DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Parts 250 and 253

RIN 1010–AC33

Oil Spill Financial Responsibility for Offshore Facilities

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final regulation establishes new requirements for demonstrating oil spill financial responsibility (OSFR) for removal costs and damages caused by oil discharges and substantial threats of oil discharges from oil and gas exploration and production facilities and associated pipelines. This rule applies to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), State waters seaward of the line of ordinary low water along that portion of the coast that is in direct contact with the open sea, and certain coastal inland waters. This rule implements the authority of the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990.

DATES: This final regulation is effective October 13, 1998. However, the information collection aspects of this rule will not become effective until approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). MMS will publish a document at that time in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Waddell, Adjudication Unit Supervisor, at (504) 736–1710.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title I of OPA (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), as amended by section 1125 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–324), provides that parties responsible for offshore facilities must establish and maintain OSFR for those facilities according to methods determined acceptable to the President. Section 1016 superseded the OSFR provisions of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). The Executive Order (E.O.) implementing OPA (E.O. 12777; October 18, 1991) assigned the OSFR certification function to the Department of the Interior (DOI). The Secretary of the Interior, in turn, delegated this function to MMS.

Therefore, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and under authority delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the direct final rule published on April 27, 1998, at 63 FR 20530 is withdrawn.

William K. Hubbard,
Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) was published on March 25, 1997 (62 FR 14052–14079). We received 28 written comments. We also received oral comments during a public workshop on the proposed rule that MMS sponsored in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 5, 1997. All of the comments were considered in developing this final regulation. The