

Furthermore, the current patenting moratorium is only temporary. The moratorium will expire on 30 September 1996. If the moratorium is not renewed, 235 frozen patents can be processed and issued, and new patenting applications can be filed. Unless current law is changed, billions of more dollars in mineral wealth will slip away from the public without proper accountability.

The BLM's continued liquidation-price sales of mineral-rich public lands to grandfathered applicants demonstrates the compelling need for Patenting Disclosure Regulations. Since 1994, the Department of the Interior has signed over title to public lands containing over \$15.3 billion in minerals to mining companies for the price of only \$16,015. The Department issued two patents only last month. The more egregious of the two was the BLM's 30 April sale of 373 acres of public land in Humboldt County, Nevada, to Gold Fields Mining Corporation. Gold Fields paid only \$1,865 for a gold deposit worth over \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, the BLM persists in conducting the patenting process in secrecy and without public scrutiny. Over the past few years, BLM officials have repeatedly refused to disclose to lead petitioner Mineral Policy Center, in response to requests for information, facts which are needed for an informed evaluation of the patenting process. Most recently, for example, at 10 am (EST) on 28 May 1996, Roger Haskins, Geologist, Solid Minerals Group of the BLM Headquarters in Washington, D.C., refused to disclose to Mineral Policy Center the information enumerated in section II(A) above in connection with Cambior Inc.'s patent applications for its Carlota Copper Project near Globe, Arizona. Haskins informed Mineral Policy Center that this information was either being held confidential in deference to the wishes of the patent applicant or was pre-decisional in nature, and that therefore the BLM could not release the information to the public. Telephone communication between Roger Haskins, BLM, and Carlos Da Rosa, Mineral Policy Center (10 am (EST), 28 May 1996).

In sum, Patenting Disclosure Regulations are necessary to provide for effective public scrutiny of a process that is presently undermining fiscal soundness and the rational environmental management of America's public lands.

VII. Conclusion

The Department of the Interior has disposed of approximately one-quarter trillion dollars of publicly-held mineral resources for nominal sums under the 1872 Mining Law's mineral patenting provisions. The results have been both fiscally and environmentally irresponsible.

The petitioners recognize that the Department of the Interior is still required to process grandfathered 1872 Mining Law patent applications. However, the law does not require that the patenting process be conducted in secrecy.

The public is entitled to full access to the information upon which the Department of the Interior bases its decision to dispose of the public's riches under this policy.

Therefore, the petitioners respectfully urge the speedy granting of this petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Philip M. Hocker,

Mineral Policy Center.

/s/Rebecca R. Wodder,

American Rivers.

/s/Lynne Stone,

Boulder-White Clouds Council.

/s/Michael Clark,

Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

/s/Cathy Carlson,

National Wildlife Federation.

/s/Kathryn Hohmann,

Sierra Club.

/s/Roger Flynn,

Western Mining Action Project.

/s/Deborah Ham,

Citizens for the preservation of powers Gulch and Pinto Creek.

/s/James D. Jensen,

Montana Environmental Information Center.

/s/Julia Page,

Northern Plains Resource Council.

/s/Jill Lancelot,

Taxpayers for Common Sense.

/s/Pat Sweeney,

Western Organization of Resource Councils.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-36; RM-8766]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Franklin and White Castle, LA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal of.

SUMMARY: The Commission, by this document dismisses the petition for rule making filed by South Louisiana Broadcasters, proposing the allotment of Channel 295C3 to Franklin, Louisiana. See 61 10976, March 18, 1996. The counterproposal filed by Bob Holbrook requesting the allotment of Channel 295C3 to White Castle, Louisiana, is also dismissed. With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MM Docket No. 96-36, adopted July 19, 1996, and released July 26, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for

inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 96-20708 Filed 8-14-96; 8:45 am]

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47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-67; RM-8774]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Starkville, MS, and Ethelsville, AL

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal of.

SUMMARY: The Commission, by this document dismisses the petition for rule making filed by Charisma Broadcasting Company, proposing the substitution of Channel 222A for Channel 221A, the reallocation of Channel 222A from Starkville, Mississippi, to Ethelsville, Alabama, and the modification of Station WMSU(FM)'s authorization to specify Ethelsville as its community of license. See 61 FR 15443, April 8, 1996. With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MM Docket No. 96-67, adopted July 12, 1996, and released July 19, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

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