

into a contract to develop, produce, and dispose of minerals from Federal or Indian lands, that company or individual agrees to pay the United States or Indian tribe or allottee a share (royalty) monthly of the full value received for the minerals taken from leased lands.

The Auditing and Financial System (AFS) is the automated fiscal accounting system used by the Royalty Management Program (RMP) to account for revenues collected from Federal and Indian leases. The Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance, Form MMS-2014, is the only document used for reporting royalties, certain rents, and other lease-related transactions to MMS. AFS relies on data reported by payors on Form MMS-2014 for the majority of its processing.

In addition to accounting for royalties reported by payors, AFS, using Form MMS-2014 information, performs numerous other functions. These functions include monthly distribution of mineral revenues to State, Indian, and U.S. Treasury accounts; providing royalty accounting and statistical information to States, Indians, and others who have a need for such information; and identifying under reporting and nonreporting so MMS can promptly collect revenues. Sales and royalty information gathered through AFS is compared with production data collected by a second MMS system, the Production Accounting and Auditing System. This comparison of reported production with reported sales provides MMS with valuable cross-check capabilities for verification of production with reported sales.

Failure to collect the information provided by Form MMS-2014 would render it impossible to ensure that MMS is collecting and disbursing the full value of royalties received from production of leased lands. Collection of royalties directly impacts the amount of funds made available to the United States Treasury, to State governments, and to Indian tribes and allottees.

Description of Respondents: Companies or individuals (payors) that contract to develop, produce, and dispose of minerals from Federal or Indian lands and agree to pay the United States, Indian tribe or allottee royalties on the full value received for minerals taken from leased lands.

Frequency of Response: Monthly.
Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 7 minutes per manually completed report, 2 minutes per electronically completed report, and 12 hours annually for recordkeeping.

Annual Responses: 3,300,000.

Annual Burden Hours: 189,000 hours.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach (202) 208-7744.

Dated: April 22, 1998.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

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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

Title: Stripper Royalty Rate Reduction Notification (Form MMS-4377).

OMB Control Number: 1010-0090.

Comments: This collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval of an extension of a currently approved information collection. In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506 (c)(2)(A), we are notifying you, members of the public and affected agencies, of this collection of information, and are inviting your comments. Is this information collection necessary for us to properly do our job? Have we accurately estimated the public's burden for responding to this collection? Can we enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we collect? Can we lessen the burden of this information collection on the respondents by using automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

Comments should be made directly to the Attention: Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB Control Number 1010-0090), 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. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration.

Copies of the proposed information collection and related explanatory

material may be obtained by contacting Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, telephone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, e-Mail Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 22, 1998.

SUMMARY: To encourage continued production, provide an incentive for enhanced oil recovery projects, discourage abandonment of properties producing less than 15 barrels of oil per well-day, and reduce the operator's expenses, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will grant royalty rate reductions to operators of stripper oil properties. BLM amended 43 CFR 3103.4-2 to establish the conditions under which an operator or owner of a stripper oil property can obtain a reduction in the royalty rate for a property producing less than 15 barrels of oil per well-day. The amended regulations provided instructions for calculation of royalty rates based on the property's annual production rate.

Operators are then required to notify the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the reduced royalty rate using Form MMS-4377, Stripper Royalty Rate Reduction Notification. The form requires identification of the operator, name of the contact person, lease and agreement numbers, calculated royalty rate, current royalty rate, qualifying period, and effective date of royalty rate reduction. MMS uses the information provided on the form to update the database with accepted reduced royalty rates. The reduced royalty rate will become effective for all oil production from qualifying properties the first day of the month after MMS receives notification of the rate change.

Description of Respondents:

Operators of low producing oil wells.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Annual Recordkeeping Burden: 200 hours.

Annual Responses: 800.

Annual Burden Hours: 600 hours.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach (202) 208-7744.

Dated: April 23, 1998.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, Brooklyn, NY; Concession Contract

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.