

actions that will protect and conserve species and their habitats while providing for appropriate use of desert resources and the future growth and development of desert communities.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

John S. Mills,

Acting Deputy State Director, Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. E6-3758 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-920-1310-06; NMNM 112261; NMNM 112262]

Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases NMNM 112261 and NMNM 112262

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reinstatement of terminated oil and gas leases.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, Elk Oil Company timely filed a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas leases NMNM 112261 and NMNM 112262 for lands in Chaves County, New Mexico, and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from October 1, 2005, the date of the terminations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky C. Olivas, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7609.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: No valid lease has been affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16²/₃ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500.00 administrative fees and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the leases as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Lease Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the leases effective October 1, 2005, subject to the original terms and conditions of the leases and the increased rentals and royalty rates cited above.

Becky C. Olivas,

Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team 1.

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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 (1010-0071).

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. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 203, "Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates."

DATES: Submit written comments by May 15, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods listed below. Please use the Information Collection Number 1010-0071 as an identifier in your message.

- Public Connect on-line commenting system, <https://occonnect.mms.gov>. Follow the instructions on the Web site for submitting comments.

- E-mail MMS at rules.comments@mms.gov. Identify with Information Collection Number 1010-0071 in the subject line.

- Fax: 703-787-1093. Identify with Information Collection Number 1010-0071.

- Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Process Team (RPT); 381 Elden Street, MS-4024; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference "Information Collection 1010-0071" in your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0071.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended by Public Law 104-58, Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA), gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the authority to reduce or eliminate royalty or any net profit share specified in OCS oil and gas leases to promote increased production. The DWRRA also authorized the

Secretary to suspend royalties when necessary to promote development or recovery of marginal resources on producing or non-producing leases in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude.

Section 302 of the DWRRA provides that new production from a lease in existence on November 28, 1995, in a water depth of at least 200 meters, and in the GOM west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude qualifies for royalty suspension in certain situations. To grant a royalty suspension, the Secretary must determine that the new production or development would not be economic without royalty relief. The Secretary must then determine the volume of production on which no royalty would be due in order to make the new production from the lease economically viable. This determination must be done on a case-by-case basis. Production from leases in the same water depth and area issued after November 28, 2000, also can qualify for royalty suspension in addition to any that may be included in their lease terms.

In addition, federal policy and statute require us to recover the cost of services that confer special benefits to identifiable non-federal recipients. The Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), OMB Circular A-25, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996) authorize MMS to collect these fees to reimburse us for the cost to process applications or assessments.

Regulations at 30 CFR part 203 implement these statutes and policy and require respondents to pay a fee to request royalty relief. Section 30 CFR 203.3 states that, "We will specify the necessary fees for each of the types of royalty-relief applications and possible MMS audits in a Notice to Lessees. We will periodically update the fees to reflect changes in costs as well as provide other information necessary to administer royalty relief."

MMS uses the information to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or net profit share. These decisions have enormous monetary impacts to both the lessee and the Federal Government. Royalty relief can lead to increased production of natural gas and oil, creating profits for lessees and royalty and tax revenues for the government that they might not otherwise receive. We could not make an informed decision without the collection of information required by 30 CFR part 203.

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 2) and 30 CFR 203.63(b) and 30 CFR 250.196. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory or required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency: On occasion.

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

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved annual reporting burden for this collection is 8,911 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 203 and NTLs | Reporting or recordkeeping requirement 30 CFR part 203 | Hour burden |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 43(a); 46(a) | Notify MMS of intent to begin drilling | 1. |
| 43(b)(1), (2); (d); (e) | Notify MMS that production has begun, request extension, request confirmation of the size of RSV. | 2. |
| 46 | Provide data from well to confirm and attest well drilled was an unsuccessful certified well and request supplement. | 8. |
| 48(b) | Notify MMS of decision to exercise option to replace one set of deep gas royalty suspension terms for another set of such terms. | 2. |
| 51; 83; 84 | Application—leases that generate earnings that cannot sustain continued production (end-of-life lease). | 100. Application 1 × \$8,000.* Audit 1 × \$12,500. |
| 55 | Renounce relief arrangement (end-of-life) (seldom, if ever will be used; minimal burden to prepare letter). | 1. |
| 61; 62; 64; 65; 71; 83; 85–89. | Application—leases in designated areas of GOM deep water acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00 and are producing (deep water expansion project). | 2,000. Application 1 × \$19,500. |
| 61; 62; 64; 65; 71; 83; 85–89. | Application—leases in designated areas of deep water GOM, acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00, that have not produced (pre-act or post-2000 deep water leases). | 2,000. Application 1 × \$34,000.* Audit 1 × \$37,500. |
| 61; 62; 64; 65; 71; 83; 85–89. | Application—preview assessment (seldom if ever will be used as applicants generally opt for binding determination by MMS instead). | 900. Application 1 × \$34,000. |
| 74; 75 | Redetermination | 500. Application 1 × \$16,000.* |
| 70; 81; 90; 91 | Submit fabricator's confirmation report | 20. |
| 70; 81; 90; 92 | Submit post-production development report | 50. |
| 70; 79(a) | Request reconsideration of MMS field designation | 400. |
| 77 | Renounce relief arrangement (deep water) (seldom, if ever will be used; minimal burden to prepare letter). | 1. |
| 79(c) | Request extension of deadline to start construction | 2. |
| 80 | Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal producing lease (expect less than 1 per year). | 250. Application 1 × \$8,000.** Audit 1 × \$10,000. |
| 80 | Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal expansion project or marginal non-producing lease (expect less than 1 per year). | 1,000. Application 1 × \$19,500.** Audit 1 × \$20,000. |
| 81; 83–89 | Required reports | Burden included with applications. |
| 83 | Application—short form to add or assign pre-Act lease | 40. Application 1 × \$1,000. |
| 91 | Retain supporting cost records for post-production development/fabrication reports (records retained as usual/customary business practice; minimal burden to make available at MMS request). | 8. |

* CPA certification expense burden also imposed on applicant.

** These applications currently do not have a set fee since they are done on a case-by-case basis. In the past 11 years, three unique applications have been submitted and the respondents were charged approximately \$8,000 per application, and \$19,500 respectively.

Note: Applications include numerous items such as: transmittal letters, letters of request, modifications to applications, reapplications, etc.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"

Burden: There are two non-hour costs associated with this information collection. The currently approved non-hour cost burden is \$355,000. This estimate is based on:

(a) Application and audit fees. The total annual estimated cost burden for these fees is \$220,000 (refer to burden chart).

(b) Cost of reports prepared by independent certified public accountants. Under § 203.81, a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant (CPA) must accompany the application and post-production report (expansion project, short form, and preview assessment applications are excluded). The OCS Lands Act applications will require this report only once; the DWRRA applications will require this report at two stages—with the application and post-production development report for successful applicants. We estimate approximately three submissions,

during the information collection extension, at an average cost of \$45,000 per report, for a total estimated annual cost burden of \$135,000.

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 Procedures: MMS's practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. 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 Information Collection Clearance Officer: Arlene Bajusz (202) 208-7744.

Dated: February 27, 2006.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. E6-3705 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

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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 256, Subparts J and K, and 30 CFR 250, Subpart J,” 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 April 14, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior via OMB e-mail: (OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov); or by fax (202) 395-6566; identify with (1010-NEW).

Submit a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior, MMS, via:

- MMS's Public Connect on-line commenting system, <https://occonnect.mms.gov>. Follow the instructions on the Web site for submitting comments.
- E-mail MMS at rules.comments@mms.gov. Use Information Collection Number 1010-NEW in the subject line.
- Fax: 703-787-1093. Identify with Information Collection Number 1010-NEW.
- Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules

Processing Team (RPT); 381 Elden Street, MS-4024; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference “Information Collection 1010-NEW” in your comments.

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 forms that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR 256, Subparts J and K, and 30 CFR 250, Subpart J.

Forms: MMS-149, MMS-150, MMS-151, and MMS-152.

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 information collection request (ICR) addresses the regulations at 30 CFR part 250, Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf, 30 CFR part 256, Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the OCS, and the associated supplementary Notices to Lessees (NTLs) and operators intended to provide clarification, description, or explanation of these regulations. This ICR concerns the use of new forms to process the transfer of interest in lease and rights-of-way per 30 CFR part 250, subpart J, Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way, 30 CFR 256, subpart J, Assignments, Transfers and Extensions, and the filing of relinquishments per 30 CFR 256, subpart K, Termination of Leases.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary