

processed by HUD, pursuant to the FY 1996 legislation.

The Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program, authorized by the FY 1996 Appropriations Act, as implemented by a notice published at 61 FR 34664, July 2, 1996, and the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program, authorized by the FY 1997 Appropriations Act, as implemented by a notice published at 62 FR 3566, January 23, 1997, grant the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development all power and authority to administer these demonstration programs.

Accordingly, the Secretary delegates authority as follows:

Section A. Authority Delegated

The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development delegates to the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner all power and authority to administer the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Programs, as granted by Section 210 of the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321), and Sections 211 and 212 of the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Pub. L. No. 104-204, 110 Stat. 2874, approved September 26, 1996).

Section B. Authority Excepted

The authority delegated under Section A does not include the power to sue or be sued.

Authority: Section 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: March 28, 1997.

Andrew Cuomo,

Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

[FR Doc. 97-11812 Filed 5-6-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. 4221-D-02]

Redelegation of Authority

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Redelegation of authority.

SUMMARY: In a notice published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

delegated all authority with respect to the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Programs to the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner. In this notice, the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner redelegates the authority to execute restructuring commitment letters and closing documents with respect to the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Programs to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs, who further redelegates this authority, as specified herein, to various field office Directors, Office of Housing; Directors, Housing Division; and Directors, Office of Multifamily Housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George C. Dipman, Demonstration Program Coordinator, Office of Multifamily Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6106, Washington, DC 20410-4000; Telephone (202) 708-3321. (This is not a toll-free number). Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Information Relay Service TTY).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Over 800,000 housing units in approximately 8,500 projects are currently financed with FHA-insured loans and supported by project-based Section 8 housing assistance payment ("HAP") contracts. In many cases, these HAP contracts currently provide for rents which substantially exceed the rents received by comparable unassisted units in the local market. Starting in Fiscal Year ("FY") 1996, those Section 8 contracts began to expire, and Congress and the Administration provided one-year extensions of expiring contracts at a cost of over \$200 million. While annual HAP contract extensions for these projects maintain an important housing resource, they come at great expense. Every year more contracts expire, compounding the cost of annual extensions. In ten years, the annual cost of renewing Section 8 contracts is projected to rise to approximately \$7 billion, about one-third of HUD's current budget. If, however, the Section 8 assistance is reduced or eliminated, there is an increased likelihood that these projects will be unable to continue to meet their financial obligations including operating expenses, debt service payments, and current and future capital needs.

In seeking a solution to this serious problem, Congress enacted Section 210 of Departments of Veteran Affairs and

Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321) ("HUD's FY 1996 Appropriations Act"), authorizing HUD to conduct a demonstration program designed to explore various approaches for restructuring the financing of projects that have FHA-insured mortgages and that receive Section 8 rental assistance, and taking other related action in order to reduce the risk to the FHA insurance fund and lower subsidy costs while preserving housing affordability and availability.

Sections 211 and 212 of the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Pub. L. No. 104-204, 110 Stat. 2874, approved September 26, 1996) ("HUD's FY 1997 Appropriations Act") respectively, grant Section 8 Contract Renewal Authority, repeal the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program authorized by Section 210 of HUD's FY 1996 Appropriations Act, and authorize the conduct of a new Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program, modelled in large part after the FY 1996 Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program.

Although Section 212 of HUD's FY 1997 Appropriations Act repealed the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program authorized under Section 210 of HUD's 1996 Appropriations Act, funds made available under Section 210 remain available through FY 1997, and the FY 1997 Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program does not nullify any agreements or proposals that have been submitted under the FY 1996 Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program. Proposals submitted under the FY 1996 Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program which were received by the Department prior to September 25, 1996 will continue to be processed by HUD, pursuant to the FY 1996 legislation.

The Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program, authorized by the FY 1996 Appropriations Act, as implemented by a notice published at 61 FR 34664, July 2, 1996, and the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program, authorized by the FY 1997 Appropriations Act, as implemented by a notice published at 62 FR 3566, January 23, 1997, grant the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("Secretary") all power and authority to administer these demonstration programs, including the authority to execute restructuring commitment letters and closing documents. A restructuring commitment letter is a document sent to the participating project owner

memorializing the final restructuring agreement between HUD and the participating project owner with respect to the specific project, and the closing documents must be executed for the project restructuring to become effective.

Elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, the Secretary has redelegated to the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner all power and authority with respect to the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Program. That delegation authorizes the Assistant Secretary to further redelegate such authority.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing redelegate authority as follows:

Section A. Authority Redelegated

The Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner redelegates to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs the authority to execute restructuring commitment letters and closing documents related to the Portfolios Reengineering Demonstration Programs, as granted by Section 210 of the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321), and Section 212 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Pub. L. No. 104-204, 110 Stat. 2874, approved September 26, 1996).

Section B. Authority Further Redelegated

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs redelegates authority under the Portfolio Reengineering Demonstration Programs authorized by HUD's FY 1996 and FY 1997 Appropriations Acts as follows:

- (1) The authority to execute restructuring commitment letters is redelegated to the:
 - (a) Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Pittsburgh Area Office;
 - (b) Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Buffalo Area Office;
 - (c) Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Cleveland Area Office;
 - (d) Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Kansas/Missouri State Office;
 - (e) Director, Multifamily Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Georgia State Office;

- (f) Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Jacksonville Area Office;
 - (g) Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Colorado State Office;
 - (h) Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Houston Area Office;
 - (i) Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the California State Office; and
 - (j) Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Washington State Office.
- (2) The authority to execute closing documents is redelegated individually to the Department of Housing and Urban Development field office Directors, Office of Housing; Directors, Housing Division; and the Directors, Multifamily Housing Division.

Section C. Authority Excepted

The authority redelegated under Sections A and B does not include the power to sue or be sued.

Authority: Section 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: March 28, 1997.

Nicolas P. Retsinas,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

Dated: March 28, 1997.

John H. (Chris) Greer,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-080-07-1990-00]

Notice of Intent To Amend the Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend the Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to amend the Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan (DMRMP) to define the appropriate level of management prescriptions for the BLM administered acreage located to the west of the Ouray

National Wildlife Refuge in Uintah County, Utah. An environmental assessment would be prepared to address the potential impacts that activities allowed under the current RMP decisions may have on the adjoining wildlife refuge. The EA would be prepared by an interdisciplinary team and would address issues including but not limited to, land use, mineral development, wildlife, cultural resources, and special status plant and animal species. The EA and accompanying plan amendment would provide the basis for redefining the management prescriptions determined necessary to maintain viable use and management of the public lands by the BLM and to avoid creating an impediment to the management objectives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in managing the wildlife refuge.

DATES: The comment period for the proposed plan amendment will commence with the date of publication of this notice. All comments must be submitted on or before June 6, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM administers approximately 4,907.05 acres of land located west of the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, including approximately 815 acres which are submerged under Pelican Lake. The Ouray National Wildlife Refuge encompasses an area of approximately 11,827 acres and is managed by the USFWS for the purposes of producing waterfowl and providing habitat for migratory birds. Management objectives of the refuge have been impaired by high levels of selenium which accrue in the ponds within the refuge. Studies conducted by the USFWS assert that the high selenium levels result from water seepage through shale formations which underlie the surrounding area and that various types of land uses on the BLM administered acreage west of and upgradient to the refuge induce increases in selenium levels. The EA would address those activities currently allowed under the decisions of the DMRMP which could contribute to increased selenium and the plan amendment would serve to redefine which uses may continue to be authorized and which actions may continue to occur on the public land acreage. The decisions being reviewed pertain only to the following described public lands:

T. 7 S., R. 20 E., SLM, Utah
 Sec. 19, lots 3, 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 20, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 21, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 26, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;