

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:*  
25,000.

*Status:* Reinstatement, with changes.  
*Contact:* Kenneth L. Crandall, HUD,  
(202) 708-6396 X5626; Joseph F.  
Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.

Dated: November 20, 1997.  
[FR Doc. 97-31072 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Application Notice Describing the Areas of Interest and Establishing the Closing Date for Receipt of Applications Under the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Applications are invited for research projects under the NEHRP.

The purpose of this program is to support research in earthquake hazards prediction; to provide earth-science data and information essential to determine seismic hazards present in the United States; and information essential to mitigate earthquake damage.

Applications may be submitted by educational institutions, private firms, private foundations, individuals, and agencies of state and local governments.

The NEHRP supports research related to the following general areas of interest:

I. Evaluating National and Regional Hazard and Risk. National and regional hazard and risk maps are critical to effective risk reduction strategies.

II. Evaluating Urban Hazard and Risk. The strong ground shaking and resulting catastrophic losses in the 1994 Northridge earthquake reinforced the need for the U.S. Geological Survey to concentrate its efforts where the risks are highest, that is, in the nation's urban areas.

III. Understanding Earthquake Processes. The effectiveness of risk-mitigation strategies and disaster response are limited by our meager understanding of the tectonic processes that cause earthquakes and generate the strong shaking and ground failure that devastates the built environment.

IV. Providing Real-time Hazard Assessment. Effective earthquake hazard evaluation and response to damaging events depend on timely, accurate information. Short, intermediate, and long-term earthquake forecasts in regions of high earthquake potential can

all lead to mitigation activities that reduce the losses in subsequent earthquakes.

V. Providing Geologic Hazards Information Services. Computer technology has evolved rapidly in recent years to the point that new powerful tools are accessible both to the providers and the users of geologic hazards information.

**DATES:** The closing date for receipt of applications will be on or about April 1, 1998. The actual closing date will be specified in Announcement No. 1434-HQ-99-PA-00061.

**ADDRESSES:** The program announcement is expected to be available on or about February 2, 1998. You may obtain a copy of Announcement No. 1434-HQ-99-PA-00061 from the USGS Contracts and Grants Information Site at <http://www.usgs.gov/contracts/nehrrp/> or by writing Brian Heath, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance—Mail Stop 205A, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, or by fax (703-648-7901).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Sims, Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program—U.S. Geological Survey, Mail Stop 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192. Telephone: (703) 648-6722.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Authority for this program is contained in the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977. Pub. L. 95-124 (42 U.S.C. 7701, *et seq.*). The Office of Management and Budget Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 15.807.

**Tim Calkins,**

*Acting Associate Chief, Operations.*

[FR Doc. 97-30897 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[4310-CA065-1492]

#### **Notice of Availability**

November 20, 1997.

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Record of Decision for the Soledad Mountain Gold Mine, Kern County, California, is available.

**ADDRESSES:** Written requests for copies of the Record of Decision should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest,

California 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ahmed Mohsen-EIS Coordinator (760) 384-5421.

**Russell Miles,**

*Acting Area Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-31042 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection, Oil Transportation Allowance (OMB Control Number 1010-0061); this information collection pertains to Indian leases only.

**FORMS:** MMS-4110, Oil Transportation Allowance Report

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before January 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; courier address is Building 85, Room A613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-Mail address is David-Guzy@mms.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, e-Mail Dennis—C—Jones@mms.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506 (c)(2)(A), we are notifying you, members of the public and affected agencies, of this collection of information and are inviting your comments. Is this information collection necessary for us to properly do our job? Have we accurately estimated the industry burden for responding to this collection? Can we enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we collect? Can we lessen the burden of this information collection on the respondents by using automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is responsible for the collection of royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Indian lands, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws. The product valuation and allowance determination process is essential to assure that the public and/or the Indians receive payment on the proper value of the minerals being removed.

MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary. When a company or an individual enters into a contract (a lease) to explore, develop, produce, and dispose of oil from Indian lands, that company or individual agrees to pay the United States or Indian tribe or allottee a share (royalty) of the value received from production from the leased lands. Royalty rates are specified in the lease agreement. In order to determine whether the amount of royalty tendered represents the proper royalty due, it is first necessary to establish the proper value of the oil that is being sold or otherwise disposed of in some other manner, as well as the proper costs associated with allowable deductions.

In some circumstances, lessees are authorized to deduct from royalty payments the reasonable actual cost of transporting the royalty portion of the oil from the lease to a delivery point remote from the lease. Transportation allowances are a part of the product valuation process which MMS uses to determine if the lessee is reporting and paying the proper royalty amount.

Before any deduction may be taken, the lessee must submit page one of the Oil Transportation Allowance Report, Form MMS-4110, declaring the amount of reasonable actual transportation costs to be deducted from royalty. We estimate that 3 respondents will each submit an average of 7 allowance data lines for a total of 21 data lines annually. We estimate that each data line will require 1/4 hour to prepare, a total of 5.25 burden hours. Authorization to deduct a transportation allowance continues for 12 months, or until the contract is changed or terminated. At that time, the lessee must resubmit page one of Form MMS-4110. We estimate that recordkeeping for these transportation allowances will require 1/2 hour per respondent annually.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

**Joan Killgore,**

*Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.*

[FR Doc. 97-31081 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service, Interior

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on an information collection, Coal Transportation and Washing Allowance (OMB Control Number 1010-0074); this information collection pertains to Indian leases only.

**FORMS:** MMS-4292, Coal Washing Allowance Report and MMS-4293, Coal Transportation Allowance Report.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before January 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; courier address is Building 85, Room A613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; e-Mail address is David\_Guzy@mms.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, e-Mail Dennis\_C\_Jones@mms.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3506(c)(2)(A), we are notifying you, members of the public and affected agencies, of this collection of information and are inviting your comments. In this information collection necessary for us to properly do our job? Have we accurately estimated the industry burden for responding to this collection? Can we enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we collect? Can we lessen the burden of this information collection on the respondents by using automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for the collection of

royalties from lessees who produce minerals from leased Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Indian lands, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws. The product valuation process is essential to assure that the public and/or the Indians receive payment on the full value of the minerals being removed.

MMS performs these royalty management functions for the Secretary. When a company or an individual enters into a contract (a lease) to develop, mine, and dispose of coal deposits from Indian lands, that company or individual (the lessee) agrees to pay the United States, Indian tribe, or allottee (the lessor) a share (royalty) of the gross proceeds received from the sale of production from leased lands. Royalty rates are specified in the lease agreement. In order to determine whether the amount of royalty tendered represents the proper royalty due, it is necessary to establish the value of the coal being sold or otherwise disposed of in some other manner, as well as the proper costs associated with allowable deductions.

In some circumstances, lessees are authorized to deduct certain costs in the calculation of royalties due. An allowance may be granted from royalties to compensate lessees for the reasonable actual cost of washing the royalty portion of coal. Also, when the sales point is not in the immediate vicinity of a lease or mine area, an allowance may be granted to compensate lessees for the reasonable actual cost of transporting the royalty portion of coal to a sales point not on the lease or mine area.

Before any deductions are taken, the lessee with an arm's-length contract must submit page one of the Coal Washing Allowance Report, Form MMS-4292, or the Coal Transportation Allowance Report, Form MMS-4293. The allowances will be based on reasonable actual costs reported by the lessees and are subject to later audit. We estimate that one lessee will submit two reports annually and that each submission will require 1/2 hour to prepare, a total of 1 burden hour.

Lessees with a non-arm's-length contract must also submit Form MMS-4292 or Form MMS-4293. All applicable pages of the allowance application forms should be submitted. The allowances will be based on reasonable actual costs reported by the lessees and are subject to later audit. We do not anticipate any lessee with a non-arm's-length contract submitting allowance reports.