

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1995

TELECONFERENCE

AGENDA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Minerals Management Assistance to Mojave - Dave Shaver received a call from Asst. Supt., Frank Buono, expressing appreciation for the division's assistance. Frank realizes that the park would be lost without the division's help. The park is especially thankful to have Jim Wood detailed to the park as he is able, with help from Denver staff, to handle most of the minerals workload. Also noted were the efforts of Denver staff on plan of operation review, policy/regulatory issues, and claim validity. We agreed that the workload is likely to grow, and the need for staff and funding resources for Mojave remains unresolved. (Geologic Resources)

EPA MOU On August 15, 1995, an MOU was signed by Bill Yellowtail, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Water Resources Division, National Park Service, to improve cooperation and coordination between the two agencies for the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water and related natural resources. More specifically, the MOU establishes a framework for the exchange or detail of staff between EPA and NPS to accomplish activities in project specific workplans. (Water Resources)

FYI/UPDATE

CBS Sunday Morning The August 27 show will focus on problems facing national parks. CBS personnel traveled with the Director on his recent trip to North Cascades. The show airs at 9:00 on the East Coast.

NEPA Guidelines The Environmental Quality Division met with CEQ about its white paper on restructuring NEPA compliance activities in the National Park Service. The division will be circulating the document within the next two weeks.

Geologic Division Functions Workshop - The division is planning a workshop involving NPS field representatives to help us understand geology program needs, particularly as related to geologic research and disturbed land restoration. This workshop, and a detailed evaluation of park Resource Management Plans, will help us determine how best to meet field needs in the geology program area. Invitations will go out early next week, with the meeting scheduled the week of 9/25 in Denver. (Geologic Resources)

Colorado School of Mines Conference - Geologic Division staff are actively participating with the Colorado School of Mines in organizing the *Rocky Mountain Symposium on*

Environmental Issues in Oil and Gas Operations. The October 16-18 conference, sponsored by government and industry, will focus on applied methods to minimize impacts or remediate sites. Keynote speakers include Rep. Scott McGinnis, Chevron's Chief of Environmental Affairs, the BLM-Wyoming State Director, and Marathon's Regional Production Manager. Lunch speakers are photographer John Fielder and the Nature Conservancy's western director. The conference will be noted on the Natural Resources Bulletin Board. (Geologic Resources)

Colorado River Operating Plan At the request of the Superintendents of GRCA and GLCA, Bill Jackson of WRD has been designated as the NPS lead and point of contact for NPS's involvement in the development of the Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River. (Water Resources)

Carbon I & II Power Plants in the News An article on the Carbon I and Carbon II power plants that appeared in the Washington Post last week has generated renewed interest at DOI and State. DOI's Brooks Yeager will meet with Bill Nitze, EPA's Assistant Administrator for International Affairs on August 29th to discuss the issue. A conference call was held this morning (8/21) among DOI (Reiff, Schoolman, Fleek), State, Justice, EPA and NPS (Cisneros, Flores) to discuss possible strategies. There is concern that since Mexico's refusal to accept the findings of the U.S. delegation's report on Carbon II impacts at Big Bend, Mexico thinks that the U.S. is no longer concerned about this issue. Although no specific strategy was developed during today's conference call, DOS pointed out that we may wish to have the issue brought up by President Clinton during President Zedillo's visit to Washington October 9 and 10. Flores will work with EPA's Jim Yarbrough in providing State with briefing materials. There seems to be a consensus to push for at US-Canada-type agreement with Mexico to address the issue of notification, as well as emissions reductions for new and existing sources. More conference calls will be held over the next few weeks to arrive at consensus.

Decision on Centralia Power Plant The Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority (SWAPCA) held a board meeting on August 15 to consider the reasonably available control technology (RACT) order for the Centralia power plant. Superintendent Briggie presented testimony for the Park Service consistent with our previous comments on the draft order which asked for more stringent control to address reasonably attributable visibility and deposition concerns at Mt. Rainier and other parks and wilderness areas in Washington. He also requested a 90 day delay in granting the order to allow for more discussions with the plant owners. An environmental group, the NW Environmental Advocate supported more stringent controls and the NPS position and also asked for an extension before a decision on the RACT order. Other testimony opposing the RACT order focused on the health implications of the emissions from the plant. Testimony supporting the order only addressed the economic aspects of the plant (jobs for miners and the impact of closing the plant [not likely] on the local community). As expected SWAPCA granted the RACT order, which takes effect in 2001, and denied the extension requests. The NPS did negotiate language into the order which gives us 18 months to further negotiate with the owners and try to get better controls before the plant owners make significant investments in control technology. We will be working with the Centralia owners, the WA Department of Ecology, EPA, and the Forest

Service, and others to resolve this highly politically charged issue in favor protecting the parks and wilderness areas. (Air Resources)

Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission Following concerns raised, among other places, in a letter from Director Kennedy to the GCVTA Chairman, Governor Symington, earlier this month, the GCVTC Operations Committee unanimously agreed to look for additional funding and contractor support to more adequately address tourism, health, and other areas expected to be favorably impacted by emission reduction measures evaluated under the GCVTC assessment. This effort should help offset the extensive control cost effort and enable the GCVTC to recommend more stringent and more effective measures to combat the regional haze problem impacting GRCA and other Colorado Plateau parks. To help address concerns raised regarding "in and near park" emissions sources, such as cars and campfires, ARD and GRCA are exploring options for collecting these data from the Colorado Plateau parks. (Air Resources)

Southern Appalachian Air Issues In September, TVA officials will come to MIB for the third meeting in an effort to have TVA provide NOx emission credits to offset Tenn Luttrell's impacts to GRSM and the impacts of other new sources. These meetings also involve development of a cooperative agreement between TVA and NPs for joint stewardship efforts in the portion of TVA's region contained in the Appalachian cluster. (Air Resources)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Denver Administrative Program Center - Shaver, Christiano, and Kimball met with Alex Young last week on the status of the Denver-APC. Alex is slated to head the APC, reporting directly to WASO. While numerous details remain, in general it appears that the center will be functional in FY-96. The APC will be responsible for handling all administrative functions for Colorado-based national offices, including personnel, which should remove many of the difficulties associated with remote servicing from WASO. We are pleased with this change, and expect staff will benefit greatly - Alex is a joy to work with and a real problem solver.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Water Resources Secretary The closing date for the advertisement of Water Resources Secretary position has been extended to September 6, 1995, to broaden the area of consideration from WASO-wide to also include Colorado-based NPS central offices (e.g., the Intermountain Field Office, the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau SSOs, and the Denver Service Center). (Water Resources)

Water Resources Annual Report The 1994 Annual Report of the Water Resources Division was received from the printer on August 18 and will be distributed to parks, SSO's, field offices, other centers, and WASO the week of August 21. (Water Resources)