

return address to:
lhodahkw@hqe.ihs.gov.

Comment Due Date: Your comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before June 5, 2000.

Dated: March 28, 2000.

Michael E. Lincoln,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 00-8398 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for a Permit for the Incidental Take of the Houston Toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) During Construction of One Single Family Residence on 0.5 Acres of the 4.55 Acres of Adjacent Lots 27 and 28 of the Pine Forest Subdivision, Unit 9, Block 2 and Lots 562 and 564 in the Tahitian Village Subdivision, Unit 2, Block 5, Bastrop County, TX

SUMMARY: Ray Don Tilley (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. 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 TE-023965-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 5 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of one single family residence on 0.5 acres of the 4.55 acres of adjacent Lots 27 and 28 of the Pine Forest Subdivision, Unit 9, Block 2 and Lots 562 and 564 of the Tahitian Village Subdivision, Unit 2, Block 5, Bastrop County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until 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 May 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Scott Rowin, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0063). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 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 TE-023965-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Rowin at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Houston toad. 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: Ray Don Tilley plans to construct a single family residence on 0.5 acres of the 4.55 acres of adjacent Lots 27 and 28 of the Pine Forest Subdivision, Unit 9, Block 2 and Lots 562 and 564 of the Tahitian Village Subdivision, Unit 2, Block 5, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate 0.5 acres or less and result in indirect impacts within the lot. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by providing \$1,500 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and management within Houston toad habitat, as identified by the Service.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-8437 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY/PL-00/012+1310]

South Baggs Area Natural Gas Development Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Baggs Area Natural Gas Project (Project). The FEIS analyzes the environmental consequences of Merit Energy Company's (Merit) proposal to drill up to fifty (50) additional natural gas wells in the Project area over the next 10 years. The Project area encompasses approximately 12,352 acres of Federal, State, and private lands located approximately 3 miles west of the town of Baggs in Carbon County, Wyoming, within the administrative jurisdiction of the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Approximately 43 oil and gas wells have been drilled within the Project area to date.

DATES: Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted for 30 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their notice of availability of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is expected to be published April 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Larry Jackson, Team Leader, Rawlins Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1300 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, or e-mail to: rawlins_wymail@blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Jackson, phone 307-328-4231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Project FEIS analyzes the impacts of drilling from 40 (Alternative A) to 90 (Alternative B) natural gas wells, along with constructing access roads, pipelines, and other ancillary facilities (compressor station, water disposal sites, etc.) on 10,067 acres of Federal land and 2,285 acres of non-Federal lands. The exact numbers of additional wells, the locations of those wells, and the timing for drilling them are contingent upon drilling success, production technology, and economic considerations. The No Action Alternative analyzes the current level of drilling and development (43 wells) in the South Baggs Project area.

If you wish to comment on the FEIS, we request you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Opinions or preference will not receive a formal response; however, BLM will consider them in its decision.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular