

resources of the OCS; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

Regulations at 30 CFR 250, subpart K, implement these statutory requirements. We use the information collected to determine if produced gas can be economically put to beneficial use, to analyze the risks of transporting the liquid hydrocarbons against the value of the resource, and to account for volumes of flared gas and burned liquid hydrocarbons. The MMS uses the information in its efforts to conserve natural resources, prevent waste, and protect correlative rights including the Government's royalty interest. Specifically, MMS uses the information to review records of burning liquid hydrocarbons and venting and flaring actions to ensure that they are not excessive; to determine maximum production and maximum efficient rates; to compare the volume of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) flared and the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emitted to the specified amounts in approved contingency plans; to monitor monthly atmospheric emissions of SO₂ for air quality; to review applications for downhole commingling to ensure that action does not result in undervalued royalties; and to ensure that operations are effective and result in optimum ultimate recovery.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.118. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

Frequency: The frequency is on occasion or monthly.

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

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection is 13,650 hours, which averages 105 hours per respondent.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: We have identified no cost burdens for this collection.

Comments

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments and our consultations with a representative sample of respondents, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB. In calculating the burden, we assumed that respondents perform many of the

requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

(1) We specifically solicit your comments on the following questions:

(a) Is the proposed collection of information necessary for us to properly perform our functions, and will it be useful?

(b) Are the estimates of the burden hours of the proposed collection reasonable?

(c) Do you have any suggestions that would enhance the quality, clarity, or usefulness of the information to be collected?

(d) Is there a way to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology?

(2) In addition, the PRA requires agencies to estimate the total annual reporting "non-hour cost" burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. We need to know if you have costs associated with the collection of this information for either total capital and startup cost components or annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of service components. Your estimates should consider the costs to generate, maintain, and disclose or provide the information. You should describe the methods you use to estimate major cost factors, including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, discount rate(s), and the period over which you incur costs. Capital and startup costs include, among other items, computers and software you purchase to prepare for collecting information; monitoring, sampling, drilling, and testing equipment; and record storage facilities. Generally, your estimates should not include equipment or services purchased: (i) before October 1, 1995; (ii) to comply with requirements not associated with the information collection; (iii) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government; or (iv) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer

Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Elmer P. Danenberger,
Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 175

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the proposed notice of sale.

Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS); Notice of Availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale 175 in the Central Gulf of Mexico. This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c) as a matter of information to the public.

With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected States the opportunity to review the proposed Notice. The proposed Notice sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

The proposed Notice of Sale for Sale 175 and a "Proposed Sale Notice Package" containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Telephone: (504) 735-2519.

The final Notice of Sale will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for March 15, 2000.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Thomas R. Kitsos,

Acting Director, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Comprehensive Management and Use Plan; Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express National Historic Trails

Introduction

The National Park Service has developed a Comprehensive Management Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony