

credits should collect such information through existing reporting processes and in a manner that minimizes the burden on property owners.

New section 36(b) requires HUD to establish standards and definitions for the information to be collected by state agencies and to provide states with technical assistance in establishing systems to compile and submit such information and, in coordination with other federal agencies administering housing programs, establish procedures to minimize duplicative reporting requirements for properties assisted under multiple housing programs.

New section 36(c) provides that HUD “shall, not less than annually, compile and make publicly available the information submitted to the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a).”

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

LIHTC is a tax incentive intended to increase the availability of low-income housing. Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides an income tax credit to owners of newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated low-income rental housing projects. The credits allocated are based on the cost of units placed in service as low-income units under particular minimum occupancy and maximum rent criteria. In general, a building must meet one of two thresholds to be eligible for LIHTC: (1) At least 20 percent of the units must be rent-restricted and occupied by tenants with incomes no higher than 50 percent of the area median gross income (AMGI); or (2) At least 40 percent of the units must be rent-restricted and occupied by tenants with incomes no higher than 60 percent of AMGI. The term “rent-restricted” means that gross rent, including an allowance for tenant-paid utilities, cannot exceed 30 percent of the tenant’s imputed income limitation (*i.e.*, 50 percent or 60 percent of AMGI). The rent and occupancy thresholds remain in effect for at least 15 years, and building owners are required to enter into agreements to maintain the low-income character of the building for at least an additional 15 years.

Currently, there is no comprehensive administrative database containing data on LIHTC tenant households. HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research, under its broad authority to conduct research on housing and urban development issues, has collected and published data on LIHTC projects periodically throughout the life of the LIHTC program, and annually since 1999. The HERA requirement reflects Congressional intent to have data on households residing in LIHTC

properties collected annually and submitted under uniform standards.

This Document

Through this notice, HUD seeks to inform all the public of its responsibilities with respect to LIHTC data collection, and to reach a broader audience (than is possible through informal meetings) to solicit early input from state agencies and other interested members of the public on standards and definitions that would be helpful to state agencies in their collection of the information required by section 36 of the 1937 Act, as well as input on procedures that would minimize duplicative reporting requirements.

In an effort to initiate discussion of these statutory requirements and commence the solicitation of informal feedback on these requirements, the data collection requirements were first discussed in a public forum at the Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS) quarterly industry meeting on October 22, 2008. At that time, HUD also announced its intention to create an informal working group, open, at any time, to any interested parties, for the members of the working group to share their individual views of this data collection effort, and any past experiences with similar data collection efforts. HUD will use the information provided by the various members of the working group and consider the members’ individual recommendations and suggestions in its development of the standards and definitions that HUD is charged with issuing under section 36 of the 1937 Act.

HUD is seeking feedback from the public on the standards, definitions, and procedures for collecting the required data. One possible approach for which it solicits early comment, is to use two forms, one requesting data on LIHTC properties, indicating among other things project-based subsidies (so that universally applicable project data need not be separately reported for each tenant), and the other requesting data on LIHTC tenants and unit-specific characteristics. HUD requests that the public provide comments on whether this approach will minimize reporting burden on property managers, and on any other approaches that HUD should consider.

To collect LIHTC property characteristics, HUD seeks comments on whether the agency should use the form currently used to collect data in HUD’s LIHTC projects placed in service database. Annually, HUD requests, through a contractor, data on a volunteer basis from the state housing finance agencies on LIHTC projects

placed in service. This form has two advantages over creating a new form. First, it is OMB-approved through 2011 and therefore would not require a new review under the Paperwork Reduction Act unless modifications are made. Second, the state housing agencies currently use this form and are familiar with it. Continuing with a familiar form would assist the goal of minimizing the reporting burden. More information on HUD’s current LIHTC projects placed in service database can be found here: <http://lihtc.huduser.org/>.

The proposed tenant data collection form is based on the National Council of State Housing Agencies’ (NCSHA’s) best practices Tenant Income Certification (TIC) Form. The IRS does not require a standard form across states to certify tenants residing in LIHTC-financed units. NCSHA’s best practices TIC form is used by many state housing finance agencies, either as is or in a slightly modified version. Since the data requested on this form is already collected by many state housing finance agencies, HUD believes this form, modified to account for additional information that HUD is required by statute to report, would minimize the reporting burden on the state agencies. The form contemplated by HUD amends NCSHA’s TIC to include race, ethnicity, and disability status.

HUD anticipates publishing its formal proposal for implementing the data collection during the summer of 2009. Once data transmission methods are in place, data collection could begin as early as the first or second quarter of 2010.

Dated: March 19, 2009.

Jean Lin Pao,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO200-LLCOF02000-L07770900-XZ0000-241A00]

Notice of Meeting, Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Front Range

Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 22, 2009 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

ADDRESSES: BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, 3028 East Main Street, Canon City, Colorado 81212.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cass Cairns, (719) 269-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Royal Gorge Field Office and San Luis Valley, Colorado. Planned agenda topics include: Manager updates on current land management issues, including 2009 Fire season outlook, Rags Over the Arkansas River (ROAR) on the Over The River proposed project, the Garden Park and Shaws Park Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment alternatives, overview of Statewide RAC meeting held in February, and Charter renewal.

All meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to make oral comments to the Council at 9:30 a.m. or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Summary minutes for the Council Meeting will be maintained in the Royal Gorge Field Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting. Meeting minutes and agenda (10 days prior to each meeting) are also available at: http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/fracc/co_fr.htm.

Dated: March 23, 2009.

Roy L. Masinton,

Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office.

[FR Doc. E9-6983 Filed 3-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee (SC); Announcement of Plenary Session

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The OCS Scientific Committee will meet at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: Wednesday, April 29, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, April 30, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Friday, May 1, 2009, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 401 E. 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, telephone (907) 276-8700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the agenda may be requested from MMS by calling Ms. Carolyn Beamer at (703) 787-1211. Other inquiries concerning the OCS SC meeting should be addressed to Dr. James Kendall, Executive Secretary to the OCS SC, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4043, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817 or by calling (703) 787-1656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCS SC will provide advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS Environmental Studies Program to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the MMS. The SC will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.

The Committee will meet in plenary session on Wednesday, April 29. The Deputy Associate Director will address the Committee on the general status of the MMS and its activities. There will be an update on OCS activities in the Alaska OCS Region and Regional Supervisors for Environment and Leasing from each region will present an overview of the Environmental Studies Program and current issues.

On Thursday, April 30, the Committee will meet in discipline breakout groups (i.e., biology/ecology, physical sciences, and social sciences) to review the specific research plans of the MMS regional offices for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

On Friday, May 1, the Committee will meet in plenary session for reports of the individual discipline breakout sessions of the previous day and to continue with Committee business.

The meetings are open to the public. Approximately 30 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis at the plenary session.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix I, and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-63, Revised.

Date: March 24, 2009.

Chris C. Oynes,

Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. E9-7060 Filed 3-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf Civil Penalties

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice summarizing Outer Continental Shelf Civil Penalties paid from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

SUMMARY: This notice provides a listing of civil penalties paid from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, for violations of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. The goal of the MMS Outer Continental Shelf Civil Penalties Program is to assure safe and clean oil, gas, sulphur, or other minerals operations on the Outer Continental Shelf. Through the pursuit, assessment, and collection of civil penalties and referrals for the consideration of criminal penalties, the program is designed to encourage compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. The purpose of publishing the penalties summary is to provide information to the public on violations of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and to provide an additional incentive for safe and environmentally sound operations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joanne McCammon, Program Coordinator, at 703-787-1292.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) strengthened section 24 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act Amendments of 1978. Section 8201 of OPA 90 increased the amount of the civil penalty from a maximum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 per violation for each day of noncompliance. More importantly, OPA 90 provided the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) with the authority to assess a civil penalty without first providing a period of time for corrective action in cases where a failure to comply with applicable regulations constitutes or constituted a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life); property; any mineral deposit; or the marine, coastal, or human environment.

The provisions of OPA 90 also require the Secretary to adjust the maximum civil penalty to reflect any increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Every 3 years, MMS analyzes the maximum civil penalty amount in conjunction with the CPI prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor. If an adjustment is necessary, MMS informs the public through the **Federal Register** of the new