

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Minerals Management Service****Notice Excluding the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Leases From Valuation Under 30 CFR 206.172**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe has requested that all gas produced from its leases be excluded from valuation under the rules of 30 CFR 206.172 (64 FR 43517, August 10, 1999). The Minerals Management Service (MMS) approves the request.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff; telephone, (303) 231-3432; FAX, (303) 231-3385; email, David.Guzy@mms.gov; mailing address, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 10, 1999, MMS published a final rule titled Amendments to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases (64 FR 43506) with an effective date of January 1, 2000. The final rule permits an Indian tribe to request that some or all of its leases be excluded from valuation under 30 CFR 206.172 (64 FR 43517). If MMS, after consulting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, approves the request, value is determined under 30 CFR 206.174 (64 FR 43520) beginning with production on the first day of the second month following the date MMS publishes notice in the **Federal Register**.

On December 13, 1999, by Tribal Resolution Number ACITC 99-52, the Alabama-Coushatta decided to exclude their production. MMS received the tribe's request on January 20, 2000.

As a result of the tribe's request and the publishing of this document, beginning April 1, 2000, gas production from leases on the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation must be valued under 30 CFR 206.174.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Royalty Management.*  
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**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****National Park Service****Renouncement, Notice of Availability of the Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Missouri National Recreational River (59-Mile District), Nebraska and South Dakota**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) is reannouncing the availability of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and general management plan (GMP) for the Missouri National Recreational River 59-mile district located in portions of Clay, Union, and Yankton counties, South Dakota; and Cedar, Dixon, and Knox counties in Nebraska.

The original NPS notice of availability for this document was previously published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 56215, Oct. 18, 1999). A record of decision for the project was signed on December 17, 1999, and also was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 72359, Dec. 27, 1999). However, it recently was discovered that the FEIS was inadvertently not filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required by 40 CFR 1506.9.

Accordingly, the NPS is suspending the record of decision and implementation of the plan. The FEIS has been filed with the EPA. No action will be taken towards implementation of the GMP until 30-days after the EPA's notice of availability is published in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** The no action period for review of the FEIS will end 30-days after the EPA publishes its notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. A revised record of decision will be issued following the no action period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Hedren, Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763, or by e-mail to MNRR\_Superintendent@nps.gov, or call 402-336-3970.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The draft environmental impact statement and general management plan for the recreational river was on public review from October 5 to December 18, 1998. The FEIS responds to Public Law 95-625 (1978), which amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by adding a 59-mile reach of the Missouri River below the Gavins Point Dam to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The NPS prepared this FEIS to update a previous management plan written in 1980 by the

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and only partially implemented. Cooperating agencies included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department; South Dakota Region Three Planning; and Nebraska Lewis and Clark Planning District. The NPS's preferred alternative for the Missouri National Recreational River is identified in the FEIS as alternative 2. The preferred alternative would provide for maintenance and restoration of biologic values and would seek to minimize the effects of the mainstem dams. It also would provide for management activities that would emphasize the history and culture of the river and its surroundings. In this preferred alternative, as well as alternative 3, the Corps of Engineers (COE) and the NPS would manage the area through a cooperative agreement. The COE would function as the day-to-day manager of the water-related resources, while the NPS would administer the land-related resources. The agencies would work together where their responsibilities overlapped. Two other alternatives were also considered. The no-action alternative (alternative 1) would continue a current cooperative agreement and otherwise provides a baseline for comparison of the other alternatives; and alternative 3, providing increased recreational emphasis on the river. Partnerships with local entities would be sought to provide services in all alternatives.

The boundary in alternatives 2 and 3 is the same. It differs slightly from the existing boundary in alternative 1, chiefly by adding several historic sites. Both boundaries include important examples of the river's outstandingly remarkable resources.

Dated: February 16, 2000.

**Catherine A. Damon,**

*Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****National Park Service****Environmental Statements, Notice of Intent; Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska.