

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed.

The above-listed plats represent dependent resurveys, surveys, and subdivisions.

These plats will be in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment of \$1.10 per sheet.

Dated: October 15, 1996.

Kelley R. Williamson, Jr.,

*Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor for New Mexico.*

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[NV-930-1430-01; N-60594]

### Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice will extend the period of time to submit comments on the Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada, which was published in the 61 FR 39982, July 31, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to the Nevada State Director, BLM, 850 Harvard Way, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis J. Samuelson, BLM Nevada State Office, 702-785-6532.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada, which was published in the 61 FR 39982, July 31, 1996, required that comments be submitted on or before October 29, 1996, for the proposed withdrawal of 17,892 acres of public lands in Carson City. The comment period is being extended for an indefinite period. A subsequent notice will be published in the Federal Register and a newspaper in the general vicinity of the lands to be withdrawn to establish a final date for receiving comments and to set a time and place for a public meeting regarding the proposed withdrawal.

Dated: October 23, 1996.

William K. Stowers,

*Lands Team Lead.*

[FR Doc. 96-27673 Filed 10-28-96; 8:45 am]

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### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection for Requests for Royalty Refunds and Credits.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before December 30, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to: Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Procedures Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3101, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; courier address is: Building 85, Room A-212, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-Mail address is: David\_Guzy@smtp.mms.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Procedures Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3194, e-Mail Dennis\_Jones@smtp.mms.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 each agency shall provide notice and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning collection of information in order to solicit comments to: (a) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Royalty Management Program

(RMP) is requesting the continuation of a collection of information codified at 30 CFR 230. The purpose of this regulation is to codify the Department of the Interior interpretation and application of Section 10, of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. 1339, incorporating policies and decisions, and administrative practices. This regulation also clarifies the information required from lease holders requesting a royalty refund or credit from Section 10 OCS leases.

For production months prior to August 1996, no person may recover an excess royalty payment unless a request for refund or credit is made in accordance with regulations at 30 CFR 230.453. Recovery of overpayments for production months after August 1996 are not subject to the requirements of 30 CFR 230, per the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996. To ensure consideration of a refund request, the regulations at 30 CFR 230.453 stipulate that:

- The request must be in writing. An oral request would not be acceptable.
  - The MMS-established payor code must be provided to ensure that the request is made by the person who has a legal right to a refund or credit.
  - The leases involved and the sales months in which the excess payments occurred must be identified to enable MMS to trace the overpayment amount to the original submission on Form MMS-2014, Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance.
  - The amount of the excess payment must be stated. In some situations it may not be possible to determine an exact amount, for example, if there is a pending administrative or judicial proceeding that will establish the amount. In such situations it would be acceptable to describe the class of payments that may be excess.
  - The specific reason why a refund or credit is due must be provided.
  - The person submitting the request must certify that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in the request is accurate and complete.
  - MMS must receive the request for refund or credit within 2 years of the date the excess payment was received.
- Requests for refunds are received by RMP where they are scanned for timeliness. If the original payment was made more than 2 years previous to the refund request, the request is denied. If the request is timely, it is forwarded to an MMS contractor for further review to see that all required information is included. The contractor prepares a list of overpayments that MMS proposes to refund. The list is returned to MMS and is then forwarded to the Congress.