

Recommended Action—This alternative recommended constructing ALP in two phases, providing a total water depletion of 149,220 af and is described in the 1996 FSFES. Initial project water depletions were limited to 57,100 af (Phase I, Stage A) due to the Service's Biological Opinion on endangered fish species. The total water depletion of 149,220 af would have required additional consultation with the Service.

e. **Administration Proposal with an Alternative Water Supply for Non-Ute Entities**—This alternative will consider supplying non-Ute M&I water (i.e. Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, San Juan Water Commission, and Navajo Nation) from sources other than the proposed Ridges Basin Reservoir.

f. **Citizens Progressive Alliance Proposal**—This proposal would allow the Ute Tribes to lease water instream based on the water amounts in the Settlement Agreement. The economic value of such instream leasing would be calculated on the value of leaving Animas River water instream and based on hydropower production, lower levels of salinity, and other benefits included in the authorized plan.

g. **No Action Alternative**—Under this alternative, the project would not be constructed. As a result, the Settlement Act would not be fulfilled. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe could initiate either litigation or negotiation with non-Indian water users and the United States to resolve their water rights claims on rivers flowing through their respective reservations, including the Animas and La Plata Rivers. Tribal development of natural resources or other economic development tied to water use would likely be delayed until the Tribes' water claims were settled. Conflicts could exist between the Indian and non-Indian communities in the area.

Existing water uses would likely continue during litigation or negotiation. However, development of new water storage or delivery facilities by private, state, or Tribal entities would likely be deferred until those water rights claims were resolved.

2. **Type of Analysis**—Pending public input, Reclamation intends that the Administration Proposal and each of the alternatives described above undergo an analysis beginning with a threshold assessment of the alternative's capability to accomplish the project's purpose. The following items will then be analyzed as appropriate. Any new or updated information from that contained in the 1980 FES and the 1996

FSFES will be evaluated and included in this supplement.

a. **Direct and Indirect Impacts**—Reclamation intends to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts the Administration Proposal and alternatives may have on the affected environment including wetlands, water quality, recreational activities, wildlife habitat and aquatic resources, geology, cultural resources, and endangered species. This assessment would also examine the indirect impacts of potential end uses of project water. An assessment of options to avoid or minimize environmental impacts will also be a focus of the analysis.

b. **Connected Actions**—These actions include those closely related to the Administration Proposal or other alternatives being reviewed. They are typically either automatically triggered by, dependent upon, or interdependent with the subject action. Examples of current connected actions which Reclamation intends to analyze include (i) reoperation of Navajo Dam and Reservoir and (ii) relocation of gas pipelines.

c. **Cumulative Impacts**—These impacts arise from the incremental impact a proposed action or alternative has on the environment when added to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts which Reclamation intends to consider depending upon the action or alternative being reviewed include (i) the cumulative effects of ALP and other actions on endangered species; and (ii) water development opportunities for other communities in the San Juan River basin (e.g. completion of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project).

d. **Compliance with Other Laws**—Reclamation will comply with all environmental laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, in the preparation of the DSEIS.

e. **Cost Estimate**—Although not intended to be a focus of in-depth analysis, the supplemental analysis will discuss the estimated overall costs attributable to each alternative.

Public Scoping

Scoping meetings will be held in Durango, Colorado; Farmington, New Mexico; and Denver, Colorado in early February of 1999 for the purpose of obtaining public input on the significant issues related to the proposed action. The schedule and locations for the meetings are shown below. The public is especially asked to provide input on the following:

1. Whether the overall range of alternatives is appropriate. The

Administration Proposal was developed in response to the alternatives developed during the Romer-Schoettler process, both of which are included in the range of alternatives to be considered.

2. Identification of significant issues related to the proposed action.

Schedule of Scoping Meetings

A series of meetings will be conducted in Colorado and New Mexico. Each will begin with a one hour open house where the public can informally discuss issues and ask questions of staff and managers.

The open house will be followed by a more formal scoping hearing in which each participant will be given time to make official comments. Speakers will be given five minutes for their comments. These comments will be formally recorded. Speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments, and any other additional written materials, for the record.

Comments may also be sent directly to the Bureau of Reclamation's Southern Division of the Western Colorado Area Office in Durango, Colorado. Written comments should be received by February 19, 1999, to be most effectively considered.

Dates of Scoping Meetings

- February 2, 1999, 6–9 p.m., DoubleTree Hotel, Main Ballroom, 501 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado
- February 3, 1999, 6–9 p.m., San Juan College, Henderson Fine Arts Center, Room 10, 4601 College Boulevard, Farmington, New Mexico
- February 4, 1999, 6–9 p.m., Colorado Convention Center, Room A201, 700 14th Street, Denver, Colorado

Dated: December 29, 1998.

Eluid L. Martinez,
Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, DOI.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation

and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collections of information under 30 CFR Parts 750 and 877 which relate to surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian Lands; and use of police power, if necessary, to effect entry upon private lands to conduct reclamation activities or exploratory studies if the landowner refuses consent or is not available, respectively.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by March 5, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 210-SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to jtrelease@osmre.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implemented provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see CFR 1320.8 (d)]. This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for approval. These collections are contained in (1) 30 CFR Part 750, Requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian Lands; and (2) 30 CFR Part 877, Rights of entry. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

The following information is provided for the information collection: (1) Title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; and (4) frequency of collection, description of the respondents, estimated total annual

responses, and the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for the collection of information.

Title: Requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian Lands—30 CFR Part 750.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0091.

Summary: Operators who conduct or propose to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands must comply with the requirements of 30 CFR 750 pursuant to Section 710 of SMCRA.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents:

Applicants for coal mining permits.

Total Annual Responses: 75.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,400.

Title: Rights of Entry—30 CFR Part 877.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0055.

Summary: This regulation establishes procedures for non-consensual entry upon private lands for the purpose of abandoned mine land reclamation activities or exploratory studies when the landowner refuses consent or is not available.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: State abandoned mine land reclamation agencies.

Total Annual Responses: 30.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 30.

Dated: December 29, 1998.

John A. Trelease,

Acting Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds for the Waters Cooperative Agreement Program.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior is announcing its intent to solicit applications from eligible, not-for-profit candidates for funding under the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program to undertake local acid mine drainage reclamation projects.

DATES: Applications for the cooperative agreements should be submitted to the

appropriate individual listed under **ADDRESSES** starting February 1, 1999. Applications will be accepted until June 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Requests for an application package, which includes further information on the program, the application forms and evaluation criteria, should be directed to the appropriate Appalachian Clean Streams Coordinator: Alabama: Jeannie O'Dell, Birmingham Field Office, 135 Gemini Circle, Suite 215, Homewood, AL 35209, 205-290-8292, ext. 21; Illinois: David Best, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center, Alton Federal Center, 501 Belle Street, Room 216, Alton, IL 62002, 618-463-6463 ext. 123; Indiana: Michael Kalagian, Indianapolis Field Office, Minton-Capehart Federal Building, 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Room 392, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-226-6166 ext. 234; Iowa: Len Meier, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center, Alton Federal Center, 501 Belle Street, Room 216, Alton, IL 62002, 618-463-6463, ext. 109; Kentucky: Dave Beam, Lexington Field Office, 2675 Regency Road, Lexington, KY 40503, 606-233-2896; Maryland: Peter Hartman, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, 3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220, 412-937-2905; Missouri: Jeff Gillespie, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center, Alton Federal Center, 501 Belle Street, Room 216, Alton, IL 62002, 618-463-6463 ext. 128; Ohio: Max Luehrs, Columbus Area Office, 4480 Refugee Road, Suite 201, Columbus, OH 43232, 614-866-0578 ext. 110; Pennsylvania: David Hamilton, Harrisburg Field Office, 415 Market Street, Suite 3, Harrisburg, PA 17101, 717-782-2285; Tennessee: Danny Ellis, Knoxville Field Office, 530 Gay Street, Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902, 423-545-4103 ext. 147; Virginia: Ronnie Vicars, Big Stone Gap Field Office, 1941 Neeley Road, Suite 201, Compartment 116, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219, 540-523-5053; West Virginia: Rick Buckley, Charleston Field Office, 1027 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301, 304-347-7162 ext. 3024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For Fiscal Year 1999, OSM expects to award a total of \$750,000 to eligible not-for-profit groups to undertake actual construction projects to clean up streams impacted by acid mine drainage. The cooperative agreements will be in the \$5000-\$80,000 range in order to assist as many groups as possible. The cooperative agreements will have a performance period of two years.

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit, established organizations with IRS