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Dated: April 10, 1998.

**MaryEllen Amtower,**

*Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 98-10051 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Letters of Authorization to Take Marine Mammals**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 101(a)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) implementing regulations, notice is hereby given that Letters of Authorization to take polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities have been issued to the following companies:

Company	Activity	Date issued
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. ....	Exploration (Liberty) .....	March 16, 1998.
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. ....	Exploration (Flaxman Island) .....	March 16, 1998.
Exxon Company, U.S.A. ....	Construction (Flaxman Island) .....	March 24, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John W. Bridges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with Service implementing regulations 50 CFR 18.27 and 50 CFR 18.128.

Dated: March 30, 1998.

**Robyn Thorson,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-9366 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-01-M

North Dakota/South Dakota, at (303) 236-8145, extension 644.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Garrison Diversion Unit Federal Advisory Council will consider and discuss subjects such as the Kraft Slough status and acquisition, the Dakota Water Resources Act, North Dakota Wetland Trust, Operation Maintenance, and Replacement funding for mitigation and enhancement lands, Wildlife Development Plan, Lonetree Update, Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge EIS and mitigation effort, Designation of Kraft Slough as a National Wildlife Refuge, and the Oakes Test area.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

**Terry Terrell,**

*Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

[FR Doc. 98-10074 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Garrison Diversion Unit Federal Advisory Council Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Garrison Diversion Unit Federal Advisory Council which was established under the authority of the Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-294, May 12, 1986). The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Garrison Diversion Unit Federal Advisory Council will have a meeting, on Tuesday, May 5, from 1 through 4:30 p.m. and from 8 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, May 6.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, North Dakota.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Grady Towns, Refuges and Wildlife,

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-921-08-1320-01; MTM 80697]

**Coal Lease Offering**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Coal Lease Offering By Sealed Bid MTM 80697—Western Energy Company.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in Rosebud County, Montana, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid. This offering is being made as a result of an application filed by Western Energy Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181-287), as amended.

An Environmental Assessment of the proposed coal development and related

requirements for consultation, public involvement, and hearing have been completed in accordance with 43 CFR 3425. Concerns and issues expressed by the public during the public scoping process centered on social, economic, and cultural impacts to the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Tribes, hydrologic impacts to the area, and the need to do an Environmental Impact Statement as the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the development of the coal resources. Three alternatives (Preferred, No Action, and Cultural Resource Avoidance) were developed to analyze impacts and to address issues relating to the proposed action. The Preferred Alternative, including special stipulations and mitigation measures, was chosen because it will maximize the beneficial use of the subject coal resource and will mitigate impacts to one historic site and two sites which have high values as traditional cultural properties.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

**Coal Offered**

The coal resource to be offered consists of all recoverable reserves in the following-described lands located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Colstrip, Montana:

- T. 1 N., R. 39 E., P.M.M.
- Sec. 2: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 1 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.
- Sec. 6: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 8: E $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$