

incidental to and not the purpose of otherwise lawful activities. Our regulations for approving such permit requests are contained in Section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act.

We have determined that the HCP is a low-effect plan that is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Low-effect HCPs are those involving: (1) Minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources. The Applicant's HCP qualifies for the following reasons:

1. Approval of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on the red-cockaded woodpecker and its habitat. We do not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects on this species as a result of this project.

2. Approval of the HCP would not have adverse effects on known geographic, historic, or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

3. Approval of the HCP would not result in any significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

4. The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, nor does it threaten to violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment.

5. Approval of the HCP would not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public via this Notice on the Federal action. Further, we specifically solicit information regarding the adequacy of the HCP as measured against the Service's ITP issuance criteria found in 50 CFR Parts 13 and 17.

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit number TE063814-0 in your comments. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may comment via the internet to aaron_valenta@fws.gov. Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a

confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to either Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES**). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. 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 inspection in their entirety.

We will evaluate the HCP and public comments to determine whether the application meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Act. We will also evaluate whether the issuance of the ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation to ensure that the ITP will not jeopardize the continued existence of this species. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, to determine if the requirements of the ITP are met and whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: April 23, 2003.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The OCS Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board will meet at the Radisson Hotel Old Town in Alexandria, Virginia.

DATES: Tuesday, May 13, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, May 14, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Radisson Hotel Old Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone (703) 683-6000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jeryne Bryant at Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4001, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4187. She can be reached by telephone at (703) 787-1211 or by electronic mail at jeryne.bryant@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCS Policy Committee represents the collective viewpoint of coastal states, environmental interests, industry, and other parties involved with the OCS Program. It provides policy advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the MMS on all aspects of leasing, exploration, development, and protection of OCS resources.

The agenda for May 13 will cover the following principal subjects:

World Oil Scenario. This presentation will address the current state of the world's oil supply and demand; how it is affected by the world's political scenario and the barriers in reducing imports.

Gas Imports to Meet the Nation's Energy Demand. This presentation will address proposed liquefied natural gas ports, the Blue Atlantic Transmission System, and proposed regulatory changes.

Geosciences Data and Collections—National Resources in Peril. This presentation will address the National Research Council's report, Geosciences Data and Collections—National Resources in Peril.

States' Vision for the OCS Program. This presentation will address how the states deal with oil and gas and sand and gravel activities, and how MMS activities in the OCS affects the states.

Building Consensus. This presentation will address components of the consensus building process, an executive outline of the report, Moving Beyond Conflict to Consensus, and MMS's current rules

Coastal Zone Management Act. The presentation will discuss the roles of the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, as directed in the National Energy Policy, for promoting energy-related activities in the coastal zone and on the OCS.

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. This presentation will provide an update on the draft recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The agenda for May 14 will cover the following principal subjects: