

Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (907) 786-3498.

Robyn Thorson,

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-2002 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

**Notice of public meeting and extended public review period on the Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the Proposed Establishment of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall, McCracken, and Graves Counties, Kentucky**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and extended public review period for the proposed establishment of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, will hold a public meeting to answer questions and hear comments concerning its proposal to establish a new national wildlife refuge along the floodplain of the East Fork of the Clarks River in Marshall, McCracken, and Graves Counties, Kentucky. This notice also announces the Service's extension of the public review and comment period on the refuge proposal to March 14, 1997.

**DATES:** The Service will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 20, 1997, at Benton Middle School, 906 Joe Creason Drive, Benton, Kentucky. The public review and comment period on the draft environmental assessment and land protection plan has also been extended to March 14, 1997.

Written comments must be received no later than March 14, 1997, at the address below in order to be considered for preparation of the final environmental assessment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for copies of the draft environmental assessment and for further information on the project should be addressed to Mr. Charles R. Danner, Team Leader, Planning and Support Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the proposed refuge is to protect, enhance, and manage approximately 18,000 acres of wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and associated buffer areas along the East Fork of the Clarks River for the benefit of migratory and resident waterfowl, neotropical migratory birds, resident wildlife, and

other species dependent on the river habitats of the area. A Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the proposed refuge has been developed by Service biologists in coordination with the Kentucky Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and local county officials. The assessment evaluates three alternative actions and their potential impacts on the environment. The public is invited to attend the February 20 public meeting to ask questions and offer comments on the refuge proposal. Written comments are also welcomed and should be sent to Mr. Danner at the address noted above.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

C. Monty Halcomb,

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-1999 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

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**Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of The Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee established under the authority of The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act.

**DATES:** The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Wed. March 19, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of the Coordinator for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee at 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Committee Coordinator Lawrence Bandolin at 413-863-0209, FAX 413-863-3070.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Committee members will be updated on refuge activities and be presented with the Challenge Cost Share grant proposals. There will also be a discussion on new appointees and the continuing rule of the Committee.

The meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Committee or may file written statements for consideration.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (8:30-4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting at the committee coordinator's office listed above. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

Dated: January 15, 1997.

Ronald Lambertson,

*Regional Director, Region 5, Hadley, Massachusetts.*

[FR Doc. 97-1952 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

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**Bureau of Land Management**

[ES-930-07-1320-020241A]

**Amendment to the List of Affected States Under Federal Coalbed Methane Recovery Regulations**

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

**ACTION:** Removal of Illinois from the list of Affected States.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (the Act) (Pub.L. 102-486) requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) administer a Federal program to regulate coalbed methane development in states where coalbed methane development has been impeded by disputes or uncertainty over ownership of coalbed methane gas. As required by the Act, the Department of the Interior, with the participation of the Department of Energy, developed a List of Affected States to which this program would apply (58 FR 21589, April 22, 1993). The List of Affected States is currently comprised of the States of Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The legislative body of the State of Illinois, in the form of resolution passed on January 24, 1996, petitioned the Secretary of the Interior for removal from the List of Affected States. The resolution stated that the General Assembly of the State of Illinois petitions the Secretary of the Interior to delete Illinois from the list of Affected States for the purposes of section 1339 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Section 1339 of the Act provides three mechanisms by which a state may be removed from the List of Affected States:

1. A state may pass a law or resolution requesting removal;
2. The governor of a state may petition for removal, but only after giving the legislature

6-months notice, during a legislative session, of his intention to submit the petition; or

3. The state legislature implements a law or regulation permitting and encouraging the development of coalbed methane.

Since the State of Illinois has met the condition for removal from the List of Affected States by passing a resolution requesting removal, the State of Illinois is officially removed from the List of Affected States.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David R. Stewart, Chief, Branch of Resources Planning and Protection, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, or telephone (703) 440-1728; or Charles W. Byrer, U.S. Department of Energy, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507, or telephone (304) 285-4547.

Dated: January 16, 1997.

Carson W. Culp, Jr.,  
State Director, Eastern States.

[FR Doc. 97-1951 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

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[UT-066-1310-03]

### **Carbon and Emery Counties, UT; EIS on Natural Gas Development**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Natural Gas Development in Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah, and Notice of Scoping Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS by a third-party contractor on the impacts of proposed natural gas development on public and private lands in Carbon and Emery Counties in central Utah.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Development of natural gas in the Castle Valley area is proposed by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Chandler and Associates, Inc., Questar Pipeline Company and Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. The BLM is preparing an EIS to analyze a conceptual natural gas development model based on industry's proposal.

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

Field development of existing Federal leases within an area of approximately 96,000 acres in the Castle Valley area of Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah is proposed. The project would involve approximately 375 wells and related

facilities including roads, pipelines, power lines, compressor stations and water disposal facilities.

The BLM also proposes to approve development of natural gas within the project area and approve individual drilling applications and right of way authorizations.

#### **Possible Alternatives**

The EIS will analyze the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. Other alternatives may include various well spacing options and resource protection alternatives.

#### **Anticipated Issues**

Potential issues include air quality, social and economic impacts, ground water, water disposal, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species.

#### **Other Relevant Information**

The tentative project schedule is as follows: Begin Public Comment Period—February 1997, File draft EIS—June, 1998, File Final EIS—November, 1998, Record of Decision—January 1999.

#### **Public Scoping Meetings**

Three public scoping meetings will be held. The location and schedule for the meeting are as follows: February 11, 1997, 7:00 pm, Price City Hall, Price, Utah, February 12, 1997, 7:00 pm, Emery County Courthouse, Castle Dale, Utah, February 13, 1997, 7:00 pm, Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake District Office, 2370 South, 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah.

#### **Public Input Requested**

Comments should address issues to be considered, feasible alternatives to examine, and relevant information to be aware of or having a bearing on the proposal.

**DATES:** The comment period for scoping of the EIS will commence with publication of this notice. Written comments must be submitted on or before March 14, 1997. Three public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral comments on February 11, 12 and 13, 1997, at the times and locations listed under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to George Diwachak, Team Leader, The Ferron Natural Gas EIS, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT, 84145-0155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:** George Diwachak, (801) 539-4043.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

G. William Lamb,  
State Director, Utah.

[FR Doc. 97-2001 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-M

[CO-030-07-1820-00-1784]

### **Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; Resource Advisory Council meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet on Thursday, February 13, 1997, at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Montrose District Office in Montrose, Colorado, and on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at the La Plata Fairgrounds in Durango, Colorado.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Thursday, February 13, 1997, and Thursday, March 13, 1997. Both meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; Telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; E-Mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The February 13, 1997, meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at BLM's Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend, Montrose, Colorado. The agenda will focus on off-highway vehicle use on public lands in the Gunnison Resource Area. Time will be provided for public comments.

The March 13, 1997, meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Extension Building's Animas Room at the La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Avenue in Durango, Colorado. The agenda will focus on BLM's oil and gas program in southwest Colorado. Time will be provided during the morning session for public comments. A field trip is scheduled for the afternoon session; the public is welcome to accompany the Southwest RAC on the field trip, but must provide their own transportation.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. Depending on