

It also should be noted that the proposed rule does allow respondents to submit copies of internal reports in lieu of form MMS-142 as their "final report," if the company report covers all of the required information.

Hour Burden

The information collected on form CG-2692 and the new MMS forms

expand and add to the currently approved notification and reporting requirements in 30 CFR 250.191 on accidents (994 burden hours), § 250.490 on H₂S releases (26 burden hours), and 30 CFR 254.46 on oil spills (59 burden hours). We would reduce the respective reporting burdens for requirements in those sections in conjunction with final regulations becoming effective. The ICR

submitted to OMB for this proposed rulemaking covers the total estimated burden for MMS reporting requirements. There are no proposed recordkeeping requirements. The following chart summarizes the estimated hour burden (column 4 has been rounded to the nearest hour) of the proposed rule.

Reporting requirement	Estimated number of notices or reports per year	Estimated hour burden calculated in minutes	Annual hour (rounded) burden	Annual hour burden cost @ \$50/hour
Oral notification of incident	142	10	24	\$1,200
"Immediate" Category Follow-up Report using form CG-2692 and MMS-142, Sections 1-3	124	220	455	22,750
"Immediate" Category Final Report using form MMS-142, Sections 1-4 (or company report)	65	160	173	8,650
"12-Hour" Category Initial Report using form CG-2692 and MMS-142, Sections 1-2	89	145	215	10,750
"12-Hour" Category Follow-up Report using form MMS-142, Sections 1-3	89	115	171	8,550
"15-Day" Category Report using form MMS-143	750	85	1,063	53,150
Submit additional information for clarification when requested by MMS	186	60	186	9,300
Totals	1,445	2,287	*114,350

*Due to "rounding" of hours, this cost is slightly lower than costs shown in other sections which were calculated in fractions of hours. OMB requires ICRs to be submitted in whole hours.

Non-Hour Cost Burden

As discussed in previous sections of the Preamble, in order to submit reports electronically, all companies may experience some one-time set-up costs. A few of the smaller companies may incur additional set-up costs and new annual Internet/email access costs.

Most companies already have reporting and data-gathering systems to investigate and report incidents internally. Most also have systems and procedures in place to notify MMS and the USCG of incidents and to submit required USCG written reports. These established systems may need to be modified and personnel trained to address the change in reporting thresholds and new MMS written report requirements. We estimate this may take 40 hours per company. At a cost of \$50 per hour, the total cost for the 218 companies is estimated at \$436,000 for one-time set-up costs.

Some of the approximately 109 small entities affected by the proposed rule may need to purchase additional computer equipment with Internet access at the location from where they will initiate or submit written reports. We estimate about 5 percent (11 companies) may experience an additional one-time investment of approximately \$5,000 for a total of \$55,000 that would not be a "usual and customary" business expense for these companies.

These same 11 companies would also incur a monthly Internet/email account expense of approximately \$30 per month or \$360 per year/company for a total recurring annual operation and maintenance cost of \$3,960.

PRA Comments

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, MMS invites the public and other Federal agencies to comment on any aspect of the reporting burden in the proposed rule. You may submit your comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB. Send a copy of your comments to MMS. Refer to the "Addresses" section for mailing instructions. MMS will summarize written comments and address them in the final rule preamble. The PRA provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 to 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it by August 7, 2003. This does not affect the deadline for the public to comment to MMS on the proposed regulations.

a. We specifically solicit comments on the following questions:

(1) Is the proposed collection of information necessary for MMS to properly perform its functions, and will it be useful?

(2) Are the estimates of the burden hours of the proposed collection reasonable?

(3) Do you have any suggestions that would enhance the quality, clarity, or usefulness of the information to be collected?

(4) Is there a way to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology?

b. In addition, the PRA requires agencies to estimate the total annual reporting and recordkeeping "non-hour cost" burden resulting from the collection of information. We solicit your comments on this item, including the accuracy of our estimates previously discussed or any others we have not identified. For reporting and recordkeeping only, your response should split the cost estimate into two components: (1) the total capital and start-up cost component and, (2) annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of services component. Your estimates should consider the costs to generate, maintain, and disclose or provide the information. You should describe the methods you use to estimate major cost factors, including system and