

News Release



Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
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For Release: November 5, 2013
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PIFWO-13-09

Public Scoping Announced for the Proposed Na Pua Makani Wind Project

Comments Accepted Until December 5, 2013

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today published a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for a proposed incidental take permit for the Na Pua Makani Wind Project near Kahuku, Hawai'i. The purpose of the Notice of Intent is to announce a public scoping meeting and gather information to help the Service prepare a DEIS related to an incidental take permit (ITP) application, pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The applicant, Champlin Hawai'i Wind Holdings, LLC (Champlin) intends to apply for an incidental take permit that would, if approved, authorize the incidental take of listed species caused by the construction and operation of Champlin's proposed Na Pua Makani Project for production of wind-generated electrical energy on the island of Oahu.

"We invite other agencies and the public to participate in the public scoping period for the DEIS and attend the public meeting," said Loyal Mehrhoff, Field Supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. "Public scoping allows early involvement in the project planning process and allows interested parties to present any issues, concerns, information and recommendations they may have on the scope of issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the DEIS."

In accordance with ESA requirements for an ITP, Champlin is preparing a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to minimize and mitigate the impacts of incidental take likely to be caused by the Na Pua Makani Project. The DEIS will address the impacts of, and alternatives to, issuance of the ITP and implementation of the HCP to determine if these actions may significantly affect the human environment.

The Service will hold a public scoping meeting on November 13, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Kahuku Village Association Community Center, 56576 Kamehameha Highway, Kahuku, Hawai'i 96731. The public is invited to provide oral and written comments at this meeting related to the preparation of a DEIS for this proposed permit action. To ensure consideration of written comments, please send your comments on or before December 5, 2013 using one of the methods detailed below.

The proposed project would be located on private and public lands near the town of Kahuku, County of Honolulu, on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i. A portion of the Project would be located on State of Hawai'i lands managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The proposed

project would construct approximately 14 wind turbines, constructed in two phases, providing up to 45 megawatt capacity of renewable wind-generated electrical energy to the island of Oahu. The proposed project's location is adjacent to the existing Kahuku Wind Farm. Supporting infrastructure for the proposed project currently includes access roads, wind turbine assembly lay down areas, overhead and underground transmission and collector lines, and may also include an on-site substation and an operations and maintenance building.

Champlin proposes to develop a draft HCP as part of its application for an ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The proposed HCP will cover potential take of federally-listed species that is incidental to activities associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. The HCP will – to the maximum extent practicable – avoid and minimize any potential incidental take, and will fully mitigate any take of protected species that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed wind power facility.

An incidental take permit is required when non-Federal activities are likely to result in “take” of a threatened or endangered species while carrying out otherwise lawful activities. “Take,” as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act, means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. “Harm” may include significant habitat modification that results in death or injury to a listed species by impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding or sheltering.

We anticipate Champlin to request ITP coverage for a period of 20 years. Champlin intends to seek incidental take coverage for the following five federally-listed threatened and endangered species: the threatened Newell's shearwater or 'a'o, and the endangered Hawaiian coot or 'alae ke'oke'o, Hawaiian moorhen or 'alae 'ula, Hawaiian stilt or ae'o and the Hawaiian hoary bat or 'o'pe'ape'a. The State-listed endangered Hawaiian short-eared owl or pueo may also be included.

Comments concerning the issuance of the ITP, the development of the Na Pua Makani HCP and the preparation of the associated DEIS, may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Email:* NaPuaMakanihcp@fws.gov. Include “Na Pua Makani HCP and DEIS” in the subject line of the message;
- *U.S. Mail:* Loyal Mehrhoff, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850. Comments may also be sent via facsimile to (808) 792-9580;
- Written comments will also be accepted at the public meeting on November 13, 2013, or can be dropped off during regular business hours at the above address on or before December 5, 2013.

When submitting comments by mail, electronically, or in-person please include “Na Pua Makani HCP and DEIS” in the subject line. For additional information contact: Dr. Loyal Mehrhoff or Mr. Aaron Nadig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (808) 792-9400; or by email at NaPuaMakanihcp@fws.gov .

The Service will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and submitted comments to determine whether the application meets the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10 (a) of the Endangered Species Act.

All documents associated with this public scoping are posted on the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>. Copies and additional information may also be obtained from Aaron Nadig at (808) 792-9400, or by writing to the address listed above.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>

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