

proposes to prepare an environmental document. The environmental document is for the purpose of evaluating the effects of Reclamation providing approximately \$7,000,000 of Federal funds over a period of years, along with monies from other entities, to partially support the Newlands Project Water Rights fund, a program for the acquisition and retirement of 6,500 acres of surface water rights in Reclamation's Newlands Project. This action is outlined in the State of Nevada Assembly Bill Number 380 (A.B. 380).

At present it is not clear whether the scope of the action and anticipated project impacts will require preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) instead of an environmental assessment (EA). However, to ensure the timely and appropriate level of NEPA compliance and to limit potential future delays to the project schedule, Reclamation is proceeding as if the project impacts can be adequately analyzed through preparation of an EA. Reclamation will reevaluate the need for an EIS after obtaining written and oral comments on the project scope, alternatives and environmental impacts, and after Reclamation's evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed project. Reclamation will publish a notice of change if a decision is made to prepare an EIS rather than an EA. However, the scoping process to be conducted will suffice for either course of action.

There are no known environmental justice issues associated with the proposed action. The water acquisition program supported by Reclamation funds will avoid, where possible, any adverse impacts to Indian Trust Assets. If adverse impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation or compensation will be provided.

**DATES:** Four scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis and to identify the significant issues related to this proposed action. The meeting dates are:

- Monday, May 8, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Fallon, Nevada.
- Tuesday, May 9, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Fernley, Nevada.
- Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Nixon, Nevada.
- Thursday, May 11, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., in Carson City, Nevada.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental documents should be submitted by May 25, 2000, to the address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are as follows:

- Fallon—Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; telephone: (775) 423-4556.

- Fernley—Fernley Town Complex, 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Suite 117, Fernley, NV 89408; telephone: (775) 575-5455.

- Nixon—Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Council Chambers, 208 Capital Hill (Highway 447) Nixon, NV 89424; telephone: (775) 574-1000.

- Carson City—Nevada State Library, 100 N Stewart Street, Conference Room A, Carson City, NV 89701; telephone: (775) 684-3313.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental documents should be submitted to Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attention: LO-450, P.O. Box 640, Carson City, NV 89702.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at telephone and TDD: (775) 882-3436, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attention: LO-450, P.O. Box 640, Carson City, NV 89702.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Newlands Project Water Rights Fund program is to provide a mechanism for meeting some of the goals outlined in A.B. 380 through acquisition and retirement of 6,500 acres of surface water rights. The goals of A.B. 380 include resolving certain administrative and judicial proceedings involving challenges to Newlands Project and Truckee Meadows water rights. These proceedings are time consuming and costly for all parties involved, and the need for resolution is the purpose of A.B. 380 and the water rights acquisition and retirement program.

#### Special Services

Persons requiring any special services should contact Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at

(775) 882-3436. Please notify Ms. Hunt DeCarlo as far in advance of the particular meeting as possible, but no later than 3 working days prior to the meeting to enable Reclamation to secure the services. If a request cannot be honored, the requester will be notified.

Dated: April 14, 2000.

**Frank Michny,**

*Regional Environmental Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-94-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Agency Handbook on the National Environmental Policy Act

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a draft agency handbook on the National Environmental Policy Act.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 1507.3, the Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a handbook to provide basic guidance to its employees on NEPA issues. Comments on the document will be accepted.

**DATES:** A 60-day public review period commences with the publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted to Reclamation at the addresses provided below no later than June 19, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the NEPA Handbook should be addressed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Policy, Attention: Dr. Darrell Cauley, Manager—Environmental and Planning Coordination, D-5100, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves

as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

The entire document is available at <http://www.usbr.gov/nepa> on the Internet. Copies of the NEPA Handbook may also be requested from Theresa Taylor at the above address or via the INTERNET at [nepa@do.usbr.gov](mailto:nepa@do.usbr.gov) or by calling (303) 445-2826.

Copies of the NEPA Handbook are available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Reclamation Service Center Library, Building 67, Room 167, Denver Federal Center, 6th and Kipling, Denver, Colorado 80225; telephone: (303) 445-2072

- Natural Resources Library, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Main Interior Building, Washington, DC 20240-0001

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Theresa Taylor, Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Policy, at (303) 445-2826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NEPA Handbook was developed to assist Reclamation employees who are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and various other environmental laws as part of their daily work. The document was first published in 1991. After Reclamation was reorganized in 1994 to reflect a decentralization of decision making and authority, the NEPA Handbook needed major revisions to reflect the reorganization and to update the content. The handbook was extensively revised and has gone through various stages of reviews both internally and with the Council on Environmental Quality. At the commencement of the public review, comments received will be considered as part of a final revision of the handbook.

Dated: April 13, 2000.

**Elizabeth Cordova-Harrison,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

#### **Proposed Information Collection Request; Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Safety Standards for Roof Bolts in Metal and Nonmetal Mines and Underground Coal Mines**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before June 19, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Theresa M. O'Malley, Program Analysis Officer, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 715, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via Internet E-mail to [tomalley@msha.gov](mailto:tomalley@msha.gov), along with an original printed copy. Ms. O'Malley can be reached at (703) 235-1470 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile). Ms. O'Malley can be reached at [tomalley@msha.gov](mailto:tomalley@msha.gov) (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-1470 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

30 CFR 56/57.3203 and 75.204 address the quality of rock fixtures and their installation. Roof and rock bolts and accessories are an integral part of ground control systems and are used to prevent the fall of roof, face, and ribs. These standards require that metal and nonmetal and coal mine operators obtain a certification from the manufacturer that rock bolts and accessories are manufactured and tested in accordance with the 1995 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) publication "Standard Specification for Roof and Rock Bolts and Accessories" (ASTM F432-95).

##### **II. Desired Focus of Comments**

Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection related to the Safety Standards for Roof Bolts in Metal and Nonmetal Mines and Underground Coal Mines. MSHA is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

A copy of the proposed information collection request may be viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA Home Page (<http://www.msha.gov>) and then choosing "Statutory and Regulatory Information" and "Paperwork Reduction Act Supporting Statements (<http://www.msha.gov/regspwork.htm>)", or contacting the employee listed above in the For Further Information Contact section of this notice.

##### *III. Current Actions*

MSHA is seeking to continue the requirement for mine operators to obtain certification from the manufacturer that roof and rock bolts and accessories are manufactured and tested in accordance with the applicable American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications and make that certification available to an authorized representative of the Secretary.

##### *Type of Review:*

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Title:* Safety Standards for Roof Bolts in Metal and Nonmetal Mines and Underground Coal Mines (30 CFR 56.3203(a), 57.3203(a), and 75.204(a)).

*OMB Number:* 1219-0121.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.