

your application, purpose of the permit, and, if known, permit number and name of the permit biologist processing it.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is operating under a temporary spending authority. Should another Federal shutdown occur, our capability to carry out our responsibilities to the public to process applications expeditiously will be further delayed. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything we can to process applications as quickly and effectively as possible.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Caroline Anderson,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 96-1732 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Notice of Availability of "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance With the Endangered Species Act" for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of draft "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines For Oil and Gas Activities In Wyoming For Compliance With The Endangered Species Act". The draft guidelines offer an alternative, only in Wyoming, to the existing survey guidelines found in "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines For Compliance With The Endangered Species Act", which were developed by the Service in 1989. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on these draft guidelines.

DATES: Comments on the draft guidelines must be received on or before February 29, 1996, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft guidelines may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4000 Morrie Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Written comments and materials regarding the draft guidelines should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Cheyenne address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chuck Davis (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone 307/772-2374.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to implement the newly developed "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance with the Endangered Species Act" (proposed guidelines) as an alternative to the existing ferret survey guidelines found in "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Compliance with the Endangered Species Act" (1989 guidelines) which were developed by the Service in April 1989. The failure of ferret surveys to locate new populations, coupled with the minimal impacts arising from oil and gas activities, has prompted the Service to develop the proposed guidelines for use in Wyoming. This alternative to the existing survey recommendations as outlined in the 1989 guidelines is elective, not mandatory, and available only in Wyoming. It deviates from the 1989 guidelines by eliminating the black-ferret survey requirements in white-tailed prairie dog towns/colonies/complexes in Wyoming for all oil and gas exploration, development, and transmission activities except in certain areas, which are identified in Appendix A of the proposed guidelines. Wyoming was selected to be the prototype area for the proposed guidelines because of intensive oil and gas development, particularly in the southwestern part of the State. If a project proponent opts not to choose this alternative, the provisions of the 1989 guidelines will continue to apply.

The Service believes this alternative approach will increase the potential for black-footed ferret survival and recovery by improving the manner in which funds are used, particularly regarding fruitless ferret survey efforts in white-tailed prairie dog towns as well as repeated ferret surveys in black-tailed prairie dog towns. Furthermore, the Service believes this alternative to the 1989 guidelines will add to the flexibility and options for the recovery of this species. Instead of surveys, the project proponent contributes to ferret recovery through voluntary participation in the Ferret Recovery Enhancement Program (FREP), a strategy the Service believes offers a better black-footed ferret conservation approach than the current strategy. The money generated by FREP will fund ferret recovery efforts that have a higher potential for success than ferret surveys in areas of limited habitat value and low probability of impacts to ferrets from the oil and gas activities.

Participation in the FREP requires the project proponent to coordinate with the Cheyenne Field Office of the Service, provide documentation that the project and project site qualify (including identification of specific proposed oil and gas activities, description of anticipated disturbance, and a map of the white-tailed prairie dog town showing location of the disturbance), and agree to provide to the FREP Fund a one-time fee of \$30/acre of prairie dog town disturbance. Disturbance will be defined to include all rights-of-way, well sites, and other areas of ground disturbance. Funds generated by the contributions into FREP will be used for actions that benefit the recovery of the black-footed ferret. Such actions might include, but would not be limited to: activities such as development of improved survey methodologies; identification, mapping, digitizing of maps; conducting ferret surveys of prairie dog complexes greater than 5,000 acres or areas where physical evidence has been found; and, identification of potential reintroduction sites.

Applicability of the proposed guidelines to black-tailed prairie dog towns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Cheyenne Field Office of the Service. The determination will be based on the size of the town/colony/complex, quality of habitat, extent and results of previous black-footed ferret surveys in the vicinity, historical presence of ferrets, and the importance of the complex to the overall recovery and survival of the black-footed ferret.

Other values of maintaining the biological integrity of the prairie dog ecosystem are still important and should not be overlooked. The prairie dog, as a keystone species, plays an important role in maintaining specific habitat conditions or providing forage for many species, including several candidate and sensitive species such as the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, and burrowing owl. Severe impacts to or loss of prairie dog colonies threaten all species associated with that community. This document addresses only requirements for surveys and for potential impacts to black-footed ferrets. Other listed and candidate species potentially impacted by proposed actions must be addressed separately to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft guidelines described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the guidelines.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 24, 1996.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, CO.

[FR Doc. 96-1666 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Meeting of the FGDC Facilities Working Group

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is to invite public participation in a meeting of the FGDC Facilities Working Group. The major topic for this meeting is the development of a Facility/Installation ID standard.

TIME AND PLACE: 14 February 1996, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Room 8222D of the Pulaski Building, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The Pulaski building is located just a few blocks west of Union Station.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Fox, FGDC Secretariat, U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22092; telephone (703) 648-5514; facsimile (703) 648-5755; Internet "gdc@usgs.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FGDC is a committee of Federal Agencies engaged in geospatial activities. The FGDC Facilities Working Group specifically focuses on geospatial data issues related to facilities and facility management. A facility is an entity with location, deliberately established as a site for designated activities. A facility database might describe a factory, a military base, a college, a hospital, a power plant, a fishery, a national park, an office building, a space command center, or a prison. The database for a complex facility may describe multiple functions or missions, multiple buildings, or even a county, town, or city. The objectives of the Working Group are to: promote standards of accuracy and currentness in facilities data that are financed in whole or in part by Federal funds; exchange information on technological improvements for collecting facilities data; encourage the Federal and non-Federal communities to identify and adopt standards and specifications for facilities data; and promote the sharing

of facilities data among Federal and non-Federal organizations.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Richard E. Witmer,

Acting Chief, National Mapping Division.

[FR Doc. 96-1635 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Alaska Region, Proposed Cook Inlet Lease Sale 149

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prepared a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relating to the proposed 1996 Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sale of available unleased blocks in Cook Inlet. The proposed Cook Inlet Sale 149 will offer for lease approximately 2.0 million acres. Single copies of the EIS can be obtained from the Regional Director, Minerals Management Service, Alaska Region, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4302, Attention: Public Information. Copies can be requested by telephone, (907) 271-6070.

Copies of the final EIS will also be available for inspection in the following public libraries:

A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library, 319 Lower Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, AK 99615
 Alaska Pacific University, Academic Support Center Library, 4101 University Drive, Room 310, Anchorage, AK 99508-4672
 Alaska Resources Library, U.S. Department of the Interior, Anchorage, AK
 Alaska State Library, Government Publications, PO Box 110571, Juneau, AK 99811
 Anchor Point Public Library, PO Box 129, Anchor Point, AK 99556
 ARCO Alaska, Inc. Library, PO Box 100360, Anchorage, AK 99510-0360
 Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska, 707 A Street, Anchorage, AK
 BP Exploration, Information Resource Center, PO Box 196612, Anchorage, AK 99519
 Chiniak Public Library, PO Box 5610, Chiniak, AK 99615
 Cordova Public Library, PO Box 1170, Cordova, AK 99574
 Dillingham Public Library, PO Box 870, Dillingham, AK 99576

Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library (Noel Wien Library) 1215 Cowley Street, Fairbanks, AK
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Library, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503
 Halibut Cove Public Library, PO Box 6413, Halibut Cove, AK 99603
 ENRI Information Services, 707 A Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
 Jesse Wakefield Memorial Library, PO Box 49, Port Lions, AK 99550
 Juneau Memorial Library, 114 4th Street, Anchorage, AK
 Juneau Public Library, 292 Marine Way, Juneau, AK 99801
 Kasilof Public Library, PO Box 176, Kasilof, AK 99610
 Kenai Community Library, 163 Main Street Loop, Kenai, AK 99611
 Kenai Peninsula College, 34820 College Drive, Soldotna, AK 99669
 Kenai Peninsula College, 533 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK 99603
 Ketchikan Public Library, 629 Dock Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901
 Kettleon Memorial Library, 320 Harbor Road, Sitka, AK 99835
 King Cove Community School Library, PO Box 6, King Cove, AK 99612
 Kodiak College, 117 Benny Benson Drive, Kodiak, AK 99615
 Martin Monson Library, PO Box 147, Naknek, AK 99633-0147
 Nanwalek Elementary/High School Library, PO Box 8007, Nanwalek, AK 99603-6007
 Northern Alaska Environmental Center Library, 218 Driveway, Fairbanks, AK
 Oil Spill Information Center, 645 G Street, Anchorage, AK 99510-0600
 Old Harbor Library, PO Box 109, Old Harbor, AK 99643
 Palmer Public Library, 655 Soputh Valley Way, Palmer, AK 99645
 Sand Point School Library, PO Box 269, Sand Point, AK 99661
 Seldovia Public Library, Drawer D, Seldovia, AK 99663
 Seward Community Library, PO Box 537, Seward, AK 99664
 Soldotna Public Library, 235 Brinkley Street, Soldotna, AK 99669
 State of Alaska, DEC Library, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau, AK 99801-1795
 State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Library, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Library, PO Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898
 University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, 310 Tanana Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775-1007
 University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Institute of Arctic Biology, 311 Irving Building, Fairbanks, AK
 University of Alaska-Anchorage, Government Documents Library, 3211