

Dated: November 5, 2004.

Helen M. Hankins,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 04-25366 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a revision of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0073).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We changed the title of this information collection request (ICR) to clarify the regulatory language we are covering under 30 CFR Part 220. The previous title of this ICR was "30 CFR Part 220, Accounting Procedures for Determining Net Profit Share Payment for Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leases." The new title of this ICR is "30 CFR Part 220, Accounting Procedures for Determining Net Profit Share Payment for Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leases, § 220.010 NPSL capital account, § 220.030 Maintenance of records, § 220.031 Reporting and payment requirements, § 220.032 Inventories, and § 220.033 Audits."

DATES: Submit written comments on or before January 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Sharron L. Gebhardt, Lead Regulatory Specialist, Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, P.O. Box 25165, MS 302B2, Denver, Colorado 80225. If you use an overnight courier service, our courier address is Building 85, Room A-614, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. You may also e-mail your comments to us at mrm.comments@mms.gov. Include the title of the information collection and the OMB control number in the "Attention" line of your comment. Also include your name and return address. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your e-mail, contact Ms. Gebhardt at (303) 231-3211.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharron L. Gebhardt, telephone (303) 231-3211, FAX (303) 231-3781, or e-mail sharron.gebhardt@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 220, Accounting Procedures for Determining Net Profit Share Payment for Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leases, § 220.010 NPSL Capital Account, § 220.030 Maintenance of Records, § 220.031 Reporting and Payment Requirements, § 220.032 Inventories, and § 220.033 Audits.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0073.

Bureau Form Number: None.

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. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage mineral resources production on Federal and Indian lands, collect the royalties due, and distribute the funds in accordance with those laws. The MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary.

Applicable citations of the laws are Public Law 97-451—Jan. 12, 1983 (Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982) and Public Law 212—Aug. 7, 1953 (Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953, as amended by Public Law 93-627—Jan. 3, 1975; Public Law 95-372—Sept. 18, 1978; and Public Law 98-498—Oct. 19, 1984). These citations can be viewed on our Web site at http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/PublicLawsAMR.htm.

General Information

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 of the value received from production from the leased lands. The lease creates a business relationship between the lessor and the lessee. The lessee is required to report various kinds of information to the lessor relative to the disposition of the leased minerals. Such information is similar to data reported to private and public mineral interest owners and is generally available within the records of the lessee or others involved in developing, transporting, processing, purchasing, or selling of such minerals. The information collected includes data necessary to ensure royalties or net profit share payments are properly valued and appropriately paid. Proprietary information submitted to MMS under this collection is protected,

and no items of a sensitive nature are collected.

Net Profit Share Lease Bidding System

To encourage exploration and development of oil and gas leases on submerged Federal lands on the Outer Continental Shelf, regulations were promulgated at 30 CFR 260, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing. Specific implementation regulations for the net profit share lease (NPSL) bidding system are promulgated at 30 CFR 260.110(d) (covered under ICR 1010-0143, expires December 31, 2006). The MMS established the NPSL bidding system to properly balance a fair market return to the Federal Government for the lease of its lands, with a fair profit to companies risking their investment capital. The system provides an incentive for early and expeditious exploration and development and provides for sharing the risks by the lessee and the Federal Government. The NPSL bidding system incorporates a fixed capital recovery system as a means through which the lessee recovers costs of exploration and development from production revenues, along with a reasonable return on investment.

The Federal Government does not receive a profit share payment from an NPSL until the lessee shows a credit balance in its capital account; that is, cumulative revenues and other credits exceed cumulative costs. The credit balance is multiplied by the net profit share rate (30 to 50 percent), resulting in the amount of net profit share payment due the Federal Government.

The MMS requires lessees to maintain an NPSL capital account for each lease, which transfers to a new owner when sold. Following the cessation of production, lessees are also required to provide either an annual or a monthly report to the Federal Government, using data from the capital account. In addition, NPSL lessees must notify MMS of their intent to perform an inventory and file a report after each inventory of controllable material. Further, when non-operators of an NPSL call for an audit, they must notify MMS. When MMS calls for an audit, the lessee must notify all non-operators on the lease. These requirements are located at 30 CFR Part 220, §§ 220.010, 220.030, 220.031, 220.032, and 220.033. This collection of information is necessary in order to determine when net profit share payments are due and to determine the proper amount of payment.

We are revising this ICR to add citations related to records management (30 CFR 220.030(a)) and inventories (30 CFR 220.032(b)). We added a new citation for a PRA-exempt requirement

related to audits (30 CFR 220.033(e)). For clarification, we added § 220.031(c) related to payment requirements. We have not included in our estimates certain requirements performed in the normal course of business, which are considered usual and customary.

Frequency of Response: Annually, monthly, and on occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 9 lessees.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: 1,583 hours.

All 9 lessees report monthly because all current NPSLs are in producing status. Because the establishment of capital accounts [30 CFR 220.010(a)]

and capital account annual reporting [30 CFR 220.031(a)] requirements are necessary only during non-producing status of a lease, we included only 1 response annually for these requirements, in case a new NPSL is established. The following chart shows the estimated burden hours by CFR section and paragraph:

RESPONDENTS' ESTIMATED ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS

Citation 30 CFR 220	Reporting & recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden	Number of annual responses	Annual burden hours
Part 220—Accounting procedures for determining net profit share payment for outer continental shelf oil and gas leases				
§ 220.010 NPSL capital account				
220.010(a)	(a) For each NPSL tract, an NPSL capital account shall be established and maintained by the lessee for NPSL operations. * * *	1	1	1
§ 220.030 Maintenance of records				
220.030(a)	(a) Each lessee * * * shall establish and maintain such records as are necessary * * *	1	9	9
§ 220.031 Reporting and payment requirements				
220.031(a)	(a) Each lessee subject to this part shall file an annual report during the period from issuance of the NPSL until the first month in which production revenues are credited to the NPSL capital account. * * *	16	1	16
220.031(b)	(b) Beginning with the first month in which production revenues are credited to the NPSL capital account, each lessee * * * shall file a report for each NPSL, not later than 60 days following the end of each month * * *	13	108	1,404
220.031(c)	(c) Each lessee subject to this part 220 shall submit, together with the report required * * * any net profit share payment due * * *	Burden hours covered under 220.031(b)		0
220.031(d)	(d) Each lessee * * * shall file a report not later than 90 days after each inventory is taken * * *	8	9	72
220.031(e)	(e) Each lessee * * * shall file a final report, not later than 60 days following the cessation of production * * *	4	9	36
§ 220.032 Inventories				
220.032(b)	(b) At reasonable intervals, but at least once every three years, inventories of controllable material shall be taken by the lessee. Written notice of intention to take inventory shall be given by the lessee at least 30 days before any inventory is to be taken so that the Director may be represented at the taking of inventory. * * *	1	9	9
§ 220.033 Audits				
220.033(b)(1)	(b)(1) When nonoperators of an NPSL lease call an audit in accordance with the terms of their operating agreement, the Director shall be notified of the audit call * * *	2	9	18
220.033(b)(2)	(b)(2) If DOI determines to call for an audit, DOI shall notify the lessee of its audit call and set a time and place for the audit. * * * The lessee shall send copies of the notice to the notice to the nonoperators on the lease. * * *	2	9	18
220.033(e)	(e) Records required to be kept under § 220.030(a) shall be made available for inspection by any authorized agent of DOI * * *	The Office of Regulatory Affairs has determined that the audit process is not covered by the PRA because MMS staff asks non-standard questions to resolve exception.		0
Total burden			164	1,583

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-hour Cost"
Burden: We have identified no "non-hour cost" burdens.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to,

a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Comments: Before submitting an ICR to OMB, PRA Section 3506(c)(2)(A) 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.

The PRA also requires agencies to estimate the total annual reporting “non-hour cost” burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. We have not identified non-hour cost burdens for this information collection. If you have costs to generate, maintain, and disclose this information, you should comment and provide your total capital and startup cost components or annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of service components. You should describe the methods you use to estimate major cost factors, including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, discount rate(s), and the period over which you incur costs. Capital and startup costs include, among other items, computers and software you purchase to prepare for collecting information; monitoring, sampling, and testing equipment; and record storage facilities. Generally, your estimates should not include equipment or services purchased: (i) Before October 1, 1995; (ii) to comply with requirements not associated with the information collection; (iii) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government; or (iv) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our ICR submission for OMB approval, including appropriate adjustments to the estimated burden. We will provide a copy of the ICR to you without charge upon request. The ICR also will be posted on our Web site (see below).

Public Comment Policy: We will post all comments in response to this notice on our Web site at http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/FRNotices/FRInfColl.htm. We also will

make copies of the comments available for public review, including names and addresses of respondents, during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado. Upon request, we will withhold an individual respondent’s home address from the public record, as allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent’s identity, as allowable by law. If you request that we withhold your name and/or address, state your request prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

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

Dated: November 5, 2004.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 04-25330 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection (1010-NEW).

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) for review and approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, Subpart I, Platforms and Structures, and related documents. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

DATES: Submit written comments by December 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments either by fax (202) 395-6566 or email (OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov) directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the

Interior (1010-New). Mail or hand carry a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Interested parties may submit a copy of their comments on-line to MMS, the address is: <https://occonnect.mms.gov>. From the Public Connect “Welcome” screen, you will be able to either search for Information Collection 1010-New or select it from the “Projects Open For Comment” menu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Blundon, Rules Processing Team, (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Cheryl Blundon to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations, and the Notice to Lessee (NTL) that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Assessment of Existing OCS Platforms Notice to Lessees (NTL).

OMB Control Number: 1010-New.

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 (Secretary) 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.

Specifically, the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356) requires the issuance of “* * * regulations which require that any vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or structure * * * (2) which is used for activities pursuant to this subchapter, comply * * * with such minimum standards of design, construction, alteration, and repair as the Secretary * * * establishes * * *.” The OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332(6)) also states, “operations in the [O]uter Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner * * * to prevent or minimize the likelihood of * * * physical obstruction to other users of the water or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property, or endanger life or health.” These authorities and responsibilities are