Reservation, resulting from severe storms and flooding during the period of June 15 to July 30, 2010, is of sufficient severity and magnitude that special conditions are warranted regarding the cost-sharing arrangements concerning Federal funds provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5207 (the Stafford Act).

Therefore, I amend my declaration of July 10, 2010, to authorize Federal funds for Public Assistance at 100 percent Federal funding of total eligible costs, solely for the Rocky Boy’s Reservation.

This adjustment to the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy’s Reservations cost sharing applies only to Public Assistance costs eligible for such adjustments under applicable law. The Stafford Act prohibits a similar adjustment for funds provided under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Section 404). These funds will continue to be reimbursed at 75 percent of total eligible costs.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households in Presidential Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidential Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidential Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.053, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.059, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

W. Craig Fugate,
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Geological Survey
Public Review of Draft Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard

ACTION: Notice; request for comments on draft Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard.

SUMMARY: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is conducting a public review of the draft Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS). CMECS provides a means of classifying ecological and habitat units using a common terminology. It provides a uniform protocol for identifying, characterizing and naming ecological units in support of monitoring, management, and restoration of unique biotic assemblages, protected species, critical habitat, and important ecosystem components. The FGDC Coastal and Marine Spatial Data Subcommittee, chaired by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), developed this draft standard. The FGDC Coordination Group, comprised of representatives of Federal agencies, approved releasing this draft standard for public review at its July 20, 2010 meeting. The FGDC invites all stakeholders in coastal and marine ecology and management to comment on this standard to ensure that the standard meets their needs.


Comments that concern specific issues/changes/additions may result in revisions to the draft Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard. Reviewers may obtain information about how comments were addressed upon request. After formal endorsement of the standard by the FGDC, the standard and a summary analysis of the changes will be made available to the public on the FGDC Web site.

DATES: Comments on the draft Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard must be submitted no later than Monday, December 13, 2010.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FGDC coordinates the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), which encompasses the policies, standards, and procedures for organizations to cooperatively produce and share geospatial data. Federal agencies that make up the FGDC develop the NSDI in cooperation with organizations from State, local and tribal governments, the academic community, and the private sector. The authority for the FGDC is OMB Circular No. A–16 Revised on Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities (Revised August 19, 2002). More information on the FGDC and the NSDI is available at http://www.fgdc.gov. Standards are a foundational component of the NSDI.

The Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) is a framework for organizing scientific information about the marine and coastal environments of the United States. It was developed to provide a common language that facilitates standardization of information in
support of conservation and management efforts and is applicable locally, regionally and nationally. The standard builds on and integrates with existing classification standards. The CMECS domain extends from the coastal tidal splash zone to the deep ocean, including all substrate and water column features of the oceans as well as the deep waters of the Great Lakes.

CMECS describes the defining features of individual habitats via five component classifications. The surface geology component describes the geological composition of surface and near-surface substrates including biogenic structures. The benthic biotic component is a hierarchical classification of the biological composition of coastal and marine benthos. The sub-benthic component classifies characteristics of the sediments and soils below the surface providing detailed information on the composition of the sediment column. The geoform component describes the major geomorphic and structural characteristics of the coasts, islands and the seafloor. The water column component defines and organizes the structure, characteristics and processes of the water column and associated biota. A comprehensive set of modifiers allows the inclusion of additional information on environmental, structural, physical, chemical and biotic features in addition to required elements of the classification. Each component can be used and mapped independently or combined as needed to address specific questions or applications. The proposed standard was developed to be technology- and scale-neutral; users may choose the operational scale and level of detail suited for their purpose. CMECS is a dynamic content standard that will allow additional types and refinement of the classification with improvements in technology and information.

Ivan DeLoatch,
FGDC Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 2010–20851 Filed 8–20–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4311–MM–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Development Activities on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in cooperation with the Ute Indian Tribe, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Utah, and Duchesne County, intends to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates proposed oil and gas development activities on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Reservation), Utah. The Proposed Action consists of drilling up to 4,899 oil and/or natural gas wells over the next 15 years, with a life-of-project of 40 years. In addition to well pad development, linear developments would include roads, pipelines, and power lines. The Proposed Action would also include the development of ancillary facilities such as compressor stations, water treatment facilities, and storage areas. This notice also announces public scoping meetings that will be held to identify potential issues and alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

DATES: The dates of the public scoping meetings will be included in notices posted in the Vernal Express, Basin Standard, and Salt Lake Tribune, 15 days prior to the meeting. Written comments on the scope of the EIS or implementation of the proposal must arrive within 30 days following the public scoping meeting.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand carry written comments to Buckey Secakuku, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Uintah and Ouray Agency, 988 South 7500 East, P.O. Box 130, Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026; telephone: (435) 722–4331; e-mail: Ute.Tribe.EIS@buysandassociates.com. The locations of the public scoping meetings will be included in notices posted in the Vernal Express, Basin Standard, and Salt Lake Tribune, 15 days prior to the meeting. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for instructions for submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Manuel Moyre, Acting Energy Minerals Director, Ute Indian Tribe, Energy and Minerals Department, 988 South 7500 East Annex Building, P.O. Box 70, Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026; telephone: (435) 725–4967; e-mail: ManuelM@utetribe.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The goals of this EIS are to provide agency decision makers, the Ute Tribe, and the general public with a comprehensive analysis and understanding of oil and gas development alternatives on the Reservation, and their existing and potential future impacts; to provide a better understanding of the cumulative impacts of increased development on the Reservation; to identify and propose mitigation measures that would minimize or prevent significant adverse impacts; to provide a programmatic National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document from which to tier future site-specific environmental analyses of oil and gas development proposals; and to provide a framework for approval of oil and gas operations for the next 15 years.

This EIS analyzes oil and gas development strategies on the Reservation over the next 15 years. For the purposes of this EIS the “Analysis Area” will include a total of 1,886,770 acres. This acreage includes a non-congruent combination of Tribal surface (1,064,570 acres) and estate (873,540 acres) that intermittently overlap across the Reservation.

The Proposed Action consists of drilling up to 4,899 oil and/or natural gas wells over the next 15 years, with a life-of-project of 40 years. Approximately 10 percent of the wells would be drilled on existing pads. Economic conditions and the evaluation of the drilling results would determine the actual number of wells that would be drilled. In addition to well pad development, linear developments would include roads, pipelines, and power lines. Surface disturbance would also occur as a result of development of ancillary facilities such as compressor stations, water treatment facilities, and storage areas. Initial disturbance from construction of these components is estimated to be approximately 23,254 acres.

The purpose for the activities proposed in this EIS is to economically extract, in an efficient and environmentally compatible manner, the oil and gas resources known to exist in mineral estates held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe and individual Indians. The action is proposed to meet the Ute Indian Tribe’s need to maximize their economic benefit from this trust source. The BIA will have authority over decisions regarding the EIS and these decisions will be documented in a Record of Decision. Cooperating agencies will provide expertise and data for their resources of interest and will aid in the development of alternatives and mitigation measures that will minimize or prevent significant adverse impacts.