

application (N-61315) to withdraw public lands in Clark County, Nevada, for flood control facilities. The application was filed on October 4, 1996. This application has been replaced by an application (N-63039) that was filed on November 19, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATES: March 26, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis J. Samuelson, BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published as FR Doc. 96-30580 in the **Federal Register**, 61 FR 63858-63860, on December 2, 1996, for the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers to withdraw approximately 2,370 acres of public lands for flood control facilities in Clark County, Nevada. This application has been cancelled and replaced by the application published as FR Doc. 98-31758 in the **Federal Register**, 63 FR 65811, on November 30, 1998.

The lands described in FR Doc. 96-30580, 61 FR 63858-63860, December 2, 1996, will remain closed to surface entry and mining in accordance with the provisions of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, Public Law 105-263, 111 Stat. 2343 *et seq.* and the lands are hereby made available for disposal pursuant to said Act.

Dated: March 22, 1999.

Dennis J. Samuelson,

Acting Lands Team Lead.

[FR Doc. 99-7393 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice on Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: List of restricted joint bidders.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Minerals Management Service by the joint bidding provisions of 30 CFR 256.41, each entity within one of the following groups shall be restricted from bidding with any entity in any other of the following groups at Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales to be held during the bidding period from May 1, 1999, through October 31, 1999. The List of Restricted Joint Bidders published October 2, 1998, in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 53097 covered

the period of November 1, 1998, through April 30, 1999.

Group I. Exxon Corporation; Exxon San Joaquin Production Co.

Group II. Shell Oil Co.; Shell Offshore Inc.; Shell Western E&P Inc.; Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.; Shell Consolidated Energy Resources Inc.; Shell Land & Energy Company; Shell Onshore Ventures Inc.; Shell Deepwater Development Inc.; Shell Deepwater Production Inc.; Shell Offshore Properties and Capital II Inc.

Group III. Mobil Oil Corp.; Mobil Oil Exploration and Producing Southeast Inc.; Mobil Producing Texas and New Mexico Inc; Mobil Exploration and Producing North America Inc.

Group IV. BP America Inc.; The Standard Oil Co.; BP Exploration and Oil Inc.; and BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Thomas R. Kitsos,

Acting Director, Minerals Management Service.

[FR Doc. 99-7359 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Royalty Computation of Phosphate Production on Western Public Lands

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of adoption of method for determining value used to compute royalty payments on Federal phosphate ore mined on western public lands.

SUMMARY: This final notice provides a new method of determining the value of production used to compute royalties on phosphate ore produced from Federal leases on western public lands. The new method uses a weighted composite of two published indices and a price survey that are more closely related to the phosphate industry. This new method replaces the current method of valuation, which utilizes the Gross Domestic Product—Implicit Price Deflator (GDP-IPD) to annually adjust phosphate value.

DATES: Effective April 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries about this notice should be sent to: David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or e-Mail RMP.comments@mms.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herbert B. Wincentsen, Chief, Solid

Minerals Valuation and Reporting Branch, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3153, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165, telephone (303) 275-7210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 16, 1997, the Secretary of the Interior approved an April 16, 1997, recommendation from the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC) to revise the current method of adjusting the value used to compute royalty payments on Federal phosphate production. RPC is a committee of the Minerals Management Service Advisory Board (Board). The Board was created under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Board's purpose includes, in relevant part, providing advice to the Secretary, the Director, MMS, and other Department of the Interior officials on royalty management of Federal and Indian leases. RPC includes representatives of States which share in mineral revenues from Federal lands, Indian tribes and allottees whose mineral revenues MMS collects in trust, oil and gas and solid minerals producing industries who pay royalties, and the public.

The approved valuation changes based on the RPC recommendations were the following:

1. Discontinue the current indexing procedure that utilizes the GDP-IPD to annually adjust the phosphate value for royalty calculation purposes.

2. Determine phosphate value using a weighted composite index methodology with the following indices, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and weights:

- The Chemical and Fertilizer Minerals Mining Index, Standard Industry Code (SIC) 147, weighted at 50 percent;

- The Phosphatic Fertilizers Index (SIC 2874), weighted at 25 percent; and

- The Phosphate Rock Index (SIC 1475), weighted at 25 percent.

Lessees would recalculate the phosphate unit value annually, as under the existing indexing procedure.

3. Continue using the weighted composite index methodology for 5 years, at which time MMS will examine the methodology and the values determined to assure there is a continued relationship to the marketplace.

4. Apply the composite index valuation methodology only to Federal phosphate production; there is no Indian phosphate production. State or fee phosphate leases are also unaffected unless the parties to a State or fee lease elect to use the Federal valuation methodology.

5. The recommended composite index methodology will not be retroactive. The methodology will become effective April 26, 1999.

Comments on Proposed Methodology

On March 24, 1998, MMS published a notice (63 FR 14131) proposing to revise the current method used to compute royalty on phosphate produced from western Federal lands. This notice requested comments on the revision with the comment period open to April 23, 1998. During the comment period, MMS received one comment from a phosphate producer who supported the proposed change in phosphate royalty valuation procedures. The commentor stated that although there was no perfect valuation method, the new western phosphate ore royalty valuation method proposed in the March 24, 1998, **Federal Register** notice will more reasonably correlate to general phosphate market changes. The commentor stated that the value received for their end product (phosphate based fertilizers) is no higher now than what they were receiving in 1979, yet the phosphate unit value generated by MMS's existing index-based method had almost doubled over that same period.

Discontinuance of Producer Price Index for Phosphate Rock

During the proposed notice comment period, we became aware that the BLS had discontinued the Phosphate Rock Index, SIC 1475. The BLS set the Phosphate Rock Index based on sales information that included data of crude phosphate ore, processed phosphate rock, washed or concentrated phosphate

rock, dried phosphate rock, and primary products. Because there were very limited sales data voluntarily reported, BLS decided to discontinue publishing the index. The last Phosphate Rock Index, published in June 1997, was generated from one sale of phosphate primary products. The BLS stated they will probably not resume the survey over the next 5 years. Accordingly, we decided to replace the BLS Phosphate Rock Index for royalty valuation purposes.

We examined several alternatives to the discontinued BLS Phosphate Rock Index before concluding that the Phosphate Rock Price Index, as published by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is a viable replacement. On August 21, 1998, we sent a letter to the RPC Phosphate Subcommittee members explaining our analysis. We requested review and comment on the proposed index replacement. We received one response from an Idaho phosphate company in favor of our proposal. No other comments were received.

Adoption of USGS Phosphate Rock Price Data

The USGS annually publishes phosphate rock prices in its "Minerals Yearbook." This publication was formerly released by the Bureau of Mines (BOM). However, USGS assumed responsibility for continued publication when BOM was abolished in 1996. We will use USGS when referring to published data (both pre- and post-1996) for the remainder of this notice.

To determine whether USGS's price survey of phosphate rock prices is comparable to BLS' data collections for

phosphate rock, we researched price data beginning with 1982, the year BLS reset the Phosphate Rock Index to 100. To test whether USGS price surveys reasonably track with BLS price data, we used the following methodology:

- We set USGS's published 1982 price for phosphate rock of \$25.50 per ton to 100. Therefore, for 1982, both BLS and USGS began with a unitless index figure of 100.
- We converted the new USGS published price to an index change using a direct proportion for each year after 1982. For example, in 1983, USGS published a price of \$23.97 per ton. This equates to a proportioned index of 94 (23.97/25.50).
- We statistically compared the year-to-year percent change of these two indices. The overall index price trends, expressed as a percentage change of the indices of the BLS Phosphate Rock Index and the USGS Phosphate Rock Price Index, are similar with a correlation factor of 0.7928. This suggests that BLS and USGS were receiving and collecting similar data from the phosphate industry.

To determine how the old unit value (based on BLS' Phosphate Rock Index) correlates with the new unit value (based on USGS's Phosphate Rock Price Index), we performed a comparison of the two series of unit values using a percent difference plot. The unit values, as calculated by both the new indexed methodology and the existing GDP-IPD methodology, were equal at \$0.5038/unit in 1987, thus 1987 was used as the base year for comparison.

The percent unit value difference for each series follows the formula:

$$\text{Current Year Difference} = \frac{(\text{Current Year Unit Value}) - (\text{Previous Year Unit Value}) \times 100 \text{ percent}}{\text{Previous Year Unit Value}}$$

A plot of the percent unit value differences for the period 1987 through 1997 indicates the two series of unit values are closely related and

comparable, with a statistical correlation coefficient of 0.9837.

Table 1 shows the comparison of the old indexed unit value and the new

indexed unit value as a percent difference based on the formula described above.

TABLE 1. COMPARISONS OF OLD AND NEW UNIT VALUE

Year	New unit value	Percent difference	Old unit value	Percent difference
1987	\$0.5038	\$0.5038
1988	0.5350	6.20	0.5310	5.40
1989	0.5583	4.35	0.5516	3.88
1990	0.5574	-0.16	0.5507	-0.16
1991	0.5644	1.25	0.5621	2.07
1992	0.5474	-3.00	0.5572	-0.87
1993	0.5174	-5.48	0.5254	-5.71
1994	0.5384	4.04	0.5435	3.44
1995	0.5743	6.68	0.5793	6.59
1996	0.6096	6.14	0.6112	5.51

TABLE 1. COMPARISONS OF OLD AND NEW UNIT VALUE—Continued

Year	New unit value	Percent difference	Old unit value	Percent difference
1997	0.5965	-214	0.5949	-2.67

Application of USGS Data

Based on the analysis above, Federal phosphate producers must use the same "composite index" methodology as originally proposed in the March 24, 1998 **Federal Register** Notice with the exception that the USGS Phosphate Rock Price Index replaces the now discontinued BLS Phosphate Rock Index (SIC 1475). As recommended by the RPC, we are adopting for valuation

purposes the composite index from which each year's adjustment to the phosphate value would be derived and weighted as follows: 50-percent BLS Chemical and Fertilizer Minerals Mining Index; 25-percent BLS Phosphate Fertilizer Index; and 25-percent USGS Phosphate Rock Price Index.

Implementation and Annual Revision of New Unit Value

The unit value of phosphate ore using the composite index methodology is determined with reference to the prior year's composite index value compared to the base year's composite index value. Table 2 shows the new weighted composite index methodology and the computation of the index unit value:

For example:

$$1998 \text{ Phosphate Unit Value} = 1987 \text{ Base Year Unit Value} \times \frac{1997 \text{ Composite Index}}{1987 \text{ Composite Index}}$$

$$1998 \text{ Phosphate Unit Value} = \$0.5038/\text{Unit} \times \frac{112.39}{94.92} = \$0.5965/\text{Unit}$$

The new methodology will not be applied retroactively owing to the revised computation method provided in this notice for phosphate valuation. Phosphate producers will continue using the existing methodology until the first day of the first full month following the effective date of this final notice.

For clarification, we are providing an implementation strategy as follows:

For 1999 Phosphate Production

1. You must use the 1998 Phosphate Unit Value of \$0.6858/Unit, as computed by MMS and distributed to the phosphate industry in May 1998, as an estimated value for 1999 production. The phosphate producers must continue using this value until the updated GDP-IPD index data becomes available and the 1999 Unit Value, using the existing methodology is calculated, (March-April 1999).

2. You must retroactively correct the estimated value for 1999 production when MMS notifies you. We will calculate the Unit Value for 1999, when the GDP-IPD index data becomes available, using the existing methodology and provide that value to phosphate producers. Producers must continue to use the 1999 Unit Value until the implementation date of the new methodology Unit Value. This implementation date will be the first full month following the effective date of this final notice.

Phosphate Unit Value From April 26, 1999

Use the new methodology Unit Value (\$0.5965/Unit) for production occurring on or after April 26, 1999 until August 1, 1999. No production month will have more than one Unit Value under this implementation strategy.

Phosphate Value After August 1, 1999

You must use the revised Unit Value from August 1, 1999, through July 31, 2000. We will revise the phosphate Unit Value and distribute it by letter to the industry during July of each year with an effective date of August 1, of that same year. We will use this date because the annual BLS indices and the annual USGS phosphate rock prices that make up the composite index are published by June of each year. For example, MMS will calculate and distribute the 1999 Unit Value to the phosphate industry by July 1999. It becomes effective for production beginning August 1, 1999. You must calculate and pay royalties due for August production, using this 1999 Unit Value, no later than September 30, 1999. The 1999 Unit Value will remain in effect until July 31, 2000, when MMS will calculate the next unit value revision.

We will examine phosphate value computed under the new methodology through a market analysis every 5 years to ensure that the new valuation methodology is, in fact, reflecting changes in the western phosphate

industry. Since the analysis that was part of the Phosphate Subcommittee's work occurred in 1996, MMS will examine and compare the values computed for phosphate ore to market data in 2001.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Lucy Querques Denett,
Associate Director for Royalty Management.
[FR Doc. 99-7394 Filed 3-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the date of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission.

DATE: The public meeting will be held on April 14, 1999, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: The meeting will be held at the Cyclorama Auditorium, 125 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

AGENDA: Sub-committee Reports, General Management Plan, Federal Consistency Projects Within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District,