

**Minerals Management Service, Interior**

**§ 280.73**

disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, we will not disclose the data and information unless either:

(i) You and all third parties agree to the disclosure; or

(ii) A provision of 30 CFR parts 250 and 252 allows us to make the disclosure.

(2) We will keep confidential the identity of third-party recipients of data and information collected under a permit. We will not release the identity unless you and the third parties agree to the disclosure.

(3) When you detect any significant hydrocarbon occurrences or environmental hazards on unleased lands dur-

ing drilling operations, the RD will immediately issue a public announcement. The announcement must further the national interest without unduly damaging your competitive position.

**§ 280.71 What is the timetable for release of data and information?**

We will release data and information that you or a third party submits and we retain according to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(a) If the data and information are not related to a deep stratigraphic test, we will release them to the public according to items (1), (2), and (3) in the following table:

If you or a third party submits and we retain * * *	The Regional Director will disclose them to the public * * *
(1) Geological data and information .....	10 years after issuing the permit.
(2) Geophysical data .....	50 years after you or a third party submit the data.
(3) Geophysical information .....	25 years after you or a third party submit the information
(4) Data and information related to a deep stratigraphic test.	25 years after you complete the test, unless the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section apply.

(b) This paragraph applies if you are covered by paragraph (a)(4) of this section and a lease sale is held or a non-competitive agreement is negotiated after you complete a test well. We will release the data and information related to the deep stratigraphic test at the earlier of the following times:

(1) Twenty-five years after you complete the test; or

(2) Sixty calendar days after we issue a lease, located partly or totally within 50 geographic miles (92.7 kilometers) of the test.

**§ 280.72 What procedure will MMS follow to disclose acquired data and information to a contractor for reproduction, processing, and interpretation?**

(a) When practical, the RD will advise the person who submitted data and information under §§ 280.40 or 280.50 of the intent to provide the data or information to an independent contractor or agent for reproduction, processing, and interpretation.

(b) The person notified will have at least five working days to comment on the action.

(c) When the RD advises the person who submitted the data and information, all other owners of the data or in-

formation will be considered to have been notified.

(d) The independent contractor or agent must sign a written commitment not to sell, trade, license, or disclose data or information to anyone without the RD's consent.

**§ 280.73 Will MMS share data and information with coastal States?**

(a) We can disclose proprietary data, information, and samples submitted to us by permittees or third parties that we receive under this part to the Governor of any adjacent State that requests it according to paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section. The permittee or third parties who submitted proprietary data, information, and samples will be notified about the disclosure and will have at least five working days to comment on the action.

(b) We will make a disclosure under this section only after the Governor and the Secretary have entered into an agreement containing all of the following provisions:

(1) The confidentiality of the information will be maintained.

(2) In any action taken for failure to protect the confidentiality of proprietary information, neither the Federal

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Government nor the State may raise as a defense:

(i) Any claim of sovereign immunity; or

(ii) Any claim that the employee who revealed the proprietary information was acting outside the scope of his/her employment in revealing the information.

(iii) The State agrees to hold the Federal Government harmless for any violation by the State or its employees or contractors of the agreement to protect the confidentiality of proprietary data and information and samples.

(iv) The materials containing the proprietary data, information, and samples will remain the property of the Federal Government.

(c) The data, information, and samples available for reproduction to the State(s) under an agreement must be related to leased lands. Data and information on unleased lands may be viewed but not copied or reproduced.

(d) The State must return to us the materials containing the proprietary data, information, and samples when we ask for them or when the State no longer needs them.

(e) Information received and knowledge gained by a State official under paragraph (d) of this section is subject to confidentiality requirements of:

(1) The Act; and

(2) The regulations at 30 CFR parts 280, 281, and 282.

### Subpart E—Information Collection

#### § 280.80 Paperwork Reduction Act statement—information collection.

(a) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in this part under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* and assigned OMB control number 1010-0072. The title of this information collection is “30 CFR part 280, Prospecting for Minerals other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur on the Outer Continental Shelf.”

(b) We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

(c) We use the information collected under this part to:

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(1) Evaluate permit applications and monitor scientific research activities for environmental and safety reasons.

(2) Determine that prospecting does not harm resources, result in pollution, create hazardous or unsafe conditions, or interfere with other users in the area.

(3) Approve reimbursement of certain expenses.

(4) Monitor the progress and activities carried out under an OCS prospecting permit.

(5) Inspect and select G&G data and information collected under an OCS prospecting permit.

(d) Respondents are Federal OCS permittees and notice filers. Responses are mandatory or are required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will protect information considered proprietary under applicable law and under regulations at § 280.70 and 30 CFR part 281.

(e) Send comments regarding any aspect of the collection of information under this part, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Minerals Management Service, Mail Stop 5438, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

[67 FR 46858, July 17, 2002, as amended at 74 FR 46910, Sept. 14, 2009]

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