

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

[Docket No. ONRR–2011–0025; DS63644200 DRT000000.CH7000 190D1113RT, OMB Control Number 1012–0001]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Accounts Receivable Confirmations Reporting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), is proposing to renew the Accounts Receivable Confirmations Reporting information collection. Every year, under the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, mineral lessees are asked to confirm the accuracy of randomly-selected ONRR accounts receivable. Accounts receivable confirmations are a common financial audit practice that require approval under the PRA.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 17, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on this information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget's Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior by email at OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov; or via facsimile to (202) 395–5806. Please provide a copy of your comments to Mr. Luis Aguilar, Regulatory Specialist, ONRR, P.O. Box 25165, MS 61030A, Denver, Colorado 80225–0165, or email Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 1012–0001 in your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on technical issues, contact Mr. Hans Meingast, Financial Services, ONRR, at (303) 231–3382, or email to Hans.Meingast@onrr.gov. For other questions, contact Mr. Luis Aguilar at (303) 231–3418, or email to Luis.Aguilar@onrr.gov. You may also contact Mr. Aguilar to obtain copies (free of charge) of (1) the ICR, (2) any associated form(s), and (3) the regulations that require the subject collection of information. You may also review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to

comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. A Federal Register notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 11, 2018 (83 FR 27019). No comments were received.

We are again soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the ONRR; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the ONRR enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the ONRR minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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.

Abstract: The Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior is responsible for collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals from Federal and Indian lands and the Outer-Continental Shelf (OCS). Under various laws, the Secretary is responsible to manage mineral resources from Federal and Indian lands and the OCS. One of the mineral responsibilities that ONRR performs on behalf of the Secretary is to collect the royalties and other mineral revenues due. These obligations are accounted for as accounts receivables with ONRR's Financial Management group. We have posted the laws pertaining to mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands and the OCS at http://www.onrr.gov/Laws_R_D/PubLaws/default.htm.

General Information

When a company or an individual enters into a lease to explore, develop, produce, sell, or otherwise dispose of minerals, from Federal and Indian lands and the OCS, that company or individual agrees to pay the lessor a share in an amount or value of production from the leased lands. For oil, gas, and solid minerals, the lessee is required to report various types of information to ONRR relative to the disposition of the leased minerals. Specifically, companies submit financial information to ONRR on a monthly basis by submitting form ONRR–2014 [Report of Sales and Royalty Remittance for oil and gas reported in OMB Control Number 1012–0004], and form ONRR–4430 [Solid Minerals Production and Royalty Report reported in OMB Control Number 1012–0010]. These royalty reports result in accounts receivables and capture the vast majority of the mineral revenue collected by ONRR.

The basis for the data that companies submit on forms ONRR–2014 and ONRR–4430 is generally available within the records of the lessee or others involved in developing, transporting, processing, purchasing, or selling such minerals. The information that we collect under the ICR includes data necessary to ensure that ONRR's accounts receivables are accurately based on the value of the mineral production, as reported to ONRR on forms ONRR–2014 and ONRR–4430.

Information Collections

Every year, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) under Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Office of Inspector General, or its agent (agent), audits the accounts receivable portions of the Department's financial statements, which are based on ONRR forms ONRR–2014 and ONRR–4430. Accounts receivable confirmations are a common financial audit practice. A third-party audit provides confirmation of the validity of ONRR's financial records.

As part of the CFO audit, the agent selects a sample of accounts receivable items based on forms ONRR–2014 and ONRR–4430, and provides the sample items to ONRR. ONRR then identifies the company names and addresses for the sample items selected and creates accounts receivable confirmation letters. In order to meet the CFO requirements, the letters must be on ONRR letterhead and the Deputy Director for ONRR, or his or her designee, must sign the letters. The letter requests third-party confirmation responses by a specified date on whether or not ONRR's accounts