

in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H-15. The Federal Housing Administration has codified this provision in HUD regulations at 24 CFR 203.405(b) and 24 CFR 203.479(b).

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2019, is 3⅜ percent.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

**Authority:** Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: May 6, 2019.

**Brian D. Montgomery,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.*

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**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047;  
FXES113040000EA-123-FF04EF1000]

#### Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Scrub-Jay and Eastern Indigo Snake, Volusia County, FL; Categorical Exclusion

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments and information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Duke Energy

Florida, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to construction in Volusia 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. To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for review.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before June 12, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Obtaining Documents:** You may obtain copies of the documents online in Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Submitting Comments:** If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by any of the following methods:

- **Online:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047.

- **U.S. mail or hand-delivery:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0047, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin M. Gawera, by telephone at (904) 731-3121 or via email at [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Duke Energy Florida, LLC (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 scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) incidental to the construction of a solar power plant (project) in Volusia 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. 4321 *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

The applicant requests a 10-year ITP to take the scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to the conversion of approximately 13.45 acres of occupied scrub-jay and 307.1 acres of occupied snake foraging and sheltering habitat for the construction of a solar power plant located on a 916.2-acre parcel, Parcel ID numbers 802900000050, 802800000020, 802000000030, 802000000070, 802000000050, 802000000060, 802100000010, 802100000080, 802100000012, 802000000020, 802000000010, and 801600000032, in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, Volusia County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the scrub-jay through the contribution of \$412,296.30 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy and to mitigate for take of the eastern indigo snake through a contribution of \$50,000.00 to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida’s Eastern Indigo Snake Conservation Fund.

### 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 from public review, 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 and minimization measures, would individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the scrub-jay, the eastern indigo snake, 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 21556D-0 to Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

### 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,  
Southeast Region.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0028;  
FXES1113040000EA-123-FF04EF1000]

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink, Lake County, FL; Categorical Exclusion

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request  
for comment and information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from the City of Groveland, Florida (applicant), to amend an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The 10-year ITP authorizes take of the federally listed sand skink incidental to the construction of a fire station and parking lot in Lake County, Florida. We request public comment on the application and on our preliminary determination that the proposed amendment of the habitat conservation plan (HCP) qualifies as “low-effect” under the National Environmental Policy Act. To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which are also available for review.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments by June 12, 2019.

### ADDRESSES:

*Obtaining Documents:* You may obtain copies of the documents online in Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0028 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

*Submitting Comments:* You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0028.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing; Attn: Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2019-0028; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin M. Gawera, by telephone at 904-731-3121, via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339, or via email at [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from the City of Groveland, Florida (applicant), to amend an incidental take permit no. TE69161C-0 (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The 10-year ITP authorizes take of the federally listed sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) incidental to the construction of a fire station and parking lot in Lake County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on our preliminary determination that the proposed amendment of the HCP qualifies as “low-effect” under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which are also available for review.

We issued ITP TE69161C-0 to the applicant authorizing take of the sand skink incidental to the conversion of approximately 1.57 acres of occupied foraging and sheltering habitat for the construction of a fire station and parking lot. The station will be constructed within a 4.61-acre project site located on parcel Number 19-22-25-000100005200 in Section 19, Township 22 South, Range 25 East, Lake County, Florida.

The applicant is requesting that the Service amend its ITP to authorize additional take of the sand skink through the conversion of another 0.41 acre (totaling approximately 1.98 acres) of occupied foraging and sheltering

habitat incidental to the project. The project includes clearing, infrastructure building, and landscaping associated with construction. To mitigate for take under the ITP, the applicant agreed to purchase 3.14 mitigation credits in the Backbone Conservation Bank or another Service-approved sand skink bank. The applicant proposes to purchase an additional .82 credit (totaling 3.96 credits) in the conservation bank to mitigate for additional take of the species.

### Public Availability of Comments

All comments, whether received electronically or via hard copy, will be posted on <http://regulations.gov> and become part of the decision record associated with this action. 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 can request that we withhold your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### Our Preliminary Determination

We have determined that the applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, would have minor or negligible effects on the sand skinks and the environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that amendment of the ITP would be “low effect” and qualify for categorical exclusion under NEPA. A low-effect HCP is one involving (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources.

### Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application to amend the ITP and consider all comments received to determine whether to amend the ITP application. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA. After considering the above findings, we will determine whether the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and 50 CFR 13.23 have been met. If met, the Service will issue an amended ITP no. TE69161C-1 to the applicant for incidental take of the sand skink.

### Authority

The Service provides this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C.