

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[MMAA 104000]

**Outer Continental Shelf, Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226****AGENCY:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability and announcement of public meetings and comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed oil and gas Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sales 241 and 247 and Eastern Planning Area (EPA) Lease Sale 226 in the Gulf of Mexico (CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS). Proposed CPA Lease Sale 241 and EPA Lease Sale 226 are tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2016, and proposed CPA Lease Sale 247 is tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2017. The CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS updates the environmental and socioeconomic analyses in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2012–2017; Western Planning Area Lease Sales 229, 233, 238, 246, and 248; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 227, 231, 235, 241, and 247, Final Environmental Impact Statement (2012–2017 WPA/CPA Multisale EIS) (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2012–019)*; *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2014 and 2016; Eastern Planning Area Lease Sales 225 and 226, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EPA 225/226 EIS) (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2013–200)*; *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2013–2014; Western Planning Area Lease Sale 233; Central Planning Area Lease Sale 231, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (WPA 233/CPA 231 Supplemental EIS) (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2013–0118)*; *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2014–2016*; and *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2015–2017; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 235, 241, and 247, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (CPA 235/241/247 Supplemental EIS) (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2014–655)*.

**Authority:** This NOA is published pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR part 1503) implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* [1988]).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BOEM prepared the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS to consider new information made available since completion of the 2012–2017 WPA/CPA Multisale EIS, WPA 233/CPA 231 Supplemental EIS, WPA 238/246/248 Supplemental EIS, and CPA 235/241/247 Supplemental EIS, and new information related to the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion, oil spill, and response. The CPA 241/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS provides new information on the baseline conditions and potential environmental effects of oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, development, and production in the CPA and EPA. BOEM conducted an extensive search for new information, reviewing scientific journals and available scientific data and information from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies; and interviewing personnel from academic institutions and Federal, State, and local agencies. BOEM examined the potential impacts of routine activities and accidental events and the proposed lease sales' incremental contribution to the cumulative impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources. The oil and gas resource estimates and scenario for the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS are presented as a range that would encompass the resources and activities estimated for each proposed lease sale.

**Draft Supplemental EIS Availability:** You may download or view the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS on BOEM's Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>. In keeping with the Department of the Interior's mission of the protection of natural resources and to limit costs while ensuring availability of the document to the public, BOEM will primarily distribute digital copies of the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS on compact discs. BOEM has printed and will be distributing a limited number of paper copies. If you require a paper copy, BOEM will provide one upon request if copies are still available. You may obtain a copy of the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Public Information Office (GM 335A), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 250, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394 (1–800–200–GULF).

Several libraries along the Gulf Coast have been sent copies of the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS. To find out which libraries have copies of the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS for review, you may

contact BOEM's Public Information Office or visit BOEM's Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/nepaprocess/>.

**Comments:** All interested parties, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and other organizations and members of the public, may submit written comments on the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Comments on the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS" and mailed (or hand carried) to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394;

2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for "Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226" (It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms). Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click "Submit"; or

3. Through BOEM's email address: [cpa241-epa226@boem.gov](mailto:cpa241-epa226@boem.gov).

Comments should be submitted no later than March 16, 2015.

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, BOEM will hold public meetings in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to solicit comments on the CPA 241/247/EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

- *New Orleans, Louisiana:* Monday, February 23, 2015, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST;
- *Panama City, Florida:* Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Wyndham Bay Point Resort, 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida, 32408, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST;
- *Mobile, Alabama:* Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile West, 828 West I–65 Service Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36609, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST;
- *Gulfport, Mississippi:* Thursday, February 26, 2015, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront MS Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information on the CPA 241/247/ EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS, you may contact Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Environment (GM 623E), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 or by email at [cpa241-epa226@boem.gov](mailto:cpa241-epa226@boem.gov). You may also contact Mr. Goeke by telephone at 504-736-3233.

#### Public Disclosure of Names and Addresses

As BOEM does not consider anonymous comments, please include your name and address as part of your submittal. BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names and/or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: January 14, 2015.

**Abigail Ross Hopper,**

*Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of Natural Resources Revenue

[Docket No. ONRR-2011-0009; DS63610300 DR2PS0000.CH7000 134D0102R2]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Collection of Monies Due the Federal Government; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an Information Collection Request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR part 1218. This notice also

provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

**DATES:** OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove this information collection request but may respond after 30 days; therefore, you should submit your public comments to OMB by March 2, 2015 for the assurance of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit your written comments directly to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1012-0008), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, by email to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or telefax at (202) 395-5806. Please also mail a copy of your comments to Mr. Luis Aguilar, Regulatory Specialist, ONRR, P.O. Box 25165, MS 61030A, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165, or email [Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov](mailto:Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1012-0008 in your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on technical issues, contact Ms. Lee-Ann Martin, Reporting and Solid Minerals Services, ONRR, telephone (303) 231-3313, or email [LeeAnn.Martin@onrr.gov](mailto:LeeAnn.Martin@onrr.gov). For other questions, contact Mr. Luis Aguilar, telephone (303) 231-3418, or email [Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov](mailto:Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov). You may also contact Mr. Aguilar to obtain copies (free of charge) of (1) the ICR, (2) any associated forms, and (3) the regulations that require the subject collection of information. You may also review the information collection request online at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Collection of Monies Due the Federal Government—30 CFR part 1218.

*OMB Control Number:* 1012-0008.

*Bureau Form Number:* Form ONRR-4425.

*Abstract:* The Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Under various laws, the Secretary's responsibility is to manage mineral resources production on Federal and Indian lands and the OCS, collect royalties due, and distribute the funds collected under those laws. ONRR performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary.

Public laws pertaining to mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands and the OCS are posted at [http://www.onrr.gov/Laws\\_R\\_D/PubLaws/default.htm](http://www.onrr.gov/Laws_R_D/PubLaws/default.htm).

Minerals produced from Federal and Indian leases vary greatly in the nature of occurrence, production, and processing methods. When a company or an individual enters into a lease to explore, develop, produce, and dispose of minerals from Federal or Indian lands, that company or individual agrees to pay the lessor a share in an amount or value of production from the leased lands. The lessee is required to report various kinds of information to the lessor relative to the disposition of the minerals. Such information is generally available within the records of the lessee or others involved in developing, transporting, processing, purchasing, or selling such minerals. The information collected includes data necessary to ensure that production is accurately valued and that royalties are appropriately paid.

This ICR covers unique reporting circumstances, including (1) cross-lease netting in calculation of late-payment interest; (2) designation of a designee; and (3) Tribal permission for recoupment on Indian oil and gas leases.

#### Cross-Lease Netting in Calculation of Late-Payment Interest

Regulations at § 1218.54 require ONRR to assess interest on unpaid or underpaid amounts. ONRR distributes these interest revenues to States, Indian Tribes, and the U.S. Treasury based on financial lease distribution information. Current regulations at § 1218.42 provide that an overpayment on a lease or leases may be offset against an underpayment on a different lease or leases to determine the net payment subject to interest when certain conditions are met. This process is called cross-lease netting. Sections 6(a), (b), and (c) of the Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act (RSFA) require ONRR to pay interest on lessees' Federal oil and gas overpayments made on or after February 13, 1997 (six months after the August 13, 1996, enactment of RSFA). ONRR implemented this RSFA provision in 1997 and began calculating interest on both underpayments and overpayments for Federal oil and gas leases, making the cross-lease netting provisions at § 1218.42 no longer applicable for these leases. However, lessees must still comply with the provisions at 30 CFR 1218.42(b) and (c) for Indian Tribal leases or Federal leases other than oil and gas. They must demonstrate that cross-lease netting is correct by submitting production reports, pipeline allocation reports, or other similar documentary evidence. This information is necessary in order for ONRR to determine the correct amount