

statement of reasons for the protest, the protestant shall file such a statement with the State Director within thirty (30) calendar days after the notice of protest was filed.

The above-listed plats represent dependent resurveys, subdivision of sections.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

Dated: August 27, 1996.

John P. Lee,

Chief, Cadastral Survey Group.

[FR Doc. 96-22816 Filed 9-5-96; 8:45 am]

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Minerals Management Service

Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of information collection solicitation.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection for Requests to Exceed Regulatory Allowance Limitation.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to: Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Procedures Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3101, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165; courier address is: Building 85, Room A-212, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-Mail address is: David_Guzy@smtp.mms.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Procedures Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3194, e-Mail Dennis_Jones@smtp.mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, each agency shall provide notice and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning collection of information in order to solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the

burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Royalty Management Program (RMP) is requesting the continuation of a collection of information to be used by royalty payors on Federal or Indian mineral leases. The payors use the form when requesting MMS approval to exceed established transportation or processing allowance limits. Use of the form will not place any additional burden on payors.

Under certain circumstances lessees are authorized to deduct from royalty payments the reasonable actual costs of transporting the royalty portion of produced oil and gas from the lease to a processing or sales point not in the immediate lease area. When gas is processed for the recovery of gas plant products, lessees may claim a processing allowance. Transportation and processing allowances are a part of the product valuation process which MMS uses to determine if the lessee is reporting and paying the proper royalty amount.

MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary of the Interior, who is responsible for the collection of royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Federal and Indian lands, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws. The Secretary is authorized to prescribe rules and regulations in order to administer the provisions of laws pertaining to mineral leases on Federal and Indian land and the Outer Continental Shelf. Applicable citations include: 30 U.S.C. 189, pertaining to Public Lands; 30 U.S.C. 359, pertaining to Acquired Lands; 43 U.S.C. 1334, pertaining to Outer Continental Shelf Lands; 25 U.S.C. 396d, pertaining to Indian Lands; and 30 U.S.C. 1713, pertaining to oil and gas from Public and Indian Lands.

Regulations at 30 CFR 206 establish uniform product valuation and allowance policies for all Federal and Indian leases. These regulations require information in support of the product valuation or allowances being claimed. Without such information, MMS cannot evaluate the amount of royalties being

paid or the amount of allowances being claimed.

Regulations at 30 CFR 206.104(b)(1) and 206.156 (c)(1) establish the limit on transportation allowance deductions for oil and gas at 50 percent of the value of the oil or gas at the point of sale. Regulations at 30 CFR 206.104(b)(2) and 206.156(c)(3) provide that MMS may approve a transportation allowance in excess of 50 percent upon proper application from the royalty payor.

Similar regulations at 30 CFR 206.158(c)(2) establish 66⅔ percent of the value of each gas plant product as the limit on the allowable gas processing deduction, while 30 CFR 206.158(c)(3) provides for the approval of a gas processing allowance in excess of 66⅔ percent when properly requested by the payor.

To request permission to exceed an allowance limit, royalty payors must write a letter to MMS providing the reasons why a higher allowance limit is necessary. Although the request to exceed an allowance limit is voluntary on the part of the payors and results in a benefit to them, many times payors have not provided all of the data needed by MMS to approve or deny a request. The followup necessary to obtain required information creates an additional burden for both the payor and the Government.

The use of form MMS-4393, included with the payor's request, ensures that MMS receives the lease data required to make a decision on the request by including the Accounting Identification Number (AID) identifying the lease, the product code identifying the product being transported or processed, and the selling arrangement used to identify the marketing outlet for the product. These are the necessary data that have been missing from many of the requests in the past. The use of Form MMS-4393 reduces the time required for most payors to clarify a request to exceed allowance rates, and reduces the time required by the Government to process the request.

Costs for performing this collection of information are based on time estimated for the payor to provide the information requested on Form MMS-4393. The form will be completed once a year, if necessary, for each of about 50 allowance requests. Completing the form is expected to average one half hour at a cost of \$25 per hour.

Annual burden costs: 50 requests×1/2 hour×\$25=\$625.00

Annual burden hours: 50 requests×1/2 hour=25 hours.

Dated: August 29, 1996.
James W. Shaw,
Associate Director for Royalty Management.
[FR Doc. 96-22764 Filed 9-5-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Submission for Office of
Management and Budget Review;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Mineral Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of a currently approved collection.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior has submitted a proposal for the collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Act). The act requires that OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The act also 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.

DATES: Submit written comments by October 7, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments and suggestions directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-0071), Washington, D.C. 20503.

Send a copy of your comments to the Chief, Engineering and Standards Branch, Mail Stop 4700, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis London, Engineering and Standards Branch, Minerals Management Service, telephone (703) 787-1600. You may obtain copies of the proposed collection of information by contacting MMS's Clearance Officer at (703) 787-1242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

OMB Number: 1010-0071.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and the Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA) give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to reduce or eliminate royalty or any net profit share set forth in Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leases to promote increased production. The MMS interim final rule established the terms and conditions for granting

reductions in royalty rates under the OCSLA and royalty suspension volumes under the DWRRA for certain leases in existence before November 28, 1995. It also defines the information required for a complete application as required by 43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C). The interim final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 31, 1996 (61 FR 27263). The comment period has been extended to September 30, 1996 (61 FR 40734).

MMS will use the information to determine whether granting a royalty relief request will result in the production of resources that would not be produced without such relief. An application for royalty relief must contain sufficient financial, economic, reservoir, geologic and geophysical, production, and engineering data and information for MMS to determine whether relief should be granted according to applicable law. The Application also must be sufficient to determine whether the requested relief will result in an ultimate increase in resource recovery and receipts to the Federal Treasury and provide for reasonable returns on project investments. The applicant's requirement to respond is related only to a request to obtain royalty relief. The applicant has no obligation to make such a request.

Description of Respondents: Federal OCS oil and gas leases.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 130 respondents making an estimated 52 applications per year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 34,530 burden hours.

Estimate of Total Other Annual Costs to Respondents:

(a) Application processing cost: average \$21,800 per application for an estimated burden of \$1,133,600.

(b) Some applications will require a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant: average \$87,500 per application for an estimated burden of \$3,587,500.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Form Number: N/A.

Comments: The OMB is required to make a decision concerning the proposed collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best ensured of having its full effect if OMB receives it by no later than October 7, 1996.

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

Dated: August 15, 1996.
E.P. Danenberger,
*Acting Deputy Associate Director for
Operations and Safety Management.*
[FR Doc. 96-22820 Filed 9-5-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

National Park Service

**Record of Decision, Pictured Rocks
National Lakeshore; Final
Environmental Impact Statement:
Beaver Basin Rim Road**

Introduction

Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Section 1505.2) and the implementing procedures of the National Park Service for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 USC 1501 *et seq.*), the National Park Service has prepared this *Record of Decision* with respect to the *Final Environmental Impact Statement: Beaver Basin Rim Road*, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.

This Record of Decision describes the road provision alternatives that were considered, mitigating measures adopted to avoid or minimize environmental impacts, and the decision reached.

Decision

The National Park Service adopts the proposed (preferred) alternative (Alternative B), which is to construct a two-lane paved road of approximately 13 miles length within the shoreline zone of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

The road would run from the vicinity of Legion Lake near the intersection of the Little Beaver Campground entrance road with Alger County Road H-58 northeasterly to near the Twelvemile Beach Campground entrance road intersection with Alger County H-58. The road impact on the environment would be minimal.

In constructing the road as described under Alternative B, the National Park Service would be complying with the direction of the Congress as stipulated in Public Law 89-668 [80 Stat. 922 sec. 6(b)(1)] to provide a scenic drive within the shoreline zone of the national lakeshore. The adopted alternative is consistent with this congressional mandate and would implement the management directions of the *General Management Plan, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (NPS, USDI 1981)*. The National Park Service takes the position that, in the absence of environmental impacts precluding construction of the road, it must comply