

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Task Force Meeting**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of task force meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.1, Section 10(a)(2), that a meeting of the Chalmette Battlefield Task Force Committee will be held at 4 p.m. at the following location and date:

DATES: Thursday, October 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The Council Chambers Meeting Room at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8245 W. Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette, LA 70042.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Geraldine Smith, Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 419 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 589-3882, extension 137 or 108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Chalmette Battlefield Task Force Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on suggested improvements at the Chalmette Battlefield site within Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The members of the Task Force are as follows: Ms. Elizabeth McDougall, Ms. Faith Moran, Mr. Anthony A. Fernandez, Jr., Mr. Drew Heaphy, Mr. Alvin W. Guillot, Mrs. George W. Davis, Mr. Eric Cager, Mr. Paul V. Perez, Captain Bonnie Pepper Cook, Mr. Michael L. Fraering, Colonel John F. Pugh, Jr., and Geraldine Smith. The matters to be discussed at this meeting include the purpose of the committee, background and history of the area, discussion of the site visit and issues identified and scheduling future meetings. This meeting will be open to the public. However, facilities and space for accommodating members of the public are limited. Any member of the public may file with the committee a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed. Written statements may also be submitted to the superintendent at the address above. Minutes of the meeting will be available at park headquarters for public inspection at 419 Decatur Street, New Orleans, Louisiana for public inspection approximately 4 weeks after the meeting and on the park Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/jela.htm>.

Dated: August 24, 2003.

Charlie Powell,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 03-24650 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission; Meeting Announcement**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions will be held at Fairbanks, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue work on currently authorized and proposed National Park Service subsistence hunting program recommendations including other related subsistence management issues. The meeting will be open to the public. Any person may file with the Commission a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed.

The Subsistence Resource Commission is authorized under title VIII, section 808, of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: The meeting will begin on Wednesday, November 12, at 9 a.m. and conclude at approximately 5 p.m. The meeting will reconvene at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2003, and adjourn at approximately 5 p.m.

LOCATION: The Commission plans to conduct the public meeting at Sophie's Station Hotel, telephone (907) 479-3650, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting will be published in local newspapers and announced on local radio stations prior to the meeting dates. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order (SRC Chair).
2. SRC Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.
3. SRC Chair and Superintendent's Welcome and Introductions.
4. Review and Approve Agenda.
5. Review and adopt minutes from May 22-23, 2003 meeting.
6. Review Commission Purpose and Status of Membership.
7. Superintendent's Report.

8. SRC, Public and Agency Comments.
9. Durational Residency.
10. John River Water Quality Study.
11. Alatna River Archeological Study.
12. North Slope/Anaktuvuk Pass Fishery Study.
13. Cultural Resources Update.
14. Backcountry Planning Update.
15. Kobuk River Management Issues.
16. 2003 SRC Chairs Workshop Update.
17. Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group Update.
18. Federal Subsistence Board Wildlife Proposals.
19. Set time and place of next SRC meeting.
20. Adjournment.

Draft minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection approximately six weeks after the meeting from the Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 201 First Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Mills, Superintendent, at (907) 457-5752 or Fred Andersen, Subsistence Manager, at (907) 455-0621.

Victor Knox,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 03-24652 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-HK-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Notice of Public Meeting**

AGENCY: National Park Service; Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House will be held at the White House at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2003.

DATES: October 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242. (202) 619-6344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is expected that the meeting agenda will include policies, goals, and long range plans. The meeting will be open, but subject to appointment and security clearance requirements. Clearance information, which includes full name, date of birth and social security number, must be received by October 10, 2003. Due to the present mail delays being experienced, clearance information should be faxed to (202) 619-6353 in order to assure receipt by deadline.

Inquiries may be made by calling the Committee for the Preservation of the White House between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays at (202) 619-6344. Written comments may be sent to the Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242.

Dated: September 22, 2003.

Ann Bowman Smith,

Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House.

[FR Doc. 03-24649 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-71-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for an Interim 602(a) Storage Guideline for Management of the Colorado River

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for an interim 602(a) storage guideline for management of the Colorado River.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is proposing the adoption of a 602(a) storage guideline that will assist the Secretary in making a determination of the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year, as required by article II (1) of the 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs (Long-Range Operating Criteria) pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968. Section 602(a) of the 1968 Act requires that, under certain circumstances, storage equalization releases be made from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. The proposed 602(a) storage guideline would remain in effect through calendar year 2016.

The proposed 602(a) storage guideline is based upon information received from the Governors' representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming) during the public comment period on the Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This information was published in the **Federal Register** on August 8, 2000 (65 FR 48531-38).

DATES: A 30-day public review period commences with the publication of this

notice. Written comments on the draft EA are due by October 30, 2003 and should be submitted to the address given below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the draft EA and requests for copies should be addressed to Tom Ryan, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138; telephone (801) 524-3732; faxogram (801) 524-5499; e-mail: tryan@uc.usbr.gov. The draft EA is also available on Reclamation's web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/library/> (click on Environmental Assessment Documents).

Copies of the draft EA are also available for public review and inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Room 7239, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Office Library, Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 167, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Main Interior Building, Room 7060-MIB, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: One component of the proposal by the Governors' representatives is Section V, "Determination of 602(a) Storage in Lake Powell during the Interim Period," and reads as follows:

During the interim period, 602(a) storage requirements determined in accordance with Article II (1) of the Criteria [Long-Range Operating Criteria] shall utilize a value of not less than 14.85 million acre-feet (elevation 3,630 feet) for Lake Powell (65 FR 48537).

Reclamation published a **Federal Register** notice on January 28, 2003 (68 FR 4230-31) announcing its intention to consider the adoption of a specific interim 602(a) storage guideline. Public comments were received from January 28, 2003, to March 14, 2003. Reclamation received 13 comment letters.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), Reclamation has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the environmental impacts of adopting the interim 602(a) storage guideline. The two alternatives considered in the draft EA are the No Action Alternative and the Action Alternative. The proposed federal action (Action Alternative) is based on the proposal submitted by the Governors' representatives.

The Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 required the Secretary of the

Interior to adopt operating criteria for the coordinated long-range operation of Colorado River reservoirs by January 1, 1970. This requirement led to adoption of the Long-Range Operating Criteria which control operation of the Colorado River reservoirs in compliance with requirements set forth in the Colorado River Compact, Colorado River Storage Project Act, Boulder Canyon Project Act, Colorado River Basin Project Act, the United States and Mexico Water Treaty, and other applicable federal laws. The purpose of the Long-Range Operating Criteria is to control the coordinated long-range operation of the storage reservoirs of the Colorado River Basin. The Long-Range Operating Criteria established the minimum objective annual release of 8.23 million acre-feet from Lake Powell. This minimum objective release ensures that the downstream delivery requirements of the Upper Division States (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) are met on an annual basis.

The Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 also requires the development of an annual plan of operation. Accordingly, each year, the Secretary establishes an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Colorado River reservoir system. The AOP describes how Reclamation will manage the reservoirs over a 12-month period, consistent with the Long-Range Operating Criteria. In compliance with applicable federal law, Reclamation consults annually with the Colorado River Basin States, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in the development of the AOP. As part of the AOP, the Secretary makes an annual determination under the Long-Range Operating Criteria regarding the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year to be in storage as required by Section 602(a) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act. This determination is important because when projected storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs is greater than the 602(a) storage requirement, and when storage in Lake Powell is greater than Lake Mead, releases greater than the 8.23 million acre-foot are made to maintain, as nearly as practicable, active storage in Lake Mead equal to the active storage in Lake Powell. These releases are commonly referred to as "storage equalization" releases. When projected storage is less than the 602(a) storage requirement, or Lake Powell storage is less than Lake Mead storage, annual releases from Lake Powell are limited to 8.23 million acre-feet. The proposed federal action analyzed in the draft EA could modify the volume of storage equalization releases from Glen Canyon