

leases, which include the right to develop CBNG. Recognizing that the leases have been issued, the alternatives to be considered in the EA will analyze whether to modify the leasing decisions in light of the remedial issue analysis (*i.e.*, after consideration of the appropriate environmental issues foreseeable at the time the leases were offered for sale.)

The rationale of the Court ruling requires that BLM consider those environmental issues found to have been inadequately considered in the 1985 Buffalo RMP EIS. This EA may, however, examine a broader array of environmental issues associated with CBNG leasing decisions that were reasonably foreseeable prior to the issuance of these leases. An array of environmental issues was subject to in-depth re-examination in the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project (PRB) EIS and RMP Amendment Record of Decision (ROD) that was signed April 30, 2003. The ROD amended the 1985 Buffalo RMP to raise the anticipated level of use of the resource area for oil and gas and to develop appropriate resource use restrictions to mitigate impacts to other resources.

In the PRB EIS, the BLM carefully analyzed the cumulative effects on air, water, and other resources of the potential development of 51,000 CBNG wells. The BLM determined that with the leasing stipulations in the 1985 Buffalo RMP and new mitigation measures approved in the PRB EIS, the 51,000 wells would not result in any social, environmental, or economic effects that would preclude accomplishment of one or more of the 1985 Buffalo RMP objectives as long as appropriate conditions of use are required. This EA may substantially incorporate by reference impact analyses from the PRB EIS.

BLM is including in the scope of the EA the three leases that were the subject of the Court and IBLA's decisions, as well as 418 additional oil and gas leases that have been issued since February 2000 within the Buffalo Field Office administrative area. BLM will take a "hard look" at the environmental consequence of each alternative and has not foreclosed, simply because of the difficulty of implementation, choosing to implement any of the alternatives under review.

In addition to this EA, BLM is preparing an EA to consider continued implementation of the leasing decisions in the Buffalo RMP in future years.

*Potential Alternatives:* For the purposes of analysis, the BLM has developed the following reasonable range of comprehensive alternatives,

and will analyze particular environmental issues that were foreseeable at the time the leases were offered for sale:

1. No Action Alternative: Affirm the issuance of 421 leases on the terms prescribed in the 1985 RMP, as amended.

2. Modify leases to add stipulations to address issues such as water disposal, use of diesel engines, slopes, erosive soils, and proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

3. Modify leases to subject them to less restrictive stipulations consistent with the 1985 RMP, as amended.

4. Modify leases to preclude development of CBNG. We believe that this is what the Court meant by "not issuing the leases at all," since the Court found no problems with the adequacy of existing NEPA analyses to support leasing for conventional oil and gas.

Dated: November 30, 2004.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-600-05-1610-DF]

#### Notice of Public Meetings, Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The Southwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held January 21, 2005; March 4, 2005; May 6, 2005; and July 22, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The Southwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held January 21, 2005, at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center, located at 530 Gunnison River Dr., Delta, CO; March 4, 2005, at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 1391 S. Townsend Ave., in Montrose, CO; May 6, 2005, at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, 275 S. Spruce St., in Gunnison, CO; and July 22, 2004, at the Avon Hotel, 144 E. 10 St., in Silverton, CO.

The Southwest Colorado RAC meetings will begin at 8 a.m. and

adjourn at approximately 3 p.m. Public comment periods regarding matters on the agenda will be at 2 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Sharrow, BLM Uncompahgre field office manager, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO; telephone 970-240-5300; or Melodie Lloyd, Public Affairs Specialist, 2815 H Rd., Grand Junction, CO, telephone 970-244-3097.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Southwest Colorado RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of public land issues in Colorado.

Topics of discussion for all Southwest Colorado RAC meetings may include the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy, committee reports, recreation, fire management, land use planning, invasive species management, energy and minerals management, travel management, wilderness, land exchange proposals, cultural resource management, and other issues as appropriate.

These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RACs. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, 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.

Dated: December 8, 2004.

**Barbara Sharrow,**

*Uncompahgre Field Office Manager, Designated Federal Official for the Southwest Colorado RAC.*

[FR Doc. 04-27515 Filed 12-15-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Potential for Oil Shale Development, Extension of Public Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM published a **Federal Register** on November 22, 2004 seeking public input on the terms to be included in leases of small tracts for oil shale research and development within the Piceance Creek Basin, northwestern Colorado; the Uinta Basin, southeastern Utah; and the Green River and Washakie Basins, western Wyoming. BLM received a request to extend the

comment period and have agreed to extend the period to January 31, 2005.

**DATES:** Please send your comments no later than January 31, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Please hand-deliver written comments: To Nick Douglas, Suite 700, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. This is also the FedEx address. Mail written comments to BLM (Attention: Nick Douglas), Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection, Mail Stop: LS 700, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Electronic Mail: You may send comments through the Internet to BLM at: [Nick\\_Douglas@blm.gov](mailto:Nick_Douglas@blm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nick Douglas, Senior Policy Advisor, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection, Bureau of Land Management, Mail Stop: LS 700, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240 at (202) 452-0374.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BLM published a Notice of Request for Comments on Potential for Oil Shale Development on November 22, 2004; see 69 FR 67935. The purpose of this notice is to extend the comment period from December 22, 2004 to January 31, 2005. The United States holds over 50 percent of the world's oil shale resources, which contain 2.6 trillion barrels of oil. These resources include the oil shale deposits in the Green River formation in the Western United States.

Dated: December 9, 2004.

**Thomas P. Lonnie,**

*Assistant Director, Minerals Realty, and Resource Protection.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-AG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ES-960-1910-BJ-4489, ES-052572, Group No. 37, Missouri]

#### Eastern States: Filing of Plat of Survey

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of plat of survey; Missouri.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM-Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153. Attn: Cadastral Survey.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This survey was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lands we surveyed are:

*Fifth Principal Meridian, Missouri,*

T. 49 and 50 N., Rs. 2 and 3 E.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of portions of the township boundaries, portions of the subdivisional lines and portions of various U.S. Surveys and the survey of the Lock and Dam No. 25 acquisition boundary, in Townships 49 and 50 North, Ranges 2 and 3 East, of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the State of Missouri, and was accepted on November 30, 2004.

We will place a copy of the plat we described in the open files. It will be made available to the public as a matter of information.

Dated: November 30, 2004.

**Stephen D. Douglas,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

[FR Doc. 04-27517 Filed 12-15-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Closure Order Establishing Prohibitions at Keswick Lake, California

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of closure.

**SUMMARY:** *Purpose Of Closure Order:* This closure order is issued to provide for the protection of federal property and to ensure public safety at Reclamation facilities.

*Closure Areas:* The following facilities, lands, and waters are closed to the public: Keswick Dam Road crossing the crest of Keswick Dam, and adjacent property, buildings, and facilities under the control of Reclamation. The closure area includes the area within 500 feet upstream and 600 feet downstream of Keswick Dam for the entire width of the reservoir surface at high mean water upstream, and 600 feet on either side of the entire width of the dam downstream.

**DATES:** The entire closure area is to remain closed effective December 31, 2004, and remain closed indefinitely except as permitted as described below.

**ADDRESSES:** A map is available for inspection at Reclamation's Northern Area Office, located at 16349 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake, California, 96019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region Public Affairs Office at 916-978-5100.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Prohibited Acts:* The following acts are prohibited in the closure area.

A. Operating a motorized vehicle of any kind, including stopping, standing, or parking in the closure area.

*Limited Exceptions:* Motor vehicles may be operated across the crest of Keswick Dam 24 hours a day in compliance with all signs and other directions posted or disclosed. This limited exception to the closure order may be revoked at any time to meet operational, security, or safety concerns as determined by the area manager or his/her designee.

*General Exception:* Reclamation employees acting within the scope of their employment; operations, maintenance, and construction personnel that have express written authorization from Reclamation; law enforcement and fire department officials; ambulances and others who have received express written authorization to enter the closure area.

B. Entering the closure area on foot, on bicycle, or by any other means.

*Limited Exceptions:* Pedestrians and bicyclist may enter that portion of the closure area that crosses the crest of Keswick Dam on the roadway or walkway across the dam. All persons shall comply with all signs and other directions as posted or disclosed. This limited exception to the closure order may be revoked at any time to meet operational, security, or safety concerns as determined by the area manager or his/her designee. Reclamation employees acting within the scope of their employment; operations, maintenance, and construction personnel that have express authorization from Reclamation; law enforcement and fire department officials; and others who have received express written authorization from Reclamation to enter the closure area.

C. Operating a vessel or watercraft of any kind, swimming, or scuba diving.

*Limited Exceptions:* Reclamation employees acting within the scope of their employment; operations, maintenance, and construction personnel that have express authorization from Reclamation; law enforcement and fire department officials; and other who have received express written authorization from Reclamation to enter the closure area.

D. Carrying or discharging firearms.

*Exceptions:* Law Enforcement, *i.e.* Federal, state, and local agencies and