

between Houston, Texas, and the Louisiana state line in Chambers, Jefferson, and Galveston Counties, Texas. All four refuges include the Migratory Bird Conservation Act as a primary authority and purpose.

Moody NWR was established in 1961 and today consists of a conservation easement on approximately 3,516 acres of coastal marsh. Anahuac NWR was established in 1963 and contains 34,339 acres of coastal marsh and adjoining uplands in fee title ownership. McFaddin NWR was established in 1980 and is 58,861 acres of primarily coastal marsh in a mix of fee title and conservation easements. Texas Point NWR was established in 1979 and consists of 8,952 acres of coastal marsh in fee title ownership.

The integrated EIS contains two sets of alternatives addressing two separate but related Federal Actions: (1) Refuge management alternatives for development of a CCP for the Complex, and (2) alternatives for expansion of the refuge acquisition boundaries.

Five refuge management alternatives are proposed and evaluated for the Refuge Complex. The first management alternative is the "No Action" alternative, required by NEPA, which would continue the current refuge management activities. Current habitat management activities include (1) water management; (2) wetland, prairie, and woodlot restoration; (3) moist soil management units; (4) cooperative rice farming; (5) fire management; (6) controlled livestock grazing; and (7) exotic/invasive species management. The second management alternative emphasizes intensifying management of wetland habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other wetland-dependent migratory birds. The third management alternative emphasizes native habitat restoration and addressing threats from coastal land loss, altered hydrology, exotic species, and contaminants. The fourth management alternative, the Service's preferred alternative, emphasizes an integrated management approach combining (1) expanded habitat management and restoration programs, (2) new research and wildlife population monitoring, and (3) increased efforts to address major threats to ecosystem health. The fifth management alternative emphasizes a passive management approach. All five of these refuge management alternatives make wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Four refuge boundary expansion alternatives are proposed and evaluated. The first expansion alternative is the "No Action" alternative, required by NEPA, which would retain the current refuge acquisition boundaries. The second expansion alternative would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 5,050 acres; for Anahuac NWR by 20,500 acres; for McFaddin NWR by 7,190 acres; and for Texas Point NWR by 850 acres. The total expansion of 33,590 acres continues the historic focus on land acquisition primarily in coastal marsh and adjacent agricultural uplands. The third expansion alternative, the Service's preferred alternative, would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 7,920 acres; for Anahuac NWR by 47,750 acres; for McFaddin NWR by 7,190 acres; and for Texas Point NWR by 1,400 acres. The total expansion of 64,260 acres includes all of the coastal marsh and adjacent agricultural uplands from the second expansion alternative plus two important areas of native coastal prairie. The fourth expansion alternative would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 7,920 acres, for Anahuac NWR by 64,910, for McFaddin NWR by 29,890 acres, and for Texas Point NWR by 1,400 acres. The total expansion of 104,120 acres includes all of the lands in the third expansion alternative along with a large freshwater marsh north of the current McFaddin NWR and a near-coast bottomland hardwood area important to neotropical migratory birds. Lands acquired in the future would be managed according to the strategies contained in the Service's preferred management alternative.

**Public Meetings:** The Service will hold at least two public meetings in Chambers and Jefferson Counties, Texas, 30 days after publication of this notice to present the draft document, answer questions, and receive formal public comments. Notice of the meetings will be posted in local newspapers and other media outlets and given through special mailings to individuals and organizations that have expressed interest in this planning effort.

Editorial note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register October 11, 2006.

Dated: April 3, 2006.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Acting, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 106-503, the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) will hold its fourteenth meeting. The meeting location is the Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory, 10002 Isleta Road, SE, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87117. The Committee is comprised of members from academia, industry, and State government. The Committee shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The Committee will provide guidance on the USGS's contributions to the Global Seismographic Network and report preparation.

Meetings of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee are open to the public.

**DATES:** October 30, 2006, commencing at 9 a.m. and adjourning at noon on October 31, 2006.

*Contact:* Dr. David Applegate, U.S. Geological Survey, MS 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6714, [applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov).

Dated: October 2, 2006.

**Rama Kotra,**

*Acting Associate Director for Geology.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-060-1320-EL, WYW163340]

#### Notice of Intent (NOI) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Public Meeting on a Federal Coal Lease Application Filed by the Antelope Coal Company in the Decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM),