

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Dyer, Snake River Resource Area Manager, 200 South 15 East, Burley, ID 83318. Telephone (208) 677-6641. A map showing vehicle routes of travel is available from the Burley BLM Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority for this closure and restriction order may be found in 43 CFR 8364.1. Violation of this closure is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: January 16, 1996.

Tom Dyer,

Snake River Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1256 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

[OR-130-1330-04; GP6-0055]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Midnite Uranium Mine (MUM) Reclamation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Spokane District, as the lead federal agency, will be directing the preparation of an EIS for final reclamation of the Midnite Uranium Mine located on the Spokane Indian Reservation, in Washington State. The EIS will evaluate the environmental impacts of alternative plans for mitigating the affects of past mining activities. The reclamation objective is to ensure that a physically stable condition is achieved whereat environmental impacts are mitigated or controlled and public safety is protected. This notice initiates the scoping process for the EIS and also serves as an invitation for other potential cooperating parties. Potential cooperating parties include the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Health (WADOH).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by March 29, 1996, to receive full consideration in the development of alternatives. Three public scoping meetings will be held: February 26, 1996 at the Spokane Tribal Longhouse, Sherwood Loop Road, Wellpinit, Washington from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; February 27, 1996 at the Davenport Community Memorial Hall, 511 Park

Street, Davenport, Washington from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and February 28, 1996 at the Spokane County Agricultural Center at 222 N. Havana Spokane, Washington from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. Additional briefing meetings may also be held as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275, ATTENTION: Midnite Uranium Mine.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Courtright, Project Manager, or Gary Yeager, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275; or call (509) 536-1200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Midnite Uranium Mine is located on the Spokane Indian Reservation, Stevens County, about 45 miles northwest of Spokane, Washington, and about 3.5 miles upstream of the Spokane River arm of Lake Roosevelt. Dawn Mining Company (DMC) leased the property and operated the Midnite Uranium Mine from 1955 to 1964 and again from 1968 to 1981. Active mining ceased on the site in 1981 and the mine has remained inactive since that time, except for construction and operation of internal drainage channels, collection of seepage below the mined area, and operation of a mine water treatment plant.

Approximately 320 acres have been directly affected by mining and waste disposal and will require reclamation. Mine workings and waste dumps span over 1,000 feet of topographic relief within the one mile length of the highly disturbed area. About 33 million tons of waste rock remain on-site. Two of the mine pits— Pits 3 and 4—totaling about 70 surface acres remain open. Another multiple pit area (Pit 2) was backfilled with mine waste rock during active operations in the 1970's.

Leases for the mining activities were issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Land Management assumed responsibility for regulating mining activities in 1983 as a result of Interior Department reorganization. The Department has determined that BLM will have primary authority for overseeing preparation of the EIS and that the decision authority on the proposed action rests by delegation with BLM.

DMC started treating mine water in 1992. The solid product of mine water treatment, a semi-solid sludge or filter cake, is classified as "source material" and must be disposed of according to

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations. This material is transported by covered truck to DMC's mill, 25 miles to the east in Ford, Washington, and off of tribal land, where uranium is extracted and the by-product, known within NRC regulations as 11.e.2. material, is piped to the nearby licensed and lined tailings pond. It is important to note that BLM and BIA have no jurisdiction at the mill site. The Washington Department of Health has regulatory jurisdiction at the mill site (off-reservation on private land) and also at the water treatment plant at the mine. That authority covers the water treatment plant's generation, handling and disposal of the regulated source material. Environmental data has been collected at the Midnite Mine for over ten years. A significant amount of data has been collected, compiled and analyzed by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM). Because that agency has been eliminated by legislative action, the large body of data developed by USBM has been transferred to BLM for maintenance and management. The responsibility for site clean-up lies with DMC. Reclamation standards and reasonable alternatives will be addressed by the NEPA process initiated by this scoping action. DMC will be developing a reclamation proposal that will be considered as one approach to site reclamation, but other approaches will also be evaluated.

The Bureau of Land Management's NEPA scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) identification of issues of concern that will need to be addressed in the EIS process; (2) identification of ideas for reclamation alternatives; (3) identification of additional scientific and creditable site data that may not be reflected in the existing database; and (4) notification of interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues can be obtained.

The scoping process will consist of news releases announcing the start of the NEPA process; and newsletters inviting the public to participate in the scoping process. A scoping summary report will be prepared at the close of scoping that will summarize the findings. This report will be made available to the public through local public libraries, and offices of the lead and cooperating agencies.

Dated January 19, 1996.

Joseph Buesing,

Spokane District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1164 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

[Docket No. 4310-DN; MT-060-06-1020-00]

Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown District Office, Montana.
ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lewistown District Resource Advisory Council will meet February 26 and 27, 1996, at the Best Western Ponderosa Inn, 220 Central Avenue, in Great Falls, Montana. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on the 26th and will include background information from the BLM and US Forest Service concerning oil and gas development along the Rocky Mountain front. Beginning around 10 a.m. that day, the council will hear comments offered by spokespersons for the variety of organizations and entities interested in this topic. Beginning at 7 p.m. that evening, there will be a public comment period to afford the council the opportunity to hear concerns from the general public. The evening session will end around 9 p.m.

On February 27, the council's business meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will end around 5:30 p.m. The topics of the day will include: using calling cards; discussing the council's charter; discussing standards and guidelines; a public comment period beginning at 11:30 a.m.; a presentation about the Little Rocky Mountains; a discussion of prairie dogs; a meeting evaluation; other topics the council deems necessary; and, selecting the date and location for the next meeting.

DATES: February 26 and 27, 1996.

LOCATION: Best Western Ponderosa Inn, 220 Central Avenue, Great Falls, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: District Manager, Lewistown District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public and there will be public comment periods as detailed above.

Dated: January 19, 1996.
 Gary Slagel,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1384 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

[AK-020-1430-01-P; F-91549]

Realty Action: Non-Competitive Lease of Public Land in Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action.

SUMMARY: The Fairbanks North Star Borough has requested a lease of certain lands at the intersection of Badger and Holmes Roads near Fairbanks, Alaska. The purpose of the lease would be to construct, operate and maintain a solid waste transfer station site.

DATES: Comments must be received by Effective Date: March 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this Notice should be submitted to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Northern District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victor Wallace, Realty Specialist, at the address given above or at telephone (907) 474-2363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following public land near Fairbanks, Alaska is being considered for lease to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for solid waste transfer station purposes pursuant to Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (96 Stat. 2763; 43 U.S.C. 1732):

Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska
 T.1S., R.1E.,

That portion of the S¹/₂ Sec. 16 located south and east of Badger Road and south and west of Holmes Road.

The area described contains 13 acres, more or less.

The above described lands have been withdrawn for military purposes by Public Land Order 1760; however, the Department of the Interior retains jurisdiction to manage the surface and subsurface resources and may dispose of such resources under applicable public land laws with the concurrence of the proper military authorities.

An environmental assessment will be prepared for this action; public comment is requested. The analysis will be available for public review at the address above.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Dee Ritchie,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1316 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-M

[ID-933-1430-01; IDI-30525]

Opening of Land in a Proposed Withdrawal; Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The temporary 2-year segregation of a proposed withdrawal of 40.00 acres of National Forest System

land for the Forest Service's Monarch Mine Stamp Mill Site (Kirby Dam) expires March 9, 1996, after which the land will be opened mining. The land is located in the Boise National Forest. The land has been and will remain open to surface entry and mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry R. Lievsay, BLM Idaho State Office, 3380 American Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706-2500, (208) 384-3166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the Federal Register (59 FR 47, March 10, 1994), which segregated the land described therein for up to 2 years from the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, but not from the general land laws and the mineral leasing laws. The 2-year segregation expires March 9, 1996. The withdrawal application will continue to be proposed unless it is canceled or denied. The land is described as follows:

Boise Meridian

T.5 N., R.11 E.,
 Sec. 5, lot 8.

The area described contains 40.00 acres in Elmore County.

At 9 a.m. on March 9, 1996, the land shall be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of land described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (1988), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Dated: January 18, 1996.

Jimmie Buxton,
Supervisory Realty Specialist, Lands and Minerals.

[FR Doc. 96-1252 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-M

National Park Service**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore; Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.