

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 burden of the collection of information 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 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001–1025) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases for development of Federal oil and gas and geothermal resources. The Act of August 7, 1947 (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands) authorizes the Secretary to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341–359). The Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508) provides for the competitive leasing of lands for oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPPRA). The Attorney General's Opinion of April 2, 1941 (40 Opinion of the Attorney General 41) provides the basis under which the Secretary issues certain leases for lands being drained of mineral resources. The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*) provides the authority for leasing lands acquired from the General Services Administration.

Assignor/transferor submits Form 3000–3, Assignment of Record Title Interest In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, and Form 3000–3a, Transfer of Operating Rights (Sublease) In A Lease for Oil and Gas or Geothermal Resources, to transfer interest in oil and gas or geothermal leases by assignment of record title or transfer operating rights (sublease) in oil and gas or geothermal leases under the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216. These regulations outline the procedures for assigning record title interest and transferring operating rights in a lease to explore for, develop, and produce oil and gas resources and geothermal resources.

The assignor/transferor provides the required information to comply with the regulations in order to process the

assignments of record title interest or transfer of operating rights (sublease) in a lease for oil and gas or geothermal resources. The assignor/transferor submits the required information to BLM for approval under 30 U.S.C. 187a and the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216.

BLM uses the information submitted by the assignor/transferor to identify the interest ownership that is assigned or transferred and the qualifications of the assignee-transferee. BLM determines if the assignee-transferee is qualified to obtain the interest sought and ensures the assignee/transferee does not exceed statutory acreage limitations.

Based on BLM's experience administering the activities described above, we estimate it takes 30 minutes per response to complete the required information. The respondents include individuals, small businesses, and large corporations. The frequency of response is occasional. We estimate 60,000 responses per year and a total annual burden of 30,000 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: April 1, 2005.

**Ian Senio,**

*Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee (SC); Announcement of Plenary Session

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The OCS Scientific Committee will meet at the Embassy Suites Dulles-North in Dulles (Sterling), Virginia.

**DATES:** Wednesday, April 27, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 28, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, April 29, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Embassy Suites Dulles-North/Loudoun, 44610 Waxpool Road, Dulles, Virginia 20147, telephone (703) 723–5300.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A copy of the agenda may be requested from MMS by calling Ms. Carolyn Beamer at (703) 787–1211. Other

inquiries concerning the OCS SC meeting should be addressed to Dr. James Kendall, Executive Secretary to the OCS SC, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4043, Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817 or by calling (703) 787–1656.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OCS SC will provide advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS Environmental Studies Program to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the MMS. The SC will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.

The Committee will meet in plenary session on Wednesday, April 27. Individual Committee members will report on the January meetings of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Information Transfer Meeting and affiliated OCS SC's Deepwater Subcommittee, the January and March meetings of the OCS SC Arctic Subcommittee meeting, and the OCS SC's observations made at the MMS/Environmental Protection Agency Hypoxia meeting conducted this past summer. Also on April 27, presentations will be made to the OCS SC outlining how archeology studies are useful to MMS information needs and how other large environmental programs handle environmental data and what options are being used and/or considered for serving MMS's database needs. The MMS Director will also address the Committee.

On Thursday, April 28, the Committee will meet in discipline breakout sessions (*i.e.*, biology/ecology, physical sciences, and social sciences) to review the specific research plans of the MMS regional offices for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

On Friday, April 29, the Committee will meet in plenary session for reports of the individual discipline breakout sessions of the previous day and to continue with Committee business.

The meetings are open to the public. Approximately 30 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis at the plenary session.

**Authority:** Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix I, and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A–63, Revised.

Dated: March 31, 2005.

**Thomas A. Readinger,**

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

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