

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Minerals Management Service****Extension of Post-Sale Evaluation Period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 166**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice to Extend Post-Sale Evaluation Period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 166.

**SUMMARY:** This notice extends by 45 days, the post-sale evaluation period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 166. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will complete evaluating all the bids received in this sale by July 18, 1997. This action is necessary due to the unusually high number of bids received in response to this lease sale.

**DATES:** The post-sale evaluation period ends on July 18, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Lore, Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation, Gulf of Mexico Region, telephone (504) 736-2710.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 166, held March 5, 1997, we received 1,790 bids on 1,032 tracts, 799 of which passed to a second phase required for detailed evaluations. This unprecedented response by industry in Sale 166 resulted from the enactment of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (Pub. L. 104-58) and other factors, such as higher natural gas and oil prices. Consequently, MMS is unable to conduct and complete the entire bid review process within the 90 days, i.e., by June 3, 1997. Under provisions of § 256.47(e)(2), MMS is extending the bid evaluation period until July 18, 1997.

Dated: May 22, 1997.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 97-14144 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement****Draft Environmental Impact Statement, OSM-EIS-29**

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Extension of Comment Period of Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** On January 31, 1997, (62 FR 4759), the Environmental Protection

Agency made available for public comment an Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the potential impacts to the permanent program regulations implementing and interpreting section 522(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). As a result of requests received, OSM is extending the comment period for the DEIS.

**DATES: Electronic or written comments:** OSM will accept electronic or written comments on the DEIS until 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

**ADDRESSES: Electronic or written comments:** Submit electronic comments to [osmrules@osmre.gov](mailto:osmrules@osmre.gov). Mail written comments to the Administrative Record, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20240 or hand-deliver to Room 117 at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andy DeVito, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; Telephone (202) 208-2701; E-Mail: [adevito@osmre.gov](mailto:adevito@osmre.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 31, 1997 (62 FR 4759), OSM made available for public comment a DEIS analyzing the impact of two proposed rules and the alternatives under consideration, dealing with the interpretation and implementation of section 522(e) of SMCRA. Both proposed rules were published on January 31, 1997 (62 FR 4836-72). The first rule, RIN 1029-AB42, would amend OSM's regulations to redefine the circumstances under which a person has valid existing rights to conduct surface coal mining operations in areas where such operations are otherwise prohibited by section 522(e) of SMCRA. The second rule, RIN 1029-AB82, is a proposed interpretative rulemaking to address the question of whether subsidence due to underground mining is a surface coal mining operation and thus prohibited in areas enumerated in section 522(e) of SMCRA.

The comment period was scheduled to close on June 2, 1997. In order to accommodate several requests for an extension of the public comment period, OSM is extending the comment period until 5 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

Under separate **Federal Register** Notice the public comment period for the proposed rules and draft economic

analysis is also being extended until 5 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

Dated: May 27, 1997.

**Mary Josie Blanchard,**

*Assistant Director, Program Support.*

[FR Doc. 97-14163 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Drug Enforcement Administration****Greer H. Ricketson, M.D.; Revocation of Registration**

On December 19, 1996, the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued an Order to Show Cause to Greer H. Ricketson, M.D., of Alexandria, Louisiana, notifying him of an opportunity to show cause as to why DEA should not revoke his DEA Certificate of Registration, BR4331067, under 21 U.S.C. 824(a), and deny any pending applications for registration pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823(f), for reason that he is not authorized to handle controlled substances in the State of Louisiana, and his continued registration would be inconsistent with the public interest. The Order to Show Cause specifically alleged that:

"(1) During an investigation of [his] practice conducted by the Louisiana State Police, [he] wrote the following prescriptions for controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose for an undercover law enforcement officer . . . :

- a. On February 28, 1996 for Tenuate, a Schedule IV controlled substance;
  - b. On March 21, 1996 for Ionamin, a Schedule IV controlled substance;
  - c. On March 29, 1996 for Roxicet, a Schedule II controlled substance;
  - d. On April 15, 1996 for Roxicet.
- (2) On April 18, 1996, [he was] arrested for the above acts and charged with four counts of prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose and not in the course of medical practice, all in violation of Louisiana law. Trial is pending in this criminal case.

(3) Also based on [his] above conduct, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") issued a decision on October 8, 1996 that immediately revoked [his] license to practice medicine. The Board concluded, after having heard [his] testimony and that of [the undercover officer]:

It is clear that [you] made absolutely no effort to ascertain the physical condition of [the undercover officer] and that [you] prescribed controlled substances without justification and merely because [you were]

asked to do so. In so doing, [you] disregarded, not only the practical contraindications, but also the most basic tenets and ethics of our profession. [You have] convincingly demonstrated, by [your] professional conduct, and [your] conduct during the hearing, [your] unfitness for the practice of medicine.

As a result of the Board's decision, [he is] without authority to handle controlled substances in the State of Louisiana."

The Order to Show Cause also notified Dr. Ricketson that should no request for a hearing be filed within 30 days, his hearing right would be deemed waived. The DEA received a signed receipt indicating that Dr. Ricketson received the order on December 27, 1996. No request for a hearing or any other reply was received by the DEA from Dr. Ricketson or anyone purporting to represent him in this matter. Therefore, the Acting Deputy Administrator, finding that (1) 30 days have passed since the receipt of the Order to Show Cause, and (2) no request for a hearing having been received, concludes that Dr. Ricketson is deemed to have waived his hearing right. After considering the relevant material from the investigative file in this matter, the Acting Deputy Administrator now enters his final order without a hearing pursuant to 21 C.F.R. 1301.43(d) and (e) and 1301.46.

The Acting Deputy Administrator finds that on October 8, 1996, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners issued a decision immediately revoking Dr. Ricketson's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana based upon his prescribing of controlled substances to an undercover law enforcement officer without justification. The Acting Deputy Administrator finds that since Dr. Ricketson is not currently authorized to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, it is reasonable to infer that he is not authorized to handle controlled substances in that state.

The DEA does not have statutory authority under the Controlled Substances Act to issue or maintain a registration if the applicant or registrant is without state authority to handle controlled substances in the state in which he conducts his business. 21 U.S.C. 802(21), 823(f) and 824(a)(3). This prerequisite has been consistently upheld. See *Romeo J. Perez, M.D.*, 62 FR 16,193 (1997); *Demetris A. Green, M.D.*, 61 FR 60,728 (1996); *Dominick A. Ricci, M.D.*, 58 FR 51,104 (1993).

Here, it is clear that Dr. Ricketson is not currently authorized to handle controlled substances in the State of Louisiana, where he is registered with

DEA. Therefore, he is not entitled to maintain that registration. Because Dr. Ricketson is not entitled to a DEA registration in Louisiana due to his lack of state authorization to handle controlled substances, the Acting Deputy Administrator concludes that it is unnecessary to address whether Dr. Ricketson's continued registration would be inconsistent with the public interest, as alleged in the Order to Show Cause.

Accordingly, the Acting Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to the authority vested in him by 21 U.S.C. 823 and 824 and 28 CFR 0.100(b) and 0.104, hereby orders that DEA Certificate of Registration, BR4331067, be, and it hereby is, revoked. The Acting Deputy Administrator further orders that any pending applications for the renewal of such registration, be, and they hereby are, denied. This order is effective June 30, 1997.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

**James S. Milford,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 97-14113 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-09-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment Standards Administration Wage and Hour Division

#### Minimum Wages for Federal and Federally Assisted Construction; General Wage Determination Decisions

General wage determination decisions of the Secretary of Labor are issued in accordance with applicable law and are based on the information obtained by the Department of Labor from its study of local wage conditions and data made available from other sources. They specify the basic hourly wage rates and fringe benefits which are determined to be prevailing for the described classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction projects of a similar character and in the localities specified therein.

The determinations in these decisions of prevailing rates and fringe benefits have been made in accordance with 29 CFR part 1, by authority of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, as amended (46 Stat. 1494, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 276a) and of other Federal statutes referred to in 29 CFR part 1, Appendix, as well as such additional statutes as may from time to time be enacted containing provisions for the payment of wages determined to be prevailing by the Secretary of Labor in

accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The prevailing rates and fringe benefits determined these decisions shall, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing statutes, constitute the minimum wages payable on Federal and federally assisted construction projects to laborers and mechanics of the specified classes engaged on contract work of the character and in the localities described therein.

Good cause is hereby found for not utilizing notice and public comment procedure thereon prior to the issuance of these determinations as prescribed in 5 U.S.C. 553 and not providing for delay in the effective date as prescribed in that section, because the necessity to issued current construction industry wage determinations frequently and in large volume causes procedures to be impractical and contrary to the public interest.

General wage determination decisions, and modifications and supersedes decisions thereto, contain no expiration dates and are effective from their date of notice in the **Federal Register**, or on the date written notice is received by the agency, whichever is earlier. These decisions are to be used in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR parts 1 and 5. Accordingly, the applicable decisions, together with any modifications issued, must be made a part of every contract for performance of the described work within the geographic area indicated as required by an applicable Federal prevailing wage law and 29 CFR part 5. The wage rates and fringe benefits, notice of which is published herein, and which are contained in the Government Printing Office (GPO) document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under The Davis-Bacon And Related Acts," shall be the minimum paid by contractors and subcontractors to laborers and mechanics.

Any person, organization, or governmental agency having an interest in the rates determined as prevailing is encouraged to submit wage rate and fringe benefit information for consideration by the Department. Further information and self-explanatory forms for the purpose of submitting this data may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Division of Wage Determinations, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S-3014, Washington, D.C. 20210.

#### Modification to General Wage Determination Decisions

The number of decisions listed in the Government Printing Office document