Dated: July 8, 1997.

Camille Acevedo,

Assistant General Counsel for Regulations.

[FR Doc. 97–18300 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–27–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ–910–0777–38; AZA 29960]

Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the Saguaro National Park Exchange Proposal, Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Land Management has extended the comment period for the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impacts for the Saguaro National Park exchange proposal until July 31, 1997.

DATES: Public comments must be submitted or postmarked no later than July 31, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn. Bill Childress, Project Manager, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Childress, Project Manager, BLM, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, AZ 85027 or Telephone (602) 780–8090.

Dated: July 8, 1997.

Ken R. Drew,

Program Manager.

[FR Doc. 97–18354 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–32–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–010–07–1430–01: CA 37871]

Realty Action, Land Use Lease of Public Lands; Amador County, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action—Land Use Lease of Public Lands; Amador County, California.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Amador County, California is being considered for a non-competitive, life-time, residential, land use lease pursuant to Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713):

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 7 N., R. 11 E.,
Sec. 3, NW¼NW¼ (within);
Sec. 4, NE¼NE¼ (within).
Containing 1.05 acres, more or less.

The above parcel of land would be leased to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lastiri to resolve a trespass situation. The lease would be issued for the remainder of Mr. and Mrs. Lastiri's lives. Upon their death, all improvements would have to be removed from the public lands. The land will be leased at fair market value.

The parcel would be subject to any prior existing rights. All necessary clearances including clearances for archaeology and for rare plants and animals would be completed prior to any lease being issued. The proposal is consistent with the Bureau's land use plans that support the settlement of trespass by lease when an undue hardship case is present.

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments to the Area Manager, Folsom Resource Area, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, California 95630. Comments must be received on or before August 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Montgomery, BLM Folsom Resource Area Office, (916) 985–4474.

D.K. Swickard,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97–18296 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES–960–1910–00–4041] ES–48893, Group 91, Arkansas

Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Arkansas

The plat, in two sheets, of the dependent resurvey of a portion of the east and south boundaries, a portion of the subdividual lines; the subdivision of certain sections, the survey of a portion of certain National Park Service Tracts in sections 1, 2, and 3, the survey of National Park Service Tract No. 20–117 in section 29, and the survey of the center line (as built) of Arkansas State Highway No. 43 in sections 6, 7, 18 and 19, Township 16 North, Range 22 West, Fifth Principal Meridian, Arkansas, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on August 18, 1997.

The survey was requested by the National Park Service.

All inquires or protests concerning the technical aspects of the survey must be sent to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., August 18, 1997.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the reproduction fee of $2.75 per copy.

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Stephen G. Kopach,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor.

[FR Doc. 97–18426 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–GJ–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Modifications to the Bid Adequacy Procedures

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notification of procedural changes.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has modified its existing bid adequacy procedures for ensuring receipt of fair market value on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leases. In Phase 1 these procedures establish a new number of bids rule for acceptance of selected tracts. In Phase 2 these procedures expand the scope of tract evaluation; replace the geometric average evaluation of tract with a revised arithmetic average measure of the tract; eliminate the one-eighth rule for anomalous bids; and clarify the treatment of tracts identified as having unusual bidding patterns.

These changes were made following a review of bidding activity in OCS sales. The new number of bids rule relies more on market-determined factors to ensure receipt of fair market value. This new rule, along with expansion of evaluation procedures beyond only tract specific assessments, will allow for earlier acceptance on tracts that would be accepted later in the evaluation process. The revised average measure is designed to generate a better estimate of tract value when all bids fall below the Government's original estimate of tract value. The stricter screening rules associated with the revised average measure eliminate the need for the one-eighth rule. The Regional Director's expanded authority to handle

documented instances of unusual bidding patterns provides flexibility to modify certain acceptance rules and allows for a decision to reject the high bid on identified tracts.

DATES: This modification is effective July 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Marshall Rose, Chief, Economics Division, at (703) 787–1536.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following set of bid adequacy procedures incorporates the most recent changes. During the bid review process, MMS conducts evaluations in a two-phased process for bid adequacy determination. In Phase 1 we review the bid for legal sufficiency [1] and anomalies [2] to establish the set of qualified bids [3] to be evaluated.

(1) Phase 1 partitions the tracts receiving bids into three general categories:

- Those tracts which the MMS identifies as being nonviable [4] based on adequate data and maps;
- Those tracts where competitive market forces can be relied upon to assure fair market value; and
- Those tracts where opportunities for strategic underbidding, information asymmetry, collusion, and other noncompetitive practices are greatest and where the Government has the most detailed and reliable data.

Based on these categories, four Phase 1 rules are applied to all tracts receiving bids:

- Pass directly to Phase 2 for further evaluation all tracts t that require additional information to make a determination on viability or tract type and all drainage and development tracts.
- Accept the highest qualified bid on confirmed and wildcat tracts receiving three or more qualified bids where the third highest such bid on the tract is at least 50 percent of the highest qualified bid.
- Pass to Phase 2 confirmed and wildcat tracts receiving either one or two qualified bids, or three or more qualified bids where the third highest such bid is less than 50 percent of the highest qualified bid.
- Accept the highest qualified bid on confirmed and wildcat tracts determined to be nonviable.

In assuring the integrity of the bidding process, the Regional Director (RD) may identify an unusual bidding pattern [5] at any time during the bid review process, but before a tract is accepted. If the finding is documented, the RD has discretionary authority, after consultation with the Solicitor, to pass those tracts so identified to Phase 2 for further analysis. The RD may eliminate all but the highest of the unusual bids from consideration when applying any bid adequacy rule, may choose not to apply a bid adequacy rule, or may reject the tract's highest qualified bid.

Phase 1 procedures are generally completed simultaneously within three weeks of the bid opening.

(2) Phase 2 applies criteria designed to resolve bid adequacy assessments by analyzing, partitioning, and evaluating tracts in two steps:

- Further mapping and/or analysis is done to review, modify and finalize viability determinations and tract classifications.
- Tracts identified as being viable must undergo an evaluation to determine if fair market value has been received.

After completing these two steps, the following rules and procedures are used in Phase 2.

- Accept the highest qualified bid on all tracts determined to be nonviable.
- Accept newly classified confirmed and wildcat tracts having three or more qualified bids where the third highest such bid is at least 50 percent of the highest qualified bid.
- Determine whether any categorical fair market evaluation technique(s) will be used. If so:
  - Evaluate, define and identify the appropriate threshold measure(s).
  - Accept all tracts whose individual cash flow values, if estimated by MMS and used in the bid adequacy procedures, would result in satisfaction of the threshold categorical requirements.
- Conduct a full-scale evaluation, which could include the use of MONTCAR [6], on all remaining tracts [7] passed to Phase 2 and still awaiting an acceptance or rejection decision. Compare the highest qualified bid on each of these remaining tracts to two measures of bid adequacy: the Mean Range of Values (MROV) [8] and the Adjusted Delayed Value (ADV).[9]
  - —Accept the highest qualified bid for those tracts where such a bid equals or exceeds the tract's ADV.
  - —Reject the highest qualified bid on drainage and development tracts receiving three or more qualified bids where such a bid is less than one-sixth of the tract's MROV.
  - —Reject the highest qualified bid on drainage and development tracts receiving one or two qualified bids and on confirmed and wildcat tracts receiving only one qualified bid where the high bid is less than the tract's ADV.
- Select from the outstanding tracts [10] those (a) drainage and development tracts having three or more qualified bids with the third highest such bid being at least 25 percent of the highest qualified bid and (b) confirmed and wildcat tracts having two or more qualified bids with the second highest such bid being at least 25 percent of the highest qualified bid. Compare the

[1] Legal bids are those bids which comply with MMS regulations (30 CFR 256) and the Notice of Sale. Any illegal high bid will be returned to the bidder.

[2] Anomalous bids include all but the highest bid submitted for a tract by the same company, parent or subsidiary (bidding alone or jointly). Such bids are excluded when applying the number of bids rule or any bid adequacy measure.

[3] Qualified bids are those bids which are legal and not anomalous.

[4] Nonviable tracts or prospects are those geographic or geologic configurations of hydrocarbons whose risk weighted most probable resource size is below the minimum economic field size for the relevant cost regime and anticipated future prices. The risk used is below the lowest level anticipated for any tract or prospect in the same cost regime.

[5] Within the context of our bid adequacy procedures, the term ''unusual bidding patterns'' typically refers to a situation in which there is an excessive amount of coincident bidding by different companies on a set of tracts in a sale. Other forms of unusual bidding patterns exist as well, and generally involve anti-competitive practices, e.g., when there is an uncommon absence of competition among companies active in a sale on a set of prospective tracts.

[6] MONTCAR is a probabilistic, cash flow computer simulation model designed to conduct a resource-economic evaluation that results in an estimate of the expected net present value of a tract (or prospect) along with other measures.

[7] These include tracts not accepted by a categorical rule that are classified as drainage and development tracts and those classified as confirmed and wildcat tracts that are viable and received (a) one or two qualified bids, or (b) three or more qualified bids where the third highest such bid is less than 50 percent of the highest qualified bid.

[8] The MROV is a dollar measure of a tract's expected net present private value, given that the tract is leased in the current sale, allowing for exploration and economic risk, and including tax consequences including depletion of the cash bonus.

[9] The ADV is the minimum of the MROV and the Delayed MROV (DMROV). The DMROV is a measure used to determine the size of the high bid needed in the current sale to equalize it with the discounted sum of the bonus and royalties expected in the next sale, less the forgone royalties from the current sale. The bonus for the next sale is computed as the MROV associated with the delay in leasing under the projected economic, engineering, and geological conditions, including drainage. If the high bid exceeds the DMROV, then the leasing receipts from the current sale are expected to be greater than those from the next sale, even in cases where the MROV exceeds the high bid.

[10] These consist of those tracts having a highest qualified bid that does not exceed the MROV or the ADV, and are either (a) drainage or development tracts receiving three or more qualified bids with the highest such bid exceeding one-sixth of the tract's MROV, or (b) confirmed and wildcat tracts that are viable and receive two or more qualified bids.

highest qualified bid on each of these selected, outstanding tracts to the tract's Revised Arithmetic Average Measure (RAM).[11] For all these tracts:

—Accept the highest qualified bid where such a bid equals or exceeds the tract's RAM.

—Reject the highest qualified bid where such a bid is less than the tract's RAM.

• Reject the highest qualified bid on all leftover tracts, i.e., those that were in the ''outstanding'' set above but not selected for comparison to the RAM.

The Phase 2 bid adequacy determinations are normally completed sequentially over a period ranging between 21 and 90 days after the sale. The total evaluation period can be extended, if needed, at the RD's discretion (61 FR 34730, July 3, 1996).

Dated: July 7, 1997.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 97–18291 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

[11] The RAM is the arithmetic average of the MROV and all qualified bids on the tract that are equal to at least 25 percent of the high bid.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

Lake Mead National Recreation Area; Operation of a Marina at Willow Beach

SUMMARY: The National Park Service finds it necessary to issue a third solicitation notice to correct the closing date for the acceptance of offers. The correct closing date will be August 19, 1997, and not September 30, 1997, as previously announced. This notice supersedes all previous announcements. The National Park Service is seeking offers to operate a marina at Willow Beach Site within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This opportunity remains fully competitive. There is no existing concession operator. The new operation will consist of a 125 slip marina, a modest food and store outlet, and fuel service. All the existing facility are government-owned. An initial capital investment will be required for the rehabilitation of marina facilities. The term of the contract has been extended from five to ten years. In addition, rather than having to write-off the investment in the new marina docking system during the contract term, the concessioner will be allowed a possessory interest in that facility (a right to be compensated at the end of the ten years) at either the appraised value, based on its replacement cost less wear-and-tear and obsolescence or on the investment made (whichever is less).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The cost for purchasing a prospectus is $30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check, no cash, payable to ''National Park Service'' to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program Management, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison St., Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107–1372. The front of the envelope should be marked ''Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mail Room Do Not Open''. Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the prospectus. Address inquiries to Ms. Teresa Jackson, Secretary, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427–1369.

Dated: June 20, 1997.

Holly Bundock,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97–18437 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intention To Issue a Concession Contract for Point Reyes National Seashore

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR 51.5 that the National Park Service intends to issue a concession contract to continue operations currently conducted at Point Reyes National Seashore to provide park visitors with hostel services. This entails renewal of an existing business operating within the park, along with upgrading the authorization from a permit to a concession contract. The current operation is a 44-bed hostel providing low-cost accommodations primarily to hikers and cyclists who frequent the park. Over the last 4 years, the business has provided an average of 8,000 overnight stays per year. Services are provided daily on a year-round basis. The existing business currently operates out of 3 buildings that were once part of a working ranch, and subsequently assigned to the incumbent concessioner after acquisition by the National Park Service (NPS). The buildings include the main hostel building, an employee dormitory, and a structure used for group functions. Access to the site is via Sir Francis Drake Highway and park circulation roads.

In accordance with the requirements of Pub. L. 89–249 (16 U.S.C. 20d), the current concessioner, having operated to the satisfaction of the Secretary, has a right to a preference in this renewal action.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The proposed contract calls for a capital investment of approximately $210,000 to meet current need for improved employee housing, at least 2 additional family guest units, and an expanded sewage disposal system with greater capacity.

Proposed term of the new contract will be 10 years, provided that the concessioner satisfactorily completes the required capital improvement program within the first 5 years of the contract. Otherwise, the contract expires immediately after the 5th year.

The cost for purchasing a prospectus is $30.00. Parties interested in obtaining a copy should send a check, no cash, payable to ''National Park Service'' to the following address: National Park Service, Office of Concession Program Management, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison St., Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107–1372. The front of the envelope should be marked ''Attention: Office of Concession Program Management—Mail Room Do Not Open''. Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the prospectus. Address inquiries to Mr. Glenn Baker, Office of Concession Program Management at (415) 427–1365.

Dated: June 30, 1997.

Cynthia Ip,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97–18436 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of availability

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91–190) and its implementing regulations 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and the provisions of Section 2 of the Act of September 28, 1976, U.S.C. 1901 et seq. and its implementing regulations 36 CFR part 9, subpart A, Denali National Park has prepared an Environmental Assessment for appraisal sampling operations on the Caribou Howtay Association #1 unpatented mining claim.