

The FEIS evaluates the site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of exchanging the land and coal resources offered by P&M for Federal coal. P&M proposes to mine the coal in the PSO Tract if the exchange is completed as proposed and they acquire ownership of the coal resources in the Tract. Therefore, the FEIS considers the environmental impacts of mining the Federal coal as a possible consequence of executing the proposed exchange. If the land-for-coal exchange is approved, neither the Record of Decision (ROD) nor the Final EIS would constitute authorization for commencement of mining operations.

Before land exchanges can be approved, they must meet two criteria: The exchange must be in the public interest as required under 43 CFR 2200.0-6(b); and the value of the interests being exchanged must be equal as required under 43 CFR 2200.0-6(c). This environmental analysis is being prepared as required under 43 CFR 2200.0-6(h). It will be used as a supporting study in making a determination as to whether this exchange is in the public interest. Following completion of this environmental analysis but prior to the issuance of ROD, a public meeting will be held to receive public comment on the public interest factors of the proposed exchange as required under 43 CFR 2203.3.

Both the USDA Forest Service and USDI BLM national land exchange review boards have technically reviewed P&M's proposal to exchange land for coal. Prior to a decision to approve, or disapprove, the exchange following the public interest determination meeting, the exchange will be subject to final review by each agency's national land exchange board, and the BLM Director, as well as the Department of Justice.

The FEIS analysis assumes that all the Federal coal within the PSO Tract as proposed by P&M would be exchanged for all of the lands being offered by P&M. In accordance with 43 CFR 2200 the actual amount of Federal coal offered for exchange would be the amount required to equal the value of the lands offered to the United States Government by P&M. To ensure that the lands, or interests, being exchanged are of equal value, the fair market value of the respective properties must be evaluated. In this case, the fair market value of the P&M lands will be determined through a fee appraisal by a BLM-approved qualified appraiser. BLM will determine the fair market value of the Federal coal. An independent

contract appraiser will review all appraisals.

The EIS analyzes two alternatives, the Proposed Action and Alternative 1, No Action. Under the Proposed Action, the exchange would be completed and the Bridger, JO Ranch, and Welch Lands would become Federal lands administered by the USDA Forest Service and BLM. BLM is considering several options to the Proposed Action that would modify the Welch Lands to exclude an active underground coal seam fire on those lands. Under the proposed action, or any option, P&M would acquire an amount of Federal coal underlying the PSO Tract that would be equal in value to the Bridger, JO Ranch, and Welch Lands. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative, which assumes that the proposal to exchange would be rejected.

Agency-Preferred Alternative: The BLM's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action. Because the Bridger Lands in Lincoln County include most of the remaining parcels of private land within the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Kemmerer Ranger District, the USDA Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this FEIS. The USDA Forest Service's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is an additional cooperating agency. OSM has primary responsibility to administer programs that regulate surface coal mining and the surface effects of underground coal mining operations. If the exchange is completed, the coal would no longer be Federally owned, however; OSM would retain some oversight responsibilities for the regulation of the proposed surface coal mine.

Land Use Plans

If the exchange is completed, the United States Government would acquire ownership of the lands and minerals offered by P&M for exchange. At that time, the USDA Forest Service would use the analysis documented in this FEIS to revise the land ownership status maps and extend management direction to the Bridger Lands that would become NFS lands. The BLM would use the analyses documented in this FEIS to maintain the Pinedale RMP and Rawlins RMP to extend management direction to the Bridger Lands and JO Ranch Lands that would become public land. The Buffalo Field Office would use the analyses to identify the isolated parcel (the Welch Ranch Lands) as public lands administered by the BLM under the Buffalo RMP. In addition, Buffalo Field

Office intends to use the analysis to prepare a site-specific plan for the Welch Lands to amend the BLM Buffalo RMP (1985, amended 2001).

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: June 11, 2003.

Robert A. Bennett,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Pacific OCS Region, Environmental Document Prepared for Development of the Eastern Half of Lease OCS-P 0451

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS).

ACTIONS: Notice of availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: The MMS Pacific OCS Region has prepared an EA for Arguello Inc.'s revisions to the Point Arguello Field Development and Production Plans to include development of the eastern half of Lease OCS-P 0451 pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: MMS completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on June 19, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Maurice Hill, Minerals Management Service, Pacific OCS Region, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA 93010, telephone (805) 389-7815. A digital copy of the EA on a Compact Disk may be requested by calling 1-800-6-PAC-OCS (1-800-672-2627), or by sending a request to the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS prepares EA's and Findings for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas exploration and development activities and other operations on the Pacific OCS. Arguello Inc. proposes to develop the

eastern half of Federal Lease OCS-P 0451 by drilling a maximum of eight extended-reach wells from two existing OCS platforms in the Point Arguello Unit, Platforms Hermosa and Hidalgo. The project area is located offshore about 13 km (8 mi) northwest of Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, California. Lease OCS-P 0451 is considered a developed lease by virtue of the existing production on the western half, in the Point Arguello Unit. Previously, the eastern half of Lease OCS-P 0451 was part of the Rocky Point Unit, but has since been contracted out of the Unit. Therefore, it is no longer unitized with the undeveloped leases of the Rocky Point Unit, and production from this portion of the lease will have no effect on holding the Rocky Point Unit leases, nor will it cause production of the undeveloped Rocky Point Unit leases.

The MMS distributed a copy of Arguello Inc.'s proposal for review and comment to five State agencies, eight Federal agencies, two local agencies, and two non-governmental organizations. The EA examines the potential environmental effects of Arguello Inc.'s proposed action and presents MMS findings regarding the significance of those effects. The MMS prepares EA's to determine whether proposed projects constitute a major Federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where the MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the EA. The MMS completed an EA and issued a FONSI for Arguello Inc.'s proposed action on June 19, 2003. This notice constitutes the public Notice of Availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA regulations.

Dated: July 3, 2003.

Peter L. Tweedt,

*Regional Manager, Pacific OCS Region,
Minerals Management Service.*

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. Nos. TA-131-25 and TA-2104-5]

U.S.-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement: Advice Concerning the Probable Economic Effect

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 15, 2003.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on August 6, 2003, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation Nos. TA-131-25 and TA-2104-5, *U.S.-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement: Advice Concerning the Probable Economic Effect*, under section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 and section 2104(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information specific to this investigation may be obtained from George Serletis, Project Leader, (202) 205-3315; gserletis@usitc.gov, or Vincent Honnold, Deputy Project Leader, (202) 205-3314; vhonnold@usitc.gov, Office of Industries, United States International Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20436. For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel, (202) 205-3091; wgearhart@usitc.gov. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

Background

As requested by the USTR pursuant to section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2151), in its report the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect of providing duty-free treatment for imports of products of the Dominican Republic (i) on industries in the United States producing like or directly competitive products, and (ii) on consumers. The import analysis will consider each article in chapters 1 through 97 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States for which U.S. tariffs will remain after the United States fully implements its Uruguay Round tariff commitments. The import advice will be based on the 2003

Harmonized Tariff System nomenclature and 2002 trade data. The advice with respect to the removal of U.S. duties on imports from the Dominican Republic will assume that any known U.S. non-tariff barrier will not be applicable to such imports. The Commission will note in its report any instance in which the continued application of a U.S. non-tariff barrier to such imports would result in different advice with respect to the effect of the removal of the duty.

As also requested, pursuant to section 2104(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(b)(2)), the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect of eliminating tariffs on imports of certain agricultural products of the Dominican Republic on (i) industries in the United States producing the product concerned, and (ii) the U.S. economy as a whole.

USTR indicated that the Commission's report will be classified and considered to be an inter-agency memorandum containing pre-decisional advice and subject to the deliberative process privilege. The Commission expects to provide its report to USTR by December 8, 2003.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held at the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on October 7, 2003. All persons shall have the right to appear, by counsel or in person, to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, no later than 5:15 p.m., September 22, 2003. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., September 25, 2003; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., October 16, 2003. In the event that, as of the close of business on September 22, 2003, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary to the Commission (202-205-1806) after September 22, 2003, for information concerning whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements (original and 14 copies)