

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Office of Communications**

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***NEWS RELEASE***

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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**MMS REOPENS COMMENT PERIOD FOR FEDERAL OIL VALUATION RULE**

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced they are reopening the public comment period for the proposed federal oil valuation rule from March 13 until April 12, 1999. During the 30 day comment period, MMS will hold three public workshops. The official notice will appear in the *Federal Register* on Friday, March 12.

The public workshops are scheduled as follows:

Workshop 1 - March 24, 1999; 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Central time  
Minerals Management Service, Houston Compliance Division Office  
4141 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, Texas,  
Phone 281-987-6802

Workshop 2 - March 25, 1999; 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Mountain time  
Bureau Of Land Management District Office  
425 Montano Road, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Phone 505-761-8700

Workshop 3 - April 6, 1999; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern time  
Department of the Interior-large buffet room,  
Located next to the basement cafeteria  
1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Phone 202-208-3512

The MMS emphasizes that the workshops will be open to all stakeholders in the federal oil rule making process. The MMS is seeking new ideas, not discussed in previous workshops, to help move the rulemaking process forward while

ensuring the public receives fair value for its resources.

MMS asks that, if possible, comments be submitted prior to the workshops to ensure attendees the opportunity to participate in constructive discussions on the issues. All comments received will be posted on the MMS website at [www.mrm.mms.gov/library/readroom/readroom.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/library/readroom/readroom.htm).

The proposed rule would amend the royalty valuation regulations for crude oil produced from federal leases.

MMS is the Federal agency that manages and regulates the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf; and collects, accounts for, and last year disbursed about \$6 billion in revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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