DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-310-00-1310 24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval No. 1004-0162

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Paperwork Reduction Act requires Federal agencies to announce their intentions to request extension of approval for collecting information from individuals. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request extension of approval for collecting certain information from entities who (1) submit a Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations (Form 3150-4) of Federal lands, and (2) submit a Notice of Completion of Oil and Gas Exploration Operations (Form 3150-5). BLM uses the information to determine who is conducting geophysical operations on public lands and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the environment as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by August 30, 1999 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group (WO-630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may be sent via the Internet: WoComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include “Attn: 1004-0162 and your name and address in your Internet address.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington DC 20036.

Comments will be available for public inspection and review at the L Street address during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Gamble, Fluid Minerals Group, (202) 452-0336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d) BLM is required to provide a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning a collection of information contained in published current rules and other collection instrument to solicit comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.


The regulations at 43 CFR Group 3150 establish procedures for conducting oil and gas geophysical exploration operations on public lands when authorization for such operations is required from the BLM. The Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations (Form 3150-4) and the Notice of Completion of Oil and Gas Exploration Operations (Form 3140-5) were developed in 1990, and the information required from the public remains the same.

BLM needs the information requested on the Notice of Intent to allow it to process applications for geophysical exploration operations on public lands and to manage environmental compliance requirements in accordance with the laws, regulations, and land use plans. BLM uses the information to determine that geophysical operations activities will be conducted in a manner consistent with the regulations, local land use plans, and Environmental Assessments. BLM needs the information requested on the Notice of Completion to determine whether rehabilitation of the lands is satisfactory or whether additional rehabilitation is necessary.