

respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Interior is the department within the Federal Government responsible for matters relevant to mineral resource development on Federal and Indian Lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is responsible for managing the production of minerals from Federal and Indian Lands and the OCS, for collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals, and for distributing the funds collected in accordance with applicable laws. MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary.

When the Secretary determines that sufficient need exists among small refining companies to justify taking royalty oil in kind and offering this oil for sale to eligible refiners, small refiners may apply to participate in this sale of Federal royalty oil and follow procedures under which contracts for the purchase of royalty oil will be awarded. Completed applications to participate in the sale bid proposals, signed contracts, and surety instruments must be submitted to MMS.

The application must be complete and timely filed, and applicants for royalty oil will be required to provide a surety instrument with their bid package. This surety instrument must be a Letter of Credit, Form MMS-4071, or a Royalty-In-Kind Contract Surety Bond, Form MMS-4072. We estimate the annual reporting burden for refiners submitting either surety document is 1 hour. Both surety documents are approved for use through April 30, 2000, and can be found on our web site at <http://www.rmp.mms.gov/custserv/pubserv/forms.htm>.

Dated: November 19, 1999.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Royalty Management.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Long-Term Refuge Water Service Agreements, Central Valley Project, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare environmental documents (environmental assessments or environmental impact statements) and notice of scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the lead Federal agency, proposes to prepare environmental documents for entering into long-term Water Service Contracts/Agreements to provide water supplies to wildlife refuges in California's Central Valley, up to and including Level 4 water supplies. Certain actions may also require review under the California Environmental Quality Act as well; it is anticipated that joint NEPA/CEQA documents will be prepared.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Title 34 of Public Law 102-575, requires the delivery of water to Central Valley refuges pursuant to two 1989 federal reports, the Report on Refuge Water Supply Investigations, Central Valley Hydrologic Basin, California, and the San Joaquin Basin Action Plan/Kesterson Mitigation Action Plan Report. The impacts of providing this additional water were assessed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) prepared for the CVPIA. As required by the CVPIA, Reclamation is now proposing to enter into long-term water service agreements with the refuges to allow the delivery of those quantities of water supplies needed for full habitat management. The site-specific impacts of this action will be considered in the environmental documents for the long-term water service agreements, which will tier from the analysis contained in the CVPIA PEIS.

The purpose of the public/agency scoping process initiated by this Notice of Intent is to solicit comments from interested parties regarding the scope of the environmental analysis and the potential impacts that should be considered in the site-specific assessment being undertaken in this tier of the environmental review. In preparing the environmental documents, Reclamation will consider written and oral comments on the project scope and potential impacts raised during the scoping process.

**DATES:** Four scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis and to identify the significant issues related to this proposed action. The meeting dates are:

- December 13, 1999, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Willows
- December 14, 1999, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Los Banos
- December 15, 1999, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Oakland

- December 16, 1999, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Sacramento

Written comments on the scope of the environmental documents should be sent to Reclamation at the address below by January 7, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are:

- City of Willows Council Chambers, 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, California
- Merced County Spring Fairgrounds (Floral Room), 403 F Street, Los Banos, California
- Oakland Marriott City Center (Room 208), 1001 Broadway, Oakland, California
- Expo Inn-Hotel (Expo Room), 1413 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, California

Send written comments on the scope of the environmental documents to: Bureau of Reclamation, Attn. Long-Term Refuge Water Service Contracts/Agreements, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento CA 95825.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mona Jefferies-Soniea, (916) 978-5068 or TTD (916) 978-5068.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reclamation would enter into long-term water agreements with the agencies that manage the refuges: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for National Wildlife Refuges), The California Department of Fish and Game (for state Wildlife Management Areas), and The Grassland Water District (for lands within the Grassland Resource Conservation District). At this time, it is envisioned that three environmental documents would be prepared corresponding to the following hydrologic regions:

- The Sacramento River Basin, covering the Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges and the Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area;
- The San Joaquin River Basin, covering the Kesterson, San Luis, and Merced National Wildlife Refuges; the Los Banos, Volta, and Mendota Wildlife Management Areas; the Grassland

Resource Conservation District; and additional lands identified in the San Joaquin Basin Action Plan; and

- The Tulare Basin, covering the Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges.

Persons requiring special assistance services should contact Matt Franck, CH2M HILL, at (916) 920-0212 ext. 272. Please notify Mr. Franck as far in advance of the particular meeting as possible, but no later than 3 working days prior to the meeting to enable Reclamation to secure the services. If a request cannot be honored, the requester will be notified.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

**Frank Michny,**

*Regional Environmental Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-94-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collection of information for 30 CFR part 783, Underground Mining Permit Applications—Minimum Requirements for Information on Environmental Resources.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by January 31, 2000, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 210-SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [jtreleas@osmre.gov](mailto:jtreleas@osmre.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an

opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)). This notice identifies an information collection activity that OSM will be submitting to OMB for extension. This collection is contained in 30 CFR part 783, Underground Mining Permit Applications—Minimum Requirements for Information on Environmental Resources.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on reestimates of burden or respondents. OSM will require a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

This notice provides the public with 60 days in which to comment on the following information collection activity:

*Title:* Underground Mining Permit Applications—Minimum Requirements for Information on Environment Resources—30 CFR Part 783.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0038.

*Summary:* Applicants for underground coal mining permits are required to provide adequate descriptions of the environmental resources that may be affected by proposed underground coal mining activities.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency of Collection:* Once, at time of application submission.

*Description of Respondents:* Underground coal mining applicants and State regulatory authorities.

*Total Annual Responses:* 105.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 16,918 hours.

Dated: November 24, 1999.

**Andrew F. DeVito,**

*Acting Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.*

[FR Doc. 99-31035 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-05-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

In accordance with the policy of the Department of Justice, notice is hereby given that a proposed consent decree in *United States v. Western Processing Co., et al.*, Civ. No. C83-252M, was lodged with the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, on November 23, 1999. That action was brought against defendants pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for payment of past costs incurred, and future costs to be incurred, by the United States at the Western Processing Superfund Site in Kent, Washington. (The site is being cleaned up and some past costs have already been recovered pursuant to several prior settlements.) This decree requires Union Oil Company of California (d/b/a Unocal) ("Unocal") to pay \$879,593 in satisfaction of the United States' claims against it for response costs incurred in connection with the site between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1996. Unocal remains liable for response costs incurred after that date. The United States is also continuing to pursue other defendants to recover past and future costs.

The Department of Justice will receive comments relating to the proposed consent decree for a period of 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530. All comments should refer to *United States v. Western Processing Co., et al.*, D.J. Ref. 90-7-1-233.

The proposed consent decree may be examined at the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, 3600 Seafirst 5th Avenue Plaza, 800 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104; and at the Region X office of the Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101. A copy of the proposed consent decree may be obtained in person or by mail from the Department of Justice Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611. In requesting a copy, please enclose a check in the amount of \$4.00 (25 cents per page reproduction costs) payable to the Consent Decree Library. When requesting a copy, please refer to *United States v. Western*