

in ex officio capacities. Other Council members are Directors from State agencies responsible for managing recreational fish and wildlife resources and individuals who represent the interests of saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing, recreational boating, the recreational fishing and boating industries, recreational fisheries resource conservation, aquatic resource outreach and education, and tourism. The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) will convene to discuss: (1) The Council's continuing role in providing input to the Fish and Wildlife Service on the Service's strategic planning for its Fisheries Program; (2) the Council's work in its role as a facilitator of discussions with Federal and State agencies and other sportfishing and boating interests concerning a variety of national boating and fisheries management issues; (3) the Council's role in providing the Interior Secretary with information about the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the National Outreach and Communications Program. The Interior Secretary approved the plan in February 1999, and the five-year, \$36-million federally funded outreach campaign authorized by the 1998 Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act is now being implemented by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization.

Dated: August 6, 2001.

**Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,**

*Acting Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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

#### Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004-0185

**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 information from oil and gas lessees who have the obligation to ensure their oil and gas leases are protected from drainage. BLM uses the information to determine whether

lessees and operating rights owners have complied with this obligation. Drainage of oil and gas resources results in lower royalties to the Federal Government.

**DATES:** You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before October 22, 2001. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, Mailstop 401LS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

You may send comments via Internet to: [WOCComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@blm.gov). Please include "ATTN: 1004-0185" 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.

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 Barbara Gamble on (202) 452-0338 (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. Gamble.

**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.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*, gives the Secretary of the Interior responsibility to ensure protection of Federal oil and gas leases from drainage. Whenever drainage of Federal oil and gas resources is occurring, the lessee is required to drill all wells necessary to prevent

losses of revenues due to such drainage, or enter into a communitization or unitization agreement, or to pay compensatory royalties for periods in which drainage has occurred or is occurring.

The regulations under 43 CFR 3100 specify that oil and gas lessees have the obligation to ensure protection of their leases from drainage. The lessees and operating rights owners must monitor drilling activities of offending wells that may result in drainage situations. BLM has the responsibility to notify lessees if it has reason to believe there is drainage of Federal oil and gas resources. If BLM determines that drainage may be occurring, it will notify the lessees of the affected leases to take protective action or to provide BLM with evidence that drainage is not occurring or that a protective well would not be economic to drill, produce, and operate. BLM uses this information to determine if lessees and operating rights owners have complied with this obligation. Drainage of oil and gas resources results in lower royalties to the Federal Government.

If BLM does not collect this information, it would lack the necessary information to ensure lessees and operating rights owners are fulfilling their obligations with respect to determining whether any producing wells nearby may be draining oil and gas resources covered by their leases. BLM collects the information in the regulations that address drainage and do not require a form.

Type of analysis	Number of analyses	Hours
Preliminary .....	1,000	2,000
Detailed .....	100	2,400
Additional .....	10	200
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>4,600</b>

Based upon its experience managing activities related to drainage of oil and gas resources, BLM estimates the above public reporting information collection burden. The estimated number of responses per year is 1,110. The estimated total annual burden is 4,600 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: July 23, 2001.

**Michael H. Schwartz,**

*BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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