April 23, 2008.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

[Docket No. MMS–2008–OMM–0007]

MMS Information Collection Activity: 1010–0141, 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart D, Oil and Gas Drilling Operations, Extension of a Collection; Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of an information collection (1010–0141).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart D, Oil and Gas Drilling Operations. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

ADDRESSES: You should submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010–0141), either by fax (202) 395–6566 or e-mail (*OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov*).

Please also send a copy to MMS by either of the following methods:

- *http://www.regulations.gov.* Under the tab ''More Search Options,'' click Advanced Docket Search, then select ''Minerals Management Service'' from the agency drop-down menu, then click ''submit.'' In the Docket ID column, select MMS–2008–OMM–0007 to submit public comments and to view supporting and related materials available for this rulemaking. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's ''User Tips'' link. The MMS will post all comments.
- Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service; Attention: Cheryl Blundon, 381 Elden Street, MS–4024, Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817. Please reference ''Information Collection 1010–0141'' in your subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message text.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Blundon, Regulations and Standards Branch, (703) 787–1607. You may also contact Cheryl Blundon to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations and forms that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart D, Oil and Gas Drilling Operations.

Forms: MMS–123, MMS–123S, MMS–124, MMS–125, MMS–133, and MMS–133S.

OMB Control Number: 1010–0141.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. Section 1332(6) states that ''operations in the Outer Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner by well-trained personnel using technology, precautions, and other techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize the likelihood of blowouts, loss of well control, fires, spillages, physical obstructions to other users of the waters or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property or endanger life or health.''

Regulations implementing these responsibilities are under 30 CFR part 250, subpart D. Responses are mandatory or are required to obtain or retain a benefit. No questions of a ''sensitive'' nature are asked. The MMS will protect proprietary information according to 30 CFR 250.197, ''Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection,'' 30 CFR part 252, ''OCS Oil and Gas Information Program,'' and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2).

The MMS needs the information to ensure safe drilling operations and to protect the human, marine, and coastal environment. Among other things, MMS specifically uses the information to ensure: The drilling unit is fit for the intended purpose; the lessee or operator will not encounter geologic conditions that present a hazard to operations; equipment is maintained in a state of readiness and meets safety standards; each drilling crew is properly trained and able to promptly perform well-control activities at any time during well operations; compliance with safety standards; and the current regulations will provide for safe and proper field or reservoir development, resource evaluation, conservation, protection of correlative rights, safety, and environmental protection. We also review well records to ascertain whether drilling operations have encountered hydrocarbons or H_2S and to ensure that H_2S detection equipment, personnel protective equipment, and training of the crew are adequate for safe operations in zones known to contain H_2S and zones where the presence of H_2S is unknown.

The following forms are also submitted to MMS under subpart D. The forms and their purposes are:

Application for Permit To Drill, Forms MMS–123 and MMS–123S

The MMS uses the information from these forms to determine the conditions of a drilling site to avoid hazards inherent in drilling operations. Specifically, the appropriate MMS District Office uses the information to evaluate the adequacy of a lessee's plan and equipment for drilling, sidetracking or bypass operations. This includes the adequacy of the proposed casing design, casing setting depths, drilling fluid (mud), and cementing programs to ascertain that the proposed operations will be conducted in an operationally safe manner that provides adequate protection for the environment. The District Office also reviews the information to ensure conformance with specific provisions of the lease. In addition, except for proprietary data, MMS is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information submitted on forms MMS–123 and MMS–123S.

Application for Permit To Modify, Form MMS–124

The MMS uses the information on this form to evaluate and approve the adequacy of the equipment, materials, and/or procedures that the lessee plans to use during such post APD modifications or operations as plugging back or temporary abandonment where the well bore will be reentered and

completed or permanently plugged. In addition, except for proprietary data, MMS is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information submitted on form MMS–124.

End of Operations Report, Form MMS–125

The MMS uses this information to ensure that they have accurate and up-to-date data and information on wells and leasehold activities under their jurisdiction and to ensure compliance with approved plans and any conditions placed upon a suspension or temporary prohibition. It is also used to evaluate the remedial action in the event of well equipment failure or well control loss. Form MMS–125 is updated and resubmitted in the event the well status changes. The information keeps MMS aware of the status of drilling and completion operations. In addition, except for proprietary data, MMS is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information submitted on form MMS–125.

Well Activity Report, Forms MMS–133 and MMS–133S

The MMS uses this information to monitor the conditions of a well and status of drilling operations. Specifically, the drilling engineer in the District Office reviews the information to be aware of the well conditions and current drilling activity (i.e., well depth, drilling fluid weight, casing types and setting depths, completed well logs, and recent safety equipment tests and drills). The engineer uses this information to determine how accurately the lessee anticipated well conditions and if the lessee is following the approved Application for Permit to Drill (form MMS–123). The MMS engineer and District Supervisor also use the information in their review of an Application for Permit to Modify (form MMS–124). With the information collected on form MMS–133 available, the reviewers can analyze the proposed revisions (i.e., revised grade of casing or deeper casing setting depth) and make a quick and informed decision on the request.

In addition, except for proprietary data, MMS is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information submitted on forms MMS–133 and MMS–133S.

Frequency: Submissions are generally on occasion, weekly, monthly, semi-annually, annually, and varies by section.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 respondents (Federal oil and gas OCS lessees).

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping ''Hour'' Burden: The estimated annual ''hour'' burden for this information collection is a total of 146,827 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

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Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart D and NTL(s)	Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
General Requirements				
402(b)	Request approval to use blind or blind-shear ram or pipe rams and inside BOP.	0.25	6 requests	2 (rounded)
403	Notify MMS of drilling rig movement on or off drilling location.	0.1	20 notices	2
	In Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, rig movements reported on form MMS-144—burden covered under 1010-0150.			0
404	Perform operational check of crown block safety device; record results (weekly).	0.25	105 drilling rigs x 52 weeks = 5,460	1,365
408, 409	Apply for use of alternative procedures and/or departures not requested in MMS forms (including discussions with MMS or oral approvals).	5	20% of 700 drilling ops. = 140	700
		Subtotal	**5,626 Responses**	**2,069 Hours**
Apply for a Permit to Drill				
408, 409; 410-418, plus various other references in subpart D	Apply for permit to drill and requests for various approvals required in subpart D (including §§ 250.423, 424, 427, 432, 442(c), 447, 448(c), 451(g), 456(a)(3), (f), 460, 490(c)(1), (2)) and obtained via forms MMS-123 (Application for Permit to Drill) and MMS-123S (Supplemental APD Information Sheet), and supporting information and notices to MMS.	MMS-123 2.5+*	MMS-123 700	MMS-123 1,750
		$1,850 fee x 700 = $1,295,000		
		MMS-123S 1.5+*	MMS-123S 700	MMS-123S 1,050
410(b), 417(b)	Reference to Exploration Plan, Development and Production Plan, Development Operations Coordination Document (30 CFR 250, subpart B)—burden covered under 1010-00151.			0
417(a), (b)	Collect and report additional information on case-by-case basis if sufficient information is not available.	4	1 report	4
417(c)	Submit 3rd party review of drilling unit according to 30 CFR 250, subpart I—burden covered under 1010-0149.			0
418(e)	Submit welding and burning plan according to 30 CFR 250, subpart A—burden covered under 1010-0114.			0
		Subtotal	**1,401 Responses**	**2,804 Hours**
			$1,295,000 Non-Hour Cost Burdens	
Casing and Cementing Requirements				
421; 423; 428	Submit casing and cementing program and revisions or changes.	2	20% of 700 drilling ops. = 140	280

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart D and NTL(s)	Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
424	Caliper, pressure test, or evaluate casing; submit evaluation results; request approval before resuming operations or beginning repairs (every 30 days during prolonged drilling).	4	20% of 700 wells = 140	560
426	Perform pressure test on all casing strings and drilling liner lap; record results.	2	105 drilling rigs x approx. 50 per rig = 5,250	10,500
427(a)	Perform pressure-integrity tests and related hole-behavior observations; record results.	4	425 tests	1,700
		Subtotal	**5,955 Responses**	**13,040 Hours**
	Diverter System Requirements			
434; 467	Perform diverter tests when installed and once every 7 days; actuate system at least once every 24-hour period; record results (average 2 per drilling operation).	2	700 drilling ops. x 2 tests = **1,400 Responses**	**2,800 Hours**
	Blowout Preventer (BOP) System Requirements			
450; 467	Perform BOP pressure tests, actuations and inspections when installed; at a minimum every 14 days; as stated for components; record results.	10	105 drilling rigs x approx. 35 tests per rig = 3,675	36,750
450, 467	Function test annulars and rams; document results every 7 days between BOP tests (biweekly). Note: this test is part of BOP test when BOP test is conducted.	0.5	105 drilling rigs x approx. 20 tests per rig = 2,100	1,050
451(c)	Record reason for postponing BOP test (on occasion—approx. 2/year).	0.25	105 drilling rigs x 2 tests = 210	53 (rounded)
		Subtotal	**5,985 Responses**	**37,853 Hours**
	Drilling Fluid Requirements			
456(b), (i); 458(b)	Record each drilling fluid circulation; test drilling fluid, record results; record daily inventory of drilling fluid/materials; test and recalibrate gas detectors; record results (on occasion, daily, weekly, quarterly).	2	105 drilling rigs x 52 weeks = 5,460	10,920
456(c), (f)	Perform various calculations; post information (on occasion, daily, weekly).	0.5	105 drilling rigs x 52 weeks = 5,460	2,730
459(a)(3)	Request exception to procedure for protecting negative pressure area.	2	5 requests	10
		Subtotal	**10,925 Responses**	**13,660 Hours**
	Other Drilling Requirements			

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart D and NTL(s)	Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
460; 465	Submit revised plans, changes, well/drilling records, etc., on forms MMS-124 (Application for Permit to Modify) or MMS-125 (End of Operations Report) and supporting information.	MMS-124 1.5+*	MMS-124 4,494	MMS-124 6,741
		$110 fee x 4,494 = $494,340		
		MMS-125 1.6+*	MMS-125 3,100	MMS-125 4,960
460	Submit plans for well testing and notify MMS before test.	2	15 plans	30
461(a-b); 466(e); 468(a)	Record and submit well logs, survey results, etc.	1.5	1,000 logs/surveys	1,500
	Record and submit directional and vertical-well surveys.	1	1,000 reports	1,000
	Record and submit velocity profiles and surveys.	1	55 reports	55
	Record and submit core analyses.	1	150 analyses	150
461(e)	Provide copy of well directional survey to affected leaseholder.	1	10 occasions	10
462(a)	Prepare and post well control drill plan for crew members.	3	26 plans	78
462(c)	Perform well-control drills; record results (2 crews weekly).	1	105 drilling rigs x 2 crews x 52 weeks = 10,920	10,920
463(b)	Request field drilling rules be established, amended, or canceled.	2.5	6 requests	15
		Subtotal	**20,776 Responses**	**25,459 Hours**
			$494,340 Non-Hour Cost Burdens	
Applying for a Permit to Modify and Well Records				
466, 467	Retain drilling records for 90 days after drilling is complete; retain casing/liner pressure, diverter, and BOP records for 2 years; retain well completion/well workover until well is permanently plugged/abandoned or lease is assigned.	1.5	Annual records maintenance for 700 wells	1,050
468(b); 465(b)(3)	In the GOM OCS Region, submit drilling activity reports weekly on forms MMS-133 (Well Activity Report) and MMS-133S (Bore Hole Data) and supporting information.	MMS-133 1+*	24,200	24,200
		MMS-133S 1+*	1,000	1,000
468(c)	In the Pacific and Alaska OCS Regions during drilling operations, submit daily drilling reports. N/A in GOM.	1	14 wells x 365 days x 20% = 1,022	1,022

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart D and NTL(s)	Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
469	As specified by region, submit well records, paleontological interpretations or reports, service company reports, and other reports or records of operations.	1.5	300 submissions	450
		Subtotal	**27,222 Responses**	**27,722 Hours**
	Hydrogen Sulfide			
490(c)(4), (d)	Submit request for reclassification of H_2S zone; notify MMS if conditions change.	2	27 responses	54
490(f); also referenced in 418(d)	Submit contingency plans for operations in H_2S areas (16 drilling, 5 work-over, 6 production).	25	27 plans	675
490(g)	Conduct H_2S training; post safety instructions; document training on occasion and annual refresher (approx. 2/year).	4	30 facilities x 2 trainings = 60	240
490(h)(2)	Conduct weekly drills and safety meetings; document attendance.	2	30 facilities x 52 weeks = 1,560	3,120
490(i)	Display warning signs—no burden as facilities would display warning signs and use other visual and audible systems.			0
490(j)(7-8)	Test H_2S detection and monitoring sensors during drilling; record testing and calibrations on occasion, daily during drilling (approx. 12 sensors per rig).	4	10 drilling rigs x 365 days = 3,650	14,600
490(j)(7-8)	Test H_2S detection and monitoring sensors every 14 days during production; record testing and calibrations (approx. 30 sensors/5 platforms + approx. 42 sensors/23 platforms).	3.5	20 production platforms x 26 tests = 520	1,820
490(j)(12)	Propose alternatives to minimize or eliminate SO_2 hazards—submitted with contingency plans—burden covered under 250.490(f).			0
490(j)(13)(vi)	Label breathing air bottles—no burden as supplier normally labels bottles; facilities would routinely label if not.			0
490(l)	Notify (phone) MMS of unplanned H_2S releases (approx. 2/year).	Oral 0.2	30 facilities x 2 = 60	12
		Written 4	30 facilities x 2 = 60	240
490(o)(5)	Request approval to use drill pipe for well testing.	2	3 requests	6
490(q)(1)	Seal and mark for the presence of H_2S cores to be transported—no burden as facilities would routinely mark transported cores.			0
490(q)(9)	Request approval to use gas containing H_2S for instrument gas.	2	3 requests	6

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart D and NTL(s)	Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
490(q)(12)	Analyze produced water disposed of for H_2S content and submit results to MMS on occasion (approx. weekly).	2.8	4 production platforms x 52 weeks = 208	583 (rounded)
		Subtotal	**6,178 Responses**	**21,356 Hours**
	Miscellaneous			
400-490	General departure or alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in subpart D.	2	22	44
NTL	Voluntary submit to USCG read only access to the EPIRB data for their moored drilling rig fleet before hurricane season.	.25	80	20
		Subtotal	**102 Responses**	**64 Hours**
TOTAL BURDEN			**85,570 Responses**	**146,827 Hours**
			$1,789,340 Non-Hour Cost Burdens	

* The hour burdens are an average of the estimate due to the fact that a large percentage of the submittals are reported electronically, which in some cases takes less time than the percentage of the submittals that are reported in paper form.

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Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: We have identified two non-hour cost burdens for this collection. When respondents submit an Application for Permit to Drill (Form MMS–123), they submit a $1,850 fee for initial applications only (there is no fee for revisions); and when respondents submit an Application for Permit to Modify (Form MMS–124), they submit a $110 fee. These two fees total $1,789,340. Refer to the chart to see these specific fee breakdowns. We have not identified any other non-hour cost burdens associated with this collection of information.

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 January 28, 2008, we published a **Federal Register** notice (73 FR 4911) 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 number for the information collection requirements imposed by the 30 CFR part 250 regulations and forms. The regulation also informs the public that they may comment at any time on the collections of information and provides the address to which they should send comments. We have received no comments in response to these efforts.

If you wish to comment in response to this notice, you may send your comments 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 July 31, 2008.

Public Availability of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Arlene Bajusz (202) 208–7744.

Dated: May 13, 2008.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. E8–14893 Filed 6–30–08; 8:45 am]

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