



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**RECOMMENDATION 9 FROM THE
REPORT TITLED “BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT’S RENEWABLE ENERGY
PROGRAM: A CRITICAL POINT IN
RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT”
(CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010)**




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Memorandum

MAR 29 2018

To: Allen Lawrence
Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-up, Office of Financial Management

From: Jeff Carlson 
Director, Energy Audits Unit
Office of the Inspector General

Subject: Verification Review of Recommendation 9 from the Report Titled *Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development* (CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010)
Report No. 2018-EAU-028

The Office of Inspector General has completed a verification review of Recommendation 9 presented in our evaluation report, *Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development* (CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010), issued June 12, 2012. The objective of this review was to determine whether the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) implemented Recommendation 9 in the evaluation as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. We concur that Recommendation 9 has been resolved and implemented.

Background

Our report, *Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development*, dated June 12, 2012, made nine recommendations designed to improve the long-term management of the BLM's Renewable Energy Program. The BLM concurred with eight of our recommendations and partially concurred with one. In a memorandum dated April 9, 2012, the Bureau detailed its plans to implement these recommendations. In a June 15, 2012 memorandum, we referred seven of the nine recommendations (1 and 4 through 9) to the Director of the Office of Financial Management to track their implementation. We did not refer Recommendations 2 and 3 because we considered them closed, based on the BLM's response

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this review was limited to determining whether the BLM implemented Recommendation 9 as reported. To accomplish our objective, we obtained all the documentation related to the actions the BLM has taken to implement Recommendation 9. We did not perform internal control testing or conduct fieldwork to determine whether the underlying deficiencies that were initially identified have been corrected. As a result, this review was not conducted in

accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, or Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

Our current review found that BLM has implemented Recommendation 9.

Recommendation 9: Develop and implement Bureau-wide guidance for using competitive bidding on wind and solar ROW.

Action Taken: BLM issued the final rule titled *Competitive Processes, Terms, and Conditions for Leasing Public Lands for Solar and Wind Energy Development and Technical Changes and Corrections*, published in the Federal Register on December 19, 2016. With the issuance of the final rule, the BLM developed guidance for using competitive bidding on wind and solar rights of way (ROWs). The final rule went into effect on January 18, 2017, implementing the new guidance for competitive bidding on wind and solar ROWs. With these actions, the BLM developed and implemented Bureau-wide guidance for using competitive bidding on wind and solar ROWs.

We consider Recommendation 9 resolved and implemented.

Conclusion

PFM reported, and we concur, that Recommendation 9 has been resolved and implemented. We informed BLM officials of the results of this review on March 1, 2018.

We would like to thank the BLM for its cooperation during our review. If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact me at 303-236-9243.

cc: Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
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