

West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508) 281-9250; fax (508) 281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Simona Roberts, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-227).

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center seeks permission to conduct research on seven species of baleen whales, twenty species of odontocetes and four species of pinnipeds. The study area would include all waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, including international waters, from the equator to latitude 80 degrees N except for territorial waters of other nations. The principal purpose of the research, for all species, relates to stock assessment (notably, but not limited to, estimation of abundance and determination of population structure); this is an activity for which NMFS has primary responsibility under the MMPA. Aerial surveys for right whales will be flown at a minimum altitude of 500 feet for the purpose of stock assessment as well to alert mariners of their presence. Types of take include potential harassment through approach (shipboard /aerial), biopsy sampling, acoustic sampling, tagging, and (for pinnipeds) tag/release. Permission is also sought to import and export material (including soft and hard tissue, blood, extracted DNA, and whole dead animals or parts thereof) to and from any country.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should

set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: October 23, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-27699 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-22 -S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101700G]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on November 14-15, 2000. The Council will convene on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. through Wednesday, November 15, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, approximately.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino, 25 Estate Turnerhole, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 102nd regular public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

Call to Order
Adoption of Agenda
Consideration of 101st Council Meeting Summary Minutes
Executive Director's Report

Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Final Action

- Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)/Advisory Panel (AP) Minutes
- Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Report
- Queen Conch FMP Final Action*
- Continuation of Discussion of Management Measures
- Honduras-Jamaica Meeting Report
- Essential Fish Habitat*
- Habitat AP Meeting Minutes
- Other Business*
- AP Membership

Next Council Meeting

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 20, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-27700 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Pine Hills Casino and Resort, Located in Harrison County, Mississippi

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to address the potential impacts associated with the construction of the proposed Pine Hills Casino and Resort located on the Bay of St. Louis, in Harrison County, Mississippi. The Corps will be evaluating a permit application for the work under the authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The EIS will be used as a basis for the permit decision and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and the DEIS should be addressed to Mr. John McFadyen, Regulatory Branch, phone (334) 690-3261, or Dr. Susan Ivester Rees, Coastal Environment Team, phone (334) 694-4141, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The permit applicant is proposing to construct a casino development on the northern shore of the Bay of St. Louis consisting of the following: A casino mooring facility consisting of breasting dolphins and a 520-foot-long by 330-foot-wide low water sediment control structure. The control structure will consist of 1,250 linear feet of sheet pile and a water aeration system. The 3.9-acre basin within the control structure will be mechanically excavated to minus 7.0 feet, mean low water. The 32,000 cubic yards of excavated material will be deposited at a 15-acre upland disposal site. A 500-foot-long by 300-foot-wide casino barge will be moored in the basin. A 450-foot-long bulkhead will be installed along the shoreline fronting the casino. A 700-foot-long by 8-foot-wide pier and 24-inch diameter water intake/transmission line will be constructed east of the casino. Related upland development includes a 30 story, 1,400-room hotel; an access road from the Interstate Highway 10 Kiln-DeLisle exit; parking facilities for 3,500 vehicles; stormwater detention ponds; and three entrance road bridges spanning non-tidal wetlands. Water and sewer facilities will be constructed by Pine Hills Development Partnership and turned over to Harrison County for operation and maintenance. The proposed project will result in the dredging of approximately 3.2 acres of shallow water bottoms for the casino mooring basin. Approximately 0.033 acre of marsh vegetation at the casino basin site

has been relocated to an adjacent 0.1 acre site. No other wetlands or "special aquatic sites" will be excavated or filled. Upland development associated with the project will cover up to 63 acres of primarily pine plantation.

2. Alternatives to the applicant's proposal may exist which would reduce the impacts to the Bay of St. Louis. These could include alternate sites, or alternative sites layouts, or alternative operational methods.

3. *Scoping:* a. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the proposal. All Federal, State, and local agencies, and other persons or organizations that have an interest are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. A public meeting will be held to help identify significant issues and to receive public input and comment.

b. The DEIS will analyze the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts to the local area resulting from the proposed project. Specifically, the following major issues will be analyzed in depth in the DEIS: hydrologic and hydraulic regimes, essential fish habitat and other marine habitat, air quality, cultural resources, wastewater treatment capacities and discharges, transportation systems, alternatives, secondary and cumulative impacts, socioeconomic, environmental justice (effect on minorities and low-income groups), and protection of children (Executive Order 13045).

c. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the DEIS. It is anticipated that the following agencies will be invited and will accept cooperating agency status for the preparation of the DEIS: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Commerce—National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration.

4. The scoping meeting will be held on November 21, 2000 at the DeLisle Elementary School in DeLisle, Mississippi beginning at 6:30 p.m.

5. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be made available for public review in summer 2001.

Ronald A. Krizman,

Chief, Regulatory Branch.

[FR Doc. 00-27647 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-CR-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01-38-000]

Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

October 23, 2000.

Take notice that on October 11, 2000, Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG), tendered for filing a letter stating that CIG believes it is currently in full compliance with Section 284.12(c)(2)(ii) of the Commission's regulations. Order No. 587-L requires pipelines to be in compliance with this regulation by November 1, 2000, to permit shippers to offset imbalances on different contracts held by the shipper and to trade imbalances.

CIG further states that copies of this filing have been served on CIG's jurisdictional customers and public bodies.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Davis P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-27622 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP95-409-010]

Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Compliance Filing

October 23, 2000.

Take notice that on October 16, 2000, Northwest Pipeline Corporation