

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[NM091-9941-EK-HE931]****Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004-0180****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request extension of an existing approval to collect certain information from owners and operators of helium-bearing natural gas wells and transmission lines pertaining to natural gas analyses. BLM uses this information to evaluate the helium resources of the United States (BLM Form 3100-12).

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the appropriate address below on or before March 6, 2001. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0180" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Brent Gage on (806) 324-2659 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Mr. Gage.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires BLM to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in BLM Form 3100-12 to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the

agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. BLM will receive and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

The Gas Well Data-Survey of Helium-Bearing Natural Gas, BLM Form 3100-12, provides for the gas sampling and analysis program used to locate helium occurrences in natural gases. BLM carries out this program under 74 Stat. 920, Public Law 104-273, Helium Privatization Act of 1996. The knowledge of helium occurrences is part of the Government's conservation program. BLM uses this information to evaluate the extent of any helium resources existing in the natural gas.

Without this information, BLM would not possess knowledge of the nature, location, and extent of domestic helium resources. The location and development of helium reserves and helium conservation and production are necessary to assure a supply of helium is available to the Federal Government.

Based on BLM's experience administering the activities described above, we estimate the public reporting burden for the information collected to average 15 minutes per response. The respondents include owners and operators of helium-bearing natural gas wells and transmission lines. The frequency of response is annual. The estimated number of responses per year is 200. The estimated total annual burden is 50 hours. BLM specifically requests your comments on its estimate of the amount of time that it takes to prepare a response.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 2, 2001.

Michael Schwartz,

BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-373 Filed 1-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[CO-SJFO-01-0001EIS]****Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement oil and gas development on the southern Ute Indian reservation.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508, The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, has prepared a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Statement to give Tribal leaders and agency decision-makers more comprehensive environmental impact information on which to base oil and gas leasing and development decisions. The document was prepared by a third party contractor chosen by BLM and its cooperators and funded by the agencies, the Southern Ute Tribe, and oil and gas lessees.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a period until, on, or before March 6, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments, or request for copies of the DEIS to the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Field Office, Attn: Donald Englishman, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81310.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald Englishman at the above address or phone: 970-385-1346.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A limited number of individual copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301.

Dated: December 20, 2000.

Calvin N. Joyner,

San Juan Field Office Manager, Colorado, Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

[FR Doc. 01-9 Filed 1-04-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[MT-060-1220DM-00]****Notice of Availability****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the

availability of a Final Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed Plan Amendment. The Final EIS describes the analysis completed on proposed management changes in off-highway vehicle area designations on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, Northern Region, in Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota. The BLM and Forest Service are joint lead agencies responsible for preparation of the final EIS. The purpose and need are to address the impacts of OHV travel on open areas that are currently available to motorized wheeled cross-country travel. The preferred alternative would restrict motorized wheeled cross-country travel yearlong on approximately 6 million acres of public land administered by the BLM and 10 million acres of National Forest System lands. These lands would be designated limited or restricted yearlong for motorized wheeled cross-country travel.

DATES: The proposed plan amendment is subject to a BLM 30-day protest period commencing with the date of publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Written protests must be sent to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210/LS-1075, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Majerus, 406-538-1924.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Final EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment discloses the potential environmental consequences of managing motorized wheeled cross-country travel on public lands administered by the BLM and Forest Service, Northern Region, in Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota (excluding the Black Hills National Forest, Buffalo Gap Grasslands and the Fort Pierre Grasslands). A Draft OHV EIS and Plan Amendment was released for a 90-day public comment period in November 1999. Over 1,500 people attended 35 open houses that were held around Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota and 2,300 comment letters were received on the Draft OHV EIS and Plan Amendment.

Six alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, were analyzed in the Final OHV EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment. The No Action Alternative would maintain current management and areas currently open seasonally or yearlong to motorized wheeled cross-country travel would remain open.

Alternatives 1, 2 and 5 would restrict motorized wheeled cross-country travel yearlong and the alternatives vary by exceptions allowed for cross-country travel. Alternative 3 would restrict motorized wheeled cross-country travel yearlong in North Dakota, most of Montana, and portions of South Dakota. Alternative 4 would limit motorized wheeled cross-country travel seasonally from September 1 to December 1 and February 16 to June 14. Alternative 5 is the preferred alternative.

Alternative 5, the preferred alternative, was developed in response to comments on the Draft OHV EIS and Plan Amendment from the public and other agencies. It restricts motorized wheeled cross-country travel yearlong throughout the analysis area to protect riparian areas, wetlands, crucial wildlife habitat, threatened or endangered species, soils and vegetation, aquatic resources, and to reduce user conflicts. Through subsequent site-specific planning, the BLM would designate roads and trails for motorized use. The following BLM resource management plans (Big Dry, Powder River, Billings, Headwaters, West HiLine, Judith-Valley-Phillips, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and the Dillon management framework plan would be amended to designate approximately 6 million acres limited yearlong for motorized wheeled cross-country travel under 43 CFR 8342.

The BLM's resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM's Director (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of an amendment to a resource management plan may protest such approval. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues which were commented on during the planning process. New issues may be raised at any time but should be directed to the appropriate BLM field office for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate. The protest period extends for 30 days. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered timely, your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. In order to be

considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.

(2) A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

(3) A statement of the part or parts of the amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the proposed amendment.

(4) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the discussion date of the issue(s) for the record.

(5) A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records (i.e., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the proposed decision, without any data will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the BLM may issue a Record of Decision, approving implementation of any portions of the proposed plan amendment not under protest. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until the protest has been resolved.

(Authority: Sec. 202, Pub. L. 94-579, 90 Stat. 2747 (43 U.S.C. 1712))

Dated: December 27, 2000.

Mat Millenbach,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 01-105 Filed 1-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-930-1310-01; NMNM 0557388]

New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease NMNM 0557388 for lands in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and