

Dated: May 16, 2012.

Mary Josie Blanchard,
Deputy Director, Office of Environmental
Policy and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental
Enforcement**

[Docket ID BSEE-2012-0009; OMB Control
Number 1014-0005]

**Information Collection Activities: Relief
or Reduction in Royalty Rates;
Proposed Collection; Comment
Request**

ACTION: 60-day Notice.

SUMMARY: To comply with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995
(PRA), BSEE is inviting comments on a
collection of information that we will
submit to the Office of Management and
Budget (OMB) for review and approval.
The information collection request (ICR)
concerns a renewal to the paperwork
requirements in the regulations under
30 CFR 203, Relief or Reduction in
Royalty Rates.

DATES: You must submit comments by
July 23, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments
by either of the following methods listed
below.

- Electronically: go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry titled "Enter Keyword or ID," enter BSEE-2012-0009 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.

- Email nicole.mason@bsee.gov. Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Regulations Development Branch; Attention: Nicole Mason; 381 Elden Street, HE-3313; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference ICR 1014-0005 in your comment and include your name and return address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Nicole Mason, Regulations Development
Branch at (703) 787-1605 to request
additional information about this ICR.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR part 203, Relief or
Reduction in Royalty Rates.

OMB Control Number: 1014-0005.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf
(OCS) Lands Act, as amended by Public
Law 104-58, Deep Water Royalty Relief
Act (DWRRA), gives the Secretary of the
Interior (Secretary) the authority to
reduce or eliminate royalty or any net
profit share specified in OCS oil and gas
leases to promote increased production.
The DWRRA also authorized the
Secretary to suspend royalties when
necessary to promote development or
recovery of marginal resources on
producing or non-producing leases in
the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) west of 87
degrees, 30 minutes West longitude.

Section 302 of the DWRRA provides
that new production from a lease in
existence on November 28, 1995, in a
water depth of at least 200 meters, and
in the GOM west of 87 degrees, 30
minutes West longitude qualifies for
royalty suspension in certain situations.
To grant a royalty suspension, the
Secretary must determine that the new
production or development would not
be economic in the absence of royalty
relief. The Secretary must then
determine the volume of production on
which no royalty would be due in order
to make the new production from the
lease economically viable. This
determination is done on a case-by-
case basis. Production from leases in the
same water depth and area issued after
November 28, 2000, also can qualify for
royalty suspension in addition to any
that may be included in their lease
terms.

In addition, the Independent Offices
Appropriations Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), the
Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L.
104-133, 110 Stat. 1321, April 26,
1996), and OMB Circular A-25,
authorize Federal agencies to recover
the full cost of services that confer
special benefits. Under the Department
of the Interior's (DOI) implementing
policy, BSEE is required to charge fees
for services that provide special benefits
or privileges to an identifiable non-
Federal recipient above and beyond
those which accrue to the public at
large.

Regulations at 30 CFR part 203
implement these statutes and policy and

require respondents to pay a fee to
request royalty relief. Section 30 CFR
203.3 states that, "We will specify the
necessary fees for each of the types of
royalty-relief applications and possible
BSEE audits in a Notice to Lessees. We
will periodically update the fees to
reflect changes in costs as well as
provide other information necessary to
administer royalty relief."

BSEE uses the information to make
decisions on the economic viability of
leases requesting a suspension or
elimination of royalty or net profit
share. These decisions have enormous
monetary impacts to both the lessee and
the Federal Government. Royalty relief
can lead to increased production of
natural gas and oil, creating profits for
lessees and royalty and tax revenues for
the government that they might not
otherwise receive. We could not make
an informed decision without the
collection of information required by 30
CFR part 203.

We will protect information from
respondents considered proprietary
under the Freedom of Information Act
(5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing
regulations (43 CFR 2) and under
regulations at 30 CFR 203.63, *Does my
application have to include all leases in
the field*, and 30 CFR 250.197, *Data and
information to be made available to the
public or for limited inspection*. No
items of a sensitive nature are collected.
Responses are mandatory or are
required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: Potential
respondents comprise Federal oil, gas,
or sulphur lessees and/or operators.

*Estimated Reporting and
Recordkeeping Hour Burden:* The
currently approved annual reporting
burden for this collection is 2,635 hours.
The following table details the
individual components and respective
hour burden estimates of this ICR. 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 203 and related NTL(s) | Reporting or recordkeeping requirement | Hour burden |
|---|---|------------------|
| | | Application fees |
| 2(b); 3; 4; 70 | These sections contain general references to submitting reports, applications, requests, copies, demonstrating qualifications, for BSEE approval burdens covered under specific requirements. | 0 |

| Citation 30 CFR 203 and related NTL(s) | Reporting or recordkeeping requirement | Hour burden |
|---|---|---|
| | | Application fees |
| Royalty Relief for Ultra-Deep Gas Wells and Deep Gas Wells on Shallow Water Leases | | |
| 31(c) | Request a refund of or recoup royalties from qualified ultra-deep wells. | 1 |
| 35(d); 44(e) | Request to extend the deadline for beginning production with required supporting documentation. | 4 |
| 41(d) | Request a refund of or recoup royalties from qualified wells >200 meters but <400 meters. | 1 |
| 35(a); 44(a); 47(a) | Notify BSEE of intent to begin drilling | 1 |
| 35(c), (d); 44(b), (d), (e) | Notify BSEE that production has begun, request confirmation of the size of RSV, provide supporting documentation. | 2 |
| 46 | Provide data from well to confirm and attest well drilled was an unsuccessful certified well with supporting documentation and request supplement. | 8 |
| 49(b) | Notify BSEE or decision to exercise option to replace one set of deep gas royalty suspension terms for another set of such terms. Note: BSEE SOL requires that this reg text stay for legacy purposes only. Last time any respondent could use was 2004; hence, no burden. | 0 |
| End of Life and Special Royalty Relief* | | |
| 51; 83; 84 | Application—leases that generate earnings that cannot sustain continued production (end-of-life lease); required supporting documentation. | 100 Application = \$8,000 Audit = \$12,500 |
| 52 | Demonstrate ability to qualify for royalty relief or to re-qualify | 1 |
| 55 | Renounce relief arrangement (end-of-life) (seldom, if ever will be used; minimal burden to prepare letter). | 1 |
| 80 NTL | Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal producing lease (Special Case Relief); required supporting documentation. | 250 Application = \$8,000** Audit = \$12,500 |
| 80 NTL | Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal expansion project or marginal non-producing lease (Special Case Relief); required supporting documentation. | 1,000 Application = \$19,500** Audit = \$18,750 |
| CPA Report | | |
| 81; 83–90 | Required reports; extension justification | Burden included with applications. 1 CPA report × \$45,000 |
| Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRAA) | | |
| 61; 62; 64; 65; 71; 83; 85–89; NTL | Application—preview assessment (seldom if ever will be used as applicants generally opt for binding determination by BSEE instead) and required supporting documentation. | 900 Application = \$28,500 |
| 62; 64; 65; 71; 83; 85–89 | Application—leases in designated areas of GOM deep water acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00 and are producing (deep water expansion project); required supporting documentation. | 2,000 Application = \$19,500 |
| 62; 64; 65; 71; 81; 83; 85–89; NTL | Application—leases in designated areas of deep water GOM, acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00 that have not produced (pre-act or post-2000 deep water leases); required supporting documentation. | 2,000 Application = \$34,000* Audit = \$12,500 |
| 70; 81; 90; 91 | Submit fabricator's confirmation report; extension justification | 20 |
| 70; 81; 90; 92; NTL | Submit post-production development report; extension justification. # Reserve right to audit (1 audit every 6 years) after production starts to confirm cost estimates of the application. | 50 Audit = \$18,750 |
| 74; 75; NTL | Redetermination and required supporting documentation | 500 Application = \$16,000* |
| 77 | Renounce relief arrangement (deep water) (seldom, if ever will be used; minimal burden to prepare letter). | 1 |
| 79(a) | Request reconsideration of BSEE field designation | 0 |
| 79(c) | This was a regulatory requirement for leases issued prior to 1995. Request extension of deadline to start construction | 2 |
| 83; NTL | Application—short form to add or assign pre-Act lease and required supporting documentation. | 40 Application = \$1,000 |
| 81(d) | Retain supporting cost records for post-production development/fabrication reports (records retained as usual/customary business practice; minimal burden to make available at BSEE request). | 8 |

* CPA certification expense burden also imposed on applicant.

** These applications currently do not have a set fee since they are done on a case-by-case basis.

Note: Applications include numerous items such as: transmittal letters, letters of request, modifications to applications, reapplications, etc.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Non-Hour Cost Burden: There are non-hour costs associated with this information collection. The currently approved non-hour cost burden is \$122,024. This estimate is based on:

(a) Applications and audit fees. The total annual estimated cost burden for these fees is \$77,024 (refer to the table).

(b) The cost of report(s) prepared by independent certified public accountants. Under § 203.81, a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant must accompany the application and post-production report (expansion project, short form, and preview assessment applications are excluded). The OCS Lands Act applications will require this report only once; the DWRRA applications will require this report at two stages—with the application and post-production development report for successful applicants. We estimate approximately one report submitted at an average cost of \$45,000 per report. We have not identified any other non-hour cost burdens for this collection.

Comments: Before submitting an ICR to OMB, PRA section 3506(c)(2)(A) 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 collection is necessary or useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy 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 technology.

Agencies must also estimate the non-hour paperwork cost burdens to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. Therefore, if you have other than hour burden costs to generate, maintain, and disclose this information, you should comment and provide your total capital and startup cost components or annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of service components. For further information on this burden, refer to 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(1) and (2), or contact the Bureau representative listed previously in this notice.

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB.

Public Comment Procedures: Before including your address, phone number,

email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Acting BSEE Information Collection Clearance Officer: Cheryl Blundon (703) 787–1607.

Dated: May 15, 2012.

Robert W. Middleton,

Acting Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2012–12304 Filed 5–21–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R5–R–2012–N062; BAC–4311–K9–S3]

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties, NY; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (draft CCP/EA) for Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located in Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties, New York, for public review and comment. The draft CCP/EA describes our proposal for managing the refuge for the next 15 years. Also available for public review and comment are: (1) The draft findings of appropriateness and draft compatibility determinations for uses to be allowed upon initial completion of the plan if Service-preferred alternative B is selected, (2) the EA for the refuge’s hunt program, and (3) the EA for the refuge’s fire program. These are included as appendix B, appendix E, and appendix H, respectively, in the draft CCP/EA.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments no later than June 21, 2012. We will announce upcoming public meetings in local news media, via our project mailing list, and on our regional planning Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Montezuma/ccphome.html>.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. You may request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents.

Email: northeastplanning@fws.gov. Please include “Montezuma NWR Draft CCP” in the subject line of the message.

Fax: Attn: Lia McLaughlin, 413–253–8468.

U.S. Mail: Lia McLaughlin, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup: Call 315–568–5987 to make an appointment (necessary for view/pickup only) during regular business hours at 3395 Route 5/20 East, Seneca Falls, NY 13148–9778. [For more information on locations for viewing or obtaining documents, see “Public Availability of Documents” under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Jasikoff, Refuge Manager, 315–568–5987 (phone), or Lia McLaughlin, Planning Team Leader, 413–253–8575 (phone); northeastplanning@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Montezuma NWR. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 25286; May 7, 2010).

Montezuma NWR was established in 1938 to provide nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Situated in Seneca, Wayne, and Cayuga Counties, the refuge currently encompasses 9,184 acres. Refuge habitats include emergent marshes and shallow water mudflats, open water, bottomland floodplain forest, old fields and shrublands, croplands, grassland, and successional forest. The refuge is part of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, an area identified by the Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and other partners for its role in the conservation of migratory birds, particularly waterfowl. The refuge’s public use program provides wildlife-oriented educational and recreational opportunities compatible with refuge management objectives. Public use facilities and programs include several trails, a visitor center, observation towers and platforms, fishing access sites, hunting programs, trapping program, educational programs and materials, guided tours, and other special programs.