

Estimated Number of Respondents: 720.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 2,880 hours

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act requires each agency A * * * 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 January 3, 2000.

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

Dated: November 23, 1999.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 99-31112 Filed 11-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

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 of information collection request.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), we are notifying you that an information collection request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We are also soliciting your comments on the ICR describing the information collection,

its expected costs and burdens, and how the data will be collected.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Interior Department (OMB Control Number 1010-0103), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503 (telephone (202) 395-7340). You should also send copies of these comments to us. Our mailing address for written comments regarding this information collection is David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225. Courier or overnight delivery address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Email address is RMP.comments@mms.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE: Your comments and copies of your comments may be submitted to the addresses listed above. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include Attn: Safety Net Report, Form MMS-4411, OMB Control Number 1010-0103, and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact David S. Guzy directly at (303) 231-3432.

We will post public comments after the comment period closes on the Internet at <http://www.rmp.mms.gov>. You may arrange to view paper copies of the comments by contacting David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, telephone (303) 231-3432, FAX (303) 231-3385. Our practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review on the Internet and during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, email

Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Safety Net Report.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0103.

Abstract: The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for collecting royalties from leases producing minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Indian lands and Federal onshore and offshore leases, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws; we perform these royalty management functions for the Secretary.

On August 10, 1999, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 43506) the notice of a final rulemaking titled "Amendments to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases," with an effective date of January 1, 2000. In that Notice, MMS requires that lessees submit the Safety Net Report, Form MMS-4411, when gas production from an Indian lease is sold beyond the first index pricing point.

The Safety Net Report is part of MMS's final rulemaking amending its regulations governing the valuation, for royalty purposes, of natural gas produced from Indian leases. The gas regulations apply to all gas production from Indian (tribal or allotted) oil and gas leases (except leases on the Osage Indian Reservation). The new regulations resulted from a negotiated rulemaking between Indian tribes and allottees, oil and gas industry, and Government.

The safety net calculation establishes the minimum value, for royalty purposes, of natural gas produced from Indian leases. This reporting requirement will assist the Indian lessor in receiving all the royalties that are due and aid MMS in its compliance efforts. The rule requires the lessee to calculate the safety net price using prices received for gas sold downstream of the first index pricing point. It will include only the lessee's or lessee's affiliate's arm's-length contracts and will not require detailed calculations for the costs of transportation. By June 30 following any calendar year, the rule requires the lessee to calculate for each month of the previous calendar year a safety net price. The rule requires the lessee to submit a separate Form MMS-

4411 for each index zone where the lessee has an Indian lease. The safety net price will capture the significantly higher values for sales occurring beyond the first index pricing point. The lessee will submit its safety net prices to MMS annually (by June 30) using the Form MMS-4411.

The Safety Net Report will allow MMS and the tribes to ensure that Indian mineral lessors receive the maximum revenues from mineral resources on their land consistent with the Secretary's trust responsibility and lease terms. In the safety net calculation, the lessee will only include sales under those arm's-length contracts that establish a delivery point beyond the first index pricing point to which the gas flows. Moreover, those contracts must include any gas produced from or allocable to one or more of the lessee's Indian leases in the index zone. The MMS or tribal auditors, Indian representatives, MMS's Royalty Valuation Division, and the Office of Indian Royalty Assistance, may use the information provided on the form.

The current OMB inventory of 37,400 hours is decreased to 10,500 hours. This adjusted decrease of 26,900 burden hours is the result of our originally overestimating the number of companies submitting Form MMS-4411 and overstating the number of index zones for which each company would have to submit this form.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Companies that pay royalties on gas produced from tribal and allotted Indian leases.

Frequency of Response: Annually.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 140 companies.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 10,500 hours.

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 January 3, 2000.

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

Dated: November 23, 1999.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 99-31113 Filed 11-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Construction of Visitor and Education Center, Great Basin National Park, White Pine County, NV; Scoping Notice

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1508.22), the National Park Service intends to prepare a supplemental environmental document for proposed construction of a facility serving visitor information, research, and education needs in Baker, Nevada. This new environmental compliance process could entail amending the General Management Plan (GMP) completed in 1993. During the ensuing environmental impact analysis process, suitable alternatives will be developed to address the design and construction of the proposed facility. The new conservation planning process will be conducted in consultation with affected federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribal groups, and interested organizations and individuals.

Background

The National Park Service completed an EIS and GMP for Great Basin National Park in 1993, which set forth direction and priorities for developing visitor and administrative facilities six miles east of the park on a federally owned parcel in the town of Baker, and a site on the eastern border of the park. This new environmental impact analysis effort is intended to implement or refine that management direction, with the focused objective of preparing an environmental assessment or supplemental EIS regarding the administrative, information, research support, and education program

envisioned in 1993 for Great Basin National Park.

The forthcoming environmental compliance document will identify, analyze, and recommend management actions necessary to locate and construct a centralized facility designed to serve both the visiting public, as well as educational and research institutions throughout the Great Basin Region. It is envisioned that the proposed complex could include: Office space; one or more conference classrooms; library; laboratory facilities; museum and records storage; natural history association sales outlet and storage space; restrooms; exhibit space; auditorium and a lobby. In addition, the proposal could include construction of hiking trails and a picnic pavilion. Anticipated area of impact is approximately two acres, located primarily on a previously disturbed site.

Depending on alternatives proposed and specific action selected, the proposal to construct this facility may differ from the GMP which envisioned information contact, administrative, visitor center, and other related functions on separate sites. It is now desired to co-locate these functions at one site, thereby reducing overall environmental impact. This alteration could result in construction of only one complex, but one which may provide a somewhat larger, integrated facility that meets all the needs originally forecast for two sites.

Scoping

The NPS is hereby initiating the scoping phase with a request for interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to provide information relevant to the design and construction of such a facility. Renewed collaboration with individuals and organizations familiar with Great Basin National Park is desired, but comments received on the 1993 GMP will also be reviewed. At this time it is uncertain what level of environmental compliance will be undertaken, and public feedback on this proposal will aid in this determination. This scoping process will be undertaken in a manner sufficient to fulfill the requirements for an EIS should that option be subsequently chosen. If it is determined that an EIS will be prepared, this will be communicated via a Notice of Availability of a draft EIS published in the **Federal Register**, as well as via direct mailings to those who respond during this scoping phase. Written comments must be postmarked not later than January 30, 2000, and should be directed to the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311.