

or more proposed for the Western Gulf of Mexico (Sale 168) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for these deep-water depths.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* The selection of blocks to be offered under the four systems was based on the following factors:

a. Royalty rates on adjacent, previously leased tracts were considered to enhance orderly development of each field.

b. Blocks in deep water were selected for the 12½-percent royalty system based on the favorable performance of this system in these high-cost areas in past sales.

c. The royalty suspension volumes were based on the water depth specific volumes mandated by the DWRRA.

The specific blocks to be offered under each system are shown on the "Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems" and "Royalty Suspension Areas for the Western Gulf of Mexico" maps for Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 168. These maps are available from the Public Information Unit, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Approved: July 18, 1997.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Quarterly Status Report of Water Service and Repayment Contract Negotiations

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of proposed contractual actions that are new, modified, discontinued, or completed since the last publication of this notice on April 28, 1997. The February 10, 1997, notice should be used as a reference point to identify changes. This notice is one of a variety of means used to inform the public about proposed contractual actions for capital recovery and management of project resources and facilities.

Additional Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announcements of individual contract actions may be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers of general circulation in the areas determined by Reclamation to be affected by the proposed action.

Announcements may be in the form of news releases, legal notices, official letters, memorandums, or other forms of written material. Meetings, workshops, and/or hearings may also be used, as appropriate, to provide local publicity. The public participation procedures do not apply to proposed contracts for sale of surplus or interim irrigation water for a term of 1 year or less. Either of the contracting parties may invite the public to observe contract proceedings. All public participation procedures will be coordinated with those involved in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.

ADDRESSES: The identity of the approving officer and other information pertaining to a specific contract proposal may be obtained by calling or writing the appropriate regional office at the address and telephone number given for each region in the supplementary information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alonzo Knapp, Manager, Reclamation Law, Contracts, and Repayment Office, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007; telephone 303-236-1061 extension 224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 226 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1273) and 43 CFR 426.20 of the rules and regulations published in 52 FR 11954, Apr. 13, 1987, Reclamation will publish notice of the proposed or amendatory contract actions for any contract for the delivery of project water for authorized uses in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area at least 60 days prior to contract execution. Pursuant to the "Final Revised Public Participation Procedures" for water resource-related contract negotiations, published in 47 FR 7763, Feb. 22, 1982, a tabulation is provided of all proposed contractual actions in each of the five Reclamation regions. Each proposed action is, or is expected to be, in some stage of the contract negotiation process in 1997. When contract negotiations are completed, and prior to execution, each proposed contract form must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, or pursuant to delegated or redelegated authority, the Commissioner of Reclamation or one of the regional directors. In some instances, congressional review and approval of a report, water rate, or other terms and

conditions of the contract may be involved.

Public participation in and receipt of comments on contract proposals will be facilitated by adherence to the following procedures:

1. Only persons authorized to act on behalf of the contracting entities may negotiate the terms and conditions of a specific contract proposal.

2. Advance notice of meetings or hearings will be furnished to those parties that have made a timely written request for such notice to the appropriate regional or project office of Reclamation.

3. Written correspondence regarding proposed contracts may be made available to the general public pursuant to the terms and procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (80 Stat. 383), as amended.

4. Written comments on a proposed contract or contract action must be submitted to the appropriate regional officials at the locations and within the time limits set forth in the advance public notices.

5. All written comments received and testimony presented at any public hearings will be reviewed and summarized by the appropriate regional office for use by the contract approving authority.

6. Copies of specific proposed contracts may be obtained from the appropriate regional director or his designated public contact as they become available for review and comment.

7. In the event modifications are made in the form of a proposed contract, the appropriate regional director shall determine whether republication of the notice and/or extension of the comment period is necessary.

Factors considered in making such a determination shall include, but are not limited to: (i) The significance of the modification, and (ii) the degree of public interest which has been expressed over the course of the negotiations. As a minimum, the regional director shall furnish revised contracts to all parties who requested the contract in response to the initial public notice.

Acronym Definitions Used Herein

(BCP)—Boulder Canyon Project
(CAP)—Central Arizona Project
(CUP)—Central Utah Project
(CVP)—Central Valley Project
(CRSP)—Colorado River Storage Project
(D&MC)—Drainage and Minor Construction
(FR)—Federal Register
(IDD)—Irrigation and Drainage District
(ID)—Irrigation District

(M&I)—Municipal and Industrial
 (O&M)—Operation and Maintenance
 (P—SMBP)—Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin
 Program
 (R&B)—Rehabilitation and Betterment
 (PPR)—Present Perfected Right
 (RRA)—Reclamation Reform Act
 (NEPA)—National Environmental Policy
 Act
 (SOD)—Safety of Dams
 (SRPA)—Small Reclamation Projects
 Act
 (WCUA)—Water Conservation and
 Utilization Act
 (WD)—Water District

The following contract actions are either new, modified, discontinued, or completed in the Bureau of Reclamation since the April 28, 1997, **Federal Register** notice:

Pacific Northwest Region: Bureau of Reclamation, 1150 North Curtis Road, Boise, Idaho 83706-1234, telephone 208-378-5346.

Modified contract actions:

4. Lower Payette Ditch Company Ltd., Pioneer Ditch Company, Boise Project, Idaho; Tumalo ID, Crescent Lake Dam Project, Oregon; Sigmans, Crooked River Project, Oregon; Monroe Creek ID, Mann Creek Project, Idaho; Clark and Edwards Canal and Irrigation Company, Enterprise Canal Company, Ltd., Lenroot Canal Company, Liberty Park Canal Company, Parsons Ditch Company, Poplar ID, Wearyrick Ditch Company, all in the Minidoka Project, Idaho; Juniper Flat ID, Wapinitia Project, Oregon; Roza ID, Yakima Project, Washington: Amendatory repayment and water service contracts; purpose is to conform to the RRA (Pub. L. 97-293).

21. Hermiston, Stanfield, Westland, and West Extension IDs, Umatilla Project, Oregon: Temporary contracts to provide water service for 1997 to lands lying outside of their boundaries. Contracts for 1997 have been executed with Hermiston, Stanfield, and Westland IDs; a contract for 1997 has not been negotiated with West Extension ID.

24. J.R. Simplot Company Partners, Boise Project, Idaho: Long-term contract for 3,000 acre-feet of Anderson Ranch Reservoir storage for M&I use.

25. Eagle Island Water Users Association, Inc., Boise Project, Idaho: Amendment of water service contract to reduce the Association's spaceholding in Lucky Peak Reservoir by approximately 5,300 acre-feet, thereby allowing use of this space by Reclamation for flow augmentation.

24. Milner ID, Minidoka-Palisades Projects, Idaho: Amendment of storage contracts to reduce the district's

spaceholding in Palisades Reservoir by up to 5,162 acre-feet, thereby allowing use of this space by Reclamation for flow augmentation.

Contract actions completed:

21. Hermiston, Stanfield, Westland, and West Extension IDs, Umatilla Project, Oregon: Temporary contracts to provide water service for 1997 to lands lying outside of their boundaries. Contracts for 1997 have been executed with Hermiston, Stanfield, and Westland IDs; a contract for 1997 has not been negotiated with West Extension ID.

Correction:

22. Burley ID, Minidoka Project, Idaho: Warren Act contract with cost of service charge to allow for use of project facilities to convey nonproject water. This contract action has not been completed and is still pending.

Mid-Pacific Region: Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825-1898, telephone 916-979-2401.

New contract actions:

28. Contractors from the Friant Division, CVP, California: Negotiation of interim renewal contracts with 14 of the Friant Division contractors, who are parties to long-term water service contracts, which were recently declared invalid by the United States District Court, effective March 1, 1998. The total annual quantity of water allocated pursuant to these contracts is in excess of 1.3M acre-feet. These contracts will be replaced with interim renewal contracts negotiated pursuant to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Title XXXIV, of Pub. L. 102-575.

Contract actions completed:

18. Santa Clara Valley WD, CVP, California: Agreement for the conditional reallocation of a portion of Santa Clara Valley WD's annual CVP contract water supply to San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority members. The purpose of the conditional reallocation is to improve overall management and establish more reliable water supplies without imposing additional demands or operational changes upon the CVP. Action: Agreement No. 7-07-20-W1428 executed on April 17, 1997.

19. Central Coast Water Authority, Cachuma Project, California: Amendment to the Warren Act contract to change the definition of contract year. This amendment will make the Warren Act contract consistent with the contract year in the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's renewed water service contract. Action: Contract No. 5-07-20-W1282A executed on June 2, 1997.

Lower Colorado Region: Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 61470 (Nevada

Highway and Park Street), Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470, telephone 702-293-8536.

New contract actions:

62. Bureau of Land Management, BCP, California: Agreement for 1,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water in accordance with a Secretarial Reservation dated August 30, 1973.

Contract actions modified:

54. Arizona State Lands, BCP, Arizona: Water delivery contract with Lakeview City for 400 acre-feet of Colorado River water for domestic use.

Contract actions discontinued:

49. Santa Ana Project Water Shed Authority, SRPA, California: Amend current contract with United States to shorten repayment schedule from 30 to 20 years.

Contract actions completed:

44. Community Water Company of Green Valley/New Pueblo Water Co., CAP, Arizona: Execute an assignment assigning 237 acre-feet of New Pueblo's CAP water entitlement to Community. Amend Community's CAP subcontract to increase its entitlement by 237 acre-feet and upon execution of the assignment from New Pueblo to Community, New Pueblo's CAP water service subcontract terminates.

50. Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, SRPA, California: Amend current contract with United States to transfer certain project facilities and certain O&M responsibilities from District to City of Lake Elsinore.

Upper Colorado Region: Bureau of Reclamation, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102, telephone 801-524-4419.

New contract actions:

1.(e) Lazear Domestic Water Corporation: Aspinall Unit, CRSP; Colorado: Contract for 44 acre-feet to support an augmentation plan, Case No. 95CW209, Water Division Court No. 4, State of Colorado, to provide domestic water service to up to 100 residences, lawns, gardens, and livestock watering.

22. Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Weber Basin Project, Utah: Repayment contract for SOD modification of Lost Creek Dam. The estimated cost of the modification is \$16,000,000 of which 15 percent must be repaid from both irrigation and M&I use.

23. El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, Rio Grande Project, Texas and New Mexico: Supplemental contract between El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and the United States to allow the conversion of project water from irrigation to M&I within the El Paso area.

24. Individual Irrigators, Dolores Project, Colorado: The United States proposes to lease up to 1,500 acre-feet of project water declared surplus under the authority of the Warren Act of 1911.

Contract actions completed:

1.(c) Dr. Henry Estess: Wayne N. Aspinall Unit, CRSP, Colorado: Contract for 30 acre-feet of M&I water from Blue Mesa Reservoir for augmentation to replace evaporative losses from a fishery/wildlife area on his property.

1.(d) Crested Butte South Metropolitan District: Aspinall Unit, CRSP, Colorado: Contract for 13 acre-feet for domestic, municipal, and irrigation (including irrigation of lawns and golf course).

17. Highland Conservation District, Provo River Project, Utah: Water transfer agreement between District and Highland City involving change of use from irrigation to M&I.

Great Plains Region: Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 36900, Federal Building, 316 North 26th Street, Billings, Montana 59107-6900, telephone 406-247-7730.

New contract actions:

29. Angostura ID, Angostura Unit, P-SMBP, South Dakota: The District had a contract for water service which expired on December 31, 1995. An interim 3-year contract provides for a continuing water supply and the District to operate and maintain the dam and reservoir. The proposed long-term contract would provide a continued water supply for the District and the District's continued O&M of the facility.

30. Glendo Unit, P-SMBP, Wyoming: Initiate negotiations for renewal of long-term water service contracts with Burbank Ditch, New Grattan Ditch Company, Torrington ID, Lucerne Canal and Power Company, and Wright and Murphy Ditch Company. The current contracts expire in 1998.

31. Glendo Unit, P-SMBP, Nebraska: Initiate negotiations for renewal of long-term water service contracts with Bridgeport, Enterprise, and Mitchell IDs, and Central Nebraska Public Power and ID. The current contracts expire in 1998.

32. Belle Fourche Unit, P-SMBP, South Dakota: Basis of negotiation has been submitted requesting deferment of the Belle Fourche ID's 1997 construction payment and also reduction of the District's annual payment.

Contract actions modified:

12. Enders Dam, Frenchman-Cambridge Division, Frenchman Unit, Nebraska: Repayment contract for proposed SOD modifications to Enders Dam for repair of seeping drainage features. Estimated cost of the repairs is \$632,000. Approval has been obtained

to modify the repayment period of the SOD costs for up to 10 years. Repayment contracts for the SOD repairs have been signed.

17. Canyon Ferry Unit, P-SMBP, Montana: Water service contract with Montana Tunnels Mining, Inc., expires June 1997. Basis of negotiation completed for renewal of existing contract for an additional 10 years. A temporary contract has been issued pending negotiation of the long-term contract for water service.

18. P-SMBP, Kansas: Water service contracts with the Kirwin and Webster IDs in the Solomon River Basin in Kansas will be extended for a period of 4 years in accordance with Pub. L. 104-326 enacted October 19, 1996. Water service contracts will be renewed prior to expiration.

Dated: July 17, 1997.

Wayne O. Deason,

Deputy Director, Program Analysis Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[AG Order No. 2097-97]

Determination of Situations That Demonstrate a Substantial Connection Between Battery or Extreme Cruelty and Need for Specific Public Benefits

AGENCY: Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of Determination with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 ("PRWORA"), as amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, provides that certain categories of aliens who have been subjected to battery or extreme cruelty in the United States are "qualified aliens" eligible for certain federal, state, and local public benefits. To be qualified under this provision an alien must demonstrate, among other things, that there is a substantial connection between the battery or extreme cruelty and the need for the public benefit sought. The PRWORA vests in the Attorney General the authority to determine under what circumstances there is a substantial connection between the battery or extreme cruelty suffered by an alien seeking federal, state, or local public benefits and the specific benefits sought by the alien. Through this notice, the Attorney General is declaring what circumstances demonstrate such a substantial connection.

DATES: This Determination is effective July 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to Diane Rosenfeld, Senior Counsel, The Violence Against Women Office, United States Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20530, (202) 616-8894.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Rosenfeld, Senior Counsel, The Violence Against Women Office, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20530, (202) 616-8894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 ("PRWORA"), Pub. L. 104-193, as added by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-208, provides that certain categories of aliens who have been subjected to battery or extreme cruelty in the United States are "qualified aliens" eligible for certain federal, state, and local public benefits. To be a qualified alien under this provision, an alien must demonstrate that: (1) The Immigration and Naturalization Service or the Executive Office for Immigration Review has granted a petition or application filed by or on behalf of the alien or the alien's child under one of several subsections of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or has found that a pending petition or application sets forth a prima facie case; (2) the alien or the alien's child has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the U.S. by a spouse or parent of the alien, or by a member of the spouse's or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien, but only if the spouse or parent consents to or acquiesces in such battery or cruelty and, in the case of a battered child, the alien did not actively participate in the battery or cruelty; (3) there is a substantial connection between the battery or extreme cruelty and the need for the public benefit sought; and (4) the battered alien or child no longer resides in the same household as the abuser.

The Attorney General has the responsibility for determining the circumstances under which an alien has demonstrated a substantial connection between the battery or extreme cruelty and the alien's need for particular benefits. This Determination sets forth the circumstances that, in the Attorney General's opinion, demonstrate the requisite substantial connection. Under PRWORA, the Attorney General's opinion is not subject to review. When drafting this Determination, the Attorney General consulted with federal benefit-granting agencies that will be implementing section 431(c) of