

Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Interior Department (OMB Control Number 1010-0063), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503. You should also send copies of these comments to us. Our mailing address for written comments regarding this information collection is David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225. Courier or overnight delivery address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Email address is RMP.comments@mms.gov.

Public Comment Procedure

Your comments and copies of your comments may be submitted to the addresses listed above. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include Attn: Production Accounting and Auditing System Reports on Solid Minerals, OMB Control Number 1010-0063, Forms MMS-4050, MMS-4051-S, MMS-4059 and MMS-4060, and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact David S. Guzy directly at (303) 231-3432.

We will post public comments after the comment period closes on the Internet at <http://www.rmp.mms.gov>. You may arrange to view paper copies of the comments by contacting David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, telephone (303) 231-3432, FAX (303) 231-3385. Our practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review on the Internet and during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis C. Jones, Rules and Publications Staff, phone (303) 231-3046, FAX (303) 231-3385, email Dennis.C.Jones@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Production Accounting and Auditing System Reports on Solid Minerals.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0063.

Abstract: The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for collecting royalties from leases producing minerals from leased Federal and Indian lands. The Secretary is required by various laws to manage the production of mineral resources on Indian lands and Federal onshore and offshore leases, to collect the royalties due, and to distribute the funds in accordance with those laws; we perform these royalty management functions for the Secretary.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Operators of solid mineral leases.

Frequency of Response: Monthly, quarterly, annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 170.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: 2,763 hours.

Comments

Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act requires each agency " * * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *." Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Send your comments directly to the offices listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by January 18, 2000.

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

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Lawrence E. Cobb,

Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.

[FR Doc. 99-32558 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Assessment Preparation for Proposed Lease Sale 177 in the Western Gulf of Mexico (2000)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: The MMS is beginning preparation of an EA for proposed Lease Sale 177 (scheduled for August 2000) in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. In January 1997, MMS issued a Call for Information and Nominations/ Notice of Intent (Call/NOI) to Prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the four proposed Western Gulf of Mexico sales in the current 5-year leasing program. In 1998, MMS prepared a single EIS for all four sales. The multisale Final EIS, filed in May 1998, included an analysis of a single, "typical" sale, and a cumulative analysis that included the effects of holding all four sales, as well as the cumulative effects of the long-term development of the planning area. The MMS stated in the EIS that an EA would be prepared for each lease sale after the first sale covered in the EIS (Sale 171).

The preparation of this EA is the first step in the prelease decision process for Sale 177. The proposal and alternatives for Sale 177 were identified by the Director of MMS in January 1997, following the Call/NOI and were analyzed in the Western Gulf multisale EIS, which is available from the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Public Information Office at 1-800-200-GULF. The proposed action analyzed in the multisale EIS was the offering of all available unleased acreage in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, with the following exceptions: Blocks A-375 (East Flower Garden Bank) and A-983 (West Flower Garden Bank) in the High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, designated as a national marine sanctuary; and Blocks 793, 799, and 816 in the Mustang Island Area, identified by the Navy as needed for testing equipment and for training mine warfare personnel. The proposal to be addressed in this EA has been revised to the following extent: two

additional blocks or portions of these blocks (High Island Area, East Addition, South Extension, Block A-401 and High Island, South Addition, Block A-513), which lie partially within the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary, are deferred from the proposed action in light of the President's June 1998, withdrawal of all Marine Sanctuaries from oil and gas leasing. The proposed action includes existing regulations and proposed lease stipulations designed to reduce environmental risks. The EA will also analyze alternatives to exclude blocks near biologically sensitive topographic features, as well as the no action alternative. The MMS may also consider deferring blocks beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, in the area referred to as the northern portion of the Western Gap, as talks between the United States and Mexico are currently underway regarding the establishment of a continental shelf boundary in this area. The analysis in the EA will reexamine the potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that were not available at the time the Final EIS was prepared.

The MMS requests interested parties to submit comments regarding any such new information or issues that should be addressed in the EA to MMS, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5400), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 by January 18, 2000. After completion of the EA, MMS will determine whether to prepare a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI) or a supplemental EIS. The MMS will then prepare and send consistency determinations to the affected States to determine whether the proposed sale is consistent with federally-approved State coastal zone management programs, and will send a proposed Notice of Sale to the Governors for their comments on the size, timing, and location of the proposed sale. The tentative schedule for the steps in the prelease decision process for Sale 177 are listed below:

Comments due to MMS, January 18, 2000; EA/FONNSI or Supplemental EIS, March 2000; Proposed Notice of Sale sent to Governors, March 2000; Consistency Determinations sent to States, March 2000; Final Notice of sale in **Federal Register**, July 2000; Sale, August 2000.

If you wish to comment, you may mail or hand-carry written comments to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Regional Director (MS-5410), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New

Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law.

There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. George Hampton, telephone (504) 736-2465.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 99-32597 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House, Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of final comprehensive design plan for the White House and final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Final Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park and Final Environmental Impact Statement (CDP-FEIS).

DATES: A 30-day no-action period will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the CDP-FEIS.

ADDRESSES: Single copies of the 516-page CDP-FEIS may be obtained by writing: Final Plan/FEIS, Office of White House Liaison, National Park

Service, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, DC, 20242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CDP-FEIS addresses the future management and use of the buildings, grounds and cultural resources of the White House and President's Park. The goal is to better serve the presidency and the people, while protecting the historic character of this national treasure. The CDP-FEIS proposes actions to meet needs in the areas of: support services for the home and office of the president, visitor use and services, cultural and natural resource protection, transportation, site character, official functions and special events. The CDP-FEIS contains the description and assessment of the proposed plan and four other alternatives considered, including the required no-change alternative.

Impacts are analyzed on the following topics: cultural resources, natural resources, home and office of the president, the visitor experience, special events, transportation, the socioeconomic environment, and site management and operations.

The NPS is the lead-planning agency and has responsibility for developing the plan in conjunction with other agencies. Congressionally chartered agencies with stewardship or oversight responsibilities at the site serve on an NPS-led Executive Committee. Serving on the committee are: Executive Office of the President, Executive Residence, White House Military Office, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Secret Service, General Services Administration, District of Columbia, Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Planning Commission, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and until 1995 the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

The planning process to develop the Final Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park began in 1992 with data collection. Issue identification took place in 1993 through 27 workshops involving some 70 agencies and organizations. Visitor opinions were obtained through surveys and through a 4-day public involvement exhibit held on the Ellipse in the spring of 1993. Desired futures were developed in workshops during the fall of 1993.

Interpretative themes were developed in March 1994. Working group meetings on the news media space occurred between March 1995 and January 1996. Alternatives were released for public review in the spring of 1995. A draft plan and draft environmental impact statement was reviewed by the public for 90 days between December 3, 1998 and March 11, 1999.