

Basin National Grassland, Parks Ranger District, Jackson County, CO.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with adverse impacts to aquatic resources from soil disturbance.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65360-AK

Madan Timber Sale, Implementation, Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District, COE Section 404 Permit and NPDES Permit, AK.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-BLM-J65240-WY

Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Proposal (WYW148816), Exchange of Private Owned Land P&M for Federally-Owned Coal, Lincoln, Carbon and Sheridan Counties, WY.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with potential cumulative air quality impacts from this coal mine, when added to other energy development in northeastern Wyoming. Exceedances of Clean Air Act criteria on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, and extinguishing the coal seam fire should be addressed before completing the proposed land exchange.

ERP No. F-CGD-G03021-LA

Port Pelican Deepwater Port Construction and Operation, License Approval, Vermillion Lease Block 140 on the Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico southwest of Freshwater City, LA.

Summary: EPA has no objections to the proposed action.

ERP No. F-COE-K39077-CA

East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project, Alternatives Evaluation for Coastal Bluff Erosion Protection, City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, CA.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-NPS-D61053-VA

Green Spring Colonial National Historical Park Management Plan, Implementation, James City County, VA.

Summary: EPA's concerns were adequately addressed in the final EIS.

Dated: October 28, 2003.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 03-27476 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7575-2]

State Innovation Grant Program, Notice of Availability of Solicitation for Proposals for 2003/2004 Awards

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation (OPEI) is giving notice of the availability of its solicitation for proposals for the 2003/2004 grant program to support innovation by State environmental regulatory agencies—the “State Innovation Grant Program.” The solicitation is available at the Agency’s State Innovation Grant Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants>, or may be requested from the Agency by e-mail, telephone, or by mail. Only the principal environmental regulatory agency within each State (generally, where delegated authorities for Federal environmental regulations exist) is eligible to receive these grants.

DATES: State environmental regulatory agencies will have 68 days (until January 7, 2004) from the date of publication of the solicitation on the Web site (October 30, 2003) to respond with a pre-proposal, budget, and project summary. The environmental regulatory agencies from the fifty (50) States; Washington, DC, and four (4) territories were notified of the solicitation’s availability by fax and email transmittals on October 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Solicitation can be downloaded from the Agency’s Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants/2003solicitation> or may be requested by telephone (202-566-2182), or by e-mail (Innovation_State_Grants@epa.gov). Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation, or questions concerning the solicitation should be sent to:

State Innovation Grant Program, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1807T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

Proposal responses or questions may also be sent by fax to (202-566-2220), addressed to the “State Innovation Grant Program,” or by e-mail to: Innovation_State_Grants@epa.gov. We encourage e-mail responses. If you have questions about responding to this notice, please contact EPA at this e-mail address or fax number, or you may call

Gerald Filbin at 202-566-2182. EPA will acknowledge all responses it receives to this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: In Fall of 2002, EPA conducted a competition for a new grant program designed to support innovation in environmental programs at the State level. Following the pilot round of State Innovation Grants in 2002, EPA consulted with the States through the Environmental Council of the States and through a comment period announced in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 34944, June 11, 2003) (see <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants> on the grant solicitation process). Based upon that input EPA made several improvements in the process for this year—including a pre-announcement process that would allow time for States to consult with EPA Regions on potential projects prior to the solicitation, and a change from a 30-day to a 60-day response period once the solicitation is announced. One of the recommendations from the consultation was to incorporate State input into the selection of topic areas for subsequent solicitations, to ensure that State priorities were considered in projects that EPA selected.

There was support from a large number of the responding States for maintaining *innovation in permitting* as a subject of the next solicitation, in order to create a stable resource base for an area that is core to the innovation efforts in most States. Within this topic there was considerable support for EPA assistance to the States for implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) relating to permitting (see: <http://www.epa.gov/ems/> and Environmental Results Programs (ERPs) (see: <http://www.epa.gov/ooaujeag/permits/masserp.htm>). There were other topics suggested by the States—including a few topics that were suggested by more than one State, but because of the strong support for the *innovation in permitting* topic, and the relatively small amount of funding anticipated this year for the program, EPA was concerned that too many topics might diffuse the resources available and prohibit adequate funding for projects of significant scale. Several of the other topics suggested may in fact, be eligible for support through other EPA assistance programs. The State Innovation Grant Program will try to provide some flexibility around the “innovation in permitting” theme for a variety of projects, although permitting programs or alternatives to permitting programs will be at the core of projects we select.

Dated: October 9, 2003.

Christopher Knopes,

Associate Director, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7580-8]

Public Notice of Draft NPDES General Permits for Wastewater Lagoon Systems Located In Indian Country in MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to reissue NPDES general permits.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 8 is hereby giving notice of its proposed determination to issue five National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permits for wastewater lagoon systems that are located in Indian country in the States of MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY and that are treating primarily domestic wastewater. The general permits are grouped geographically by State, with the permit coverage being for specified Indian reservations in the State; any land held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151. These general permits will replace the twenty-one general permits that were issued for a 5-year term in 1998 for Indian reservations in MT, ND, SD, and UT.

The use of wastewater lagoon systems is the most common method of treating municipal wastewater in Indian country in MT, ND, SD, UT and WY. Wastewater lagoon systems are also used to treat domestic wastewater from isolated housing developments, schools, camps, missions, and similar sources of domestic wastewater that are not connected to a municipal sanitary sewer system and do not use septic tank systems. Region 8 is proposing to use general permits instead of individual permits for permitting the discharges from such facilities in order to reduce the Region's administrative burden of issuing separate individual permits. The administrative burden for the regulated sources is expected to be about the same under the general permits as with individual permits, but it will be much quicker to obtain permit coverage with general permits than with individual permits. The discharge requirements would essentially be the same with an individual permit or under the general permit.

DATES: Public comments on this proposal must be received, in writing, on or before December 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Public comments should be sent to: U.S. EPA, Region 8; Water Permits Unit (8P-W-P); 999 18th Street, Suite 300; Denver, CO 80202-2466.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the draft permit and Fact Sheet, please write William Kennedy at the above address or telephone (303) 312-6285. Copies of the draft permit and Fact Sheet may also be downloaded from the EPA Region 8 web page at <http://www.epa.gov/region08/html/npdes/lagoons.html>. Questions regarding the specific permit requirements may be directed to Mike Reed at (303) 312-6132, or E-mail address Reed.Mike@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION It is proposed that general permits be issued for discharges from wastewater lagoon systems located in the following areas:

Montana: MTG589###. This permit covers the Blackfeet Indian Reservation; the Crow Indian Reservation; the Flathead Indian Reservation; the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; the Fort Peck Indian Reservation; the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation; the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation; any land within the State of Montana held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas within the State of Montana which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

North Dakota: NDG589###. This permit covers the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation; the Fort Totten Indian Reservation—also known as Spirit Lake Indian Reservation; the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation; the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation; any land within the State of North Dakota held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas within the State of North Dakota which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151. This permit includes that portion of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and associated Indian country located within the State of South Dakota. It does not include any land held in trust by the United States for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe or any other Indian country associated with that Tribe, which is covered under general permit SDG589###.

South Dakota: SDG589###. This permit covers the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation; Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation; the Flandreau Indian Reservation; the Lower Brule Indian Reservation; the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation—includes the entire Reservation, which is located in both

South Dakota and Nebraska; the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation; the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation; any land within the State of South Dakota held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas, within the State of South Dakota which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151. This permit includes any land in the State of North Dakota that is held in trust by the United States for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe or any other Indian country associated with that Tribe. It does not include the Standing Rock Indian Reservation or any associated Indian country, which is covered under general permit NDG589###.

Utah: UTG589###. This permit covers the Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Indian Reservation; the Paiute Indian Reservation; the Skull Valley Indian Reservation; the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation; any land within the State of Utah held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas within the State of Utah which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151. It does not include those portions of the Navajo Nation, the Goshutes Indian Reservation, and the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation located in the State of Utah, any land held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe that is associated with those reservations, and any other areas which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151 that are associated with those reservations.

Wyoming: WYG589###. This permit covers the Wind River Indian Reservation; any land within the State of Wyoming held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and any other areas within the State of Wyoming which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

General permits are not being issued for the portions of the Navajo Nation and the Goshutes Indian Reservation in Utah since the permitting activities for these reservations are done by Region 9 of EPA. Also, general permits are not being issued for the Southern Ute Indian Reservation located in the State of Colorado and the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation located in the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah because of water quality concerns in the San Juan River Basin portion of the Colorado River Basin.

Coverage under the general permits will be limited to lagoon systems treating primarily domestic wastewater and will include the following three categories: (1) Lagoons where no permission is required before starting to discharge; (2) lagoons where permission is required before starting to discharge;