

reported by payors on Form MMS-2014 for the majority of its processing. In addition to accounting for royalties reported by payors, AFS, using Form MMS-2014 information, performs numerous other functions. These functions include monthly distribution of mineral revenues to State, Indian, and General Treasury accounts; providing royalty accounting and statistical information to States, Indians, and others who have a need for such information; and identifying under reporting and nonreporting so MMS can promptly collect revenues. Sales and royalty information gathered through AFS is compared with production data collected by an MMS automated production accounting system, the Production Accounting and Auditing System (PAAS). This AFS/PAAS comparison of reported sales with reported production provides MMS with the ability to verify that the proper royalties are being collected.

MMS counts monthly payor responses by line item. Each line represents one reporting transaction. Approximately 274,000 lines are submitted each month by about 2,000 payors. Payors include about 1,750 oil and gas companies plus about 250 solid mineral companies. The total number of payors changes monthly as old wells cease production, new wells are brought into production, mines cease or increase production, or selling arrangements change. We estimate that on the average 7 minutes is needed to manually complete each line. Average time includes data assembly, value and royalty calculations, entering data on the form, and mailing. The total time involved varies considerably from a small company reporting only one or two leases to a large company with a multipage report. For those companies with equipment enabling them to report using electronic media, including electronic data interchange, diskettes and tape, the time to generate and submit the data is estimated to be less than 3 minutes per line. About 20 percent of total lines will be prepared and submitted manually, an estimated 67,000 lines per month in FY 1997. The remaining 80 percent of total lines will be submitted via electronic media, about 208,000 lines per month. We also estimate that each payor will spend 10 hours on related recordkeeping for this collection. We estimate that the total annual burden for this information collection is 155,400 hours.

Dated: December 29, 1997.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Royalty Management.*

[FR Doc. 98-120 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request

*Title:* Designation of Royalty Payment Responsibility.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0107.

*Comments:* This collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506 (c)(2)(A), we are notifying you, members of the public and affected agencies, of this collection of information and are inviting your comments. Is this information collection necessary for us to properly do our job? Have we accurately estimated the public's burden for responding to this collection? Can we enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we collect? Can we lessen the burden of this information collection on the respondents by using automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

Comments should be made directly to the Attention: Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; telephone (202) 395-7340. Copies of these comments should also be sent to us. The U.S. Postal Service address is Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; the courier address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; and the e-Mail address is David-Guzy@mms.gov. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration.

Copies of the proposed information collection and related explanatory material may be obtained by contacting Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, telephone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, e-Mail Dennis\_C\_Jones@mms.gov.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 4, 1998.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (RSFA), Pub. L. 104-185, as corrected by Pub. L. 104-200, establishes the owners of operating rights and/or lease record title (who are jointly defined as "lessees" under RSFA) as responsible for making royalty and related payments on a Federal lease. Currently, it is common for a payor rather than a lessee to make royalty and related payments on a Federal lease. When a payor pays royalties on a Federal lease on behalf of a lessee, RSFA requires that the lessee certify to MMS in writing that a particular payor has been designated by the lessee to make such royalty and related payments to MMS on behalf of the lessee. RSFA made this payor designation requirement effective for lease production beginning September 1, 1996. We may require some payors to provide us information regarding the lessees on whose behalf they are paying if we need to inform those lessees that they must certify to MMS in writing their respective payors as their designees. We are asking payors and lessees to provide data required under RSFA so that we can fully implement the Act.

*Description of Respondents:* Federal lessees and payors.

*Frequency of Response:* As necessary.

*Bureau Form Number:* MMS-4425.

*Estimated Reporting and*

*Recordkeeping Burden:* 1 hour.

*Annual Responses:* 24,000.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 24,000 hours.

*Bureau Clearance Officer:* Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

**R. Dale Fazio,**

*Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request

*Title:* Training and Outreach Evaluation Questionnaires

*Comments:* This collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval. In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506(c)(2)(A), we are notifying