

Application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE35518B .....	Jeremy Sheets, Plymouth, IN.	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ), Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i> ).	Rangewide .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Add new activity—band—to existing authorized activities: Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, release.	Amend, renew.
TE85232B .....	Zachary Kaiser, Independence, MO.	Add gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ) to existing permitted species: Indiana bat ( <i>M. sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Rangewide .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, light-tag, band, wing biopsy, collect tissue and hair samples, release, salvage.	Amend.
TE38769A .....	Sarah Bradley, Salem, MO.	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Missouri .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, release, enter hibernacula.	Renew.
TE106220 .....	Brianne Walters, Indiana State University Bat Center, Terre Haute, IN.	Add gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ) to existing permitted species: Indiana bat ( <i>M. sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Rangewide .....	Research, conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Add new activities—harp trap, wing biopsy, collect tissue and hair samples, salvage, and enter hibernacula—to existing authorized activities: Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, band, release.	Amend, renew.

### Public Availability of Comments

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive in response to this notice are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**.

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 ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### Contents of Public Comments

Please make your comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

### Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

### Authority

Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 1, 2017.

**Lori H. Nordstrom,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.*

[FR Doc. 2017-28382 Filed 1-2-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-R-2017-N138];  
FXRS12610200000-189-FF02RTTM00]

### Application for Right of Way Permit for an Ethane Pipeline and Approved Compatibility Determination; San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application for a 30-year right-of-way (ROW) permit under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act from Lavaca Pipeline Company. The applicant wishes to install, own, and operate a natural gas pipeline within an existing ROW easement crossing 203 feet on San

Bernard National Wildlife Refuge in Brazoria County, Texas. We request public comment on the permit application.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments regarding the permit application on or before February 2, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to review documents and submit comments, you may request documents by U.S. mail, email, or phone (see below). Documents are also available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Texas Mid-coast Complex office below (open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Send your comments or requests by any one of the following methods.

- *Email:* [jennifer\\_sanchez@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_sanchez@fws.gov) (use "Lavaca ROW" as your message subject line).
- *Fax:* 979-964-4021 ("Lavaca ROW" subject line).
- *U.S. mail:* Project Leader, Texas Mid-coast Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2547 County Road 316, Brazoria, TX 77422.

- *In-person drop-off:* You may drop off information during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the above office address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Sanchez, 979-964-4011 (phone), or [jennifer\\_sanchez@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_sanchez@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** There is also an approved compatibility determination available for review. Comments regarding the compatibility determination will be received and filed, but we will not be amending the document.

### Applicant's Proposal

Lavaca Pipeline Company has requested to purchase a 30-foot-wide pipeline easement across a 203-foot-long section of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge NWR in Brazoria County, Texas. The (ROW) permit would enable the applicant to install, own, and operate a 16-inch-diameter steel pipeline to transport ethane gas. The requested ROW overlies an existing ROW easement, and the pipeline would be laid parallel to an already existing pipeline. The applicant's pipeline would be installed by means of a conventional bore technique under refuge land; therefore, the process would not require trenching on refuge lands. No additional easement boundaries beyond the existing ROW are required. The bore holes will be located 300 feet outside the refuge property line on adjacent private lands.

### Background

Lavaca Pipeline Company is constructing a 16-inch-diameter pipeline for the transportation of ethane through Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties in Southeast Texas. Lavaca Pipeline is making efforts to co-locate the pipeline within existing pipeline ROW corridors. Lavaca Pipeline has requested to cross the San Bernard NWR along an existing ROW. Although a new ROW is being requested, an existing ROW and pipeline are already in place. The existing pipeline ROW is not an exclusive easement; therefore, additional ROWs and pipelines can be installed within the same cleared corridor. The requested permit would allow for the pipeline to cross a narrow (203-foot-wide) strip of refuge that connects two larger parcels and is commonly referred to as the Sulfur Ditch.

### Compatibility Determination

In our compatibility determination, which was approved on July 26, 2017, we determined that placing the pipeline across this narrow (203-foot-wide) strip would minimize the impact to other refuge lands. Several options were evaluated, but it was determined that they would have resulted in greater impact than this proposal.

### 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 may 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. We will not 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 disclosure in their entirety.

### Authority

We provide this notice under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715d).

Dated: November 6, 2017.

### Lueders,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-28385 Filed 1-2-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCAD08000.18XL1109AF.  
L12200000.EA0000.LXSSB0280000]

### Notice of Temporary Closure on Public Lands for the Annual King of the Hammers Race, San Bernardino County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of temporary closure.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that certain public lands located near Johnson Valley, California, within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, will be temporarily closed to all public use to enhance public safety during Hammering Productions' annual King of the Hammers desert race authorized under a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). This action is in effect for King of the Hammers, which takes place annually, during a 9-day period.

**DATES:** This Notice is effective from February 2, 2018, through February 10, 2018. The Hammering Productions SRP for this event is valid until February 22, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** The BLM will post the temporary closure notice and a map of the temporary closure area on the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/>

*california*; and at the following BLM offices: California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; and Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311. Notice of the 9-day temporary closure period for subsequent races will be published in annual news releases and posted on the BLM website at least 30-days in advance of the event.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beth Ransel, District Manager, California Desert District, telephone: 951-697-5200, email: [bransel@blm.gov](mailto:bransel@blm.gov); or Katrina Symons, Barstow Field Manager, telephone: 760-252-6004, email: [ksymons@blm.gov](mailto:ksymons@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individuals during normal business hours. The Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individuals. You will receive a reply during normal hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The dates for King of the Hammers, the dates of the temporary closure, and a map of the closure area will be posted at the California Desert District Office, the Barstow Field Office, and on the BLM website at the addresses provided above every year at least 30 days prior to the event. The dates are also available upon request.

This temporary closure applies to all public use, including pedestrian use and vehicles. The BLM will also post the temporary closure notice and map of the temporary closure area at the main entry points into the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area. The annual temporary closure will comply with the management plan for the area, ensuring that when the annual temporary closure period includes a Saturday or Sunday, a minimum of three staging areas within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will remain open to the public on those weekend days.

**Exclusive Use:** The area will be for exclusive use of King of the Hammers participants, registered spectators for the King of the Hammers, and other authorized users with an authorized SRP valid for activities within the temporary closure area. For the temporary closure area, anyone without a SRP authorizing use within the temporary closure area during the temporary closure period is prohibited from using the area.

**Exceptions:** Temporary closure restrictions do not apply to medical and rescue personnel in the performance of their official duties; official United