

(4) Only one percent of the petitioner's membership can document American Indian ancestry.

In its response to the Proposed Finding, the petitioner submitted evidence including letters, photographs, interviews, school/church records, published secondary sources, newspaper/journal articles, court documents, Federal documents, land records, maps, and time lines. Every piece of evidence submitted was reviewed and it is concluded that:

(1) Some of the evidence was either irrelevant to criterion 83.7(e) because it did not demonstrate genealogical descent from four claimed ancestors or descent from any historical tribe;

(2) Much of the evidence was oral history and was unreliable when tested. Much of the evidence was found to be unsubstantiated by primary documentation; and

(3) The evidence did not connect known MOWA ancestors to the individuals whom the MOWA claimed were Native American or to a historical Indian tribe.

(4) The evidence disproved Indian ancestry to some of the MOWA ancestors.

The BIA searched for evidence on the local, state, and national levels. The core ancestors of the petitioning group are known. None of the primary records demonstrated that these documented, known core ancestors were American Indian, or were descendants of a historical tribe. The BIA also searched the records of the historical tribes which the petitioner claimed and found no connection between the MOWA core ancestors and these historical tribes.

The MOWA response to the Proposed Finding offered no basis for reversing the conclusions of the Proposed Finding against Federal acknowledgment of the MOWA. The evidence in the record does not support the petitioner's claim that it descends from a historical tribe. The record does not provide substantive evidence or any reason to believe that additional research might uncover such evidence. The MOWA petitioner has not demonstrated by a "reasonable likelihood of the validity of the facts" standard that it meets the requirements of criterion 83.7(e). There is thus no need to complete a full evaluation of the documented petition under all seven of the mandatory criteria. The petitioner fails to meet the requirements for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe.

The Proposed Finding which declined to acknowledge that the petitioner is an Indian tribe is affirmed. This determination is final and will become effective 90 days from the date of

publication unless the petitioner or any interested party files a request for reconsideration of this determination with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (83.11(a)(1)). The petitioner's or interested party's request must be received no later than 90 days after the publication of the Assistant Secretary's determination in the **Federal Register** (83.11(a)(2)).

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-33532 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period on Supplemental Analysis to Environmental Assessment No. CA-069-EA7-42; Tritium and Related Materials Testing on Public Lands in Ward Valley, San Bernardino County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Public comment period on Supplemental Analysis.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Supplemental Analysis on simultaneous drilling activities by DOI/BLM and the State of California, Department of Health Services, and on related issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Public comments on the Supplemental Analysis must be received by January 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Supplemental Analysis may be obtained upon request. Submit requests to: External Affairs Staff, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, CA 92507; or to: External Affairs Staff, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, California 95825. The EA is also available on the Internet at: www.ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOI and BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment, EA No. CA-069-EA7-42, on proposed tritium and related materials testing and a proposal by the State of California to conduct rainfall infiltration studies. The EA was released for public review on November 6, 1997. Since the initial EA was released, new information has become available that is relevant to the DOI/BLM and State proposals. Specifically, a simultaneous drilling alternative is under

consideration, and more information concerning unexploded military ordnance on site has become available. These topics are analyzed in the Supplemental Analysis which is being distributed for public review through January 9, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ward Valley Project Coordinator Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, California 95825; tel: (916) 978-4630.

Carl Rountree,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-33544 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-61-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting, notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a tour and meeting of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. The tour and meeting will be held January 23-24, 1998 in Safford, Arizona. On January 23, the RAC will tour a grazing allotment along the Gila River and discuss various issues involved in the Safford Field Office Livestock Grazing Biological Opinion. The tour will start at 8:00 a.m. from the BLM Safford Field Office and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. The Safford Field Office is located at 711 14th Avenue. On January 24, the RAC will conduct a one-day business meeting. Again, the meeting will be held at the Safford Field Office, starting at 8:00 a.m. until approximately 2:00 p.m. The agenda items to be covered at the meeting include review of previous meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; Update on Safford and Tucson Biological Opinions; Presentation on a study performed on the Gila River Watershed and its Runoff; and Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; RAC Discussion on future meeting dates and locations. A public comment period will take place at 11:30 a.m. January 24, 1998 for any interested publics who wish to address the Council.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land