

5.c. - Colorado River Operations



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
January 19, 2010

### EDWARD DRUSINA SWORN IN AS COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

Edward Drusina was sworn in as United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, during a brief ceremony today at agency Headquarters in El Paso, Texas. Commissioner Drusina was appointed to the post by President Barack Obama on January 15.

“The Commission must strive for Excellence through Teamwork,” said Commissioner Drusina.

A civil engineer from El Paso, Texas, Commissioner Drusina has extensive executive experience as an engineer in the private and public sectors. Most recently, he worked as Area Director for Paragon Project Resources, Inc. Prior to that, he was President of OMNI Construction Services, LLC and held executive positions with Moreno Cardenas, Inc. (MCI). While with MCI, he served as construction manager for the off-site infrastructure for the world’s largest inland desalination plant recently constructed in Fort Bliss, Texas.

He also worked for the City of El Paso for seven years as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Municipal Services and Director of Public Works where he oversaw eight departments and divisions responsible for streets, solid waste, engineering, environmental services, building permits and inspections, fleet maintenance, facilities and special projects, and facilities maintenance. From 1998-2004, he represented the City of El Paso on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

He also has 20 years of federal experience, holding engineering positions at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona and at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he worked as Chief of Design Br. AA for the Directorate of Public Works and Logistics, and as Deputy Director of the Source Selection Evaluation Board.

Commissioner Drusina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He was named Texas Public Works Association Public Works Director of the Year for 2003 and was selected Federal Engineer of the Year by the United States Army – Training and Doctrine Command for 1997.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application. The Commission operates and maintains flood control levees, international storage reservoirs, diversion dams, wastewater treatment plants, and boundary monuments at various locations on the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition to its Headquarters in El Paso, Texas, the U.S. Section has offices at San Diego, California; Nogales and Yuma, Arizona; Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso/American Dam, Ft. Hancock, Presidio, Del Rio/Amistad Dam, Falcon Heights/Falcon Dam, and Mercedes in Texas; and Washington, DC. The USIBWC receives foreign policy guidance from the U.S. Department of State.

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
sallyspener@ibwc.gov

**COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100  
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1068  
(818) 500-1625  
(818) 543-4685 FAX



January 21, 2010

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Dr. Bement:

This letter is to request that the National Science Foundation set up a competitive regional climate modeling fund for providing grants to university/research institutions for developing regional climate models. Such models are needed for reasonably estimating climate change impacts in the Colorado River Basin, the largest single source of imported water supply for Southern California.

Academic researchers' preliminary estimates (derived from global climate models) of climate change impacts on runoff yielded results showing decreases of 6 to 50 percent in runoff by the mid- to latter part of the century – a range so large as to be meaningless for public agencies to use in their decision-making. Hydrologic modeling being performed as part of work in progress coordinated through the University of Colorado to attempt to reconcile these estimates has pointed out that about 15 percent of the high elevation watershed contributes some 85 percent of the Colorado River's total runoff. Understanding climate change impacts on this small high-elevation area is key to estimating water supply impacts, and is not something that can be achieved at the scale of global models whose resolution is too coarse to register the Rocky Mountains. Orographic precipitation drives the hydrologic regime for Colorado River runoff, and processes affecting that precipitation need to be captured in modeling.

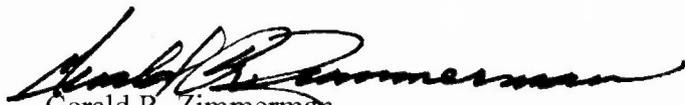
Historically, the Colorado River system, shared among seven states in the U.S. and the Republic of Mexico, has been a highly reliable source of water supply; however, that is expected to change in the future as population growth throughout the Basin increases demands on the system. Reservoir operations modeling performed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Lower Basin indicates that shortages will begin occurring and will increase in frequency over the coming decades, absent any consideration of climate change impacts. The seven Colorado River Basin states have been collaborating in planning to improve shortage management, including opportunities for system augmentation and other actions, to help address the expected imbalance between water supply and demand within the Basin. Having the ability to incorporate a reasonable estimation of climate change impacts in this process would assist in making informed policy decisions.

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director  
January 21, 2010  
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Regional climate modeling is necessary for identifying impacts in the Basin and for providing information readily transferable to Colorado River reservoir operations models. Thus, the Colorado River Board of California requests that the National Science Foundation establish a competitive research grant program -- on the order of \$25 million over three years -- for developing these needed models.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Board's request, please contact me at the above address and telephone number.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Zimmerman,  
Executive Director

Plan require that the NPS develop goals to improve program effectiveness and public accountability. This collection will encourage the public to collect data relevant to goal 1b: "The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information". This collection is also consistent with the NPS Management Policies (2006), which emphasize the "use of qualitative and quantitative techniques to monitor key aspects of resources and processes at regular intervals" and furthermore state that "studies, research, and collection activities by non-NPS personnel involving natural and cultural resources will be encouraged and facilitated when they otherwise comport with NPS policies." More specifically, the goal of this collection is to engage the public in documenting the timing of biological events ("phenology") for a variety of species at numerous different locations. The data collected will help the NPS document how climate change is affecting the timing of biological events such as migration, flowering, and autumn foliage.

The proposed Internet- and paper-based surveys will ask the public to participate in the collection of these data on NPS lands. With sufficient participation, NPS will obtain critical information for determining trends in the timing of biological events for many species. In addition to documenting changes in timing of events, the data set will facilitate the identification of species most at risk from climate change and anthropogenic influences. Survey participants will provide their contact information and multiple observations of species at one or more sites. The contact information will be used for quality control and (at the request of the participant) to provide data summaries or reports and information about additional opportunities for assisting with NPS research and monitoring activities. The obligation to respond is voluntary.

*Automated Data Collection:* The information will be collected through an Internet site, as well as through paper forms available at public locations.

*Description of respondents:* Respondents are members of the public with an interest in contributing to climate change research in the National Parks.

*Estimated average number of responses:* 1,000 per year.

*Frequency of Response:* 5 per respondent.

*Estimated average time burden per respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated total annual reporting burden:* 100 hours per year.

*Comments are invited on:* (1) The practical utility of the information being gathered; (2) the accuracy of the burden hour estimate; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden to respondents, including use of automated information collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

December 23, 2009.

**Cartina A. Miller,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-446 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[F-14909-B, F-14909-B2, F-19148-38;  
LLAK964000-L14100000-KC0000-P]

#### Alaska Native Claims Selection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving the surface estate in certain lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Kuukpik Corporation. The lands are in the vicinity of Nuiqsut, Alaska, and are located in:

#### Umiat Meridian, Alaska

T. 10 N., R. 2 E.,  
Secs. 1, 2, and 3;  
Secs. 5 to 10, inclusive;  
Secs. 16, 17, and 18;  
Secs. 20, 21, and 29.  
Containing approximately 8,751 acres.

T. 11 N., R. 2 E.,  
Secs. 24, 25, and 26;  
Secs. 34, 35, and 36.  
Containing approximately 3,545 acres.

T. 11 N., R. 3 E.,  
Secs. 7, 11, 13, and 18;  
Secs. 19, 24, and 25.

Containing approximately 3,616 acres.

T. 11 N., R. 4 E.,  
Secs. 19, 20, and 30.

Containing approximately 1,376 acres.  
Aggregating approximately 17,288 acres.

The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Arctic Slope Regional Corporation when the surface estate is conveyed to Kuukpik Corporation. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Arctic Sounder.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until February 12, 2010 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Michael Bilancione,**

*Land Transfer Resolution Specialist, Land Transfer Adjudication I Branch.*

[FR Doc. 2010-449 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 048649, LLCAD06000 L51010000  
FX0000 LVRWB09B2520]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed First Solar Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project, Riverside County, CA and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, Palm Springs, California, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for First Solar Inc.'s application for a right-of-way authorization to develop a solar photovoltaic generating facility. The EIS may also support an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980), as amended; by this notice the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and possible plan amendment. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until February 12, 2010. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local media, and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the First Solar Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Draft EIS/Plan Amendment by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html>;
- E-mail: [CAPSSolarFirstSolarDesertSunlight@blm.gov](mailto:CAPSSolarFirstSolarDesertSunlight@blm.gov);
- Fax: (760) 833-7199; or
- Mail: Allison Shaffer, Project Manager, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, BLM, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Allison Shaffer, BLM Project Manager, telephone (760) 833-7100; address Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, BLM, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262; e-mail [CAPSSolarFirstSolarDesertSunlight@blm.gov](mailto:CAPSSolarFirstSolarDesertSunlight@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicant, First Solar Inc., has requested a right-of-way authorization to develop

a solar photovoltaic generating facility with a proposed output of 550 megawatts and a project footprint of approximately 4,410 acres. The proposed project would be located on BLM-administered lands in Riverside County approximately 6 miles north of the rural community of Desert Center, California. The overall site layout and generalized land uses would include a substation, an administration building, operations and maintenance facilities, a transmission line, and temporary construction lay down areas. The project's 230-kilovolt (kV) generation interconnection transmission line also would be located on BLM-administered lands and would utilize a planned 230- to 500-kV substation (referred to as the Red Bluff substation). The Red Bluff substation would connect the project to the Southern California Edison regional transmission grid. Should the project be approved, the interconnection transmission line would be about 9 miles to about 13 miles long, depending on the alternative selected. If approved, construction would begin in late 2010 and would take approximately 41 months to complete.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, special management areas, land use, noise, paleontological resources, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues. Authorization of this proposal may require amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, based on the findings of the EIS. If a land use plan amendment is necessary, the BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted and tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given appropriate consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies—along with other stakeholders who may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project—are invited to

participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

**Thomas Pogacnik,**  
*Deputy State Director, California.*

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

[FR Doc. 2010-403 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

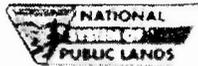
### National Park Service

#### Termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, New Mexico.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS) is terminating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gila Cliff Dwellings General Management Plan because it has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is the more appropriate National Environmental Policy Act compliance document. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS for the Gila Cliff Dwellings General Management Plan was published on April 16, 2008 (**Federal Register** Vol. 73, No. 74). Scoping conducted for the plan indicated that there were no significant impacts or controversy identified by the public. A preliminary impact analysis indicated that the alternatives have limited potential to result in significant/major effects on the human environment as they focus on different ways of protecting resources, providing appropriate visitor experiences, and addressing joint NPS/Forest Service operations. For these reasons the NPS determined the proposal would not require an EIS.



**Release Date:** 01/21/10

**Contacts:** David Briery, 951-697-5220  
Steve Razo, 951-697-5217

**News Release No.** CA-CDD-10-29

## BLM to Hold Open House in Needles on Proposed Ivanpah Solar Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces an open house to facilitate understanding of the proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generation Project on public lands in San Bernardino County, Calif., will be held Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the BLM Needles Field Office, 1303 South Highway 95, in Needles, Calif.

Bright Source Energy of Oakland, Calif. applied to the BLM for four right-of-way authorizations to construct solar power plants on approximately 4,000 acres of public land in California about 4.5 miles southwest of Primm, Nev. The project could be one of the first commercial-scale thermal-solar power project constructed on public land in the United States. It would be constructed in three phases over a three year-period.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and California Energy Commission (CEC) Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the project will be available for inspection and staff will be available to answer questions. An opportunity will be provided at the open house to submit written comments. The official comment period for the DEIS/FSA ends on February 11, 2010.

The proposed 400-megawatt solar plant would provide enough electricity to power 120,000 homes. The plant would use solar "power tower" technology, involving the construction of seven 459-foot-tall towers. The planned 214,000 heliostats, each consisting of two flat mirrors, would be constructed in concentric circles around each tower to reflect the sun's rays on a central receiver. The towers would heat water and run steam through turbines to generate electricity. The electricity would be transmitted via tie lines to a new substation and into the transmission lines running through the proposed project.

Further details can be found at a BLM web page: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/alternative\\_energy/SolarEnergy.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/alternative_energy/SolarEnergy.html) and the CEC web page: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah/index.html>, or by contacting Tom Hurshman, BLM Project Manager, (970) 240-5345, or [ca690@ca.blm.gov](mailto:ca690@ca.blm.gov).

--BLM--

California Desert District Office 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Last updated: 01-21-2010

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BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**REVISED**

**AGENDA**

**RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT  
BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT  
PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT**

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS  
U. S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETINGS  
AND  
PUBLIC SITE VISITS**

***MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010***

Blythe City Hall Council Chambers  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, California 92225

- 1:15 p.m.*** Rice Solar Energy Project site visit begins (bus leaves City Hall).
- 3:30 p.m.*** Blythe Solar Power Project and Palen Solar Power Project site visits begin (bus leaves City Hall).
- 5:00 p.m.*** All buses return to Blythe City Hall. Presentations and discussions concerning matters common to Blythe Solar Power Project, Palen Solar Power Project, and Rice Solar Energy Project.
- 7:00 p.m. 6:00 P.M.*** Presentations and discussions regarding the Rice Solar Energy Project.
- 8:00 p.m. 7:00 P.M.*** Presentations and discussions regarding the Blythe Solar Power Project and Palen Solar Power Project.

## DOI News

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### Solar Energy on Public Lands

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01/28/2010

Today I testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the importance of solar energy development on our public lands. You can read the full testimony here, but I'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

During the first year of his Administration, President Obama has made the development of renewable energy in America one of his highest priorities. We can no longer afford the risks that spending billions of dollars each year on imported oil poses to our national and financial security. America's abundant natural resources offer the potential to create new jobs and a more stable future.



For the first time ever, the Department of the Interior is exploring our deserts and plains for their vast clean energy potential. As a Department which oversees 20 percent of the nation's lands we have huge solar potential; the public lands in the deserts of the Southwest near the great cities of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Phoenix contain an estimated 2,300 gigawatts of energy. While countries like China, Spain, and Germany pursue the manufacturing and deployment of renewable energy, America has the ingenuity and vast sun-filled public lands to become a global leader in solar energy development. Exciting technologies that turn sunlight into electricity- "concentrated solar thermal" and photovoltaic cells- hold the promise of new jobs and lower costs as they become even more technologically advanced.

Renewable energy was the focus of my first Secretarial Order in March 2009, which cut red tape and sought to facilitate the production, development, and delivery of renewable energy on public lands. We have opened Renewable Energy Coordination Offices in California, Nevada, Wyoming and Arizona and established teams in six other states that aim to expedite the necessary reviews of ready-to-go clean energy projects and the permitting of transmission-related projects on public lands. I have visited solar energy projects in the East and the West, and met employees of innovative energy companies who are developing next-generation materials such as thin-film solar photovoltaic modules. Our Department is working with these entrepreneurs to ensure that solar development remains at the forefront of our renewable energy agenda.

This past year we have prioritized identifying public lands' suitability for the large-scale production of renewable energy, both from an environmental and resource perspective. Last June, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and I announced the identification of 1,000 square miles, including 24 tracts of Bureau of Land Management-administered land, in the West as Solar Energy Study Areas. These Study Areas alone have the potential to generate nearly 100,000 megawatts of solar electricity, enough to power millions of American homes.

Along with the Department of Energy we are preparing a Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, which will identify which solar energy projects on Southwestern public lands seem to have the highest potential for utility-scale energy development. So far the BLM has identified approximately 23 million acres with solar energy potential. In the Southwest we have also announced the "fast-tracking" of 34 promising renewable energy projects, which could potentially be cleared for approval by December 2010. This would make them eligible for economic stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We have placed fourteen solar energy projects on the fast track, located in three states and using different solar energy technologies including solar engine, parabolic trough, and power tower. All are currently undergoing detailed environmental impact assessment, and if approved, could produce 5,000-6,000 megawatts of new capacity and tens of thousands of jobs. In California, Governor Schwarzenegger and I signed a Memo of Understanding to expedite the siting, reviewing, approving and

permitting of renewable energy projects on public lands in California.

We are redoubling our efforts to evaluate and approve existing applications for solar energy projects. The BLM is currently processing approximately 128 applications for utility-scale solar projects that involve around 77,000 megawatts and 1.2 million acres of public land. We believe that of the solar projects currently proposed in California, Arizona, and New Mexico over 5,750 megawatts of new capacity could be permitted for construction by the end of this year. The development of all these projects has the potential to power roughly 1.4 million homes.

Solar and other renewable energy resources are often located in remote areas, and will require new transmission capacity to bring this clean energy to population centers. The Department has already identified and designated more than 5,000 miles of transmission corridors on federal lands. We are processing more than 30 applications for major transmission corridor right-of-ways, with 7 applications in Idaho, California and Nevada that could potentially "fast track" the permitting of over 1,000 transmission miles this year. Moreover, nine federal agencies including the Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committed to coordinating the expedition of siting and permitting electric transmission projects on federal lands.

By facilitating energy transmission, reviewing current projects, and uncovering potential new sites, last year the Department made great strides towards harnessing solar power on public lands. I am proud of our achievements, and will continue to make the creation of a secure and responsible energy future a top Department priority.

Updated January 25, 2010 - Location Change

The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Anne Castle

Invites you to the:

Kickoff Workshop for the  
Department of the Interior's

WaterSMART Program

(Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow)

February 23 and 24 in Las Vegas, Nevada



Deadline for Workshop Registration - February 12, 2010

Deadline for Hotel Registration - February 12, 2010

The Kickoff Workshop will introduce the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program and will solicit input and ideas from participants on making this new program most effective for all water users. The Kickoff Workshop will focus on the Colorado River Basin to pilot the new WaterSMART Program and is intended to bring together leaders of the water community to discuss this exciting new initiative.

### Attendance

The Kickoff Workshop is intended for senior leaders and policy makers within the Colorado River Basin representing State Agencies, Native American Tribes and Communities, Local Governments, Water User Organizations, Environmental and Conservation Groups, Federal Agencies, and other Stakeholders. Attendance is by invitation only; however, invitees are welcome to send a substitute. There may be additional space available for individuals from your organization. Please complete a registration form for each individual that you wish to attend.

### Time

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

The Kickoff Workshop will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, and conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

## Updated Location

The Kickoff Workshop will be held at ARIA in CityCenter, 3730 Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas NV 89109. The hotel is holding a limited block of rooms under the name "WaterSMART" at a room rate of \$126 per night (before taxes). For reservations please call (702) 590-7757 or (888) 359-7757. Hotel reservations must be made no later than Friday, February 12, 2010, in order to receive the Kickoff Workshop room rate. Additional hotel information can be found at <http://www.citycenter.com/>.

## Fee

The fee for this Kickoff Workshop is \$125. The registration fee will be used to defray expenses including light refreshments throughout the workshop and a luncheon on the second day.

## Registration

The registration deadline is Friday, February 12, 2010. Registration will be confirmed no later than Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Credit cards will be billed once registration is confirmed. To register, please complete and submit the attached registration form. Participants who cancel without a substitute will be charged the full registration fee. The hotel is located approximately 15 minutes from the Airport.

## Questions

For more information, please contact Ms. Amber Cunningham at [AZCunningham@usbr.gov](mailto:AZCunningham@usbr.gov) or 702-293-8472.

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Preliminary Workshop Agenda:

WaterSMART Kickoff Workshop

**Sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior  
ARIA, CityCenter, Las Vegas, NV  
February 23-24, 2010**

**Day 1: Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

- 10:30 a.m.** Registration Opens
- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 1:45 p.m.** New Federal Activities – including Science and Engineering to  
Comprehensively Understand and Responsibly Enhance (SECURE) Water  
Act, Cooperative Watershed Program, Basin Studies, and Climate Centers
- 2:30 p.m.** Building Blocks – Existing Tools
- Bureau of Reclamation: Challenge Grant Program and Basin Study Program
  - U.S. Geological Survey: Water Census activities
- 3:30 p.m.** Break
- 4:00 p.m.** Building Blocks – Existing Tools Continued
- Environmental Protection Agency: WaterSense Program
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: National Integrated Drought Information System
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs
- 5:00 p.m.** Adjourn

**Day 2: Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

- 8:00 a.m.** Review first day's activities and set the stage for Day 2
- 8:15 a.m.** Best Practices Panel
- 9:30 a.m.** Break
- 10:00 a.m.** New Technology and Research Panel
- 11:15 a.m.** Breakout Session to brainstorm tools needed to further Water Conservation in the region. Suggested topics include: Policy, Infrastructure, Operations and Maintenance, Data and Information Management and Sharing, New Water Supply, Education, Other.
- Noon** Lunch (Key Note Speaker to be Determined)
- 1:30 p.m.** Continue Breakout Session
- 2:00 p.m.** Participants Share Results of Breakout Session
- 2:30 p.m.** Closing Remarks: Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary, DOI
- 3:00 p.m.** Adjourn