

**Relation to Coastal Management Plans**

The MMS specifically requests comments on potential conflicts with approved local coastal management plans (CMP) that may result from future commercial sand and gravel mining within the RFII area. We request that you identify specific CMP policies; the types of conflicts you foresee; and possible steps that MMS could take to avoid or mitigate these conflicts. Your comments may address the entire area under consideration or portions of the area. We request that you list block numbers or clearly outline the subject area on the large-scale RFII map.

**Areas of Specific Industry Interest**

We request that industry respondents indicate specific blocks or areas within the RFII area that are of particular interest for consideration in a possible OCS sand and gravel lease sale. Industry respondents are asked to outline their area(s) of interest on the large-scale RFII map and to submit a list of block numbers nominated (including both whole and partial blocks). Although identities of those indicating interest in specific areas within this RFII become a matter of public record, the blocks that the individual company(s) identifies are considered proprietary information.

Industry respondents should rank areas of specific interest according to priority: 1 (high), 2 (medium), and 3 (low). Areas identified that do not indicate priorities will be considered priority 3. The name and telephone number of a person in the respondent's organization to contact for additional information or clarification should be included in the response.

**Commenting Procedures**

The MMS must receive your comments, information and/or indications of interest (in envelopes labeled RFII Information (or Indication of Interest)) no later than 90 days following publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Please submit the RFII map with comments and/or indications of interest to: Minerals Management Service, Division of International Activities and Marine Minerals, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4030, Herndon, VA 22070.

The MMS will hold information meetings on February 28, 2000, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Bradley Beach Borough Hall, Bradley Beach, New Jersey, and on February 29, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, 1000 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret, New Jersey, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Additional Information**

1. The MMS would like to clarify that any possible sand and gravel commercial lease sale within the RFII area will not include any requirements for the end use of the sand and gravel.

2. The MMS will restrict dredging to relatively shallow and uniform depths to preserve ocean bottom topography and promote rapid recolonization of biota in dredged areas. The MMS will prohibit the mining of deep pits for use in the disposal of any material.

3. The MMS has completed an Environmental Report assessing possible consequences associated with using OCS sand for beach nourishment along the U.S. east coast from Northern New Jersey to the Virginia/North Carolina border. A self-contained and separate appendix within the Environmental Report assesses potential environmental impacts of offshore mining for construction aggregate material. The appendix may provide useful information as parties prepare responses to this RFII. The Environmental Report, and the appendix are available through the MMS's internet web-site at [www.mms.gov/intermar/marineac.htm](http://www.mms.gov/intermar/marineac.htm).

**Use of Responses to the RFII**

The MMS will use information in response to this RFII in several ways. First, MMS will use comments on possible environmental impacts and multiple use conflicts to help in our analysis and handling of concerns in and near the RFII area. Based on this information we will make a preliminary determination on the potential advantages and disadvantages of OCS sand and gravel exploration and development within the RFII area and whether to prepare an EIS. Second, MMS will use the responses to identify specific areas within the RFII area that are of interest for potential commercial sand and gravel leasing and development. Third, comments will be used to identify potential conflicts among offshore activities and State or local coastal zone management plans. Finally, comments may be used to develop requirements to ensure safe and environmentally sound activities.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol A. Hartgen, International Activities and Marine Minerals, (703) 787-1300.

Dated: January 4, 2000.

**WC Rosenbusch,**

*Director, Minerals Management Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Reclamation****Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Delta Drinking Water Council Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's (BDAC) Delta Drinking Water Council will meet on January 27, 2000, to discuss several issues including Fiscal Year 2000 drinking water quality actions and studies. This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Delta Drinking Water Council or may file written statements for consideration.

**DATES:** The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Delta Drinking Water Council meeting will be held from 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will meet at the Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1131, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Hutton, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, at (916) 653-9715. If reasonable accommodation is needed due to a disability, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 653-6952 or TDD (916) 653-6935 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 is 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 of 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 Delta Drinking Water Council to advise the CALFED Program and the CALFED Policy Group through BDAC on necessary adaptations to the Program's Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy to achieve CALFED's drinking water objectives.

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

Dated: January 4, 2000.

**Kirk C. Rodgers,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-94-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### CALFED Bay-Delta Program Policy Group

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Policy Group will meet on January 19, 2000. The agenda for the Policy Group meeting will include discussion of the CALFED Long-Term Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework. This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Policy Group or may file written statements for consideration.

**DATES:** The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Policy Group meeting will be held from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will meet at the Vizcaya, 2019 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Selkirk, 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 is 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 direction of the CALFED Policy Group. 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. The CALFED Policy Group provides general policy direction on all aspect of the CALFED Program.

Dated: January 4, 2000.

**Kirk C. Rodgers,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-448 Filed 1-7-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4319-94-M**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Pilot Program Evaluation Panel; Meeting Notice

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972 (Pub. L., 94-463, Stat. 770-776) the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced the establishment of the Pilot Program Evaluation Panel (PPEP). The PPEP functions as a management-level Oversight group to monitor and evaluate the success of the Commission's Reactor Oversight Process Improvements program. A Charter governing the PPEP functions as a Federal Advisory Committee was filed with Congress on June 30, 1999, after consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration. The PPEP will hold its forthcoming final meeting on January 13, 2000 at the Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC, Phone 202-898-9000. The PPEP meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. following the agency's Pilot Program Lessons Learned Workshop scheduled to start at 12 noon on January 10, 2000, also at the Renaissance Hotel.

The PPEP meeting participants are listed below along with their affiliation: Frank P. Gillespie—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mohan C. Thadani—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
James T. Wiggins—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Heidi Hahn—LANL  
Bruce Mallet—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Geoffrey Grant—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Kenneth E. Brockman—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
James Lieberman—Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Steve Floyd—Nuclear Energy Institute  
David Garchow—Public Service Electric and Gas  
Masoud Bajestani—Tennessee Valley Authority  
George Barnes—Commonwealth Edison Company  
James Chase—Omaha Public Power District  
Gary Wright—Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety  
David Lochbaum—Union of Concerned Scientists

The PPEP completed its work and issued its final report on December 17, 1999. This last meeting is expected to be brief. If no significant new issues are identified prior to the meeting, it may be canceled. Meetings of the PPEP are open to the members of the public. Oral or