

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-29374 Filed 11-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications to Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2001 or Calendar Year 2001

AGENCY: Office of Self-Governance, Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Application Deadline.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 1, 2000, deadline for tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2001 or calendar year 2001.

DATES: Completed application packages must be received by the Director, Office of Self-Governance by March 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Application packages for inclusion in the applicant pool should be sent to the Director, Office of Self-Governance, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 2542, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfield, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Shop 2548, Washington DC 20240, 202-208-5734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Under the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413), as amended by the Fiscal Year 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Public Law 104-208) the Director, Office of Self-Governance may select up to 50 additional participating tribes/consortia per year for the tribal self-governance program, and negotiate and enter into an annual written funding agreement with each participating tribe. The Act mandates that the Secretary submit copies of the funding agreements at least 90 days before the proposed effective date to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to each tribe that is served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agency that is serving the tribe

that is a party to the funding agreement. Initial negotiations with a tribe/consortium located in a BIA region and/or agency which has not previously been involved with self-governance negotiations, will take approximately two months from start to finish. Agreements for an October 1 to September 30 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by July 1. Agreements for a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by October 1.

Background

On February 15, 1995, an interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** announcing the criteria for tribes to be included in an applicant pool and the establishment of the selection process for tribes/consortia to negotiate agreements pursuant to the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994. This interim rule was added to Title 25 of Code of Federal Regulations at Part 1001 of Chapter VI. While it may be changed by later rulemaking, the Act stipulates that the lack of promulgated regulations will not limit its effect. It should be noted that a proposed rulemaking was negotiated between tribal and Federal members of a self-governance rulemaking committee and published in the **Federal Register** on February 12, 1998, for review and comment. Comments on the proposed rulemaking have been received. Final rules are being negotiated by the self-governance negotiated rulemaking committee and are not anticipated to be published until late Spring, 2000.

Purpose of Notice

The interim rules established at 25 CFR Parts 1001.1 to 1001.5 will be used to govern the application and selection process for tribes/consortia to begin their participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2000 and calendar year 2000. Applicants should be guided by the requirements in 25 CFR Parts 1001.1 to 1001.5 in preparing their applications. Copies of the interim rules published in the **Federal Register** on February 15, 1995, may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.

Tribes/consortia wishing to be considered for participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2001 or calendar year 2001 must respond to this notice, except for those which are (1) currently involved with negotiations with the Department; (2) one of the 74 tribal entities with signed agreements; or (3) one of the tribal entities already included in the applicant pool as of the date of this notice.

The Director's decision on the actual number of tribes that will enter negotiations will be made at a later date. Tribes already in the applicant pool will retain their existing ranking with tribes entering the applicant pool under these rules receiving a lower ranking. Being in the applicant pool will not guarantee that a tribe will actually be provided the opportunity to negotiate in any given year. However, it does mean that a tribe will not be passed over by a tribe with a lower ranking in the applicant pool or by a tribe not in the applicant pool, with the exception of a tribe already in the negotiation process.

For example, if the Department determines that five tribes will be afforded the opportunity to negotiate self-governance agreements for fiscal year 2001 and calendar year 2001, the five tribes with the highest rankings would be notified and negotiations would be scheduled. The tribe ranked sixth on the list would then have the highest ranking to negotiate a self-governance agreement for 2002 or might enter negotiations for 2001 if one of the first five tribes discontinued negotiations. In such a case, the tribe that discontinued negotiations would remain in the applicant pool with its original ranking and would be the first to be selected in 2001 for negotiating agreements commencing in 2002.

Dated: November 5, 1999.

William A. Sinclair,

Director, Office of Self-Governance.

[FR Doc. 99-29441 Filed 11-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Approval

The following applicant has applied for approval to conduct certain activities with birds that are protected in accordance with the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Applicant: Michael Barrett, Finley, California. The applicant wishes to establish a cooperative breeding program for the Blue-crowned pigeon (*Goura cristata cristata*), the Lesser blue-crowned pigeon (*Goura cristata minor*), the Scheepmaker's crowned pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri scheepmakeri*), the Sclater's crowned pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri sclaterii*), the Victoria crowned pigeon (*Goura victoria victoria*), and the Beccari crowned

pigeon (*Goura victoria beccarii*). Mr. Barrett wishes to be an active participant in this program with two other private individuals. The American Pheasant & Waterfowl Society has assumed the responsibility for the oversight of the program.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2095); FAX: (703/358-2298).

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Rosemarie Gnam,

Chief, Branch of Operations, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-29349 Filed 11-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-060-1320-EL, WYW141435]

Horse Creek Federal Coal Lease Application

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and notice of public hearing on the Horse Creek Federal Coal Lease Application in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations and other applicable statutes, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Horse Creek Federal Coal Lease Application, BLM Serial Number WYW 141435, in the Wyoming Powder River Basin, and announces the scheduled date and place for a public hearing pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.4. The DEIS analyzes the impacts of issuing a Federal coal lease for the proposed Horse Creek Federal coal tract.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the DEIS, the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed competitive sale of the coal included in the proposed Horse Creek Federal coal tract. The Horse Creek tract is being considered for sale as a result of a coal lease application received from Antelope Coal Company (ACC) on February 14, 1997. The tract includes approximately 2,838 acres containing approximately 356.5 million tons of geologically in-place Federal coal reserves in Campbell and Converse Counties, Wyoming. It was applied for as a maintenance tract for ACC's adjacent Antelope Mine located in northern Converse County, Wyoming. ACC is a subsidiary of Kennecott Energy Company.

DATES: A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, at the Holiday Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. An open house will start at 6:30 p.m., prior to the hearing, to answer questions related to the Federal coal leasing process and this coal lease application. Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. We expect that the EPA will publish that notice on November 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Please address written comments or requests for copies of the DEIS to the Casper District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 1701 East E Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601, fax them to (307) 234-1525, or e-mail them to casper_wymail@blm.gov (Attn: Nancy Doelger).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address, or phone: 307-261-7600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The application for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract was filed as a maintenance tract lease-by-application (LBA) under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1.

On February 14, 1998, ACC filed coal lease application WYW141435 for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract with the BLM. On May 1, 1998, ACC modified the Horse Creek application. The modified Horse Creek Federal coal tract includes the following lands:

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., Sixth Principal Meridian
Sec. 14, lots 5 to 7, inclusive, and 10 to 15, inclusive;
Sec. 15, lots 6 to 11, inclusive, and 14 to 16, inclusive;
Sec. 22, lots 1, 3 to 6, inclusive, and 9 to 13, inclusive;

Sec. 23, lots 2 to 7, inclusive, and 10 to 16, inclusive;
Sec. 25, lots 11 and 12(S $\frac{1}{2}$);
Sec. 26, lots 1 to 8, inclusive, 12 and 13;
Sec. 27, lots 1 to 3, inclusive, 5, 12 to 14, inclusive, and 16;
Sec. 34, lots 1, 7, 8 to 10, inclusive, and 16;
Sec. 35, lots 8 to 10 inclusive.

Containing 2,837.91 acres more or less with an estimated 356.5 million tons of geologically in-place coal.

The Antelope Mine, which is adjacent to the lease application area, has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to mine up to 30 million tons of coal per year. According to the application filed for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract, the maintenance tract would be mined to extend the life of the existing mine.

The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed the Horse Creek Federal coal lease application at their meeting on April 23, 1997, in Casper, Wyoming, and recommended that it be processed. The RCT was notified in writing of the modified tract configuration.

Using the LBA process, ACC acquired maintenance coal lease WYW128322 containing approximately 617 acres and 60 million tons of coal adjacent to the Antelope Mine effective 2/1/97.

The DEIS analyzes three alternatives. The Proposed Action is to hold a competitive sealed-bid sale and issue a lease for the tract as applied for to the successful qualified bidder if the bid meets or exceeds the fair market value of the tract as determined by the BLM. The second alternative, Alternative 1, is the No Action Alternative which assumes that the tract will not be leased. The third alternative, Alternative 2, is to hold a competitive sealed-bid sale and issue a lease for the tract as modified by BLM to the successful qualified bidder if the bid meets or exceeds the fair market value of the tract as determined by the BLM.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because it is the Federal agency that would review the mining plans for the tract if it is leased and recommend approval or disapproval of the mining plans to the Secretary of the Interior.

The lease application area is within the boundaries of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and some of the surface lands in the area were formerly under the jurisdiction of the United