

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before June 6, 2005. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Regulatory Affairs Group (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: *WOCComment@blm.gov*. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0004" and your name and address with your comments.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Alzata L. Ransom, Lands and Realty Group, on (202) 452-7772 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Ransom.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Congress passed the Desert Land Act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 377; 43 U.S.C. 321-323), as amended by the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1096; 43 U.S.C. 231, 323, 325, 327-329) to encourage and promote the economic development of the arid and semiarid public lands. Through the Act, you may apply for a desert-land entry to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semiarid public lands in the Western United States. The regulations in 43 CFR 2520 provide guidelines and procedures to obtain public lands under the Act.

You qualify to file a desert-land entry if you are a citizen of the United States; 21 years old; and a resident in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming (no residency is required in the State of Nevada).

You may apply for one or more tracts of public lands totaling no more than 320 acres. The land must be surveyed or unsurveyed, unappropriated, non-mineral, and non-timber. The lands must be suitable for agricultural purposes and more valuable for that purpose than any other. The tracts of land must be sufficiently close to each other to manage satisfactorily as an economic unit.

You must locate lands you feel can be economically developed and determine the legal land description. You must contact the BLM State Office where the lands are located and verify the lands are available for desert-land entry application.

When BLM receives the application, we will examine your application for completeness and accuracy and classify the lands included in the application. BLM will approve your application if the lands are classified suitable for desert-land entry or reject your application if the lands are classified unsuitable for desert-land entry.

Based on past experience processing these applications, BLM estimates the public reporting burden for completing the Form 2520-1 is 2 hours. BLM estimates that we receive approximately 3 applications annually, with a total annual burden of 6 hours.

Any member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, a copy of the BLM Form 2520-1 by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 1, 2005.

Ian Senio,

Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-6752 Filed 4-5-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-310-1310-PB-24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Control Number 1004-0034

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect certain information from those persons who wish to transfer interest in oil and gas or geothermal leases by assignment of record title or transfer operating rights (sublease) in oil and gas or geothermal leases under the terms of the mineral leasing laws. BLM uses Form 3000-3, Assignment of Record Title Interest In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, and Form 3000-3a, Transfer of Operating Rights (Sublease) In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, to collect this information. This information allows the BLM to transfer interest in oil and gas or geothermal leases by assignment of record title or transfer operating rights (sublease) in oil and gas or geothermal leases under the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216.

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You may send comments via Internet to: *WOCComment@blm.gov*. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0034" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Barbara Gamble on (202) 452-0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires BLM to provide 60-

day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

- (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (b) the accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;
- (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001–1025) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases for development of Federal oil and gas and geothermal resources. The Act of August 7, 1947 (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands) authorizes the Secretary to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341–359). The Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508) provides for the competitive leasing of lands for oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA). The Attorney General's Opinion of April 2, 1941 (40 Opinion of the Attorney General 41) provides the basis under which the Secretary issues certain leases for lands being drained of mineral resources. The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 *et. seq.*) provides the authority for leasing lands acquired from the General Services Administration.

Assignor/transferor submits Form 3000–3, Assignment of Record Title Interest In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, and Form 3000–3a, Transfer of Operating Rights (Sublease) In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, to transfer interest in oil and gas or geothermal leases by assignment of record title or transfer operating rights (sublease) in oil and gas or geothermal leases under the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216. These regulations outline the procedures for assigning record title interest and transferring operating rights in a lease to explore for, develop, and produce oil and gas resources and geothermal resources.

The assignor/transferor provides the required information to comply with the regulations in order to process the

assignments of record title interest or transfer of operating rights (sublease) in a lease for oil and gas or geothermal resources. The assignor/transferor submits the required information to BLM for approval under 30 U.S.C. 187a and the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216.

BLM uses the information submitted by the assignor/transferor to identify the interest ownership that is assigned or transferred and the qualifications of the assignee-transferee. BLM determines if the assignee-transferee is qualified to obtain the interest sought and ensures the assignee/transferee does not exceed statutory acreage limitations.

Based on BLM's experience administering the activities described above, we estimate it takes 30 minutes per response to complete the required information. The respondents include individuals, small businesses, and large corporations. The frequency of response is occasional. We estimate 60,000 responses per year and a total annual burden of 30,000 hours.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 1, 2005.

Ian Senio,

Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05–6753 Filed 4–5–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee (SC); Announcement of Plenary Session

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The OCS Scientific Committee will meet at the Embassy Suites Dulles-North in Dulles (Sterling), Virginia.

DATES: Wednesday, April 27, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 28, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, April 29, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Embassy Suites Dulles-North/Loudoun, 44610 Waxpool Road, Dulles, Virginia 20147, telephone (703) 723–5300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the agenda may be requested from MMS by calling Ms. Carolyn Beamer at (703) 787–1211. Other

inquiries concerning the OCS SC meeting should be addressed to Dr. James Kendall, Executive Secretary to the OCS SC, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elen Street, Mail Stop 4043, Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817 or by calling (703) 787–1656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCS SC will provide advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS Environmental Studies Program to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the MMS. The SC will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.

The Committee will meet in plenary session on Wednesday, April 27. Individual Committee members will report on the January meetings of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Information Transfer Meeting and affiliated OCS SC's Deepwater Subcommittee, the January and March meetings of the OCS SC Arctic Subcommittee meeting, and the OCS SC's observations made at the MMS/Environmental Protection Agency Hypoxia meeting conducted this past summer. Also on April 27, presentations will be made to the OCS SC outlining how archeology studies are useful to MMS information needs and how other large environmental programs handle environmental data and what options are being used and/or considered for serving MMS's database needs. The MMS Director will also address the Committee.

On Thursday, April 28, the Committee will meet in discipline breakout sessions (*i.e.*, biology/ecology, physical sciences, and social sciences) to review the specific research plans of the MMS regional offices for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

On Friday, April 29, the Committee will meet in plenary session for reports of the individual discipline breakout sessions of the previous day and to continue with Committee business.

The meetings are open to the public. Approximately 30 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis at the plenary session.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix I, and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A–63, Revised.

Dated: March 31, 2005.

Thomas A. Readinger,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 05–6819 Filed 4–5–05; 8:45 am]

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