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43 CFR Ch. II (10-1-04 Edition)

Note), section 24 of the Federal Power Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 818), section 7 of the Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315f), the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*).

[52 FR 12175, Apr. 15, 1987, as amended at 58 FR 60917, Nov. 18, 1993]

§ 2091.0-5 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the term:

(a) *Authorized officer* means any employee of the Bureau of Land Management who has been delegated the authority to perform the duties described in this subpart.

(b) *Segregation* means the removal for a limited period, subject to valid existing rights, of a specified area of the public lands from the operation of some or all of the public land laws, including the mineral laws, pursuant to the exercise by the Secretary of regulatory authority for the orderly administration of the public lands.

(c) *Land or public lands* means any lands or interest in lands owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except: (1) Lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; and (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos.

(d) *Mineral laws* means those laws applicable to the mineral resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management. They include, but are not limited to, the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, the material disposal laws and the Geothermal Steam Act.

(e) *Public lands records* means the Tract Books, Master Title Plats and Historical Indices maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, or automated representation of these books, plats and indices on which are recorded information relating to the status and availability of the public lands. The recorded information may include, but is not limited to, withdrawals, restorations, reservations, openings, classi-

fications applications, segregations, leases, permits and disposals.

(f) *Opening* means the restoration of a specified area of public lands to operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, and, if appropriate, the mineral leasing laws, the material disposal laws and the Geothermal Steam Act, subject to valid existing rights and the terms and provisions of existing withdrawals, reservations, classifications, and management decisions. Depending on the language in the opening order, an opening may restore the lands to the operation of all or some of the public land laws.

(g) *Opening order* means an order issued by the Secretary or the authorized officer and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER that describes the lands, the extent to which they are restored to operation of the public land laws and the mineral laws, and the date and time they are available for application, selection, sale, location, entry, claim or settlement under those laws.

(h) *Public land laws* means that body of laws dealing with the administration, use and disposition of the public lands, but does not include the mineral laws.

(i) *Revocation* means the cancellation of a Public Land Order, but does not restore public lands to operation of the public land laws.

(j) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Interior or a secretarial officer subordinate to the Secretary who has been appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to whom has been delegated the authority of the Secretary to perform the duties described in this part as being performed by the *Secretary*.

§ 2091.07 Principles.

(a) Generally, segregated lands are not available for application, selection, sale, location, entry, claim or settlement under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but may be open to the operation of the discretionary mineral leasing laws, the material disposal laws and the Geothermal Steam Act, if so specified in the document that segregates the lands. The segregation is subject to valid existing

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rights and is, in most cases, for a limited period which is specified in regulations or in the document that segregates the lands. Where there is an administrative appeal or review action on an application pursuant to part 4 or other subparts of this title, the segregative period continues in effect until publication of an opening order.

(b) Opening orders may be issued at any time but are required when the opening date is not specified in the document creating the segregation, or when an action is taken to terminate the segregative effect and open the lands prior to the specified opening date.

§ 2091.1 Action on applications and mining claims.

(a) Except where the law and regulations provide otherwise, all applications shall be accepted for filing. However, applications which are accepted for filing shall be rejected and cannot be held pending possible future availability of the lands or interests in lands, except those that apply to selections made by the State of Alaska under section 906(e) of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act and selections made by Alaska Native Corporations under section 3(e) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, when approval of the application is prevented by:

- (1) A withdrawal, reservation, classification, or management decision applicable to the lands;
- (2) An allowed entry or selection of lands;
- (3) A lease which grants the lessee exclusive use of the lands;
- (4) Classifications existing under appropriate law;
- (5) Segregation due to an application previously filed under appropriate law and regulations;
- (6) Segregation resulting from a notice of realty action previously published in the FEDERAL REGISTER under appropriate regulations; and
- (7) The fact that, for any reason, the lands have not been made subject to, restored or opened to operation of the public land laws, including the mineral laws.

(b) Lands may not be appropriated under the mining laws prior to the date

and time of restoration and opening. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38, vests no rights against the United States. Actions required to establish a mining claim location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State laws where those laws are not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management does not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights because Congress has provided for the resolution of these matters in local courts.

§ 2091.2 Segregation and opening resulting from publication of a Notice of Realty Action.

§ 2091.2-1 Segregation.

The publication of a Notice of Realty Action in the FEDERAL REGISTER segregates lands that are available for disposal under:

(a) The Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869-4), for a period of 18 months (See part 2740 and subpart 2912);

(b) The sales provisions of section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713) for a period of 270 days (See part 2710).

[52 FR 12175, Apr. 15, 1987, as amended at 58 FR 60917, Nov. 18, 1993]

§ 2091.2-2 Opening.

(a) The segregative effect of a Notice of Realty Action automatically terminates either:

(1) At the end of the periods set out in § 2091.2-1 of this title (See part 2740); or

(2) As of the date specified in an opening order published in the FEDERAL REGISTER; or

(3) Upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance; whichever occurs first.

(b) [Reserved]

[52 FR 12175, Apr. 15, 1987, as amended at 58 FR 60917, Nov. 18, 1993; 65 FR 70112, Nov. 21, 2000]