

from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend this collection of information.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by June 10, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4700; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 22070-4817; Attention: Chief, Engineering and Standards Branch.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alexis London, Engineering and Standards Branch, Minerals Management Service, telephone (703) 787-1562.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Abstract:* 1. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), at 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, requires the Secretary of the Interior to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS; make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resources development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environment; ensure the public and fair and equitable return on the resources offshore; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. Section 30(a) of the OCSLA (43 U.S.C. 1356) requires the issuance of " \* \* \* regulations which require that any vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or structure—\* \* \* (2) which is used for activities pursuant to this subchapter, comply, \* \* \* with such minimum standards of design, construction, alteration, and repair as the Secretary or the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating establishes; \* \* \* " To carry out these responsibilities, the Director of MMS has issued rules governing structural safety of platforms and structures used in the OCS. These rules and the associated information collection requirements are contained in 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart I, Platforms and Structures.

2. MMS OCS Regions use the information collected to determine the structural integrity of all offshore structures and to ensure that such integrity will be maintained throughout the useful life of these structures. If we did not collect the information, we could not:

a. Review information concerning damage to a platform to assess the adequacy of proposed repairs.

b. Review plans for platform construction (construction is divided into three phases—design, fabrication, and installation) to ensure the structural integrity of the platform.

c. Review verification plans and reports for unique platforms to ensure that all nonstandard situations are given proper consideration during the design, fabrication, and installation phases of platform construction.

d. Review platform design, fabrication, and installation records to ensure that the platform is constructed according to approved plans.

e. Review inspection reports to ensure that platform integrity is maintained for the life of the platform.

3. The reporting and recordkeeping requirements and number of respondents vary for each section. The estimates below are based on an average.

*Description of Respondents:* Federal OCS oil and gas lessees.

*Frequency:* On occasion; varies by section.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 130.

*Estimate of Burden:* Reporting average of 22.4 annual hours per response; recordkeeping average of 50 annual hours per recordkeeper.

*Estimate of Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* Reporting burden estimate = 12,605; recordkeeping burden estimate = 6,000. Estimated combined total of 18,605.

*Estimate of Total Annual Cost to Respondents for Hour Burdens:* Based on \$35 per hour, the total cost to lessees is estimated to be \$651,175.

*Estimate of Total Other Annual Costs to Respondents:* Unknown.

*Type of Request:* Extension.

*OMB Number:* 1010-0058.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Comments:* MMS will summarize written responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

1. MMS specifically solicits comments on the following questions: (a) Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of MMS' functions and will it be useful? (b) Are the estimates of the burden of the proposed collection reasonable? (c) Do you have any suggestions that would enhance the quality, clarity, or usefulness of the information to be collected? (d) Is there a way to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology?

2. In addition, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires agencies to estimate the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of

information. MMS needs your comments on this item. Your response should split the cost estimate into two components: (a) total capital and startup cost component and (b) annual operation, maintenance and purchase of services component. Your estimates should consider costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. You should include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors, including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, discount rate(s), and period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and startup costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities. Generally, your estimates should not include equipment or services purchased: before October 1, 1995; to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection; for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government; or as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

*Bureau Clearance Officer:* Carole A. deWitt (703) 787-1242.

Dated: April 2, 1996.

Henry G. Bartholomew,

*Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management.*

[FR Doc. 96-8833 Filed 4-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

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

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of request to extend five currently approved information collections; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) invites the public and other Federal agencies to comment on a request to extend five currently approved collections of information. These collections are contained in regulations governing oil, gas, and sulphur operations on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). MMS will request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend these collections of information.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by June 10, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Mail Stop 4700, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070-4817; Attention: Chief, Engineering and Standards Branch.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alexis London, Engineering and Standards Branch, Minerals Management Service, telephone (703) 787-1562.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Abstract:* 1. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, requires the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS; make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resources development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environment; ensure the public and fair and equitable return on the resources offshore; preserve and maintain free enterprise competition; and ensure that the extent of oil and natural gas resources of the OCS is assessed at the earliest practicable time. To carry out these responsibilities, the Secretary has authorized the Director of MMS to issue rules governing oil and gas and sulphur operations in the OCS. These rules and the associated information collection requirements are contained in 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart D, Drilling Operations; Subpart E, Well-Completion Operations; Subpart F, Well-Workover Operations; Subpart G, Abandonment of Wells; Subpart K, Production Rates; and Subpart P, Sulphur Operations. Various sections of these subparts require lessees to submit several MMS forms.

2. Failure to collect this information would prevent the Director from carrying out the mandate of the OCSLA and implementing the provisions contained in 30 CFR Part 250. The following explains how MMS uses the information collected and the consequences if MMS did not collect the information.

a. Form MMS-123, Application for Permit to Drill: MMS uses the information to determine the conditions of a drilling site in order to avoid hazards inherent in drilling operations and to decide whether the drilling operations are safe and environmentally sound. If MMS did not collect this information, we could not ensure that drilling operations were planned to minimize the risks to personnel and the environment.

b. Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells: MMS District

Supervisors use the information to evaluate the adequacy of the equipment, materials, and/or procedures that the lessee plans to use for drilling, production, well-completion, and well-workover operations. These include deepening and plugging back and well-abandonment operations, including temporary abandonments where the wellbore will be reentered and completed or permanently abandoned. If MMS did not collect this information, we could not review lessee plans to require changes to drilling procedures or equipment to ensure that levels of safety and environmental protection are maintained. Nor could we review information concerning requests for approval or subsequent reporting of well-completion or well-workover operations to ensure that procedures and equipment are appropriate for the anticipated conditions.

c. Form MMS-125, Well Summary Report: MMS District Supervisors use the information to ensure that they have accurate data on the wells under their jurisdiction and to ensure compliance with approved plans. It is also used to evaluate remedial action in well-equipment failure or well-control loss situations.

d. Form MMS-126, Well Potential Test Report and Request for Maximum Production Rate (MPR): MMS District Supervisors use this form to determine the MPR for an oil or gas well. The form contains information concerning the conditions and results of a well-potential test. This requirement carries out the conservation provisions of the OCSLA and 30 CFR Part 250. Failure to collect this information could result in waste of energy resources in the OCS by production at imprudent rates, jeopardizing the ultimate full recovery of hydrocarbons.

e. Form MMS-128, Semi-annual Well Test Report: MMS Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Regional Supervisors use this information to evaluate the results of well tests to find out if reservoirs are being depleted in a way that will lead to the greatest ultimate recovery of hydrocarbons. The form is designed to present current well data on a semiannual basis to allow the updating of permissible producing rates and to provide the basis for estimates of currently remaining recoverable gas reserves.

*Description of Respondents:* Federal OCS oil and gas lessees.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 130 for each form.

*Frequency:* Forms MMS-123, MMS-124, MMS-125, and MMS-126 are on occasion; Form MMS-128 is semiannual.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*

MMS-123 1,014 responses 2 hrs per response = 2,028 hours  
MMS-124 9,958 responses 1 hr per response = 9,958 hours  
MMS-125 2,119 responses 1 hr per response = 2,119 hours  
MMS-126 4,043 responses 1 hr per response = 4,043 hours  
MMS-128 1,716 responses 2 hrs per response = 3,432 hours

*Estimate of Total Annual Cost to Respondents for Hour Burdens:* Based on an estimated cost of \$35 or \$30 per hour:

MMS-123 2,028 hours \$35 per hour = \$70,910  
MMS-124 9,958 hours \$35 per hour = \$348,530  
MMS-125 2,119 hours \$35 per hour = \$74,165  
MMS-126 4,043 hours \$30 per hour = \$121,290  
MMS-128 3,432 hours \$30 per hour = \$102,960

*Estimate of Total Other Annual Costs to Respondents:* Unknown.

*Type of Request:* Extensions.

*OMB Number (Form Numbers):* 1010-0044 (MMS-123); 1010-0045 (MMS-124); 1010-0046 (MMS-125); 1010-0039 (MMS-126); 1010-0018 (MMS-127); 1010-0017 (MMS-128).

*Comments:* MMS will summarize written responses to this notice for inclusion in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

1. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, MMS specifically solicits responses to the following questions: (a) Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of MMS' functions and will it be useful? (b) Are the estimates of the burden of the proposed collection reasonable? (c) Do you have any suggestions that would enhance the quality, clarity, or usefulness of the information to be collected? (d) Is there a way to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology?

2. In addition, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires agencies to estimate the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. MMS needs your comments on this item. Your response should split the cost estimate into two components: (a) a total capital and startup cost component and (b) an annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of services component. Your

estimates should consider costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. You should include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors, including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, discount rate(s), and period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and startup costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling, and testing equipment; and record storage facilities. Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services made: before October 1, 1995; to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection; for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government; or as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

*Bureau Clearance Officer:* Carole A. deWitt (703) 878-1242.

Dated: April 2, 1996.

Henry G. Bartholomew,

*Deputy Associate Director for Operations and Safety Management.*

[FR Doc. 96-8834 Filed 4-9-96; 8:45 am]

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### **Outer Continental Shelf, Alaska Natural Gas and Oil Lease Sales**

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

**ACTION:** Request for Indications of Continuing Interest and Comments for Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Beaufort Sea, Sale 144; Cook Inlet, Sale 149; and Gulf of Alaska/Yakutat, Sale 158.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is requesting information on natural gas and oil lease sales in the Alaska OCS Region. These sales are included in the 5-Year Program for 1992-1997 and are in various stages of the pre-sale process. The areas currently being considered for offering are shown on the maps for each area included in this Notice. Larger scale maps are also available for use at the Alaska OCS Region, 949 East 36th Avenue, 3rd Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302, telephone (907) 271-6691. All indications of interest and comments containing confidential information will be deemed to be proprietary information.

Beaufort Sea Sale 144 is currently scheduled for late September 1996. The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is due to be filed next month. Potential bidders are asked to indicate whether they have a continuing interest in leasing and conducting oil and gas operations in any portion of the sale area and to specifically identify those areas of interest by outlining groups of blocks using MMS's Beaufort Sea Sale 144 maps.

Cook Inlet Sale 149 is currently scheduled for late June 1996. Governor Knowles of Alaska recently indicated that he believed that industry interest in a lease sale in this area was uncertain. Potential bidders are asked to indicate

whether they have a continuing interest in leasing and conducting oil and gas operations in any portion of the sale area and to specifically identify those areas of interest by outlining groups of blocks using MMS's Cook Inlet Sale 149 maps.

Preparations for Sale 158, Gulf of Alaska/Yakutat have been proceeding toward a proposed mid-1997 sale date. However, recent information from industry showed much less interest in the area among companies which had earlier supported the proposal. Comments on Sale 158 will help MMS determine whether preparations should continue or the area be deferred for consideration in the 1997-2002 5-Year Program. Also, note that the comment period for the draft EIS for Sale 158 is hereby extended to May 25, 1996.

Responses are requested within 15 days of the publication of this notice. Letters and/or maps should be mailed or delivered to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment, Alaska OCS Region, 949 East 36th Avenue, 3rd Floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302. Responses may also be sent by fax to (907) 271-6805. Telephone inquiries may be made to Mr. Tom Warren at (907) 271-6691. Additionally, respondents may request a meeting with MMS to discuss, in a confidential manner, the specific areas of interest.

Dated: April 5, 1996.

Thomas Gernhofer,

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

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