

estimated to be about 1,300. The estimated total annual burden on new respondents is collectively 19,500 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 28, 1996.

Annetta L. Cheek,

Regulatory Management Team.

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[WO-310-1310-01-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0162

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of approval for the collection of information from those persons who: (1) Submit a notice of intent (Form 3150-4) to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations on Federal lands, and (2) submit a notice of completion (Form 3150-5) of oil and gas exploration operations. BLM uses the information to determine who is conducting geophysical operations on public lands and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the environment as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

DATE: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 6, 1996 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C. Street NW, Room 401 LS Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WO140@attmail.com. Please include "Attn: 1004-0162" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, L Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria J. Austin, (202) 452-0340.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning a proposed collection of information to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) gives the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for oil and gas leasing on approximately 570 million acres of public lands and national forests, and private lands where mineral rights have been retained by the Federal Government. The Act of August 7, 1947, (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands) authorizes the Secretary to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341-359). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) establishes a public land policy and provides for the management, protection, development and enhancement of the public lands.

The regulations at 43 CFR Group 3150 establish procedures for conducting oil and gas geophysical exploration operations on public lands when authorization for such operations is required from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The regulations were last revised in 1988. The notice of intent (Form 3150-4) to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations and the notice of completion (Form 3150-5) of oil and gas exploration operations were developed in 1990, and the information required from the public remains the same.

BLM needs the information requested on the notice of intent to allow it to process applications for geophysical exploration operations on public lands and manage environmental compliance requirements in accordance with the laws, regulations, and land use plans. BLM uses the information to determine that geophysical operation activities will be conducted in a manner consistent with the regulations, local land use plans, and Environmental

Assessments. BLM needs the information requested on the notice of completion to determine whether rehabilitation of the lands is satisfactory or whether additional rehabilitation is necessary.

The forms may be submitted in person or by mail to the proper BLM office. The company name, address and phone number is needed to identify the person/entity conducting operations. BLM assigns the BLM Case Number to track each specific operation. Where a particular operation requires State approval also, the State Case Number is assigned by the appropriate State agency so that the Bureau may coordinate exploration activity with the State. The legal land description is required to determine where the involved public lands are located.

Based on its experience administering onshore oil and gas geophysical exploration activities, BLM estimates the public reporting burden for completing the notice of intent (Form 3150-4) to conduct geophysical exploration operations is one hour. BLM estimates it will take an average time of 20 minutes to complete the notice of completion (Form 3150-5) of oil and gas exploration operations. The information required is clearly outlined on the form and in the terms and conditions attached. The information is already maintained by the respondents for their own record-keeping purposes and needs only to be transferred or attached to the forms.

It is estimated that approximately 600 notices of intent and 600 notices of completion will be filed annually for a total annual burden of 800 hours. Respondents vary from small businesses to major corporations.

Any interested member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, a copy of Form 3150-4 or 3150-5 by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become part of the public record.

Dated: February 29, 1996.

Annetta L. Cheek,

Regulatory Management Team, Chief.

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