

Federal law only with the concurrence of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing or the Assistant Secretary's designee.

**Authority:** Section 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: September 9, 2003.

**Michael Liu,**

*Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

[FR Doc. 03-23882 Filed 9-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-930-1430-ET; COC-59980]

#### **Public Land Order No. 7582; Withdrawal of Public Land and Reserved Federal Mineral Interest for the Rio Blanco Project Site; Colorado**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Public Land Order.

**SUMMARY:** This order withdraws 200 acres of public land from surface entry and mining and 160 acres of reserved Federal mineral interest from mining, for the Department of Energy for a 50-year period to protect the public from subsurface contamination at the Rio Blanco Project Site.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 18, 2003.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Doris E. Chelius, BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093, 303-239-3706.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The land will remain open to mineral leasing, subject to approval by the Department of Energy.

#### **Order**

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described land is hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, and entry under the public land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (2000)), but not the mineral leasing laws, to protect the public from subsurface contamination at the Department of Energy Rio Blanco Project Site:

#### **Sixth Principal Meridian**

T. 3 S., R. 98 W.,  
sec. 10, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 14, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 200 acres in Rio Blanco County.

2. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described reserved Federal mineral interest is withdrawn from location and entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (2000)), but not the mineral leasing laws, to protect the public from subsurface contamination at the Department of Energy Rio Blanco Project Site:

#### **Sixth Principal Meridian**

T. 3 S., R. 98 W.,

sec. 11, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 14, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 160 acres in Rio Blanco County.

3. The Bureau of Land Management will maintain jurisdiction over surface management of the land described in Paragraph 1.

4. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this order, unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1994), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: September 3, 2003.

**Rebecca W. Watson,**

*Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-23827 Filed 9-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1430-JB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### **Delegation to States, State of Alaska**

**ACTION:** Solicitation of comments.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Alaska has requested a delegation of audit and investigation authority from the Minerals Management Service (MMS). This Notice gives the public an opportunity to review and comment on the State's proposal, which is posted on our Web site at [http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws\\_R\\_D/FRNotices/FRNotices.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/FRNotices/FRNotices.htm).

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before October 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Address your comments and suggestions regarding this proposal to Sharron L. Gebhardt, Regulatory Specialist by one of the following:

- Regular U.S. mail: Center for Excellence, Minerals Revenue

Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or

- Overnight mail or courier: Attn: Sharron L. Gebhardt, 303-231-3211, Center for Excellence, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, Building 85, Room A614, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or

- Email: [MRM.comments@mms.gov](mailto:MRM.comments@mms.gov). Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Also, please include "Attn: Delegation to States, State of Alaska; Solicitation of Comments" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your Internet message, call the contact person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Sharron L. Gebhardt at telephone (303) 231.3211, fax (303) 231.3781, email [sharron.gebhardt@mms.gov](mailto:sharron.gebhardt@mms.gov), or P.O. Box 25165, MS320B2, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Introduction:* The Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage mineral resources production on Federal and Indian lands; collect the royalties due; perform audits, inspections, and investigations related to mineral royalties; and distribute the funds in accordance with those laws. MMS performs the royalty management functions and assists the Secretary in carrying out DOI's Indian trust responsibility.

The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA), 30 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and specifically section 205 of FOGRMA, 30 U.S.C. 1735 provide for the delegation of audits, inspections, and investigations to States.

The State of Alaska proposes to conduct audits and investigations for producing Federal oil and gas leases within the State, for producing Federal oil and gas leases in the Outer Continental Shelf subject to revenue sharing under 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1337 (g), and for other producing solid mineral or geothermal Federal leases within the State. The State requests 100 percent funding of the delegated functions for a 3-year period. We anticipate beginning on October 1, 2003, with an option to extend for an additional 3-year period.

*Background:* The State of Alaska had a cooperative agreement with MMS