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]

**BILLING CODE 4310–40–P**

## 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 112261and 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 16⅔ 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.*

[FR Doc. E6–3710 Filed 3–14–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–FB–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 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://ocsconnect.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