THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3285

Subject: Renewable Energy Development by the Department of the Interior

Sec. 1 **Purpose**. This Order establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior and establishes a Departmental Task Force on Energy and Climate Change. This Order also amends and clarifies Departmental roles and responsibilities to accomplish this goal.

Sec. 2 **Background**. The Nation faces significant challenges to meeting its current and future energy needs. Meeting these challenges will require strategic planning and a thoughtful, balanced approach to domestic resource development that calls upon the coordinated development of renewable resources, as well as the development of traditional energy resources. Many of our public lands possess substantial renewable resources that will help meet our Nation's future energy needs while also providing significant benefits to our environment and the economy. Increased production of renewable energy will create jobs, provide cleaner, more sustainable alternatives to traditional energy resources, and enhance the energy security of the United States by adding to the domestic energy supply. As the steward of more than one-fifth of our Nation's lands, and neighbor to other land managers, the Department of the Interior has a significant role in coordinating and ensuring environmentally responsible renewable energy production and development of associated infrastructure needed to deliver renewable energy to the consumer.

Sec. 3 **Authority**. This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58).

Sec. 4 **Policy**. Encouraging the production, development, and delivery of renewable energy is one of the Department's highest priorities. Agencies and bureaus within the Department will work collaboratively with each other, and with other Federal agencies, departments, states, local communities, and private landowners to encourage the timely and responsible development of renewable energy and associated transmission while protecting and enhancing the Nation's water, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Sec. 5 **Energy and Climate Change Task Force**. A Task Force on Energy and Climate Change is hereby established in the Department. The Deputy Secretary and the Counselor to the Secretary shall serve as Co-Chairs. The Task Force on Energy and Climate Change shall:

a. develop a strategy that is designed to increase the development and transmission of renewable energy from appropriate areas on public lands and the Outer Continental Shelf, including the following:

(1) quantifying potential contributions of solar, wind, geothermal, incremental or small hydroelectric power on existing structures, and biomass energy;

(2) identifying and prioritizing the specific locations in the United States best suited for large-scale production of solar, wind, geothermal, incremental or small hydroelectric power on existing structures, and biomass energy (e.g., renewable energy zones);

(3) identifying, in cooperation with other agencies of the United States and appropriate state agencies, the electric transmission infrastructure and transmission corridors needed to deliver these renewable resources to major population centers;

(4) prioritizing the permitting and appropriate environmental review of transmission rights-of-way applications that are necessary to deliver renewable energy generation to consumers;

(5) establishing clear roles and processes for each bureau/office;

(6) tracking bureau/office progress and working to identify and resolve obstacles to renewable energy permitting, siting, development, and production;

(7) identifying additional policies and/or revisions to existing policies or practices that are needed, including possible revisions to the Geothermal, Wind, and West-Wide Corridors Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements and their respective Records of Decisions; and

(8) working with individual states, tribes, local governments, and other interested stakeholders, including renewable generators and transmission and distribution utilities, to identify appropriate areas for generation and necessary transmission;

b. develop best management practices for renewable energy and transmission projects on the public lands to ensure the most environmentally responsible development and delivery of renewable energy;

c. establish clear policy direction for authorizing the development of solar energy on public lands; and

d. recommend such other actions as may be necessary to fulfill the goals of this Order.

Sec. 6 **Responsibilities**.

a. Program Assistant Secretaries. Program Assistant Secretaries overseeing bureaus responsible for, or that provide assistance with, the planning, siting, or permitting of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on the public lands and on the Outer Continental Shelf, are responsible for:

(1) establishing and participating in management structures that facilitate cooperation, reporting, and accountability across agencies, including the Task Force on Energy and Climate Change;

(2) establishing joint, single-point-of contact offices that consolidate expertise to ensure a coordinated, efficient, and expeditious permitting process while ensuring appropriate siting and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and all other applicable laws; and

(3) working collaboratively with other departments, state, and local authorities to coordinate and harmonize non-Federal permitting processes.

b. The Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget is a member of the Task Force and shall:

(1) ensure that investments associated with Interior managed facilities meet Federal standards for energy efficiency and greening applications; and

(2) coordinate with the Energy and Climate Change Task Force, as appropriate.

c. Bureau Heads. Each bureau head is responsible for designating a representative to the Task Force on Energy and Climate Change.

Sec. 7 **Implementation**. The Deputy Secretary is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order. This responsibility may be delegated as appropriate.

Sec. 8 **Effective Date**. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever comes first. The termination of this Order will not nullify implementation of the requirements and responsibilities effected herein.

Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

Date: 3/11/2009