

Dated: July 7, 1998.

John A. Blankenship,

*Assistant Regional Director, IL, IA, MO
(Ecological Services), Region 3, Fort Snelling,
Minnesota.*

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City of Austin for the Operation and Maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and Adjacent Springs

ACTION: Second Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This is the second issuance of this draft document. The Service has decided that new information incorporated into this document was significant enough to warrant an additional public comment period. The City of Austin has applied to the 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-839031. The requested permit, which is for a period of 15 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*). The proposed take would occur as the result of the operation and maintenance of Barton Springs Pool and adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The Service and the City of Austin have prepared an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take permit application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made before at least 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 on or before August 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Matthew Lechner, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or

comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number PRT-839031 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Lechner at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Barton Springs salamander. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Applicant: The City of Austin plans to maintain and operate Barton Springs Pool and the adjacent springs in Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action may cause the incidental take of less than 20 salamanders per year, for the 15-year term of the permit. The applicant proposes to minimize and mitigate for the incidental take of the Barton Springs salamander by placing 10 percent of the total revenues generated at Barton Springs Pool into a conservation fund. The fund will be used for enhancing habitat and for ecological and biological research on the Barton Springs salamander. In addition, mitigation measures are included in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Dated: July 6, 1998.

Frank Shoemaker,

*Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque,
New Mexico.*

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BILLING CODE 4510-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Receipt of Letter of Intent To Submit a Petition for Federal Acknowledgement of Existence as an Indian Tribe

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

This is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8. Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.9(a) notice is hereby given that the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, 132 North State Street, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781 has

filed a petition for acknowledgment by the Secretary of the Interior that the group exists as an Indian tribe. The petition was received by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on May 13, 1998, and was signed by members of the group's governing body.

This is a notice of receipt of a petition and does not constitute notice that the petition is under active consideration. Notice of active consideration will be sent by mail to the petitioner and other interested parties at the appropriate time.

Under Section 83.9(a) of the Federal regulations, third parties may submit factual or legal arguments in support of or in opposition to the group's petition. Any information submitted will be made available on the same basis as other information in the BIA's files. Such submissions will be provided to the petitioner upon receipt by the BIA. The petitioner will be provided an opportunity to respond to such submissions prior to a final determination regarding the petitioner's status.

The petition may be examined, by appointment, in the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS 4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202) 208-3592.

Dated: June 1, 1998.

Hilda Manuel,

Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Oil and Gas Operations on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the Availability of Environmental Documents.

Prepared for OCS Mineral Proposals on the Gulf of Mexico OCS.

SUMMARY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), in accordance with Federal Regulations (40 CFR Section 1501.4 and Section 1506.6) that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), announces the availability of NEPA-related Site-Specific Environmental Assessments (SEA's) and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI's), prepared by MMS for the following oil and gas activities proposed