

DM 2, Appendix 2 of the Departmental Manual, the departmental categorical exclusions cannot be used. Among the types of actions available for a Categorical Exclusion is for a "low effect" HCP/incidental take permit application. A "low effect" HCP is defined as an application that, individually or cumulatively, has a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP [Section 1.4(C)(2)].

The Service considers the Applicant's project and HCP such a Categorical Exclusion, since the impacts of issuing the ITP involve only a small area of the affected species' range and the anticipated level of incidental take is minimal. The Service is soliciting for public comments on this determination.

Dated: September 4, 1997.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-24114 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for Construction and Operation of Approximately 143.6 Acres of Light Industrial Development on the Approximately 440-Acre Schlumberger Property (PRT-827597), in Austin, Travis County, TX

SUMMARY: The Schlumberger Technology Corporation (applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The applicant has been assigned permit number PRT-827597. The requested permit, which is for a period of 30 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). The proposed take on the 440-acre parcel would occur as a result of 143.6 acres of light industrial development. A minimum of approximately 195 acres will be preserved in its natural state as a conservation easement. All construction will occur on the 440-acre Schlumberger Property located in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of whether jeopardy to the species will occur, or a Finding of

No Significant Impact (FONSI), will not be made before 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received by October 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Sybil Vosler, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0063). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Austin Ecological Services Field Office. Written data or comments concerning the application(s) and EA/HCPs should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Austin Ecological Services Field Office. Please refer to permit number PRT-827597 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sybil Vosler at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species, when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

APPLICANT: Schlumberger Technology Corporation plans to construct a light industrial development on approximately 143.6 acres and preserve a minimum of 195 acres within the 440-acre tract. The construction will be at the Schlumberger property located east of R.M. 620, approximately 1 mile north of RM 2222 on the northwest side of the City of Austin, roughly 12 miles from the downtown area. The preserved area will be maintained in its natural state and a conservation easement will be granted in perpetuity and held by a non-profit conservation organization or governmental agency approved by the Service.

Alternatives to this action were rejected because selling with federally-listed species present or not developing

the subject property were not economically feasible.

Jerome M. Butler,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 97-24116 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On July 10, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 132, Page 37072, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by James Y. Jones, Dublin, GA, for a permit (PRT-831722) to import a sport-hunted polar bear for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on August 14, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On June 26, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 123, Page 34482, that applications had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Hossein Golabchi, Augusta, GA (PRT-830486) and Dennis Schlegel, Ione, WA (PRT-830807) for a permit to each applicant for import of a sport-hunted polar bear for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on August 18, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: September 5, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97-24012 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P