

information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: March 23, 2001.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection

#### Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice of an extension of an information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0090).

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are soliciting comments on an information collection titled, Stripper Royalty Rate Reduction Notification. We will submit an information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval after this comment period closes.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before June 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to Dennis C. Jones, Regulations and FOIA Team, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, 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

Submit your comments to the addresses listed in the **ADDRESSES** section, or email your comments to us at [mrm.comments@mms.gov](mailto:mrm.comments@mms.gov). 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 Mr. Jones at (303) 231-3046. We will post all comments at [http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws\\_R\\_D/FRNotices/FRInfColl.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/FRNotices/FRInfColl.htm) for public review.

We make copies of the comments available for public review, including names and addresses of respondents,

during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the public 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 request that we withhold your name and/or address, 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:** Dennis C. Jones, Regulations and FOIA Team, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, email [Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov](mailto:Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov). A copy of the information collection request (ICR) will be available to you without charge upon request. The ICR will also be posted to our web site at [http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws\\_R\\_D/FRNotices/FRInfColl.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/FRNotices/FRInfColl.htm) when we submit the ICR to OMB for review and approval.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Stripper Royalty Rate Reduction Notification.

**OMB Control Number:** 1010-0090.

**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, collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals, and 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) amended 43 CFR 3103.4-1 to allow royalty rate reductions to operators of low-producing, stripper oil properties. This amendment action encourages continued oil production, provides an incentive for enhanced oil recovery projects, discourages abandonment of oil properties producing less than 15 barrels of oil per

well-day, and reduces operators' expenses. Operators are required to notify MMS of the reduced royalty rate using Form MMS-4377, Stripper Royalty Rate Reduction Notification. The form requires identification of the operator, name of the contact person, lease and agreement numbers, calculated royalty rate, current royalty rate and period covered.

We estimate that an operator may require 30 minutes per property to research production for one 12-month period, determine average annual well production, and calculate and report a new royalty rate. This is an annual burden of 2,250 hours (1/2 hour x 4,500 properties). We estimate that an operator may require 15 minutes annually to perform the necessary recordkeeping responsibilities associated with this information collection, or an annual burden of 225 hours (1/4 hour x 900 operators).

Responses to this information collection are voluntary and are required for respondents to claim a reduced royalty rate. Proprietary information is requested and protected, and there are no questions of sensitive nature involved in this collection of information.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:** 900 operators of low-producing, stripper oil properties.

**Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:** 2,475 hours.

**Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-hour Cost" Burden:** n/a.

**Comments:** Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act 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.

The PRA also requires agencies to estimate the total annual reporting "non-hour cost" burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. We have not identified non-hour cost burdens and

need to know if there are 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.

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.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 provides that an agency shall 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.

Dated: March 23, 2001.

**Lucy Querques Denett,**

*Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 180, and Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 178, Part 2

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

**ACTION:** Availability of the proposed notices of sale.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the availability of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Proposed Notices of Sale for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 180 in the Western Gulf of Mexico, and for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 178, Part 2, in the Central Gulf of Mexico. This Notice of Availability is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c), as a matter of information to the public.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed Notices of Sale for Sale 180 and Sale 178, Part 2,

and "Proposed Sale Notice Packages" 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) 736-2519.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 Notices. The proposed Notices set forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sales, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals. The final Notices 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 August 22, 2001.

Dated: March 26, 2001.

**Thomas R. Kitsos,**

*Acting Director, Minerals Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-8460 Filed 4-5-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-U**

## 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 and 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 collections of information for the Procedures and Criteria for Approval or Disapproval of State Program Submissions, 30 CFR 732; and General Reclamation Requirements, 30 CFR 874.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by June 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail comments 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 requests, explanatory information and related forms, contact

John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783 or electronically at [jtreleas@osmre.gov](mailto:jtreleas@osmre.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implementing 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 extension. These collections are contained in 30 CFR 732 and 874.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on reestimates of burden or respondents. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for these information collection activities.

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 collections; 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 submissions of the information collection requests to OMB.

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

*Title:* Procedures and Criteria for Approval or Disapproval of State Program Submissions, 30 CFR 732.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0024.

*Summary:* Part 732 establishes the procedures and criteria for approval and disapproval of State program submissions. The information submitted is used to evaluate whether State regulatory authorities are meeting the provisions of their approved programs.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Frequency of Collection:* Once and annually.

*Description of Respondents:* 24 State regulatory authorities.

*Total Annual Responses:* 65.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 9,205.

*Title:* General Reclamation Requirements, 30 CFR 874.

*OMB Control Number:* 1029-0113.

*Summary:* Part 874 establishes land and water eligibility requirements, reclamation objectives and priorities and reclamation contractor responsibility. 30 CFR 874.17 requires