

Dated: July 16, 1999.

**Rex Wells,**

*Assistant Field Office Manager, Las Vegas, NV.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Minerals Management Service**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), we are notifying you that we have submitted an information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We are also soliciting your comments on this ICR which describes the information collection, its expected costs and burden, and how the data will be collected.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before August 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1010-0073), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503; telephone (202) 395-7340. Copies of these comments should also be sent to us. The U.S. Postal Service address is Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; the courier address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; and the e:Mail address is RMP.comments@mms.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions concerning this collection of information, please contact Larry Barker, RIK Study Team, telephone (303) 231-3157. You may also obtain copies of this collection of information at no cost by contacting MMS's Information Collection Clearance Officer at (202) 208-7744.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Royalty-in-Kind Pilot Program—Directed Third Party Communications Between Operators and Purchasers of Federal Royalty Oil and Gas.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0126.

**Abstract:** The Secretary of the Interior, under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1353), is responsible for the management of royalties on minerals produced from leased Federal lands. MMS carries out these responsibilities for the Secretary. Most royalties are now paid in value—when a company or individual enters into a contract to develop, produce, and dispose of minerals from Federal lands, that company or individual agrees to pay the United States a share (royalty) of the full value received for the minerals taken from leased lands. MMS has undertaken several pilot programs to study the feasibility of taking the Government's royalty in the form of production, that is, as RIK.

Collection of RIK requires communication between the operators of a lease and the purchaser of RIK from that lease to assure accurate and timely delivery of MMS' royalty share of production volumes. On January 29, 1999, OMB granted emergency approval for MMS to instruct lessees (or their operators), through a letter to operators which contains reporting requirements, to conduct all necessary communications with RIK purchasers during RIK pilot activities.

The three kinds of directed communication between operators and purchasers of RIK are: (1) Information about the volumes made available as RIK; (2) information about transportation of the RIK; and (3) information about correcting volumes made available as RIK. Experience with the Wyoming and Texas 8(g) Pilots demonstrates that the directed communication requirements differ according to the needs of each pilot situation. For example, in the Wyoming Pilot, RIK is delivered to the purchaser at the lease. Therefore, the direction to make transportation arrangements was not included in letters issued to those operators. For these reasons, we are not requesting approval of specific letters to operators but, instead, approval for the three kinds of reporting requirements concerning communications between operators and purchasers of RIK. By obtaining approval for these three kinds of reporting requirements, MMS will be able to select the types of directed communications needed for each pilot and include only those types in a letter appropriate to the operation of that pilot.

The types of communication and supporting data MMS will require operators to use in setting up the monthly delivery of RIK to the purchaser are standard business practices in the oil and gas industry.

The information in the directed communication is essential to the delivery and acceptance of verifiable quantities and qualities of oil and gas and is exchanged as a normal part of the conduct of those business activities, even when operators are not directed to do so. Failure of lessees/operators and purchasers to timely communicate volumetric, delivery, and transportation information concerning MMS' RIK volumes will result in storage costs being incurred due to lack of pipeline space being reserved to move MMS' royalty production. Monetary penalties would also be incurred for failure to meet delivery due dates. Additionally, failure to communicate data from balancing accounts would severely impair MMS' ability to verify that it is receiving the full and accurate volume of its royalty share of production.

No proprietary information will be submitted to MMS under this collection. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. The requirement to respond is mandatory.

The PRA 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. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on April 26, 1999 (64 FR 20321).

*Estimated Number and Type of Respondents/Affected Entities:*

Approximately 80 lessees or operators of Federal oil or gas leases participating in RIK pilot programs.

*Frequency of Response:* Monthly.  
*Burden Statement and Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* We estimate the respondent burden to average 2 minutes per response for a total of 285 hours. We estimate no additional recordkeeping burden.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden:* We have identified no paperwork cost burdens for this collection.

*Comments:* Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act 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.

Send your comments directly to the offices listed under the addresses section of this notice. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by August 27, 1999.

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

Dated: July 21, 1999.

**Joan Killgore,**

*Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.*

[FR Doc. 99-19261 Filed 7-27-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Reclamation**

**Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; Revisions to Existing System of Records**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed revisions to an existing system of records.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), the Department of the Interior is issuing public notice of its intent to amend the existing system of records managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) entitled "Inventions and Patents, LBR-12."

The notice is published in its entirety below.

**DATES:** Persons wishing to comment on the proposed revisions must do so by August 27, 1999.

**Effective date:** The proposed revised system of records will become effective without further notice on September 7, 1999, unless comments received result in a contrary determination. Reclamation will publish a new notice if changes are made based on review of comments received.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to the Reclamation Privacy Act Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007, or comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to fax No. 1-800-822-

7651. Comments will be available for inspection at the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, Sixth Avenue and Kipling Street, Building 67, Room 112, Denver, Colorado, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding "Inventions and Patents, WBR-12" contact Ms. Lisa Henthorne, Research Program Coordinator, Research Office, at (303) 445-2136. For general information regarding Reclamation's Privacy Act program, call Mr. Casey Snyder at (303) 445-2048.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Recent Privacy Act Compilations list this system of records as Reclamation-12. When originally published in the **Federal Register** this system of records was identified as LBR-12. The content of the system of records is the same; the prefix on the system was changed to reflect organizational changes.

This system of records notice was previously published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 1977 (42 FR 19098). This publication revises the system location; increases the categories of records in the system to include home address and telephone number, date of birth, and social security number; a purpose has been added which was not included in the original notice; and the system managers and addresses have been updated. All other changes proposed are editorial in nature.

**Rayleen Cruz,**

*Manager, Property and Facilities Group.*

**INTERIOR/WBR-12**

**SYSTEM NAME:**

Inventions and Patents.

**SYSTEM LOCATION:**

(1) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: W-6700, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. (2) Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: D-6700, PO Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007.

**CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:**

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) employees who have been granted patents or who are seeking patents.

**CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

Contains name, home address and telephone number, date of birth, social security number, and organizational segment of the inventor. Contains a thorough description and/or drawings of invention in original application for patent.

**AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:**

5 U.S.C. 3101, 43 U.S.C. 373, 373a, 1457, 44 U.S.C. 3101.

**PURPOSE(S):**

The purpose of maintaining this system of records for the Bureau of Reclamation is to have a retrievable system of information for pending patents and patents that have been secured (granted). When the patents are submitted to the U.S. Patent Office, the first monetary award is granted to the inventor. Once the patent is granted, the second monetary award is granted along with the patent certificate. The patent is awarded for a certain amount of years and must be renewed before it expires, if deemed necessary, by the inventor/Reclamation. The records must be maintained on a continual basis for these purposes.

**ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:**

The primary uses of the records are to administer internal program for determining rights of employee to invention and status of securing patent for invention. Disclosures outside the Department of the Interior (Department) may be made to: (1) Another Federal agency to enable that agency to respond to an inquiry by the individual to whom the record pertains; (2) The Department of Justice, or to a court, adjudicative, or other administrative body, or to a party in litigation before a court or adjudicative or administrative body, when: (a) One of the following is a party to the proceeding or has an interest in the proceeding: (i) The Department or any component of the Department; (ii) Any Departmental employee acting in his or her official capacity; (iii) Any Departmental employee acting in his or her individual capacity where the Department or the Department of Justice has agreed to represent the employee; or (iv) The United States, when the Department determines that the Department is likely to be affected by the proceeding; and (b) The Department deems the disclosure to be: (i) Relevant and necessary to the proceedings; and (ii) Compatible with the purpose for which we compiled the information; (3) The appropriate Federal, State, tribal, local, or foreign governmental agency that is responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing a statute, rule, regulation, order, or license, when we become aware of an indication of a violation or potential violation of the statute, rule, regulation, order, or license; (4) A congressional office in response to an inquiry to that