

B. We are considering changing regulations to clarify current requirements and to allow better rangeland management and permit administration. Changes we are considering include:

- Clarifying the permit renewal performance review requirements when grazing permits are pledged as security for loans.
- Clarifying who is qualified for public lands grazing use and who will receive preference for a grazing permit or lease.
- Clarifying the provisions addressing grazing preference transfers.
- Reinstating an earlier provision that BLM and the permit holder may share title to certain range improvements if the improvement was constructed under a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement.
- Clarifying that BLM will follow state law with respect to the acquisition of water rights.
- Examining whether BLM should authorize temporarily locked gates on public lands in order to protect private land and improve livestock operations.
- Clarifying which non-permit related violations BLM may take into account in penalizing a permittee.
- Considering ways to streamline the grazing decision appeal process.
- Extending the time period that BLM may approve nonuse of forage from 3 to 5 years for resource improvement, business, or personal needs.

C. We are also considering amendments related to changes in permitted use. Amendments we are considering include:

- Creating provisions re-emphasizing consideration of social, economic, and cultural impact, in addition to the ecological impacts, of Federal actions to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Requiring a permittee/lessee to apply to renew a permit or lease.
- What criteria BLM will consider before approving increases in permitted use.
- Considering whether to amend the provision stating when BLM will implement action that changes grazing management after determining that the allotments used by a permittee or lessee are not meeting or significantly progressing toward meeting land health standards.

D. We are considering adding the following new provisions to the regulations.

- Establishing and administering a new concept called "Reserve Common Allotments" (RCA). RCAs would be managed as reserve forage areas for use by permittees whose allotments are

undergoing restoration treatments and require rest from grazing. RCA forage would be allocated on a temporary non-renewable basis to permittees participating in restoration on their allotments.

- Adding a fee schedule for preference transfers, crossing permits, applications for nonuse, and replacement/supplemental billing under existing service charge authority. We do not intend to address grazing fees in this rulemaking.

E. We also plan to make minor revisions to correct typographical errors and to make technical changes to improve the clarity of the rule. One change we will make is to remove references to "conservation use" permits to reflect the decision in *Public Lands Council v. Babbitt*, 929 F.Supp. 1436 (D. Wyo. 1996), *rev'd in part and aff'd in part*, 167 F.3d 1287 (10th Cir. 1999), *aff'd*, 529 U.S. 728 (2000).

Additional information about BLM's Rangeland, Soils, Water, and Air Program is available at <http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-200/wo-220/index.html>.

Dated: January 17, 2003.

**Rebecca W. Watson,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

#### 49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7666; Notice 6]

**RIN 2137-AD54**

#### Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Gas Transmission Pipelines)

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a one-day public meeting to address issues raised at a recent workshop jointly organized by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) Foundation and the American Gas Association (AGA) on the proposed 49 CFR part 192.763, "Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas". This meeting is intended to give participants a better understanding of the proposed rule. OPS representatives will give an overview of the proposed

regulation and will fully discuss identification of high consequence areas and moderate risk areas; confirmatory direct assessment methods; assessment schedules, and criteria for the performance approach to the program. RSPA/OPS is also seeking information on the costs and benefits of implementing the proposed requirements.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting is open to all. There is no cost to attend. This meeting will be held on Friday March 14, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marriott at Metro Center hotel located at 775 12th Street, NW., Washington, DC; Tel: 202-737-2200; fax: 202-347-5886; website: [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com). You may register electronically for this meeting at: <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/meetings>. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as hotel rooms are limited. For other details on this meeting contact Janice Morgan at 202-366-2392.

You may submit written comments by mail or delivery to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The dockets facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. You should submit the original and one copy. Anyone who wants confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. You may also submit comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the Internet Web address <http://dms.dot.gov>. And click on "Help" for instructions on electronic filing of comments. All written comments should identify the docket number RSPA-03-14448; Notice 3.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comments (or signing the comments, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the U.S. Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jenny Donohue by phone at (202) 366-4046, regarding this document. General information about RSPA/OPS programs may be obtained by accessing RSPA's Internet page at <http://rspa.dot.gov>.

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