Section A. Order of Succession

Subject to the provisions of the Vacancy Reform Act of 1998, during any period when, by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office, the Assistant Secretary for Administration/Chief Information Officer is not available to exercise the powers or perform the duties of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration/Chief Information Officer, the following officials within the Office of Administration are hereby designated to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Office:

1. General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration;
2. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations;
3. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Management;
4. Chief Procurement Officer;
5. Chief Technology Officer;
6. Director, Administrative Service Center 2;
7. Director, Administrative Service Center 1;
8. Director, Administrative Service Center 3

The officials shall perform the functions and duties of this Office in the order specified herein, and no official shall serve unless all the other officials, whose position titles precede his or hers in this order, are unable to act by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office.

Section B. Authority Superseded

This Order of Succession supersedes the Order of Succession for the Assistant Secretary for Administration, published on August 22, 2000 (65 FR 51014).

Authority: Sec. 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).


Vickers B. Meadows,
Assistant Secretary for Administration, Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–15705 Filed 6–20–03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[DOcket No. FR–4837–D–36]

Amendment of Redelegation of Authority Under the Privacy Act of 1974

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of amendment of redelegation of authority.

SUMMARY: This notice amends a redelegation of authority under the Privacy Act from HUD’s General Counsel to certain Associate General Counsels. The amendment reflects a change in the organizational structure of the Office of General Counsel that created a new position.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dane Narode, Assistant General Counsel for Administrative Proceedings, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room B–133, CEP, Washington, DC 20410–0500, telephone (202) 708–2350. (This is not a toll-free number.) For those needing assistance, this number may be accessed through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service number at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 11, 1996 (61 FR 53382), the Department published a notice delegating and redelegating certain authority under the Privacy Act, as specified in the redelegation of authority, to the General Counsel and to certain Associate General Counsels. The Department acted in accordance with the Department’s redelegation consistent with a change in the organizational structure of the Office of General Counsel. The redelegation of authority, to the General Counsel and to certain Associate General Counsels, was necessary. The General Counsel redelegated this authority to various Associate General Counsels in the Department. This delegation and redelegation are necessary to assist in enforcement activities carried out by the Office of General Counsel on behalf of the Department. This amendment makes the redelegation consistent with a reorganization within the Office of General Counsel. The reorganization changed the scope of authority being delegated to replace the Associate General Counsel for Litigation and Fair Housing with the Associate General Counsel for Litigation and the Associate General Counsel for Fair Housing.

Accordingly, the redelegation of authority published on October 11, 1996 (61 FR 53382) is amended as follows:

Section B. Amendment of Redelegation of Authority

Section B of the delegation and redelegation of authority published on October 11, 1996 (61 FR 53382) is amended to read as follows:

The General Counsel and the Department of Housing and Urban Development hereby redelegates all of the power and authority delegated in Section A., above, to the following Associate General Counsels:

The Associate General Counsel for Program Enforcement;

The Associate General Counsel for Finance and Regulatory Enforcement;

The Associate General Counsel for Litigation; and

The Associate General Counsel for Fair Housing.

Authority: Sec. 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: June 12, 2003.

Richard A. Hauser, General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03–15704 Filed 6–20–03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Processing

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Processing. This draft document provides internal guidance for conducting the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances permit program under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Its purpose is to provide policy and guidance for section 10(a)(1)(A) procedures to promote efficiency and nationwide consistency within the Service. The Service seeks public comment on this draft guidance document.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Processing must be received on or before August 22, 2003 to be considered during preparation of a final guidance document.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Enhancement of
Survival Permit Processing may obtain a copy by contacting the Division of Conservation and Classification, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (telephone (703) 358–2105), and may be viewed at: http://endangered.fws.gov/candidates/ccaahandbook.html. Written comments and materials regarding the draft guidance should be directed to the same address. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Chris Nolin, Chief, Division of Conservation and Classification, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the above address (703) 358–2105.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy, dated June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32726), is intended to facilitate the conservation of species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (Act), species that are candidates for listing, and species that become candidates, by giving non-Federal property owners incentives to implement conservation measures for declining or at-risk species. The incentives available through Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances involve the Service providing property owners certainty that no further land, water, or resource use restrictions beyond those agreed to in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances will be imposed if the species later becomes listed under the Act. If the species does become listed, the property owner is authorized, through an enhancement of survival permit that is issued in association with the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, to take the covered species as long as the level of take is consistent with the level identified and agreed upon in the Agreement. Before entering into a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, however, the Service must determine that the benefits of the conservation measures to be implemented, when combined with the benefits that would be achieved if it is assumed that conservation measures were also to be implemented on other necessary properties, would preclude or remove any need to list the covered species. “Other necessary properties” are other properties on which conservation measures would have to be implemented in order to preclude or remove any need to list the covered species. These assurances will be provided in the property owner’s Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances and in an associated enhancement of survival permit issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act.

The purpose of the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Program is to facilitate the conservation of proposed and candidate species, and species that may become candidates. Much of the property containing our nation’s fish and wildlife and their habitat is owned by private citizens, States, local governments, Native American Tribal governments, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal entities. The future of many of these declining species is dependent upon conservation efforts on these non-Federal lands, but conservation efforts for these species will be most effective and efficient when initiated early in a species’ decline. Early conservation efforts can, in some cases, preclude or remove any need to list species as threatened or endangered under the Act. By preventing or removing the need to list a species through early conservation efforts, property owners can maintain land use flexibility. Specifically, initiating or expanding conservation efforts before a species and its habitat are critically imperiled increases the probability that simpler and less expensive conservation options will be available and that conservation of the species will more likely be successful.

This draft handbook provides consistent procedures and policies for the Service’s compliance with the enhancement of survival permit provisions of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act. Consistency in the section 10(a)(1)(A) program will be achieved by (1) providing national procedural and policy guidance; (2) providing standardized guidance to our offices and personnel who participate in the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances program and review and process enhancement of survival permit applications; (3) ensuring uniform Service compliance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act associated with a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances; (4) providing assistance to applicants in the non-Federal sector who wish to apply for enhancement of survival permits; and (5) providing for conservation of federally proposed, candidate, and other at-risk species.

Public Comments Solicited

We intend that a final decision on the Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Processing will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this draft document are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered prior to the approval of a final document.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Required Determinations

Regulatory Planning and Review

This Draft Handbook for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permitting Process will not have an annual economic effect of $100 million or more, or adversely affect an economic sector, productivity, jobs, the environment, or other units of government. A cost-benefit and economic analysis is not required.

a. The purpose of the draft handbook is to clarify concepts previously discussed in the CCAA Policy and is intended as guidance for the Service and applicants to use with the existing CCAA and enhancement of survival permitting process. Any economic effects associated with enhancement of survival permits and the CCAs under which they are issued would be attributable as effects of the Agreements under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. We are issuing the guidance to assist applicants with filing adequate CCAs under section 10(a)(1)(A) and would not expect to generate economic effects.

Further, this notice concerns a handbook being issued for education purposes which is expected to assist applicants by promoting a better understanding of application requirements. As such, the Government expects a positive effect on the environment because the guidance improves the CCAA development and enhancement of survival permitting processes by addressing the various concepts associated with these processes.

As of December 2002, the Service has issued 5 enhancement of survival permits, and approximately 30 CCAs are currently under development. Any economic effects associated with the 30 CCAs under current review would be attributable to the implementation of the CCAA policy itself and not to this
reduce the time before implementation of the CCAA. Therefore, this draft handbook would have a positive effect on entities. If all of the 5 current permits were held by small entities and the additional 30 under current review were also from small entities, the combined total would not comprise a significant proportion of the number of State/county governments, small businesses, and private landowners in the United States who would all be potential applicants for CCAAs. Therefore, this draft handbook would not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities.

**Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act**

This draft handbook is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. As noted above under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the issuance of this draft handbook is not expected to have economic effects of $100 million annually or to affect a significant number of small entities.

**Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

In accordance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1501, et seq.):

a. We have determined and certify pursuant to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, 2 U.S.C. 1502 et seq., that this draft handbook will not impose a cost of $100 million or more in any given year on local or State governments or private entities. No additional information will be required from a non-Federal entity solely as a result of this handbook. Since the draft handbook is to be implemented with existing data, no incremental costs are being imposed on non-Federal landowners.

b. This draft handbook will not produce a Federal mandate of $100 million or greater in any year, i.e., it is not a “significant regulatory action” under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

**Takings**

In accordance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act 12630, the draft handbook does not have significant takings implications.

**Federalism**

In accordance with Executive Order 13132, the draft handbook does not have significant Federalism effects. The draft handbook will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, in the relationship between the Federal Government and the States, or on the distribution of power or responsibilities among the various levels of government. Since States have been and will be potential CCAA permit applicants, the guidance will improve the CCAA process for States.

**Civil Justice Reform**

In accordance with Executive Order 12988, the draft handbook does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Order. With the guidance provided in the draft handbook, requirements under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA will be clarified to enhancement of survival permit applicants.

**Paperwork Reduction Act**

This handbook does not require an information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Service has examined this handbook under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and found it to contain no requests for additional information or increase in the collection requirements associated with enhancement of survival permits other than those already approved for enhancement of survival permits. Currently we have approval from OMB to collect information under OMB control number 1018--0094. This approval expires July 31, 2004. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless we display a currently valid OMB number.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

We have analyzed this draft handbook in accordance with the criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act and 318 DM 2.2(g) and 6.3(D). This draft handbook does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Service has determined that the issuance of the handbook is categorically excluded under the Department of the Interior’s NEPA procedures in 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.10 and 516 DM 6.6, Appendix 1.4 A (1).

**Section 7 Consultation**

The Service does not need to complete a section 7 consultation on this draft handbook as it is a guidance document and not an action. Individual enhancement of survival (CCAA) permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA are actions that may affect a listed species. Therefore, an intra-Service consultation is completed prior to issuing incidental take permits.

**Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribes**

In accordance with the President’s memorandum of April 29, 1994, “Government-to-Government Relations...
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

[AK–930–1310–AG]

Notice of Intent To Amend the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and To Prepare an Accompanying Environmental Impact Statement, Request for Information, and Call for Nominations and Comments

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to amend the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR–A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) and to prepare an accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Request for Information, and Call for Nominations and Comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), as amended; Title I of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), as amended by the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1981, Pub. L. 96–514, 94 Stat. 2957, 2964 (codified in 42 U.S.C. 6508); the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96–487, 94 Stat. 2371, section 810, 16 U.S.C. 3120; and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, is preparing an amendment to the existing IAP for the Northeast portion of the NPR–A and an accompanying EIS. The purpose of this Notice is to seek comment on the proposed amendment and to call for nomination of areas to be considered for oil and gas leasing. Information and comments on specific issues to be addressed in the amendment are sought from all interested parties. This early planning and consultation step is important for ensuring that all interests and concerns are communicated to the BLM Alaska State Director for decisions in land use, planning and management.

DATES: Responses to this request for information and comments, and call for nominations must be received no later than September 30, 2003. Nominations must be submitted in envelopes labeled “Nominations Related to the NPR-A IAP/EIS” to protect the confidentiality of the nominations. Information, comments, and nominations submitted in response to this publication will assist in early scoping and later development of alternatives for the IAP/EIS. Comments are sought on activities and measures to protect surface resources within the planning area, including the Teshekpuk Lake and Colville River Special Areas, fish and wildlife, and historical and scenic values. Comments are sought on subsistence uses and needs within the plan area and possible impacts on subsistence from other uses of the area. Comments should include recommendations for particular sections of the plan area that are of value for surface and subsurface resources, as well as conditions, and restrictions that would protect surface resources. Comments are also sought on any potential conflicts with approved coastal management plans (CMPs) and other land use plans that may result from possible future activities in the area. These comments should identify specific policies of concern as listed in CMPs or other plans, the nature of the conflicts foreseen, and steps that BLM could take to avoid or mitigate the potential conflicts. Comments may be in terms of broad areas or restricted to particular townships of concern.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to the Northeast NPR–A Amendment Planning Team Leader, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599. The original Call map with nominations must be submitted to the NPR–A Planning Team Leader at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curt Wilson, (907) 271–5546, by e-mail at cwilson@ak.blm.gov or by mail at 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM published a Record of Decision (ROD) October 7, 1998, for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Among other decisions, this document makes 589,000 acres in the Teshekpuk Lake area unavailable for leasing and restricts an additional 268,862 acres to leasing, but with no permanent facilities and no exploratory wells. The ROD also contains a set of prescriptive stipulations that are very specific and in some cases may be inappropriately or needlessly restrictive.

The BLM initiated an oil and gas leasing program for the planning area in May of 1999 and has conducted two successful lease sales. Many lease tracts were sold around the perimeter of the Teshekpuk Lake area. In the four years since the initial lease sale industry has completed many miles of additional seismic lines and drilled 14 exploratory wells after environmental assessments.