would be inverters, a collection system, an on-site substation to step-up the voltage to transmission level voltage at 230 kV, an operations and maintenance building, and other related facilities. An overhead 230 kV generation-tie transmission line, approximately 2.7 miles long, would connect the solar project to NV Energy’s Reid-Gardner 230kV substation. Construction of the Project is expected to take approximately 12 to 15 months. The Applicant is expected to operate the energy facility for 30 years, with two options to renew the lease for an additional 10 years, if mutually acceptable to the Tribe and Applicant. During construction, the PV panels will be placed on top of fixed-tilt and/or single-axis tracking mounting systems that are set on steel posts embedded in the ground. Other foundation design techniques may be used depending on the site topography and conditions. No water will be used to generate electricity during operations. Water will be needed during construction for dust control and a minimal amount will be needed during operations for landscape irrigation and administrative and sanitary water use on site. The water supply required for construction of the Project would be leased from the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians and would be provided via a new temporary intake installed in the Muddy River and a new temporary above-ground pipeline approximately two miles in length. Operational water would be provided through a tap into an existing water pipeline that crosses the solar site. Access to the Project will be provided via State Highway 168.

The purposes of the Project are to: (1) Provide a long-term, diverse, and viable economic revenue base and job opportunities for the Tribe; (2) help Nevada and neighboring states to meet their state renewable energy needs; and (3) allow the Tribe, in partnership with the Applicant, to optimize the use of the lease site while maximizing the potential economic benefit to the Tribe.

The BIA and BLM will use the EIS to make decisions on the land lease and ROW applications under their respective jurisdictions; EPA may use the document to make decisions under its authorities; the Tribe may use the EIS to make decisions under its Tribal Environmental Policy Ordinance; and the USFWS may use the EIS to support its decision under the Endangered Species Act.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR part 1500 et seq.) and the Department of the Interior Regulations (40 CFR part 46) implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and in accordance with the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by part 209 of the Department Manual.

Dated: March 1, 2016.

Lawrence S. Roberts, Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2016–05458 Filed 3–9–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[167A2100DD/AAKCC001030/AAOS5011010.999900]

Indian Gaming: Extension of Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact (Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the State of South Dakota)

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the extension of the Class III gaming compact between the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the State of South Dakota.

DATES: Effective March 10, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Paula L. Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming, Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2016–05458 Filed 3–9–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey: North Dakota

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plats of survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, on April 11, 2016.

DATES: A notice of protest of the survey must be filed before April 11, 2016 to be considered. A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest and must be filed within thirty days after the notice of protest is filed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Protestors of the survey should be sent to the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101–4669.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Blaise Lodermeier, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101–4669, telephone (406) 896–5128 or (406) 896–5009, blodermeier@blm.gov. 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 individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual.

You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Region, Aberdeen, South Dakota, and was necessary to determine federal and individual and tribal trust surface and subsurface (oil and gas) lands.

The lands we surveyed are:

- **Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota**
  - Townships 147 North, Range 93 West, Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota, was accepted February 26, 2016.
  - T. 147 N., R. 94 W.
  - The plat, in 14 sheets, representing the supplemental plat of sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, and 29, showing the amended lots, Township 147 North, Range 94 West, Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota, was accepted February 26, 2016. We will place a copy of the plats, in 25 sheets in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information. If the BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on the plat, in 25 sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest. We will not officially file this plat, in 25 sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3.

Joshua F. Alexander,
Acting Chief, Branch of Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Meeting of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure

AGENCY: Judicial Conference of the United States, Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure will hold a meeting on April 18, 2016, which will continue the morning of April 19, 2016, if necessary. The meeting will be open to public observation but not participation. An agenda and supporting materials will be posted at least 7 days in advance of the meeting at: http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/records-and-archives-rules-committees/agenda-books.

DATES: April 18–19, 2016.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca A. Womeldorf, Rules Committee Secretary, Rules Committee Support Office, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, DC 20544, telephone (202) 502–1820.

Dated: March 7, 2016.

Rebecca A. Womeldorf,
Rules Committee Secretary.

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