DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Moapa Cement Plant, Limestone Quarry and Associated Facilities, Moapa Indian Reservation, Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in cooperation with the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians (Tribe), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and Ash Grove Cement Company (Ash Grove), will be gathering information needed for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and permits that may be issued by individual regulatory agencies. The information included in the EIS will be used to support the approval of multiple leases, right-of-way easements, special use permits, and/or other agreements between the Tribe and Ash Grove for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a proposed cement plant, a limestone quarry, other raw material extraction site(s) and infrastructure on the Moapa River Indian Reservation (Reservation) in Clark County, Nevada. The purpose and need for this proposed project is to provide an economic development opportunity for the Tribe, to provide a new source of cement in the southwestern United States, and to address the growing demand for cement in the United States. This notice also announces public scoping meetings to identify potential issues and alternatives for inclusion in the EIS.

DATES: Written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposed project must arrive by March 23, 2005. The public scoping meetings will be held March 9 and 10, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, hand carry or telefax written comments to (1) Amy L. Heuslein, Regional Environmental Protection Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, Arizona 85001, 400 North Fifth Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, Telefax (602) 379–3833; or (2) Kellie Youngbear, Agency Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Paiute Agency, 180 North 200 East, St. George, Utah 84771, Telefax (435) 674–9714.

The March 9, 2005, public scoping meeting will be held at the Moapa Tribal Hall, Number 1 Lincoln Street, Moapa River Indian Reservation, Moapa, Nevada. The March 10, 2005, meeting will be held at the BLM Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Heuslein, (602) 379–6750, or Paul Schlafly, (435) 674–9720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the environmental consequences of BIA, BLM, EPA, ACOE and Tribal approval of the proposed long-term leases, right-of-way easements, special use permits and/or other agreements collectively involved in the development of a maximum of 2,200 acres of Reservation lands, encompassing all of the proposed project components described below. The proposed project area is located in the southern portion of the Reservation, in Township 16 South, Range 64 East and Township 16 South, Range 65 East in Clark County, approximately 35 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. Ash Grove intends to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed project on the Reservation for a period of 75 years.

The proposed cement plant would be constructed within a footprint encompassing approximately 160 acres (“plant site”), and have a production capacity of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 million tons of cement per year. Components of the cement production process include a quarry, grinding mills, unloading and storage areas, a kiln feed system, a 500 foot tall pre-heater tower, and a clinker and cement cooling system. A core building on the proposed plant site would include a control room, offices, maintenance shops and an equipment fueling station. The proposed quarry location would include a small office, a maintenance shop building and an equipment fueling station.

Fuel for plant components would principally be coal, possibly augmented by natural gas, oil/used oil, tire derived fuel and/or petroleum coke. Fuel would be shipped to the site via rail or truck. Natural gas would be supplied by buried pipeline from the existing Kern River Gas transmission pipeline, which is located in the Utility Right-of-Way through the Reservation. Coal, liquid fuels, raw materials, in-process materials and final product would be stored on the proposed plant site in silos, aboveground storage tanks or other enclosed structures. Electricity for the plant would be supplied by an overhead power line that would be constructed from either the Crystal Substation located approximately one-half mile to the south of the Reservation boundary, the Tortoise Substation located near the Reid Gardner power plant, or other source(s).

A total of approximately 500 acre-feet per year of water would be used in the manufacturing process and for dust control in the proposed project. The water would be supplied from the Tribe’s groundwater or surface water rights, or if sufficient tribal water is not available, acquired from yet to be identified non-tribal sources off of the Reservation. Water would be transported by construction of a new pipeline to the proposed plant site, quarry, and/or other locations as required for dust control, and stored in aboveground tanks.

A new paved service road and railroad underpass would be constructed to provide access from the plant site to one of three Interstate 15 interchanges: the Crystal—Interstate 15 Interchange; the Apex—Interstate 15 Interchange; or the Ute—Interstate 15 Interchange. A railroad siding and loop track would be constructed to provide access to the Union Pacific railroad line. The various Portland cement products manufactured in this proposed plant would be loaded in trucks and rail cars on the plant site for shipment to customers via Interstate 15 and the Union Pacific Railroad.

The quarry where drilling and blasting for limestone would occur would be developed in the Arrow Canyon Range on Reservation lands, involving approximately 1.300 acres in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Township 16 South, Range 64 East. The quarried limestone would be crushed and delivered to the proposed cement plant site by belt conveyor, where it would be stored in an enclosed structure. Other additives or materials used in the cement manufacturing process would be delivered to the proposed plant site by truck or railroad and stored in enclosed structures. These materials mainly include coal, iron, silica, clay, alumina source and gypsum. Some additives or materials may be extracted from areas located on the Reservation, but if so, would be subject to separate leases or special use permits.

The proposed cement plant is expected to generate limited amounts of hazardous waste per month from maintenance and laboratory activity, thus would be classified as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator. Any hazardous wastes generated would be inventoried and disposed of appropriately. An approved off-reservation hazardous waste recycling or disposal facility in
this and in all other respects, the proposed cement plant project would
meet or exceed all federal, state and/or
tribal criteria under applicable law.

Significant issues to be addressed in
the EIS include, but are not limited to
air quality, geology and soils, surface
and groundwater resources, biological
resources including threatened and
endangered species, cultural resources,
socioeconomic conditions, land use,
aesthetics or visual resources,
environmental justice, and Indian trust
resources. The range of issues and
alternatives to be addressed in the EIS
may be expanded or reduced, based on
comments received in response to this
notice and at the public scoping
meetings.

Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and
addresses of respondents, will be
available for public review at the BIA
address shown in the ADDRESSES
section, during business hours, 8 a.m. to
4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday,
extcept holidays. Individual respondents
may request confidentiality. If you wish
us to withhold your name and/or
address from public review or from
disclosure under the Freedom of
Information Act, you must state this
prominently at the beginning of your
written comment. Such requests will be
honored to the extent allowed by the
law. We will not, however, consider
anonymous comments. All submissions
from organizations or businesses, and
from individuals identifying themselves
as representatives or officials of
organizations or businesses, will be
made available for public inspection in
their entirety.

Authority

This notice is published in
accordance with section 1503.1 of the
Council of Environmental Quality
Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through
1508) implementing the procedural
requirements of the National
Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as
amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.),
Department of the Interior Manual (516
DM 1–6), and is in the exercise of
authority delegated to the Principal
Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian
Affairs by 209 DM 8.1.


Michael D. Olsen,
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—
Indian Affairs.

BILLING CODE 4310–W7–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal—
State Class III Gaming Compact.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the
approval of the Tribal—State Compact
between the Winnemago Tribe of
Nebraska and the State of Iowa.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
George T. Skibine, Director, Office of
Indian Gaming Management, Office of the
Deputy Assistant Secretary—Policy and
Economic Development, Washington,
DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under
Section 11 of the Indian Gaming
Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public
Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the
Secretary of the Interior shall publish in
the Federal Register notice of approved
Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of
engaging in Class III gaming activities
on Indian lands. This Compact
authorizes gaming conducted in
accordance with IGRA and Iowa State
law and clarifies the regulatory scheme.

Dated: February 9, 2005.

Michael D. Olsen,
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—
Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 05–3227 Filed 2–18–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO–100–04–1990–00]

Emergency Route Restriction Order
Within the Upper Hughes Creek
Allotment (#4410), Moffat County, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of emergency closure.

SUMMARY: This order closes two
unauthorized construction routes on
public lands to motorized use in the
areas within the Upper Hughes Creek
Allotment, Moffat County, Colorado.
This order does not modify the current
Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) classification of “open” in this area. The
order is an emergency measure that
prohibits the use of any motorized
wheeled vehicle on the identified
routes.


ADDRESSES: Maps of the trespass roads
will be available at the Little Snake
Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig,
Colorado.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John
E. Husband, Field Manager, Little Snake
Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig,
Colorado 81625; Telephone (970) 826–
5000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This order is issued under the authority of 43 CFR
8341.2, 43 CFR 8364.1, and 43 CFR
9268.3(d)(1) as an emergency measure.
This action qualifies as a Categorical
Exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix
5.4, Number: _G_(3) and has been
considered in Categorical Exclusion
CO–100–2005–001CX, which was
signed on December 9, 2004. Further
investigation is proceeding and plans
for reclamation of damaged resources
are being developed.

This order affects public lands in
Moffat County, Colorado, thus
described:

(1) Public Lands within: T.4N.,
R.96W., Sections 15 and 22, Sixth
Principal Meridian;

(2) Approximately: 3 acres of public
lands.

This restriction order shall be
effective on February 22, 2005, and shall
remain in effect until resource
reclamation objectives have been
achieved and the order is then
rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

During the summer of 2004, an
unknown person used heavy
construction equipment to widen an
existing trail and build a new route on
public lands that accommodates full
size pickup truck vehicle use. Use of
these routes by wheeled motorized
vehicles has the potential to cause
considerable adverse effects to soil,
water, and cultural resources.

The designated area affected by this
order will be posted with appropriate
regulatory signs. Persons who are
exempt from restriction contained in
this notice include:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officers
engaged in fire, emergency, and law
enforcement activities.

2. Persons or agencies holding a
special use permit or right-of-way for
access to exercise their permit within
the restricted area, for purposes related
to access for maintenance and operation
of authorized facilities, and provided
such motorized use is limited to the
routes specifically identified in the
special use permit or right-of-way.

3. Grazing permittees holding a valid
grazing permit for the restricted area.

Such permittees will contact the
Authorized Officer, when possible, prior
to motorized vehicle use of the route(s)