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Endangered Species Act/Energy: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Requests Public Comment on Incidental Take Permit Application for Take of American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma

Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") has issued a November 22nd Federal Register Notice asking for public comment on an incidental take permit application for take of the American burying beetle ("Beetle") resulting from activities associated with the geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of oil and gas well field infrastructure within Oklahoma. See 81 Fed. Reg. 83862.

SandRidge Energy, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is stated to have requested an amended permit for oil and gas upstream and midstream production, including geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of gas well field infrastructure, as well as construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning and reclamation of gas gathering, transmission and distribution pipeline infrastructure within Oklahoma.

FWS states that if approved the permit would be issued under the approved *Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan Associated with Issuance of Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permits for the American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma* ("ICP").

A copy of the Federal Register Notice can be downloaded here.