1.06  How many helium lots does the BLM anticipate offering at the FY 2017 auction? The BLM anticipates auctioning 400 MMcf in a total of 24 lots for FY 2017. The lots would be divided as follows:
10 lots of 25 MMcf each;
8 lots of 15 MMcf each; and
6 lots of 5 MMcf each.

1.07  What must I do to bid at auction? The BLM has described the live auction procedures, including detailed bidding instructions and pre-bid registration requirements, in a document entitled, “FY 2017 Auction Notice and Guide” at www.blm.gov/nm/helium2017.

1.08  When will helium that is purchased at sale or won at auction be available in the purchaser’s storage account? The BLM will transfer the volumes purchased in the FY 2017 auction and sale to the buyer’s storage accounts beginning on the first day of the month following receipt of payment.

D. FY 2017 Helium Sale

2.01  Who will be allowed to purchase helium in the FY 2017 sale? The crude helium sale will be separated into two distinct portions, a non-allocated portion and an allocated portion. The non-allocated portion will be ten percent of the total amount offered for sale for FY 2017, and will be available to those storage contract holders, as of June 30, 2016, who do not have ability to accept delivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium Pipeline (as defined in 50 U.S.C. 167(2)). The allocated portion will be ninety percent of the total amount offered for sale for FY 2017, and will be available to any person (including individuals, corporations, partnerships, or other entities) with the ability to accept delivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium Pipeline (as defined in 50 U.S.C. 167(2)).

2.02  How will helium sold in the FY 2017 sale be allocated among those participating in the non-allocated sale? The non-allocated sale will be made available to all qualified offerors not eligible to participate in the allocated sales. The minimum volume that can be requested is 1 MMcf. The total volume available for the non-allocated portion of the sale is 40 MMcf. Any volumes not sold at auction will be distributed between the non-allocated (10 percent) and the allocated sale (90 percent). Any volumes not purchased at the non-allocated sale will be sold in the allocated portion.

2.03  How will the helium sold in the FY 2017 sale be allocated among the persons to accept delivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium Pipeline? Any person wishing to participate in the allocated portion of the FY 2017 sale needs to report its excess refining capacity and operational capacity by June 30, 2016, using the Excess Refining Capacity form, which can be downloaded at: http://www.blm.gov/nm/heliumreporting, or in a link entitled “Required Forms for Helium Reporting” at www.blm.gov/nm/helium2017. Each person participating in the sale will then be allocated a proportional share based upon that person’s operational capacity.

2.04  How does a person apply for access to the Federal Helium Pipeline for the purpose of taking crude helium? The steps for taking crude helium are provided in the BLM’s Helium Operations Web site in a document entitled, “How to Set Up a Storage Account and Pipeline Access” at http://www.blm.gov/nm/helium2017. Reporting forms show the due dates for each report, and can be found in a document entitled, “Required Forms for Helium Reporting” at www.blm.gov/nm/helium2017.

E. Delivery of Helium in FY 2017

3.01  When will I receive the helium that I purchase in a sale or win based on a successful auction bid? Helium purchased at the FY 2017 sale or won at the FY 2017 auction will be delivered starting October 1, 2016, in accordance with the crude helium storage contract. The intent is to ensure delivery of all helium purchased at sale or auction up to the BLM’s production capability for the year.

3.02  How will the BLM prioritize delivery? The HSA gives priority to Federal in-kind helium (i.e., helium sold to Federal users) (50 U.S.C. 167d(b)(1)(D)) and (b)(3)). After meeting that priority, the BLM will make delivery on a reasonable basis, as described in the crude helium storage contract, to ensure storage contract holders who have purchased or won helium at auction have the opportunity during the year to have that helium produced or refined in monthly increments.

F. Background Documents

Supplementary documents referenced in this Notice are available at the BLM helium operations Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/nm/helium2017, and include the following:

a. The HSA (50 U.S.C. 167);
b. FY 2017 Helium Auction Notice and Guide;
c. Table of Projected Volumes for Sales and Auctions for Delivery for FY 2017–FY 2021 (informational);
d. Hypothetical example of how the FY 2017 Allocated Sale would be conducted (informational);
e. Hypothetical example of how the FY 2017 Non-Allocated Sale would be conducted (informational);
f. Schedule for Helium Auction and Sale;
g. How to Set Up a Storage Account and Pipeline Access;
h. 2016 Reference Helium Storage Contract (informational); and
i. Required Forms for Helium Reporting.

Authority: The HSA of 2013 (Public Law 113–40) codified to various sections in 50 U.S.C. 167–167g.

Aden Seiditz,
Associate State Director.
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approved. The SEIS also updates the environmental baseline given the time that has passed and the changes that have been made to the scope of the Proposed Action, which was originally addressed in the 2003 Final EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to request a copy of the Final SEIS, please contact: Andrew Mendoza, Staff Attorney, National Indian Gaming Commission, Office of the General Counsel, 1849 C Street NW., Mail Stop #1621, Washington, DC 20240, Phone: 202–632–7003: Facsimile: 202–632–7066: email: Andrew_Mendoza@nigc.gov

Availability of the Final SEIS: The Final SEIS is available for public review at the following locations:
—The Rancho San Diego Public Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, CA 92019, telephone (619) 660–5370; and
—The Jamul Indian Village Tribal Office, 14191 #16 Highway 94, Jamul, CA 91935, telephone (619) 669–4785.
Copies of the Final SEIS will also be available for download from the Tribe’s Web site www.jamulindianvillage.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The JIV Reservation is located in the unincorporated portion of southwestern San Diego County approximately one mile south of the community of Jamul on approximately six-acres of land held in federal trust. State Route 94 (SR–94) provides regional access to the JIV from downtown San Diego, which is located approximately 20 miles to the west where it intersects with Highway 5. Local access to the JIV is provided directly from SR–94 via Daisy Drive. From the JIV, SR–94 travels briefly north and then west to Downtown San Diego, passing through the unincorporated communities of Jamul, Casa de Oro, Spring Valley and Lemon Grove.

In 2000, JIV proposed a fee-to-trust land acquisition, construction and operation of a gaming complex and approval of a gaming development and management agreement for operation of the JIV Gaming Facility. The proposal was evaluated in a Final EIS prepared in 2003. Since that time, several major items have been removed from JIV’s overall development program and the Gaming Facility has been redesigned to fit entirely within the existing JIV Reservation. All environmental effects of the Gaming Facility redesign have been evaluated through preparation of a Final Tribal Environmental Evaluation, which was prepared in accordance with the 1990 Tribal/State Compact. No action is before the BIA due to no fee-to-trust component of the JIV proposal.

An action from the NIGC is required; specifically, approval or disapproval of the GMA. That approval or disapproval is the Proposed Action evaluated in the Final SEIS.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the Final SEIS addresses the No Action Alternative, which assumes no approval of the GMA between JIV and SDGV. Under the No Project scenario, JIV would assume operation and management responsibilities of the Jamul Gaming Facility. The NIGC may, in its Record of Decision, select the No Project Alternative rather than the Proposed Action.

This Final SEIS updates environmental conditions in the affected area given the amount of time that has passed since the 2003 Final EIS. Environmental issues addressed within the Final SEIS include land resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural/paleontological resources, socioeconomic conditions, transportation, land use, public services, hazardous materials, noise, and visual resources. The Final SEIS examines the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each alternative on these resources. The NIGC published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on April 10, 2013, describing the Proposed Action, announcing the NIGC’s intent to prepare a Draft SEIS for the Proposed Action, and inviting comments.

The Draft EIS Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 8, 2016 and the Draft SEIS was made available to federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties for review and comment. The comment period was open for 45 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register and closed on May 23, 2016. A total of nine comment letters were received. All comments received by the NIGC were considered and addressed in the Final SEIS, however, no substantive changes were made.

Upon conclusion of the 30-day public availability period following the date the EPA publishes the NOA for the Final SEIS in the Federal Register, the Chairman of the NIGC will prepare and sign the record of decision (ROD) to announce his final decision on the GMA between the JIV and SDGV. Availability of the ROD will be announced to the media and the project mailing list, and the ROD itself will be made available online.

Submittal of Written Comments: You may mail or email, written comments to NIGC, Andrew Mendoza, Staff Attorney, c/o Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Mail Stop #1621, Washington, DC 20240, email: Andrew_Mendoza@nigc.gov. Please include your name, return address, and the caption: “Final SEIS Comments, Jamul Indian Village,” on the first page of your written comments. In order to be fully considered, written comments on the Final SEIS must be postmarked by August 4, 2016.

Commenting individuals 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 comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not, however, be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available to public in their entirety.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 2711, section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

Dated: June 29, 2016.
Shannon O’Loughlin,
Chief of Staff.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

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