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Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Energy Comment Period Opens

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO) launches a 90-day public comment period with today's *Federal Register* publication of the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project. This also opens the comment period for the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment to the 2008 Rawlins Resource Management Plan visual resource management (VRM) decisions.

The BLM is hosting two open house meetings to provide the public an opportunity to review the documents and receive project information. Staff and project proponents will be available to explain project details and answer questions. Both open houses will be held from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Open houses are scheduled on Aug. 22 at the Jeffrey Memorial Community Center, 315 E. Pine St., Rawlins, Wyo.; and Aug. 23 at the Platte Valley Community Center, 210 W. Elm Ave., Saratoga, Wyo.

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre are two distinct sites. When combined, they comprise the largest commercial wind generation facility proposed in North America. Power Company of Wyoming, LLC has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way to build approximately 1,000 wind turbines in an area located south of Rawlins, Wyo., in Carbon County. The project is proposed to generate 2,000 to 3,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Along with the turbines, the project also proposes building access roads, underground electric gathering lines, an overhead transmission line, and substations to interconnect the generated power to the electric grid. Construction may take 3-4 years with a project life estimate of 30 years.

Written substantive comments are most helpful if they cite specific actions or impacts, and offer supporting information. Comments are requested by Oct. 19, and may be submitted via email, mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to:

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project
BLM Rawlins Field Office
1300 N. Third Street
Rawlins, WY 82301
Facsimile: 307-328-4224
Email: WYMail_PCW_Windfarm@blm.gov
Please include "CCSM Wind Farm Comment" in the subject line

Before including your address, phone number, email, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request we withhold your personal information from public view, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so. For more information visit: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html. For specific questions contact Rawlins Field Manager Dennis Carpenter, 307-328-4209.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

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Rawlins Field Office 1300 N. Third Street Rawlins, WY 82301

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