

Oversight and Implementation Plan Solar and Wind Energy Policies

The Renewable Energy Program Oversight and Implementation Plan (Plan) is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Renewable Energy Coordination Office (RECO) in collaboration with Renewable Energy Coordination Offices and Renewable Energy Teams located in various BLM field office organizations. The Plan identifies varied methods of inter- and intra-office communications between the many offices of the BLM renewable energy program. The BLM has established the Plan in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the program, provide a better understanding of renewable energy policies and regulations, and provide clarity and consistency in the goals of the program. In addition, the Plan will also call for collaboration from the various offices in the development of future program policies to improve program efficiency and effectiveness. The Plan does not supersede the authority of BLM managers, but rather supplements program efforts in relation to the delegated authority of BLM managers.

Implementation actions identified herein are subject to change but will continue until determined to no longer be necessary by the National RECO.

Bonds

The BLM will validate compliance with the bonding requirements of the regulations in 43 CFR 2800 and with the solar and wind energy bonding requirements as described in Washington Office (WO)-IM-2011-003 and WO-IM-2011-096. The BLM requires bonds for all solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed or the start of land disturbing activities approved by the right-of-way authorization. The BLM State Director must certify annually that the right-of-way authorization holder has provided a bond or has requested bonds for all authorizations within their respective state. For those authorizations that do not have a bond as described above, the state office must issue a letter of non-compliance to the right-of-way authorization holder. The State Director must submit certifications, using the form template attached to WO-IM-2011-096 within 30 days of the end of each fiscal year (FY) to the Director and the BLM National RECO. The State Director may provide certifications electronically to the BLM National RECO.

The field office must enter all bonds received for renewable energy projects into the Legacy Rehost 2000 (LR2000) System and Bonds and Surety System (B&SS). Should an assignment or name change of the holder occur, the field office must update LR2000 and B&SS to reflect the approved change and then certify the change within the annual certification from the State Director.

Rental

The BLM must ensure that it receives the appropriate rental fee for all solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations. Annually, each BLM state office will certify electronically with the BLM National RECO that (1) the rental billed for each solar and wind energy right-of-way is accurate and (2) the rental fee is based upon the current BLM established rental fee schedule or rental policy. If the BLM does not charge the appropriate rental fee as described above, the state

office must provide a justification for the billed rental amount and the outline for corrective actions, if necessary, by the BLM office to the BLM National RECO.

Regulatory and Program Policy Compliance Review

An internal renewable energy program Internal Control Review (ICR) will be performed by the National RECO on a regular basis, beginning in FY2013, to ensure BLM compliance with renewable energy program regulations and policies. The ICR may include the review of BLM field office documentation of solar or wind energy bonding requirements, solar or wind energy rental fees, solar or wind energy project inspection activities, National Environmental Policy Act analysis or other resource reports, or other program activities identified by the National RECO as a priority for review.

The targeted ICR will ensure that the states apply the regulatory and program-specific guidance appropriately and consistently throughout the BLM. The targeted ICR may expand the scope of the Plan and program policies to include additional BLM-initiated accountability measures as a proactive action for program improvement, such as expanding the annual certification requirements for bonding to solar energy right-of-way authorizations.

Communication

The BLM has identified inter- and intra-office communications as a crucial element to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the renewable energy program, while also providing an improved BLM field office understanding of policies and regulations. The Plan identifies a variety of communication tools by which the BLM National RECO will communicate renewable energy program policies and regulations to BLM field offices. This Plan is not limited by the methods of communication identified below, as the BLM may employ other methods where appropriate. The National RECO will communicate with BLM field offices on a monthly basis.

Methods of Communication

- Conference Calls: Employing the use of telephone, Webex, Lync, or a combination thereof.
- Video Broadcasts: Using various video formats such as M Street Live, Lync, or Webex.
- Onsite Meetings: Held as stand-alone or a series.
- Written Materials: Instruction Memoranda, Information Bulletins, BLM webpage updates, emails, or news articles.