

**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 western Montana. At the March 13 meeting, topics we plan to discuss include: Updates on the Dillon and Butte Resource Management Plans, fuels reduction and how it relates to the President's Forest Initiative, the Limestone Hills sub-group, sage grouse planning, and an update on the Dillon standards and guidelines implementation.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marilyn Krause, Resource Advisory Council Coordinator, at the Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana 59701, telephone 406-533-7617 or Nancy Anderson, Field Manager, Missoula Field Office, telephone 406-329-3914.

Dated: January 15, 2003.

**Nancy Anderson,**  
*Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board will meet at the New Orleans Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**DATES:** Wednesday, March 19, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday, March 20, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140, telephone (504) 561-1234, fax (504) 523-0488.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gary Fields, Royalty Policy Committee Coordinator, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B3, Denver, CO 80225-0165, telephone (303) 231-3102, fax (303) 231-3781, e-mail [gary.fields@mms.gov](mailto:gary.fields@mms.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of the Interior established a Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board to provide advice on the Department's management of Federal and Indian minerals leases, revenues, and other minerals-related policies. Committee membership includes representatives from States, Indian tribes and allottee organizations, minerals industry associations, the general public, and Federal departments.

At this 16th meeting, the committee will elect a Parliamentarian, receive a subcommittee report on coal and review recommendations from the sodium/potassium subcommittee. The MMS will present reports on financial management, compliance, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and royalty-in-kind initiatives. The MMS will also discuss the current appeals process, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issue and provide a legislative update.

The location and dates of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register**. The meetings are open to the public without advance registration on a space available basis. The public may make statements during the meetings, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the committee for its consideration. Written statements should be submitted to Mr. Fields at the mailing address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Transcripts of committee meetings will be available 2 weeks after each meeting for public inspection and copying at MMS's Minerals Revenue Management, Building 85, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

**Authority:** Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, and Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-63, revised.

Dated: January 23, 2003.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-1886 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Intent to Solicit Public Comments on the Adoption of an Interim 602(a) Storage Guideline for Management of the Colorado River and to Initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

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

**ACTION:** Notice to solicit public comments and initiation of the NEPA process.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is considering the adoption of a specific interim guideline that will assist the Secretary in making a determination of the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year, as required by article II (1) of the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968 (Long-Range Operating Criteria).

**DATES:** To be most useful, we must receive all comments at the address given below on or before March 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments to Tom Ryan, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138; faxogram (801) 524-5499; e-mail: [tryan@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:tryan@uc.usbr.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each year, the Secretary establishes an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Colorado River reservoirs. The AOP describes how Reclamation will manage the reservoirs over a 12-month period, consistent with the Long-Range Operating Criteria. Pursuant to applicable Federal law, Reclamation consults annually with the Colorado River Basin States, Indian tribes, and others interested parties in the development of the AOP. Further, as part of the AOP, the Secretary makes an annual determination under the Long-Range Operating Criteria regarding the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year to be in storage as required by section 602(a)(3) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (602(a) Storage). This determination is important because when projected storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs is greater than 602(a) Storage, releases from Lake Powell are made according to article II (3) of the Long-Range Operating Criteria and section 602(a)(3).