

received thereafter will be considered in the order of filing.

5. At 8:30 a.m., on October 30, 1998, the lands referred to in paragraph 1 and described in paragraph 2, except as provided in paragraph 3, will be open to location under the United States mining laws.

6. At 8:30 a.m., on October 30, 1998, the lands referred to in this Notice have been and continue to be open to applications and offers under the mineral leasing laws.

Dated: September 15, 1998.

Sherrie L. Reid,

Acting Chief, Branch of Realty and Records Services.

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BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-038-7122-00-824G]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a Proposed Carbon Dioxide Well-Field Development in Arizona/New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the BLM, Socorro Field Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS by a third party contractor on the impacts of a proposed well-field development for the production of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and helium gases. The proposed St. Johns, Arizona CO₂ Project (SJAC) is located on public, State trust, and private lands in Apache County, Arizona and Catron County, New Mexico.

DATES: Public scoping meeting dates and locations will be determined in the public scoping plan to be developed by the third party contractor. The first scoping meeting may be held as early as the week of November 2, 1998, in Springerville, Arizona and other locations in the vicinity of the project area.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 198 Neel Avenue, Socorro, NM 87801, Attn: St. Johns Arizona CO₂ Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Van Dorn at the address above or by calling (505) 835-0412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SJAC project is owned by Ridgeway Arizona

Oil Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ridgeway Petroleum Corporation of Alberta, Canada. The third party contractor selection process is currently underway at time of publication. Potential issues include, but may not be limited to, air quality, social and economic impacts, ground and surface water quality, cultural, and wildlife issues.

Ridgeway Arizona first acquired State leases and drilled two exploration wells in Apache County, Arizona in 1994. Although they were looking for petroleum resources, they encountered CO₂ and helium. During 1995-1997, they continued to obtain State and then Federal leases to develop 14 more wells on State trust land in both Apache and Catron Counties, reaching a total of 10 wells in Arizona and 6 wells in New Mexico. Their Federal lease holdings now total 35,000 acres in Arizona and 90,600 in New Mexico; 134,000 acres on State trust land in Arizona and 23,900 acres on State trust land in New Mexico; and 32,200 acres on fee land in Arizona and 3,000 acres on fee land in New Mexico. Ridgeway lease acreage now totals approximately 314,000 acres. Initial development would continue for 2 to 3 years, and would include construction of a gas processing plant at the site of the Tucson Electric Power Plant within the well-field, as well as approximately 200 miles of 25 foot-wide access roads and 66 miles of 10 foot-wide spur roads. In addition, Ridgeway would construct a pipeline gathering system to be primarily buried in these roads, to serve a total of 200 wells on 640-acre spacing. Thereafter, future construction might include an additional 5 to 8 wells per year during the life of the project, or for the next 25 to 40 years. Three hundred twenty-acre well-spacing would be optional, up to a total of about 1,200 wells. No electric power lines would be required within the well field.

Ridgeway Arizona has proposed that at some point in the future a market transmission pipeline would carry pressurized CO₂ to market, either in southeast New Mexico/west Texas, or to southern California. A separate company would market the CO₂ and construct this pipeline. Although it is a strong possibility that such a transmission pipeline might parallel existing pipeline corridors crossing Arizona and New Mexico, the market destination has not been formally determined at this time. Environmental analysis will therefore include one or two possible routes, and it will be assessed in greater detail in a supplemental document.

The no-action alternative will be analyzed in the EIS. Items to be considered for analysis within other alternatives to the proposed action may include, but are not limited to: (1) construction timing restrictions, and (2) construction avoidance areas.

The BLM's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) Identification of viable alternatives and (3) Notifying interested groups, individuals and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues can be obtained.

The scoping process will consist of a news release announcing the start of the EIS; letters of invitation to participate in the scoping; and a scoping document which further clarifies the proposed action. Alternatives and significant issues being considered will be distributed to selected parties and will be available upon request.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Jon Hertz,

Assistant Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-26357 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-130-1020-00:GP8-0349]

Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District.

ACTION: Meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council; October 22, 1998, in Spokane, Washington.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council will be held on October 22, 1998. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m., at the Spokane District Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington, 99212. The meeting will adjourn upon conclusion of business, but no later than 4:00 p.m. Public comments will be heard from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. If necessary to accommodate all wishing to make public comments, a time limit may be placed upon each speaker. At an appropriate time, the meeting will adjourn for approximately one hour for lunch. Topics to be discussed include: the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, Recreation Management, and Minerals Management.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Hubbard, Bureau of Land