

Carissa incident command team are exempt from the restriction.

This closure order is in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-579, 90 stat. 2743, 43 U.S.C. 1701) and 43 CFR, Subpart 8364.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this order may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months [43 CFR 3860.0-7].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Alan Hoffmeister (541) 756-0100.

Dated: February 9, 1999.

M. Elaine Raper,

Acting Umpqua Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-3723 Filed 2-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-99-1610-00]

Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the public comment period for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extended.

DATES: Comments must be received by the new deadline of March 15, 1999 at the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Killingsworth, Planning Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Planning Office, 337 South Main Street, Suite 010, Cedar City, Utah 84720, telephone (435) 865-5100; E-mail: mkillings@ut.blm.gov; fax number (435) 865-5170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM, Utah published in the November 12, 1998 issue of the **Federal Register** that comments were to be received by Friday, February 12, 1999. In response to Congressional and public requests, the Administration decided to provide more time for public comment. The new deadline for public comment is now extended to March 15, 1999.

Douglas M. Koza,

Acting State Director, Utah.

[FR Doc. 99-3753 Filed 2-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-300-1990-00]

Surface Management Regulations for Locatable Mineral Operations; Draft Environmental Impact Availability

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) analyzing proposed changes to BLM's surface management regulations for locatable mineral operations is available for public review and comment. This action is necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. BLM has prepared the DEIS to determine the potential environmental impacts of the various regulatory options under consideration.

DATES: Comments will be accepted until May 10, 1999. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the dates of public hearings on the DEIS and proposed regulations.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Paul McNutt; Nevada State Office; P.O. Box 12000; Reno, Nevada 89520-0006. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the electronic access and filing address and for the locations of public hearings. Comments will be available for public review at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Pacific time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

You may obtain a copy of the DEIS by contacting either of the persons identified under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section or by contacting any BLM State office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul McNutt, BLM Nevada State Office, (775) 861-6604, or via e-mail: pmcnutt@nv.blm.gov. An alternate contact is Andrew Strasfogel, BLM Washington Office, (202) 452-7723, or via e-mail: astrasfo@wo.blm.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may contact Mr. McNutt or Mr. Strasfogel by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

BLM is making available for public comment the DEIS for proposed revisions to its surface management regulations, found at 43 CFR 3809. The proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 1999. See 64 FR 6421. BLM is amending the regulations to address issues that have developed since the program began in 1981, as well as those identified during the scoping process described below, and to improve BLM's management of locatable mineral operations on public lands. The Proposed Action in the DEIS would be to adopt the proposed regulations at 43 CFR 3809. The proposed regulations address Federal-State coordination, the need for comprehensive performance standards, failure by some operators to perform reclamation, inadequate reclamation bonding for some types of operations, ineffective enforcement provisions, and the need to better assess the cumulative environmental impacts from small operations. In the DEIS, BLM also identifies and analyzes three additional alternatives for regulating locatable mineral operations on public lands administered by BLM. These alternatives are No Action, that is, no change to the existing regulations; State-Based Regulations; and Maximum Protection, Design-Based Regulations. BLM invites interested members of the public to comment on the DEIS.

Scoping Process

BLM published a Notice of Intent to prepare a DEIS in the **Federal Register** on April 4, 1997 (62 FR 16177). BLM then held scoping meetings for the public and interested governmental agencies at 11 locations throughout the Western United States, as well as an additional public meeting in Washington, D.C. Over 1,000 people attended the public meetings. In addition to verbal comments collected at the public meetings, BLM also received more than 1,800 comment letters from individuals and representatives of State and local governments, the mining industry, and citizens' groups.

Public Comment Procedures

BLM asks commenters on the DEIS to be specific, explain the reason for any comment, and reference the specific section or page of the DEIS to which their comment applies. The most useful comments are those supported by quantitative information or studies or include citations to and analyses of applicable laws, regulations, and cases. Commenters should send BLM two