

application (N-61315) to withdraw public lands in Clark County, Nevada, for flood control facilities. The application was filed on October 4, 1996. This application has been replaced by an application (N-63039) that was filed on November 19, 1998.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** March 26, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis J. Samuelson, BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6532.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published as FR Doc. 96-30580 in the **Federal Register**, 61 FR 63858-63860, on December 2, 1996, for the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers to withdraw approximately 2,370 acres of public lands for flood control facilities in Clark County, Nevada. This application has been cancelled and replaced by the application published as FR Doc. 98-31758 in the **Federal Register**, 63 FR 65811, on November 30, 1998.

The lands described in FR Doc. 96-30580, 61 FR 63858-63860, December 2, 1996, will remain closed to surface entry and mining in accordance with the provisions of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, Public Law 105-263, 111 Stat. 2343 *et seq.* and the lands are hereby made available for disposal pursuant to said Act.

Dated: March 22, 1999.

**Dennis J. Samuelson,**  
*Acting Lands Team Lead.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Notice on Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales

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

**ACTION:** List of restricted joint bidders.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Minerals Management Service by the joint bidding provisions of 30 CFR 256.41, each entity within one of the following groups shall be restricted from bidding with any entity in any other of the following groups at Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales to be held during the bidding period from May 1, 1999, through October 31, 1999. The List of Restricted Joint Bidders published October 2, 1998, in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 53097 covered

the period of November 1, 1998, through April 30, 1999.

Group I. Exxon Corporation; Exxon San Joaquin Production Co.

Group II. Shell Oil Co.; Shell Offshore Inc.; Shell Western E&P Inc.; Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.; Shell Consolidated Energy Resources Inc.; Shell Land & Energy Company; Shell Onshore Ventures Inc.; Shell Deepwater Development Inc.; Shell Deepwater Production Inc.; Shell Offshore Properties and Capital II Inc.

Group III. Mobil Oil Corp.; Mobil Oil Exploration and Producing Southeast Inc.; Mobil Producing Texas and New Mexico Inc; Mobil Exploration and Producing North America Inc.

Group IV. BP America Inc.; The Standard Oil Co.; BP Exploration and Oil Inc.; and BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

**Thomas R. Kitsos,**

*Acting Director, Minerals Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-7359 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Royalty Computation of Phosphate Production on Western Public Lands

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

**ACTION:** Notice of adoption of method for determining value used to compute royalty payments on Federal phosphate ore mined on western public lands.

**SUMMARY:** This final notice provides a new method of determining the value of production used to compute royalties on phosphate ore produced from Federal leases on western public lands. The new method uses a weighted composite of two published indices and a price survey that are more closely related to the phosphate industry. This new method replaces the current method of valuation, which utilizes the Gross Domestic Product—Implicit Price Deflator (GDP-IPD) to annually adjust phosphate value.

**DATES:** Effective April 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Inquiries about this notice should be sent to: David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or e-Mail RMP.comments@mms.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Herbert B. Wincentsen, Chief, Solid

Minerals Valuation and Reporting Branch, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3153, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165, telephone (303) 275-7210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 16, 1997, the Secretary of the Interior approved an April 16, 1997, recommendation from the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC) to revise the current method of adjusting the value used to compute royalty payments on Federal phosphate production. RPC is a committee of the Minerals Management Service Advisory Board (Board). The Board was created under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Board's purpose includes, in relevant part, providing advice to the Secretary, the Director, MMS, and other Department of the Interior officials on royalty management of Federal and Indian leases. RPC includes representatives of States which share in mineral revenues from Federal lands, Indian tribes and allottees whose mineral revenues MMS collects in trust, oil and gas and solid minerals producing industries who pay royalties, and the public.

The approved valuation changes based on the RPC recommendations were the following:

1. Discontinue the current indexing procedure that utilizes the GDP-IPD to annually adjust the phosphate value for royalty calculation purposes.
2. Determine phosphate value using a weighted composite index methodology with the following indices, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and weights:
  - The Chemical and Fertilizer Minerals Mining Index, Standard Industry Code (SIC) 147, weighted at 50 percent;
  - The Phosphatic Fertilizers Index (SIC 2874), weighted at 25 percent; and
  - The Phosphate Rock Index (SIC 1475), weighted at 25 percent.

Lessees would recalculate the phosphate unit value annually, as under the existing indexing procedure.

3. Continue using the weighted composite index methodology for 5 years, at which time MMS will examine the methodology and the values determined to assure there is a continued relationship to the marketplace.

4. Apply the composite index valuation methodology only to Federal phosphate production; there is no Indian phosphate production. State or fee phosphate leases are also unaffected unless the parties to a State or fee lease elect to use the Federal valuation methodology.