

BRD then commissioned the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), a leading national professional society representing a cross-section of the biological science disciplines, to conduct an expert peer review of the strawman standard from the point of view of its completeness and utility for the biological science community. In May 1995 AIBS convened a panel of national biological science experts to review and analyze the draft standard. The panel released a draft report and recommendations in July 1995, which was then reviewed by BRD and its partners and cooperators. The panel's final report and recommendations were released in September 1995. BRD then used the recommendations of the AIBS review (and the results of limited test implementations) in revising the strawman standard. The resulting Draft Content Standard for NBII Metadata was originally presented to the FGDC Standards Working Group in January 1996 for formal consideration. Subsequently, the FGDC Biological Data Working Group has adopted and endorsed the draft biological metadata standard and has undertaken the responsibility for moving the draft standard through the FGDC standards process.

**Related Standards:** As a user-defined profile, the proposed biological resource metadata content standard is dependent upon the completion of the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard which is currently underway. Depending on the outcome of the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, it may be necessary to make subsequent revision to the proposed biological resource metadata standard to ensure that it is fully compatible with new aspects of the FGDC standard (particularly as these apply to the development of user-defined profiles). The proposed biological resource metadata standard also relates to the vegetation, earth cover, soils, and wetlands classification standards which are adopted or currently under development.

**Schedule:** As noted above, the proposed biological resource metadata standard was originally presented for consideration by the Standards Working Group in January 1996. At that time, the SWG indicated that because this proposed standard was an enhancement of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, formal action on the biological metadata standard would most appropriately be done after the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard was completed. The SWG also indicated that since the design and

structure of the proposed biological resource metadata standard was in agreement with the existing form of the FGDC metadata standard, it was acceptable for the BRD and its partners and cooperators in the NBII effort to begin implementation of the biological resource metadata standard in the interim.

Following the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, the BRD would make necessary revisions to the biological resource metadata standard to bring it into congruence and compatibility and would then present this revised version for formal review through the FGDC SWG process. It is anticipated that this revised version of the proposed standard could be represented to the SEG within six months of the end point of the current revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard.

**Resources:** This proposed standard has been developed using staffing and funding resources of the USGS BRD. It is anticipated that any necessary revisions to the proposed standard, based on the results of the current revision to the FGDC geospatial metadata content standard, can be completed using existing BRD resources.

**Potential Participants:** To date, the BRD has consulted with a broad variety of government and non-government agencies and organizations in the development and refinement of this proposed standard (e.g. American Institute of Biological Sciences, Ecological Society of America, The Nature Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange, Association of Systematics Collections, and several Federal agencies). Information on the standard was presented at the First IEEE International Metadata Conference in 1996 and at Eco-Infoma 96. Subsequently, the FGDC Biological Data Working Group has adopted and endorsed the draft biological metadata standard and has undertaken the responsibility for moving the draft standard through the FGDC standards process.

We expect to continue to solicit involvement and input of all interested parties as the standard moves through the formal FGDC approval process.

**Target Authorization Body:** This proposed standard is not currently targeted for consideration by any other authorizing bodies. As a user-defined profile of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, it is expected that this proposed standard (once approved by the FGDC) could be "linked" with the FGDC geospatial metadata standard in

any subsequent authorization of that standard by ANSI, ISO, or other group.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

**Richard E. Witmer,**

*Chief, National Mapping Division, U.S. Geological Survey.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-08-1320-01; NDM 86601]

#### **Availability of Final Environmental Analysis and Request for Comments on the Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery; Coal Lease Application NDM 86601—Knife River Corporation**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management requests public comment on the final environmental analysis, maximum economic recovery, and the fair market value of certain coal resources it proposes to offer for competitive lease sale.

The land included in Coal Lease Application NDM 86601, located in Mercer County, North Dakota, and is described as follows:

*T. 143 N., R. 88 W., 5th P.M.*

*Sec. 24: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,*

*Containing 360.000 acres*

There are three principal minable coal seams in the tract. They are the School House, Upper Beulah-Zap, and Lower Beulah-Zap. The tract contains an estimated 6.21 million tons of recoverable reserves.

The School House seam averages 5.8 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6643 BTU/lb., 36.66 percent moisture, 10.43 percent ash, and 1.24 percent sulfur.

The Upper Beulah-Zap seam averages 10.9 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6776 BTU/lb., 38.52 percent moisture, 5.94 percent ash, and 0.49 percent sulfur.

The Lower Beulah-Zap seam averages 3.5 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6717 BTU/lb., 38.27 percent moisture, 7.32 percent ash, and 0.76 percent sulfur.

The public is invited to submit written comments on the environmental analysis, fair market value, and the maximum economic recovery of the tract.

In addition, notice is also given that a public hearing will be held on

Monday, August 17, 1998, on the environmental assessment, the proposed lease sale, the fair market value, and maximum economic recovery of the proposed lease tract.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 17, 1998. The public hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on the same date, at the Dickinson Field Office, 2933 Third Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota.

**ADDRESSES:** For more complete data on this tract, please contact Rebecca Good (telephone 406-255-2828), Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107 or Gene Campbell (telephone 701-225-9148), Bureau of Land Management, Dickinson Field Office, 2933 Third Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601-2619. Copies of the environmental assessment are available at both addresses.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Federal Coal Management Regulations 43 CFR 3422 and 3425, not less than 30 days prior to publication of a notice of sale, the Secretary shall solicit public comments on the environmental assessment, the proposed sale, fair market value, and maximum economic recovery on the proposed lease tract. Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation of public comments. Data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. A copy of the comments submitted by the 3 public on fair market value and maximum economic recovery, except those portions identified as proprietary by the author and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana, during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107 and should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resources.
2. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal including specification of the seams to be mined, timing and rate of production, restriction to mining, and inclusion of the tract in an existing mining operation.

3. The fair market value appraisal including but not limited to the evaluation of the tract as an incremental unit of an existing mine, selling price of the coal, mining and reclamation costs, net present value discount factors, depreciation and other tax accounting factors, value of the surface estate, and any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

The values given above may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

Dated: July 29, 1998.

**Janet Singer,**

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-20721 Filed 8-3-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-130-1020-00; GP8-0275]

#### Notice of Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District.

**NOTICE:** Notice of Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council.

**ACTION:** Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council; August 27, 1998, in Spokane Washington.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council will be held on August 27, 1998. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m., at the Spokane District Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275. The meeting will adjourn upon conclusion of business, but no later than 4:00 p.m.. Public comments will be heard from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.. If necessary to accommodate all wishing to make public comments, a time limit may be placed upon each speaker. At an appropriate time, the meeting will adjourn for approximately one hour for lunch. Topics to be discussed include: the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project and implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Hubbard, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office, 1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275; or call 509-536-1200.

Dated: July 29, 1998.

**Gary J. Yeager,**

*Acting District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-958-1430-01; GP7-0139; OR-19111]

#### Public Land Order No. 7350; Revocation of Executive Order Dated August 16, 1917; Oregon

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Public Land Order.

**SUMMARY:** This order revokes an Executive order in its entirety as to the remaining 98 acres of lands withdrawn for Bureau of Land Management Powersite Reserve No. 653. The lands are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were withdrawn. Of the lands being revoked, 59 acres will be opened to surface entry, except to the agricultural land laws. Of the remaining lands, 21 acres will remain closed to surface entry and mining due to other overlapping withdrawals, 6 acres have been conveyed out of Federal ownership with a reservation of all minerals to the United States, and 12 acres have been conveyed out of Federal ownership and have no remaining reservations to the United States.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 3, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth St. Mary, BLM Oregon/Washington State Office, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208-2965, 503-952-6168.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order dated August 16, 1917, which established Powersite Reserve No. 653, is hereby revoked in its entirety.

#### Willamette Meridian

##### (a) Public Lands

All portions of the following described lands lying within 50 feet of the center line of the transmission line:

T. 34 S., R. 5 W.,

Sec. 4, unnumbered lot in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 20, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 29, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 35 S., R. 5 W.,

Sec. 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 33 S., R. 6 W.,