

DATES: The meeting will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. January 20, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David B. Hunsaker, Bureau of Land Management, National Historic Oregon Trail, Interpretive Center, P.O. Box 987, Baker City, OR 97814, (Telephone 541-523-1845).

Richard T. Watts,

Vale ADM/Operations-Field Services.

[FR Doc. 00-1267 Filed 1-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-912-00-0777-XQ]

Notice of Meeting; Utah Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting of the Utah Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's Utah Statewide Resource Advisory Council meeting will be held on January 20-21, 2000, in Provo, Utah.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Council with an overview of Utah's recreation management program as well as developing guidelines for recreation management.

The meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn, (Sundance Room), 1511 South 40 East, Provo, Utah. It is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on January 20 and conclude at noon on January 21. A public comment period, where members of the public may address the Council, is scheduled from 12:30-1:00 p.m. on January 20. All meetings of the BLM's Resource Advisory Council are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, 84111; phone (801) 539-4195.

Dated: January 10, 2000.

Sally Wisely,

Utah BLM State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-1291 Filed 1-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-00-1330-DB]

Kemmerer and Rock Springs Field Office Areas, Wyoming, Planning Review Concerning Proposed Closure to Oil and Gas Leasing in Trona Mining Areas to Protect Health and Safety

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct a planning review and request for public participation concerning closing portions of the trona mining areas to oil and gas leasing for protection of health and safety, with potential to amend the Kemmerer and Green River (Rock Springs) Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to modify mineral management objectives.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.2(C) that the Rock Springs and Kemmerer Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are proposing to close the Special Sodium Drilling Area—A in southwest Wyoming to oil and gas leasing and coincidental development of oil and gas reserves on existing oil and gas leases to provide for the continued health and safety of underground miners. A planning review of existing land-use decisions would be conducted to evaluate how to best manage mineral resource and to provide for the recognized health and safety of underground miners. Any needed changes in existing management or any new management actions to be prescribed for the area will be identified and if necessary, the Kemmerer and Green River RMPs amended.

The Joint Industry Committee (JIC), representing trona, and oil and gas industry groups and interests, has worked for four years addressing issues on the complexities of coincidental development of underground trona and deep oil and gas within the Mechanical Mining Trona Area (MMTA). Technical studies and analysis with safety and economic comparisons show that the mineable trona within the MMTA should be completely extracted before development of deep natural gas resources. The JIC has recommended the following approach:

- Expand the MMTA boundary to include a one-mile lateral safety buffer, known as the Special Sodium Drilling Area-A (SSDA-A). The SSDA-A consists of 218,613 acres of Federal minerals managed by the BLM, 30,959 acres of State of Wyoming-owned

mineral estate, and 223,873 acres of privately held minerals.

- Amend the RMPs to close the SSDA-A to oil and gas leasing and development of deep natural gas wells. Drilling of deep natural gas wells would be prohibited until completion of conventional underground trona mining and abandonment of the underground trona mines. Hydrocarbon resources in the MMTA would be conserved for future development.

- Adopt special rules for drilling operations, well completion, production, and abandonment of shallow natural gas wells within the SSDA-A. Shallow gas drilling could be allowed within the SSDA-A on existing oil and gas leases, subject to special rules currently under development.

- Outside of the SSDA-A but within the Known Sodium Leasing Area, allow oil and gas leasing, and drilling of deep natural gas wells utilizing the special rules for drilling operations, well completion, production, and abandonments procedures as adopted by the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) for the entire Special Sodium Drilling Area.

Closure to oil and gas leasing and development of the deep natural gas reserves within the SSDA-A and adoption of these recommendations is problematic due to existing federal and State of Wyoming oil and gas leases within the SSDA-A. These existing leases do not provide limitations on the depth of oil and gas drilling operations. The JIC and BLM have identified several options for addressing this problem:

1. Maintain the current suspension on existing oil and gas leases until conventional underground mining of trona has been completed and miners are no longer working underground.

2. Allow current suspensions to expire and place conditions of approval on applications to drill in order to prevent drilling of deep natural gas wells. Development of shallow natural gas wells may be allowed subject to special rules (once they are adopted by the WOGCC).

3. Existing Federal and State lessees could be given preferential right to trade oil and gas leases within the SSDA-A for other Federal or State leases of comparable value.

4. Purchase existing Federal and State oil and gas leases by one or more of the following:

- (A) Give the leaseholder a royalty credit against future oil and gas production on other leases held by the lessee.

- (B) Allocate a portion of future sodium royalties to purchase oil and gas leases from the lessee.