

Control Number and should be sent to: Shelia Jones, Reports Liaison Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 7232, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Lobasso at (202) 708-1322, Extension 2191 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is submitting the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program.

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2506-0077.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The information collected from recipients participating in the CDBG Entitlement program will be used to verify program compliance with slums or blight national objective criteria. Grantees will be required to establish definitions and maintain records of slums or blighted areas. Grantees will also be required to revisit the slums or blighted designation every five years and maintain documentation to verify continued qualification.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: Not applicable.

Members of affected public: Grant recipients (metropolitan cities and urban counties) participating in the CDBG Entitlement Program.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The estimated

number of respondents is 512. The proposed frequency of the response to the collection is on an annual basis. The total estimated burden is 3,584 annual hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: This submission is a revision of a currently approved collection. The current OMB approval expires on October 31, 2004.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: July 31, 2003.

Roy Bernardi,
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 03-20043 Filed 8-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Connect Initiative

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Request for Comments concerning Offshore Minerals Management Program's e-Government Initiative.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the basis and rationale for the e-Government Initiative, OCS Connect. The purpose of publishing this notice is to provide information to the public on the objectives of OCS Connect and to solicit public feedback with respect to project development.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive by October 6, 2003. We will begin reviewing comments then and may not fully consider comments we receive after October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may send comments regarding the OCS Connect Initiative and this Notice to the Chief, e-Gov Transformation Project; Minerals Management Service; Mail 4009; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary L. Lore, Chief, e-Gov Project Management Office; Mail Stop 4009; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Telephone (703) 787-1623; e-mail ommegov@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OCS Connect is a comprehensive reform project that will be a phased, multiyear e-Government transformation of the Offshore Minerals Management (OMM) program. OCS Connect was mandated by legislation and federal guidance

under the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (Clinger-Cohen Act), the Government Paperwork Elimination Act of 1999, and the Government Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. OCS Connect will dramatically reform and streamline business operations by fiscal year 2008. By moving to on-line services, the organization will be more "connected" to customers: industry, citizens, and other governmental agencies.

OMM's Vision for OCS Connect

To facilitate customized and electronic information exchange between MMS and its OCS customers—industry, citizens, and other governmental agencies.

Goals of OCS Connect

- Increase ease of use and allow better access to stakeholders for OMM's services and information.
- Decrease cycle time to receive and process stakeholder requests.
- Increase collaboration and information sharing within OMM and between constituencies.
- Increase the quantity and quality of value-added analysis of offshore resources.
- Improve data and information capabilities.

Scope of OCS Connect

Currently, OMM relies heavily on paper-based processes and systems. The recent evolution in internet technologies has presented a unique opportunity for OMM to minimize paper-based processes, to improve data management, and to increase the efficiency of its workforce. OCS Connect will allow the OMM to transform their traditional business practices to more efficient, streamlined business practices.

Traditional business practices	Streamlined business practices
Paper-based processes cause long lead times in approval process for permits.	Standardized, online electronic permit filing, reporting and approvals significantly reduce cycle times.
Multiple filings required with different government bodies.	Data standards will facilitate electronic exchange of data with different government bodies and reduce the number of redundant filings.
Multiple data sources available in different locations for information sharing.	Portals offer one-stop "shopping" for information exchange.

Traditional business practices	Streamlined business practices
Multiple data formats	Standardized, industry accepted data formats enable efficient information sharing throughout the E&P industry.

Benefits of OCS Connect to Stakeholders

In addition, *Industry* will be able to enter a single portal to receive

information and conduct more efficient online exploration, development, and production transactions, resulting in time and cost savings.

Citizens will be able to enter a single portal that delivers customized and user-friendly information and encourages increased online participation in the oil and gas regulatory and planning processes.

Governmental agencies will share common data, exchange standards and future applications. Multiple agencies

may access an online permitting system to obtain information, conduct reviews and approve industry requests.

Privacy and security will be provided through secure data architecture to ensure confidentiality of necessary data and requests by stakeholders.

The Overall Result

The OMM will be more customer-focused, efficient, and effective in serving their constituencies through streamlined business execution.

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES DUE TO WORKFLOW AUTOMATION BY OCS CONNECT

	Explanation of the OCS connect deliverable
Data Related Deliverables from OCS Connect:	
Singular Enterprise Architecture Development.	A baseline enterprise architecture will be developed to include stakeholders, business, data, applications, technology and the relationships among them. Architecture will be leveraged into other governmental bureaus for consistency.
Consistent Established Data Standards.	Established data standards will expedite data utilization and interpretation thereby reducing cycle time. For example: • Reduces time validating data; • Expedites quality control of data; • Reduces data loading time; • Facilitates interface between software suites; • Facilitates data sharing and collaboration; • Ensures consistency in State and Local spatial data for ease of use.
Electronic Data Stores	Different data sets stored for ease of retrieval for various data interpretation such as: • G&G data—well logs and data, seismic data; • Gravity and magnetic data; • Marine cadastral data sets; • Production data; • Lease history data; • Thematic maps.
Electronic Data Submission	Data can be submitted electronically instead of in a manual, paper based process. Types of data will include, but not be limited to: • Reservoir data such as run tickets and liquid verification reports, gas verification and volume reports; • Weekly activity reports; • G&G data such as well logs and analyses, seismic data; • Plans & Permits; • Land legal requests.
Data Storage, Indexing and Retrieval of Data.	Holistic approach to data access will allow the lessee to pull all G&G, leasing, adjudication, permitting, plan, production, and reserves information on each asset.
Secure Data Architecture	Allows for privacy in data access and for submittal of operators data.
Enhanced Data Management	Improved electronic processes will ensure efficient utilization of data by allowing access to the right data at the right time.
Reduced Cycle Time for Data Analysis.	Consistency of data will allow faster, improved analysis of an asset regarding permits, plans, lease sales, and environmental analysis.
Data Repository Enabling Life Cycle Review of Leases.	A centralized repository that stores historical and current data on lessees and operators will allow for automatic information retrieval once security clearances have been approved. Lessees and operators will be able to work from prepopulated information forms reducing resubmission of information. Full lease history and interactions with the OMM can be retrieved.
Outreach Related Deliverables from OCS Connect:	
Online Rulemaking/Online Commenting.	Migration of rulemaking and customer commenting to an online forum will expedite comment review.
Integration of Multiple Government Agencies Requirements.	Coordination of reporting requirements across governmental entities reduces time as paperwork does not have to be submitted multiple times in multiple formats. For example: • The Coast Guard's requirements have been incorporated into the Well Permitting and Reporting System.
Singular Portal Interface	One portal interface will be organized around the functions for the oil and gas stakeholders to provide a full suite of services for: • Leasing; • Plans, permits, and pipelines; • Reporting; • Inspections and compliance; • OCS information; • OCS maps.

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES DUE TO WORKFLOW AUTOMATION BY OCS CONNECT—Continued

	Explanation of the OCS connect deliverable
Electronic Environmental Assessments and Monitoring. Electronic Submission and Online Permitting.	Shared data access to environmental studies will assist in quicker approvals and compliance as well as environmental impact mitigation monitoring. Requests will not be paper-based, thereby, reducing complexity of submittals and submittal time because system will allow electronic submission of attachments: • G&G permits; • Platform structure permits; • Production facility permits; • Lease term pipeline applications.
Shortened Approval Processes	Electronic submission of information speeds up approval processes, and thereby, reduces tendency for stakeholders to over-submit paperwork in order to avoid re-submission caused by informal rejections. Shortens request time for: • New Producing Lease Determinations; • Lease Suspension Requests; • Miscellaneous applications such as commingling, unitization, reservoir reclassifications, abandonment zones, etc.; • Deep water royalty relief requests; • Decommissioning requests.
Electronic Notification and Tracking ..	Courtesy notifications will be sent to stakeholders from the OMM regarding needed filings. Also, the status and progress of requests can be tracked.
Time Saving Deliverables from OCS Connect: Online Commenting Reduces "Time to Lease Sale".	Expedites OMM's time to decision making over current paper-based commenting, such as: • Reduces manual reconciliation of public and industry commenting regarding regulations, laws and lease sales; • Allows faster compliance and approvals from other governmental agencies; • Reduces OMM's analysis and definition of the lease sale terms and conditions.
Automated System Reduces "Time to Approval".	Expedites OMM's analyses and approvals of Exploration, Development and Production plans of leases. • Faster consolidation of public, public interest groups and industry comments; • Faster access to additional data requests from the operator; • Faster approval cycle.
Comprehensive Life Cycle View of Asset.	Allows stakeholders the ability to view historical, publicly-available data surrounding the whole life cycle of an asset from: • A well life cycle perspective; • A production life cycle perspective; • A reserves perspective; • A lease life cycle perspective; • A permitting life cycle; • An approval life cycle; • A compliance life cycle.

More detailed information regarding the OCS Connect Initiative can be found at:

1. <http://www.mms.gov/ommegov/>.
2. <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>.

OMM Business Cluster

OMM has identified 14 Business Process Clusters which are listed in the table below as potential candidates for re-engineering. We are interested in your views as to the importance of these 14 Business Clusters to your organization; therefore, please give us your overall comments on the merits of re-engineering these clusters. You may note those that work well or are most in need of improvement. We are particularly interested in any suggestions you may have regarding examples of best practices for particular business processes.

1. Public Commenting.
2. Manage Regulations, Laws and NTLS.

3. Produce and Maintain Thematic Maps and Official Cadastral Descriptions.
 4. Protect Environmental Resources.
 5. Manage and Administer Leasing Program.
 6. Monitor Lessee and Operator Activity.
 7. Manage Permit Requests.
 8. Manage Plan Submittals.
 9. Analyze and Coordinate G&G Reviews and Interpretations.
 10. Manage Reserves Inventory Program and Perform Resource Assessment.
 11. Perform Data Management.
 12. Develop and Support IT/IS Environment.
 13. Perform Economic Analysis, Determine Fair Market Value and Forecast Production.
 14. Inspect Operations and Enforce Regulations.
- For a more detailed explanation of OMM's Business Process Clusters, please go to the below internet link:

<http://www.mms.gov/ommegov/PDF/OMM%20Business%20Process%20Clusters.pdf>.

Comments

After reading the Notice summarizing the OCS Connect Initiative, please provide us your overall impression of the OCS Connect Initiative. We would like your comments as to OCS Connect's impact on the openness and information exchange between OMM and its Stakeholders, its overall scope, additional key elements needed for its successful implementation, any particular benefits or concerns you may have regarding the initiative. Please also tell us what type of Stakeholder you are to the OMM.

Send comments in response to this notice directly to the office listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Dated: July 31, 2003.

Gary L. Lore,

Chief, e-Gov Transformation Project.

[FR Doc. 03-20058 Filed 8-5-03; 8:45 am]

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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 September 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, ATTN: Desk Officer for the Interior Department (1024-0064), via facsimile (202-395-5806) or e-mail (Ruth.Solomon@omb.eop.gov). Please also forward a copy of your comments to Edward O. Kassman, Jr., Regulatory Specialist, Policy and Regulations Branch, Geologic Resources Division, NPS, P.O. Box 25287, Lakewood, Colorado 80225, (303) 969-2146.

All comments will become a matter of public record. Copies of the information collection request may be obtained by contacting Edward O. Kassman, Jr. at the above noted address or by calling him at (303) 969-2146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: NPS Minerals Management Program.

Form: None.

OMB Number: 1024-0064.

Expiration Date: June 30, 2003.

Type of Request: 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 1,749 mining claims, which were located under the 1872 Mining Law, 30 U.S.C. 21 *et seq.*, exist in a total of 19 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, 703 non-Federal oil and gas operations exist in 12 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"), respectively. 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 miner 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: 1/4 medium to large publicly owned companies and 3/4 private entities.

Estimate of Number of Respondents: On an annual basis, the NPS estimates that it receives a range of between 13 to 20 plans of operations under its regulations: 3 to 5 plans of operations for mining claims, and 10 to 15 plans of operations for non-Federal oil and gas rights. For analysis purposes, the NPS used an overall estimate of 17 plans of operations per year: 4 plans of