

withhold your name and/or address, 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.

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

Dated: May 23, 2003.  
**Cathy J. Hamilton,**  
*Acting Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.*  
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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 extension of an information collection (1010-0049).

**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 under “30 CFR 250, Subpart B, Exploration and Development and Production Plans.” This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by August 27, 2003.  
**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments either by fax (202) 395-5806 or e-mail (*Ruth\_Solomon@omb.eop.gov*) directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-0049). Mail or hand carry

a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations, forms, and notices that require the subject collection of information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**  
*Title:* 30 CFR 250, Subpart B, Exploration and Development and Production Plans.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0049.  
*Bureau Form Numbers:* Forms MMS-137, MMS-138, MMS-139, and MMS-141.

*Abstract:* The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation’s energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

Sections 11 and 25 of the amended OCS Lands Act require the holders of OCS oil and gas and sulphur leases to submit exploration plans (EPs) and development and production plans (DPPs) for approval before starting these activities. The implementing regulations and associated information collection requirements are contained in 30 CFR 250, subpart B, Exploration and Development and Production Plans. In addition, MMS has issued Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that provide supplementary guidance and procedures as applicable to each Region

or nationally. These NTLs address the various surveys, reports, plans (including deepwater operations plans and conservation information), etc., that are necessary for MMS to approve exploration or development and production activities.

With this submission, we are requesting renewal of the currently approved information collection requirements of subpart B, and related forms and NTLs, and are revising form MMS-137, OCS Plan Information Form. The revised form has been redesigned and includes additional information on schedule and description of proposed activities and associated anchors with no change to the burden.

The MMS engineers, geologists, geophysicists, and environmental scientists use the information collected under subpart B, and related forms and NTLs, to analyze and evaluate the planned operations to ensure that they will not adversely affect the marine, coastal, or human environment and that they conserve the resources of the OCS. It would be impossible for the Regional Supervisor to make an informed decision on whether to approve the proposed plans, or whether modifications are necessary, without the analysis and evaluation of the required information. The affected States also review the information collected for consistency with approved Coastal Zone Management plans.

*Frequency:* On occasion.  
*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Approximately 150 Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulphur lessees.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping “Hour” Burden:* The estimated annual “hour” burden for this information collection is a total of 300,905 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

Citation 30 CFR 250 subpart B and related NTLs	Reporting and recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden	Average number annual responses	Annual burden hours
201 .....	Notify MMS and others of preliminary activities and submit follow-up information.	10 .....	22 notices/information ..	220
202 .....	Submit conservation information documents .....	443 .....	30 documents .....	13,290
203 .....	Submit initial exploration plan, including surveys, reports, studies, GOM Region forms MMS-137, MMS-138, MMS-139, etc., including notification requirements.	580 .....	200 plans .....	116,000