

1 INTRODUCTION

This volume of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States contains public comments on the Draft PEIS and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) responses to those comments. The BLM prepared the Draft PEIS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (*Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Parts 1500–1508 [40 CFR Parts 1500–1508]) and the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (*United States Code*, Title 43, Section 1701 [43 USC 1701]). These procedures and requirements provide for a period of public comment on a Draft PEIS prior to publication of a Final PEIS.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft PEIS was published in Volume 69, page 175, of the *Federal Register* on September 10, 2004 (69 FR 175). This began a 90-day public comment period, which lasted from September 10 to December 10, 2004. More than 120 people and organizations participated in the public comment process by providing Internet-based comments or postal letters. Approximately 718 individual comments were received.

The comment documents are presented in this volume in numerical order by assigned document number. Comment documents received by postal mail were assigned sequential 5-digit numbers starting with number 00001. Documents received via the electronic comment form on the project Web site were assigned sequential 5-digit numbers starting with 80001. The numbering system is not continuous (e.g., the system jumps from document 80012 to 80014); however, all public comments that were received have been included in the system and were considered in preparing the Final PEIS.

Each document is immediately followed by the responses to the individual comments identified within the document. To view a specific comment document and the associated responses, the reader should consult the following indices to determine the document number. Two indices are provided: (1) the Individuals Index contains all of the comment documents received, and (2) the Agencies, Organizations, and Tribal Governments Index contains a subset of the Individuals Index identifying documents received from these types of organizations.

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^a This listing of agencies, organizations, and Tribal governments was compiled on the basis of comment documents submitted on official letterheads.