

purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the DEIS, the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed competitive sale of the coal included in each of the proposed five tracts. The 60-day comment period on the DEIS ended on April 11, 2003.

The draft and final EIS analyze leasing each of the five tracts as applied for (described above) as a separate Proposed Action. As part of the coal leasing process, BLM has identified and is evaluating other tract configurations for these tracts which add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to increase competitive interest in the unleased Federal coal in this area. The tract configurations that BLM has identified for each tract are described and analyzed as alternatives in the EIS. The EIS also analyzes the alternative of rejecting each application to lease Federal coal as the No Action Alternative for each tract.

The agency-preferred alternatives are identified in the FEIS. The agency-preferred alternative varies for each tract, depending on which tract configuration is determined to best advance the public interest in avoiding bypassing Federal coal and increasing competitive interest in obtaining the fair market value of the Federal coal. The Proposed Actions and Alternatives that are considered in the EIS are in conformance with the "Approved Resource Management Plan for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management Buffalo Field Office" (April 2001), the USDA Forest Service "Final EIS for the Northern Great Plains Revision" (May 2001) and the BLM "Platte River Resource Area Resource Management Plan" (1985).

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. The surface of some of the land included for consideration for leasing in three of the tracts (NARO North, Little Thunder, and West Roundup) is National Forest System land administered by the Forest Service as part of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. If the tracts are leased as maintenance tracts, each new lease must be incorporated into the existing mining and reclamation plan for the adjacent mine and the Secretary of the Interior must approve each revision to the MLA (Mineral Leasing Act) mining plan for each mine before the Federal coal in each tract can be mined. OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval,

approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised MLA mining plans to the office of the Secretary of the Interior if any or all of these tracts are leased.

Eleven written comments were received during the comment period on the Draft EIS, and four were recorded at the public hearing. The issues that were identified in the comment letters and at the hearing included potential conflicts with existing conventional oil and gas coalbed methane development; potential cumulative impacts of increasing mineral development in the Powder River Basin; validity and currency of resource data; public access; potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern; potential cumulative air quality impacts; and potential impacts of nitrogen oxide emissions resulting from blasting of coal and overburden.

A separate Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared for each of the five LBA tracts being considered for leasing. Comments received on the FEIS will be considered during preparation of the RODs.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: October 23, 2003.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of an information collection (1010-0043).

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), MMS is inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, Subpart F, "Oil and Gas Well-Workover Operations."

**DATES:** Submit written comments by February 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. If you wish to e-mail comments, the address is: [rules.comments@mms.gov](mailto:rules.comments@mms.gov). Reference "Information Collection 1010-0043" in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team at (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* 30 CFR 250, Subpart F, Oil and Gas Well-Workover Operations.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0043.

*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.

Section 5(a) of the OCS Lands Act requires the Secretary to prescribe rules and regulations "to provide for the prevention of waste, and conservation of the natural resources of the Outer Continental Shelf, and the protection of correlative rights therein" and to include provisions "for the prompt and

efficient exploration and development of a lease area." These authorities and responsibilities are among those delegated to MMS under which we issue regulations to ensure that operations in the OCS will meet statutory requirements; provide for safety and protection of the environment; and result in diligent exploration, development, and production of OCS leases. This information collection request addresses the regulations at 30 CFR 250, subpart F, Oil and Gas Well-Workover Operations and the associated supplementary notices to lessees and operators intended to provide clarification, description, or explanation of these regulations.

MMS District Supervisors use the information collected to analyze and evaluate planned well-workover operations to ensure that operations result in personnel safety and protection of the environment. They use this evaluation in making decisions to approve, disapprove, or to require modification to the proposed well-workover operations. For example, MMS uses the information to:

- Review log entries of crew meetings to verify that safety procedures have been properly reviewed.
- Review well-workover procedures relating to hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) to ensure the safety of the crew in the event of encountering H<sub>2</sub>S.
- Review well-workover diagrams and procedures to ensure the safety of well-workover operations.
- Verify that the crown block safety device is operating and can be expected to function and avoid accidents.
- Verify that the proposed operation of the annular preventer is technically correct and will provide adequate protection for personnel, property, and natural resources.
- Verify the reasons for postponing blowout preventer (BOP) tests, verify the state of readiness of the equipment and to ascertain that the equipment meets safety standards and requirements, ensure that BOP tests have been conducted in the manner and frequency to promote personnel safety and protect natural resources. Specific testing information must be recorded to verify that the proper test procedures were followed.
- Assure that the well-workover operations are conducted on well casing that is structurally competent.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.196, "Data and information to be made available to the public." No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

*Frequency:* The frequency varies by section, but is primarily monthly or on occasion.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* The currently approved annual reporting burden for this collection is 19,205 hours. The following chart details the individual components and respective hour burden estimates of this ICR. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

Citation 30 CFR 250 subpart F	Reporting or recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>		
602 .....	Request exceptions prior to moving well-workover equipment .....	1.
602 .....	Notify MMS of any rig movement within Gulf of Mexico (form MMS-144) .....	Burden included in 1010-0150.
605; 613; 615(a) .....	Request approval to begin subsea well-workover operations; submit forms MMS-124 and MMS-125.	Burden included in 1010-0045 and 1010-0046.
612 .....	Request establishment/amendment/cancellation of field well-workover rules .....	1.
614 .....	Post number of stands of drill pipe or workover string and drill collars that may be pulled prior to filling the hole and equivalent well-control fluid volume.	.25.
616(a) .....	Request exception to rated working pressure of the BOP equipment; request exception to annular-type BOP testing.	2.
617(b) .....	Pressure test, caliper, or otherwise evaluate tubing & wellhead equipment casing; submit results (every 30 days during prolonged operations).	6.
617(c) .....	Notify MMS if sustained casing pressure is observed on a well .....	.25.
600-618 .....	General departure and alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in subpart F regulations.	2.
<b>Recordkeeping Requirements</b>		
606 .....	Instruct crew members in safety requirements of operations to be performed; document meeting (weekly for 2 crews × 2 weeks per workover = 4).	1.
611 .....	Perform operational check of traveling-block safety device; document results (weekly × 2 weeks per workover = 2).	1.
616(a), (b), (d), (e) .....	Perform BOP pressure tests, actuations, inspections & certifications; record results; retain records 2 years following completion of workover activities (when installed; at a minimum every 7 days × 2 weeks per workover = 2).	8.
616(b)(2) .....	Test blind or blind-shear rams; document results (every 30 days during operations). (Note: this is part of BOP test when BOP test is conducted.).	1.
616(b)(2) .....	Record reason for postponing BOP system tests .....	.5.
616(c) .....	Perform crew drills; record results (weekly for 2 crews × 2 weeks per workover = 4)	1.

*Estimated 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 a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

**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.

Agencies must also estimate the “non-hour cost” burdens to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. Therefore, 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, and record storage facilities. You should not include estimates for 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 submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB.

**Public Comment Policy:** MMS’s practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. If you

wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. MMS will honor this request to the extent allowable by law; however, anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**MMS Federal Register Liaison Officer:**  
Denise Johnson (202) 208–3976.

Dated: December 16, 2003.

**E.P. Danenberger,**

*Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.*

[FR Doc. 03–31626 Filed 12–23–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–MR–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 new information collection.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), MMS is inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns four new forms to collect information required under 30 CFR 256, “Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.” The below forms will be used by all MMS Regional Offices:

- MMS–149, Assignment of Interest in Federal Pipeline Right-of-Way.
- MMS–150, Assignment of Record Title Interest in Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease.
- MMS–151, Assignment of Operating Rights Interest in Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease.
- MMS–152, Relinquishment of Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by February 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817. If you wish to e-mail comments, the address is: [rules.comments@mms.gov](mailto:rules.comments@mms.gov). Reference “Information Collection 1010–NEW—

Assignment Forms” in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team at (703) 787–1600 to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the forms or regulations that require the subject collection of information. You may also print a copy of these forms from the MMS Web site: [http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/proposed\\_forms.html](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/proposed_forms.html) under the heading “Leasing.” For more information on the forms themselves, contact Steven K. Waddell, Supervisor, Adjudication Unit, (504) 736–1710.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Assignment of Pipeline Right-of-Way, Record Title, Operating Rights Forms and Relinquishment of Oil and Gas Lease Form.

**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. Also, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA) prohibits certain lease bidding arrangements (42 U.S.C. 6213(c)).

These authorities and responsibilities are among those delegated to the Minerals Management Service (MMS), under which MMS issues regulations governing oil and gas and sulphur operations in the OCS. This request concerns forms used to collect assignment, transfer, extension, and termination of lease information required under 30 CFR 256, “Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.” The Federal Government has been receiving and approving transfers of ownership interest in leases since the inception of the OCS Lands Act, as amended. Currently, owners of Federal offshore leases submit their own forms of Assignment and Relinquishment documents for approval by MMS. Occasionally, the information is