

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This draft EIS assesses three lease sales in the Proposed Final 2002–2007 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for the Beaufort Sea OCS Planning Area. Sale 186 is scheduled for 2003; Sale 195 for 2005; and Sale 202 for 2007. Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1502.4) suggest analyzing similar or like proposals in a single EIS. The proposal for each sale is to offer 1,877 whole or partial lease blocks in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area, covering about 9.8 million acres (3.95 million hectares) for leasing. The proposed sale area is seaward up to 60 miles offshore of the State of Alaska submerged land boundary in the Beaufort Sea. It extends from the Canadian border on the east to near Barrow, Alaska, on the west.

**EIS Availability:** Persons interested in reviewing the Draft EIS "OCS EIS/EA, MMS 2002–29" (Volumes I and II) can contact the MMS Alaska OCS Region. The documents are available for public inspection between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at: Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, Resource Center, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 330, Anchorage, Alaska 99508–4363, telephone: (907) 271–6070, or (907) 271–6621, or toll free at 1–800–764–2627. Requests may also be sent to MMS at [akwebmaster@mms.gov](mailto:akwebmaster@mms.gov). You may obtain single copies of the draft EIS, or a CD-ROM version, or the Executive Summary from the same address. The Executive Summary (MMS 2002–30) is available in English or Native Inupiat languages.

You may look at copies of the draft EIS in the following libraries:  
 Alaska Pacific University, Academic Support Center Library, 4101 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska;  
 Alaska Resources Library and Information Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3150 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska;  
 Alaska State Library, Government Publications, State Office Building, 333 Willoughby, Juneau, Alaska;  
 Canadian Joint Secretariat Librarian, Inuvikon Northwest Territories, Canada;  
 Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada;  
 Fairbanks North Star Borough, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska;  
 George Francis Memorial Library, Kotzebue, Alaska;  
 Ilisaavik Library, Shishmaref, Alaska;  
 Juneau Public Library, 292 Marine Way, Juneau, Alaska;  
 Kaveolook School Library, Kaktovik, Alaska;

Kegoyah Kozpa Public Library, Nome, Alaska;  
 North Slope Borough School District, Library/Media Center, Barrow, Alaska;  
 Northern Alaska Environmental Center Library, 218 Driveway, Fairbanks, Alaska;  
 Tikigaq Library, Point Hope, Alaska;  
 Tuzzy Consortium Library, Barrow, Alaska;  
 University of Alaska Anchorage, Consortium Library, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska;  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, Government Documents, 310 Tanana Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska;  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysical Institute, Government Documents, Fairbanks, Alaska;  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks, Institute of Arctic Biology, 311 Irving Building, Fairbanks, Alaska;  
 University of Alaska, Southeast, 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska;  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Library, U.S. Department of Defense, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska;  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Library, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska;  
 Valdez Consortium Library, 200 Fairbanks Street, Valdez, Alaska;  
 Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

**Public Hearings** Public hearings on the draft EIS will be held at the following locations on the dates and times listed:

Barrow, Alaska, Monday, July 22, 2002, Inupiat Heritage Center, Multipurpose Room, 7–9 p.m.  
 Nuiqsut, Alaska, Wednesday, July 24, 2002, Kisik Community Center, 7–9 p.m.  
 Kaktovik, Alaska, Friday, July 26, 2002, Quargi Community Center, 7–9 p.m.  
 Anchorage, Alaska, Tuesday, July 30, 2002, 949 East 36th Avenue, 3rd Floor 4–7 p.m.

An Inupiat translator will be available at the public hearings held in Barrow, Kaktovik, and Nuiqsut.

Oral and written comments on the draft EIS will be addressed in the final EIS. If you wish to testify at a hearing, you may register prior to the hearing to schedule a preferred time by contacting the Alaska OCS Region at the above address or Mr. Paul Lowry at (907) 271–6574 or toll free 1–800–764–2627 not later than 5 days prior to the hearing date. Every effort will be made to accommodate individuals who have not pre-registered to testify. Time limitations may make it necessary to

limit the length of oral statements to 10 minutes. You may supplement an oral statement with a more complete written statement and submit it to a hearing official at the hearing or by mail until September 20, 2002. Each hearing will recess when all speakers have had an opportunity to testify. If, after the recess, there are no additional speakers, we will adjourn the hearing immediately after the recess. Written statements submitted at a hearing will be considered part of the hearing record. If you cannot attend the hearings, or if you prefer, you may submit your comments in writing to the address below.

**Written Comments** MMS requests interested parties to submit their written comments on this draft EIS to the Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508–4363. Our practice is to make comments, including the names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. An individual commenter may ask that we withhold their name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must state so prominently at the beginning of your submission. We will not consider anonymous comments, and we will make available for inspection in their entirety all comments submitted by organizations or businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses. The comment period ends on September 20, 2002.

Dated: May 29, 2002.

**Thomas A. Readinger**,  
*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

Dated: May 30, 2002.

**Terrence N. Martin**  
*Acting Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*  
 [FR Doc. 02–15392 Filed 6–18–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Application Guidelines for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Guidelines for States, local governments and non-profit organizations wishing to receive National Park Service assistance for

river conservation, trail development, and open space protection.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as RTCA or Rivers & Trails, works with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. RTCA works in urban, rural, and suburban communities with the goal of helping applicants achieve on-the-ground conservation successes for their projects. Our focus is on helping communities help themselves by providing expertise and experience from around the nation. From urban promenades to trails along abandoned railroad rights-of-way to wildlife corridors, our assistance in greenway efforts is wide ranging. Similarly, our assistance in river conservation spans downtown riverfronts to regional water trails to stream restoration.

RTCA staff assistance includes help in building partnerships to achieve community-set goals, assessing resources, developing concept plans, engaging public participation, and identifying potential sources of funding. On occasion RTCA provides its assistance in collaboration with regional and national nonprofit organizations to further local conservation initiatives. Although RTCA does not provide financial assistance to support project implementation, we do offer technical assistance to community partners to help them achieve their goals. Project partners may be non-profit organizations, community groups, tribes or tribal governments, and local or State government agencies. Assistance is for one year and may be renewed for a second year if warranted.

We recommend that you contact our regional program staff to discuss your interest and seek guidance before applying. Applications for RTCA assistance are competitively evaluated by our regional offices, based on how well the applications meet the following criteria:

- (1) A clear anticipated outcome leading to on-the-ground success;
- (2) Commitment, cooperation, and cost-sharing by interested public agencies and non-profit organizations;
- (3) Opportunity for significant public involvement;
- (4) Protection of significant natural and/or cultural resources and enhancement of outdoor recreational opportunities; and
- (5) Consistency with the National Park Service mission and RTCA goals (see "supplementary information").

Application letters (one to three pages) should include the following information:

(1) *Project Title and Description:* Provide the name of the project and project location. Note who is taking responsibility for the implementation of the project. Describe briefly what will be done, why the project is important, the proposed schedule, and who will be involved. Identify what populations in your community will be served by the project. Outline the background or prior activity on the project (if any), and the current status.

(2) *Resource Importance:* Describe the most important natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources within the project area.

(3) *Anticipated on-the-ground Results:* What specific resource will be created, conserved, enhanced or made available to the public? For Instance: How many river miles will be improved by restoration projects? How many river miles will be conserved with enhanced protection status? How many miles of multi-use trail will be created? How many acres of parkland will be created and where? How many acres of wildlife habitat will be restored?

(4) *Other Anticipated Accomplishments:* For example: an increased community commitment to stewardship, a new conservation organization, or the development of a concept plan for a trail.

(5) *Support for the Project:* Describe the support you anticipate from interested stakeholders, such as public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and landowners. List the project partners and describe their role(s) and contributions.

(6) *Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Role:* Describe what kind of technical assistance or role you are seeking from the RTCA program.

(7) *Contact Information:* Provide information about the key project supporter(s), including name of leader, organization, address, phone, fax, and e-mail.

Support letters from elected officials, community leaders, and cooperating organizations are strongly recommended.

Unfortunately, limited staffing does not allow us to undertake all of the excellent projects that are proposed.

**DATES:** The national deadline for projects set to start the following fiscal year (which runs from October 1 to September 30) is July 1. Regional RTCA offices may request additional information and may extend the deadline or accept applications at other times during the year. Final project

selection is generally completed in early November after passage of the federal budget. In the interim our staff will acknowledge receipt of your application.

**ADDRESSES:** Please return your completed application letter to your regional RTCA Program Leader. Contact information for all of our regional offices is available through the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>. Alternately, you may submit your application to: Chief, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 3622, Washington, DC 20240, or by e-mail to [Sam\\_Stokes@nps.gov](mailto:Sam_Stokes@nps.gov). If submitted to Washington, your application will be forwarded to the appropriate regional office for review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Regional RTCA Offices, as noted above, or you may also call us at 202-565-1200. For more information about RTCA and the work we are doing around the country and in your State, including case studies and regional contact information, please visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Mission and Plan**

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world. Mission of the National Park Service, 1997.

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) implements the Service's mission in communities across America. RTCA's vision for the 21st Century is a network of protected rivers, trails, and greenways that promote quality of life and link Americans to their natural and cultural heritage in parks and beyond.

##### **RTCA Goals**

Increase Protection for Rivers and Open Space and Help Establish More Trails and Greenways.

(1) Assist communities in establishing trail networks.

(2) Work to protect rivers and streams—their ecosystems and watersheds.

(3) Encourage statewide and regional conservation strategies.

(4) Promote Federal interagency coordination that benefits conservation.

*Strengthen Community Conservation Advocacy, Partnerships, and Stewardship*

- (1) Help establish sustainable conservation organizations.
- (2) Assist the communities of which National Parks are a part.
- (3) Support conservation partnerships in obtaining funding and other resources.

*Enhance Conservation and Recreation Opportunities for All Americans*

- (1) Engage in projects which reflect the nation's cultural diversity.
- (2) Undertake partnership projects in urban and underserved areas.
- (3) Establish a strong presence in every State.
- (4) Build a staff that represents America's cultural diversity.

Dated: May 9, 2002.

**Samuel N. Stokes,**

*Chief, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines, Notice Regarding Implementation of Guidelines

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines (Guidelines) were adopted as a result of a Record of Decision signed by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2001 (66 FR 7772-7782). The Department of the Interior (Department) has received a number of informal comments and has identified issues regarding implementation of the Guidelines. This notice identifies and addresses these issues in order to facilitate a common understanding regarding the implementation of the Guidelines for calendar year 2003. This notice also corrects a typographical/computational error in the Guidelines as published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2001.

**DATES:** The Secretary is not proposing to take any specific action as a result of this **Federal Register** notice. Accordingly, the Department is not establishing a specific date by which comments must be submitted. The Secretary will also accept input on the

issues addressed by this **Federal Register** notice through the process under which the Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (AOP) is developed. This process includes consultation with the Colorado River Management Work Group, a group that the Secretary consults with in order to carry out the provisions of section 602(b) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 and section 1804(c)(3) of the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments to the Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region, Attention: Jayne Harkins, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary, pursuant to applicable law including particularly the Boulder Canyon Project Act of December 28, 1928 (BCPA), and the Supreme Court opinion rendered June 3, 1963, and decree entered March 9, 1964 (Decree) in the case of *Arizona v. California*, et al., is vested with the responsibility to manage the mainstream waters of the Colorado River in the Lower Basin. In furtherance of this responsibility, the Department, through a notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 18, 1999 (64 FR 27008-09), initiated a process to develop specific criteria to identify those circumstances under which the Secretary would make Colorado River water available for delivery to the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada (Lower Division States or Lower Basin) in excess of the 7,500,000 acre-foot Lower Basin basic apportionment. The Department noted in that notice that "[i]n recent years, demand for Colorado River water in Arizona, California, and Nevada has exceeded the Lower Basin's 7,500,000 basic apportionment. As a result, criteria for determining the availability of surplus [water] has become a matter of increased importance." (64 FR 27009). In particular, California has been using water in excess of its 4.4 million acre-foot mainstream basic apportionment established in the BCPA for decades.

The Department, through a notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2001 (66 FR 7772-7782) notified the public that the Secretary signed a Record of Decision (ROD), regarding the preferred alternative for Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines on January 16, 2001. The Guidelines "implement Article III(3)(B) of the [Long Range Operating Criteria]" adopted pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 (as published

in the **Federal Register** on June 10, 1970). (65 FR 78511).

Pursuant to section 3 of the Guidelines, the Secretary utilizes the "Guidelines to make determinations regarding Normal and Surplus conditions for the operation of Lake Mead \* \* \*" during "development of the Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (AOP)." (66 FR 7781). The Secretary applied these Guidelines for the first time during the development of the 2002 AOP, signed by the Secretary on January 14, 2002.

In the period since adoption of the 2002 AOP, increasing attention has been focused on the provisions of the Guidelines and their application to AOP determinations that are upcoming for 2003. In particular, numerous entities have contacted the Department to discuss their views and concerns regarding the provisions of Section 5 of the Guidelines, entitled "California's Colorado River Water Use Plan Implementation Progress." (66 FR 7782).

This provision of the Guidelines was included in order to assist the Secretary in the execution of the Secretary's watermaster duties on the lower Colorado River, which include facilitating adherence to the Lower Basin's allocation regime. The relationship between efforts to reduce California's reliance on surplus deliveries and the adoption of specific criteria to guide surplus determinations was established in the initial **Federal Register** notice announcing the potential development of surplus guidelines: "Reclamation recognizes that efforts are currently underway to reduce California's reliance on surplus deliveries. Reclamation will take account of progress in that effort, or lack thereof, in the decision-making process regarding specific surplus criteria." (64 FR 27009). This concept was embodied in the purpose of and need for the Federal action as analyzed in Reclamation's Environmental Impact Statement regarding adoption of the Guidelines: "Adoption of the [Guidelines] is intended to recognize California's plan to reduce reliance on surplus deliveries, to assist California in moving toward its allocated share of Colorado River water, and to avoid hindering such efforts. Implementation of [the Guidelines] would take into account progress, or lack thereof, in California's efforts to achieve these objectives." Final Environmental Impact Statement at 1-3 to 1-4.

Sections 5(B) and 5(C) of the Guidelines established independent conditions for performance of certain actions by entities in California, and the