

impacts such as water drawdown and water production is proceeding at a rate greater than that predicted in the EAs.

DATES: Comments to be considered in the draft EIS should be submitted by June 28, 1996. The draft EIS should be available for public review by mid September of 1996.

ADDRESSES: Questions or concerns should be addressed to Richard Zander in the Buffalo Resource Area Office, 189 North Cedar, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Zander, phone: 1-800-301-3483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Shortly after the Lighthouse decision was issued in June of 1995, several companies came forward with proposals for approximately 200 additional wells. In addition to the new well proposals impacts were progressing at a faster rate than those predicted in the EAs. Marquiss was modeled at 6 gpm and Lighthouse was modeled at 11 gpm initially declining to an average of 7 gpm. New technological developments such as underreaming the open hole completion in the coal and fracing the coal have led to increased gas production and increased water production. We are seeing 15 to 25 gpm which is a doubling or tripling of the water production in both project areas, with no indication of any decline in water production. This is substantially greater than what was modeled for the NEPA analysis. In Marquiss, because of increased pump rates, static water level drawdowns have occurred in 3 years rather than the 10 years predicted in the NEPA analysis. We do not know if they will go lower. Model assumptions that water production would decline after 1 year are apparently not correct. Torch Operating believes 2 to 3 years may be more realistic. Since water production began in early 1993, we currently have 3 years of production. Torch Operating has stated they are at the point of balancing their production for optimum gas production and water production rates have declined from 25 gpm to 20 gpm.

Monitoring data from one of the shallow wells in the Marquiss project area is possibly showing a decline in the static water level in a sandstone aquifer above the coal. We have talked with the State Engineers Office about this and feel it is too early to determine if there is communication occurring between the two zones. We are closely watching this activity within the aquifers. This type of occurrence makes it imperative that we continue forward with the monitoring program laid out in the Lighthouse EA.

Lighthouse was modeled as a 5-year progressive project. Proposals by Western Gas Resources, Petrox, Inc., DCD, Inc., would possibly shorten the development timeframe. Western Gas has assumed responsibility for the southern two thirds of the project area from American Oil and Gas. They are currently drilling stratigraphic tests on the Durham Buffalo Ranch in Township 45 North, Range 71 and 72 West. We will not do any additional computer groundwater modeling on the areas south of Gillette. It is not feasible to credibly or accurately model as large an area we are talking about with the data available. As variables increase, accuracy decreases. We propose to extrapolate what we have modeled and what we have monitored to make a prediction on expected impacts.

We support the landowner/industry group working on a Water Well Mitigation Agreement that is designed to address the question of potential impacts to water wells, so significant impacts do not occur and we intend to utilize this agreement in the development of the proposed action for the EIS. However, static water level declines are not the only issue we need to deal with. The increased rate of development, increased rates of production, increased surface water discharges, and increased area of disturbance are also questions that need to be addressed. We must evaluate the potential for cumulative impacts as a result of coal and coalbed methane development in the same general area at a time when development areas and production levels for both are increasing.

Dated: May 21, 1996.

Alan R. Pierson,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 96-13272 Filed 5-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-01-P

[NV-050-1020-001]

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council—Notice of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Council meeting locations and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), council meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a public comment period, discussion of laws and regulations that pertain to grazing, and an update of standards and guidelines.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Michael Dwyer at the Las Vegas District Office, 4765 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108, telephone, (702) 647-5000.

DATES, TIMES: Dates are June 10 and 11, 1996, from 8 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. The council will meet at the Desert Research Institute, located at 755 E. Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV 89119. The public comment period will be on June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands. The council will vote on recommendations for Standards and Guidelines that will be presented to the State Director, Nevada on June 11.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas District, telephone: (702) 647-5000.

Dated: May 15, 1996.

Gary L. Ryan,
Associate District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-13289 Filed 5-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

[AZ-046-1430-01; AZA 23060]

Public Land Order No. 7197; Withdrawal of Public Lands for the Waterman Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws public lands from surface entry and mining for a period of 50 years for the Bureau of Land Management to protect the endangered Nichol Turk's Head Cactus

within the Waterman Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The lands have been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 28, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Herrell, BLM Tucson Resource Area, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85748, 520-722-4289.

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 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described public lands are hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1988)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, to protect the Bureau of Land Management's Waterman Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern:

Gila and Salt River Meridian

T. 12 S., R. 9 E.,

Sec. 29, lots 3 and 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 30, lots 1 to 5, inclusive, lot 9, that portion of lot 10 lying outside of Mineral Patent No. 02-79-0008, lot 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 31, lots 3 and 4, those portions of lots 5 and 8 lying outside of Mineral Patent No. 02-79-0008, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 32, Mineral Survey No. 3885;

Sec. 33, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 13 S., R. 9 E.,

Sec. 5, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 6, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The areas described aggregate 2,335.21 acres in Pima County.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those public land laws governing the use of the lands under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of their mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1988), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: May 20, 1996.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 96-13200 Filed 5-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

On July 14, 1995, a notice was published in the Federal Register (60 FR 36305) that an application had been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by Washington County, Utah, for a permit to incidentally take, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in conjunction with otherwise legal activities including building construction, in portions of Washington County pursuant to the Implementation Agreement that implements the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan.

Notice is hereby given that on February 23, 1996, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued an incidental take permit PRT-811471 to the above-named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after it was determined that it was applied for in good faith, that by granting the permit it will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in the Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be obtained by contacting

the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office, 145 East 1300 South Street, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115, telephone (801) 524-5001, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: May 20, 1996.

Terry Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director Denver, Colorado, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[FR Doc. 96-13290 Filed 5-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, Union Parish, LA; Right-of-Way Pipeline Application

Notice is hereby given as required under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185) as amended by Public Law 93-153, that NorAm Gas Transmission Company has applied for a right-of-way for a 20-inch pipeline to be located on lands of the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge in Union Parish, Louisiana, described as follows: (See Exhibits A through G Attached)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: The Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of issuing a right-of-way permit across the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge in Union Parish, Louisiana.

SUMMARY: The notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service plans to issue a permit to NorAm Gas Transmission Company, for a 20-inch pipeline on a portion of the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 27, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Craig McBroome, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Arkansas Field Office, c/o Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Box 126-T, Augusta, Arkansas 72006, Telephone (501) 347-5947.

Dated: May 13, 1996.

Noreen K. Clough,

Regional Director.

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M