

Dated: June 22, 2000.

**Rex Wells,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Las Vegas, NV.*

[FR Doc. 00-16826 Filed 7-3-00; 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 (OMB) Review, Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0088).

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), we are submitting to OMB for review and approval an information collection request (ICR) titled, Delegation of Authority to States. We are also soliciting comments from the public on this ICR which describes the information collection, its expected costs and burden, and how the data will be collected.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before August 4, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1010-0088), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Also, submit copies of your written comments to David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225. If you use an overnight courier service, our courier address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

#### Public Comment Procedure

You may mail your comments and copies of your comments to the offices listed in the **ADDRESSES** section, or you may email us at

*RMP.comments@mms.gov.* Please include the title of the information collection and the OMB Control Number in the "Attention" line of your comment; also, include your name and return address. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your email, contact David S. Guzy at (303) 231-3432. We will post all comments for public review on our web site at <http://www.rmp.mms.gov>. Also, to view paper copies of these comments, please contact David S. Guzy at (303) 231-3432, FAX (303) 231-3385. Our practice is to make these paper comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado.

Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, telephone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, email

Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov. A copy of the ICR is available to you without charge upon request.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Delegation of Authority to States.

*OMB Control Number:* OMB 1010-0088.

*Bureau Form Number:* N/A.

*Abstract:* The Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for matters relevant to mineral resource development on Federal and Indian

Lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is responsible for managing the production of minerals from Federal and Indian Lands and the OCS; for collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals; and for distributing the funds collected in accordance with applicable laws. The Secretary also has an Indian trust responsibility to manage Indian lands and seek advice and information from Indian beneficiaries. We perform the royalty management functions and assist the Secretary in carrying out DOI's Indian trust responsibility.

The Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act (RSFA) amendments to section 205 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 provide that we may delegate other Federal royalty management functions to requesting States, including:

- a. Conducting audits, and investigations;
- b. Receiving and processing production and royalty reports;
- c. Correcting erroneous report data;
- d. Performing automated verification; and
- e. Issuing demands, subpoenas (except for solid mineral and geothermal leases), orders to perform restructured accounting, and related tolling agreements and notices to lessees or their designees.

In accordance with RSFA, and to properly administer the delegation of the functions to the requesting States, MMS must collect pertinent information from industry and States. Therefore, a State will have to submit an application requesting to perform these delegable functions.

No proprietary data, confidential information, or items of a sensitive nature will be collected. Responses are voluntary.

*Frequency:* Monthly, quarterly, and annually.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* 4,010 States and royalty payors.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* 210,400 hours. Please refer to chart.

Reporting/recordkeeping requirements	Frequency	Number of respondents	X	Burden per reqmnt	=	Annual burden hours
Application, vouchers, work plans, record-keeping.	Monthly Quarterly Annually ....	4 States .....		2,000		8,000
Delegated audit functions .....	Monthly Quarterly Annually ....	6 States .....		400		2,400

Reporting/recordkeeping requirements	Frequency	Number of respondents	X	Burden per reqmnt	=	Annual burden hours
Coordination of information reported among/ between MMS and a given State or States.	Monthly Quarterly Annually ....	4,000 payors and reporters ....		50		200,000
Total .....	.....	4,010 .....		52.5		210,400

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping: "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: \$80,000.*

**Comments:** The PRA 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. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA 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.

We published a **Federal Register** Notice on December 3, 1999 (64 FR 67930), with the required 60-day comment period soliciting comments on renewing OMB's approval to continue to collect this information. No comments were received. If you now wish to comment on this ICR, please send your comments directly to the offices listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice. OMB has up to 60 days after reviewing an ICR to approve or disapprove the information collection. However, OMB may act sooner than that once the 30-day public comment period has ended. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, you should submit your comments on or before August 4, 2000.

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

Dated: June 20, 2000.

**Joan Killgore,**  
Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 00-16817 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collection of information for the Abandoned Mine Land Contractor Information form.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by September 5, 2000, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW., Room 210—SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [jtreleas@osmre.gov](mailto:jtreleas@osmre.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for review and approval. This collection is found in the Applicant/Violator System (AVS) handbook and is prepared by AML contractors to ensure compliance with 30 CFR 874.16.

OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the collection of information

for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

This notice provides the public with 60 days in which to comment on the following information collection activity:

**Title:** AML Contractor Information Form.

**OMB Control Number:** 1029-xxxx.

**Summary:** 30 CFR 874.16 requires that every successful bidder for an AML contract must be eligible under 30 CFR 773.15(b)(1) at the time of contract award to receive a permit or conditional permit to conduct surface coal mining operations. Further, the regulation requires the eligibility to be confirmed by OSM's automated Applicant/Violator System (AVS) and the contractor must be eligible under the regulations implementing Section 510(c) of the Surface Mining Act to receive permits to conduct mining operations. This form provides a tool for OSM and the States/Indian tribes to help them prevent persons with outstanding violations from conducting further mining or AML reclamation activities in the State.

**Bureau Form Number:** None.

**Frequency of Collection:** Once per contract.

**Description of Respondents:** AML contract applicants and State and tribal regulatory authorities.

**Total Annual Responses:** 519.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** 465.

Dated: June 29, 2000.

**Richard G. Bryson,**

*Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.*

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