

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Minerals Management Service**

**States' Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil and Gas Marginal Properties**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of states' decisions to participate or not participate in accounting and auditing relief for Federal oil and gas marginal properties located in their state for calendar year 2009.

**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) published final regulations on September 13, 2004 (69 FR 55076), codified at 30 CFR 204.200 through 204.215, to provide accounting and auditing relief for marginal Federal oil and gas properties. The rule requires MMS to publish in the **Federal Register** the decisions of the states concerned to allow or not allow one or both forms of relief in their state. As required in the

rule, MMS provided states receiving a portion of the Federal royalties with a list of qualifying marginal Federal oil and gas properties located in their state so that each affected state could decide whether to participate in one or both relief options. This notice provides the decisions by the states concerned to allow one or both types of relief.

**DATES:** Effective January 1, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Williams, Manager, Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Compliance and Asset Management, telephone (303) 231-3403, FAX (303) 231-3744, e-mail to *mary.williams@mms.gov*, or mail to P.O. Box 25165, MS 392B2, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The rule implemented certain provisions of section 7 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 and provides two options for relief: (1) Notification-based relief for annual reporting, and (2) other requested relief, as proposed by

industry and approved by MMS and the state concerned. The rule requires that MMS publish by December 1 of each year, a list of the states and their decisions regarding marginal property relief.

To qualify for the first option of relief (notification-based relief) for calendar year 2009, properties must have produced less than 1,000 barrels-of-oil-equivalent (BOE) per year for the base period (July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008). Annual reporting relief will begin on January 1, 2009, with the annual report and payment due February 28, 2010; or March 31, 2010, if you have an estimated payment on file. To qualify for the second option of relief (other requested relief), properties must have produced less than 15 BOE per well per day for the base period.

The following table shows the states that have marginal properties, where a portion of the royalties are shared between the state and MMS, and the states' decisions to allow one or both forms of relief.

State	Notification-based relief (less than 1,000 BOE per year)	Request-based relief (less than 15 BOE per well per day)
Alabama	No	No.
California	No	No.
Colorado	No	No.
Kansas	No	No.
Louisiana	Yes	Yes.
Michigan	Yes	No.
Mississippi	No	No.
Montana	No	No.
Nebraska	No	No.
Nevada	No	No.
New Mexico	No	No.
North Dakota	No	No.
Oklahoma	No	No.
South Dakota	No	No.
Utah	No	No.
Wyoming	Yes	No.

Federal oil and gas properties located in all other states, where a portion of the royalties is not shared with the state, are eligible for relief if they qualify as marginal under this rule. For information on how to obtain relief, please refer to the rule, which can be viewed on the MMS Web site at [http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws\\_R\\_D/FRNotices/AC30.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/FRNotices/AC30.htm).

Unless the information received is proprietary data, all correspondence, records, or information received in response to this notice are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If applicable, please highlight the proprietary portions, including any supporting documentation, or mark the page(s) that

contain proprietary data. Proprietary information is protected by the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905), FOIA, Exemption 4, and Department regulations (43 CFR, Part 2).

Dated: December 1, 2008.

**Gregory J. Gould,**  
Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

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**INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**[Investigation No. 731-TA-1020 (Review)]**

**Barium Carbonate From China**

**AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Scheduling of an expedited five-year review concerning the antidumping duty order on barium carbonate from China.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of an expedited review pursuant to section 751(c)(3) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(3)) (the Act) to determine whether revocation of the antidumping