

Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposals listed above or obtaining information about EA's and FONSI's prepared for activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS are encouraged to contact the MMS office in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Public Information Unit, Information Services Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Telephone (504) 736-2519.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMS prepares EA's and FONSI's for proposals which relate to exploration for and the development/production of oil and gas resources on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. The EA's examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the significance of those effects. Environmental Assessments are used as a basis for determining whether or not approval of the proposals constitutes major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA Section 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where the MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the EA.

This notice constitutes the public notice of availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA Regulations.

Dated: July 28, 2000.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.*  
[FR Doc. 00-19615 Filed 8-2-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection under Review: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection; COPS Grant Status Survey.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval is being sought for the information collection listed below. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal**

**Register** and allowed 60 days for public comment.

The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments from the date listed at the top of this page in the **Federal Register**. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 Code of Federal Regulation, § 1320.10.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20530. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-7285. Comments may also be submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Management Division, Information Management and Security Staff, Attention: Department Deputy Clearance Officer, Suite 1220, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Written comments may also be submitted to Marcia O. Samuels, COPS Count Project Manager, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Grant Monitoring Division, 1100 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20530, or via facsimile at (202) 633-1293.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

#### Overview of This Collection

1. *Type of Information Collection:* Second collection.
2. *Title of the Form/Collection:* COPS Grant Status Survey.

3. *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form: COPS 301/01. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.

4. *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* The COPS Count Project surveys agencies who currently have been awarded a Hiring and/or MORE grants from the COPS Office. The information collected provides an accurate up to date account on the status of officers hired/redeployed.

5. *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* Estimated number of respondents: 11,559. Estimated time for average respondent to respond: 1 hour annually.

6. *An estimate of the total of public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* Approximately 11,559 annual burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mrs. Brenda E. Dyer, Deputy Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 1220, National Place, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: July 31, 2000.

**Brenda E. Dyer,**

*Department Deputy Clearance Officer.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

**ACTION:** Notice of the OMB review of information collection and solicitation of public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The NRC has recently submitted to OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). The NRC hereby informs potential respondents that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and that a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

1. *Type of submission, new, revision, or extension:* Extension.

2. *The title of the information collection:* Applicant Self-Assessment Form.

3. *The form number if applicable:* NRC Form 563.

4. *How often the collection is required:* Once, upon application for employment.

5. *Who will be required or asked to report:* Basically qualified external applicants applying for engineering and scientific positions with the NRC.

6. *An estimate of the number of responses:* 1,200.

7. *The estimated number of annual respondents:* 1,200.

8. *An estimate of the total number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 100 hours (five minutes per response).

9. *An indication of whether Section 3507(d), Pub. L. 104-13 applies:* Not applicable.

10. *Abstract:* The Applicant Self-Assessment will be used to collect uniform information from external applicants as to which technical specialties they possess that are unique to the needs of the NRC. This information will be reviewed by the Office of Human Resources staff and used to match applicants technical specialties with those required by selecting officials when an engineering or scientific vacancy position is to be filled.

A copy of the final supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (lower level), Washington, DC. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/OMB/index.html>). The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer listed below by September 5, 2000. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given to comments received after this date.

Erik Godwin, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0177), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503

Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395-3087.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301-415-7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of July 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Beth St. Mary,**

*Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

### **Discrimination Task Group; Announcement and Meeting Notice**

This Notice serves to announce the formation of an NRC Discrimination Task Group, which will evaluate the NRC processes used in the handling of discrimination allegations and violations of employee protection standards ( Applicable regulations include 10 CFR 30.7, 10 CFR 40.7, 10 CFR 50.7, 10 CFR 60.9, 10 CFR 61.9, 10 CFR 70.7, 10 CFR 76.7, 10 CFR 72.10, 10 CFR 150.20 ). The group will function as a management-level review group to evaluate the Commission's handling of discrimination cases. The overall objective of the NRC employee protection regulations is to promote an atmosphere where employees feel comfortable raising safety concerns or engaging in other protected activity without fear of reprisal. Because the NRC has traditionally relied on the openness of employees to identify issues, an effective and consistent NRC approach for dealing with discrimination cases is an important feature of encouraging and ensuring a safety conscious work environment. Resulting enforcement actions need to be predictable, fair and able to withstand scrutiny, since they could result in civil penalties, orders, or actions to individuals and are viewed by stakeholders as an indicator of the seriousness with which the NRC views discrimination issues.

The group's overall objective is to develop recommendations for revisions to the regulatory requirements, the enforcement policy or other agency guidelines as appropriate. A Commission Paper will be developed outlining the recommendations for NRC offices to consider in making changes to their processes.

The group's preliminary schedule is:

- Evaluation of current NRC processes. July-Sept., 2000
- Conduct Stakeholder meetings. August, 2000-April, 2001
- Review of other Federal agency processes. Oct.-Dec., 2000
- Develop recommendations for process improvements. Jan.-March, 2001.

- Provide Commission draft recommendation. April, 2001
  - Draft recommendations issued for comment. May-June, 2001
  - Issue Report with recommendations. June 30, 2001
- Task group activities being considered include:
1. Interaction with other agencies (such as Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Labor, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control, Department of Energy, and Office of Special Counsel) to understand how they process these issues.
  2. Conduct internal and external stakeholder meetings to solicit input on the Agency's handling of discrimination issues.
  3. Consider the issues raised in the Petition for Rulemaking "Employee Protection Training", Docket PRM-30-62, 64 Fed. Reg. 57785 (Oct. 27, 1999), regarding requiring training of first line and above supervisors of their responsibilities in implementing the employee protection regulations.
  4. The review will also:
    - (a) Evaluate the current NRC processes for dealing with discrimination matters.
    - (b) Determine whether the Enforcement Policy supplements need to consider a more graded approach regarding the appropriate enforcement sanction given the specific facts of the case, rather than the current supplement guidance which largely relies on the individual's position. Examples of guidance to consider revising include consideration of the severity of the adverse action, and better defining thresholds for taking individual action.
    - (c) Consider changes to the current enforcement process in discrimination cases, such as the usefulness of pre-decisional Enforcement Conferences and settlement discussions.
    - (d) Evaluate the process used for DOL deferrals.
    - (e) Evaluate the release of documents prior to final action being taken.
    - (f) Evaluate the reliance on regulations such as 10 CFR 50.5 for Individual Actions and evaluate revising 10 CFR 50.7 to include individual actions.
    - (g) Clarify how the NRC should use the decisions of other Agencies (*e.g.*, DOL, MSPB).
    - (h) Review the role of the complainant in the process.
- The Task Group meeting participants are listed below along with their affiliation: