

notice closes the land to mining under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights.

#### New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 16 S., R. 25 E.,  
sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 35, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ .

T. 17 S., R. 25 E.,  
sec. 04: Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 640.26 acres of mineral estate underlying FLETG private surface, in Eddy County New Mexico.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the New Mexico State Director, BLM, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-6544.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. Public meeting requests must be submitted in writing to the New Mexico State Director, BLM, within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied, canceled, or the land withdrawal is approved prior to that date. The temporary uses which may be permitted during the segregative period are licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, and discretionary land use authorizations of a temporary nature, but only with the approval of the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2300.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

**Cathy Queen,**

*Acting Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0126).

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements. The ICR is titled "Royalty-in-Kind (RIK) Pilot Program—Directed Communications by Operators of Federal Oil and Gas Leases."

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before May 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1010-0126), 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Mail or hand-carry a copy of your comments to Sharron L. Gebhardt, Regulatory Specialist, Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver, Colorado 80225. If you use an overnight courier service, our courier address is Building 85, Room A-614, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. You may also email your comments to us at [mrm.comments@mms.gov](mailto:mrm.comments@mms.gov). Include the title of the information collection and the OMB Control Number in the "Attention" line of your comment. Also include your name and return address. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your email, contact Ms. Gebhardt at (303) 231-3211.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharron L. Gebhardt, telephone (303) 231-3211, FAX (303) 231-3781, email [Sharron.Gebhardt@mms.gov](mailto:Sharron.Gebhardt@mms.gov). You may also contact Sharron Gebhardt to obtain a copy at no cost of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* "Royalty-in-Kind (RIK) Pilot Program—Directed Communications by Operators of Federal Oil and Gas Leases."

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0126.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*Abstract:* The Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for matters relevant to mineral resource development on Federal and Indian lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) and the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1353) is responsible for

managing the production of minerals from Federal and Indian lands and the OCS, collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals, and distributing the funds collected in accordance with applicable laws. MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary.

Most royalties are now paid in value. For example, 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 MMS and the operators of a lease to assure accurate and timely delivery of MMS's royalty share of production volumes.

MMS, as responsible steward of oil and gas royalties, must direct operators of affected MMS leases to carry out three types of communication to take MMS's RIK crude oil or natural gas. The types of information that operators must provide are as follows:

(1) About 8-10 days before end of the month, report initial information about the projected volumes and qualities of RIK production the operator expects to make available in the next month, and corrections to those projected volumes and qualities for the month, submitted at varying frequencies during the month;

(2) When needed, report billing information about transportation/billing arrangements for the RIK to the delivery point, and

(3) Report month-end summary information (lease imbalance statement) about total RIK volumes and qualities needed to carry over to the next month to resolve aggregated imbalances that have incurred in prior months of RIK deliveries.

Experience with the Wyoming and Texas 8(g) Pilots demonstrate directed communication requirements differed according to the needs of each pilot situation. For example, in the Wyoming Pilot, RIK was delivered to the purchasers at the lease. Therefore, the direction to make transportation arrangements was included in "Dear Operator" letters issued to those operators. For these reasons, we are not requesting OMB approval of specific "Dear Operator" letters to operators but, instead, requesting OMB approval to continue collecting the three kinds of reporting requirements concerning