

Activity/operator	Location	Date
Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Structure Removal Activity, SEA No. ES/SR 00-041.	West Delta Area, Block 29, Lease OCS-G 0385, 7 miles south of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.	04/06/00
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal Activity, SEA No. ES/SR 00-042.	Vermilion Area, Block 257, Lease OCS-G 8671, 70 miles south of Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.	04/14/00

Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposals listed above or obtaining information about EA's and FONSI's prepared for activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS are encouraged to contact the MMS office in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Public Information Unit, Information Services Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Telephone (504) 736-2519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS prepares EA's and FONSI's for proposals which relate to exploration for and the development/production of oil and gas resources on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. The EA's examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the significance of those effects. Environmental Assessments are used as a basis for determining whether or not approval of the proposals constitutes major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA Section 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where the MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the EA.

This notice constitutes the public notice of availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA Regulations.

Dated: April 25, 2000.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

[FR Doc. 00-10879 Filed 5-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

30 Day Notice of Submission to the Office of Management and Budget, Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of submission to Office of Management and Budget and request

for comments on information collection related to National Park Service mining regulations.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D)), the National Park Service (NPS) invites comments on a submitted request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve an extension, with revision, to a currently approved information budget for the NPS's minerals management regulatory program inside park units. Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the park protection functions of the NPS, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the NPS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including use of automated, electronic, mechanical or other forms of information technology; and (5) on the typical costs that prospective operators incur in preparing complete plans of operation under NPS mining regulations. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the requested information collection budget but may respond after 30 days. Thus, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration.

Primary Purpose of the Proposed Information Collection Request

The NPS requires the submittal of information on prospective mineral development activities associated with mining claims and non-Federal oil and gas rights within National Park System units to ensure that only operations that mitigate adverse impacts to park resources and values are permitted to operate in parks.

DATES: Public comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, ATTN: Desk Officer for the Interior Department (1024-0064), Washington, D.C. 20503. Please also forward a copy of your comments to Carol McCoy, Chief, Policy and

Regulations Branch, Geologic Resources Division, NPS, P.O. Box 25287, Lakewood, Colorado 80225.

All comments will become a matter of public record. Copies of the information collection request may be obtained by contacting Carol McCoy at the above noted address or by calling her at (303) 969-2096.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: NPS Minerals Management Program.

Form: None.

OMB Number: 1024-0064.

Expiration Date: April 2000.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Description of Need: While surprising, outstanding mineral rights exist in many units of the National Park System. In most cases, these rights predate the establishment of the units. Currently, a little over 2,000 mining claims, which were located under the 1872 Mining Law, exist in a total of 20 park units. The majority of these claims are located in Mojave National Preserve that was added to the National Park System through the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa). With respect to non-Federal oil and gas rights in park units, 597 non-Federal oil and gas operations exist in 11 park units. The potential for additional non-Federal oil and gas operations in additional units is tied to market forces and the quality and quantity of oil and gas reserves in park boundaries that coincide with the presence of private rights.

The NPS regulates mineral development activities inside park boundaries on mining claims and on non-Federal oil and gas rights under regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 9, Subpart A for mining claims (i.e., "9A regulations"), and Subpart B for non-Federal oil and gas rights (i.e., "9B regulations"). The NPS promulgated both sets of regulations in the late 1970's. In the case of mining claims, the NPS did so under congressional authority granted under the Mining in the Parks Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*) and individual park enabling statutes. For non-Federal oil and gas rights, the NPS regulates development activities pursuant to authority under the NPS Organic Act of 1916 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*) and

individual enabling statutes. As directed by Congress, the NPS developed the regulations in order to protect park resources and visitor values from the adverse impacts associated with mineral development in park boundaries.

The heart of the regulations is the approved "plan of operations" requirement. Essentially, a plan of operations is a prospective operator's blueprint setting forth all intended activities from access to extraction to reclamation related to developing a particular mineral right in a given park unit. The information required in a plan of operations is set forth in NPS regulations. Before an operator can commence development activities in a park unit, the NPS must approve the plan of operations and the operator must secure a bond in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of reclamation to the Federal Government in the event the operator defaults on his/her obligations.

Usually, an approved plan of operations covers the life of the mine or well, from development and production to reclamation. Under NPS regulations, such plans may be revised. No set form is required for a plan of operations. Each plan is tailored to the intended activities of an operator and the particulars of the environment, e.g., hardwood forest or desert, presence of endangered species or cultural resources, location and extent of water resources including wetlands.

Because of the variability among plans of operations and the duration of such plans, assessing the annual paperwork burden of complying with the NPS's mining regulations is difficult. Below is the NPS's best estimate, pro-rated on an annual basis, as to the number of respondents and number of hours involved in complying with the Service's regulations governing mining claims and non-Federal oil and gas rights.

Respondents: 1/3 medium to large publicly owned companies and 2/3 private entities.

Estimate of Number of Respondents: On an annual basis, the NPS estimates that it receives a range of between 15 to 30 plans of operations under its regulations: 5 to 10 plans of operations for mining claims, and 10 to 20 plans of operations for non-Federal oil and gas rights. For analysis purposes, the NPS used an overall estimate of 23 plans of operations per year: 8 plans of operations for mining claims, and 15 plans of operations for non-Federal oil and gas rights.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One. To conduct mineral development operations in park units, a

prospective operator must submit a proposed plan of operations to the NPS for review and approval. Once approved, such a plan covers the life of the operation. If the plan is for geophysical work associated with private oil and gas rights it may only cover a period of a few months. In contrast, a plan for a production oil and gas well or a hardrock mine may cover a period of 10 or more years.

Estimate of Burden Per Respondent: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 176 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 4048 hours. This number breaks down to 1408 total hours to comply with the information requirements of the 9A regulations governing mining claim operations in parks, and 2650 total hours to comply with the information requirements of the 9B regulations governing non-Federal oil and gas operations in parks.

Methodology and Assumptions Underlying the Hour Estimate: Under the Service's 9A regulations and the 9B regulations, a complete plan may consist of 10 pages of text plus 2–10 pages of illustrations inclusive of location maps, site plans and cross-sections to 100 pages of text plus several volumes of supporting material depending on the complexity of the proposed operations. The latter type of plan for hardrock mining is a rarity in the NPS. The time to prepare a plan could range from 24 hours to 6 months for a very complicated plan. Because the content of each plan is specific to the operation and site, and each operation and site present a unique set of circumstances, it is difficult to identify an "average" plan on which to base an estimate of preparation time. The NPS thus chose to use 160 hours (4 weeks) plus 10% for purposes of this analysis. In the case of the 9A regulations where an average of 8 complete proposed plans are expected per year, the estimated total amount of time involved to prepare plans of operations is 1408 hours (*i.e.*, 760 hours x 8 complete proposed plans). In the case of the 9B regulations where an average of 15 complete proposed plans are expected per year, the estimated total amount of time involved to prepare plans of operations is 2640 hours.

Estimated Cost Per Respondent to Comply with the Paperwork

Requirements: The NPS estimates that the annualized cost to all respondents to comply with the 9A regulations ranges from \$14,080 to \$140,800. The NPS estimated the cost per plan at \$1,760 to \$17,600. In the case of the 9B regulations, the NPS estimates the

annualized cost to all respondents ranges from \$75,000 to \$225,000 based on a likely individual compliance cost range of \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Methodology and Assumptions

Underlying the Cost Estimate: For the 9A regulations, the annualized estimated cost to all the respondents was determined as follows:

(1) Nationwide, 8 plans of operations and associated information (e.g., bond, commercial vehicle registration) are expected annually from different operators;

(2) Using an estimate of 160 hours to prepare a plan complete with attachments at a cost of \$10 to \$100 per hour (assuming the use of consultants for some or all parts of the plan requirements), the cost to prepare a plan could range from \$1600 to \$16,000.

(3) The NPS added ten percent (*i.e.*, \$160 to \$1,600) of the cost to prepare a plan of operations to account for administrative costs associated with changes in claim ownership, etc.

An operator with experience in preparing plans of operations likely can prepare an acceptable plan for a moderately complex operation in a few weeks, since most of the components of the plan are compiled during the course of normal business activities. Many of the information requirements of the regulations should be compiled by a responsible operator as part of normal business activities, to minimize liabilities, maintain business records for tax and other purposes, obtain financial backing, and ensure a safe, efficient, and well-planned operation. Under the regulations, information may be submitted in the manner in which it is customarily maintained in the industry. The reclamation plan and environmental report requirements [36 CFR § 9.9(b)(6) and (9), respectively] comprise the bulk of the information collection burden associated with these regulations. There is no standard form for submitting information. The NPS makes pertinent environmental information in park files available to prospective operators to aid in the preparation of proposed plans of operations.

For the 9B regulations, the NPS used a likely individual compliance cost range of \$5,000 to \$15,000. The range reflects the differences in types and numbers of operations that may be included in a single plan and the wide variations in the environmental settings in which non-Federal oil and gas development occurs in parks, and the availability of pre-existing environmental data from parks. Much of the information required by 36 CFR § 9.36 should be compiled by a

responsible operator as part of his/her normal business activities to minimize liabilities, maintain business records for tax and other purposes, obtain financial backing, and ensure a safe, efficient, and well-planned operation. The information may be submitted in the manner in which it is customarily maintained in the industry. The NPS does not require conformance with a standardized format. The reclamation plan and environmental report requirements [36 CFR § 9.36(a)(12) and (16), respectively] comprise the bulk of the information collection burden associated with these regulations. The NPS makes pertinent environmental information in park files available to prospective operators to aid in the preparation of proposed plans of operations.

Response to 60-Day Notice: On December 27, 1999, the NPS issued a notice in the **Federal Register** as to its intent to request an extension and revision to the information collection budget associated with the Service's minerals management program pursuant to 36 CFR Part 9 (see 64 FR 72358–72359). The comment period closed on February 25, 2000. The NPS received one comment that questioned whether the NPS had adequately assessed the burden for compliance with NEPA. While NEPA compliance is the responsibility of the NPS and not respondents, the Service's Part 9 regulations do require respondents to submit environmental data to the Service. As a result of the comment, the NPS reassessed the amount of time estimated for respondents to comply with the regulations. The NPS increased that time estimate to 160 hours plus 10% per respondent to more accurately account for time spent collecting and assembling data on the affected environment and possible resource impacts.

Leonard E. Stowe,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–10855 Filed 5–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Announcement of Subsistence Resource Commission Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.

SUMMARY: The Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and the Chairperson of the Subsistence

Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park announce a forthcoming meeting of the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. The following agenda items will be discussed:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) Roll call.
- (3) Approval of summary of meeting minutes for November 15–17, 1999 meeting in Fairbanks.
- (4) Review agenda.
- (5) Superintendent's introductions of guests and staff and review of Commission function and purpose.
- (6) Superintendent's Management/Research Report Summary.
 - a. Administration and management.
 - b. Park operations.
 - c. Resource management.
 - d. Subsistence program.
- (7) Public and agency comments.
- (8) Old Business.
 - a. Draft Subsistence Management Plan—review of public comments.
- (9) New Business
 - a. Review Federal Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Council actions.
 - b. Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management.
 - c. SRC Work Session (Draft letters/updates Subsistence Management Plan—if necessary).
- (10) Set time and place of next SRC meeting.
- (11) Adjournment.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesday May 9, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday May 10, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday May 11, 2000.

LOCATION: The meeting will be held at the IRA building in Ambler, Alaska

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Mow, 201 First Avenue, Doyon Bldg., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone (907) 456–0578.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Subsistence Resource Commissions are authorized under Title VIII, section 808, of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96–487 and operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committees Act.

Robert D. Barbee,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00–10853 Filed 5–1–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before April 22, 2000. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR Part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded to the National Register, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW, NC400, Washington, DC 20240. Written comments should be submitted by May 17, 2000.

Carol D. Shull,

Keeper of the National Register.

ARIZONA

Yavapai County

Cottonwood Commercial Historic District, Approx. from 712 to 1124 N. Main St., Cottonwood, 00000497

INDIANA

Marion County

Hawthorne Branch Library No. 2, 70 N. Mount St., Indianapolis, 00000499

LOUISIANA

East Baton Rouge Parish

US Post Office and Courthouse—Baton Rouge, 707 Florida Ave., Baton Rouge, 00000500

Rapides Parish

US Post Office and Courthouse—Alexandria, 515 Murray St., Alexandria, 00000501

MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire County

Main Street Cemetery, Main St., Dalton, 00000502

Plymouth County

Muttock Historic and Archaeological District Address Restricted Middleborough, 00000504

MICHIGAN

Kent County

Medical Arts Building, 26 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids, 00000506

MISSOURI

Greene County

Lincoln School, 815 N. Sherman Ave., Springfield, 00000508

NEW MEXICO

Otero County

US Post Office—Alamogordo, 1101 New York Ave., Alamogordo, 00000510