

application included: potential conflicts with existing conventional oil and gas development and proposed CBM development; potential cumulative impacts of increasing mineral development in the Powder River Basin; validity and currency of resource data; public access; potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern; potential cumulative air quality impacts; potential impacts of nitrogen oxide emissions resulting from blasting of coal and overburden; and cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable actions such as the construction and operation of the DM&E railroad in the cumulative analysis.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 8, 2000.

**Lynn E. Rust,**

*Acting Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

[FR Doc. 00-31870 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-910-01-0777-30]

#### Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting Location and Time

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Resource Advisory Council's Meeting Location and Time.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda for this meeting includes: Election of RAC Officers, weed free hay policy, proposed powerline in northeastern Nevada, Native American consultation presentation, status of Argenta Marsh, wild horse and burro program updates, update on sage grouse/sagebrush steppe habitat conservation planning, OHV update, and update on implementation of rangeland health standards and guidelines.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the Council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below.

**DATES, TIMES, PLACE:** The time and location of the meeting is as follows: Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada 89502; January 5 starting at 8:00 a.m.; public comments will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; tentative adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diane Murray Public Affairs Specialist, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820, telephone (775) 635-4000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues, associated with the management of the public lands.

**Helen Hankins,**

*Field Office Manager, Elko Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 00-31953 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

## 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 new information collection survey.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are submitting to OMB for review and approval an information collection request (ICR) to conduct a new survey on "Gulf of Mexico Labor Needs." We are also soliciting comments from the public on this ICR.

**DATE:** Submit written comments by January 16, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-NEW), 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503. Mail or hand carry a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Attention: Rules Processing Team, Mail Stop 4024, 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. 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 may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. 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:** Alexis London, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787-1600. For details on the proposed survey or to obtain a copy of the survey questions, you may contact Harry Luton, in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, telephone (504) 736-2784.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Survey—Gulf of Mexico Labor Needs.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-NEW.

*Abstract:* MMS is responsible for managing mineral resources on the Federal outer continental shelf (OCS). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), as amended, the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1996, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, require MMS to assess, mitigate, and monitor the effects of the OCS program on the environment.

The OCS oil and natural gas exploration and production industry impacts local and regional economies through many activities, including the demand for labor, the demand for services, and the demand for capital goods. Though thought to be in decline a decade ago, several mid-1990's changes have reinvigorated the industry. These include technical innovations such as three-and four-dimensional seismic surveys and subsurface completion systems that allow companies to operate in very deep water, as well as passage of the Deep Water Royalty Relief Act of 1995. This recent and unexpected growth has increased the significance and urgency of the need for MMS to obtain data on current Gulf of Mexico (GOM) OCS conditions and operating practices.

We propose to conduct a survey to collect and analyze information for use in MMS documents and management decisions. We will use the information within NEPA documents, with special emphasis on development in deep water. We will use the patterns and trends found in the data to support descriptions of how the GOM offshore oil and natural gas industry operates, how it resembles and differs from other regional markets, and what trends appear to be influencing its current direction. The OCSLA stipulates that MMS management of the OCS must include evaluations of the effects of industry activities on area resources. The CZMA policies on industrial and

water use in the OCS affect many MMS decisions relating to planning, procedures, and interactions with industry, governments, and communities. The Endangered Species Act requires MMS to evaluate OCS activity and its affect on regional populations. The data collected through the proposed survey is necessary for MMS to successfully do each of these.

The information under the proposed data collection will be obtained by randomly sampling from the following eight populations: (1) Seismic companies; (2) platform and rig construction companies; (3) pipeline operating companies; (4) air transportation companies; (5) OCS field production operating companies; (6) employees from each of the previous sectors; (7) contracting organizations for operating companies; and (8) operating companies that have bid for a lease within the GOM. For the purposes of the proposed tests, an offshore employee "earns money by working in any of three segments " operating companies, service and supply companies, and transportation companies. The offshore worker charges time directly to GOM activities." The employee form will provide important economic information to supplement and cross check the industry data and will include demographic information to help characterize the economic effects of the program and the worker point of view concerning certain industry trends.

Questionnaire completion is voluntary. The questionnaires will be administered under the guidelines established under 45 CFR 46. Procedures designed to protect the confidentiality of the information provided will include the use of coded identification numbers to protect the identities of respondents and the businesses they represent. The final report will summarize data by geographic region, business type, or population category so that individual persons and companies will not be identifiable. Identifying information will be removed from data files.

We do not consider that the information requested in the proposed survey instruments necessitate a classification as Confidential Business Information. As stated, we will take efforts to ensure the anonymity of the collected data. As the test surveys are, and future surveys will be, voluntary, companies may choose not to respond to questions on proprietary information, but they can be assured that proprietary data will not be able to be associated with their company.

*Frequency:* This survey will be conducted once every 5 years.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Estimated 6,338 respondents from the categories listed in the following chart.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* Estimated 10,792 burden hours as described in the following chart.

Respondent	Total hour burden (divided by)	Predicted no. of respondents (equals)	Predicted hour burden per respondent
Seismic .....	292.25	21	13.9
Platform/Rig Construction .....	1,065.75	63	16.9
Pipeline Operators .....	473.00	34	13.9
Air Transportation .....	83.50	6	13.9
Operators .....	2,667.00	126	21.2
Employees .....	4,398.25	5,865	0.75
Contractors .....	1,622.75	189	8.6
Bidders .....	189.75	34	5.6
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10,792.25</b>	<b>6,338</b>	

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden:* Beyond labor, the proposed information collection poses no cost burden to respondents. MMS will pay for all postage and telephone charges. Respondents will incur no capital and operation and maintenance costs.

*Comments:* The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.) 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.

To comply with the public consultation process, on July 31, 2000, we published a **Federal Register** notice (65 FR 46733) with the required 60-day comment period announcing that we

would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. We received no comments in response to that initial notice. If you wish to comment in response to this notice, send your comments directly to the offices listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by January 16, 2001.

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

Dated: October 27, 2000.

**John V. Mirabella,**

*Acting Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-32005 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-U**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Environmental Assessment Preparation for Proposed Lease Sale 180 in the Western Gulf of Mexico (2001)

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service.  
**ACTION:** Preparation of an environmental assessment.

**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is beginning preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for proposed Lease Sale 180 (scheduled for August 2001) in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. In January 1997, MMS issued a Call for Information and Nominations/Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS (Call/NOI) for the four proposed Western Gulf of Mexico sales in the current 5-year leasing program. In 1998, MMS prepared a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all four sales. The multisale Final EIS, filed in May 1998, included an analysis of a single, typical sale, and a cumulative analysis that included the effects of holding all four sales, as well as the cumulative effects of the long-term development of the planning area. The MMS stated in the EIS that an EA would be prepared for each lease sale after the first sale covered in the EIS (Sale 171).

The preparation of this EA is the first step in the prelease decision process for Sale 180. The proposal and alternatives for Sale 180 were identified by the Director of MMS in January 1997 following the Call/NOI and were analyzed in the Western Gulf multisale EIS, which is available from the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Public

Information Office at 1-800-200-GULF. The proposed action analyzed in the multisale EIS was the offering of all available unleased acreage in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, with the following exceptions: Blocks A-375 (East Flower Garden Bank) and A-398 (West Flower Garden Bank) in the High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, designated as a national marine sanctuary; and Blocks 793, 799, and 816 in the Mustang Island Area, identified by the Navy as needed for testing equipment and for training mine warfare personnel. The proposal to be addressed in this EA has been revised to the following extent: two additional blocks or portions of these blocks (High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Block A-401 and High Island, South Addition, Block A-513), which lie partially within the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary, are deferred from the proposed action in light of the President's June 1998 withdrawal of all Marine Sanctuaries from oil and gas leasing. The proposed action includes existing regulations and proposed lease stipulations designed to reduce environmental risks. The EA will also analyze alternatives to exclude blocks near biologically sensitive topographic features, as well as the no action alternative. The analysis in the EA will reexamine the potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that was not available at the time the Final EIS was prepared.

The MMS requests interested parties to submit comments regarding any such new information or issues that should be addressed in the EA to Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5400), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 by January 19, 2001. After completion of the EA, MMS will determine whether to prepare a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI) or a supplemental EIS. The MMS will then prepare and send consistency determinations to the affected States to determine whether the proposed sale is consistent with federally-approved State coastal zone management programs, and will send a proposed Notice of Sale to the Governors for their comments on the size, timing, and location of the proposed sale. The tentative schedule for the steps in the prelease decision process for Sale 180 are listed below:

Comments due to MMS, January 19, 2001;

EA/FONNSI or Supplemental EIS, March 2001;  
Proposed Notice of Sale sent to Governors, March 2001;  
Consistency Determinations sent to States, March 2001;  
Final Notice of Sale in **Federal Register**, July 2001;  
Sale, August 2001.

If you wish to comment, you may mail or hand-carry written comments to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Regional Director (MS-5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. 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 may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. 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:** Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. Dennis Chew, telephone (504) 736-2793.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

**Chris C. Oynes,**

*Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.*

[FR Doc. 00-31964 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Concession Contract Negotiations; AK

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Public Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service proposes to offer a concession contract authorizing lodging, food and beverage, gifts and merchandise, rental of outdoor recreation equipment, ground transportation and other services for the public at Katmai National Park &