

## Supporting Statement A

### Competitive Processes, Terms, and Conditions for Leasing Public Lands for Solar and Wind Energy Development

OMB Control Number 1004-XXXX

**Terms of Clearance:** None.

#### General Instructions

A completed Supporting Statement A must accompany each request for approval of a collection of information. The Supporting Statement must be prepared in the format described below, and must contain the information specified below. If an item is not applicable, provide a brief explanation. When the question “Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses, or employ statistical methods?” is checked “Yes,” then a Supporting Statement B must be completed. OMB reserves the right to require the submission of additional information with respect to any request for approval.

#### Specific Instructions

#### Justification

**1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a rule that would amend existing rights-of-way regulations, primarily in order to encourage solar and wind energy development. In addition, the proposed rule would amend regulations pertaining to electric transmission lines with a capacity of 100 Kilovolts (kV) or more and pipelines 10 inches or more in diameter.

The BLM’s existing rights-of-way regulations are at 43 CFR Parts 2800 and 2880. Part 2800 pertains to rights-of-way issued under the authority of Title V (43 U.S.C. 1761 – 1771) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The following types of facilities are among those that may be authorized under FLPMA and 43 CFR Part 2800 and that are relevant to the proposed rule:

- Pipelines for the impoundment, storage, transportation, or distribution of water;
- Pipelines for the transportation or distribution of liquids and gases, other than oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product of such substances;
- Pipelines for transportation and distribution of solid materials; and
- Systems for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy.

See 43 U.S.C. 1761(a). In accordance with 43 CFR 2804.12, applicants for these categories of rights-of-way must use Standard Form 299, Application for Transportation and Utility Systems

and Facilities on Federal Lands (SF-299). OMB has approved SF-299 under control number 0596-0082. That control number is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

The regulations at 43 CFR Part 2880 pertain to rights-of-way for facilities (including oil and gas pipelines) issued under the authority of Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) (30 U.S.C. 185). In accordance with 43 CFR 2884.11, applicants for these categories of rights-of-way may use SF-299. Alternatively, they may apply for these rights-of-way as part of an Application for Permit to Drill or Reenter (BLM Form 3160-3) or as part of a Sundry Notice and Report on Wells (BLM Form 3160-5). As discussed above, SF-299 is authorized by control number 0596-0082. The other two forms mentioned in 43 CFR 2884.11 are authorized by control number 1004-0137.

In connection with the proposed rule, the BLM requests OMB approval for a new control number that would: (1) authorize the collection of information in addition to that which is currently approved for the BLM by control number 0596-0082; and (2) authorize other new information collection activities.

The following provisions necessitate the information collection activities in the proposed rule:

- Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, 119 Stat. 660) (hereinafter EAct) includes a provision encouraging the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to approve non-hydropower renewable energy projects (solar, wind, and geothermal) on public lands with a total combined generation capacity of at least 10,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity by 2015. See Section 211, Public Law 109-58, 119 Stat. 660 (2005);
- Secretarial Order No. 3283 (January 16, 2009) clarifies Departmental roles and responsibilities to accomplish the goal set in the EAct and increase renewable energy development on public lands;
- Secretarial Order No. 3285 (March 11, 2009), as amended by Secretarial Order No. 3285A1 (February 2010), establishes the development of renewable energy on public lands as one of the Department's highest priorities;
- The President's Climate Action Plan (June 25, 2013) set a new goal for the Department to approve a renewable energy capacity of at least 20,000 MW of electricity on public lands by 2020;
- Title V of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1761-1771) authorizes the BLM to issue rights-of-way on public lands for electric generation systems (including solar and wind energy generation systems); requires the BLM to prescribe certain terms and conditions; and requires the holder of a right-of-way to pay in advance the fair market value thereof, as determined by the Secretary;
- Section 102(a)(9) of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(9)) establishes a Federal policy of receiving fair market value for the use of the public lands and their resources; and

- Section 28 of the MLA (30 U.S.C. 185) authorizes the BLM to issue rights-of-way on public lands for oil, natural gas, and other pipelines, and requires the BLM to prescribe certain terms and conditions.

The primary purpose of the proposed rule would be to amend 43 CFR Part 2800 to provide for two competitive processes for solar and wind energy rights-of-way on public lands. One of the proposed competitive processes for solar and wind energy would be for public lands inside any “designated leasing area,” a term which would be defined in a proposed amendment of 43 CFR 2801.5 as:

A parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by the BLM land use planning process as being a preferred location for solar or wind energy development that must be leased competitively.

The other competitive process for wind and solar energy would be for public lands outside designated leasing areas. The proposed rule refers generally to solar and wind energy rights-of-way inside designated leasing areas as “leases,” and those outside designated leasing areas as “grants.” However, the term “grant” is used for short term rights-of-way (such as for wind energy testing) both inside and outside designated leasing areas.

In addition, the proposed rule would:

- Amend Parts 2800 and 2880 to ensure consistency of policies, processes, and procedures, where possible, between rights-of-way applied for and administered under part 2800 and those applied for and administered under part 2880; and
  - Amend Parts 2800 and 2880 to require pre-application procedures and fees for transmission lines with a capacity of 100 kV or more, pipelines 10 inches or more in diameter, similar to those being proposed for solar and wind energy projects. (Like authorizations for solar or wind energy, these categories of facilities are all generally large scale operations that require additional steps to help protect the public land.)
- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection. Be specific. If this collection is a form or a questionnaire, every question needs to be justified.**

As explained above, the proposed rule would supplement the existing information collection requirements currently authorized by control number 0596-0082, as well as add other new information collection requirements.

## **Proposed Information Collection Requirements Supplemental to SF-299**

The information collection requirements currently approved for SF-299 include the applicant's identity (for example, name, and address, and telephone number), project description, other data about the proposed project (for example, why it is necessary to cross Federal lands and why the project is needed), probable effects (for example, environmental impacts), and whether any hazardous material would be used. In addition, the proposed rule would require applicants to provide the information described below.

### ***General description of proposed project and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development*** **43 CFR 2804.10(c)(4)**

New paragraph 2804.10(c)(4) would apply to the application requirements for:

- (1) Solar or wind energy development projects outside designated leasing areas;
- (2) Electric transmission lines with a capacity of 100 kV or more; and
- (3) Pipelines 10 inches or more in diameter.

These types of applications would have to include a general description of the proposed project and a schedule for submittal of a Plan of Development. The new requirements are necessary in order to ensure the timely processing of these types of applications.

### ***Application for wind energy testing grant*** **43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8) and 2804.30(g), 2805.11(b)(2)(i), 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2809.19(c)**

***and***

### ***Application for other short term right-of-way grant related to solar or wind energy*** **43 CFR 2804.14 and 2805.11(b)(2)(iii)**

Both of these applications are for short term right-of-way grants. "Short term right-of-way grant" is a new term that, as defined in a proposed amendment to 43 CFR 2801.5, would mean any grant issued for a term of 3 years or less for such uses as storage sites, construction sites, and short-term site testing and monitoring activities. The proposed rule provides for two general types of short-term right-of-way grants: (1) Short term wind energy testing grants and (2) Other short-term right-of-way grants.

A. Proposed section 2804.12(a)(8) would require an "application filing fee" of \$2 per acre for applications for short term wind energy testing grants, both inside and outside designated leasing areas. As defined at section 2801.5 of the proposed rule, the term "application filing fee" would mean a nonrefundable filing fee specific to solar and wind energy right-of-way applications. The amount of this fee is intended to discourage speculation. It is not intended for cost recovery.

The BLM would adjust the application filing fee once every 10 years by the average annual change in the Implicit Price Deflator, Gross Domestic Product (IPD-GDP) for the preceding 10-year period and round it to the nearest one half dollar. This fee would be necessary in order to defray the BLM's expenses in processing these types of applications, and it is accordance with Section 304 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1734) and the Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), which authorize the BLM to recover costs of processing applications and other documents relating to the public lands. Moreover, OMB Circular A-25 (titled "User Charges") provides that the Federal policy is to assess a charge against each identifiable recipient for special Federal benefits beyond those received by the general public.

B. Proposed section 2804.30(g) would apply to applications for two types of grants which would authorize testing for wind energy potential outside designated leasing areas: (1) A site-specific grant, which would authorize the installation and operation of a single meteorological tower or other wind study facility; and (2) A project area grant, which would authorize the installation and operation of any number of meteorological towers or other wind study facilities. These applications would be subject to a \$2 per acre application filing fee in accordance with section 2804.12(a)(8).

This regulation would allow only one applicant (i.e., a "preferred applicant") to apply for a wind energy testing grant. The preferred applicant would be the successful bidder in a competitive process beginning either with the filing of competing applications for the same facility or system, or with an offer by the BLM of a parcel for competitive bidding. In the latter process, the successful bidder also would have to submit the bonus bid to the BLM within 15 days of the date of the offer. See proposed 43 CFR 2804.30(f). This information collection activity is necessary for the competitive process for lands outside designated leasing areas.

C. Proposed section 2805.11(b)(2)(i) through (b)(2)(iii) would authorize applications for the two types of wind energy testing grants authorized under proposed section 2804.30(g), plus short-term grants for geotechnical testing and other temporary land-disturbing activities related to solar and wind energy. Applications for wind energy testing grants would be subject to a \$2 per acre application filing fee in accordance with section 2804.12(a)(8). The amount of this application filing fee is intended to discourage speculation. It is not intended for cost recovery.

Applications for other types of short term rights-of-way related to solar or wind energy would be subject to a processing fee in accordance with section 2804.14. This processing fee is intended for cost recovery.

This information collection activity is necessary for the orderly management of activities that may precede an application for a longer term solar or wind energy right-of-way.

D. Proposed section 2809.19(c) would provide a process for applying for short-term grants for testing and monitoring purposes inside designated leasing areas. This application would apply to wind energy testing only, and would be subject to a \$2 per acre application filing fee in accordance with section 2804.12(a)(8). This amount of this fee is intended to discourage speculation. It is not intended for cost recovery.

This information collection activity is necessary for the competitive process for lands inside designated leasing areas.

***Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development right-of-way  
43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), and 2807.21***

A. Proposed 2804.12(a)(8) would require an “application filing fee” of \$15 per acre for applications for, and requests to assign, solar and wind energy development rights-of-way. As defined at section 2801.5 of the proposed rule, the term “application filing fee” would mean a nonrefundable filing fee specific to solar and wind energy right-of-way applications. The amount of this fee is intended to discourage speculation. It is not intended for cost recovery.

The BLM would adjust the application filing fee once every 10 years by the average annual change in the Implicit Price Deflator, Gross Domestic Product (IPD-GDP) for the preceding 10-year period and round it to the nearest one half dollar. This fee would be necessary in order to defray the BLM’s expenses in processing these types of applications, and it is accordance with Section 304 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1734) and the Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), which authorize the BLM to recover costs of processing applications and other documents relating to the public lands. Moreover, OMB Circular A-25 (titled “User Charges”) provides that the Federal policy is to assess a charge against each identifiable recipient for special Federal benefits beyond those received by the general public.

B. Proposed section 2804.30(g) would allow only one applicant (i.e., a “preferred applicant”) to apply for a right-of-way grant outside a designated leasing area for a solar or wind energy development grant. The preferred applicant would be the successful bidder in a competitive process beginning either with the filing of competing applications for the same facility or system, or with an offer by the BLM of a parcel for competitive bidding. In the latter process, the successful bidder also would have to submit the bonus bid to the BLM within 15 days of the date of the offer. See proposed 43 CFR 2804.30(f). The information required in such an application is listed at existing 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(1) through (a)(7), which would not be amended in the proposed rule. This collection is necessary for the competitive process for lands outside designated leasing areas.

C. Existing section 2807.21 allows a holder of a right-of-way grant to assign any right or interest in that grant, provided that the BLM approves such assignment. It also requires the proposed assignee to file an assignment application and follow the same procedures and standards as for a new right-of-way grant.

As amended, section 2807.21 would:

- Apply the requirements for assignments to right-of-way leases<sup>1</sup> as well as grants;

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<sup>1</sup> The term “right-of-way lease” in this context refers to solar and wind energy rights-of-way inside designated leasing areas.

- Add a list of actions that may require an assignment; and
- Provide that changes in the holder's name only does not constitute an assignment;

This information collection activity is necessary for the orderly administration of right-of-way leases and grants.

***Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant  
43 CFR 2804.14, 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), 2805.11(b)(2)(iii), and 2805.14(h)***

Proposed sections 2805.11(b)(2)(ii) and 2805.14(h) would authorize holders of short term grants for wind energy project area testing to apply for a renewal of up to three years, so long as the renewal application is accompanied by a wind energy development application and a Plan of Development. Authorizations for wind energy site specific testing would not be renewable.

Proposed section 2805.11(b)(2)(iii) would authorize holders of other types of short term testing and monitoring grants (e.g., geotechnical testing) to apply for a renewal of up to three years.

Processing fees in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14, as amended, would apply to these renewal applications.

These opportunities for renewal of short term grants are necessary in order to enable the completion of complex testing of wind energy potential, and in order to apprise the BLM whether or not the holder of an expiring short term right-of-way intends to proceed with development.

***Environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information  
43 CFR 2805.12(a)(15)***

Proposed 43 CFR 2805.12(a)(15) would authorize the BLM to require a holder of any type of right-of-way to provide, or give the BLM access to, any pertinent environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information. The BLM would use the information for monitoring and inspection activities, as appropriate.

***Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease  
43 CFR 2805.14(g) and 2807.22***

Proposed amendments to 43 CFR 2805.14 and 2807.22 would authorize holders of leases and grants to apply for renewal of their rights-of-way. Processing fees in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14, as amended, would apply to these renewal applications. The BLM would use the information to decide whether to renew rights-of-way.

***Request for amendment or name change (FLPMA)  
43 CFR 2807.11(b) and (d) and 2807.21***

These proposed regulations would require a holder of any type of FLPMA right-of-way to contact the BLM:

- Before engaging in any activity that is a “substantial deviation” from what is authorized;
- Whenever site-specific circumstances or conditions arise that result in the need for changes that are not substantial deviations;
- Before assigning, in whole or in part, any right or interest in a grant or lease; and
- Before changing the name of a holder (i.e., when the name change is not the result of an underlying change in control of the right-of-way).

A request for an amendment of the right-of-way would be required in cases of a substantial deviation (for example, a change in the boundaries of the right-of-way, major improvements not previously approved by the BLM, or a change in the use of the right-of-way). Other changes, such as changes in project materials, or changes in mitigation measures within the existing, approved right-of-way area, would be required to be submitted to the BLM for review and approval. In order to assign a grant, the proposed assignee must file an assignment application and follow the same procedures and standards as for a new grant or lease, as well as pay application and processing fees. In order to request a name change, the holder would be required to file an application and follow the same procedures and standards as for a new grant or lease and pay processing fees, but no application fee would be required. The following documents are also required in the case of a name change:

- A copy of the court order or legal document effectuating the name change of an individual; or
- If the name change is for a corporation, a copy of the corporate resolution proposing and approving the name change, a copy of a document showing acceptance of the name change by the State in which incorporated, and a copy of the appropriate resolution, order, or other document showing the name change.

In all these cases, the BLM would use the information for monitoring and inspection purposes, and to maintain current data on rights-of-way.

***Plan of Development for solar energy development lease inside designated leasing area  
43 CFR 2809.18(c)***

Proposed section 2809.18(c) would require the holder of a solar energy development lease for lands inside a designated leasing area to submit a Plan of Development within two years of the lease issuance date that addresses all pre-development and development activities. This collection activity is necessary to ensure diligent development.

The following requirements do not duplicate the elements listed in SF-299:

Operations and maintenance. This information will assist the BLM in verifying the right-of-way holder’s compliance with terms and conditions regarding all aspects of operations and maintenance, including road maintenance and workplace safety.

Environmental considerations. This information will assist the BLM in monitoring compliance with terms and conditions regarding mitigation measures and site-specific issues such as protection of sensitive species and avoidance of conflicts with recreation uses of nearby lands.

Maps and drawings. This information will assist the BLM in monitoring compliance with all terms and conditions.

Supplementary information. This information, which will be required after submission of the holder's initial Plan of Development, will assist the BLM in reviewing possible alternative designs and mitigation measures for a final Plan of Development. Proposed section 2809.18(c) would require the holder of a wind energy development lease for lands inside a designated leasing area to submit a Plan of Development within two years of the lease issuance date that addresses all pre-development and development activities. This collection activity is necessary to ensure diligent development.

***Plan of Development for wind energy development lease inside designated leasing area  
43 CFR 2809.18(c)***

Proposed section 2809.18(c) would require the holder of a wind energy development lease for lands inside a designated leasing area to submit a Plan of Development within two years of the lease issuance date that addresses all pre-development and development activities. This collection activity is necessary to ensure diligent development.

The following requirements do not duplicate the elements listed in SF-299:

Operations and maintenance. This information will assist the BLM in verifying the right-of-way holder's compliance with terms and conditions regarding all aspects of operations and maintenance, including road maintenance and workplace safety.

Environmental considerations. This information will assist the BLM in monitoring compliance with terms and conditions regarding mitigation measures and site-specific issues such as protection of sensitive species and avoidance of conflicts with recreation uses of nearby lands.

Maps and drawings. This information will assist the BLM in monitoring compliance with all terms and conditions.

Supplementary information. This information, which will be required after submission of the holder's initial Plan of Development, will assist the BLM in reviewing possible alternative designs and mitigation measures for a final Plan of Development. Proposed section 2809.18(c) would require the holder of a wind energy development lease for lands inside a designated leasing area to submit a Plan of Development within two years of the lease issuance date that addresses all pre-development and development activities. This collection activity is necessary to ensure diligent development.

***General description of proposed oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter and  
schedule for submittal of Plan of Development  
43 CFR 2884.10(d)(3)***

The proposed rule would list conditions for BLM acceptance of an application for an oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter. One of these conditions would be the submission of a general description of the proposed project and a schedule for submitting a Plan of Development. The BLM will use the information to assist in its decision whether or not to process an application for a large-scale right-of-way of this type.

***Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (MLA)  
43 CFR 2886.12(b) and (d) and 43 CFR 2887.11***

These proposed regulations would require a holder of any type of MLA right-of-way or temporary use permit<sup>2</sup> to contact the BLM:

- Before engaging in any activity that is a “substantial deviation” from what is authorized;
- Whenever site-specific circumstances or conditions arise that result in the need for changes that are not substantial deviations;
- When the holder submits a certification of construction;
- Before assigning, in whole or in part, any right or interest in a grant or lease; and
- Before changing the name of a holder (i.e., when the name change is not the result of an underlying change in control of the right-of-way).

A request for an amendment of the right-of-way would be required in cases of a substantial deviation. Other changes, such as changes in project materials, or changes in mitigation measures within the existing, approved right-of-way area, would be required to be submitted to the BLM for review and approval. In order to assign a grant, the proposed assignee must file an assignment application and follow the same procedures and standards as for a new grant or lease, as well as pay application and processing fees. In order to request a name change, the holder would be required to file an application and follow the same procedures and standards as for a new grant or lease and pay processing fees, but no application fee would be required. The following documents are also required in the case of a name change:

- A copy of the court order or legal document effectuating the name change of an individual; or
- If the name change is for a corporation, a copy of the corporate resolution proposing and approving the name change, a copy of a document showing acceptance of the name change by the State in which incorporated, and a copy of the appropriate resolution, order, or other document showing the name change.

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<sup>2</sup> A temporary use permit authorizes a holder of an MLA right-of-way to use land temporarily in order to construct, operate, maintain, or terminate a pipeline, or for purposes of environmental protection or public safety. See 43 CFR 2881.12.

In all these cases, the BLM would use the information for monitoring and inspection purposes, and to maintain current data on rights-of-way.

***Certification of construction***  
***43 CFR 2886.12(e)***

A certification of construction is a document a holder of an MLA right-of-way must submit to the BLM after finishing construction of a facility, but before operations begin. The BLM will use the information to verify that the holder has constructed and tested the facility to ensure that it complies with the terms of the right-of-way and is in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

**Other Proposed Information Collection Requirements**

***Pre-application information for large-scale rights-of-way***  
***43 CFR 2804.10(a)(4) and (b)***

In accordance with proposed 43 CFR 2804.10, anyone interested in a right-of-way for a large-scale project (i.e., for solar or wind energy, for a transmission line with a capacity of 100 kV or more, or for any pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter) would be required to hold pre-application meetings. Among other things, these meetings would be opportunities for the proponent of a project to provide information to the BLM, other governmental entities, and various stakeholders. The potential applicant would be required to pay reasonable costs associated with the pre-application requirements, with the option of paying the-actual costs. The information would assist the BLM in protecting public lands and in facilitating application processing for these types of authorizations, which are generally larger and more complex than the average right-of-way authorization.

***Showing of good cause***  
***43 CFR 2805.12(c)(6)***

Proposed rules at 43 CFR 2805.12(c)(3) and 2809.18(g) would require due diligence in development by holders of solar or wind energy rights-of-way. In accordance with proposed 43 CFR 2805.12(c)(6), the BLM would notify the holder before suspending or terminating the right-of-way for lack of due diligence. This notice would provide the holder with a reasonable opportunity to correct any noncompliance or to start or resume use of the right-of-way. A showing of good cause would be required in response. That showing would have to include:

- Reasonable justification for any delays in construction (for example, delays in equipment delivery, legal challenges, and acts of God);
- The anticipated date of completion of construction and evidence of progress toward the start or resumption of construction; and
- A request for extension of the timelines in the approved POD.

The BLM would use the information to determine whether or not to suspend or terminate the right-of-way.

***Reclamation cost estimate for lands outside designated leasing area***  
***43 CFR 2305.20(a)(3)***

43 CFR 2805.20 of the proposed rule would require a standard bond for solar or wind energy rights-of-way inside designated leasing areas, and would require a minimum bond for such rights-of-way outside designated leasing areas. In accordance with proposed section 2305.20(a)(3), the bond amount outside a designated leasing area would be based on the holder's estimate of the costs for reclaiming and restoring the public lands, include the administrative costs for the BLM to administer a contract to reclaim and restore the lands in the authorization. The BLM would use the reclamation cost estimate to determine the appropriate bond amount.

***Nomination of parcel of land inside designated leasing area***  
***43 CFR 2809.10***

Under proposed section 2809.10, the BLM could: (1) on its own initiative offer lands competitively inside designated leasing areas for solar or wind energy development, or (2) solicit nominations for such development. Proposed section 2809.11 would describe the nomination process.

In order to nominate a parcel under this process, the nominator would be required to be qualified to hold a right-of-way under 43 CFR 2803.10. After publication of a notice by the BLM, anyone meeting the qualifications could submit a nomination for a specific parcel of land to be developed for solar or wind energy. There would be a fee of \$5 per acre for each nomination. The amount of this fee is intended to discourage speculation. It is not intended as a means of cost recovery.

The following information would be required:

- The nominator's name and personal or business address; and
- The legal land description; and
- A map of the nominated lands.

The BLM would use the information to communicate with the nominator and to determine whether or not to proceed with a competitive offer.

***Expression of interest in parcel of land inside designated leasing area***  
***43 CFR 2809.11***

Proposed section 2809.11 would provide that the BLM may consider informal expressions of interest suggesting lands to be included in a competitive offer. The expression would have to include a description of the suggested lands and a rationale for their inclusion in a competitive offer. The information would assist the BLM in determining whether or not to proceed with a competitive offer.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other**

**forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden and specifically how this collection meets GPEA requirements.**

SF-299 is electronically available to the public in fillable, printable format on BLM's Forms Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/noc/st/en/business/eForms.html>. A respondent who chooses to submit that form electronically may do so by scanning and then emailing it to the appropriate BLM office. Information collection requirements that do not require the submission of SF-299 or any other form also may be scanned and emailed to the appropriate BLM office.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

There is no duplication. The information in each collection activity is unique and is unsuitable for other uses. The BLM is not able to use or modify similar information because the responses in this collection are distinct, unrelated to each other, and specific to their individual proposed projects.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

In compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the BLM reviewed the entities potentially affected by the proposed rule to determine the extent to which the affected entities are small businesses, as defined by the Small Business Administration. Upon this review, we determined that the rule would potentially affect a substantial number of small entities. The collections of information in the proposed rule would be the minimum necessary in order to issue and monitor rights-of-way for solar and wind energy and for other large-scale projects.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

If the BLM did not conduct the collection or conducting it less frequently, it would not be able to implement competitive procedures for solar and wind energy development and other large-scale projects.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

- \* **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- \* **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- \* **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**

- \* **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;**
- \* **in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- \* **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- \* **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- \* **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information, unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

There are no special circumstances requiring the collection to be conducted in a manner described above.

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and in response to the PRA statement associated with the collection over the past three years, and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

**Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

**Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every three years — even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

The BLM published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on December 29, 2011 (76 FR 81908), and provided an opportunity for public comment. None of the public comments in response to the ANPR addressed information collection. The BLM will invite public comments in the proposed rule.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

Respondents would not receive any payment or gift.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

New paragraph 2805.12(a)(15) would require that a grant holder or lessee provide or make available, upon the BLM's request, any pertinent environmental, technical, and financial records for inspection and review. Any information marked confidential or proprietary would be kept confidential to the extent allowable by law. This basis for this provision is Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)), which authorizes Federal agencies to withhold from public disclosure "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential."

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

Respondents would not be required to answer questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:**

- \* **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- \* **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**
- \* **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here.**

All of the respondents that would be subject the proposed rule, and that would be required to use SF-299, would be required to provide information about their identity (Item Numbers 1 through 6, as applicable). Table 12-1, below, shows additional ways respondents would use SF-299 as currently approved under control number 0596-0082.

**Table 12-1  
Information Collection Requirements Met by Existing SF-299**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Key Portions of SF-299 to Be Used by Respondents, As Applicable</b>
General description of proposed project and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2804.10(c)(4)	20	Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)
Application for wind energy testing grant 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), 2805.11(b)(2)(i), 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2809.19(c)	40	Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)
Application for other short term grant related to solar or wind energy 43 CFR 2804.14 and 2805.11(b)(2)(iii)	1	Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)
Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development right-of-way 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), and 2807.21	11	Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)

<p>Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant 43 CFR 2804.14, 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2805.14(h)</p>	6	<p>Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)</p>
<p>Environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information 43 CFR 2805.12(a)(15)</p>	20	<p>Project description (Item 7); Nature and location of the project (Items 7, 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)</p>
<p>Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease 43 CFR 2805.14(g) and 2807.22</p>	1	<p>Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)</p>
<p>Request for amendment or name change (FLPMA) 43 CFR 2807.11(b) and (d) and 2807.21</p>	30	<p>Project description (Item 7); and Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15)</p>
<p>Plan of Development for solar energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)</p>	1	<p>Project description (Item 7); and Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15)</p>
<p>Plan of Development for wind energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)</p>	1	<p>Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15)</p>

General description of proposed oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2884.10(d)(3)	105	Project description (Item 7); Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15); Technical and financial capability (Item 12); Other governmental approvals (Items 9, 14, and 20); and Probable effects (Items 17 through 19)
Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (MLA) 43 CFR 2886.12(b) and (d) and 43 CFR 2887.11	2,862	Project description (Item 7); and Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15);
Certification of construction 43 CFR 2886.12(f)	5	Project description (Item 7); and Other data on the nature and location of the proposed project (Items 8, 11, 13, and 15)
Totals	3,103	

Table 12-2, below, shows our estimates of the hourly cost burdens of each supplemental information collection requirement that would be required under the proposed rule, but is not part of the burdens currently approved under control number 0596-0082. The mean hourly wages for Table 12-2 were determined using national Bureau of Labor Statistics data at: [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm).

The benefits multiplier of 1.4 is supported by information at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>.

**Table 12-2  
Estimated Hourly Cost**

<b>A. Position and Standard Occupation Code</b>	<b>B. Mean Hourly Wage</b>	<b>C. Total Mean Hourly Wage (Column B x 1.4)</b>
Engineers SOC 17-2000	\$43.73	\$61.22

The hour and cost burdens of the individual components of the proposed information collection requirements supplemental to SF-299 are itemized in Tables 12-3, 12-4, and 12-5, below.

**Table 12-3  
Estimated Hour Burdens of Proposed Information Collection Requirements Supplemental to SF-299**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Hours Per Response</b>	<b>D. Total Hours (Column B x Column C)</b>	<b>E. Annual Cost (Column D x \$61.22)</b>
General description of proposed project and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2804.10(c)(4)	20	2	40	\$2,449
Application for wind energy testing grant 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), 2805.11(b)(2)(i), 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2809.19(c)	40	8	320	\$19,590
Application for other short term grant related to solar or wind energy 43 CFR 2804.14 and 2805.11(b)(2)(iii)	1	8	8	\$490
Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development right-of-way 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), and 2807.21	11	12	132	\$8,081
Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant 43 CFR 2804.14, 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2805.14(h)	6	6	36	\$2,204
Environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information 43 CFR 2805.12(a)(15)	20	4	80	\$4,898
Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease 43 CFR 2805.14(g) and 2807.22	1	12	12	\$735

Request for amendment or name change (FLPMA) 43 CFR 2807.11(b) and (d) and 2807.21	30	16	480	\$29,386
Plan of Development for solar energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)	1	8	8	\$490
Plan of Development for wind energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)	1	8	8	\$490
General description of proposed oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2884.10(d)(3)	105	2	210	\$12,856
Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (MLA) 43 CFR 2886.12(b) and (d) and 43 CFR 2887.11	2,862	16	45,792	\$2,803,386
Certification of construction 43 CFR 2886.12(f)	5	4	20	\$1,224
Totals	3,103		47,146	\$2,886,279

**Table 12-4  
Estimated Hour Burdens of Other Proposed Information Collection Requirements**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Hours Per Response</b>	<b>D. Total Hours (Column B x Column C)</b>	<b>E. Annual Cost (Column D x \$61.22)</b>
Pre-application information for large-scale rights-of-way 43 CFR 2804.10(a)(4) and (b)	20	2	40	\$2,449
Showing of good cause 43 CFR 2805.12(c)(6)	1	2	2	\$122
Reclamation cost estimate for lands outside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2805.20(a)(3)	1	10	10	\$612
Nomination of parcel of land inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.11	1	4	4	\$245
Expression of interest in parcel of land inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.11	1	4	4	\$245
Totals	24		60	\$3,673

The total estimated hour burdens of the proposed collection requirements are shown in the following table:

**Table 12-5  
Total Estimated Hour Burdens of the Proposed Information Collection Requirements**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Total Hours</b>	<b>D. Annual Cost (Column C x \$61.22)</b>
Proposed information collection requirements supplemental to SF-299	3,103	47,146	\$2,886,279
Other proposed information collection requirements	24	60	\$3,673
Totals	3,127	47,206	\$2,889,952

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual non-hour cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected in item 12.)**

**\* The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation**

**and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information (including filing fees paid for form processing). Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**

- \* If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
- \* Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

Respondents would not incur annual capital or startup costs, or be required to purchase any computer software or hardware, to respond to the information collection requirements in the proposed rule.

Some of the information collection requirements in the proposed rule would include fees to reimburse the United States for administrative costs. These fees would be collected under the authority of 43 U.S.C. 1734, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish reasonable filing and service fees “with respect to applications and other documents relating to the public lands.”

Other information collection requirements in the proposed rule would include fees to discourage speculation by use of frivolous applications or nominations of lands for use as rights-of-way for solar or wind energy. The amounts of these fees are not intended for cost recovery.

The proposed fees are itemized in Tables 13-1, 13-2, and 13-3, below. For a further explanation of the estimated fees, please see Item No. 2 of this supporting statement and the Economic and Threshold Analysis for this proposed rule.

**Table 13-1**  
**Estimated Non-Hour Costs of Proposed Information Collection Activities Supplemental to SF-299**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Response s</b>	<b>C. Amount of Fee Per Response</b>	<b>D. Purpose of Fee</b>	<b>E. Total Fees (Column B x Column C)</b>
Application for wind energy testing grant 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), 2805.11(b)(2)(i), 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2809.19(c)	40	\$2 per acre x average of 6,000 acres per application = \$12,000	Discourage speculation	\$480,000
Application for other short term grant related to solar or wind energy 43 CFR 2804.14 and 2805.11(b)(2)(iii)	1	\$1,124 <sup>3</sup>	Cost recovery	\$1,124
Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development right-of-way 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), and 2807.21	11	\$15 per acre x average of 6,000 acres per application = \$90,000	Discourage speculation	\$990,000
Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant 43 CFR 2804.14, 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), 2805.11(b)(2)(iii), and 2805.14(h)	6	\$1,124 <sup>4</sup>	Cost recovery	\$6,744
Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease 43 CFR 2805.14(g) and 2807.22	1	\$1,124 <sup>5</sup>	Cost recovery	\$1,124
Totals	59			\$1,478,992

**Table 13-2  
Estimated Non-Hour Costs of Other Proposed Information Collection Activities**

<sup>3</sup> This estimate is based on the BLM's experience. The amount shown is for Processing Category Four for calendar year 2014, in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14.

<sup>4</sup> This estimate is based on the BLM's experience. The amount shown is for Processing Category Four for calendar year 2014, in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14.

<sup>5</sup> This estimate is based on the BLM's experience. The amount shown is for Processing Category Four for calendar year 2014, in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14.

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Amount of Fee Per Response</b>	<b>D. Purpose of Fee</b>	<b>E. Total Fees (Column B x Column C)</b>
Pre-application information for large-scale rights-of-way 43 CFR 2804.10(a)(4) and (b)	20	\$5,000	Cost recovery	\$100,000
Nomination of parcel of land inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.11	1	\$5 per acre x average of 6,000 acres per application = \$30,000	Discourage speculation	\$30,000
Totals	21			\$130,000

**Table 13-3  
Total Estimated Non-Hour Costs of the Proposed Information Collection Activities**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Total Fees</b>
Proposed information collection requirements supplemental to SF-299	\$1,478,992
Other proposed information collection requirements	\$130,000
Totals	\$1,608,992

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

The hourly cost to the Federal Government is based on U.S. Office of Personnel Management Salary Table data at: [http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/14Tables/html/GS\\_h.aspx](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/14Tables/html/GS_h.aspx). The benefits multiplier of 1.5 is implied by information at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>. The hourly cost calculations are shown below:

**Table 14 -1  
Estimated Hourly Cost to the Government**

<b>A. Position and Pay Grade</b>	<b>B. Mean Hourly Pay Rate (\$/hour)</b>	<b>C. Mean Hourly Rate with Benefits</b>	<b>D. Percent of the Information Collection Completed by Each Occupation</b>	<b>E. Weighted Avg. (\$/hour) (Column D x</b>
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		<b>(Column B x 1.5)</b>		<b>Column E)</b>
Manager GS-13/Step 6	\$40.47	\$60.71	10	\$6.07
Technical GS-11/Step 6	\$28.39	\$42.59	80	\$34.07
Clerical GS-6/Step 6	\$17.26	\$25.89	10	\$2.59
Totals			100	\$42.73

Tables 14-2, 14-3, and 14-4, below, show the estimated annualized Federal cost for each component of this collection of information. The estimated time spent to process the information collections is based on the BLM's experience. The hourly wage is shown at Table 14-1, above.

**Table 14-2**  
**Estimated Annual Cost to the Government of Proposed Information Collection Activities Supplemental to SF-299**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Hours Per Response</b>	<b>D. Total Hours (Column B x Column C)</b>	<b>E. Total Wage Cost (Column D x \$42.73)</b>
General description of proposed project and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2804.10(c)(4)	20	2	40	\$1,709
Application for wind energy testing grant 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), 2805.11(b)(2)(i), 2805.11(b)(2)(ii), and 2809.19(c)	40	8	320	\$13,674
Application for other short-term grant related to solar or wind energy 43 CFR 2804.14 and 2805.11(b)(2)(iii)	1	8	8	\$342
Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development right-of-way 43 CFR 2804.12(a)(8), 2804.30(g), and 2807.21	11	12	132	\$5,640

Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant 43 CFR 2804.14, 2805.11(b)(2)(ii) and 2805.14(h)	6	6	36	\$1,538
Environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information 43 CFR 2805.12(a)(15)	20	4	80	\$3,418
Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease 43 CFR 2805.14(g) and 2807.22	1	12	12	\$513
Request for amendment or name change (FLPMA) 43 CFR 2807.11(b) and (d) and 2807.21	30	16	480	\$20,510
Plan of Development for solar energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)	1	8	8	\$342
Plan of Development for wind energy development lease inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.18(c)	1	8	8	\$342
General description of proposed oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development 43 CFR 2884.10(d)(3)	105	2	210	\$8,973
Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (MLA) 43 CFR 2886.12(b) and (d) and 43 CFR 2887.11	2,862	16	45,792	\$1,956,692
Certification of construction 43 CFR 2886.12(f)	5	4	20	\$855
Totals	3,106		47,182	\$2,016,087

**Table 14-3**  
**Estimated Annual Cost to the Government of Other Proposed Information Collection Activities**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Hours Per Response</b>	<b>D. Total Hours (Column B x Column C)</b>	<b>E. Total Wage Cost (Column D x \$42.73)</b>
Pre-application information for large-scale rights-of-way 43 CFR 2804.10(a)(4) and (b)	20	2	40	\$1709
Showing of good cause 43 CFR 2805.12(c)(6)	1	2	2	\$85
Reclamation cost estimate for lands outside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2805.20(a)(3)	1	10	10	\$427
Nomination of parcel of land inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.11	1	4	4	\$171
Expression of interest in parcel of land inside designated leasing area 43 CFR 2809.11	1	4	4	\$171
Totals	24		60	\$2,563

**Table 14-4**  
**Total Estimated Annual Cost to the Government of the Proposed Information Collection Activities**

<b>A. Type of Response</b>	<b>B. Number of Responses</b>	<b>C. Total Hours</b>	<b>D. Annual Cost (Column C x \$42.73)</b>
Proposed information collection requirements supplemental to SF-299	3,106	47,182	\$2,016,087
Other proposed information collection requirements	24	60	\$2,563
Totals	3,130	47,242	\$2,018,650

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments in hour or cost burden.**

At present, 4,017 responses, and 100,425 burden hours are approved annually for the Bureau of Land Management by control number 0596-0082. No non-hour burdens are approved.

The proposed rule would include program changes of an additional 3,130 responses, 47,242 burden hours, and \$1,878,992 in application filing fees and processing fees (i.e., non-hour burdens) annually.

Of those totals, the following would be additions to the burdens attributed to the Bureau of Land Management for SF-299 under control number 0596-0082:

- 3,106 responses;
- 47,182 hours; and
- \$1,748,992 in application filing fees and processing fees.

The remaining 24 responses, 60 hours, and \$130,000 in fees would be included in the new control number for other information collection requirements.

A. The program changes that would supplement the information collection requirements currently approved for the BLM by control number 0596-0082 are itemized as follows:

- The addition of “General description of proposed project and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development” to the application requirements for (1) Solar or wind energy development projects outside designated leasing areas; (2) Electric transmission lines with a capacity of 100 kV or more; and (3) Pipelines 10 inches or more in diameter would add annual burdens of 20 responses and 40 hours.
- The addition of “Application for wind energy testing grant” would add 40 responses, 320 hours, and \$480,000 in application filing fees.
- The addition of “Application for other short term grant related to solar or wind energy” would add 1 response, 8 hours, and \$1,124 in processing fees.
- The addition of “Application for, or request to assign, solar or wind energy development grant outside designated leasing area” would add 14 responses, 168 hours, and \$1,260,000 in application filing fees.
- The addition of “Application for renewal of wind energy project area testing grant or other short term grant” would add 6 responses, 36 hours, and \$6,744 in processing fees.
- The addition of “Environmental, technical, and financial records, reports, and other information” would add 20 responses and 80 hours.
- The addition of “Application for renewal of solar or wind energy development grant or lease” would add 1 response, 12 hours, and \$1,124 in processing fees.
- The addition of “Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (FLPMA)” would add 30 responses and 480 hours.

- The addition of “Plan of Development for wind energy development lease inside designated leasing area” would add 1 response and 8 hours.
- The addition of “Plan of Development for solar energy development lease inside designated leasing area” would add 1 response and 8 hours.
- The addition of “General description of proposed oil or gas pipeline 10 inches or more in diameter and schedule for submittal of Plan of Development” would add 5,231 responses and 10,462 hours.
- The addition of “Request for amendment, assignment, or name change (MLA)” would add 2,862 responses and 22,896 hours.
- The addition of “Certification of construction” would add 5 responses and 20 hours.

B. The other program changes are itemized as follows:

- The addition of “Pre-application information for large-scale rights-of-way” would add 20 responses, 40 hours, and \$100,000 in fees.
- The addition to “Showing of good cause” would add 1 response and 2 hours.
- The addition of “Reclamation cost estimate for lands outside designated leasing area” would add 1 response and 10 hours.
- The addition of “Nomination of parcel of land inside designated leasing area” would add 1 response, 4 hours, and \$30,000 in application filing fees.
- The addition of “Expression of interest in parcel of land inside designated leasing area” would add 1 response and 4 hours.

**16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

The results of this collection will not be published.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

The BLM will display the expiration date of the OMB approval.

**18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.