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MMS SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ALLOWANCE RULES FOR OIL, GAS AND COAL

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that it is seeking comments on proposed amendments to streamline regulations regarding allowance rules for oil, gas and coal; the notice appeared in the August 7 edition of the Federal Register.

"This is a first step in alleviating regulatory burdens associated with allowances. These proposed rules represent the joint efforts of a study group established over a year ago and comprised of MMS, states, tribes and industry representatives," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman.

The proposed rules modify the requirements for filing forms for transportation and processing allowances for oil and gas, and transportation and washing allowances for coal.

Quarterman noted that under its charter, the study group did not consider eliminating allowance form reporting as an option, but that in a more recent development, the Federal Gas Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee recommend eliminating allowance forms altogether for Federal gas valuation purpose. "MMS proceeded with publishing the proposed rules because they cover oil, coal, and non-methane gas which were not considered by the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee," she said.

Comments will be accepted until October 6, 1995. Written comments regarding the proposed rule should be mailed or delivered to Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Procedures Staff, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165.

MMS is the federal agency responsible for managing the nation's natural gas, oil and other offshore mineral resources, and collects and disburses about \$4 million yearly in revenues from offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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