

financially by having pandas at their facility and/or are being held under a loan (e.g., lease-hold agreement) from China or other lending entity. The proposed recipient of the panda will need to provide all the information required by the ESA, its regulations, and this policy in order for the Service to make its findings prior to issuance of a permit. The Service will facilitate, to the extent possible, the transfer of animals within the United States when it is part of a coordinated research or research/breeding program. If the receiving institution has a panda permit on file with the Service, it can reference the permit number and information in this file, and provide any new information for the Service to review in consideration of an interstate commerce permit. Because applications will be published in the **Federal Register**, the applicant will need to allow at least 90 days for processing. Since transfers must also have the prior approval of the Chinese government or the entity that owns the animals, a permittee must have prior approval of the Service to transfer pandas within a state, and the proposed recipient should address all of the considerations noted in this policy. The number of times an individual panda is transferred within the United States will be closely monitored by the Service to protect the overall health and well-being of the animal.

This notice was prepared under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-23074 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-08-1320-01; NDM 86601]

Coal Lease Offering

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of coal lease offering by sealed bid: NDM 86601—Knife River Corporation.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Granite Tower Building, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in Mercer County, North Dakota, will be

offered for competitive lease by sealed bid. This offering is being made as a result of an application filed by Knife River Corporation, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181-287), as amended.

An Environmental Assessment of the proposed coal development and related requirements for consultation, public involvement, and hearing have been completed in accordance with 43 CFR 3425. The results of these activities were a finding of no significant environmental impact.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

Coal Offered: The coal resource to be offered consists of all recoverable reserves in the following-described lands located approximately 2.5 miles south of the town of Beulah, North Dakota:

T. 143 N., R. 88 E., 5th P.M.,
Sec. 24: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 360 acres, Mercer County, North Dakota.

There are three principal minable coal seams in the tract. They are the School House, Upper Beulah-Zap, and Lower Beulah-Zap. The tract contains an estimated 6.21 million tons of recoverable reserves.

The School House seam averages 5.8 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6,643 BTU/lb., 36.66 percent moisture, 10.43 percent ash, and 1.24 percent sulfur.

The Upper Beulah-Zap seam averages 10.9 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6,776 BTU/lb., 38.52 percent moisture, 5.94 percent ash, and 0.49 percent sulfur.

The Lower Beulah-Zap seam averages 3.5 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6,717 BTU/lb., 38.27 percent moisture, 7.32 percent ash, and 0.76 percent sulfur.

Rental and Royalty: A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of the coal mined by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of the coal mined by underground methods. The value of the

coal shall be determined in accordance with 43 CFR 3485.2.

Date: The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 30, 1998, in Side B of the Conference Room on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building at the above address.

Sealed Bids: Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 30, 1998, to the cashier, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Second Floor, Granite Tower Building, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be hand-delivered. The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after that time will not be considered.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Bidding instructions for the offered tract are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Casefile documents are also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

John E. Moorhouse,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-22974 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-08-1020-00]

New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of council meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on October 1 and 2, 1998 at the Amberley Suites Hotel, 7620 Pan American NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

The meeting on Thursday October 1 starts at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting on Friday October 2 starts at 8:00 a.m. The agenda for the RAC meeting includes agreement on the meeting agenda, any RAC comments on the draft summary minutes of the last RAC meeting on July 30 and 31, 1998 in Taos, NM., BLM Field Office Managers presentations,

Watershed presentation and discussion, presentation and discussion on Standard and Guidelines EIS, DEIS hearings, and allotment assessment process, select next meeting location, dates and develop draft agenda items, RAC assessment of the meeting and a presentation and discussion on McGregor Range DEIS and other items as appropriate. The RAC meetings is open to the public.

The time for the public to address the RAC is on the Thursday, October 1, 1998, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The RAC may reduce or extend the end time of 5:00 p.m. depending on the number of people wishing to address the RAC. The length of time available for each person to address the RAC will be established at the start of the public comment period and will depend on how many people there are that wish to address the RAC. At the completion of the public comments the RAC may continue discussion on its Agenda items. The meeting on October 2, 1998, will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The end time of 4:00 p.m. for the meeting may be changed depending on the work remaining for the RAC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Armstrong, New Mexico State Office, Planning and Policy Team, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7436.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: August 21, 1998.

M.J. Chávez,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-22972 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-930-08-1310-00-241A; MSES 48204]

Mississippi; Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of

oil and gas lease MSES 48204, Greene County, Mississippi, was timely filed and accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from December 1, 1997, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent. Payment of \$500 in administrative fees and a \$125 publication fee has been made.

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective December 1, 1997, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above. This is in accordance with section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gina Goodwin at (703) 440-1534.

Dated: August 19, 1998.

Gwen W. Mason,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-23043 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1430-01; CACA 28617]

Termination of Classification of Public Land for Recreation and Public Purposes and Opening Order; California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice terminates, in its entirety, the classification, dated March 15, 1994, which classified public land for lease for recreation and public purposes pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.). The land will be opened to the operation of the public land laws including the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. The land has been and remains open to the operation of the mineral leasing laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 27, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosalinda Estrada, BLM Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308; telephone number (805) 391-6126.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 15, 1994, the lands described below were classified as suitable for lease

pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869, 869-1 to 869-4) and the land was segregated from appropriation under the public land laws and the general mining laws:

All that land located in Section 7 encompassing a portion of Lots 7 and 10, and a portion of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Township 27 South, Range 33 East, M.D.M., Kern County, California, described as follows:

Beginning at the BLM BC marked for the West $\frac{1}{16}$ corner of Sections 6 and 7 of said Township 27 South, said BLM BC also being the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence the following nine courses:

1. North 89°41'00" East along the North line of said Section 7 39.33 feet;
2. South 03°05'49" East 193.16 feet;
3. South 73°47'28" West 215.26 feet;
4. South 70°08'42" West 48.36 feet;
5. South 53°39'35" West 60.09 feet;
6. South 49°07'04" West 92.21 feet;
7. North 01°02'08" West 32.75 feet to a BLM BC property corner;
8. Continuing North 01°02'08" West 330.63 feet to the North line of said Section 7 and a BLM BC;
9. North 89°41'00" East 327.12 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Kern County, California

Containing Approximately 2.18 acres a portion of AP #348-060-03.

By letter dated December 28, 1994, the Kern County Sheriff's Search and Rescue voluntarily withdrew their application submitted August 15, 1991 for Recreation and Public Purposes lease of the above described public lands.

Purpose to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and the regulations contained in 43 CFR 2091.7-1(b)(1)(iii), the classification, dated March 15, 1994, which classified the above described public land for lease for recreation and public purposes, is hereby terminated in its entirety.

At 10 a.m. on August 27, 1998, the public land, as described above, will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirement of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 10 a.m. on August 27, 1998 shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

At 10 a.m. on August 27, 1998, the public land, as described above, will be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of any of