

- Which public land and fluid minerals should be available for leasing and subsequent activities?

- On which lands are standard lease terms and conditions sufficient?

- Which public land should be available for leasing with constraints (e.g., timing limitations, no surface occupancy, controlled surface use)?

- Which leasing stipulations from existing plans are appropriate and sufficient to protect other resource values?

- Which public land should be closed to fluid minerals leasing?

Preliminary planning criteria for guiding the development of the RMPA/EIS include the following. Actions must:

- Comply with laws, executive orders, and regulations.

- Provide for orderly leasing and development of fluid minerals while providing for the protection of environmental resources and minimizing the extent of impact on the environment.

- Provide for the conservation of mineral resources.

- Provide for rehabilitation of affected land.

- Minimize soil erosion.

- Provide for protection of water resources.

- Provide for protection and management of plant and animal special status species.

- Provide for protection and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

- Provide for protection of cultural and paleontological resources.

- Provide for availability of recreation opportunities.

- Protect and enhance visual quality.

- Provide for public health and safety.

- Consider social and economic effects.

Resource concerns to be addressed include lands and access, minerals, soils, water resources, wilderness study areas, air quality, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, livestock grazing, cultural and paleontological resources, recreation, visual resources, and social and economic conditions.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

Josie Banegas,

Acting Field Manager, Las Cruces.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS).

ACTION: Notice to rescind notice to lessees and operators (NTL) 98-11N.

SUMMARY: This notice announces our decision to rescind NTL 98-11N, Guidelines for Suspension of Production Due to Uneconomic Market Conditions.

DATES: NTL 98-11N is rescinded effective on January 13, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. P. Danenberger at (703) 787-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are in the process of updating our NTLs to reflect current technologies, correct regulatory citations, and include a statement on the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. In most instances we are not changing the requirements and information in the superseded NTLs. During this process we updated NTL 92-1N, "Guidelines for Application for Suspension of Production Due to Uneconomic Market Conditions" and superseded it by NTL 98-11N.

The superseded NTL 92-1N was developed in 1992 and was issued under the authority of 30 CFR 250.110(a)(5) which states, "To avoid continued operations which would result in premature abandonment of a producing well(s) or would not be economic." We have reviewed our policy in NTL 98-11N and determined that the regulations in 30 CFR 250.110 are sufficient to prevent premature abandonment of producing wells.

We expect lessees to diligently manage their leases by exploring, developing, and commencing production within the primary term. We will only grant SOPs for a lease when the lessee commits to production and provides a reasonable schedule of activities including measurable milestones. We will not grant suspensions for nonproducing leases solely to wait for uncertain economic or technological conditions to improve.

Based on this policy, NTL 98-11N is officially rescinded effective January 13, 1998, and no further SOPs will be approved under this NTL after that date. All currently approved SOPs will remain in effect until their specified expiration date or production begins, whichever occurs first.

For your reference, on February 13, 1998, we published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (63 FR 7335), titled "Postlease Operations Safety,"

revising the entire 30 CFR 250, subpart A. The proposed rule was subsequently corrected in a notice on March 9, 1998 (63 FR 11385). The comment period was extended once and closed on July 17, 1998. The current § 250.110 on suspension of production or other operations was renumbered § 250.119 in the proposed rule. Our regulatory policy on suspensions of production or operations will be reflected in the 30 CFR 250, subpart A, final rule.

The collection of information we refer to in this notice is authorized under 30 CFR 250, subpart A. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires us to inform you that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations and assigned OMB control number 1010-0030.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan Redwood National and State Parks, California; Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190 as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) assessing four alternatives for, and potential impacts of, a proposed General Management Plan for Redwood National Park, California. In deference to public interest expressed to date from local governmental agencies, organizations, and other interested parties, the public comment period has been extended an additional month through November 8, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Redwood National and State Parks are jointly managed. In addition to the DEIS, a draft Environmental Impact Report/General Plan was prepared concurrently. Copies of the documents and a 15-page summary can be reviewed at local libraries or park offices in Arcata, Orick, and Crescent City; internet access is available at "<http://www.nps.gov/planning/redw/dgmp/redwdgmp.htm>". A limited number of