

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-926-03-1420-BJ]

Montana: Filing of Plat of Amended Protraction Diagram**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of filing of plat of amended protraction diagram.**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of the amended protraction diagram of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, (30) days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert L. Brockie, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Surveyor, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, telephone (406) 896-5125 or (406) 896-5009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The amended protraction diagram was prepared at the request of the U.S. Forest Service and was necessary to accommodate Revision of Primary Base Quadrangle Maps for the Geometronics Service Center. The lands for the prepared amended protraction diagram are:**Principal Meridian, Montana**

Tps. 8, 9, and 10 S., Rs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 E.

The plat, representing the Amended Protraction Diagram 2 Index of unsurveyed Townships 8, 9, and 10 South, Ranges 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted March 11, 2003. T. 8 S., R. 7 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 8 South, Range 7 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 9 S., R. 2 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 9 South, Range 2 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 9 S., R. 4 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 9 South, Range 4 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted March 11, 2003. T. 9 S., R. 5 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 9 South, Range 5 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 9 S., R. 6 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed

Township 9 South, Range 6 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002.

T. 9 S., R. 7 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 9 South, Range 7 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 10 S., R. 2 E.

T. 10 S., R. 2 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 10 South, Range 2 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 10 S., R. 3 E.

T. 10 S., R. 3 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 10 South, Range 3 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 10 S., R. 4 E.

T. 10 S., R. 4 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 10 South, Range 4 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted August 2, 2002. T. 10 S., R. 5 E.

T. 10 S., R. 5 E.

The plat, representing Amended Protraction Diagram 2 of unsurveyed Township 10 South, Range 5 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted March 11, 2003.

We will place a copy of the plat of the amended protraction diagram we described in the open files. It will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against this amended protraction diagram, as shown on this plat, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file the plat of the amended protraction diagram until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and it becomes final, including decisions or appeals.

Dated: March 17, 2003.

Thomas M. Deiling,*Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.*

[FR Doc. 03-6991 Filed 3-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310--\$-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 a revision of a currently approved information collection (1010-0049).**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) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, subpart B, "Exploration and Development and Production Plans."**DATES:** Submit written comments by May 27, 2003.**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 address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference "Information Collection 1010-0049" in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*Title:* 30 CFR 250, Subpart B, Exploration and Development and Production Plans.*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0049.*Abstract:* The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources 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; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

Sections 11 and 25 of the amended OCS Lands Act require the holders of OCS oil and gas and sulphur leases to submit exploration plans (EPs) and development and production plans (DPPs) for approval before starting these activities. The implementing regulations and associated information collection

requirements are contained in 30 CFR 250, subpart B, Exploration and Development and Production Plans. In addition, MMS has issued Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that provide supplementary guidance and procedures as applicable to each Region or nationally. These NTLs address the various surveys, reports, plans (including deep water operations plans and conservation information), etc., that are necessary for MMS to approve the exploration or development and production activities.

With this submission, we are requesting renewal of the currently approved information collection requirements of subpart B, and related NTLs, and are revising form MMS-137, OCS Plan Information Form. The revised form has been redesigned and includes additional information on schedule and description of proposed

activities and associated anchors with no change to the burden.

The MMS engineers, geologists, geophysicists, and environmental scientists use the information collected under subpart B, and related NTLs, to analyze and evaluate the planned operations to ensure that they will not adversely affect the marine, coastal, or human environment and that they conserve the resources of the OCS. It would be impossible for the Regional Supervisor to make an informed decision on whether to approve the proposed plans, or whether modifications are necessary, without the analysis and evaluation of the required information. The affected States also review the information collected for consistency with approved Coastal Zone Management plans.

We will protect information respondents submit that is considered proprietary under the Freedom of

Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and 30 CFR 250.196. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulphur lessees.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection is 257,470 hours. The following chart details the individual components and respective hour burden estimates of this ICR. In calculating the burdens, 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 B and related NTLs	Reporting and recordkeeping requirement	Average burden (hours)
201	Notify MMS and others of preliminary activities and submit follow-up information	10
202	Submit conservation information documents.	300
203	Submit initial exploration plan, including surveys, reports, studies, GOM Region forms MMS-137, MMS-138, MMS-139, etc., including notification requirements.	580
203(i), (j), (k), (l), (n), (q)	Submit revised/modified exploration plan, including surveys, reports, studies, departures, etc.	80
203(o); 204(s)	Conduct surveys or monitoring programs and submit results; form MMS-141	2
203(p); 204(t)	Submit Application for Permit to Drill. (Burden covered under 1010-0044.)	0
204	Submit initial development and production plan (or DOCD used in western GOM), including surveys, reports, studies, GOM Region forms MMS-137, MMS-138, MMS-139, etc., including notification requirements.	580
204	Submit deepwater operations plans for projects in GOM water depths greater than 1,000 feet and projects utilizing subsea production technology.	580
204(k)	Submit preliminary plans for tracts in vicinity of a DPP that requires NEPA procedures	2
204(l), (m), (n), (o), (q), (u)	Submit revised/modified development and production plan (or DOCD), including surveys, reports, studies, departures, etc.	82
250.200-250.204	General departure and alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in subpart B.	1
Supplemental NTLs	Retain original copies of surveys, studies, reports, etc. (Note: Respondents would retain these as part of usual and customary business activities. The burden is to make them available to MMS if needed.)	2

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden:

We have identified no non-hour cost burdens for this collection.

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

Comments: 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.

Agencies must also estimate the "non-hour cost" burdens to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the

collection of information. 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. You should not

include estimates for 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.

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB.

Public Comment Policy: 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.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 03-7008 Filed 3-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska Region, Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Call for information and nominations (Call).

SUMMARY: The Secretary's decision to consider offering the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin planning area in the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002-2007 provides for an 18-month "special-interest" process beginning with publication of this Call. Based on the information and specific nominations received as a result of this Call, a

decision will be made whether to proceed with a sale.

DATES: Nominations and comments on the Call must be received no later than 90 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please call Tom Warren at (907) 271-6691 in MMS's Alaska OCS Region.

SUMMARY INFORMATION: The objective of this "special-interest" leasing option is to foster exploration in a frontier OCS area of potential, but high economic cost, without investment of the considerable time and effort required for holding a typical lease sale. The general approach is to query industry regarding the level of interest in proceeding with a sale in the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin where we would expect to offer focused areas of specific interest for exploration and to request nominations of such areas. However, we will proceed based on the comments and information we do receive. The lease sale is proposed to pursue the high resource potential of the Chukchi Sea area in conjunction with potential natural gas resources that may extend into the adjacent Hope Basin area. Comments are also being requested from the general public on this special-interest leasing process, including the terms and conditions of a sale. The MMS will consider all comments and nominations in the decision on whether and where within the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin to proceed with leasing and on the terms and conditions of a lease sale proposal. A decision to offer a nominated area for leasing will be conditioned on an informal commitment from industry to explore the area leased within a specific time period.

This Call does not indicate a preliminary decision to lease in the area described below. If MMS decides to proceed with the sale process, MMS will make the final decision on the specific areas for possible leasing at a later date in the presale process and in compliance with the 5-year program and with applicable laws including all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and OCS Lands Act (OCSLA). The MMS may adjust the dimensions of a nominated area after discussions with the nominating company.

Call for Information and Nominations

1. Authority

This Call is published pursuant to the OCSLA, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331-1356, (1994)), and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR part 256 and 30 CFR part 260); and in accordance with the

OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002-2007, approved June 27, 2002.

2. Purpose of Call

The purpose of the Call is to gather preliminary information, to request nomination of specific areas of interest to industry, and to request comments on the terms and conditions of offering these special interest lands. The Call also serves to initiate public outreach to assist in preparation of the NEPA analysis for this proposal. This proposal is in keeping with section 102(9) of the OCSLA Amendments of 1978, which states as a purpose of the statute, "to insure that the extent of oil and natural gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf is assessed at the earliest practicable time." The objective of the "special-interest" leasing process is to encourage exploration in a frontier OCS area for the discovery of oil and gas. This area might contain natural gas for potential use in local communities, as well as oil to meet national energy needs. The sale would offer for lease both oil and gas.

Comments, information, and nominations on oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development and production within the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin are sought from all interested parties. Comments are also being sought on the terms, conditions, and economic incentives of a sale in the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin. Industry and other interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact the Alaska OCS Region with questions or to discuss interest in the area. This early planning and consultation step is particularly important to this special interest process. The MMS will base its decision on whether to proceed with the presale process and the terms and conditions of a sale on the nominations and other information received in response to this Call. This process will ensure a decision that considers the concerns of all respondents in future decisions in this leasing process pursuant to the OCSLA and regulations at 30 CFR parts 256 and 30 CFR part 260. Commenters are also encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on the "special-interest" leasing process in general.

This Call is being issued in accordance with the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002-2007, approved June 27, 2002. The program offers two sales in the Chukchi Sea/Hope Basin during the 5-year program. If no interest is expressed in response to this first Call, MMS will defer the sale for one year and reissue the Call the following year. This process will continue throughout the 5-year program until there is sufficient interest to proceed