

990.185(a) states that the contract period shall not exceed 12 years.

*Granted By:* Orlando J. Cabrera, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

*Date Granted:* November 13, 2007.

*Reason Waived:* The LCHA advised that it is undertaking a self-developed energy project, acting as an Energy Services company, and hired a qualified third party consultant to provide energy management expertise. LCHA anticipated that recommendations arising from its energy audit would incorporate a selection of energy conservation measures whose life cycle expectations and costs would exceed the 12-year regulatory limitation in 24 CFR 990.185(a). The LCHA anticipated that the selection of retrofits would be capable of generating adequate savings to amortize the resulting debt within the approved period of the energy performance contract. Based upon the anticipated savings and benefits to NHA and its residents, the waiver granted the LCHA the 12-year payback period to allow up to a 20-year payback period, contingent on HUD's provisions to LCHA.

HUD's provisions include additional information and technical activity requirements unique to the characteristics of the project and the PHA. The purpose of the provisions is to ensure success, minimizing risk to projected savings (used to amortize the loan) and to HUD. The PHA must comply with all of HUD's provisions for the waiver to be effective. The HUD provisions include, but are not limited to information requirements necessary for the local field office to monitor savings over the life of the loan, and procurement requirement to ensure fair and open competition. The HUD provisions are also a direct response to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) concern related to the higher risk levels associated with a 20-year versus the previous limit of 12 years. HUD, through these provisions, provides individual assessments and requirements of each project and waiver requesting an extension to 20-contract years to minimize risk and ensure that approval of the waiver is in the best interest of the PHA, HUD and the public.

*Contact:* Nicole Faison, Director, Office of Public Housing Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4226, Washington, DC 20410-5000, telephone (202) 708-0744.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Central Utah Project Completion Act

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, Office of the Assistant Secretary—Water and Science (Interior).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Implementation of a Conjunctive Use Water Efficiency project in Eastern Juab County, Utah

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, as Joint Leads, will prepare an Environmental Assessment of the impacts associated with implementation of a Conjunctive Use Water Efficiency project in East Juab County, Utah.

This project anticipates the rehabilitation of several existing wells, as well as the potential development of additional groundwater wells, in order to more efficiently utilize existing ground-water supplies in conjunction with existing surface water supplies.

The project further anticipates implementation of additional centralized or distributed booster pump capability, extension of associated distribution system pipelines and overhead power lines, and development and implementation of a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

Also anticipated is the construction of a bypass pipeline along a segment of existing irrigation canal to reduce loss of water during the late irrigation season period of water shortage and perforated infiltration pipelines to recharge water to the groundwater basin at other times.

**DATES:** Date and location for public scoping will be announced locally.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project was authorized to develop central Utah's water resources. Both the 1987 Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Municipal and Industrial System, Bonneville Unit, Central Utah Project (FEIS) and the 2004 Supplement to the 1988 Definite Plan Report for the Bonneville Unit (DPR) anticipated additional water development in East Juab County. Under the authority of Section 202 of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (P.L. 102-575), the Secretary of the Interior oversees Bonneville Unit water development, and specifically has authority to provide cost share associated with Conjunctive Use investigations and projects.

*Information, Comments, and Inquiries:* Additional information on matters related to this notice can be obtained from: Mr. Lee G. Baxter, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606, (801) 379-1174, [lbaxter@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:lbaxter@uc.usbr.gov).

Dated: March 17, 2008.

**Reed R. Murray,**

*Program Director, Department of the Interior.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-R-2008-N0065; 40136-1265-0000-S3]

#### Upper Ouachita and Handy Brake National Wildlife Refuges and the Louisiana Wetlands Management District

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Upper Ouachita and Handy Brake National Wildlife Refuges and the Louisiana Wetlands Management District.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Upper Ouachita and Handy Brake National Wildlife Refuges and the Louisiana Wetlands Management District in Morehouse, Union, Richland, East Carroll, West Carroll, Natchitoches, and Grant Parishes, Louisiana, is available for distribution. This Draft CCP/EA was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Draft CCP/EA describes the Service's proposal for management of these refuges and the wetlands management district over the next 15 years.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received at the postal address listed below no later than April 21, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** To provide written comments or to obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EA please write to: Ms. Tina Chouinard, Refuge Planner, North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 11372 Highway 143, Farmerville, Louisiana 71241; Telephone: 318/305-0643. The Draft CCP/EA may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Web Site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.