

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lake Havasu Field Office announces an Open House to be held in Bullhead City, Arizona, to identify issues and accept comments concerning a proposed development on approximately 280 acres of BLM-administered land presently under lease. The land is located in Bullhead City, Arizona, along the shores of the Colorado River.

The concessioner intends to use the land for the Silver Shores Project, a development of multi-use recreational facilities, including a recreational vehicle park, sports complex, and associated commercial facilities. This notice is intended to invite the public to participate in identification of issues and the consideration of alternatives. All comments will be considered during analysis and assessment of the project, including all reasonable alternatives.

DATES: An Open House to identify public concerns will be held at the following date and location: Tuesday, September 9, 1997 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bullhead City Area Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 1251 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ. Comments relating to the identification of issues and alternatives will be accepted at the meeting, or by mail if postmarked no later than September 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Wilson, Concession Specialist, (520) 505-1200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Silver Shores Project proposes a recreational vehicle (RV) park, along with an office, postal, fueling, food service, RV storage and other support facilities. Later development may include a sports complex, rooms for extended overnight stays, live entertainment, and retail facilities. The project would require five to ten years to reach completion. It is contiguous to a city park and fire station and is consistent with city planning and zoning requirements. No development has taken place. No marina is planned or proposed. No full time residency is authorized. The government remains the landowner.

Anticipated Issues

The following preliminary issues have been identified by the Lake Havasu Field Office's interdisciplinary team.

1. Riparian habitats included within the boundary of the parcel.

2. Potential impacts to any threatened and endangered species that may occur on the parcel.

3. Existing public uses of the parcel.

Other Relevant Information

Complete information of all phases of the proposed Silver Shores Project will be available for public review at the Open House and at the Lake Havasu Field Office, Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Dated: August 1, 1997.

Jaime T. Provencio,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-21347 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Safety and Environmental Management Program (SEMP) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: MMS has decided to continue its collaborative efforts with representatives of OCS oil and gas operating companies to voluntarily implement its SEMF initiative. We will continue to work with OCS operators to enhance their performance in safety and environmental protection through a variety of cooperative actions and agency initiatives. The Agency will, however, increase its focus on the performance records of companies, and will take increasingly firm actions against poor performers.

DATES: MMS will consider all comments received by November 12, 1997. Any comments received after November 12, 1997 may not be fully considered.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4020; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team (Comments).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Wiese, Performance and Safety Branch at (703) 787-1591 or e-mail to Jeff.Wiese@MMS.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What is SEMF?

SEMF is a safety systems management model designed around offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities. This concept is currently embodied in a publication of the American Petroleum Institute (API)

known as Recommended Practice 75 (RP75). This document is available from the API; they can be reached by phone at (202) 682-8375.

Why is the MMS Promoting SEMF?

MMS has developed a sound regulatory program to protect the public's interests in the exploration and development of OCS oil and gas over the course of more than a quarter century. This program is based, in large measure, on standards and recommended practices developed in association with OCS stakeholders that delimit how a "safe and prudent" operator would conduct its business. This regulatory program has historically focused on hardware and engineering approaches to resolve offshore safety and operating issues. It has been, as well, fairly prescriptive.

The SEMF concept was created to address the role of human and organizational error to accidents. By some estimates, human and organizational factors lie at the root cause of up to 80 percent of all accidents.

Through SEMF, MMS is seeking alternative ways to complement our current regulatory efforts to protect people and the environment during oil and gas exploration and production activities taking place on the U.S. OCS. MMS undertook this initiative following two separate, but related, studies which indicated that many OCS operators were led by the traditional, prescriptive regulatory approach of MMS to focus more on compliance with existing rules than in systematically identifying and mitigating all risks posed by their operations. Implementation of SEMF squarely places the responsibility for protection of people, facilities, and the environment on the shoulders of OCS operators.

What Related Past Actions Has MMS Taken?

MMS introduced its SEMF concept in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 1991 (56 FR 30400). In response, OCS operators requested that they be given an opportunity to further develop SEMF and a chance to demonstrate that they could voluntarily adopt it on a widespread basis. MMS joined with a broad-based industry committee to refine the SEMF concept under the aegis of the API. In May 1993, the API published RP75 as its response to SEMF. This document clearly reflects a consensus both within MMS and the offshore industry on what course a safe and prudent operator would steer—at a minimum. On June 30, 1994, MMS published a notice in the **Federal**

Register (59 FR 33779) in which it said that RP75 generally captured the agency's perception of what a SEMP should contain. At that time, MMS committed to a 2-year moratorium on regulatory activity related to SEMP during which it would closely monitor the voluntary adoption of RP75 by OCS operators. MMS extended for one year its observation of this experiment in a **Federal Register** notice published on July 18, 1996 (61 FR 37493).

Why Is This Action Being Taken by MMS?

MMS and representatives of the offshore oil and gas industry previously agreed (see above) to allow industry to voluntarily implement SEMP on a widespread basis. MMS originally established a two-year window for this experiment and then later extended the window for an additional year. This extension was announced even though MMS has seen substantial progress across the board in program development. There was not, however, sufficient evidence of field-level implementation of SEMP at that time for the Agency to judge the results of this experiment. The additional year has provided MMS with the information needed to make its decision whether or not to require SEMP at this time.

What Information Was Used to Make This Decision?

MMS has used a number of means to determine how well and how widespread voluntary implementation of its SEMP initiative has been undertaken by OCS operators. Among these means we have: (1) collaborated with the major industry trade associations to conduct year-end SEMP implementation surveys of all OCS operators over the past three years (1994, 1995, and 1996); (2) cosponsored several SEMP implementation workshops focused on challenges identified by operators who responded to these surveys in which volunteers were recruited to share best practices; (3) conducted twenty MMS-company SEMP implementation interviews with a cross-section of operators (both major and independent); and (4) probed whether and how well SEMP had been implemented during routine inspections made by MMS at the operators's offshore installations.

What Conclusions Has MMS Made?

The SEMP initiative has served as a catalyst to refocus the attention of both the offshore industry and MMS on bottom-line performance and not solely on regulatory compliance. We have seen strong evidence that adoption of SEMP

cannot only accomplish public objectives in the areas of promoting safety and environmental protection, but it can also make good business sense by avoiding or containing accident and pollution costs.

The vast majority of OCS operators have undertaken, in earnest, to develop and implement SEMP plans. Many of these operators now have plans generally in place, and they are beginning the continuous improvement phase marked by the conduct of internal audits. Some companies have even requested MMS participation in cooperative reviews of their SEMP plans.

MMS takes notice that many operators have voluntarily embraced safety systems management and SEMP. As with any voluntary effort, some operators will choose not to participate. We believe that their safety and environmental performance will suffer relative to their peers. Accordingly, their opportunities to explain their poor performance to MMS will increase.

The largest challenges that MMS sees in areas covered by SEMP are how to better integrate the safety and environmental programs and principles of OCS operators with those of their many contractors and how to develop a common vocabulary upon which performance reviews will be conducted.

What Decision Has MMS Reached?

We have decided to continue the non-regulatory, voluntary option for SEMP as long as we continue to observe satisfactory implementation efforts on an industry-wide basis. The Agency reserves the right, of course, to incorporate all or any part of SEMP into its regulatory program if we determine that such action would better serve the public interest. Specific areas of RP75 will continue to be examined by MMS for incorporation into its regulatory framework. The SEMP concept has always been envisioned by both MMS and the offshore industry as a strong tool to enhance safety and environmental performance. Given that so many companies have now embraced the safety systems management concepts embodied within SEMP, the Agency will now increasingly focus and act on their related performance records.

What's Next?

Though we have decided to continue the non-regulatory approach to implementing the SEMP initiative by OCS operators, MMS plans to stay actively involved by promoting the concept and its adoption both through collaborative activities and new Agency projects. As appropriate, certain facets

of SEMP may be reflected in our regulatory program where they help both us and the offshore industry better focus on performance. An immediate example would be our current performance-based training project.

We plan to collaborate with representatives of the offshore industry to track and improve the SEMP concept by: (1) making minor improvements to RP75 through the committee process under the guidance of the API; (2) conducting the fourth annual SEMP implementation survey at the beginning of 1998; (3) continuing our efforts to develop and implement commonly-defined measures of performance; (4) continuing to work with volunteer companies to conduct cooperative, in-depth reviews of their SEMP plans; (5) cosponsoring workshops, or research, that are designed to develop or share best practices in the areas of safety and environmental protection; and (6) working to identify specific MMS regulations for which OCS operators, who can demonstrate solid performance and a fully implemented SEMP, could individually request approval for using alternative means of compliance.

For our part, MMS will be refocusing its attention on the bottom-line performance of OCS operators by: (1) preparing internal analyses that rank the performance of all OCS operators on a company-wide basis; (2) conducting annual performance reviews with all OCS operators during which both these performance analyses and those of the company, together with related information, will be compared and discussed; (3) increasingly risk-basing our inspection program—past safety and environmental performance will play an important part in determining the risk posed by an operator or their specific operations; and (4) increasing the costs of poor performance by spending much more time with poor performers, by factoring past performance into civil penalty assessments, and by publishing a notice of all settled civil penalty cases.

What More Can Companies Do?

One of SEMP's underlying principles is that management in the OCS oil and gas companies must provide leadership and take responsibility for ensuring that SEMP is properly implemented and that it is effective. In that regard, we would appreciate being notified by a top executive or operating official from each company as soon as that company has fully implemented their SEMP plans at the field level. This voluntary notification can be made by writing to the address listed at the beginning of this notice; a copy to the appropriate MMS Regional Director would also be

appreciated. Additionally, companies could request that MMS participate in cooperative performance review activities.

Two, one-day workshops have been scheduled (September 9, 1997 in New Orleans and September 23, 1997 in Houston) to discuss implementation of performance measures developed by a joint industry-MMS work group. MMS will be sending notice of this workshop to all our lessees and operators, as will all the major trade associations. Please call the contact identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this notice if you would like to discuss the workshops further.

Dated: July 31, 1997.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-21346 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area; Operation of a Food and Gift Shop

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will be releasing a concession Prospectus to continue the operation of the Cliff House Restaurant and Gift Shop. This is a year-round restaurant and gift shop business operating within Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This operation provides different levels of food service, from delicatessen and sit down style to fine dining service. Within the same structure is a gift shop operation providing visitors with assorted souvenirs items. The annual gross receipts average about \$8 million. The new contract will be for twenty (20) years. The new contract requires a major renovation program of the existing structure with an estimated cost of \$8 million. There is an existing concessioner which has operated satisfactorily under the existing contract and has a right of preference in renewal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The cost for purchasing a Prospectus is \$30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check, NO CASH, payable to "National Park Service" to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program Management, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372. The front of the envelope should be marked "Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mail Room Do Not Open." Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the prospectus. Inquiries may be

sent to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427-1369.

Dated: August 5, 1997.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97-21349 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Great Basin National Park; Operation of a Food and Gift Shop

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will be releasing a concession prospectus authorizing the continued operation of a modest food and gift shop at Lehman Caves Visitor Center within Great Basin National Park. The park is located in Eastern Nevada. This is a seasonal operation and will be open to serve the public approximately 6½ months out of the year from April through mid-October. The average visitation over the last three years for this period has been between 64,000 and 66,600. The annual gross receipts over the same period of time has been approximately \$171,000. The concessioner will be required to assist in defraying the cost for maintenance of a government building used by concessioner. There is an existing concessioner which has operated satisfactorily and is entitled to a right of preference in renewal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The cost for purchasing a Prospectus is \$30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check, NO CASH, payable to "National Park Service" to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program Management, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372. The front of the envelope should be marked "Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mail Room Do Not Open". Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the prospectus. Inquiries may be sent to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427-1369.

Dated: July 8, 1997.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97-21350 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Issue a Prospectus for the Operation of Hotel and Related Facilities in Sequoia National Park

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is seeking to award a concession contract for the operation and construction of new visitor facilities and continued operation of certain existing facilities within Sequoia National Park, which is part of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The contract will be awarded on a fully competitive basis. The Prospectus which describes the project is expected to be issued within a few weeks. Interested parties should place their names on the mailing list to be sent the Prospectus.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The development to be constructed includes as many as 414 guest units, along with food service and other related commercial and support facilities. Extensive site preparation, roads, parking and other infrastructure work have already been completed by the government. The site has a panoramic view from the western face of the Sierra Nevada. To discuss the proposed development, interested parties should call Ms. Peggy Williams, Chief, Concession Program Management, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, (209) 565-3103.

The cost for purchasing a Prospectus is \$30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check, NO CASH, payable to "National Park Service" to the following address: Pacific Great Basin Support Office, National Park Service, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107-1372, *Attention:* Office of Concession Program Management "Mail Room Do Not Open".

Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the Prospectus. Address inquiries to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Secretary, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427-1369.

Dated: July 11, 1997.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97-21348 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

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