

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in western Montana. At the March 13 meeting, topics we plan to discuss include: Updates on the Dillon and Butte Resource Management Plans, fuels reduction and how it relates to the President's Forest Initiative, the Limestone Hills sub-group, sage grouse planning, and an update on the Dillon standards and guidelines implementation.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Krause, Resource Advisory Council Coordinator, at the Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana 59701, telephone 406-533-7617 or Nancy Anderson, Field Manager, Missoula Field Office, telephone 406-329-3914.

Dated: January 15, 2003.

Nancy Anderson,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-1807 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board will meet at the New Orleans Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

DATES: Wednesday, March 19, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday, March 20, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140, telephone (504) 561-1234, fax (504) 523-0488.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary Fields, Royalty Policy Committee Coordinator, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B3, Denver, CO 80225-0165, telephone (303) 231-3102, fax (303) 231-3781, e-mail gary.fields@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of the Interior established a Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board to provide advice on the Department's management of Federal and Indian minerals leases, revenues, and other minerals-related policies. Committee membership includes representatives from States, Indian tribes and allottee organizations, minerals industry associations, the general public, and Federal departments.

At this 16th meeting, the committee will elect a Parliamentarian, receive a subcommittee report on coal and review recommendations from the sodium/potassium subcommittee. The MMS will present reports on financial management, compliance, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and royalty-in-kind initiatives. The MMS will also discuss the current appeals process, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issue and provide a legislative update.

The location and dates of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register**. The meetings are open to the public without advance registration on a space available basis. The public may make statements during the meetings, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the committee for its consideration. Written statements should be submitted to Mr. Fields at the mailing address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Transcripts of committee meetings will be available 2 weeks after each meeting for public inspection and copying at MMS's Minerals Revenue Management, Building 85, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, and Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-63, revised.

Dated: January 23, 2003.

Lucy Querques Denett,
Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 03-1886 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Intent to Solicit Public Comments on the Adoption of an Interim 602(a) Storage Guideline for Management of the Colorado River and to Initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice to solicit public comments and initiation of the NEPA process.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is considering the adoption of a specific interim guideline that will assist the Secretary in making a determination of the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year, as required by article II (1) of the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968 (Long-Range Operating Criteria).

DATES: To be most useful, we must receive all comments at the address given below on or before March 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments to Tom Ryan, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138; faxogram (801) 524-5499; e-mail: tryan@uc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year, the Secretary establishes an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Colorado River reservoirs. The AOP describes how Reclamation will manage the reservoirs over a 12-month period, consistent with the Long-Range Operating Criteria. Pursuant to applicable Federal law, Reclamation consults annually with the Colorado River Basin States, Indian tribes, and others interested parties in the development of the AOP. Further, as part of the AOP, the Secretary makes an annual determination under the Long-Range Operating Criteria regarding the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year to be in storage as required by section 602(a)(3) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (602(a) Storage). This determination is important because when projected storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs is greater than 602(a) Storage, releases from Lake Powell are made according to article II (3) of the Long-Range Operating Criteria and section 602(a)(3).

These releases are commonly made to maintain, as nearly as practicable, active storage in Lake Mead equal to the active storage in Lake Powell. These releases are commonly referred to as "equalization" releases. When projected storage is less than 602(a) Storage, such equalization releases from Lake Powell are not made.

In July 2000, Reclamation issued a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the proposed adoption of specific criteria under which surplus water conditions may be determined in the Lower Colorado River Basin for 15 years. During the public comment period on the DEIS, the seven Colorado River Basin States submitted information to the Department of the Interior that contained a proposal on interim surplus criteria and a number of other related issues. This information was published in the **Federal Register** on August 8, 2000 (65 FR 48531-38). One component of the Colorado River Basin States' proposal is section V, "Determination of 602(a) Storage in Lake Powell During the Interim Period," and reads as follows:

During the Interim Period, 602(a) storage requirements determined in accordance with article II (1) of the Criteria [Long-Range Operating Criteria] shall utilize a value of not less than 14.85 maf (elevation 3,630 feet) for Lake Powell (65 FR 48537).

In December 2000, Reclamation issued a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on the proposed adoption of specific criteria under which surplus water conditions would be determined in the Lower Colorado River Basin through the year 2016. The preferred alternative in the FEIS was based in large part on the Colorado River Basin States' proposal, but as noted in the FEIS, the preferred alternative did not contain all of the specific elements of the Basin States' proposal.

On January 16, 2001, the Secretary signed the record of decision (ROD) for the Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines. The FEIS and the ROD did not consider or implement section V of the Colorado River Basin States' proposal (Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage). Representatives of the Colorado River Basin States have expressed an interest in having the Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage adopted by the Secretary, through the year 2016, in order to protect Upper Basin storage against the potential drawdown of Lake Mead storage that could occur due to dry hydrology and continued surplus deliveries from Lake Mead to the Lower Division States. The

Colorado River Basin is now in its fourth consecutive year of drought.

Under these circumstances, the Secretary believes that it may be prudent to adopt the Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage, or a reasonable alternative to it, as a guideline for making 602(a) Storage determinations during the period through 2016. As part of the process initiated by this notice, Reclamation will analyze the effects of the Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage on the Colorado River system.

Reclamation will utilize a public process pursuant to NEPA during the analysis of the Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage guideline. By this notice, Reclamation invites all interested parties, including the Colorado River Basin States, Indian tribes, water users, members of the general public, organizations, and agencies to present written comments concerning the Basin States' proposed 602(a) Storage and the issues and alternatives that they believe should be analyzed.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home address of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: November 22, 2002.

Rick L. Gold,

Regional Director—Upper Colorado Region.
[FR Doc. 03-1887 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2003, a proposed Consent Decree in *United States v. Koppers Industries, Inc.*, Civil Action No. CV-03-C-0097S, was lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

In this action the United States sought civil penalties and injunctive relief for numerous violations of the Clean Water Act at Koppers facilities throughout the

United States. The United States also sought civil penalties for violations of the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act occurring at a Koppers' facility in Woodward, Alabama. The alleged violations include Koppers' failure to submit reports and comply with discharge limits required by Clean Water Act permits; Koppers' failure to operate a gas blanketing system at storage tanks in the Woodward facility; and Koppers' use of a crushed tank to store used oil at the Woodward facility. This Woodward facility closed in 1998. In settlement of these allegations, Koppers agrees to pay a \$2.9 million civil penalty (plus interest) over three years, and to implement an environmental management system and auditing program at facilities throughout the United States.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States v. Koppers Industries, Inc.*, D.J. Ref. 90-5-2-1-06126.

The Consent Decree may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, 200 Robert S. Vance Federal Building, 1800 5th Avenue North, Room 200, Birmingham, Alabama, and at U.S. EPA Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia. A copy of the Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611. In requesting a copy, please enclose a check in the amount of \$29.25 (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the U.S. Treasury.

Ellen Mahan,

Assistant Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 03-1814 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of the Consent Decree Between the United States of America and Olympic Pipe Line Company Pursuant to the Clean Water Act

Pursuant to 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that on January 17, 2003, a proposed Consent Decree Between the United States of America and Olympic