

[OR-958-0777-54; GP6-0134; OR-19614 (WA)]

**Public Land Order No. 7225;
Revocation of Executive Order Dated
June 30, 1916; Washington**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order revokes in its entirety an Executive order which withdrew 94.17 acres of public lands for the Bureau of Land Management's Powersite Reserve No. 534. The lands are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were withdrawn. This action will open 80 acres to surface entry. The lands have been and will remain open to mining and mineral leasing. The remaining 14.17-acre balance is included in another existing withdrawal and will remain closed to surface entry.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 26, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Betty McCarthy, BLM Oregon/
Washington State Office, P.O. Box 2965,
Portland, Oregon 97208-2965, 503-952-
6155.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order dated June 30, 1916, which established Powersite Reserve No. 534, is hereby revoked in its entirety:

Willamette Meridian

T. 33 N., R. 10 E.,
Sec. 25, lot 1.

T. 33 N., R. 11 E.,
Sec. 19, lot 4;

Sec. 32, lot 2 and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The areas described aggregate 94.17 acres in Skagit County.

2. At 8:30 a.m. on December 26, 1996, the land in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 32, T. 33 N., R. 11 E., will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 8:30 a.m., on December 26, 1996, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

3. The lands described in paragraph 1, except as provided in paragraph 2, are within the Skagit Wild and Scenic River withdrawal and remain closed to surface entry.

Dated: November 4, 1996.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

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BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

**Minerals Management Service,
Interior.**

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of information collection solicitation.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection, the Payor Information Form for solid minerals (OMB Control Number 1010-0064).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to: Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Procedures Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3101, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165; courier address is: Building 85, Room A-212, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-Mail address is: David-Guzy@smtp.mms.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Procedures Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3194, e-Mail

Dennis_Jones@smtp.mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506 (c)(2)(A), each agency shall provide notice and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning this collection of information in order to solicit comment to: (a) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Secretary is authorized to prescribe rules and regulations and to

do any and all things necessary to accomplish the purpose of applicable laws. Relevant citations (Attachment 1) include 30 U.S.C. 189, pertaining to public lands; 30 U.S.C. 359, pertaining to acquired lands; and 25 U.S.C. 396d, pertaining to Indian lands. Regulations at 25 CFR 211 et seq. provide by cross reference that applicable provisions of 30 CFR Chapter II apply to Indian leases. The Bureau of Land Management regulations at 43 CFR 3473 for coal, and 43 CFR 3503 for minerals other than coal, apply to this information collection. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary, who is responsible for the collection of royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. MMS has developed computer applications that document payment and sales volumes and values as reported by payors and also track minerals from the point of production to the point of disposition, royalty determination, or point of sale. This consolidated database enables MMS to verify that proper royalties are being received for minerals produced; it is an essential part of an overall effort to improve the management of the nation's mineral resources and to ensure proper collection and accounting for revenues due from industries removing and processing solid minerals products from Federal or Indian leases. Information collected using the Payor Information Form (PIF) for solid minerals is an integral part of this database which is used to record and report data from new producing leases, for updating payor changes, and to notify MMS of the products on which royalties will be paid.

Detailed data are necessary to enable the Secretary to provide reliable, comprehensive sources of information for Federal, State, and Indian auditors and inspectors checking payors and lease operators. The data collected on the PIF are used to establish payor accounts for mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands, and to assign unique accounting identification numbers that will enable MMS to maintain, reconcile, and audit lease accounts. The PIF shows the party who pays rentals, minimum royalty, or royalties on production to MMS, and the products on which the payments are to be made.

Failure to collect the information reported on the PIF would make it impossible for MMS to comply with applicable laws and regulations of the United States. This, in turn, would result in significant loss of revenue to the U.S. Treasury, States, and Indians. In addition, the Secretary is required to