

Dated: October 30, 2001.

Michael A. Taylor,

Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office.

[FR Doc. 01-29730 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

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 extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0112).

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) for form MMS-131, Performance Measures Data. We are also soliciting comments from the public on this ICR.

DATES: Submit written comments by December 31, 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 (1010-0112), 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 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. If you wish to e-mail your comments to MMS, the e-mail address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference "Information Collection 1010-0112" in your e-mail subject line. Include your name and return address in your e-mail message and mark your message for return receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis London, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form MMS-131, Performance Measures Data.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0112.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), as amended, requires the Secretary of the Interior to preserve, protect, and develop OCS oil, gas, and sulphur resources; make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resource development with protection of the human, marine,

and coastal environments; ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. These responsibilities are among those delegated to MMS. MMS generally issues regulations to ensure that operations in the OCS will meet statutory requirements; provide for safety and protect the environment; and result in diligent exploration, development, and production of OCS leases.

In 1991 MMS began promoting, on a voluntary basis, the implementation of a comprehensive Safety and Environmental Management Program (SEMP) for the offshore oil and gas industry as a complement to current regulatory efforts to protect people and the environment during OCS oil and gas exploration and production activities. From the beginning, MMS, the industry as a whole, and individual companies realized that at some point they would want to know the effect of SEMP on safety and environmental management of the OCS. The natural consequence of this interest was the establishment of performance measures. We are requesting OMB approval for a routine renewal of the form MMS-131, Performance Measures Data. There are a few editorial changes, but no changes to the data elements.

The responses to this collection of information are voluntary, although we consider the information to be critical for assessing the effects of the OCS Safety and Environmental Management Program. We can better focus our regulatory and research programs on areas where the performance measures indicate that operators are having difficulty meeting MMS expectations. We are more effective in leveraging resources by redirecting research efforts, promoting appropriate regulatory initiatives, and shifting inspection program emphasis. The performance measures give us valuable quantitative information to use in judging the reasonableness of company requests for alternative compliance or departures under 30 CFR 250.141 and 250.142. We also use the information collected to work with industry representatives to identify and request "pacesetter" companies make presentations at periodic workshops.

Knowing how the offshore operators as a group are doing and where their own company ranks provides company management with information to focus their continuous improvement efforts. This leads to more cost-effective prevention actions and, therefore, better cost containment. This information also provides offshore operators and

organizations with a credible data source to demonstrate to those outside the industry how well the industry and individual companies are doing.

No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked, and the collection of information involves no proprietary information. We intend to release data collected on form MMS-131 only in a summary format that is not company-specific. We will protect the information according to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2).

Frequency: The frequency is annual, with responses due during the 1st quarter of each calendar year.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 100 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: We estimate the public reporting burden averages 12 hours per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the information. The total annual hour burden is estimated to be 760 hours.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: We have identified no "non-hour cost" burden associated with form MMS-131.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) 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 August 16, 2001, we published a **Federal Register** notice (66 FR 43023) announcing that

we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. In addition, § 250.199 provides the OMB control numbers for the information collection requirements imposed by the 30 CFR part 250 regulations and forms; specifies that the public may comment at any time on these collections of information; and provides the address to which they should send comments. This information is also contained in the PRA statement on form MMS-131. We have received no comments in response to these efforts.

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 December 31, 2001.

Public Comment Policy: 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 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.

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

Dated: November 1, 2001.

E.P. Danenberger,
Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.
[FR Doc. 01-29795 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-W

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Lease Sale 184 in the Western Gulf of Mexico (2002)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Preparation of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is using the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed lease sales in the Western Planning Area (WPA) of the Gulf of Mexico OCS (OCS EIS/EA, MMS 98-0008, May 1998) to support decisions for proposed WPA Lease Sale 184 (scheduled for August 2002). This would be the first lease sale under the draft proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2002-2007. The MMS will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to determine if there could be new significant impacts not fully analyzed in the May 1998 Final EIS. The information on issues and alternatives received in response to the Call for Information and Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the draft proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2002-2007 will also be considered in the EA analysis. Preparation of the EA is the first step in the prelease decision process for Sale 184. The analysis in the EA will reexamine the projected activities and potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives in consideration of any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that was not available at the time the 1998 Final WPA multisale EIS was prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. Alvin Jones, telephone (504) 736-1713.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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: four additional blocks or portions of these blocks (High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Block A-401; High Island, South Addition, Block A-513; and Garden Banks Blocks 134 and 135), which lie partially within the Flower Garden 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.

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 then 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 184 are listed below: Comments due to MMS, January 19, 2002; EA/FONNSI or Supplemental EIS, March 2002; Proposed Notice of Sale sent to Governors, March 2002; Consistency Determinations sent to States, March 2002; Final Notice of Sale in **Federal Register**, July 2002; Sale, August 2002.

Public Comments

The MMS requests interested parties to submit comments regarding any 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 5410), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 by January 19, 2002. Comments should be enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Lease Sale 184 EA."

Dated: November 14, 2001.

Chris C. Oynes,
Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.
[FR Doc. 01-29796 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731-TA-986 and 987 (Preliminary)]

Ferrovandium From China and South Africa

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.