

through Friday of each week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kimberly Brandt, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, (202) 619-2078.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The development of compliance program guidances has become a major initiative of the OIG in its effort to engage the private health care community in addressing and combating fraud and abuse. Recently, the OIG has developed and issued compliance program guidance directed at various segments of the health care industry.¹ New OIG guidance under consideration will be designed to provide clear direction and assistance to physicians providing services to Medicare and other Federal health care program beneficiaries who are interested in reducing and eliminating the potential for fraud and abuse within their practice.

The guidances represent the culmination of the OIG's suggestions on how providers can most effectively establish internal controls and implement monitoring procedures to identify, correct and prevent fraudulent and wasteful activities. As stated in previous guidances, these guidelines are not mandatory for providers, nor do they represent an exclusive document of advisable elements of a compliance program.

In an effort to formalize the process by which the OIG receives public comments in connection with compliance program guidances, the OIG is seeking, through this **Federal Register** notice, formal input from interested parties as the OIG considers developing a compliance program guidance directed at individual and small group physician practices. The OIG will give consideration to all comments, recommendations and suggestions submitted and received by the time frame indicated above.

We anticipate that the physician guidance will contain seven elements that the OIG considers necessary for a comprehensive compliance program. These seven elements have been discussed in our previous guidances and include:

- The development of written policies and procedures.
- The designation of a compliance officer and other appropriate bodies.

- The development and implementation of effective training and education programs.

- The development and maintenance of effective lines of communication.

- The enforcement of standards through well-publicized disciplinary guidelines.

- The use of audits and other evaluation techniques to monitor compliance.

- The development of procedures to respond to detected offenses and to initiate corrective action.

The OIG would appreciate specific comments, recommendations and suggestions on (1) risk areas for the individual or small group physician practice, and (2) aspects of the seven elements contained in previous guidances that may need to be modified to reflect the unique characteristics of the individual or small group physician practice. Detailed justifications and empirical data supporting suggestions would be appreciated.

We also request that any comments, recommendations and input be submitted in a format that addresses the above topics in a concise manner, rather than in the form of a comprehensive draft guidance that mirrors previous guidances.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

June Gibbs Brown,

Inspector General.

[FR Doc. 99-23294 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Application Notice Describing an Opportunity of Federal Funding of Proposals Submitted Under the State Partnership Program (SPP) for Fiscal Year 2000

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pre-proposal Applications are invited for projects under the FY2000 State Partnership Program (SPP).

The purpose of the SPP is to provide support through grants and cooperative agreements to states and tribal agencies whose primary focus is on gathering, analyzing, and distributing biological science information needed for natural resource management decision-making. This program requires complementary study participation and interaction between State/Tribal institutions and Science Centers or Cooperative Research Units of the USGS, Eastern Region. For

contact information relating to potential study cooperation and participation by scientists from the USGS Biological Resources Division, Eastern Region, Science Centers (6 Centers) and Cooperative Research Units (16 Units) access the following web sites:

For Centers, http://biology.usgs.gov/nbs/nbshp2_2.htm [http](http://biology.usgs.gov/nbs/nbshp2_2.htm)

and
For Units, <http://biology.usgs.gov/coop/list.html>

Proposals involving the support and cooperation of multiple State parties as well as multiple Federal, private, or other entities are strongly favored. Respondents are encouraged to show linkages to other resource agencies, in addition to USGS, that have jurisdiction over public lands or public trust biotic resources and to the science information needs for other Department of the Interior bureaus and other Federal agencies. Proposals must demonstrate a commitment to information exchange and technology transfer.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant Eligibility: State, Tribal, and/or U.S. Territories and Possessions that conduct natural resources studies and associated information management. No Federal or private agencies may apply.

Application and Award Process

Pre-proposal Submission: Eligible institutions may request a Pre-proposal Solicitation Package, including instructions on the SPP and how to submit an application, from the USGS, Eastern Regional Office (see address below). *Pre-proposals must be submitted to USGS by State/Tribe institutions only, but must include information on participating USGS Science Center or Cooperative Research Unit.*

Full-proposal Evaluation and Award: *Full proposals will be requested in writing by the USGS from institutions that have submitted pre-proposals of high merit and who have met all of the pre-proposal requirements as detailed in the Pre-proposal Solicitation Package.* Detailed specifications will be provided when the written request for full proposals is made. After meeting all submission requirements, full proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a technical review team. Projects will be individually scored and prioritized, and award recommendations forwarded to the USGS contracting office for award.

Dates: Completed pre-proposals must be submitted to the USGS, Eastern Regional Office and be postmarked no later than October 6, 1999. Full

¹ See 62 FR 9435 (March 3, 1997) for clinical laboratories, as amended in 63 FR 45076 (August 24, 1998); 63 FR 8987 (February 23, 1998) for hospitals; 63 FR 42410 (August 7, 1998) for home health agencies, and 63 FR 70138 (December 18, 1998) for third party medical billing companies. The guidances can also be found on the OIG web site at <http://www.hhs.gov/oig>.

proposals will be required by 30 November, 1999. Notification of awards will be made by 30 December 1999.

Application Information: A Pre-Proposal Solicitation Package, including a SPP Factsheet that gives examples of projects that have received funding in the past, may be requested from the USGS, Eastern Regional Office at the following address: Dr. Gary D. Brewer, State Partnership Program Coordinator, USGS Biological Resources Division, Eastern Regional Office, 1700 Leetown Road, Kearneysville, WV 25430, Telephone: 304-724-4507, Fax: 304-724-4505, E-mail: gary__brewer@usgs.gov

Authorization

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 70 Stat. 1119, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 742a-742j; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, 16 U.S.C. 661-667e. The Office of Management and Budget Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is 15.808.

Dated: August 24, 1999.

David P. Bornholdt,

Deputy Regional Chief Biologist.

[FR Doc. 99-23245 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[**(WO-310-02-24 1A); OMB Approval Number 1004-0162]**

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). On June 30, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a notice in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 35177) requesting comments on the collection. The comment period ended August 30, 1999. No comments were received. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below.

OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration, your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-

0160), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630) 1849 C St., NW, Room 401 LS Bldg., Washington, DC 20240.

Nature of Comments: We specifically request your comment on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the Bureau of Land Management, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations (43 CFR 3151).

OMB Approval Number: 1004-0162.

Abstract: Respondents supply information that will be used to determine procedures for conducting oil and gas geophysical exploration operations on public lands. The information supplied allows the Bureau of Land Management to determine that geophysical exploration operation activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the regulations, local use plans, and environmental assessments in compliance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended.

Form Numbers: 3150-4, 3150-5.

Frequency: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: Oil and gas exploration and drilling companies.

Estimated Completion Time: Form 3150-4, 1 hour; Form 3150-5, 1/3 hour.

Annual Responses: 1200.

Annual Burden Hours: 800.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Carole J. Smith (202) 452-0367.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

Carole J. Smith,

Bureau Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-23247 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[**NV-055-99-7122-00-8824]**

Nevada Temporary Closure of Certain Public Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Temporary closure of selected public lands in Clark County, Nevada, during the operation of the 1999 SNORE OHV in NELLIS DUNES Race.

SUMMARY: The District Manager of the Las Vegas District announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under its administration.

This action is being taken to help ensure public safety, prevent unnecessary environmental degradation during the official permitted running of the 1999 SNORE OHV in NELLIS DUNES Race and to comply with provisions of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for Speed Based Off-Highway Vehicle Events (1-5-F-237).

DATES: From 6:00 am Sept 24, 1999 through 6:00 am Sept 26, 1999 Pacific Standard Time.

CLOSURE AREA: Public lands within as described below, an area within T.17S, R64E & 65E east of I-15 and south of S.R. 40 (Valley of Fire Road); T18S, R63E, R64E, R65E east of I-15; T19S, R63E, R64E, R65E east of I-15.

1. The closure is bound by MOAPA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION to the NORTH, NELLIS AFB on the SOUTH, I-15, to the WEST, LAKE MEAD NRA to the EAST.

Exceptions to the closure are: Las Vegas Blvd.

2. The entire area encompassed by the designated course and all areas outside the designated course as listed in the legal description above are closed to all vehicles except Law Enforcement, Emergency Vehicles, and Official Race Vehicles. Access routes leading to the course are closed to vehicles.

3. No vehicle stopping or parking.

4. Spectators are required to remain within designated spectator area only.

5. The following regulations will be in effect for the duration of the closure:

Unless otherwise authorized no person shall:

a. Camp in any area outside of the designated spectator areas.

b. Enter any portion of the race course or any wash located within the race course.

c. Spectate or otherwise be located outside of the designated spectator area.

d. Cut or collect firewood of any kind, including dead and down wood or other vegetative material.