

recommendations described herein and in the supporting materials. In addition, BOEM is providing the following list of questions to which it is seeking substantive responses, including rationales and explanations for the answers provided.

1. How should we configure and size auction lots? Should lots generally correspond to an OCS block? What characteristics should BOEM take into account when sub-dividing a wind energy area into lots represented by OCS blocks or by OCS blocks grouped into zones or project areas? Refer to Sections 6.1.1 and 7.1 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for discussions of lot designation.

2. Should the lots auctioned to a single bidder consist of contiguous OCS blocks? Refer to Section 6.2.9 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for a discussion of the contiguous lots rule.

3. Should each bidding entity be limited to bidding on a single contiguous set of blocks?

4. What restrictions should be placed on bidders seeking more than one package of lots during an auction?

5. What factors contribute to the size of an area needed to support an economically viable offshore wind energy facility? Should there be an established rule-of-thumb used to determine the minimum and maximum number of OCS blocks needed? Refer to Section 4.4 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for a discussion of competition constraints.

6. At what asking price per block or per acre should BOEM commence the auction? In other words, what is an appropriate minimum bid per block? At what minimum asking price would you consider not participating in the auction? Refer to Section 6.2.6 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for a discussion of reserve pricing.

7. Which of the auction formats discussed and referenced in this notice do you prefer BOEM use? Does your answer differ by location? Which features of the auction formats would you like to see modified or eliminated?

8. Do the concerns associated with a SACA format (*e.g.*, undersell) justify the added complexity of a package auction? Refer to Section 5.3 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for an example of how undersell occurs.

9. BOEM is considering using a "second-pricing rule" in certain specific contexts, including any auction that includes a sealed-bid phase. How important is it to you that the auction format includes such a second-pricing rule? Would you offer your maximum value as a bid for all lots of interest under a second-price auction

formulation? Refer to Section 5.3.11 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for a discussion of winning price determination.

10. What aspects of the auction formats discussed in this note concern you the most? Which features would you like to see retained in practice?

11. What additional factors should BOEM consider in a multiple factor auction beyond those enumerated in this Information Request? How should all of these factors be weighted? Refer to Section 4.1.3 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011b) and Section 3.2 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for a discussion of factor design and weighting.

12. Should lots in desirable locations be weighted differently than those of equal size in less desirable locations? Would this potentially affect your level of activity during the auction? For example, BOEM could adjust rules such that a bidder could expand the number of lots bid on if those lots are in an area that BOEM had determined is less desirable. This is described further in the materials available on BOEM's Web site. Refer to Sections 5.3.8 and 6.2.7 in Ausubel and Cramton (2011c) for discussion of such rules.

13. Are there auction formats not included in this Information Request that BOEM should consider?

Please provide responses to the above questions, and/or any comments or suggestions on the auction formats and activity rules discussed in this Information Request and referenced in the material at BOEM's Web site at <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/Regulatory-Information/Renewable-Energy-Auction-Formats.aspx>.

#### References

- Ausubel, Lawrence M. and Peter Cramton (2011a) "Auction Design for Wind Rights," Report to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
- Ausubel, Lawrence M. and Peter Cramton (2011b) "Multiple-Factor Auction Design for Wind Rights," Report to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
- Ausubel, Lawrence M. and Peter Cramton (2011c) "Comparison of Auction Formats for Auctioning Wind Rights," Report to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Dated: November 28, 2011.

**Tommy P. Beaudreau,**  
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management.

[FR Doc. 2011-31222 Filed 12-1-11; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Geological Survey

[USGS-GX12RN000DSA200]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of an extension of an information collection (1028-0048).

**SUMMARY:** We (the U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This IC is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2012.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before February 6, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit a copy of your comments to the Information Collections Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7199 (fax); or [smbaloch@usgs.gov](mailto:smbaloch@usgs.gov) (email). Use Information Collection Number 1028-0048 in the subject line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this IC, contact Jim Dewey at (303) 274-8419.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The U.S. Geological Survey is required to collect, evaluate, publish and distribute publish information concerning earthquakes. Respondents will have an opportunity to voluntarily supply information concerning the effects of shaking from an earthquake—on themselves, buildings, other man-made structures, and ground effects such as faulting or landslides.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2), and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, "Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection." Responses are voluntary. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked. We will release data collected on these forms only in formats that do not include proprietary information volunteered by respondents.

## II. Data

*Title:* USGS Earthquake Report.

*OMB Control Number:* 1028-0048.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* General Public.

*Respondent Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion, after each earthquake.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Approximately 300,000 individuals affected by an earthquake each year.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 300,000.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 30,000 hours.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* The previously approved "hour" burden for this collection is 10,000 hours.

However, voluntary earthquake reports have increased in recent years as the public becomes aware of the opportunity to contribute their earthquake observations. We estimate the public reporting burden will average 6 minutes per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, and answering a web-based questionnaire.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden:* We have not identified any "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

*Public Disclosure Statement:* The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to, 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.

## III. Request for Comments

We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) how to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that

your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: November 18, 2011.

**Jill McCarthy,**

*Geologic Hazards Science Center, Chief Scientist.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31307 Filed 12-5-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-AM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT926000-L14200000-BJ0000]

#### Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Montana

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of plats of survey.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, on January 5, 2012.

**DATES:** Protests of the survey must be filed before January 5, 2012 to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Protests of the survey should be sent to the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marty Bonorden, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, telephone (701) 227-7730 or (406) 896-5009, [Mbondore@blm.gov](mailto:Mbondore@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This survey was executed at the request of the Regional Land Surveyor, Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was necessary to determine the boundaries of Federal lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The lands we surveyed are:

### Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 35 N., R. 16 E.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of portions of the subdivisional lines and the adjusted original meanders of Thibadeau Lake, and the subdivision of section 26, Township 35 North, Range 16 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted November 28, 2011.

We will place a copy of the plat, in two sheets, we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information. If the BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in two sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest. We will not officially file this plat, in two sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

**Authority:** 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3.

**James D. Clafin,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31262 Filed 12-5-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLNM940000.L1420000.BJ0000]

#### Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey, New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of Plats of Survey.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Santa Fe, New Mexico, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico (NM)

The plat, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 9 and 10 North, Range 4 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted June 20, 2007, for Group 1062 NM.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** These plats will be available for inspection in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment. Contact Marcella Montoya at (505) 954-2097, or