

for Removing Offshore Structures" (Marine Board Study). Each working group made specific recommendations to improve offshore decommissioning. The proceedings of the International Workshop will be published in the fall of 1996.

The April 1996 International Workshop primarily focused on decommissioning activities in the Gulf of Mexico. However, MMS is also investigating opportunities to solicit views and recommendations concerning other offshore areas, including California.

MMS is discussing sponsoring an additional decommissioning workshop in California (the first California workshop was held in March 1994).

On a national level, MMS is working on an action plan to respond to recommendations made by the Marine Board Study and the general comments from the International Workshop.

Our general plan is to:

1. Improve our partnering and consultations on lease decommissioning issues—MMS is continuing to meet with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), fishing interests, the oil and gas industry, and other concerned members of the public. For example, we are discussing survey requirements for turtles and marine mammals, limitations of charge sizes and the number of detonations, and loss of nursery habitats. Recently, MMS met with NMFS and the oil and gas industry to discuss the impact of structure removals on endangered species.

MMS also plans to participate on relevant committees concerning international decommissioning policies of offshore oil and gas installations. One of the committees will develop guidelines for disposing of platforms.

2. Analyze our policies and regulations—

MMS is working with other agencies and sponsoring scientific studies to help us analyze our policies and regulations on decommissioning. In 1997, MMS plans to publish a Notice to Lessee and/or regulations to clarify MMS's policy on structure severing depths, partial facility removals, deep-water decommissioning, and site clearance requirements (including liability).

3. Conduct research and environmental studies—

MMS is conducting or will initiate research on the following topics in 1996 and early 1997:

- Turtle detection techniques,
- Fish and turtle scare devices,
- The effects of removal depths on soil transport,
- Improved well abandonment techniques,

- Ecological role of natural reefs and oil and gas production platforms on rocky reef fishes,

- Ecology of invertebrate communities on platform structures,
- Casing removal depths and removal methods,

- The effects of explosives on cement plugs,

- Deep-water pipeline abandonment procedures,

- Advanced explosive and nonexplosive removal techniques,

- Deep-water artificial reefs,
- Attraction vs. production in cold-water environments with ample hard-bottom,

- Habitat and water depth profile for fish kill from explosives,

- The effects of platform size on various fish,

- Forecasts of Federal platform removals,

- Offshore and onshore facility disposal methods, and

- An environmental and safety risk assessment for platform and pipeline decommissioning and removals.

MMS is also issuing a request for research proposals in the "Commerce Business Daily" concerning decommissioning research.

Our goal is to decommission wells, platforms, pipelines, and other structures to prevent or minimize environmental impacts and to ensure that a location is cleared of obstructions to other uses of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). MMS will achieve its goal by enhancing its partnerships with the other OCS stakeholders and by using science to evaluate the techniques, policies, and regulations associated with decommissioning.

Dated: July 29, 1996.

Lucy R. Querques,

Acting Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 96-20231 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

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National Park Service

Concurrent Jurisdiction in Maryland

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Concurrent Jurisdiction.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the State of Maryland has ceded to the National Park Service (NPS) concurrent legislative jurisdiction over lands and waters, owned, leased or administratively controlled by the NPS, within the boundaries of the 17 NPS units in the State of Maryland. This jurisdiction is in addition to those park

areas already under concurrent jurisdiction in Maryland.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Concurrent legislative jurisdiction within NPS units became effective on June 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Einar Olsen, Ranger Services Division, National Capitol Field Area, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20242. Telephone 202-619-7065.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 19, 1996, pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland Section 14-102, the Honorable Parris Glendening, Governor of the State of Maryland, ceded by agreement to the NPS concurrent legislative jurisdiction over lands and waters, owned, leased or administratively controlled by the NPS, within the boundaries of the 17 NPS units in the State of Maryland. Acting in accordance with the provisions of 16 U.S.C. 1a-3 and 40 U.S.C. 255, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt signed the agreement on January 4, 1995. In addition, the United States retrocedes and relinquishes exclusive jurisdiction over those NPS areas in the State where the United States had exclusive jurisdiction. The agreement became effective on the date of the last signature, June 20, 1996.

The 17 NPS Areas Include

Antietam National Battlefield (Washington County)
 Assateague Island National Seashore (Worcester County)
 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegheny Counties)
 Clara Barton National Historic Site (Montgomery County)
 Fort Foote Park (Prince George's County)
 Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Baltimore City)
 Fort Washington Park (Prince George's County)
 Clara Barton Parkway (Montgomery County)
 Hampton National Historical Site (Baltimore County)
 Harmony Hall (Prince George's County)
 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (Washington County)
 Monocacy National Battlefield (Frederick County)
 Oxon Cove Park (Prince George's County)
 Piscataway Park, including Colonial Farms and Marshall Hall (Prince George's County)
 Piscataway Park (Charles County)
 Thomas Stone National Historic Site (Charles County)

Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Anne Arundel County)

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Chris Andress,

Chief, Division of Ranger Activities, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 96-20207 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice—reconsideration of a portion of the Devils Tower Climbing Management Plan.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) has decided to reconsider certain portions of the Climbing Management Plan for Devils Tower National Monument which address climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through September 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument, P.O. Box 10, Devils Tower, Wyoming 82714-0010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah O. Liggett, Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument. Telephone 307-467-5283.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In March 1995, the NPS adopted a Final Climbing Management Plan (Plan) for Devils Tower National Monument. In general, the Plan states that Devils Tower will be managed primarily as a crack climbing site and that climbing will be managed taking into account the religious and cultural significance of Devils Tower as a site sacred to some Native Americans.

To this end, the Plan calls for technical rock climbers to voluntarily refrain from climbing Devils Tower during the culturally significant month of June. In addition, the Plan states that commercial use licenses for climbing will not allow commercially guided climbing during June (starting in 1996).

On May 24, 1996, Executive Order 13007 was issued by the President. It generally states that federal agencies with land management responsibilities, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, are to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity

of sacred sites. The Executive Order supplements the protection afforded by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994.

On June 8, 1996, the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming issued a preliminary order in *Bear Lodge Multiple Use Association v. Babbitt*, C.A. No. 96-CV-0063D. The court's order enjoined the NPS from restricting commercial guide climbing activities during the month of June pending a final decision of the court. The order upheld the Plan's voluntary program to encourage climbers not to climb in the month of June.

In light of these circumstances, NPS has decided to reconsider those portions of the Plan which address climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. Pending the outcome of this reconsideration and in accordance with the court's order, the NPS will not enforce the Plan's requirements regarding commercial guide climbing in the month of June. Except with respect to commercial guide activities in the month of June, the Plan remains in full force and effect.

Through this notice, the public is asked to comment on the Plan's climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. Particularly, the public is asked to comment on appropriate means for the NPS at Devils Tower to comply with the President's Executive Order regarding Indian Sacred sites. NPS, upon consideration of all public comments received, will determine whether to continue the Plan or to modify it with respect to climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. It is expected that this reconsideration will be completed by December 1, 1996.

Copies of the Plan, the court's order and Executive Order 13007 will be made available upon request from Devils Tower National Monument.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Chris Andress,

Chief, Division of Ranger Activities, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 96-20208 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

Bureau of Reclamation

Quarterly Status Report of Water Service and Repayment Contract Negotiations

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of proposed contractual actions that are new, modified, discontinued, or completed since the last publication of this notice on April 30, 1996. The February 5, 1996, notice should be used as a reference point to identify changes. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number in the February 5, 1996, notice. This notice is one means in which the public is informed about contractual actions for capital recovery and management of project resources and facilities. Additional Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announcements of individual contract actions may be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the areas determined by Reclamation to be affected by the proposed action. Announcements may be in the form of new releases, legal notices, official letters, memorandums, or other forms of written material. Meetings, workshops, and/or hearings may also be used, as appropriate, to provide local publicity. The public participation procedures do not apply to proposed contracts for sale of surplus or interim irrigation water for a term of 1 year or less. Either of the contracting parties may invite the public to observe any contract proceedings. All public participation procedures will be coordinated with those involved in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.

ADDRESSES: The identity of the approving officer and other information pertaining to a specific contract proposal may be obtained by calling or writing the appropriate regional office at the address and telephone number given for each region in the supplementary information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alonzo Knapp, Manager, Reclamation Law, Contract, and Repayment Office, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007; telephone 303-236-1061 extension 224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 226 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1273) and 43 CFR 426.20 of the rules and regulations published in 52 FR 11954, Apr. 13, 1987, Reclamation will publish notice of proposed or amendatory contract actions for any contract for the delivery of project water for authorized uses in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area at least 60 days prior to contract execution. Pursuant to the "Final Revised Public Participation Procedures" for water resource-related contract negotiations,