



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Public Affairs**

FOR RELEASE:

January 9, 2004

GOMR Release: # 3021

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**MMS Holds Public Forum
on New Assignment and Lease Relinquishment Forms**

The Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior, charged with administering leasing of the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas and other minerals, is proposing four new lease forms and will hold a forum to introduce these forms. The public notice, published in the Federal Register on December 24, 2003 (pp. 74647-8), contains a notice of the forum on February 11th, and requests comments from the public on the proposed forms.

The forum, to explain the use of the new forms and provide instruction on how to fill them out, will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana, on Wednesday, February 11th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no charge, but reservations should be made because of the small seating capacity (175 people) in the conference room. To make reservations, e-mail your request and give the number attending to Sandra.Pavlas@boemre.gov.

The proposed forms, which require approval of the Office of Management and Budget, will guarantee accuracy of the information required by MMS under 30 CFR256. Additional benefits will be a streamlined and quick reporting system, reduction of time needed by industry to prepare the reports, and reduction of analytical time by MMS staff, thus hastening approvals.

The new forms are
Assignment of Interest in Federal Pipeline Right-of-way
Assignment of Record Title Interest in Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease
Assignment of Operating Rights Interest in Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease
Relinquishment of Federal OCS Oil & Gas Lease

The information in such forms is used by MMS to track ownership of all offshore leases as to record title, operating rights, and pipeline ownership, and whether or not the lease has been relinquished and is available for the next lease sale. The information is also entered into the Agency's database, which is available to the public.

All written comments must be submitted by February 24, 2004, to the Rules Processing Team, Mail Stop 4024, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170-4817, or email at rules.comments@boemre.gov.

MMS is the Federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian leases. These revenues totaled over \$6 billion in 2002 and nearly \$127 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

**MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov
Gulf of Mexico Website: www.gomr.mms.gov**

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