

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, DC 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 Royalty Management Program (RMP) provides training and outreach sessions to its constituents to facilitate their compliance with laws and regulations and to ensure that constituents are well informed. During the last few minutes of each training or outreach session, RMP asks participants to complete and return evaluation questionnaires. Participant response is voluntary. We use the feedback from these questionnaires to enhance future training and outreach sessions and to improve RMP's overall service.

Description of Respondents: Oil and gas and solid minerals reporters, individual Indian minerals owners, Indian tribes, State and tribal auditors, Federal Government financial and systems contractors, and Federal Government employees.

Frequency of Response: At the end of training/outreach sessions.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 6 minutes.

Annual Responses: 1,260 responses.

Annual Burden Hours: 126 hours.

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

Dated: November 19, 1997.

Joan Killgore,

Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 98-123 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

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

Title: Application for the Purchase of Royalty Oil.

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, DC 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 Secretary of the Interior is authorized to sell royalty oil accruing to the United States from Federal oil and gas leases. "Royalty oil" is crude oil produced from leased Federal lands, both onshore and offshore, in instances in which the Secretary exercises the option to accept a lessee's royalty payment in oil rather than in money. When the Secretary determines that small refiners do not have access to adequate supplies of oil, the Secretary may dispose of any oil taken as royalty by conducting a sale of such oil, or by allocating it to eligible refiners. The Application for the Purchase of Royalty Oil, Form MMS-4070, must be submitted by interested purchasers whenever a sale is held. Information collected is used to determine the applicant's eligibility to purchase royalty oil and also provides a basis for the allocation of available oil among qualified refiners.

Description of Respondents: Eligible refiners interested in purchasing royalty oil.

Frequency of Response: When a royalty oil sale is conducted.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 1.25 hours.

Annual Responses: 20.

Annual Burden Hours: 25 hours.

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

Date: December 1, 1997.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 98-125 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

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

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of revision of a currently approved collection of information (OMB Control Number 1010-0006).

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Act), the Department of the Interior has submitted the collection of information discussed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. The Act provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Submit written comments by February 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments and suggestions directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-0006), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Send a copy of your comments to the Minerals Management Service, Attention: Rules Processing Team, Mail Stop 4020, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis London, Engineering and Operations Division, Minerals Management Service, telephone (703) 787-1600. You may obtain copies of the supporting statement and collection of information by contacting MMS's Information Collection Clearance Officer at (202) 208-7744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 256, Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Form Numbers: MMS-2028, OCS Mineral Lessee's and Operator's Bond and Act of Suretyship; MMS-2028A, OCS Mineral Lessee's and Operator's Supplemental Plugging & Abandonment Bond and Act of Suretyship.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, requires the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to preserve, protect, and develop offshore oil and gas resources; to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA) prohibits certain lease bidding arrangements (42 U.S.C. 6213 (c)).

The MMS uses the information collected under Part 256 to determine if applicants are qualified to hold leases in the OCS. For example, MMS uses the information to: (a) verify the qualifications of a bidder on an OCS lease sale; (b) develop the semiannual List of Restricted Joint Bidders that identifies parties which are ineligible to

bid jointly with each other on OCS lease sales, under limitations established by the EPCA; (c) ensure the qualification of assignees; (d) document that a leasehold or geographical subdivision has been surrendered by the record title holder, and (e) verify that lessees have adequate bonding coverage. If MMS did not collect the information, we would be unable to comply with the mandates of the OCSLA and the EPCA.

The individual responses to Calls for Information are the only information collected involving the protection of confidentiality. The MMS will protect specific individual replies from disclosure as proprietary information in accordance with section 26 of the OCSLA and 30 CFR 256.10(d). No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS sulphur or oil and gas lessees.

Frequency: The frequency of reporting and number of responses vary for each section and are mostly on occasion or annual (see chart below). There are no recordkeeping requirements in 30 CFR part 256.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: 17,856 total burden hours, averaging approximately 137 hours per respondent (see chart below).

BURDEN BREAKDOWN

Citation 30 CFR, Part 256	Reporting requirement	Annual No. of responses	Burden per response	Annual burden hours
Subparts A, E, H, L, M	None	Not applicable		0
Subparts B, D, F	Public notice and comment process through the Federal Register .	Exempt as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4)		0
Subpart C	Reports from Federal agencies	Exempt as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(c)(4)		0
Various Subparts: 256.37; 256.53; 256.68; 256.70; 256.71; 256.72; 256.73.	Request approval for various operations or submit plans or applications.	Burden included with other approved collections in 30 CFR Part 250		0
Subpart G: 256.41; 256.43	Submit qualification of bidders for joint bids and statement of production.	200 responses	4.5 hours	900
256.46	Submit bids	2,000 bids	1 hour	2,000
256.47(c)	File agreement to accept joint lease on tie bids.	1 agreement	4 hours	4
256.47(e)(1), (e)(3)	Request for reconsideration of bid rejection ..	Exempt as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(9)		0
256.47; 256.50	Execute lease (includes submission of evidence of authorized agent and request for dating of leases).	629 leases	1 hour	629
Subpart I	Provide bonding document certifications, etc.	Exempt as defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(1)		0
Form MMS-2028	OCS Mineral Lessee's and Operator Bond and Act of Suretyship.	205 forms25 hour	151
Form MMS-2028A	OCS Mineral Lessee's and Operator's Supplemental Plugging & Abandonment Bond and Act of Suretyship.	120 forms25 hour	30
256.53(c), (d), (f)	Demonstrate ability to carry out present and future financial obligations and/or request reduction in amount of supplemental bond required.	150 submissions25 hour	37.5

BURDEN BREAKDOWN—Continued

Citation 30 CFR, Part 256	Reporting requirement	Annual No. of responses	Burden per response	Annual burden hours
256.55(b)	Notify MMS of action filed alleging lessee, surety, or guarantor are insolvent or bankrupt.	1 notice	.5 hour	.5
256.56	Provide plan to fund lease-specific abandonment account and related information.	3 submissions	8 hours	24
256.57	Provide third-party guarantee, related notices, and annual update.	10 submissions	.5 hour	5
256.58(a)	Request termination of period of liability and cancellation of bond.	50 requests	.5 hour	25
Subpart J 256.62; 256.64; 256.67.	File application for assignment or transfer	2,275 applications	5 hours	11,375
256.64(a)(7)	File required instruments creating or transferring working interest, etc, for record purposes.	500 filings	.5 hour	250
256.64(a)(8)	Submit non-required documents for record purposes.	Voluntary, non-required submissions of documents the lessee wants MMS to file with the lease.		0
Subpart K 256.76	File written request for relinquishment	505 relinquishments	5 hours	2,525
Total Reporting		6,649		17,856

¹ Rounded.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: \$420,875 for transfer application fees (approximately 2,275 applications x \$185 fee) and \$50,000 for non-required documents filing fees (approximately 2,000 requests x \$25 fee).

Comments: Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act requires each agency “* * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *.” Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful, (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Send your comments directly to the offices listed under the addresses section of this notice. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments February 4, 1998.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated October 30, 1997.
E. P. Danenberger,
Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.
 [FR Doc. 98-126 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Minerals Management Service and the United States Coast Guard

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) are updating their MOU concerning responsibilities for offshore facilities. The update is necessary to add responsibilities associated with floating facilities, the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), and civil penalties.

DATES: MMS and USCG will consider all comments received by March 6, 1998. We will begin reviewing comments at that time and may not fully consider comments we receive after March 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of Interior; Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4700; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Buffington, MMS at (703) 787-

1147 or LCDR Stephen Kantz, USCG at (202) 267-0505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August, 1989 the MMS and the USCG signed an MOU that outlined responsibilities associated with facilities located on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The purpose was to minimize duplication, and to promote consistent regulation of these facilities. The use of floating facilities, and responsibilities assigned by OPA created by need to update the MOU. Therefore, the MMS and USCG are coordinating an update of the 1989 MOU to add responsibilities for:

- Floating facilities;
- OPA; and
- Civil penalties.

For floating facilities, we plan to use jointly approved third party verification agents to conduct the joint reviews specified in Table C of the MOU.

We are working to ensure that the MOU is a workable document that we will update whenever necessary. MMS is publishing this request for comment on behalf of both MMS and the USCG. Please send comments on the MOU (Appendix A) to the address listed in the addresses section of this notice.

Also, please comment on whether you believe that the MMS and USCG should exchange other responsibilities to improve efficiency. For example, would it be more efficient if MMS assumed the remaining USCG responsibilities for fixed facilities? We are considering all options to improve customer service under the guidelines of the National Performance Review.