

office during normal business hours. Copies of the submitted rule revisions are also available for inspection at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), 401 "M" Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, 26 Castilian Drive B-23, Goleta, California 93117

South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Cynthia G. Allen, Rulemaking Office [AIR-4], Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, Telephone: (415) 744-1189

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document concerns Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Rule 102, Definitions, and South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 102, Definition of Terms. These rules were submitted to EPA on March 10, 1998 by the California Air Resources Board. For further information, please see the information provided in the Direct Final action which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Date Signed: February 23, 1999.

**Felicia Marcus,**

*Regional Administrator, Region IX.*

[FR Doc. 99-7423 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Care Financing Administration

#### 42 CFR Part 405

[HCFA-1002-N]

#### Medicare Program; Meetings of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Ambulance Fee Schedule

**AGENCY:** Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces the dates and location for the second meeting and the dates for the third and fourth meetings of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the Ambulance Fee Schedule. These meetings are open to the public.

The purpose of this committee is to develop a proposed rule that establishes a fee schedule for the payment of ambulance services under the Medicare program through negotiated rulemaking, as mandated by section 4531(b) of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997.

**DATES:** The second meeting is scheduled for April 12 and 13, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. and April 14, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. E.S.T.

Two further meetings are scheduled for May 24 and 25, 1999 and June 28 and 29, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The 3-day April meeting will be held at Doyle's Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 483-6000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Inquiries regarding these meetings should be addressed to Bob Niemann (410) 786-4569 or Margot Blige (410) 786-4642 for general issues related to ambulance services or to Lynn Sylvester (202) 606-9140 or Elayne Tempel (207) 780-3408, facilitators.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 4531(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA), Public Law 105-33, added a new section 1834(l) to the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 1834(l) of the Act mandates implementation, by January 1, 2000, of a national fee schedule for payment of ambulance services furnished under Medicare Part B. The fee schedule is to be established through negotiated rulemaking. Section 4531(b)(2) also provides that in establishing such fee schedule, the Secretary will—

- Establish mechanisms to control increases in expenditures for ambulance services under Part B of the program;
- Establish definitions for ambulance services that link payments to the type of services furnished;
- Consider appropriate regional and operational differences;
- Consider adjustments to payment rates to account for inflation and other relevant factors; and
- Phase in the fee schedule in an efficient and fair manner.

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the Ambulance Fee Schedule has been established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary with respect to the text and content of a proposed rule that establishes a fee schedule for the payment of ambulance services under Part B of the Medicare program.

The Committee held its first meeting on February 22, 23, and 24, 1999. At this meeting, the Committee discussed in detail how the negotiations will proceed, the schedule for subsequent

meetings, and how the Committee will function. The Committee agreed to ground rules for Committee operations, determined how best to address the principal issues, and began to address those issues.

During the April meeting the committee will finalize descriptions of the issues to be negotiated, committee members will present a description of their interests, and a representative from HCFA's Actuarial and Health Cost Analysis Group will describe the methodology for determining the amount that would have been paid for ambulance services had the fee schedule not been implemented.

The announced future meetings are open to the public without advanced registration. Interested parties can file statements with the committee. Location of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Public attendance at the meetings may be limited to space available. A summary of all proceedings will be available for public inspection in room 443-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Phone: (202) 690-7890), or can be accessed through the HCFA Internet site at <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/ambmain.htm>. Additional information related to the Committee will also be available on the web site.

**Authority:** Section 1834(l)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: March 19, 1999.

**Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,**

*Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-7366 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**43 CFR Parts 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, and 3180**

[WO-310-1310-00-2I-IP]

RIN 1004-AC94

#### Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing and Operations

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; notice of extension of public comment period and notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public comment period on a Notice of Proposed Rule, published in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 1998 (63 FR 66840). The proposed rule would revise BLM's oil and gas leasing and operations regulations. The rule uses performance standards in certain instances in lieu of the current prescriptive requirements. It would also cite industry standards and incorporate them by reference rather than repeat those standards in the rule itself. Also, BLM's onshore orders and national notices to lessees would be incorporated into the regulations to eliminate overlap with existing regulations. The rule would increase certain minimum bond amounts and would revise and replace BLM's current unitization regulations with a more flexible unit agreement process. Finally, the proposed rule would eliminate redundancies, clarify procedures and regulatory requirements, and streamline processes. In response to public requests for additional time, BLM extends the comment period 60 days from the original comment period closing date of April 5, 1999, to the extended comment period's closing date of June 4, 1999. BLM will also hold public hearings on the proposal.

**DATES:**

*Comments.* Send your comments to BLM on or before June 4, 1999. BLM will consider comments received or postmarked on or before this date in preparing the final rule.

*Public hearings.* BLM will hold public hearings on this proposed rule. The dates and times of the hearings are in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Public hearings."

**ADDRESSES:** Please send your comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401 LS,

1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, or hand deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington D.C. For information about filing comments electronically, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Electronic access and filing address."

*Public hearings.* The locations of the public hearings that BLM is holding on this proposed rule are in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Public hearings."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Duletsky of BLM's Fluid Minerals Group at (202) 452-0337 or Ian J. Senio of BLM's Regulatory Affairs Group at (202) 452-5049. If you require a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Electronic access and filing address**

You can view an electronic version of this proposed rule at BLM's Internet home page: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). You can also comment via the Internet at: [WOCComment@wo.blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@wo.blm.gov). Please include "Attention: AC94" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from our system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (202) 452-5030.

**Written Comments**

Written comments on the proposed rule should:

- (A) Be specific;
- (B) Be confined to issues pertinent to the proposed rule;
- (C) Explain the reason for any recommended change; and

(D) Reference the specific section or paragraph of the proposal you are addressing.

BLM may not necessarily consider or include in the Administrative Record for the final rule comments which BLM receives after the close of the comment period (See **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (See **ADDRESSES**).

You can review comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents at this address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. BLM will also post all comments on its Internet home page ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)) at the end of the comment period. If you are an individual respondent you may request confidentiality. If you request that BLM consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as: Internet address, FAX or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments. BLM will honor requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis to the extent allowed by law. BLM will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

**Public Hearings**

The hearings will take the form of a question and answer workshop. BLM will hold the public hearings at the following locations on the dates and local times specified.

| Location  | Date and time                 | BLM contact                       |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| California Hearing, Doubletree Hotel, Buena Vista Room, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, (at the intersection of U.S. Highway 99 and State Highway 58 in Bakersfield), Bakersfield, California. | April 7, 1999, 1:00 p.m. .... | Leroy Mohorich (916) 978-4363.    |
| Montana Hearing, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Sixth Floor Conference Room, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana.  | April 7, 1999, 8:00 a.m. .... | Jim Albano (406) 255-2849.        |
| Texas Hearing, Midland Center, Room 5, 105 North Main, Midland, Texas.  | April 14, 1999 2:00 p.m. .... | Rick Wymer (505) 438-7411.        |
| Colorado Hearing, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Fourth Floor Conference Room, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado.   | April 14, 1999 1:00 p.m. .... | Sherri Thompson (303) 239-3758.   |
| Utah Hearing, Western Park Center, 300 East, 200 South, Vernal, Utah.   | April 14, 1999 1:00 p.m. .... | Howard Cleavinger (435) 781-4480. |
| Washington, D.C. Hearing, Washington Plaza Hotel, State Suites, 10 Thomas Circle, NW (14th and Massachusetts Avenue) Washington, D.C..  | April 20, 1999 1:00 p.m. .... | Kermit Witherbee (202) 452-0335.  |
| Wyoming Hearing, The Wyoming Oil and Gas, Conservation Commission Building, 777 West 1st Street, Casper, Wyoming.   | April 20, 1999 1:00 p.m. .... | Michael Madrid (307) 775-6201.    |
| New Mexico Hearing, Civic Center, Exhibit Hall 3, 200 West Arrington, Farmington, New Mexico.   | April 21, 1999 2:00 p.m. .... | Rick Wymer (505) 438-7411.        |

| Location  | Date and time               | BLM contact                  |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Eastern States Hearing, Holiday Inn, Downtown/Riverfront Pavilion I, 102 Lake Street (exit Spring Street at I-20), Shreveport, Louisiana. | May 12, 1999 1:00 p.m. .... | Dave Stewart (703) 440-1728. |

The meeting sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the hearing, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, you must notify one of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled hearing date. Although BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Dated: March 22, 1999.

**Sylvia V. Baca,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.*

[FR Doc. 99-7440 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### 45 CFR Part 5

RIN 0991-AB00

### Revision of the Department of Health and Human Services Freedom of Information Act Regulations and Implementation of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document sets forth proposed revisions to the Department's Freedom of Information regulations. The regulations have been streamlined and condensed, in accord with principles of the National Performance Review, and incorporated more "user-friendly" language wherever possible. These proposed revisions also contain new provisions implementing the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996.

**DATES:** Submit comments on this proposed regulation on or before May 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments concerning this proposed rule to Rosario Cirrincione, Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division, Office of the

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201-0004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rosario Cirrincione (202) 690-7453.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These comprehensive revisions of 45 CFR part 5 incorporate changes to the language and structure of the regulations and add new provisions to implement the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-231). The Department's current Freedom of Information Act regulations are no longer in compliance with the law in that they do not reflect the provisions of the 1996 Amendments. This revised regulation is intended to bring the Department into compliance and to inform the public as to how we will implement the law in the light of the Amendments.

#### New Provisions

A. The following new definitions are added to the regulation:

1. *Electronic mail or e-mail* means a communication of information electronically from one personal computer user to another.

2. *Expedited processing* means placing a request in a special queue for processing ahead of requests which had been received earlier. Within any special queue as well as within any regular queues we may also maintain, requests will continue to be processed on a "first in, first out" basis.

3. *Form* means the medium in which the record is physically incorporated (e.g., paper, floppy disk, CD-ROM, etc.).

4. *Format* means a particular manner of storing or presenting the information within a given medium, such as a particular computer software used to generate or reproduce the record.

5. *Reproduction* means duplicating an existing record for release, in whole or in part, to a requester under the Freedom of Information Act. As appropriate to the medium of release, records may be photocopied, microfilmed, or electronically copied onto tape or disc.

B. Response Times. The proposed regulation reflects the expanded time frame, from 10 working days to 20 working days, permitted for routine responses.

C. Expedited Processing. Expedited processing is provided in cases where the requester demonstrates that failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual, or, when the requester is a person primarily engaged in disseminating information, a showing is made that there exists an urgency to inform the public concerning an actual or alleged Federal Government activity. Other requests for expedited processing will be considered on a case by case basis. The decision to grant expedited processing rests with the FOI Officer, but may be appealed.

D. What Is Not A FOIA Request. The proposed regulation attempts to correct a common misunderstanding by clarifying that the Freedom of Information Act is not the proper mechanism to seek answers to specific questions of program policy, appeal adjudication of program or administrative decisions, or to provide input into HHS program decision making.

E. Electronic Records. The proposed regulation emphasizes that electronic records, including e-mail, are also subject to the Act, and that every reasonable effort will be made to provide records in the form and format requested.

F. Listing of FOIA Exemptions. Because they are a matter of law, not regulation, and are readily available elsewhere, the proposed regulation does not repeat the listing of FOIA exemptions contained in the previous regulation.

Similar revisions to the Freedom of Information Act Regulations of Executive Branch Agencies are occurring throughout the Government. Public hearings are not planned but public comment on the proposed rule is invited. Instructions as to where to mail public comments are included, above.

We have examined the impacts of this proposal under Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 to 612). Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages). Under the