introductory text and paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5), respectively.

b. New paragraph (b) is added immediately after Example (2) in newly designated paragraph (a)(5).

6. The last two sentences of A–9 are amended by removing the language ''paragraph (e)'' and adding ''paragraph (a)(5)'' in its place.

7. One sentence is added at the end of A–10.

8. A–11 is amended as follows:

a. In A–11, introductory text and paragraphs (a) and (b) are redesignated as paragraph (a) introductory text and paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2), respectively.

b. New paragraph (b) is added.

9. A–17 is amended as follows:

a. Paragraph (a)(3) is revised.

b. Paragraph (c) is added.

10. The first and second sentences of A–19 are amended by removing the language ''paragraph (d) or paragraph (e)'' and adding ''paragraph (a)(4) or (5)'' in its place.

11. A–22 is amended by adding three sentences before the last sentence.

The additions and revisions read as follows:

§ 301.6112–1 Questions and answers relating to the requirement to maintain a list of investors in potentially abusive tax shelters.

(The text of the amendments to this proposed section is the same as the text of the amendments to § 301.6112–1T published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.)

Robert E. Wenzel,

Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

[FR Doc. 00–20541 Filed 8–11–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 206

RIN 1010–AC59

Valuation of Federal Geothermal Resources

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Withdrawal of advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: MMS withdraws its August 19, 1999, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Advance Notice) regarding the valuation of Federal geothermal resources. After further analysis, we conclude that the concerns that prompted the Advance Notice can be satisfactorily addressed using alternative valuation methods available in existing regulations. This notice terminates the geothermal rulemaking process initiated by the Advance Notice.

DATES: The advance notice of proposed rulemaking is withdrawn as of August 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Brook, Royalty Valuation Division, MMS; telephone, (303) 275–7250; E-mail, Charles.Brook@mms.gov; mailing address, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Valuation Division, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3153, Denver, Colorado 80225–0165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MMS published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 1999 (64 FR 45213), requesting public comments on new methods of valuing, for royalty purposes, Federal geothermal resources that are not subject to a sales transaction (the ''no-sales'' resources). MMS took this action in response to concerns raised by several California congressional representatives and their constituent county governments over declining royalties. The concerns centered around the use of the netback procedure to value no-sales electrical generation resources. MMS also solicited comments on valuation standards for direct-use resources.

The comment period on the Advance Notice closed on October 18, 1999. MMS also held a public workshop on October 7, 1999 (64 FR 50026), and met with several industry representatives on December 7, 1999.

MMS received written comments from 20 respondents, including representatives of States, county governments, and industry; members of a municipal utility; and a Member of Congress. All of the comments focused on the valuation of electrical generation resources. Fourteen of the 20 respondents—all of the industry representatives, the members of the municipal utility, a Member of Congress, and a State representative—commented on the existing netback valuation procedure. The remaining 6 respondents commented on other geothermal valuation procedures. MMS received no comments on the valuation of direct-use resources.

The comments did not reveal a preferred valuation method for no-sales resources. In general, advocates of one valuation method found fault with, or were fundamentally opposed to, other methods. Some respondents also questioned the merits of the rulemaking, stating that MMS had not fully presented its reasons for the new valuation rules.

Based on the comments received, both written and verbal, the impact of declining royalties appears to affect only a few county governments and geothermal lessees operating within those counties. Both MMS and the lessees involved have taken steps to mitigate this impact by exploring alternative valuation methods within the existing regulatory structure. These efforts are proving successful and are satisfying the concerns of the affected county governments and Members of Congress. Accordingly, MMS believes it is no longer necessary to pursue a rulemaking for geothermal valuation and withdraws its August 19, 1999, Advance Notice.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 00–20815 Filed 8–15–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 70

[CO–001b; FRL–6851–2]

Clean Air Act Proposed Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; Approval of Expansion of State Program Under Section 112(l); State of Colorado

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing to approve the operating permit program submitted by the State of Colorado. Colorado's program was submitted for the purpose of meeting the Federal Clean Air Act directive that States develop, and submit to EPA, programs for issuing operating permits to all major stationary sources and to certain other sources within the State's jurisdiction.

In the ''Rules and Regulations'' section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is promulgating full approval of the Colorado program as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the state is currently running the program and the Agency views this as a noncontroversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the preamble to the direct final rule.

In addition, EPA is also approving the expansion of Colorado's program for receiving delegation of section 112

standards to include non-part 70 sources. If no adverse comments are received in response to this rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action must do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before September 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be mailed to: Richard R. Long, Director, Air and Radiation Program, Mail Code 8P–AR, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the above address. Copies of the State documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection at the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Air Quality Control Division, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive S., Denver, CO 80222–1530.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Reisbeck, EPA, Region VIII, (303) 312–6435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final notice of the same title which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401, *et seq.*

Dated: August 4, 2000.

Jack W. McGraw,

Regional Administrator, Region 8.

[FR Doc. 00–20724 Filed 8–15–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Notice of Finding on a Petition to Include Over 2,500 Foreign Species in the List of Threatened and Endangered Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announce a 90-day finding for a petition to list over 2,500 foreign species as threatened and endangered. Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The petitioner did not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the listing of over 2,500 foreign species may be warranted.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on August 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Data, information, comments or questions concerning this petition should be sent to the Office of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail Stop ARLSQ–750, Washington, D.C. 20240. The petition finding, and comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Lieberman, at the above address (phone: 703–358–1708; fax: 703–358–2276; e-mail: *r9osa@fws.gov.*)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Act, requires that we make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding is based upon all information submitted with and referenced in the petition and all other information available to us at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days following receipt of the petition, and promptly published in the **Federal Register**. If the finding is positive, section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires us to promptly commence a review of the status of the species and to disclose our findings within 12 months.

We have made a 90-day finding on a petition to list over 2,500 foreign species as endangered or threatened under the Act. We received the petition from PEER, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, on May 21, 1997. PEER included a copy of the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals with the petition as the only supporting documentation to substantiate the petition.

PEER requested that we list all foreign species, subspecies, and distinct vertebrate populations that are classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Conservation Dependent, or Near Threatened in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals as endangered or threatened under ESA. This petition covers approximately 1,000 mammals, 1,000 birds, 200 reptiles, 100 amphibians, and over 500 other fish species currently not listed under the Act.

The 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals consists of lists of the species that are considered Threatened; of Lower Risk: Conservation Dependent; of Lower Risk: Near Threatened; and Extinct/Extinct in the Wild. The list includes, for each species its scientific name, common name (if known), the range countries, and an IUCN criteria code. The IUCN criteria code value is based on an evaluation of five criteria established by the IUCN. The code provides a general idea of the status of a species, but does not provide specific information. The IUCN criteria do not provide sufficient information to address the five factors that we must consider under the Act. Especially omitted from the IUCN information is an assessment of the threats to the species' survival, such as the likelihood of various factors (such as habitat changes or disease) to effect the survival of the species.

In addition, the list does not provide the references or data on which IUCN bases the code for each species. As stated on page Intro15, individuals, groups of individuals, active Specialist Groups, or other non-government organizations that are knowledgeable about the species assessed the code values. In many cases, one individual may have made the assessment based on limited data or information without peer review. Given the sheer volume of species and subspecies listed, it was not feasible to include how the assessment was made or how much data is available to make the assessment. This book does not provide substantial information to determine if further investigation is warranted.

We agree that there may be species listed in the book that meet the criteria established for listing under the Act, but the information is not available to assess which species would warrant further analysis. That information is also not readily available in our files for the more than 2,500 species involved. In order for us to make a positive 90-day finding, the petitioner must provide enough information to warrant further investigation on each species covered by the petition (50 CFR 424.14(b)) . We are currently evaluating our process for determining which foreign species would most critically warrant listing under the Act.

When evaluating petitions for listing of species under the Act, a ''not-substantial information'' finding is made when a petitioner does not