

comments, and we will analyze and incorporate additional comments received during this comment period, as well as those we received during the previous comment period, into new proposed guidance as appropriate.

**DATES:** We will accept comments on this guidance until October 29, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments regarding this guidance to the Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Mailstop ARLSQ-420, Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Gloman, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703-358-2171 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On June 14, 1999 (64 FR 31871), we published a notice of our intent to develop policy or guidance and/or to revise regulations, if necessary, to clarify the role of habitat in endangered species conservation. In that notice, we sought comments relative to the benefits of the designation of critical habitat (beyond that of listing) and what considerations should be included in our prudence determinations. We also requested comments and suggestions relative to how we can effectively streamline the process of determining and designating critical habitat and specifically whether and how our existing regulations might or should be changed to accomplish this. Additionally, we requested comments and suggestions on possible legislative actions that might improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the critical habitat process.

**Public Comments Solicited**

We reopen the comment period on this notice in order to provide additional time for interested parties to comment on this important issue. We will take into consideration any comments and additional information received and will announce proposed guidance after the close of the public comment period and as promptly as possible after all comments have been reviewed and analyzed. We will make available for your review and comment any guidance, policy, or regulatory changes that are developed.

**Authority**

The authority for this notice is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: August 19, 1999.

**Marshall P. Jones,**

*Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-22460 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**Availability of Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service has prepared and released a draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the management, protection, and use of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River in New Jersey. The public is invited to review and comment on the draft plan. For more information about this document, contact Mary Vavra, National Park Service Program Manager by letter or telephone.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Vavra, Program Manager, National Park Service, Philadelphia Support Office, 200 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 597-9175.

Dated: August 9, 1999.

**Marie Rust,**

*Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-22443 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Mountain Goat Management Within Olympic National Park, Washington**

**ACTION:** Suspension of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the suspension of the environmental impact statement process for mountain goat management within Olympic National Park. In early 1999, the Department of the Interior awarded a contract for a review of existing scientific information

about mountain goats in Olympic National Park. The science review is being conducted by the Conservation Biology Institute of Corvallis, Oregon. A report from this review will be provided to the Secretary and made available to the public in late 1999 or early 2000. Following receipt of this report, the National Park Service will consider any changes or updates needed to the draft EIS, at which point a supplemental draft EIS may be prepared.

**DATES:** Dates for resumption of the EIS process will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or comments concerning suspension of the Environmental Impact Statement process should be submitted to: Superintendent, Olympic National Park, 600 East Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft EIS on mountain goat management was made available to the public in March 1995 (FR, Vol. 60, No. 62, p. 16647). This science review responds to a Congressional request prompted by concerns from some constituents regarding research associated with this issue. A review of the science is a key element in responding to public questions and concerns, and will further inform the EIS decision process for mountain goat management at Olympic National Park.

Dated: August 16, 1999.

**William C. Walters,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-22441 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the date of the thirtieth meeting of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission.

**Date:** The Public meeting will be held on October 21, 1999, from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** The meeting will be held at Cyclorama Auditorium, 125 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

**Agenda:** Sub-Committee Reports, Update on General Management Plan, Federal Consistency Projects Within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District,

Operational Update on Park Activities, and Citizens Open Forum.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John A. Latschar, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public. Any member of the public may file with the Commission a written statement concerning agenda items. The statement should be addressed to the Advisory Commission, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. Minutes of the meeting will be available for inspection four weeks after the meeting at the permanent headquarters of the Gettysburg National Military Park located at 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

Dated: August 18, 1999.

**John A. Latschar,**

*Superintendent, Gettysburg NMP/Eisenhower NHS.*

[FR Doc. 99-22372 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Availability of Plan of Operations; Mining Operation Dorothy Lode Claim #1; North Cascades National Park, Skagit County, Washington**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 9.17(a) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, Subpart A, that the National Park Service has received from Mr. William Webster a Proposed Plan of Operations to remove a limited quantity of stockpiled ore from existing workings on the Dorothy Lode Claim #1 in North Cascades National Park. The ore would be transported by helicopter from Thunder Basin east to Washington State Route 20 (the North Cascades Highway).

The Proposed Plan of Operations is available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days from the publication of this notice. The document can be viewed during normal business hours at the Office of the Superintendent, North Cascades National Park, 2105 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington, 98284-9394.

Dated: August 19, 1999.

**William F. Paleck,**

*Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex.*

[FR Doc. 99-22442 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### **Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's (BDAC) Ecosystem Roundtable will meet on September 14, 1999, to discuss additional 1999 watershed projects, priorities and potential projects for FY 2000, and other issues. This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Ecosystem Roundtable or may file written statements for consideration.

**DATES:** The BDAC Ecosystem Roundtable meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The Ecosystem Roundtable will meet at the Resources Building, Room 1131, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Wendy Halverson Martin, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, at (916) 657-2666. If reasonable accommodation is needed due to a disability, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 653-6952 or TDD (916) 653-6934 at least one week prior to the meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta system) is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. In recognition of the serious problems facing the region and the complex resource management decisions that must be made, the state of California and the Federal government are working together to stabilize, protect, restore, and enhance the Bay-Delta system. The State and Federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta system are working together as CALFED to provide policy direction and oversight for the process.

One area of Bay-Delta management includes the establishment of a joint State-Federal process to develop long-term solutions to problems in the Bay-Delta system related to fish and wildlife, water supply reliability, natural disasters, and water quality. The intent to develop a comprehensive and balanced plan which addresses all of the resource problems. This effort, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program), is being carried out under the policy

direction of CALFED. The Program is exploring and developing a long-term solution for a cooperative planning process that will determine the most appropriate strategy and actions necessary to improve water quality, restore health to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, provide for a variety of beneficial uses, and minimize Bay-Delta system vulnerability. A group of citizen advisors representing California's agricultural, environmental, urban, business, fishing, and other interests who have a stake in finding long-term solutions for the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system has been chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The BDAC provides advice to CALFED on the program mission, problems to be addressed, and objectives for the Program. BDAC provides a forum to help ensure public participation, and will review reports and other materials prepared by CALFED staff. BDAC has established a subcommittee called the Ecosystem Roundtable to provide input on annual workplans to implement ecosystem restoration projects and programs.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Program, Suite 1155, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: August 24, 1999.

**Neil Stessman,**

*Acting Deputy Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region.*

[FR Doc. 99-22400 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 23963; 812-11718]

### **HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., et al.; Notice of Application**

August 23, 1999.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

**ACTION:** Notice of application for an order under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from section 12(d)(1) of the Act, under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from sections 12(d)(3) and 14(a) of the Act, and under section 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act.

**Summary of Application:** HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. ("HSBC Securities") and HSBC Holdings plc