Comment Period Extended, Hearings Set on Acreage Limitation
Environmental Impact Statement

The Interior Department has announced that public hearings will be held on its proposed rules and regulations on acreage limitation and a related draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) which were published in January 1981. The rules and DEIS are currently the subject of public review and comment.

The period for public comment, originally scheduled to close on December 31, 1981, has been extended to March 5, 1982, to allow the Department time to conduct 10 public hearings in February at the locations shown below. The dates and places of the hearings are published in the Federal Register of December 31. The information gathered at these hearings will be considered in preparing final rules and regulations.

In the meantime, the Administration will continue to work with the Congress, which is considering revising the 1902 law on which the rulemaking proposal is based.

"If action by the Congress in revising Reclamation law appears imminent, hearings could be postponed to allow the Department sufficient time to revise the proposed rules and regulations to reflect the new legislation," Commissioner of Reclamation Robert N. Broadbent said.

Individuals or organizations wishing to speak at the hearings or who desire additional information should contact the appropriate regional office. Requests to testify will be scheduled if received no later than two working days prior to the scheduled hearing. Any subsequent request will be handled on a first-come-first-served basis following the scheduled presentations. All oral testimony will be limited to 15 minutes.

-more-