

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[AK-932-1430-ET; AA-26417]****Public Land Order No. 7581; Extension of Public Land Order No. 6458; Alaska****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order extends the withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 6458 for an additional 20-year period. This extension is necessary to continue the protection of the Sitka Magnetic Observatory Site.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 6, 2003.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robbie J. Havens, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue, No. 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599, 907-271-5477.

Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (2000), it is ordered as follows:

1. The withdrawal created by Paragraph 4 of Public Land Order No. 6458 (48 FR 40232, September 6, 1983), which withdrew 117.13 acres of public land from surface entry and mining to protect the Sitka Magnetic Observatory Site, is hereby extended for an additional 20-year period.

2. This withdrawal will expire on September 5, 2023, unless as a result of a review conducted prior to the expiration date pursuant to section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f)(1994), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Rebecca W. Watson,

Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.

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BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Reclamation****[DES 03-50]****Transfer of Title to Facilities, Works, and Lands of the Gila Project, Wellton-Mohawk Division to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, Yuma County, AR (Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer)**

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Wellton-Mohawk title transfer.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer. The title transfer will transfer ownership and divest Reclamation of the responsibility for the operation, maintenance, management, regulation of, and liability for the project facilities and appurtenant lands to the entity that has demonstrated its ability to manage the project, the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (District). This title transfer will consolidate management responsibility with the District, thereby allowing the District to have greater authority in the management of growth and land based issues in the Wellton-Mohawk Valley, protect against encroachment on agriculture, and consolidate ownership of lands, facilities, and the Gila River Flood Channel.

DATES: The public review period shall close on October 29, 2003. Written comments on the DEIS must be received at the address listed under the

ADDRESSES section.

Public hearings will also be held to accept oral and written comments on the DEIS at:

- Wellton, Arizona, on Wednesday, October 1, 2003, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- Yuma, Arizona, on Thursday, October 2, 2003, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The public hearing facilities are accessible to those who are physically-challenged. Please contact Ms. Nancy Blake by telephone at (602) 258-0234 or by facsimile at (602) 258-2352 for accessibility accommodations, including sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids. Requests should be made by September 17, 2003, to allow sufficient time to arrange for accommodation.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the DEIS should be submitted to Ms. Margot Selig, Lower Colorado Regional Office, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 61470, BCOO-4451, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, or via facsimile to (702) 293-8042.

The public hearings will be held at:

- Antelope Union High School, 9168 South Avenue 36E, Wellton, Arizona
- Ramada Inn Chilton and Conference Center—Inca Room, 300 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for locations where copies

of the DEIS are available for public review and inspection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Margot Selig, Lower Colorado Regional Title Transfer Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation, (702) 293-8192. Those wishing to obtain a copy of the DEIS in the form of a printed document or on compact disk (CD-ROM with Adobe Acrobat Reader included), or a summary of the DEIS may contact Ms. Selig.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Public Disclosure**

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 may be other 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.

Hearing Process Information

Requests to make oral comments at the public hearings may be made at each hearing. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter. Speakers will be called in the order of their requests. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to 5 minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the public hearing or identified as hearing comments and mailed to be received by Ms. Selig no later than September 29, 2003.

Background

The DEIS will be used in the decision-making process pursuant to the Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act of June 2000 (Pub. L. 106-221), whereby the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to transfer title to the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project works, facilities and certain federally-owned lands from the United States to the District. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona constituted to own lands and facilities and to contract with Reclamation for diversion of Colorado River water for delivery to its landowners. Reclamation and the District signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in July 1998,