

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****30 CFR Parts 250 and 254**

RIN 1010-AC57

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Incident Reporting Requirements**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.**ACTION:** Extension of comment period for proposed rule.**SUMMARY:** This document extends to December 5, 2003, the previous deadline of October 6, 2003, for submitting comments on the proposed rule published on July 8, 2003, (68 FR 40585), that describes MMS Incident Reporting Requirements.**DATES:** We will consider all comments received by December 5, 2003, and we may not fully consider comments received after December 5, 2003.**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-carry written comments (three copies) to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Mail Stop 4024; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melinda Mayes, MMS Engineering and Operations Division, Herndon, VA, at (703) 787-1063 or Staci Atkins, MMS Engineering and Operations Division, Herndon, VA, at (703) 787-1620.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMS published a proposed rulemaking on July 8, 2003 (68 FR 40585) to revise the requirements for lessees/operators to report incidents associated with Outer Continental Shelf activities. In developing this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MMS worked with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) with the goal of making the reporting requirements between the two agencies consistent. The MMS and USCG also are developing an electronic reporting system to help eliminate duplicative reporting between the two agencies.

In a letter to MMS dated July 14, 2003, the International Association of Drilling Contractors has requested that we extend the comment period. The IADC stated that the additional time was necessary to develop their response and coordinate it with their sister trade associations, particularly in view of the time that must also be devoted to the recent Maritime Security rules issued by the USCG.

On September 3, 2003, MMS and the USCG will hold a meeting to explain the

proposed rule and allow meeting participants to ask questions. The original proposed rule comment due date is just over one month after this meeting. We believe that additional time to develop comments after the meeting should be provided. Therefore, we are extending the comment period for 60 days and this notice extends the comment period to December 5, 2003.

Public Comments Procedures

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this 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.

Dated: July 25, 2003.

E.P. Danenberger,*Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.*

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BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement****30 CFR Part 948****[WV-091-FOR]****West Virginia Regulatory Program****AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the comment period to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on a document submitted by the State of West Virginia which further clarifies a proposed amendment to the State's regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). The program amendment consists of changes to the West Virginia Surface Mining

Reclamation Regulations as contained in House Bill 2663. The amendment is intended to improve the effectiveness of the West Virginia program.

DATES: We will accept written comments on this amendment until 4 p.m. (local time), on August 15, 2003.**ADDRESSES:** You should mail or hand-deliver written comments to Mr. Roger W. Calhoun, Director, Charleston Field Office at the address listed below.

You may review copies of the West Virginia program, the amendment, the clarification document, and all written comments received in response to this document at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. You may receive one free copy of the amendment and the State's clarification by contacting OSM's Charleston Field Office.

Mr. Roger W. Calhoun, Director, Charleston Field Office, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1027 Virginia Street, East, Charleston, West Virginia 25301, Telephone: (304) 347-7158. E-mail: chfo@osmre.gov.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, 10 McJunkin Road, Nitro, West Virginia 25143, Telephone: (304) 759-0510.

In addition, you may review copies of the proposed amendment and the related document during regular business hours at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Morgantown Area Office, 75 High Street, Room 229, PO Box 886, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507, Telephone: (304) 291-4004. (By Appointment Only)

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Beckley Area Office, 323 Harper Park Drive, Suite 3, Beckley, West Virginia 25801, Telephone: (304) 255-5265.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger W. Calhoun, Director, Charleston Field Office, Telephone: (304) 347-7158. Internet: chfo@osmre.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- I. Background on the West Virginia Program
- II. Description of the Proposed Amendment
- III. Public Comment Procedures
- IV. Procedural Determinations

I. Background on the West Virginia Program

Section 503(a) of the Act permits a State to assume primacy for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands within its borders by demonstrating that its program includes, among other things, “* * *