

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-924-1430-01; SDM 87066]

**Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; South Dakota**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service proposes to withdraw .25 acre of national Forest System land in Custer County for construction of temporary quarters for summer seasonal employees. The National Park Service would have administrative jurisdiction of this area. This notice closes the land for up to 2 years from surface entry and mining. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

**DATES:** Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by June 18, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Montana State Director, BLM, P.O. 36800, Billings, Montana 59107.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, 406-255-2949.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 17, 1998, a petition was approved allowing the National Park Service to file an application to withdraw the following described National Forests System land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights. The land is described as follows:

**Black Hills Meridian**

T. 3 S., R. 4 E.,

Sec. 23, portion of the S½ of lot 19.

The area described contains .25 acre in Custer County.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to enable construction of temporary quarters for summer seasonal employees.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the Montana State Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the

proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the Montana State Director within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. During this period, the Forest Service will continue to manage this land.

Dated: March 12, 1998.

**John E. Moorhouse,***Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Drug Enforcement Administration**

[Docket No. 96-27]

**Anant N. Mauskar, M.D.; Grant of Restricted Registration**

On March 27, 1996, the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), issued an Order to Show Cause to Anant N. Mauskar, M.D. (Respondent), of Houston, Texas, notifying him of an opportunity to show cause as to why DEA should not deny his application for registration as a practitioner under 21 U.S.C. 823(f), for reason that he is without authority to handle controlled substances in the State of Texas, and that his registration would be inconsistent with the public interest.

By letter dated April 15, 1996, Respondent, through counsel, filed a request for a hearing, and the matter was docketed before Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner. During prehearing procedures, the Government filed a Motion for Summary Disposition alleging that Respondent was not entitled to a DEA registration in the State of Texas since he was without authority to handle controlled substances in the State. However, on May 29, 1996, the Texas Department of Public Safety reissued Respondent's Department of Public Safety Registration

Certificate enabling him to handle controlled substances in Texas. As a result, Judge Bittner denied the Government's Motion for Summary Disposition on July 25, 1996.

A hearing was then held on November 13, 1996, in San Antonio, Texas on the remaining issue raised in the Order to Show Cause. At the hearing, Respondent testified on his own behalf and both parties introduced documentary evidence. After the hearing, the Government submitted proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and argument. Respondent did not submit a posthearing filing. On January 13, 1998, Judge Bittner issued her Opinion and Recommended Ruling, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision, recommending that Respondent's application for a DEA Certificate of Registration should be granted in Schedules II through V, excluding Schedule II narcotic controlled substances, subject to the maintenance of a log of his handling of controlled substances. Neither party filed exceptions to the Opinion and Recommended Ruling of Judge Bittner, and on February 17, 1998, Judge Bittner transmitted the record of these proceedings to the Acting Deputy Administrator.

The Acting Deputy Administrator has considered the record in its entirety, and pursuant to 21 CFR 1316.67, hereby issues his final order based upon findings of fact and conclusions of law as hereinafter set forth. The Acting Deputy Administrator adopts, in full, the Opinion and Recommended Ruling, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision of the Administrative Law Judge. His adoption is in no manner diminished by any recitation of facts, issues and conclusions herein, or of any failure to mention a matter of fact of law.

The Acting Deputy Administrator finds that Respondent attended medical school in Pune, India, and as of the date of the hearing had been practicing family medicine in Harris County, Texas for 16 years. Respondent previously possessed DEA Certificate of Registration AM9760338.

On June 18, 1992, an Order to Show Cause was issued to Respondent proposing to revoke his previous DEA Certificate of Registration, alleging that his continued registration would be inconsistent with the public interest. Following a hearing before Administrative Law Judge Paul A. Tenney, the then-Administrator revoked Respondent's DEA registration effective November 1, 1993. See, *Anant N. Mauskar, M.D.*, 58 FR 51,385 (October 1, 1993).