

Dated: January 29, 2001.

Phillip C. Perlewitz,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

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BILLING CODE 4310-22-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 a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0051).

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) is titled "30 CFR 250, Subpart L, Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security."

DATES: Submit written comments by April 23, 2001.

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 e-mail address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference "Information Collection 1010-0051" in your e-mail subject line. Include your name and return address in your e-mail message and mark your message for return receipt.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this

prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR part 250, Subpart L, Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0051.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, gives the Secretary (Secretary) of the Department of the Interior (DOI) the responsibility to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS. This must be 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; balance orderly energy-resources development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environment; ensure the public a fair and equitable return on OCS resources; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*) at section 1712(b)(2) prescribes that an operator will "develop and comply with such minimum site security measures as the Secretary deems appropriate, to protect oil or gas produced or stored on a lease site or on the Outer Continental Shelf from theft." These authorities and responsibilities are among those delegated to MMS under which we issue regulations governing oil and gas and sulphur operations in the OCS. This information collection request addresses the regulations at 30 CFR part 250, subpart L, Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security, and the associated supplementary notices to lessees and operators intended to provide clarification, description, or explanation of these regulations.

MMS uses the information collected under subpart L to ensure that the volumes of hydrocarbons produced are measured accurately, and royalties are paid on the proper volumes. Specifically, MMS needs the information to:

- Determine if measurement equipment is properly installed, provides accurate measurement of production on which royalty is due, and is operating properly;
- Obtain rates of production data in allocating the volumes of production measured at royalty sales meters, which can be examined during field inspections;
- Ascertain if all removals of oil and condensate from the lease are reported;
- Determine the amount of oil that was shipped when measurements are taken by gauging the tanks rather than being measured by a meter;
- Ensure that the sales location is secure and production cannot be removed without the volumes being recorded; and
- Review proving reports to verify that data on run tickets are calculated and reported accurately.

Responses are mandatory. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked. MMS will protect proprietary information according to 30 CFR 250.196 (Data and information to be made available to the public) and 30 CFR part 252 (OCS Oil and Gas Information Program).

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 Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved "hour" burden for this information collection is a total of 5,330 hours. The following chart summarizes the components of this burden and estimated burdens per response or record. In calculating the burden, 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 L	Reporting or recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden per response or record
Reporting Requirements		
1202(a)(1), (b)(1)	Submit liquid hydrocarbon measurement procedures application and/or changes.	8 hours.
1202(a)(4)	Copy & send pipeline (retrograde) condensate volumes upon request	¾ hour.
1202(c)(4) *	Copy & send all liquid hydrocarbon run tickets monthly	1 minute.

Citation 30 CFR 250 subpart L	Reporting or recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden per response or record
1202(d)(4)	Request approval for proving on a schedule other than monthly	1 hour.
1202(d)(5) *	Copy & submit liquid hydrocarbon royalty meter proving reports monthly & request waiver as needed.	1 minute.
1202(f)(2) *	Copy & submit mechanical-displacement prover & tank prover calibration reports.	10 minutes.
1202(l)(2) *	Copy & submit royalty tank calibration charts before using for royalty measurement.	10 minutes.
1202(l)(3) *	Copy & submit inventory tank calibration charts upon request	1/4 hour.
1203(b)(1)	Submit gas measurement procedures application and/or changes	8 hours.
1203(b)(6), (8), (9) *	Copy & submit gas quality and volume statements upon request (80% of these will be routine; 20% will take longer).	80% @ 5 mins. 20% @ 30 mins.
1203(c)(4) *	Copy & submit gas meter calibration reports upon request	5 minutes.
1203(e)(1) *	Copy & submit gas processing plant records upon request	1/2 hour.
1203(f)(5)	Copy & submit measuring records of gas lost or used on lease upon request.	5 minutes.
1204(a)(1)	Submit commingling application and/or changes	8 hours.
1204(a)(2)	Provide state production volumetric and/or fractional analysis data upon request.	1 hour.
1205(a)(4)	Report security problems (telephone)	1/4 hour.

Recordkeeping Requirements

1202(c)(1), (2)	Record observed data, correction factors & net standard volume on royalty meter and tank run tickets.	Respondents record these items as part of normal business records & practices to verify accuracy of production measured for sale purposes.
1202(e)	Record master meter calibration runs	
1202(h)(1), (2), (3), (4)	Record mechanical-displacement prover, master meter, or tank prover proof runs.	
1202(i)(1)(iv), (2)(iii)	Record liquid hydrocarbon royalty meter malfunction and repair or adjustment on proving report; record unregistered production on run ticket.	
1202(j)	List Cpl and Ctl factors on run tickets	1 minute. 1 minute. 5 minutes.
1202(e)(6)	Retain master meter calibration reports for 2 years	
1202(k)(5)	Retain liquid hydrocarbon allocation meter proving reports for 2 years	
1202(l)(3)	Retain liquid hydrocarbon inventory tank calibration charts for as long as tanks are in use.	
1203(c)(4)	Retain calibration reports for 2 years	1 minute.
1203(f)(4)	Document & retain measurement records on gas lost or used on lease for 2 years.	1 minute.
1204(b)(3)	Retain well test data for 2 years	2 minutes.
1205(a)(2)	Post signs at royalty or inventory tank used in royalty determination process.	1 hour.
1205(b)(3), (4)	Retain seal number lists for 2 years	2 minutes.

* Respondents gather this information as part of their normal business practices. MMS only requires copies of readily available documents. There is no burden for testing, meter reading, document preparation, etc.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"

Burden: We have identified no "non-hour" costs burdens.

Comments: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. 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. We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval, including any appropriate adjustments to the estimated burden.

Agencies must estimate both the "hour" burden and "non-hour cost" burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. We have not identified any non-hour cost burdens for the

information collection aspects of 30 CFR part 250, subpart L. 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. Generally, your estimates should not include 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.

Dated: February 6, 2001.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 01-4059 Filed 2-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Oil and Gas Operations on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the Availability of Environmental Documents Prepared for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Mineral Exploration Proposal on the Alaska OCS.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS), in accordance with Federal regulations (40 CFR 1501.4 and 1506.6) that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), announces the availability of a NEPA-related Environmental Assessment prepared by the MMS for oil and gas exploration activities proposed on the Alaska OCS. This listing includes the only proposal for which the Alaska OCS Office prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in the 3-month period preceding this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For matters pertaining to this notice, contact Mr. Paul Stang (Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage) at (907) 271-6045. The FONSI and associated EA are available for public inspection between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at: Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, Resource Center, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, phone (907) 271-6070 or (907) 271-6621 or toll free at 1-800-764-2627. Request may also be sent to MMS at akwebmaster@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal is for exploratory-drilling operations that would be conducted in accordance with the OCS Lands Act. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to evaluate the probable environmental effects of the operations, described in the Exploration Plan (EP) for McCovey #1 Well, Beaufort Sea, Alaska, dated September 19, 2000.

The McCovey drill site would be located approximately 12.5 miles northeast of West Dock at Prudhoe Bay, 60 miles northeast of Nuiqsut, 7 miles northwest of Cross Island, and 110 miles northwest of Kaktovik in the Beaufort Sea.

The methods by which the exploratory well would be drilled are detailed in the EP and in the associated Environmental Report and Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan. Additional details about the proposed operations are included in **Federal Register** Notice 65 FR 60407 dated October 11, 2000, summarizing Phillip's (Alaska) Inc. application for an Incidental Harassment Authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Location: Lease:OCS-1577; Block: 6515.

EA Number: AK 00-01.

FONSI Date: October 19, 2000.

MMS prepares EA's and FONSI's for proposals which relate to exploration for oil and gas resources on the Alaska OCS. The EA's examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the significance of those effects. The EA is used as a basis for determining whether or not approvals of the proposals constitute major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment in accordance with NEPA 102(2)(C). A Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is prepared in those instances where MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the EA.

This Notice constitutes the public Notice of Availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA regulations. Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposal listed above, or in obtaining information about EA's and FONSI's prepared for activities on the Alaska OCS, are encouraged to contact the Alaska OCS Regional Office of MMS.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 01-4037 Filed 2-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Region, Proposed Use of Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) Systems on the GOM OCS

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed use of FPSO systems on the central and western GOM OCS.

The MMS prepared an EIS on FPSO systems which will be used in deepwater areas of the OCS in the GOM. The MMS based the EIS analyses on estimates of the kinds and amounts of activity onshore and offshore that could result from the deployment and use of FPSO systems to produce oil and gas in areas of the GOM where the present day oil pipeline system does not yet extend. The FPSO systems will produce the oil in the conventional fashion, but will store it on board rather than direct it into pipelines. The FPSO systems will be unloaded regularly by shuttle tankers which will transport the oil to Gulf Coast seaports.

You may obtain single copies of the final EIS, or a CD version, from the MMS, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS-5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, or by calling 1-800-200-GULF.

You may look at copies of the final EIS in the following libraries:

Texas

Abilene Christian University, Margaret and Herman Brown Library, 1600 Campus Court, Abilene;
Alma M. Carpenter Public Library, 330 South Ann, Sourlake;
Aransas Pass Public Library, 110 North Lamont Street, Aransas Pass;
Austin Public Library, 402 West Ninth Street, Austin;
Bay City Public Library, 1900 Fifth Street, Bay City;
Baylor University, 13125 Third Street, Waco;
Brazoria County Library, 410 Brazoport Boulevard, Freeport;
Calhoun County Library, 301 South Ann, Port Lavaca;
Chambers County Library System, 202 Cummings Street, Anahuac;
Comfort Public Library, Seventh & High Streets, Comfort;
Corpus Christi Central Library, 805 Comanche Street, Corpus Christi;