FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin M. Gawera, by telephone at (904) 731–3121 or via email at erin_gawera@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Orange County Utilities (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed sand skink (Neoselaps reynoldsi) incidental to the construction of a water reclamation facility (project) in Orange County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant’s proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) and the Service’s preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as “low-effect,” categorically excluded, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review.

Project
Orange County Utilities requests a 20-year ITP to take sand skinks incidental to the conversion of approximately 8.84 acres of occupied skink foraging and sheltering habitat for the construction of a water reclamation facility located on a 49.18-acre parcel in Sections 16 and 17, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, Orange County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the skinks by purchasing 17.68 credits in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) incidental to the construction of a water reclamation facility located on a 49.18-acre parcel in Sections 16 and 17, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, Orange County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the skinks by purchasing 17.68 credits in the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Bank. The applicant proposes to purchase the credits prior to engaging in activities associated with the project on the parcel.

Public Availability of Comments
Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made available to the public. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Our Preliminary Determination
The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant’s project, including land clearing, infrastructure building, landscaping, and the proposed mitigation measures, would individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the skinks and the environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily concluded that the ITP for this project would qualify for categorical exclusion and the HCP is low effect under our NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.205 and 46.210. A low-effect HCP is one that would result in (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and, (3) impacts that, when considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not over time result in significant cumulative effects to environmental values or resources.

Next Steps
The Service will evaluate the application and the comments received to determine whether to issue the requested permit. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the above findings, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue ITP number TE 21560D-0 to Orange County Utilities.

Authority
The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) (16 U.S.C. 1539(c)) of the ESA and NEPA regulation 40 CFR 1506.6.

Jay B. Herrington,
Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, Northeast Region.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Notice is hereby given that, on April 22, 2019, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 et seq. (“the Act”), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (“ASME”) has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing additions or changes to its standards development activities. The notifications were filed.