

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William A. Lavy, Director, Program Administration Division, Office of Recapitalization, Office of Multifamily Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 6230, Washington, DC 20410; telephone 202-708-0614. (This is not a toll-free number.) Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. To assure a timely response, HUD recommends that requests for further information be submitted electronically to the email address [rad@hud.gov](mailto:rad@hud.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

RAD, authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 122-55, signed November 18, 2011) (2012 Appropriations Act), allows for the conversion of assistance under the public housing, Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance (RAP), Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab), and Mod Rehab Single Room Occupancy (SRO) programs (collectively, "covered programs") to long-term, renewable assistance under Section 8. The most recent version of the RAD program notice is PIH 2012-32/Housing 2017-03, REV-3, located at [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/RAD\\_Notice\\_Rev3\\_Final.docx](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/RAD_Notice_Rev3_Final.docx).

**II. Key Changes**

The following highlights key changes to the RAD program that are included in the Supplemental Program Notice:

*First Component (Public Housing Conversions)*

1. Expands the rent setting flexibility referred to as Rent Bundling in the current RAD program notice PIH 2012-32/Housing 2017-03 to permit PHAs to rent bundle between RAD Project-Based Voucher (PBV) and non-RAD PBV projects. Under this provision, rents of non-RAD PBV contracts are reduced by the equivalent increase to the RAD PBV initial contract rents.

2. Permits PHAs to establish project-specific utility allowances for Covered Projects. When a RAD conversion results in the reduction of one or more utility components used to establish the utility allowance, HUD will permit the RAD contract rent to be increased by a portion of the utility savings.

3. Provides alternative developer fee limits when a PHA adopts a waiting list preference for households exiting homelessness.

4. Establishes that HUD will disapprove a proposed conversion where a PHA is using 24 CFR 970.17(b) or 970.17(c) to dispose of other units at a proposed project and HUD determines that the PHA's use of both RAD and disposition under those sections undermines the unit replacement requirements of the RAD program.

5. Creates a streamlined conversion option for PHAs that have a very small public housing portfolio of 50 units or less that will not involve any rehabilitation, new construction, or relocation.

**III. New Waivers and Alternative Requirements**

The RAD Statute provides that waivers and alternative requirements authorized under the First Component must be published by notice in the **Federal Register** no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice. Under the Second Component of RAD, HUD is authorized to waive or alter the provisions of subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) (the 1937 Act).

HUD has previously published its waivers and alternative requirements for RAD, on July 26, 2012 (77 FR 43850), July 2, 2013 (78 FR 39759), June 26, 2015 (80 FR 36830), and January 19, 2017 (82 FR 6615). This notice only includes waivers and alternative requirements not previously published or that have changed from previous publications. Although waivers or alternative requirements under the Second Component are not subject to a **Federal Register** publication requirement, the new Second Component waivers and alternative requirements are included in this notice as a matter of convenience.

The new waiver and alternative requirement is:

1. *PBV Site-Specific Utility Allowances. Provisions affected:* 24 CFR 983.301(f)(2)(ii), 24 CFR 983.2(c)(6)(iii) and 24 CFR 982.517; RAD Implementation Notice, Attachment 1C: Calculation of HAP Contract Rents for Conversions of Assistance from Public Housing to PBRA or PBV. *Waiver:* HUD has determined that the specified sections of its regulations will not apply to RAD conversions to Project Based Vouchers (PBV). *Alternative requirements:* The Utility Allowance shall be calculated in the manner specified in Housing Notice H-2015-04 (June 22, 2015) unless PIH promulgates utility allowance guidance specific to the PBV program. The Project Owner may carry out all activities of owners and management agents associated with

Housing Notice 2015-04, but the PHA must ensure that the Utility Allowance is calculated correctly.

**IV. Revised Program Notice Availability**

The RAD Supplemental Notice (PIH 2018-11/H 2018-05) can be found on RAD's website, [www.hud.gov/RAD](http://www.hud.gov/RAD).

**V. Finding of No Significant Impact**

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the environment has been made in accordance with HUD regulations in 24 CFR part 50, which implemented section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). The FONSI is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500. Due to security measures at the HUD Headquarters building, please schedule an appointment to review the FONSI by calling the Regulations Division at (202) 708-3055 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Dated: June 22, 2018.

**Dominique Blom,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

**Brian Montgomery,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing, Federal Housing Commissioner.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2017-0105; FXES1114020000-189-FF02ENEH00]

**Environmental Impact Statement for the American Electric Power American Burying-Beetle Habitat Conservation Plan in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; Notice of receipt of a permit application; and announcement of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announce the availability of the environmental impact statement (EIS) and habitat conservation

plan (HCP) for incidental take permit (ITP) application under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

American Electric Power (AEP) requested a 30-year American burying beetle (ABB) ITP in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. If granted, the ITP would authorize ABB take resulting from AEP's electrical lines and support facilities repair, maintenance, and construction, as well as activities carried out as part of the HCP's conservation strategy.

**DATES:** *Comments:* We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before August 17, 2018. Comments submitted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> (see Public Participation under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on the closing date. Any comments we receive after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on these actions.

**ADDRESSES:** See Public Participation under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for how to obtain documents for review and submit comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, via U.S. mail at Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129; or via phone at 918-581-7458.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announce the availability of several documents related to an incidental take permit (ITP) application under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). American Electric Power (AEP) requested a 30-year American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; ABB) ITP in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. If granted, the ITP would authorize ABB incidental take resulting from AEP's electrical lines and support facilities repair, maintenance, and construction, as well as activities carried out as part of the HCP's conservation strategy. In addition to this notice of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is publishing a notice announcing the EIS, as required under the Clean Air Act, section 309 (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*; see EPA's Role in the EIS Process below).

### Background

Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations prohibit "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered. However, section 10(a) authorizes us to issue permits to take listed wildlife species where take is incidental to, and not the

purpose of, otherwise lawful activities and where the applicant meets certain statutory requirements.

We prepared a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a EIS for American Electric Power's (AEP) habitat conservation plan (HCP), which was published in the **Federal Register** on January 19, 2017 (82 FR 6625). We held four public scoping meetings throughout the Plan Area in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas in February 2017. We incorporated issues identified during the initial scoping meetings into the EIS, dated March 2018. You can find a summary of the comments we received during the scoping period in the EIS, Appendix D.

### Proposed Action

Our proposed Federal action evaluated in the EIS is approving AEP's HCP and issuing an incidental take permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The ITP would authorize ABB incidental take that may result from covered activities in the plan area over the 30-year ITP term.

### EPA's Role in the EIS Process

In addition to our publication of this notice, EPA is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the EIS for American Electric Power's American-burying Beetle Habitat Conservation Plan in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas, as required under the Clean Air Act, section 309. The EPA's publication date of the notice of availability is the official beginning of the public comment period. The EPA is charged with reviewing all Federal agencies' EISs and commenting on the adequacy and acceptability of the environmental impacts of proposed actions in EISs.

The EPA also serves as the repository (EIS database) for EISs which Federal agencies prepare. All EISs must be filed with EPA, which publishes a notice of availability on Fridays in the **Federal Register**. For more information, see <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>. You may search for EPA comments on EISs, along with EISs themselves, at <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>.

### Public Participation

#### Public Meetings

We will hold four public meetings, one each in McAlester, OK; Texarkana, TX; Little Rock, AR; and Tulsa, OK, during the public comment period. The dates, times, and specific locations of the meetings will be announced in local newspapers at least two weeks before the meetings and will also be posted on our Oklahoma website, at <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma/>.

The public meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for reasonable accommodations (e.g., auxiliary aids or sign language interpretation) to Larry Levesque, by phone at 918-382-4509 or via email at [laurence\\_levesque@fws.gov](mailto:laurence_levesque@fws.gov), at least 5 working days prior to the date of the meeting you wish to attend.

#### Obtaining Documents for Review

- *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP):* You may obtain copies of the EIS and HCP by any of the following methods.

#### Internet:

- <http://www.regulations.gov> (search for Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2017-0105).

- <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma> (search for permit number TE81211C-0).

- *U.S. Mail:* Field Supervisor (at the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**; reference "OKES HCP EIS; TE81211C-0").

- *In-Person:* Copies of the EIS and HCP are also available for public inspection and review at the following locations, by appointment and written request only, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

- Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office (at the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 500 Gold Avenue SW, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (telephone: 505-248-6920).

- Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Library, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

- *Incidental Take Permit Application:* You may obtain copies of the incidental take permit application by any of the following methods.

- *U.S. Mail:* Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103 (attention: Environmental Review Branch).

- *Email:* [fw2\\_HCP\\_Permits@fws.gov](mailto:fw2_HCP_Permits@fws.gov).

- *Public Comments:* View submitted comments on <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2017-0105.

- *Comments on the EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency:* For how to view comments on the EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or for information on EPA's role in the EIS process, see EPA's Role in the EIS Process under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

#### Submitting Comments

You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the

instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–R2–ES–2017–0105.

- *Hard Copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R2–ES–2017–0105; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

- *Public Meetings:* We will also accept written and oral comments at four public meetings, to be announced.

We request that you submit comments by only the methods described above. We will post all information received on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means we will post any personal information you provide us (see *Public Availability of Comments*).

#### *Public Availability of Comments*

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. 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 disclosure in their entirety.

**Authority:** We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**Amy L. Lueders,**

*Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–HQ–FAC–2018–N074; FF09F42300–FVWF9792090000–XXX]

### **Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council; Call for Nominations**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) seeks nominations for individuals to be considered for

membership on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council).

**DATES:** Written nominations must be postmarked by July 24, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address your nomination letters to Mr. Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Submit your nomination letters via U.S. mail or hand-delivery to Linda Friar, Designated Federal Officer; Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Mailstop 3C016A–FAC; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Friar, at the above address, via email at [linda\\_friar@fws.gov](mailto:linda_friar@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358–2056.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary seeks nominations for individuals to be considered for membership on the Council. The Council advises the Secretary, through the Director, on aquatic conservation endeavors that benefit recreational fishery resources and recreational boating and that encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and government. The Council conducts its operations in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). The Council functions solely as an advisory body. Current members' terms expire August 29, 2018.

#### **Council Duties**

The Council's duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:

a. Providing advice that will assist the Secretary in carrying out the authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

b. Fulfilling responsibilities established by Executive Order 12962:

(1) Monitoring specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support.

(2) Reviewing and evaluating the relation of Federal policies and activities to the status and conditions of recreational fishery resources.

c. Recommending policies or programs to increase public awareness and support for the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

d. Recommending policies or programs that foster conservation and ethics in recreational fishing and boating.

e. Recommending policies or programs to stimulate angler and boater participation in the conservation and restoration of aquatic resources through outreach and education.

f. Advising how the Secretary can foster communication and coordination

among government, industry, anglers, boaters, and the public.

g. Providing recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347—Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356—Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories.

h. Providing recommendations for implementation of regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777—Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866—Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order 13563—Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review.

#### **Council Makeup**

The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies are ex officio members. The Council may consist of no more than 18 members and up to 16 alternates appointed by the Secretary for a term not to exceed 3 years. Appointees will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following national interest groups:

a. State fish and wildlife resource management agencies (two members—one a Director of a coastal State, and one a Director of an inland State);

b. Saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing organizations;

c. Recreational boating organizations;

d. Recreational fishing and boating industries;

e. Recreational fishery resources conservation organizations;

f. Tribal resource management organizations;

g. Aquatic resource outreach and education organizations; and

h. The tourism industry.

#### **Nomination Method and Eligibility**

Members will be senior-level representatives of recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resources conservation organizations, and must have the ability to represent their designated constituencies. Nominations should include a resume that provides contact information and a description of the nominee's qualifications that would enable the Department of the Interior to make an informed decision regarding the candidate's suitability to serve on the Council. Current members are eligible to be renominated and reappointed to the Council. Individuals who are federally registered lobbyists are ineligible to serve on all FACA and