

### § 3181.3

such area or any party thereof in another unit area.

[48 FR 26766, June 10, 1983. Redesignated at 48 FR 36587, Aug. 12, 1983, and amended at 63 FR 52953, Oct. 1, 1998]

#### § 3181.3 Parties to unit agreement.

The owners of any right, title, or interest in the oil and gas deposits to be unitized are regarded as proper parties to a proposed agreement. All such parties must be invited to join the agreement. If any party fails or refuses to join the agreement, the proponent of the agreement, at the time it is filed for approval, must submit evidence of reasonable effort made to obtain joinder of such party and, when requested, the reasons for such nonjoinders. The address of each signatory party to the agreement should be inserted below the signature. Each signature should be attested by at least one witness if not notarized. The signing parties may execute any number of counterparts of the agreement with the same force and effect as if all parties signed the same document, or may execute a ratification or consent in a separate instrument with like force and effect.

#### § 3181.4 Inclusion of non-Federal lands.

(a) Where State-owned land is to be unitized with Federal lands, approval of the agreement by appropriate State officials must be obtained prior to its submission to the proper BLM office for final approval. When authorized by the laws of the State in which the unitized land is situated, appropriate provision may be made in the agreement, recognizing such laws to the extent that they are applicable to non-Federal unitized land.

(b) When Indian lands are included, modification of the unit agreement will be required where appropriate. Approval of an agreement containing Indian lands by the Bureau of Indian Affairs must be obtained prior to final approval by the authorized officer.

#### § 3181.5 Compensatory royalty payment for unleased Federal land.

The unit agreement submitted by the unit proponent for approval by the authorized officer shall provide for payment to the Federal Government of a

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12½ percent royalty on production that would be attributable to unleased Federal lands in a PA of the unit if said lands were leased and committed to the unit agreement. The value of production subject to compensatory royalty payment shall be determined pursuant to 30 CFR part 206, provided that no additional royalty shall be due on any production subject to compensatory royalty under this provision.

[58 FR 58632, Nov. 2, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 16999, Apr. 11, 1994]

### Subpart 3182—Qualifications of Unit Operator

#### § 3182.1 Qualifications of unit operator.

A unit operator must qualify as to citizenship in the same manner as those holding interests in Federal oil and gas leases under the regulations at subpart 3102 of this title. The unit operator may be an owner of a working interest in the unit area or such other party as may be selected by the owners of working interests. The unit operator shall execute an acceptance of the duties and obligations imposed by the agreement. No designation of or change in a unit operator will become effective until approved by the authorized officer, and no such approval will be granted unless the successor unit operator is deemed qualified to fulfill the duties and obligations prescribed in the agreement.

### Subpart 3183—Filing and Approval of Documents

#### § 3183.1 Where to file papers.

All papers, instruments, documents, and proposals submitted under this part shall be filed in the proper BLM office.

[48 FR 26766, June 10, 1983. Redesignated at 48 FR 36587, Aug. 12, 1983, and amended at 51 FR 34603, Sept. 30, 1986]

#### § 3183.2 Designation of area.

An application for designation of a proposed unit area and determination of the required depth of test well(s) shall be filed in duplicate. A like number of counterparts should be filed of